

## This Time Next Door Oakland Hills 2 Gretchen Galway

As a former editor for popular websites, including Slate and Jezebel, Jessica Grose intimately understands the realities of life in the blogosphere--and she employs this knowledge to hilarious effect in her edgy and timely debut novel, *Sad Desk Salad*. Grose's story of a savvy blogger who stumbles upon an irresistible scoop--one that could cause irreparable damage to a young woman's life and reputation--and must reconcile her true values with the ruthless demands of a gossip- and reality-obsessed culture is a stinging and wildly funny indictment of America's obsession with celebrity dirt. This fictional behind-the-scenes look at a booming online industry is smart and sharp contemporary women's fiction, a *The Devil Wears Prada* for the twenty-teens.

Is her magic strong enough to stop a killer? On her first assignment as a demon-hunting witch, Alma was unable to kill. Now broke and unemployed at twenty-six, she lives in Silverpool, a remote town in a redwood forest north of San Francisco, where she sells magic-infused jewelry and tries to live a drama-free life. When fairies draw her to the dead body of her ex-boyfriend, she must defend herself and the hidden power in Silverpool from an influx of supernatural trouble. The only way to make peace—and stay alive—is to find the killer. Drawing upon years of formal magical training she'd rather forget, and using other abilities she'd like to keep secret, Alma goes up against bloodthirsty fae, a dangerously charming demon, her infamous father, and other ambitious witches with agendas of their own. This time, an inability to kill might be not just the end of her job, but of her life... *DEAD WITCH ON A BRIDGE* is the first book in a new paranormal mystery series by USA Today bestselling author Gretchen Galway.

From the award-winning author of *Paradise Boys*, *Scotch and Oranges*, *Ghost Dancer*, and *End of the Road*, comes the startling, visionary *The Oakland Quartet*. Set in Oakland, a working-class American-Irish neighborhood of steel mills and saloons, the novel, set in 1958, chronicles four teenaged baseball players -- Stash and Nig, Mongol and Whitey, the slickest-fielding infield the city had ever seen -- who, on a hot, sulfurous night, commit an unspeakable crime -- and must live with its consequences. Supported by a stellar cast of barkeeps, city councilmen, neighborhood enforcers, and Catholic priests -- as well as such historic figures as Mayor David Lawrence, baseball Hall of Famer Pie Traynor, and many more -- the Oakland Quartet make a decision that will ultimately ruin their lives. Narrated by Beef, their former teammate and catcher, *The Oakland Quartet* closely examines these small, stunted lives -- while their priest, Father David Reddy, searches to save those who have who have lost their way.

A real American memoir of mid-20th Century, West Oakland, California. A rare glimpse into urban adventures, immigrant challenges and musical culture. An easy and interesting read for all ages.

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. *The 57 Bus* is Dashka Slater's true account of the case that garnered international attention and thrust both teenagers into the spotlight.

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A paranormal mystery by USA Today best-selling author Gretchen Galway. On the eve of the winter solstice, reckless witches invite demons into the enchanted town of Silverpool. Can Alma find a human murderer amid the magical mayhem? Alma is a witch with an Incurable Inability to kill. That can be inconvenient in a world of demons, Shadow magic, and murder. Luckily Alma has discovered she has unusual, remarkable talents of her own. And they're getting stronger. When her quiet town is inundated with witch tourists looking for demon thrills on the winter solstice, Alma is compelled to act. Using her gifts of fairy sight and shape-shifting, she helps Raynor, the new Protector, hunt down magical trouble. But then a witch turns up dead—not at the hand of a demon, but a human being. Soon after, there's another body. Can Alma find the murderer in the mayhem—or will she be the next victim?

