

The Harem Midwife Roberta Rich

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[The Hole in the Middle](#) Anchor Canada

This second thrilling novel featuring Laurence Beaumont, the seductive, sardonic protagonist introduced in *The Best of Men*, blends history and fiction in a seventeenth century alive with intrigue, passion, violence and wit, from the embattled court of King Charles I at Oxford where poisonous rivalries fester, to stately country estates and the colourful underworld of thieves and whores. 1643: England is descending into a bloodier Civil War, and Beaumont, born a nobleman's heir but with a shadowy past as a mercenary turncoat and spy, has been hired against his will as agent to the King's new Secretary of State, the manipulative Lord Digby. Still in love with the bewitching Isabella Savage, Beaumont is sent by Digby into enemy-held London to track down his counterpart, Parliament's twisted spymaster, who nourishes his own, very personal desire for revenge. Already Beaumont suspects he can trust no one, not even Isabella, who has deep ties to Digby. As power struggles seethe within the Royalist camp and Beaumont's tenuous faith in the King's cause is further eroded, he becomes haunted by nightmares portending two deaths: of the King, and of the Prince of Wales, for whom Beaumont cherishes a strong, protective bond. At home, as his father's health weakens, Beaumont's duty is to choose a respectable wife and carry on the ancient line, though to give up Isabella will devastate him. Worse yet, a visitor from his mother's Spanish past appears with a long-buried secret that could ultimately destroy the Beaumont family.

Ape House Kids Can Press Ltd

Marj Charlier's *The Rebel Nun* is based on the true story of Clotild, the daughter of a sixth-century king and his concubine, who leads a rebellion of nuns against the rising misogyny and patriarchy of the medieval church. At that time, women are afforded few choices in life: prostitution, motherhood, or the cloister. Only the latter offers them any kind of independence. By the end of the sixth century, even this is eroding as the church begins to eject women from the clergy and declares them too unclean to touch sacramental objects or even their priest-husbands. Craving the legitimacy thwarted by her bastard status, Clotild seeks to become the next abbess of the female Monastery of the Holy Cross, the most famous of the women's cloisters of the early Middle Ages. When the bishop of Poitiers blocks her appointment and seeks to control the nunnery himself, Clotild masterminds an escape, leading a group of nuns on a dangerous pilgrimage to beg her royal relatives to intercede on their behalf. But the bishop refuses to back down, and a bloody battle ensues. Will Clotild and her sisters succeed with their quest, or will they face excommunication, possibly even death? In the only historical novel written about the incident, *The Rebel Nun* is a richly imagined story about a truly remarkable heroine.

[The Licence of War](#) TouchWood Editions

Hannah and Isaac return in this riveting, and suspenseful tale—a continuation of the #1 national bestseller *The Midwife of Venice*. The Imperial Harem, Constantinople, 1579 Hannah and Isaac Levi, Venetians in exile, have set up a new life for themselves in Constantinople. Isaac runs a newly established business in the growing silk trade, while Hannah, the best midwife in all of Constantinople, plies her trade within the opulent palace of Sultan Murat III, tending to the thousand women of his lively and infamous harem. But one night, when Hannah is unexpectedly summoned to the palace, she's confronted with Leah, a poor Jewish peasant girl who has been abducted and sold into the sultan's harem. The sultan favours her as his next conquest and wants her to produce his heir, but the girl just wants to return to her home and the only life she has ever known. What will Hannah do? Will she risk her life and livelihood to protect this young girl, or will she retain her high esteem in the eye of the sultan? An adventurous, opulent and deliciously exciting read, peopled with fascinating, unforgettable characters (a court eunuch; the calculating sultan's mother-in-law; the beguiling harem ladies; and a very mysterious young beauty from Venice who shows up on Hannah's doorstep, causing much havoc), this novel is sure to please fans of *The Midwife of Venice* and extend Roberta's reputation as one of Canada's most loved historical fiction authors.

[Dressing Modern Frenchwomen](#) Simon and Schuster

Mary Wollstonecraft was one of the greatest philosophers and writers of the Eighteenth century. During her brief career, she wrote novels, treatises, a travel narrative, a history of the French Revolution, a conduct book, and a children's book. Her most celebrated and widely-read work is *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. This Guidebook introduces: Wollstonecraft's life and the background to *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* The ideas and text of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* Wollstonecraft's enduring influence in philosophy and our contemporary intellectual life It is ideal for anyone coming to Wollstonecraft's classic text for the first time and anyone interested in the origins of feminist thought.

