

Ngarie and Joanna talk about their 'AFSQHC' experiences – Romance and Contemporary Fiction



On 6 December, 2022, at 9:58am, Ngarie and I received an email with the title:

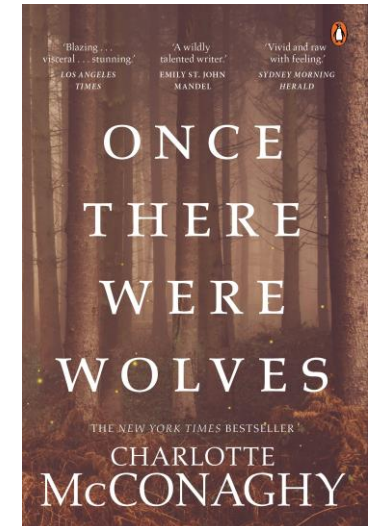
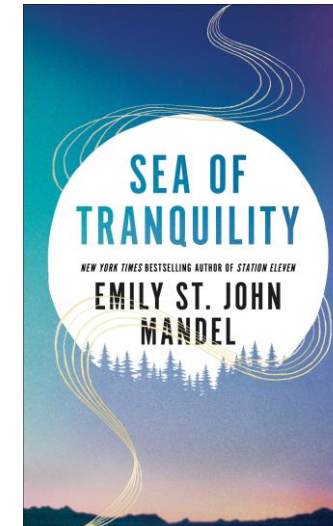
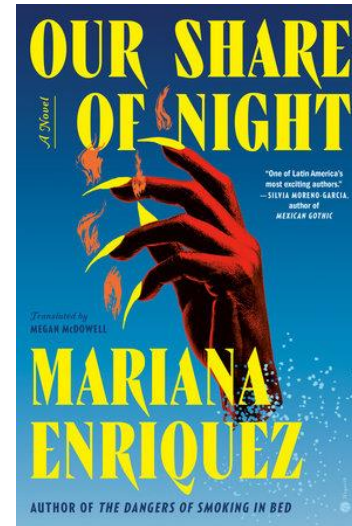
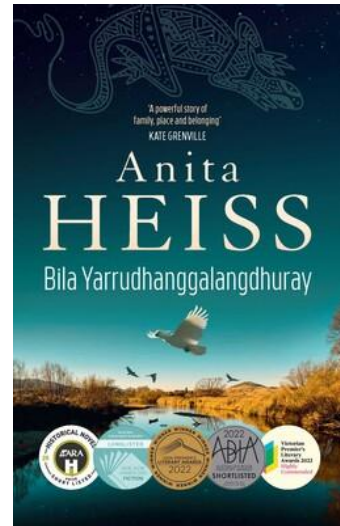
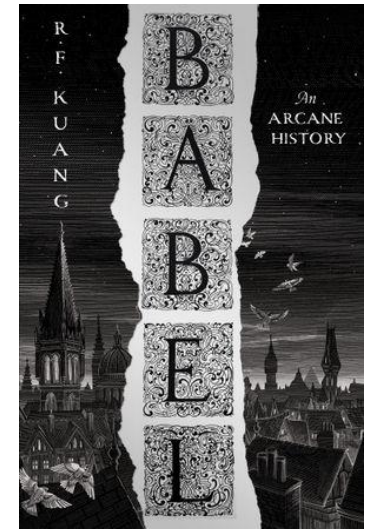
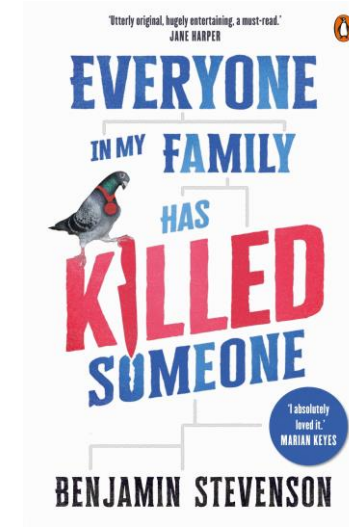
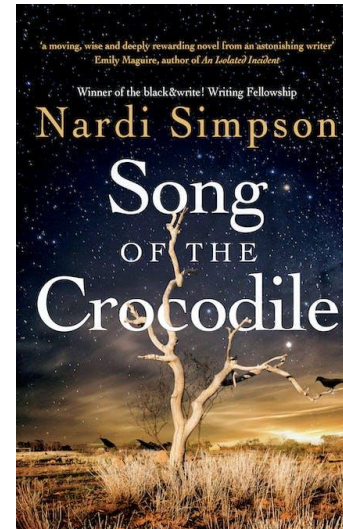
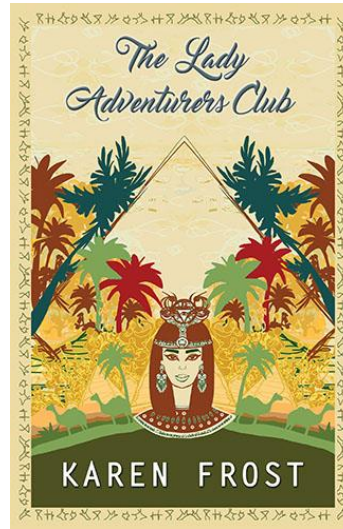
Would you be willing to be in a combined session at the readers' advisory seminar talking about the planning for the adult fiction stock quality health check?

Guess who sent that? Guess how we responded?



9 genres represent the book list:

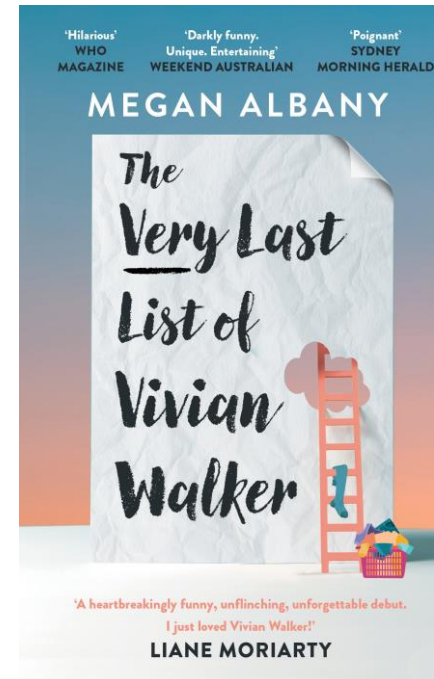
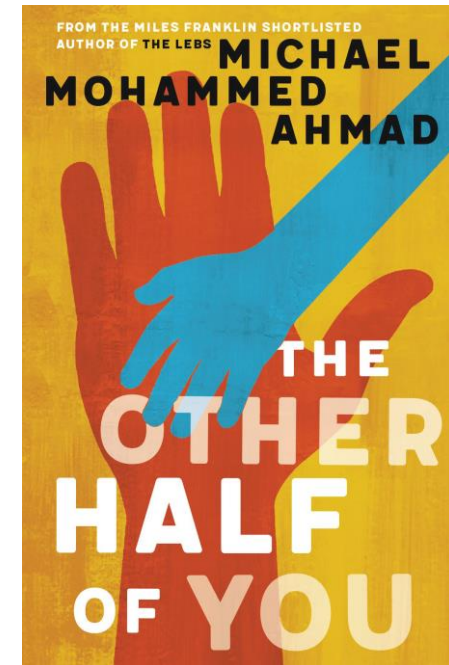
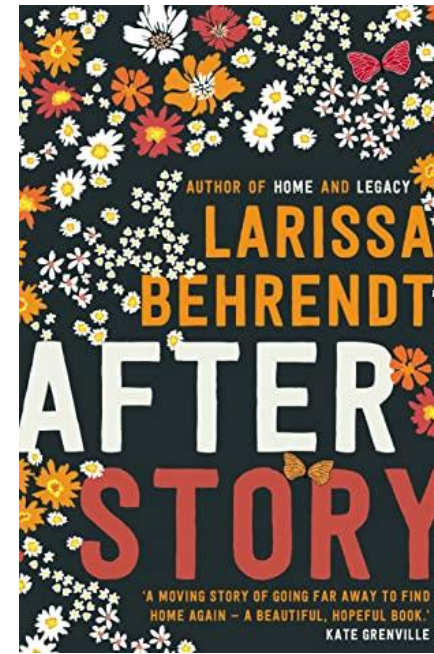
- Action adventure
- Contemporary
- Crime mystery
- Fantasy
- Historical
- Horror
- Romance
- Science Fiction
- Thriller Suspense



What is Contemporary Fiction?