"Brontez Purnell's 100 Boyfriends is a symphony of sex, trouble and wisdom—as if the composer had sex with each member of the orchestra by way of getting it right. An electric prismatic genre-defying punk literary flight, Purnell is twirling here— I loved every page." --Alexander Chee, author of How to Write an Autobiographical Novel An irreverent, sensitive, and inimitable look at gay dysfunction through the eyes of a cult hero "It's like that saying, 'Where god closes a door, he opens a window,' but in this particular case the window was on the fifth floor and the house was on fire." Transgressive, foulmouthed, and devastatingly funny, Brontez Purnell's 100 Boyfriends is a revelatory spiral into the imperfect lives of queer men desperately fighting—and often losing—the urge to self-sabotage. His characters solicit sex on their lunch breaks, expose themselves to racist neighbors, sleep with their coworker's husbands, rub Preparation H on their hungover eyes, and, in an uproarious epilogue, take a punk band on a disastrous tour of Europe. They also travel to claim inheritances, push past personal trauma, and cultivate community while living on the margins of a white supremacist, heteronormative society. Armed with a deadpan wit that finds humor in even the lowest of nadirs, Brontez Purnell—a widely acclaimed underground writer, filmmaker, musician, and performance artist—writes with the peerless zeal, insight, and horniness of a gay punk messiah. From dirty warehouses and gentrified bars in Oakland to desolate farm towns in Alabama, Purnell indexes desire, desperation, race, and loneliness with a startling blend of levity and vulnerability. Together, the slice-of-life tales that writhe within 100 Boyfriends are a singular and uncompromising vision of an unexposed queer underbelly. Holding them together is the vision of an iconoclastic storyteller, as fearless as he is human.

Twenty-six-year-old Rose Devlin may shop in the plus-size department, but she's never had a problem attracting men—with disastrous consequences. Recovering from her latest mistake, Rose has sworn off casual sex and moved to California to grow up, help her best friend, and make something of herself. When Rose asks the cute-but-geeky guy next door to help her land a job in high tech, she never expects to unearth his quiet strength, stunning accomplishments—and hidden talents. With a secret in her own past, Rose tries to keep her distance, but she finds that nerdy Mark isn't so nerdy when the lights go out. And that maybe, just maybe, she's not too grown up to risk one more disaster...

In this “wonderfully rich” (San Francisco Chronicle) novel from the author of the internationally bestselling *The Oracle of Stamboul*, a young man journeys from California to Cairo to unravel centuries-old family secrets. “This book is a joy.”—Rabih Alameddine, author of the National Book Award finalist *An Unnecessary Woman* WINNER OF: THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S SOPHIE BRODY AWARD • THE NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD IN FICTION • THE SAMI ROHR PRIZE FOR JEWISH LITERATURE • Named One of the Ten Best Books of the Year by the BBC • Longlisted for the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association Fiction Prize • A Penguin Random

House International One World, One Book Selection • Honorable Mention for the Middle East Book Award Joseph, a literature student at Berkeley, is the son of a Jewish mother and a Muslim father. One day, a mysterious package arrives on his doorstep, pulling him into a mesmerizing adventure to uncover the centuries-old history that binds the two sides of his family. From the storied Ibn Ezra Synagogue in Old Cairo, where generations of his family served as watchmen, to the lives of British twin sisters Agnes and Margaret, who in 1897 leave Cambridge on a mission to rescue sacred texts that have begun to disappear from the synagogue, this tightly woven multigenerational tale illuminates the tensions that have torn communities apart and the unlikely forces that attempt to bridge that divide. Moving and richly textured, *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* is a poignant portrait of the intricate relationship between fathers and sons, and an unforgettable testament to the stories we inherit and the places we are from. Praise for *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* “A beautiful, richly textured novel, ambitious and delicately crafted, *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* is both a coming-of-age story and a family history, a wide-ranging book about fathers and sons, religion, magic, love, and the essence of storytelling. This book is a joy.”—Rabih Alameddine, author of the National Book Award finalist *An Unnecessary Woman* “Lyrical, compassionate and illuminating.”—BBC “Michael David Lukas has given us an elegiac novel of Cairo—Old Cairo and modern Cairo. Lukas’s greatest flair is in capturing the essence of that beautiful, haunted, shabby, beleaguered yet still utterly sublime Middle Eastern city.”—Lucette Lagnado, author of *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* and *The Arrogant Years* “Brilliant.”—*The Jerusalem Post*

Serial temp worker April Johnson is nothing like her wildly successful brothers. She doesn’t have an Olympic gold medal. She doesn’t have millions in the bank from a tech company she founded as a teenager. She doesn’t even have a place to live, not since her boyfriend sneaked off in the middle of the night—skipping out on the rent, his three-legged dog, and her. Now forced to move back home with her mother and grovel for a job from one of her brothers, April decides it’s past time she got serious about her life. Zack Fain, on the other hand, has been too serious for years. After losing his wife to cancer at the age of twenty-six, he’s done nothing but work on his consulting business. But when he meets April at a new job, he forgets he’s a humorless suit who never gets emotionally involved. She makes him laugh, she turns him on, and he begins to wonder if it’s time he broke a few rules. Although April refuses to get stuck in yet another dead-end relationship, Zack isn’t like any of the guys she’s dated before. This could be the real deal. This could be serious. But is either one of them ready for the kind of serious that lasts a lifetime?