The Rebel Nun Random House

In his latest book, fairy tales expert Jack Zipes explores the question of why some fairy tales "work" and others don't, why the fairy tale is uniquely capable of getting under the skin of culture and staying there. Why, in other words, fairy tales "stick." Long an advocate of the fairy tale as a serious genre with wide social and cultural ramifications, Jack Zipes here makes his strongest case for the idea of the fairy tale not just as a collection of stories for children but a profoundly important genre. *Why Fairy Tales Stick*

contains two chapters on the history and theory of the genre, followed by case studies of famous tales (including *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Bluebeard*), followed by a summary chapter on the problematic nature of traditional storytelling in the twenty-first century.

A Trial in Venice Blackstone Publishing

"Timely . . . brilliant . . . hugely enjoyable, magnificently researched and deeply absorbing." —Jason Goodwin, *New York Times Book Review* At midnight, December 31, 1925, citizens of the newly proclaimed Turkish Republic celebrated the New Year. For the first time ever, they had agreed to use a nationally unified calendar and clock. Yet in Istanbul—an ancient crossroads and Turkey's largest city—people were looking toward an uncertain future. Never purely Turkish, Istanbul was home to generations of Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, as well as Muslims. It welcomed White Russian nobles ousted by the Russian Revolution, Bolshevik assassins on the trail of the exiled Leon Trotsky, German professors, British diplomats, and American entrepreneurs—a multicultural panoply of performers and poets, do-gooders and ne'er-do-wells. During the Second World War, thousands of Jews fleeing occupied Europe found passage through Istanbul, some with the help of the future Pope John XXIII. At the Pera Palace, Istanbul's most luxurious hotel, so many spies mingled in the lobby that the manager posted a sign asking them to relinquish their seats to paying guests. In beguiling prose and rich character portraits, Charles King brings to life a remarkable era when a storied city stumbled into the modern world and reshaped the meaning of cosmopolitanism.

The Towers of Tuscany Penguin

Sofia is trained in secret as a painter in her father's workshop during a time when women did not paint openly. She loves her work, but her restless spirit leads her to betray her extraordinary gifts to marry a man who comes to despise her for not producing a son. After Sofia's father is crushed by his own fresco during an attack motivated by a vendetta, Sofia realizes she must escape her loveless marriage. She flees to Siena, where, disguised as a boy, she paints again. When her work attracts the notice of a nobleman who discovers the woman under the dirty smock, Sofia is faced with a choice that nearly destroys her. Meticulously researched settings and compelling characters are united with a strong heroine in this rich portrait of medieval Italy.

[The Aging of Aquarius](#) Simon and Schuster

Dia Mittal is an airline call center agent in Mumbai searching for an easier life. As her search takes her to the United States, Dia's check-ered relationship with the American Dream dialogues with the experiences and perspectives of a global South Asian community across the class spectrum--call center agents, travel agents, immigrant maids, fashion designers, blue- and white-collar workers in the hospitality industry, junior and senior artists in Bollywood, hustling single mothers, academics, tourists in the Third World, refugees displaced by military superpowers, Marwari merchants and trade caravans of the Silk Road, among others. What connects the novel's web of brown border-crossing characters is their quest for belonging and negotiation of power struggles, mediated by race, class, gender, nationality, age, or place. With its fragmented form, staccato rhythm, repetition, and play with English language, *Border Less* questions the "mainstream" Western novel and its assumptions of good storytelling. *Border Less* was a finalist for The Feminist Press's Louise Meriwether First Book Prize. Chapters from the novel won the Short Story Contest organized by 14th International Conference on the Short Story in English, judged by Bharati Mukherjee and Clark Blaise; the New Asian Writing Prize; and appeared in *The Best Asian Short Stories* anthology. The opening chapter, in a slightly different form, was published in *The Kenyon Review*.

Tcj Publishing

A Venetian exile in Constantinople in the 16th century working as midwife for the Sultan's harem considers risking her livelihood in order to save a poor, Jewish peasant girl who was abducted and sold into the harem. Original.

Why Fairy Tales Stick JHU Press

The International Bestseller "Lois Leveen's richly detailed, fascinating novel offers a wholly original and intriguing take on one of Shakespeare's most beloved plays" (*New York Times* bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini). In Verona, a city ravaged by plague and political rivalries, a mother mourning the death of her day-old infant enters the household of the powerful Cappelletti family to become the wet-nurse to their newborn baby. As she serves her beloved Juliet over the next fourteen years, the nurse learns the Cappellettis' darkest secrets. Those secrets—and the nurse's deep personal grief—erupt across five momentous days of love and loss that destroy a daughter, and a family. By turns sensual, tragic, and comic, Juliet's Nurse gives voice to one of literature's most memorable and distinctive characters, a woman who was both insider and outsider among Verona's wealthy ruling class. Exploring the romance and intrigue of interwoven loyalties, rivalries, jealousies, and losses only hinted at in Shakespeare's play, this is a never-before-heard tale of the deepest love in Verona—the love between a grieving woman and the precious child of her heart. In the tradition of Sarah Dunant, Philippa Gregory, and Geraldine Brooks, Juliet's Nurse is a rich prequel that reimagines the world's most cherished tale of love and loss, suffering and survival.