- a story (loosely) set in the present time
- a story that depicts real life
- a story that could not easily be captured by one of our other genres

Incidentally, this is not a genre mentioned in Neal Wyatt's seminal tome, *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction* - but it worked for us 😊



What's in the Contemporary Fiction list?

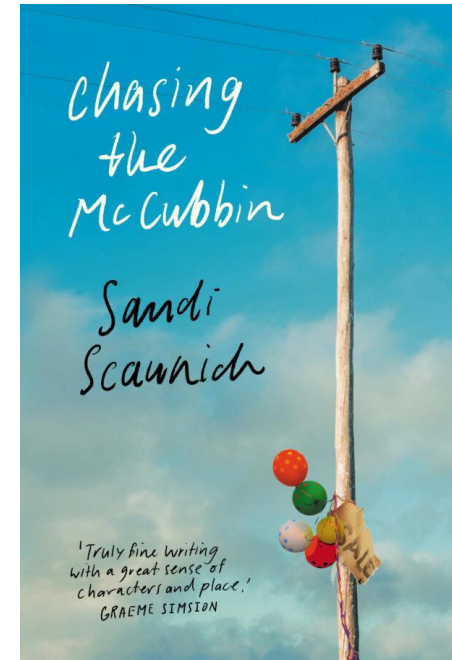
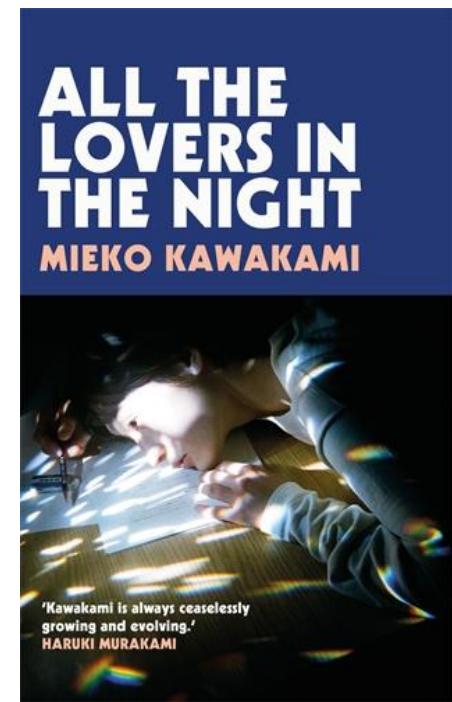
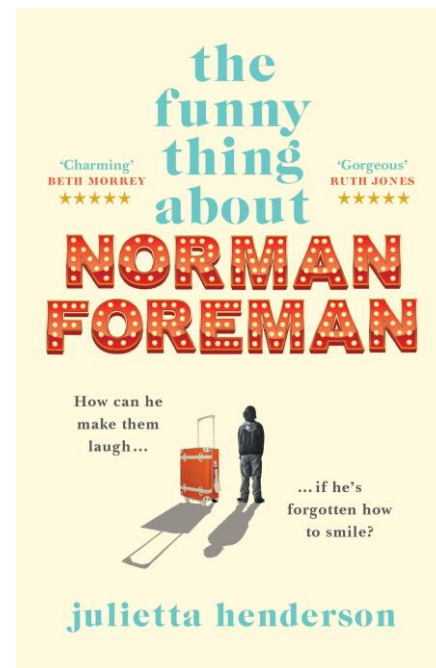
- Nearly everything you suggested to us
- And then everything else that couldn't comfortably fit in the other genres but was set in contemporary times

For example, books flagged as humorous.

Or books flagged as translated fiction.

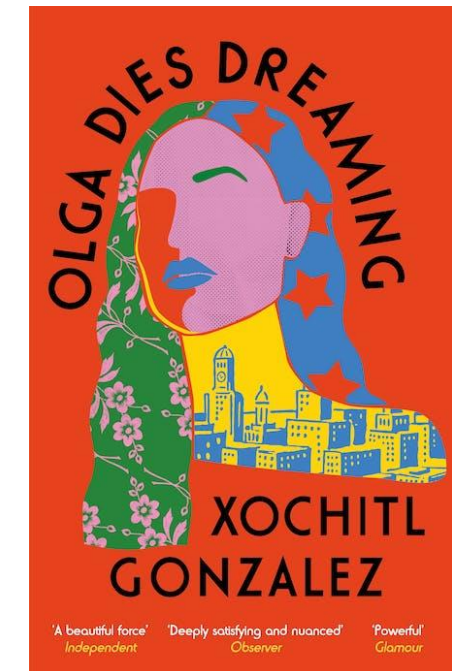
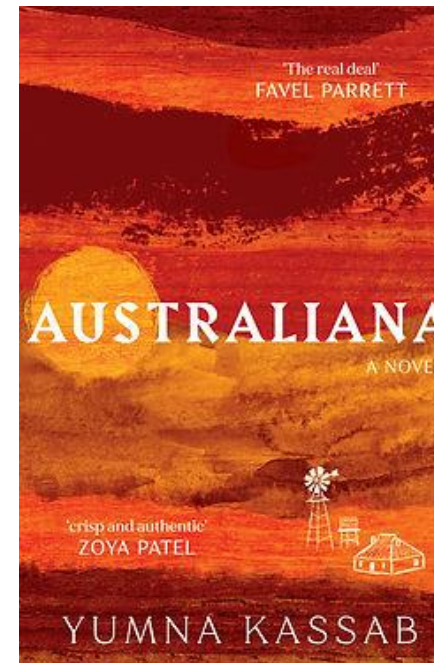
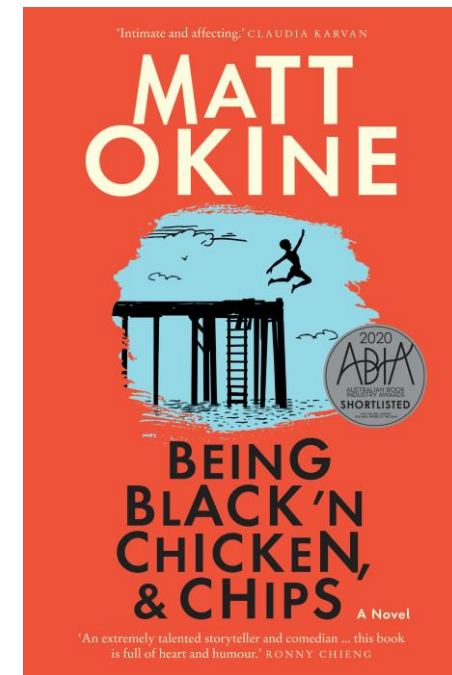
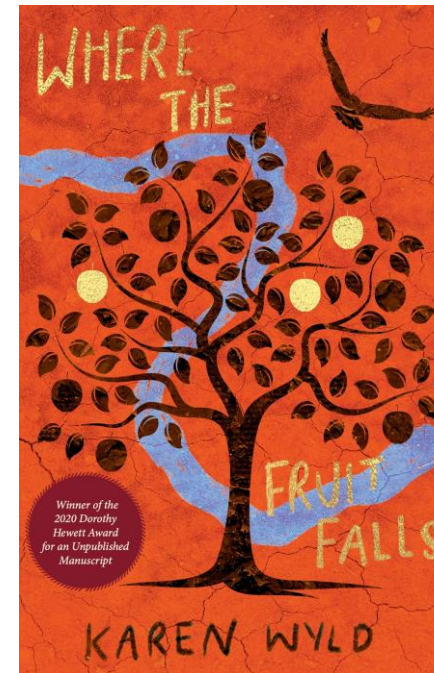
Or books flagged as domestic fiction.