A CINDERELLA JOURNEY FROM SMALL-TOWN KID TO MGM’S SINGING AND DANCING GIRL NEXT DOOR--...BUT WHAT GOT LOST ALONG THE WAY? She was the sweet-faced gal who won our hearts as the spunky heroine of SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS...the all-American beauty who kicked up her heels with Fred

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Astaire in ROYAL WEDDING. Jane Powell grew up alongside Elizabeth Taylor, Roddy McDowall and Ann Blyth...and she and Liz were bridesmaids at each other's weddings. But with four marriages and nineteen films behind her, MGM's golden-voiced Girl Next Door realized she'd never found happiness—or herself—until now. In her own words, Jane Powell gives an unabashed account of her struggle to grow beyond her screen image—after it had been created and torn down by Hollywood. A SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL TRIUMPH! With memorable photos!

Escape to Northern California with a trilogy of sexy, light-hearted romantic comedies. This boxed set includes the first three novels of Gretchen Galway's best-selling Oakland Hills series, a total of almost 1,000 pages, including: LOVE HANDLESThe world of fitness apparel isn't ready for Beverly Lewis. She hates the gym, is nice to everybody, and shops at Ross Dress for Less. When she's not teaching preschool, she's wearing yoga pants . . . to nap in. So when she inherits her estranged grandfather's fitnesswear company in San Francisco, nobody expects her to keep it. Fite Fitness needs a heartless suit to save it from bankruptcy, not a thirty-year-old woman who cries when her students leave for kindergarten. Someone like Liam Johnson. A former Olympic swimmer, Liam is Fite's executive vice president. Unlike Bev, he's devoted his life to Fite's success. Managing one little preschool teacher--and his attraction to her--shouldn't be an issue. Right?But Bev's tired of being underpaid and underrated, and refuses to step aside as an obedient figurehead. To everyone's shock and horror, she moves up to San Francisco, sets up an office, and dives into the business. Nothing--not mockery, not exercise, not sabotage, not a disastrously hot night with her aggravating VP--is going to scare her away. As Liam realizes she's tougher than she looks, he discovers that losing Fite might not be nearly as bad as losing her . . . THIS TIME NEXT DOORTwenty-six-year-old Rose Devlin may shop in the plus-size department, but she's never had a problem attracting men--with disastrous consequences. Recovering from her latest mistake, Rose has sworn off casual sex and moved to California to grow up, help her best friend, and make something of herself. When Rose asks the cute-but-geeky guy next door to help her land a job in high tech, she never expects to unearth his quiet strength, stunning accomplishments--and hidden talents. With a secret in her own past, Rose tries to keep her distance, but she finds that nerdy Mark isn't so nerdy when the lights go out. And that maybe, just maybe, she's not too grown up to risk one more disaster...NOT QUITE PERFECTSerial temp worker April Johnson is nothing like her wildly successful brothers. She doesn't have an Olympic gold medal. She doesn't have millions in the bank from a tech company she founded as a teenager. She doesn't even have a place to live, not since her boyfriend sneaked off in the middle of the night—skipping out on the rent, his three-legged dog, and her. Now forced to move back home with her mother and grovel for a job from one of her brothers, April decides it's past time she got serious about her life. Zack Fain, on the other hand, has been too serious for years. After losing his wife to cancer at the age of twenty-six, he's done nothing but work on his

consulting business. But when he meets April at a new job, he forgets he's a humorless suit who never gets emotionally involved. She makes him laugh, she turns him on, and he begins to wonder if it's time he broke a few rules. Although April refuses to get stuck in yet another dead-end relationship, Zack isn't like any of the guys she's dated before. This could be the real deal. This could be serious. But is either one of them ready for the kind of serious that lasts a lifetime? Note: Although each title is a standalone novel, the stories flow in chronological order with characters reappearing in each book, making the...

In 1950s San Francisco, as Jim Ferguson, an elderly garage owner with a heart condition, prepares to retire and sell his business, he is offered the deal of a lifetime by record-company owner Chris Harman, but Al Miller, a somewhat irresponsible mechanic who works in Jim's Garage, believes that Harman is a crook and sets out to protect his mentor. Reprint. 15,000 first printing.