Border Less She Writes Press

When vice had a legal home and jazz was being born—the captivating story of an infamous true-life madam New Orleans, 1900. Mary Deubler makes a meager living as an "alley whore." That all changes when bible-thumping Alderman Sidney Story forces the creation of a red-light district that's mockingly dubbed "Storyville." Mary believes there's no place for a lowly girl like her in the high-class bordellos of Storyville's Basin Street, where Champagne flows and beautiful girls turn tricks in luxurious bedrooms. But with gumption, twists of fate, even a touch of Voodoo, Mary rises above her hopeless lot to become the notorious Madame Josie Arlington. Filled with fascinating historical details and cameos by Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong, and E. J. Bellocq, *Madam* is a fantastic romp through *The Big Easy* and the irresistible story of a woman who rose to power long before the era of equal rights.

[And the Rat Laughed](#) She Writes Press

The thrilling conclusion to the #1 national bestselling historical trilogy by Roberta Rich. In *The Midwife of Venice*, set in 1575, Hannah Levi was forced to flee Venice with the baby of a Venetian aristocratic family whom she rescued. Roberta Rich followed that action-packed adventure with *The Harem Midwife*, which exiled Hannah and her beloved husband Isaac to Constantinople--only for Hannah to become enmeshed in the shady politics of a sultan's harem. And now, with *A Trial in Venice*, set five years later, Hannah is forced back to Venice--both to opulent yet crumbling

villas and the Jewish ghetto known as Veneto. Her beloved adopted son Matteo has been kidnapped and is in danger once more. And this time, so is Hannah. A rollicking and evocative read, peopled with beguiling, unforgettable characters (including the epic return of the troublesome and winsome Foscari and Cesca), this novel is a breathtaking follow up to *The Midwife of Venice* and *The Harem Midwife*, certain to shock and delight fans of the series and solidify Rich's reputation as one of Canada's most loved historical fiction authors.

[The Red Tent](#) Simon and Schuster

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER From Jamie Ford, author of the beloved *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, comes a much-anticipated second novel. Set against the backdrop of Depression-era Seattle, *Songs of Willow Frost* is a powerful tale of two souls—a boy with dreams for his future and a woman escaping her haunted past—both seeking love, hope, and forgiveness. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. Twelve-year-old William Eng, a Chinese American boy, has lived at Seattle's Sacred Heart Orphanage ever since his mother's listless body was carried away from their small apartment five years ago. On his birthday—or rather, the day the nuns designate as his birthday—William and the other orphans are taken to the historical Moore Theatre, where William glimpses an actress on the silver screen who goes by the name of Willow Frost. Struck by her features, William is convinced that the movie star is his mother, Liu Song. Determined to find Willow and prove that his mother is still alive, William escapes from Sacred Heart with his friend Charlotte. The pair navigate the streets of Seattle, where they must not only survive but confront the mysteries of William's past and his connection to the exotic film star. The story of Willow Frost, however, is far more complicated than the Hollywood fantasy William sees onscreen. Shifting between the Great Depression and the 1920s, *Songs of Willow Frost* takes readers on an emotional journey of discovery. Jamie Ford's sweeping novel will resonate with anyone who has ever longed for the comforts of family and a place to call home. Praise for *Songs of Willow Frost* “ If you liked *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, you're going to love *Songs of Willow Frost*. . . . tender, powerful, and deeply satisfying. ” —Lisa Genova “ [A] poignant tale of lost and found love. ” —Tampa Bay Times “ Arresting . . . [with] the kind of ending readers always hope for, but seldom get. ” —The Dallas Morning News “ [An] achingly tender story . . . a tale of nuance and emotion. ” —The Providence Journal “ Ford crafts [a] beautiful, tender tale of love transcending the sins people perpetrate on one another and shows how the strength of our primal relationships is the best part of our human nature. ” —Great Falls Tribune “ Remarkable . . . likely to appeal to readers who enjoy the multi-generational novels of Amy Tan. ” —Bookreporter “ Jamie Ford is a first-rate novelist, and with *Songs of Willow Frost* he takes a great leap forward and demonstrates the uncanny ability to move me to tears. ” —Pat Conroy “ With vivid detail, Jamie Ford brings to life Seattle's Chinatown during the Depression and chronicles the high price those desperate times exacted from an orphaned boy and the woman he believes is his mother. *Songs of Willow Frost* is about innocence and the loss of it, about longing, about the power of remembered love. ” —Nancy Horan, author of *Loving Frank* “ Ford's boundless compassion for the human spirit, in all its strengths and weaknesses, makes him one of our most unique and compelling storytellers. ” —Helen Simonson, author of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*

[The \(Post\) Mistress](#) New Society Publishers

After losing her husband on the RMS Titanic, Madeleine Astor, who is constantly surrounded by scandal, finds her status elevated to that of a virtuous, tragic heroine and must decide whether to accept the role assigned to her or carve out her own extraordinary path.