Or books flagged as bildungsroman (coming of age stories).



What else is in the Contemporary Fiction list?

- More of everything that was already there
- And writers and stories who fit the bill every time someone asked if we had any writers who were....



Finally, why is the Contemporary Fiction list so big?

Action 30

Contemporary 85

Crime mystery 80

Fantasy 50

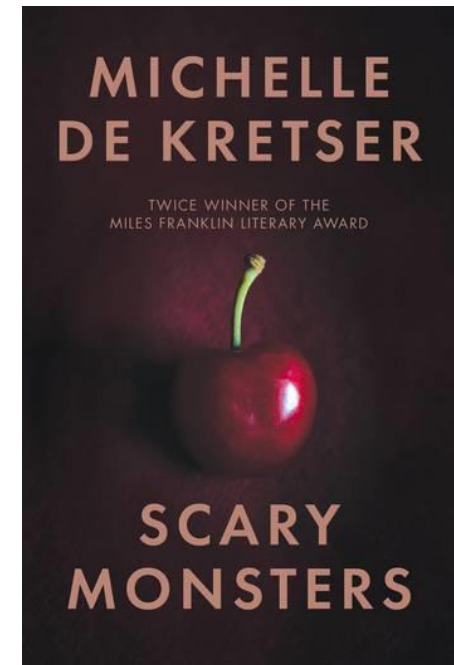
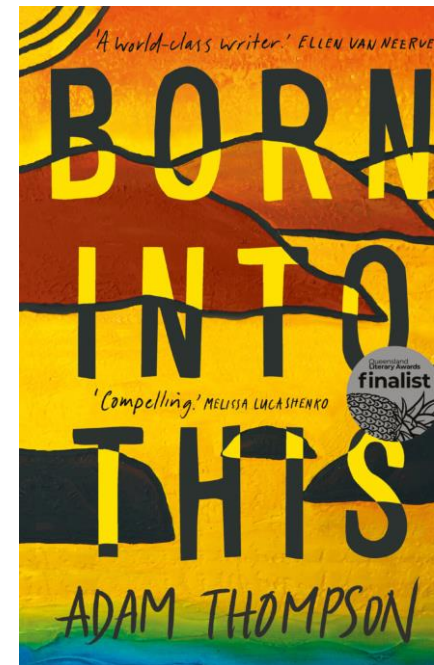
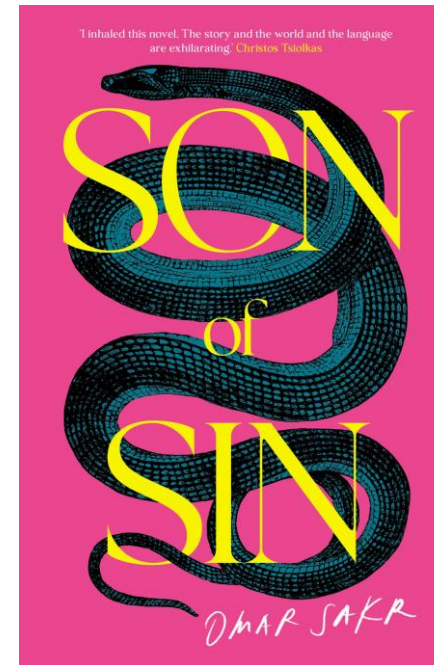
Historical 55

Horror 40

Romance 70

Science fiction 50

Thriller suspense 40



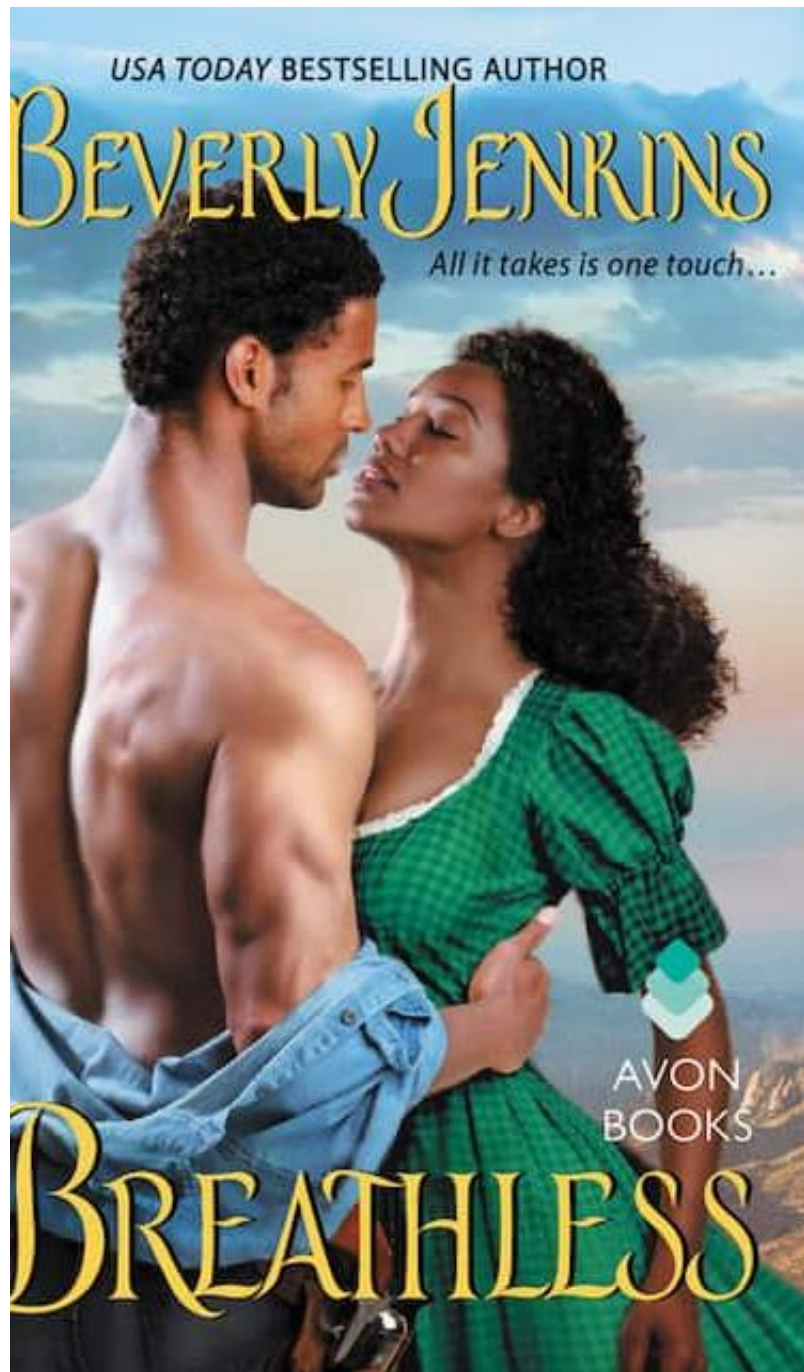
What is romance?