Lucy's best friend the supermodel is getting married to a billionaire—what better place than their week-long wedding in a luxury eco-resort to find a new man? Lucy isn't picky; she just wants a decent guy who's eager to start a family. Someone as logical, responsible, and practical as she is. Definitely not the six-foot-five, fun-loving Miles Girard. Being totally hot and charming is not important. She doesn't need a college dropout who makes her laugh. A man who makes her jump in his lap and kiss him. A man who is pathologically wary of marriage and thinks she needs him more than she needs a husband. Then again, Lucy's starting to feel like maybe, just maybe, she can't live without him...

Magic, murder, and mayhem at a high-society house party. Recovering from a recent supernatural attack, twentysomething witch Alma has sworn off violence to devote herself to the old ways of magic—without hurting anyone. But soon she's drawn out of her cozy bungalow in the redwoods to investigate a murder at a high-society house party on the California coast. She's forced to summon old powers and new, make allies she might not be able to trust, and face a shocking truth about her own identity. And maybe—if she can survive long enough—unmask a killer.

**NATIONAL BESTSELLER • PEN/HEMINGWAY AWARD WINNER • One of The New York Times 10 Best Books of the Year •** A wondrous and shattering novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Hailed as an instant classic, *There There* is at once poignant and unflinching, utterly contemporary and truly

unforgettable.

This book is the first of five about growing up in Oakland California and in the swamps in New Orleans in the mid seventies and eighties. It is loosely based on my experiences and the things I witnessed as a child and later as a man. Ghetto life is real, Murder for profit, Drug Dealers, Pimps , Murder for hire, Sex, Drug Addiction, mine and others; Child Molestation, Illegal Dog fights, Gambling, Prostitution and my ultimate incarceration. A little bit of everything. With permission from the streets given, there will be many more stories depicting life on the streets from the people who lived it and died for it. I'm writing from prison and trying to get a publishing deal. It's past time for a REAL Bay Area writer from the REAL streets to tell it like it is.

Urban and rural collide in this wry, inspiring memoir of a woman who turned a vacant lot in downtown Oakland into a thriving farm. Novella Carpenter loves cities-the culture, the crowds, the energy. At the same time, she can't shake the fact that she is the daughter of two back-to-the-land hippies who taught her to love nature and eat vegetables. Ambivalent about repeating her parents' disastrous mistakes, yet drawn to the idea of backyard self-sufficiency, Carpenter decided that it might be possible to have it both ways: a homegrown vegetable plot as well as museums, bars, concerts, and a twenty-four-hour convenience mart mere minutes away. Especially when she moved to a ramshackle house in inner city Oakland and discovered a weed-choked, garbage-strewn abandoned lot next door. She closed her eyes and pictured heirloom tomatoes, a beehive, and a chicken coop. What started out as a few egg-laying chickens led to turkeys, geese, and ducks. Soon, some rabbits joined the fun, then two three-hundred-pound pigs. And no, these charming and eccentric animals weren't pets; she was a farmer, not a zookeeper. Novella was raising these animals for dinner. Novella Carpenter's corner of downtown Oakland is populated by unforgettable characters. Lana (anal spelled backward, she reminds us) runs a speakeasy across the street and refuses to hurt even a fly, let alone condone raising turkeys for Thanksgiving. Bobby, the homeless man who collects cars and car parts just outside the farm, is an invaluable neighborhood concierge. The turkeys, Harold and Maude, tend to escape on a daily basis to cavort with the prostitutes hanging around just off the highway nearby. Every day on this strange and beautiful farm, urban meets rural in the most surprising ways. For anyone who has ever grown herbs on their windowsill, tomatoes on their fire escape, or obsessed over the offerings at the local farmers' market, Carpenter's story will capture your heart. And if you've ever considered leaving it all behind to become a farmer outside the city limits, or looked at the abandoned lot next door with a gleam in your eye, consider this both a cautionary tale and a full-throated call to action. *Farm City* is an unforgettably charming memoir, full of hilarious moments, fascinating farmers' tips, and a great deal of heart. It is also a moving meditation on urban life versus the natural world and what we have given up to live the way we do.

