

Spring 2026, Volume 60

TBR is a quarterly newsletter of the Women's Fiction Writers Association.

Click here to learn more about WFWA.

Spring is finally here, and with it, the blossoming feeling of fresh beginnings and new growth: quiet, steady, and unstoppable. The season is a good reminder that readers grow, too, quietly and steadily, one story at a time.

BOOK TALK WITH...



...Radha Lin Chaddah

Your top three women's fiction authors: This is a hard question, but here are a few of my favorites: Wills Carter, Jane Austen, and Maya Angelou.

What sparked the idea for your latest novel: In 2008, my husband and I, along with our two young daughters, moved to East Asia. We had the great privilege to live, work, and study in Taipei, Shanghai, and Beijing for almost a decade and immersed ourselves in the language, culture, and generous hospitality of our host cities.

On your nightstand now: On my nightstand now is Seascraper by Benjamin Wood, The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny by Kiran Desai, and Good Material by Dolly Alderton.

And The Ancestors Sing by Radha Lin Chaddah

In 1978, Lei is battered into marriage and finds herself in the unfamiliar village of her new husband. When a disaster upends their world, Lei and her husband are forced to migrate to Shanghai, leaving their children behind.

Learn more on Radha's website.



...Reyna Marder Gentin

Have you always known you wanted to be a writer: No. I had a very fun and satisfying career as a criminal defense attorney before turning to writing in 2015.

On your nightstand now: On my nightstand now is Thinkers by Paul Harding, a well-worn copy of Story Genius by Lisa Cron (a writing craft book), and Suzette Brownstein's memoir Found and Lost.

Book you wish you'd written: There are many books I wish I had written myself! But one recent one is Ask Again, Yes by Mary Beth Keane.

A fictional character you'd love to meet: I recently read Life and Death and Giants by Ron Rindolo.

Jessica Harmon Has Stepped Away by Reyna Marder Gentin



At 30, Jessica Harmon's love life is a wreck, her confidence is shot, and she's adrift in New York City.

Learn more on Reyna's website.



...A. Morini

Something you hope readers will take away from your writing: Every time I write, it is because I want to express an emotion, one scene at a time.

Have you always known you wanted to be a writer: My first novel was written entirely for myself.

Favorite character in a novel: I really like the characters that came to me through my book, some of them showing up completely unannounced.

Do You See Me Now? by A. Morini



Approaching 40, Hanna takes her sister on a Hero's Journey retreat, hoping to spend quality time.

Learn more on A. Morini's website.



...Kay Smith-Blum

Something you hope readers will take away from your writing: Whether it's a short piece of flash fiction or a longer manuscript that becomes a novel.

How do you balance reading and writing: I am up with the sun writing, pretty much every day.

Your top three women's fiction authors: Jodi Picoult, Jojo Moyes, and a toss up between UK gals, Tana French and Sarah Waters.

Book you love to cheerlead: Tana French's Witch Elm—a deep dive into a multi-layered, character-driven mystery.

What sparked the idea for your latest novel: An odd, recurring dream about a mass of red hair floating on the water.

Tangles by Kay Smith-Blum



Based on real events, Tangles is at once labyrinthine and simply and deeply human.

Learn more on Kay's website.



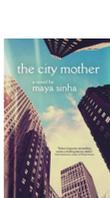
...Maya Sinha

Something you hope readers will take away from your writing: I hope bookish women will find The City Mother's narrator relatable as she goes about the daily work of mothering small children.

How do you balance reading and writing: I read widely and indiscriminately—from tabloid news to detective stories.

Favorite line from your book: "In theory, I wanted my children to form their own opinions ... But that was before I found myself debating the respective merits of a Handel motet and a Chopin nocturne."

The City Mother by Maya Sinha



Crim reporter Cara Neilson sees disturbing things that suggest evil is real.

Learn more on Maya's website.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

A sunny hook, a warm breeze through an open window, and a novel that sweeps you away: that's the feeling we're chasing in this spring issue.

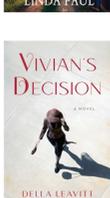
A Trip Towards the Sunset by Tatiana Goded



Coria is finally at peace. After years of feeling torn between her birthplace, Spain, and her home in Golden Bay, New Zealand.

Visit Tatiana's website to find out more!

The Last Gypsy Queen by Linda Paul



In 1942, as America goes to war, a young Romani Gypsy, with dreams of becoming a doctor, is forced to read tarot cards at a summer amusement park.

Visit Linda's website to find out more!

Vivian's Decision by Della Leavitt



Vivian's Decision is a multi-generational Jewish family saga taking place in Chicago and suburban Wilmette.

Visit Della's website to find out more!

Her Final Toast by Marcy Lane



One dead critic. One innocent man. And 28 hours to uncover the truth.

Visit Marcy's website to find out more!

North of Broken & Forever Home by Holly B. Gutwinger



Renley Nelson's life is unraveling. She's caught in middle melancholy, her sons are drifting away, and her mother's mind is slipping beyond reach.

Visit Holly's website to find out more!

Chapel Bay Secrets by Julie Snider



Librarian Brenda Kato feels safe in Chapel Bay, CA, until a book-banning threat arrives at work.

Visit Julie's website to find out more!

Candlewood by Evelyn Ann Casey



1977. St. Croix River Valley, Minnesota. When Meg joins her Catholic alma mater's parish staff, she soon finds herself fending off the menacing priest from prayer group.

Visit Evelyn's website to find out more!

The Days Between by Jennifer Marra



In The Days Between, Jennifer Marra explores what happens in the space between who we were and who we are trying to become.

Visit Jennifer's website to find out more!

Whistling Women and Crowing Hens by Melora Fern



During the tumultuous 1920s, Birdie Stauffer joins the all-female Versaille Quartet on the Chautauque circuit to escape her overbearing sister.

Visit Melora's website to find out more!

Haven Strong by Jessica Rakus



Josephine Grant lives a charmed life with a husband and three perfect children in the small town where she grew up.

Visit Jessica's website to find out more!

Radio Starr by Lisa Lehmann



A starry-eyed midwestern DJ spins on-air personas that unravel her identity and moral fabric.

Visit Lisa's website to find out more!

The Path Beneath Her Feet by Janis Robinson Daly



Steeped in rich historical detail, the epistolary charged sequel to The Unlocked Path finds Dr. Eliza Edwards intensifying her commitment to inspire social change.

Visit Janis's website to find out more!

If you are a WFWA member and want to be considered for TBR, please fill out a book submission form here.

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