ROMEO ~~X~~ JULIET



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“.....misguided notion that suffering and meaning are interchangeable. I don't see romance as an escape....but a vehicle that has allowed me to connect with a part of myself that I felt close to burning out...”

**Joy is an act
of resistance**





ALICE
BOYLSTON

Dancing
Queen

WINNER
THE TEXT PRIZE



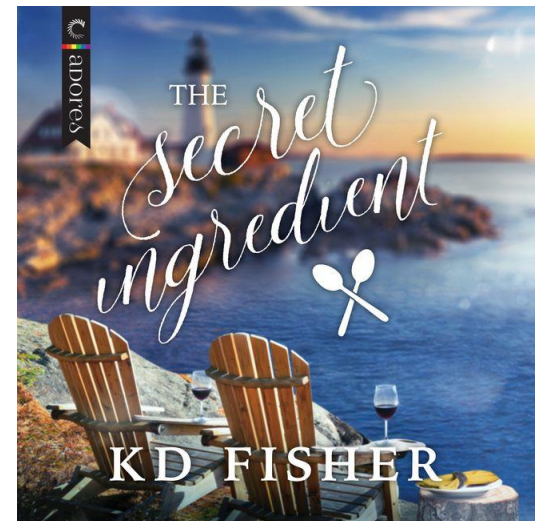
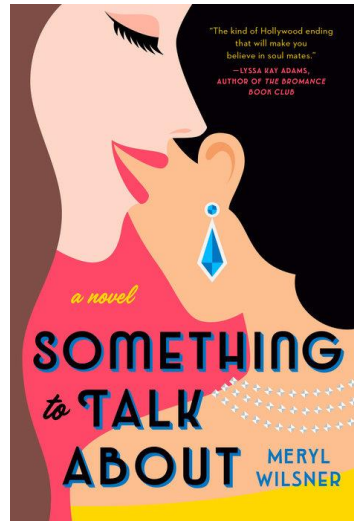
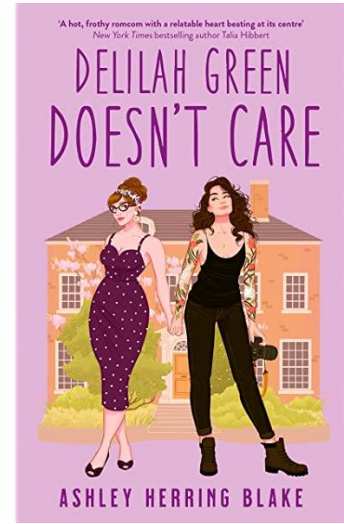
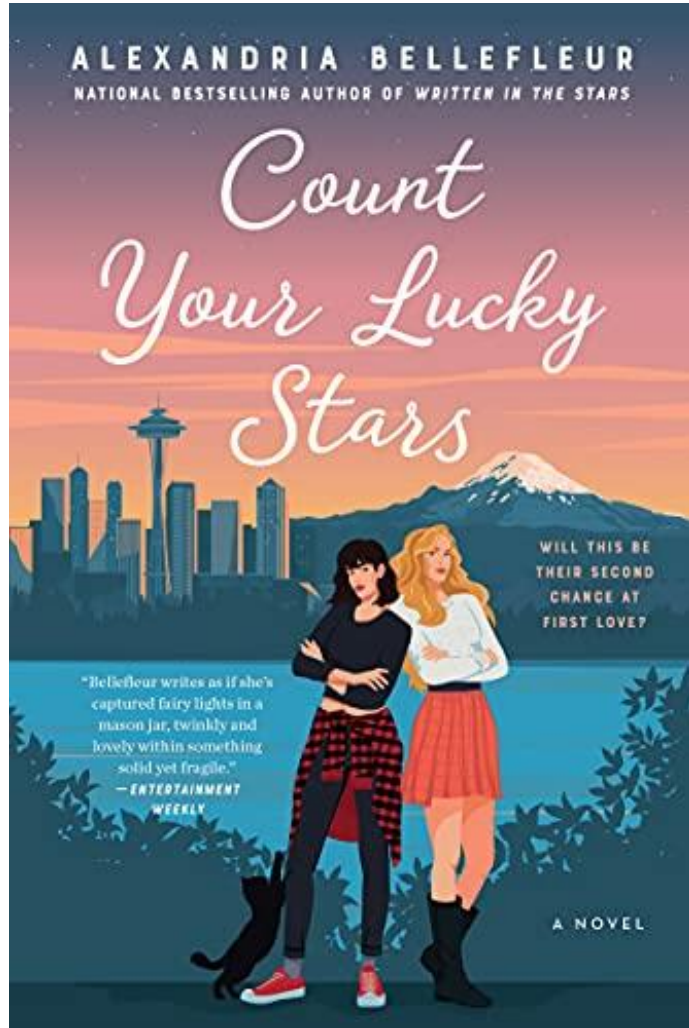
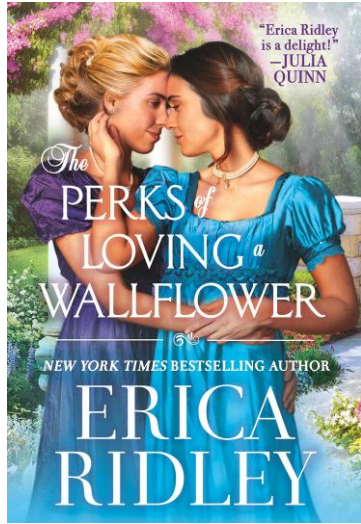
Everyone deserves their joy