Oakland has a rich theatre history, from the amusements of a gas-lit downtown light opera and vaudeville stage in the 1870s to the ornate cinematic escape portals of the Great Depression. Dozens of neighborhood theatres, once the site of family outings and first dates, remain cherished memories in the lives of Oaklanders. The city can still boast three fabulous movie palaces from the golden age of cinema: the incomparable art deco Paramount, which now offers live performances and films; the stately Grand

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Lake gracing the sinuous shores of Lake Merritt; and the magnificently eccentric Fox Oakland, with its imposing Hindu gods flanking the stage. The Paramount and Grand Lake still stir the heartstrings of patrons with showings preceded by interludes on their mighty WurliTzer organs.

"I have always had faith that the best writers will rise to the top, like cream, sooner or later, and will become exactly as well-known as they should be-their work talked about, quoted, taught, performed, filmed, set to music, anthologized. Perhaps, with the present collection, Lucia Berlin will begin to gain the attention she deserves." -Lydia Davis A MANUAL FOR CLEANING WOMEN compiles the best work of the legendary short-story writer Lucia Berlin. With the grit of Raymond Carver, the humor of Grace Paley, and a blend of wit and melancholy all her own, Berlin crafts miracles from the everyday, uncovering moments of grace in the Laundromats and halfway houses of the American Southwest, in the homes of the Bay Area upper class, among switchboard operators and struggling mothers, hitchhikers and bad Christians. Readers will revel in this remarkable collection from a master of the form and wonder how they'd ever overlooked her in the first place.

This Time Next Door (Romantic Comedy, BBW Romance, Friends to Lovers, Office Romance)Oakland Hills #2Eton Field One year removed from life as a crack dealer in East Oakland, Firstborn Walker returns to the streets to try to rescue Crayon from a brutal pimp named Phenomenal.

A debut collection of poetic, linked essays investigating the past and present state of California, its conflicting histories and their impact on a writer's family and life. California has been advertised as a destiny manifested for those ready to pull up their bootstraps and head west across to find wealth on the other side of the Sierra Nevada since the 19th century. Across the seven essays in the debut collection by José Vadi, we hear from the descendants of those not promised that prize. Inter State explores California through many lenses: an aging obsessed skateboarder; a self-appointed dive bar DJ; a laid-off San Francisco tech worker turned rehired contractor; a grandson of Mexican farmworkers pursuing the crops they tilled. Amidst wildfires, high speed rail, housing crises, unprecedented wealth and its underlying decay, Inter State excavates and roots itself inside those necessary stories and places lost in the ever-changing definitions of a selectively golden state.

In The Revolution Has Come Robyn C. Spencer traces the Black Panther Party's organizational evolution in Oakland, California, where hundreds of young people came to political awareness and journeyed to adulthood as members. Challenging the belief that the Panthers were a projection of the leadership, Spencer draws on interviews with rank-and-file members, FBI files, and archival materials to examine the impact the organization's internal politics and COINTELPRO's political repression had on its evolution and dissolution. She shows how the Panthers' members interpreted, implemented, and influenced party ideology and programs; initiated dialogues about gender politics; highlighted ambiguities in the Panthers' armed stance; and criticized organizational priorities. Spencer also centers gender politics and the experiences of women and their contributions to the Panthers and the Black Power movement as a whole. Providing a panoramic view of the party's organization over its sixteen-year history, The Revolution Has Come shows how the Black Panthers embodied Black Power through the party's international activism, interracial

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alliances, commitment to address state violence, and desire to foster self-determination in Oakland's black communities.

OAKLAND HILLS ROMANCE, BOOK #1 When a couch potato inherits a fitnesswear company in San Francisco, sparks fly with her arrogant, Olympic medalist vice president. The world of fitness apparel isn't ready for Beverly Lewis. She hates the gym, is nice to everybody, and shops at Ross Dress for Less. When she's not teaching preschool, she's wearing yoga pants . . . to nap in. So when she inherits her estranged grandfather's fitnesswear company in San Francisco, nobody expects her to keep it. Fite Fitness needs a heartless suit to save it from bankruptcy, not a thirty-year-old woman who cries when her students leave for kindergarten. Someone like Liam Johnson. A former Olympic swimmer, Liam is Fite's executive vice president. Unlike Bev, he's devoted his life to Fite's success. Managing one little preschool teacher—and his attraction to her—shouldn't be an issue. Right? But Bev's tired of being underpaid and underrated, and refuses to step aside as an obedient figurehead. To everyone's shock and horror, she moves up to San Francisco, sets up an office, and dives into the business. Nothing—not mockery, not exercise, not sabotage, not a disastrously hot night with her aggravating VP—is going to scare her away. As Liam realizes she's tougher than she looks, he discovers that losing Fite might not be nearly as bad as losing her . . . A story about the pursuit of love, happiness, and the perfect yoga pants, Love Handles will speak to anyone who's ever had to face what scares her most. Warning: contains at least two loves scenes and a happy ending. Read the whole series! LOVE HANDLES (Oakland Hills 1) THIS TIME NEXT DOOR (Oakland Hills 2) NOT QUITE PERFECT (Oakland Hills 3) THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING (Oakland Hills 4) GOING BROKE (Oakland Hills 5) GOING WILD (Oakland Hills 6) OAKLAND HILLS ROMANTIC COMEDY BOXED SET (Books 1-3) QUICK TAKES (Oakland Hills Stories)

Eleven-year-old Delphine has it together. Even though her mother, Cecile, abandoned her and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, seven years ago. Even though her father and Big Ma will send them from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to stay with Cecile for the summer. And even though Delphine will have to take care of her sisters, as usual, and learn the truth about the missing pieces of the past. When the girls arrive in Oakland in the summer of 1968, Cecile wants nothing to do with them. She makes them eat Chinese takeout dinners, forbids them to enter her kitchen, and never explains the strange visitors with Afros and black berets who knock on her door. Rather than spend time with them, Cecile sends Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern to a summer camp sponsored by a revolutionary group, the Black Panthers, where the girls get a radical new education. Set during one of the most tumultuous years in recent American history, one crazy summer is the heartbreaking, funny tale of three girls in search of the mother who abandoned them—an unforgettable story told by a distinguished author of books for children and teens, Rita Williams-Garcia.

For schoolteacher Nicki, a summer in Hawaii is the perfect opportunity to overcome a lifetime of phobias and heartbreak. But when she gets to Maui, she discovers the guy who broke her heart in college is living in her paradise. How can she tackle her fears when the biggest one of all is walking around shirtless—and refuses to leave her alone? About to turn thirty, Ansel has never wasted his life of privilege—if only his father saw it that way. When Dad cuts him off financially, Ansel moves into his family's



vacation home to make his own fortune in real estate. The last thing he needs is his sister's leggy, beautiful friend distracting him. Unfortunately, he's had little practice resisting temptation... As the days and nights unfold along the luxurious Maui shores, Nicki and Ansel find themselves sharing more and more... and more. But will either one of them have the courage to bring what they find together home with them when the summer's over?

It all started with a demon in a big-box store... When a series of demon attacks rocks the magical world, reluctant witch investigator Alma Bellrose will have to separate friend from foe to find out why—before it leads to the destruction of her supernatural town, her friends, and herself.

Rap and Politics maps out fifty years of political and musical development by exploring three specific moments of local discourse, each a response to failures by local, state, and national governments to address police brutality, violence, poverty, and poor social conditions in Oakland, California and the surrounding Bay Area. First, in the mid-1960s, Black youth responded to repressive political and socioeconomic factors in West Oakland by founding the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, whose representation of violence and community aid, as well as its radical and militant approach to Black Nationalism, became a foundational discourse that shaped the development of rap music in the region. Second, from the collapse of the Party in the early 1980s through the 1990s, gangster rap emerged as a form of political expression among local youth, who drew heavily on radical and militant elements of Panther discourse in their lyrics and artwork. Third, hyphy music in the mid-1990s to early 2000s continued these radical discourses and also incorporated coordinated, subversive public behavior to the mix. The result was a critique of endemic problems facing the local Black community, but also an infectious subgenre of party music that gained mainstream popularity. Overall, this study shows that the specific types of representation created to resist problems of racism and poverty in Oakland is actually key to understanding other rap undergrounds, grassroots subcultures, and social movements elsewhere. In the process, Rap and Politics offers readers a new model focused on the development of settings, representation, movements, discourse banks, and impact within underground rap scenes. Lavar Pope is Clinical Assistant Professor of Political Science at Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago, USA.