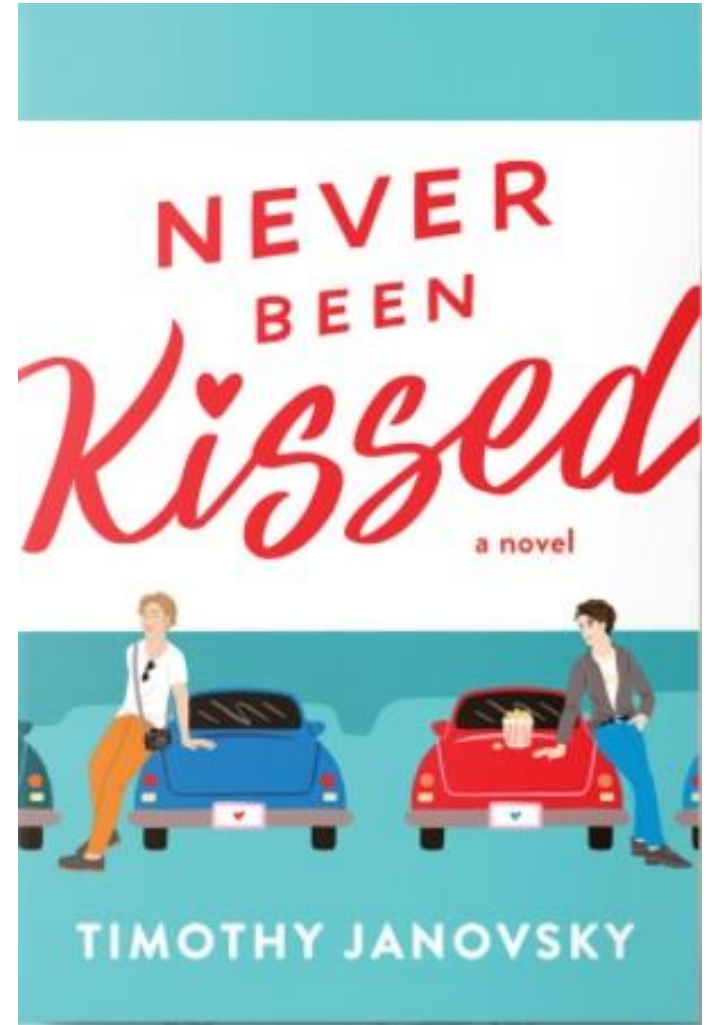
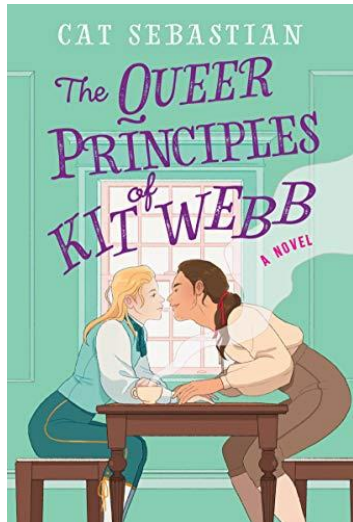
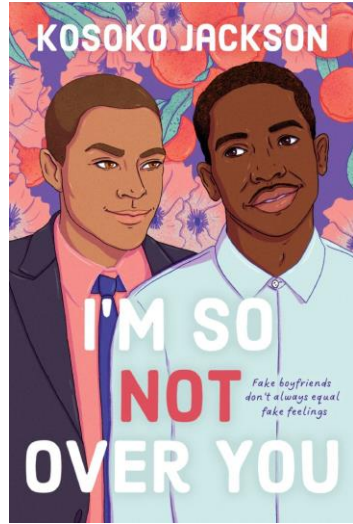


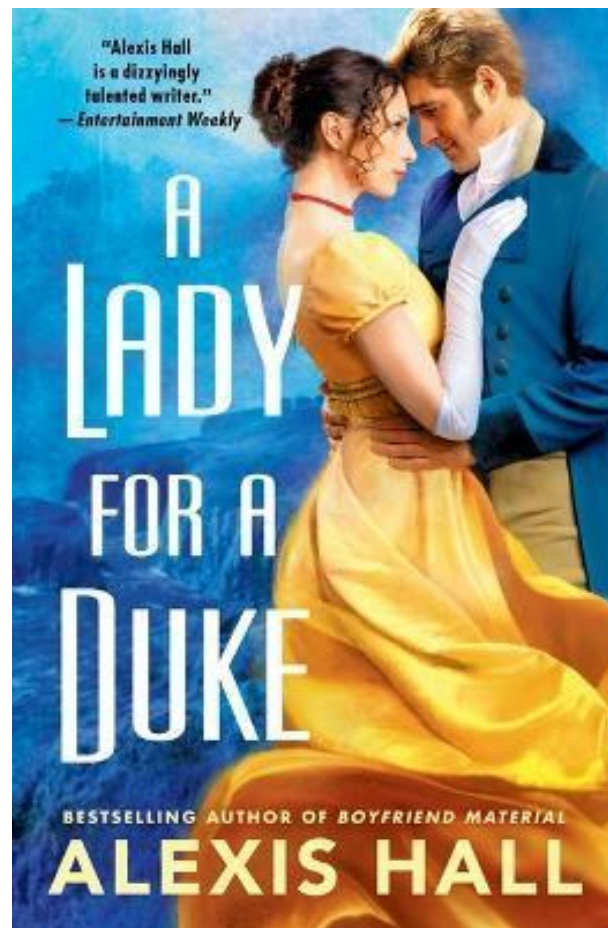
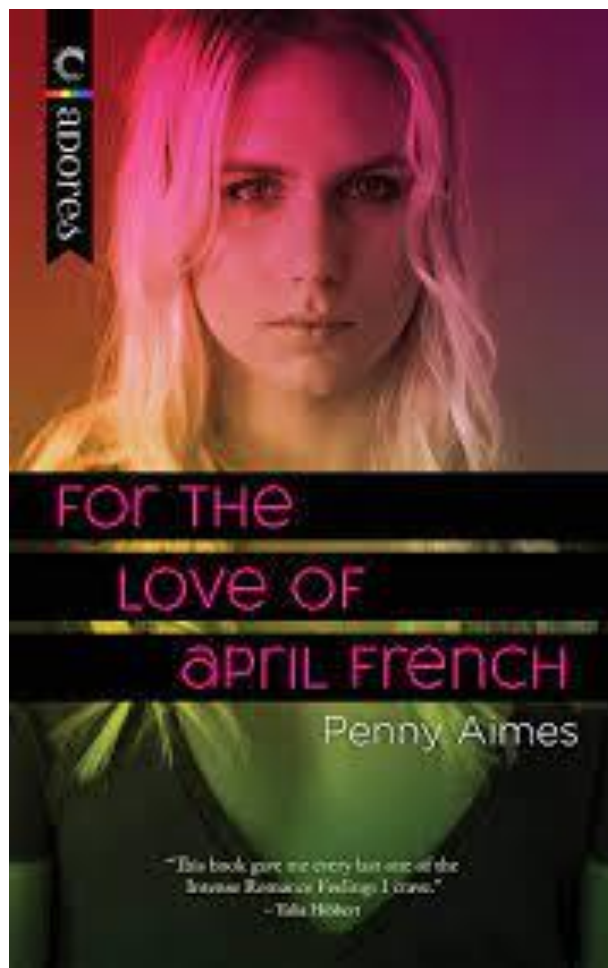
Everyone deserves an expansive sense of possibility, curiosity, and connection to others.

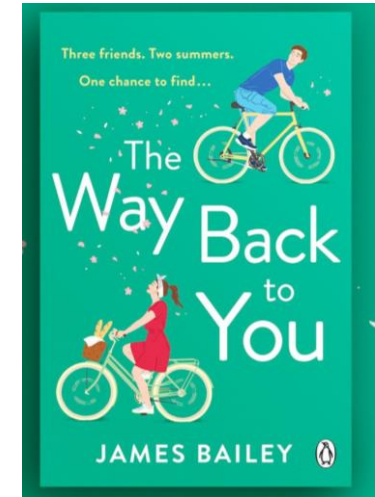
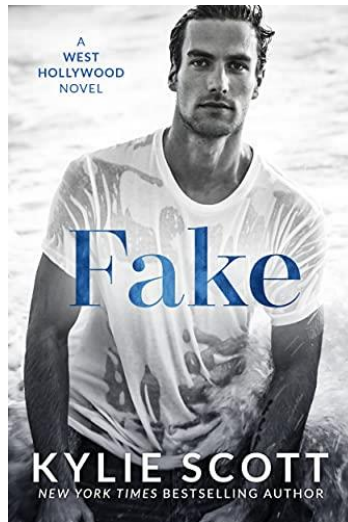
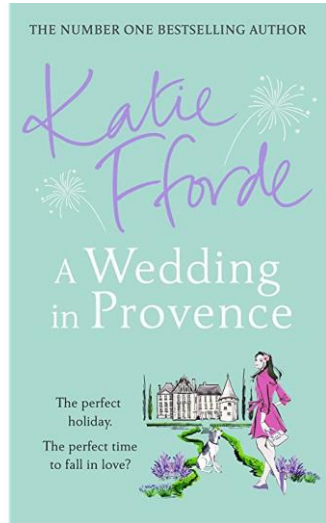


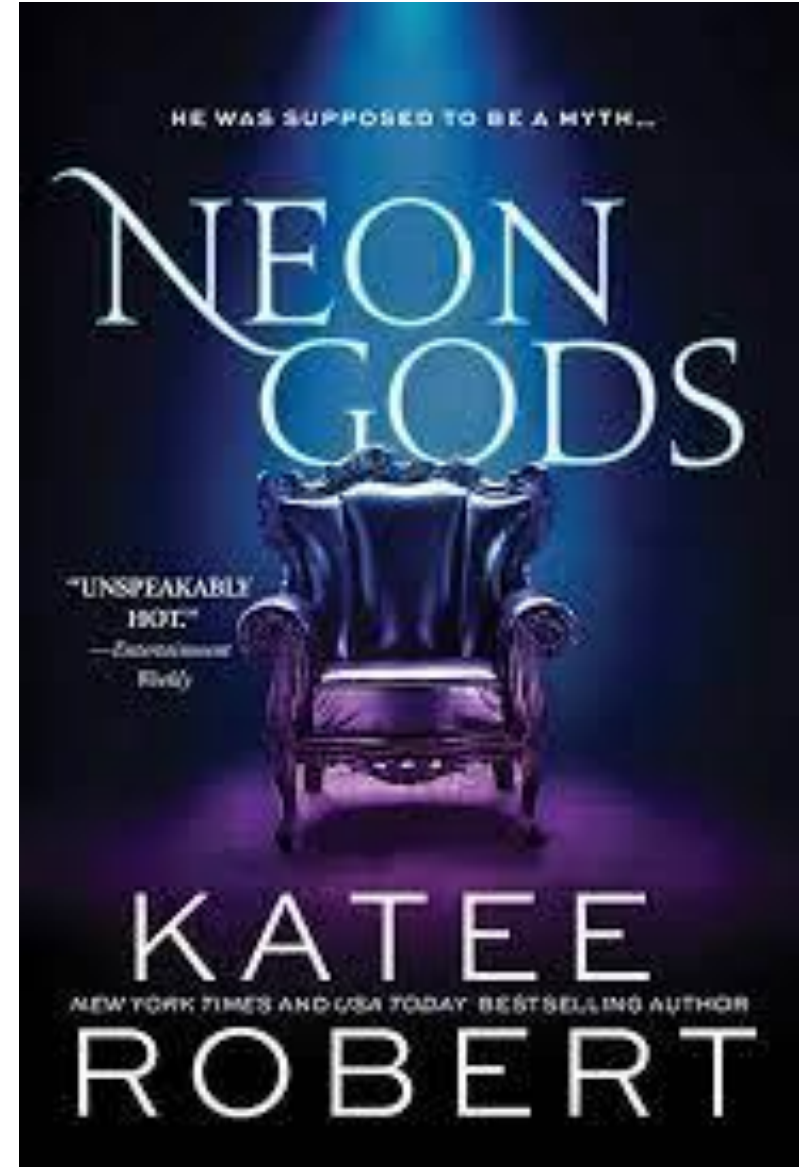
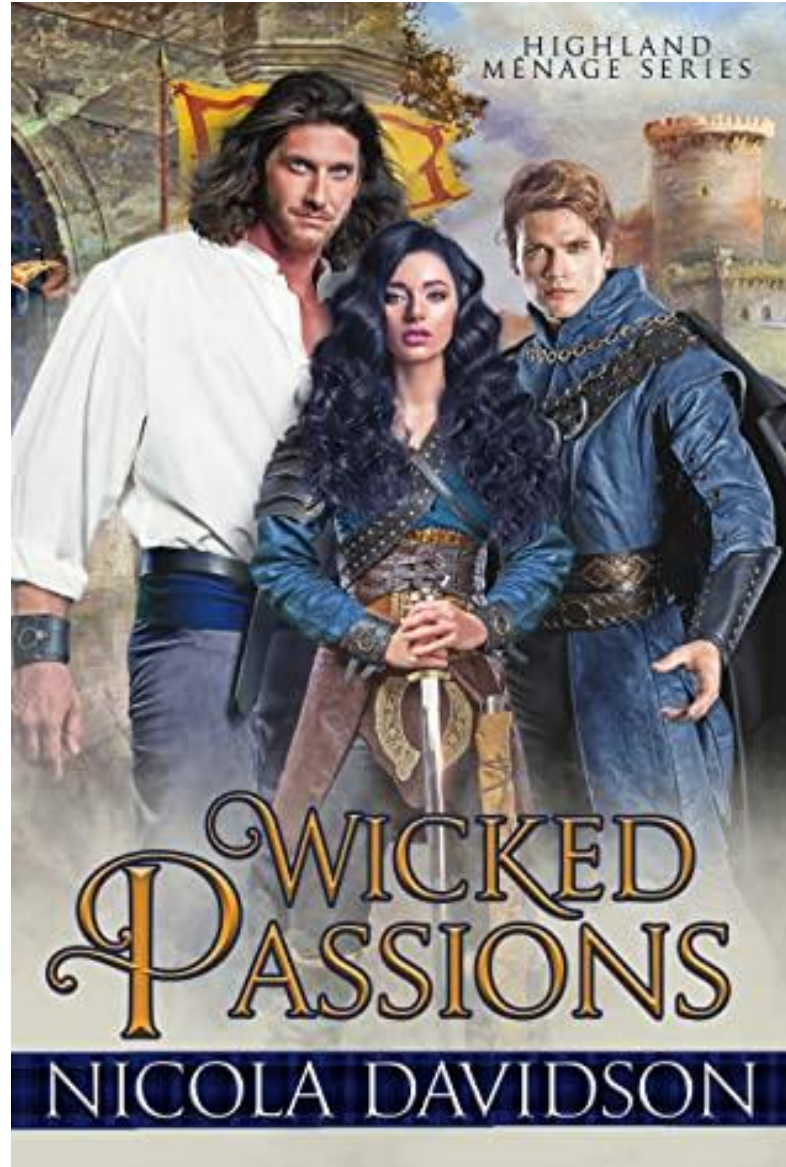
Everyone deserves a happily every after (happy for now).