Whether you've never picked up a knife or you're an accomplished chef, there are only four basic factors that determine how good your food will taste. Salt, Fat, Acid, and Heat are the four cardinal directions of cooking, and they will guide you as you choose which ingredients to use and how to cook them, and they will tell you why last minute adjustments will ensure that food tastes exactly as it should. This book will change the way you think about cooking and eating, and help you find your bearings in any kitchen, with any ingredients, while cooking any meal. --

There's more than one way to ruin a beautiful friendship. Tech entrepreneur Sly has a portfolio of lucrative San Francisco Bay Area start-ups, but while his financial options are unlimited, his romantic options are anything but. Bored with the same old, same old, he finds himself spending more and more time with Cleo, his former piano teacher and current pizza-eating, binge-TV-watching partner. Already divorced at only twenty-nine, Cleo's not looking for love. Certainly not with a gorgeous workaholic who

usually dates high-powered, MBA-toting supermodels. Although, come to think of it, Sly hasn't dated anyone in a long time. And Cleo isn't the only one to notice he seems lonely... An unexpected road trip to Las Vegas forces Cleo to confront her past while Sly slams into his own demons and realizes he's his own worst enemy. What happens when they cross the line? And then move it, jump over it, trample it, zigzag across it, and forget where the line was in the first place?

Less than a month before her 40th birthday, a devastating firestorm destroys Risa Nye's home and neighborhood in Oakland, California. Already mourning the perceived loss of her youth, she now must face the loss of all tangible reminders of who she was before. *There Was a Fire Here* is the story of how Nye adjusts to the turning point that will forever mark the "before and after" in her life—and a chronicle of her attempts to honor the lost symbols of her past even as she struggles to create a new home for her family.

The QUICK TAKES collection follows the lives of three friends in California who find love when they least expect it. It also includes a bonus story in which the matchmaker in all the Oakland Hills books finally gets what she deserves--a happy ending of her own. This boxset contains the first four short stories in the bestselling, contemporary romance Oakland Hills series. The total collection is approximately 183 pages long. *Can't Stop Wanting You* (love/hate romance) Jody Lapinski is a plus-sized chemist with a problem. The despicable Simon Brogan has moved into the upstairs unit of her house. In high school, Simon was an arrogant, heartless jerk. She's not going to forgive him now just because he's gorgeous and successful. Not after what he did. \* \*Contains the wedding of Liam and Bev from *Love Handles* (Oakland Hills Book 1). *Just Can't Forget You* (second chance romance) They first met as troubled teens, and now their paths have crossed again. Melissa has shrugged off her past to begin a fulfilling career, but Eduardo is definitely trouble. All grown up, he's more dangerous than ever. *Can You Love Me Now?* (friends-to-lovers romance) Sasha Selkirk has been in love with her best friend's brother, Jake Lapinski, since she was thirteen. Now twenty-eight, she knows if he was ever going to return her feelings, he certainly would've done it by now. So when he shows up at the snowbound mountain cabin where she's staying--alone, trying again to forget him--she pushes him away, never expecting him to kiss her. Or make any of her other dreams come true... BONUS STORY! *Trixie Does Vegas* The secret story of how Trixie and Hugo get together. A companion story to *This Changes Everything*, Oakland Hills Book 4.

After inheriting a broken-down house, Billie finds more than she bargained for when she enlists the help of a millionaire with a tool belt. Millionaire investor Ian Cooper may be the perfect man, but Billie Garcia only wants him for his tool belt. She's just inherited a broken-down house she can't afford to fix up, and Ian has all the skills she needs. And a few she wants... The handsome hunk is an old family friend, and definitely off limits. Even though Billie's last boyfriend treated her like a sexy ATM without a daily limit, and she really, really deserves better. Even though-- No, no, no. Off limits. Ian

has always loved getting dirty. Getting his hands dirty.... Owning a hot investment firm is great for his net worth, but he financial reports aren't nearly as attractive to stare at as Billie. Her house is just the diversion he needs. He'll have to resist Billie's charms, but he's managed that for years. How hard could it be? Within a week, he can't resist her—and he doesn't want to. But Billie's afraid to risk the heart she's guarded so carefully all these years. Can one impulsive night really be the foundation for a lifetime?