'SO CHARMING, SO SWEET AND SO LOVELY!'
MARIAN KEYES

THE SWITCH

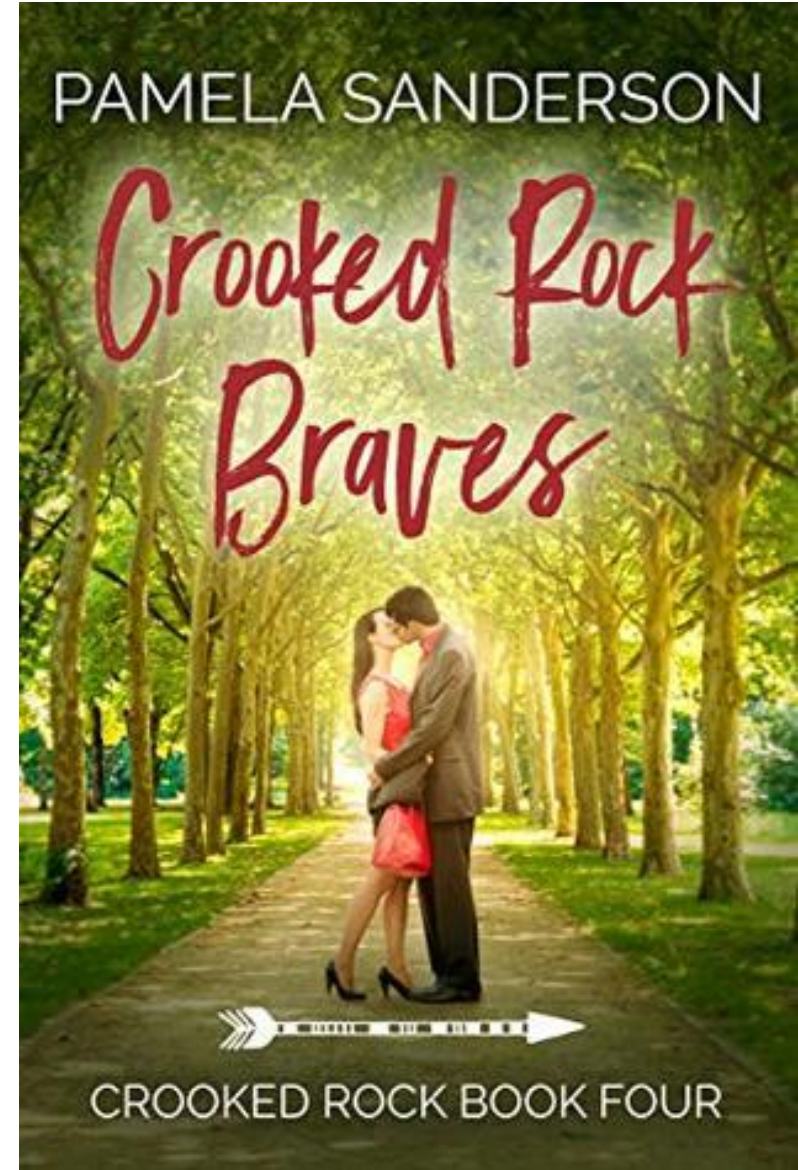
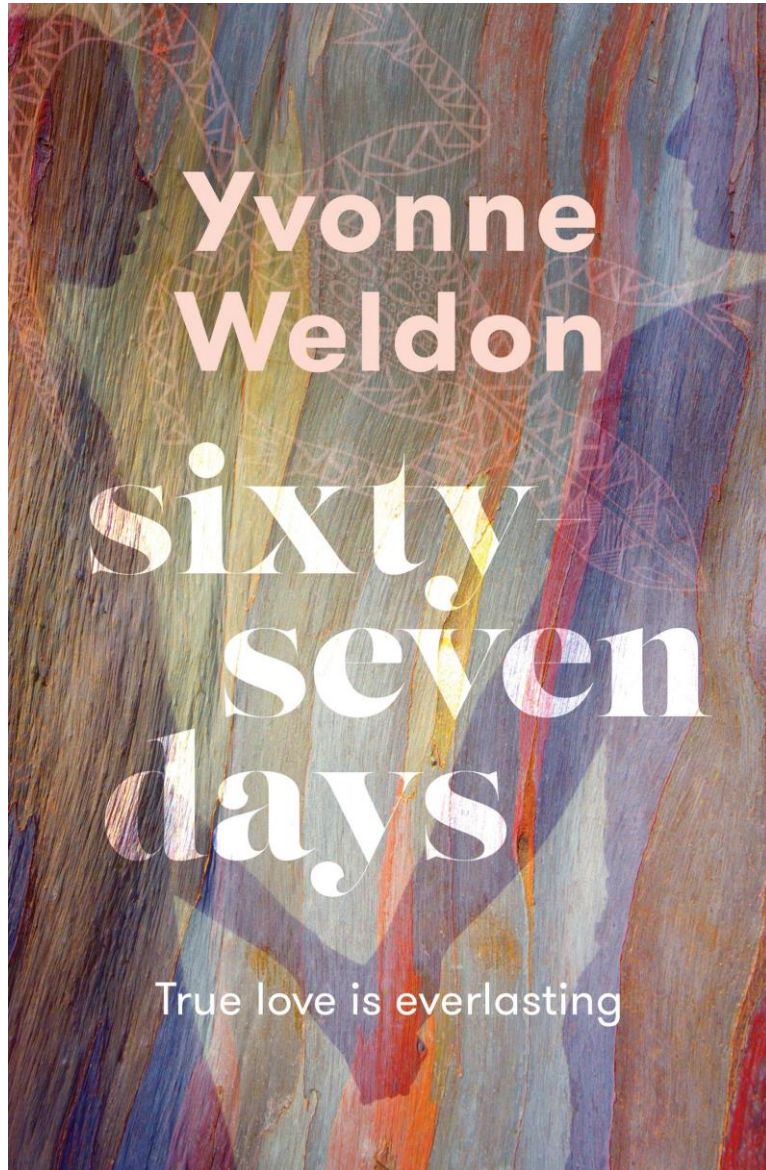


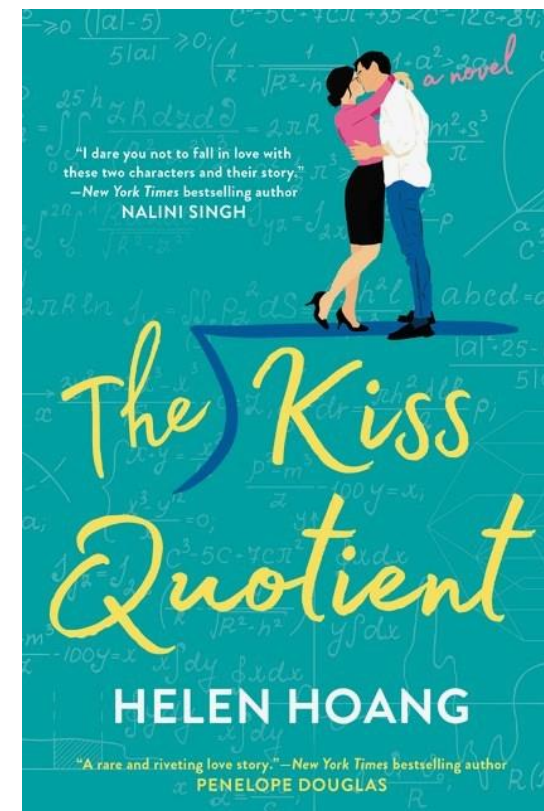
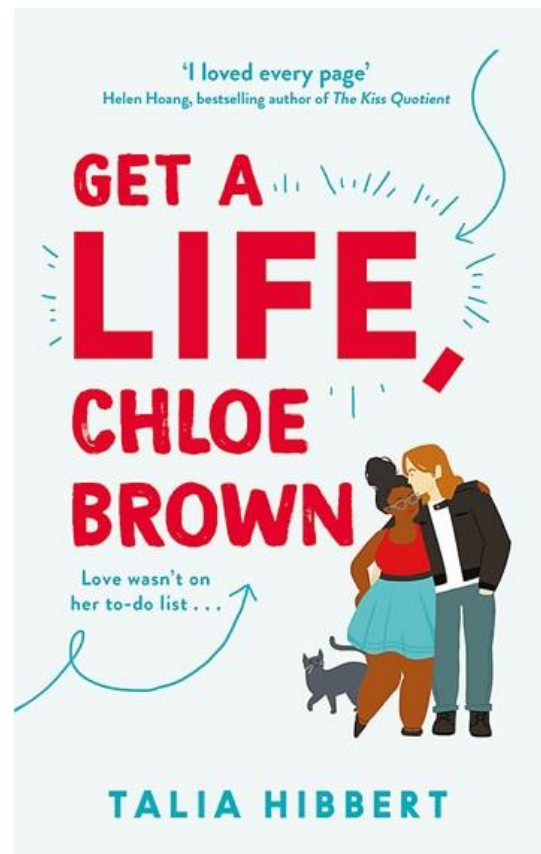
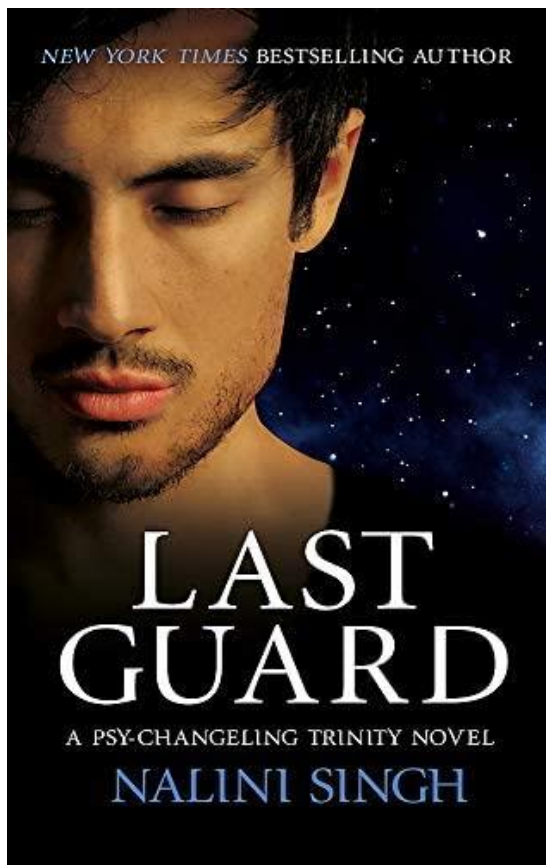
BETH O'LEARY
AUTHOR OF **THE FLATSHARE**

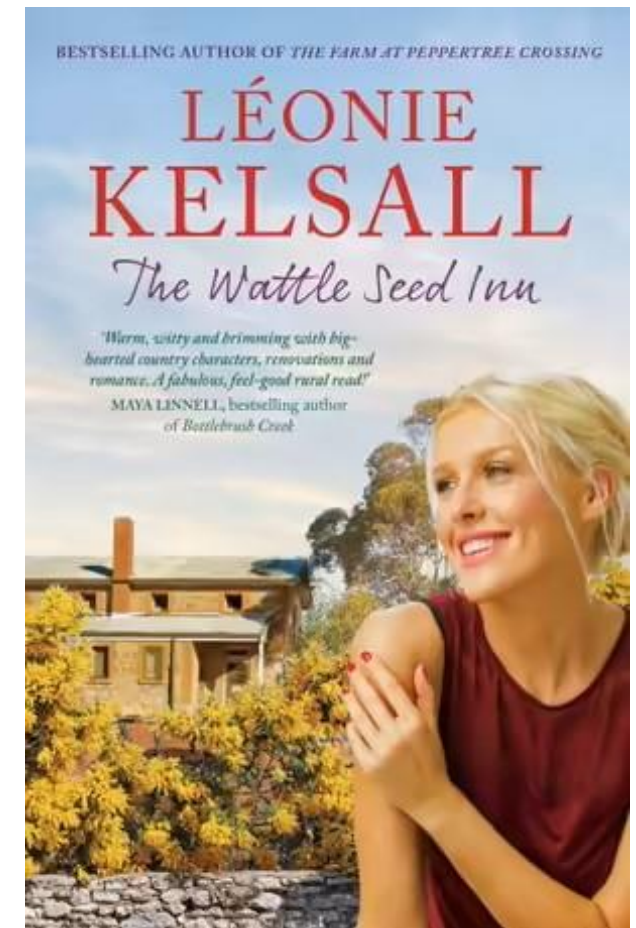
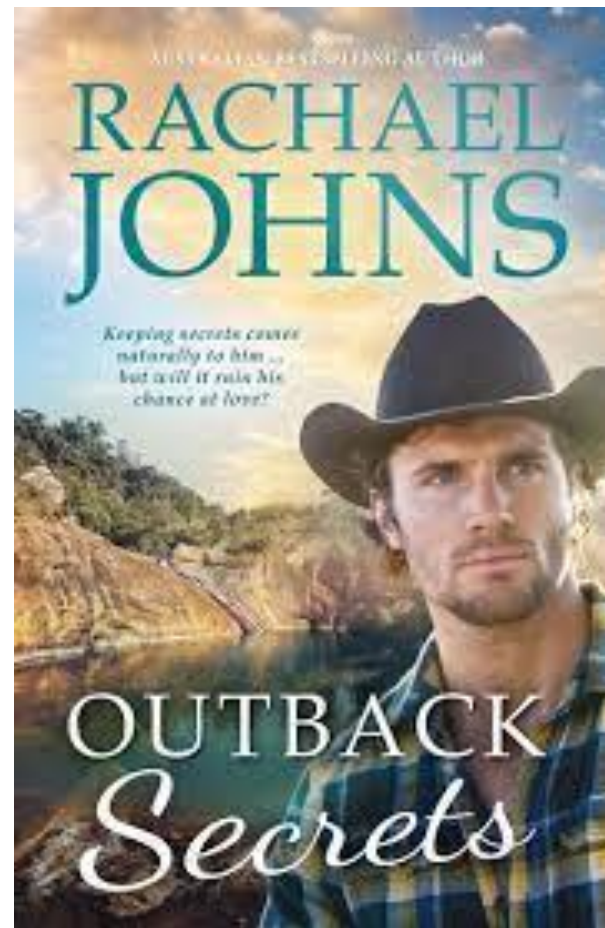
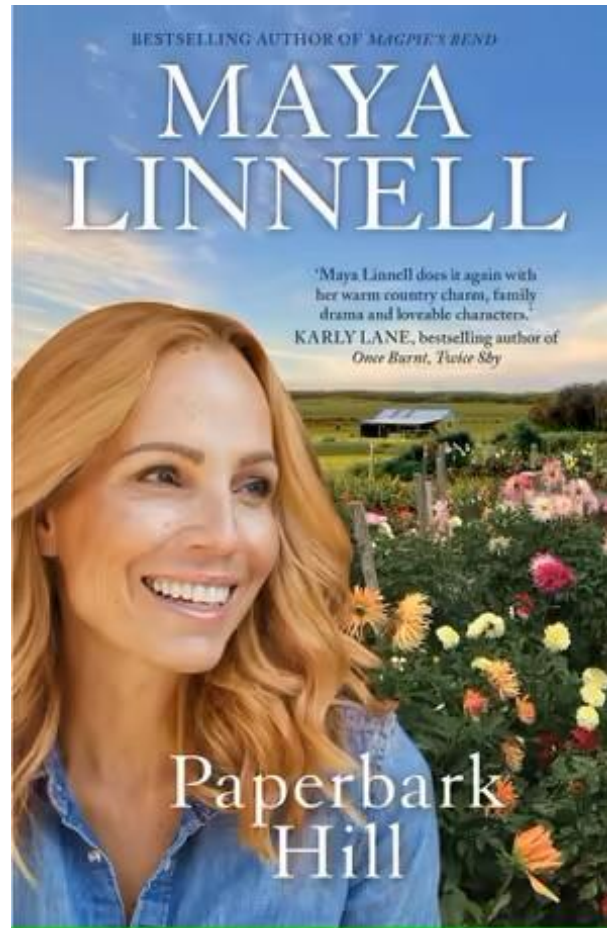
MAGGIE
CHRISTENSEN

Summer in Bellbird Bay









The image features three concentric hearts. The outermost heart is a dark red color with a thin white outline. Inside it is a medium-sized heart in a lighter red shade, also with a thin white outline. The innermost heart is the smallest and is a bright pink color with a thin white outline. The hearts are centered on the page.

May you all find your **HEA/HFN**