The sheer energy and passion and intensity, the linguistic virtuosity of Eric Miles Williamson's latest novel, *WELCOME TO OAKLAND*, will leave readers breathless. The vigor and uncensored redneck honesty of T-Bird Murphy's blue-collar voice will at turns delight, offend, amuse and enrage readers as T-Bird gives us what we're not supposed to hear: the groans, gritos and war-whoops of men when they're not behaving like gentlemen, when they're out of sight and earshot, when they're wrapped around their drinks at Dick's Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge or your local workingman's watering hole. In *WELCOME TO OAKLAND*, the T-Bird Murphy of Williamson's internationally acclaimed novel, *East Bay Grease*, is now a man. He's been divorced twice, and he finds himself hiding out in a garage in rural Missouri for a reason we're never told, confused and stunned, shell-shocked by the hard life he's dealt. He opens his story, "I'm always happiest when I live in a dump, and I've lived in some serious shitholes," but it's difficult to believe him. What unfolds is the story of a workingman who tries his hardest to escape the hell of the Oakland ghetto, who finds honor in squalor, kinship among the broken divorcees of Dick's Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge, dignity and beauty at the garbage dumps where he sleeps in the cab of the scow he drives for a living.

"Wonderfully, in *Akashic's Oakland Noir*, the stereotypes about the city suffer the fate of your average noir character—they die brutally." —*San Francisco Chronicle* In the wake of *San Francisco Noir*, *Los Angeles Noir*, and *Orange County Noir*—all popular volumes in the *Akashic Noir Series*—comes the latest California installment, *Oakland Noir*. Masterfully curated by Jerry Thompson and Eddie Muller (the "Czar of Noir"), this volume will shock, titillate, provoke, and entertain. The diverse cast of talented contributors will not disappoint. *Oakland Noir* offers stories by Nick Petrulakis, Kim Addonizio, Keenan Norris, Keri Miki-Lani Schroeder, Katie Gilmartin, Dorothy Lazard, Harry Louis Williams II, Carolyn Alexander, Phil Canalin, Judy Juanita, Jamie DeWolf, Nayomi Munaweera, Mahmud Rahman, Tom McElravey, Joe Loya, and Eddie Muller. "From the Oakland hills to the heart of downtown, each story brings Oakland to life." —*San Jose Mercury News* "Oakland is a natural for the series, with its shadowy crimes and disgruntled cops." —*Zoom Street Magazine* "San Francisco's grittier next-door neighbor gets her day in the sun in 16 new stories in this tightly curated entry in *Akashic's Noir series*. The hardscrabble streets of Oakland offer crime aplenty . . . Thompson and Muller have taken such pains to choose stories highlighting Oakland's diversity and history that the result is a volume rich in local

culture as well as crime.” —Kirkus Reviews

There's more than one way to ruin a beautiful friendship. Tech entrepreneur Sly has a portfolio of lucrative San Francisco Bay Area start-ups, but while his financial options are unlimited, his romantic options are anything but. Bored with the same old, same old, he finds himself spending more and more time with Cleo, his former piano teacher and current pizza-eating, binge-TV-watching partner. Already divorced at only twenty-nine, Cleo's not looking for love. Certainly not with a gorgeous workaholic who usually dates high-powered, MBA-toting supermodels. Although, come to think of it, Sly hasn't dated anyone in a long time. And Cleo isn't the only one to notice he seems lonely... An unexpected weekend trip to Las Vegas forces Cleo to confront her past while Sly slams into his own demons and realizes he's his own worst enemy. What happens when they cross the line? And then move it, jump over it, trample it, zigzag across it, and forget where the line was in the first place?

I should've known the birthday party for a 113-year-old witch wasn't going to be all cake and games. Especially with so many other witches around—and that scary magic wand. I'd been desperate for a vacation from the rain on the California coast. But instead of snow and cocoa in a cozy mountain cabin, I got... a dead body. And the murder weapon wasn't a candlestick in the billiard room. Looks like it's up to me again. My one friend is a Bright witch but not much of a fighter. I used to think I, too, was harmless, but the enchanted marks on my skin tell a different story. My moral code prevents me from killing anyone, but somehow my enemies tend to end up dead. Trapped in the spellbound mountain retreat, I have to find the killer before anyone else gets killed. Or worse. I've done it before, and I'll do it again. Probably. \* \* \* \* \* An enchanted lake house, a magic wand, and a murdered witch... Life is never boring for ex-demon hunter Alma Bellrose, even if she'd like it to be. Can she use her developing powers to unravel a century of family secrets and save her friend's life—or will an old curse claim another victim? A standalone mystery within a series.

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