[Pavitra in Paris](#) Hachette UK

On the last day of 1999, a survivor grandmother in Tel Aviv shares with her granddaughter her tragic life story as a child hidden in a pit, with only a rat for company. The granddaughter tells the legend of "Girl and Rat" to her teacher; in 2009 those who heard it through her classmates establish an internet website with poems. From now on this memory is spread all over the world and becomes a myth. A future anthropologist, researching its mysterious roots in 2099, discovers Father Stanislaw's personal journal documenting his rescue of that little Jewish girl, and so the chain of remembrance moves from the present to the future and back to the past.

[A Trial in Venice](#) Macmillan

Discover how you can live your passion and purpose after retirement and change the world as an empowered elder. Your career has wound down, the kids have moved, and your schedule is clear . . . for the next thirty years. In your youth, you cared about people and planet earth, and you had grand visions of changing the world. At some point, those passions and that sense of purpose got buried under diapers and the 9-5. Still, that old you remains alive. Now, with the rest of your life ahead, you can be the change and make this next stage of your life the most powerful yet. But where to start? Helen Wilkes, a retired professor and activist, takes readers on an inspiring journey to find renewed purpose in retirement. Along the way she helps readers navigate the transition to a post-work identity by fanning the embers of lost passions and developing new interests. Whether you are drawn to gardening clubs, to social justice issues, political campaigning, ethical investing, or creativity through the arts, *The Aging of Aquarius* offers inspiration, practical steps, and extra resources to help reignite your passion, your sense of purpose, and to effect real change in the world as an empowered elder. Praise for *The Aging of Aquarius* “ If you want to make your retirement or “ elderhood ” the best part of your life, read this book. Interspersing her own amazing story, octogenarian Helen Wilkes points the way to purpose, passion, and pleasure in later years. Wilkes has woven psychology, philosophy, and poetry into a page-turner you will not want to put down. I read it in one sitting. ” —Dr. Roslyn Kunin, C.M., O.B.C., Roslyn Kunin and Associates, Inc. "In this inspiring work Helen Wilkes wastes no time raging against the dying of the light, showing instead that the light of mind and soul can shine ever more brightly even as our bodies grow old. *The Aging of Aquarius* is both an intimate personal account and a call to enlivenment and action for an entire generation. ” —Gabor Maté M.D., author, *When The Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress* “ Whether you are contemplating retirement or well-established in the business of living your senior years, this literary adventure will nudge you to laugh at yourself, challenge yourself, and discover both encouragement and inspiration. ” —Sally Thorne, RN, PhD, FAAN, FCAHS, Professor, School of Nursing and Associate Dean, Faculty of Applied Science, University of British Columbia

[Ten Birds](#) Penguin

A captivating debut that imagines a passionate friendship between Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert when they were exploring the Nile in 1849. Before she became the nineteenth-century's heroine, before he had written a word of *Madame Bovary*, Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert traveled up the Nile at the same time. In reality, they never met. But in *The Twelve Rooms of the Nile*, they ignite a friendship marked by intelligence, humour, and a ravishing tenderness that will alter both their destinies. On the surface, Nightingale and Flaubert have little in common. She is a woman with radical ideas about society and God, naive in the ways of men. He is a notorious womanizer, involved with innumerable prostitutes. But both are at painful crossroads in their lives and burn with unfulfilled ambition. In Shomer's deft hands, the two unlikely soulmates come together to share their darkest torments and fervent hopes. Brimming with adventure and the sparkling sensibilities of the two travellers, this mesmerizing debut novel offers a luminous combination of gorgeous prose and wild imagination, all of it coloured by the opulent tapestry of mid-nineteenth century Egypt. 'A tour de force of twenty-first century storytelling' Gillian Gill, author of *Nightingales* 'Immensely satisfying ... deftly imagined' Susanna Moore, author of *The Big Girls* 'The Twelve Rooms of the Nile promises ... heat and mud aplenty in an atmospheric imagining of the friendship that grew between Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert on their 1849 Nile journey' - Sunday Telegraph

[Love Water Memory](#) Lake Union Press

First new play in six years from Canada's most famous First Nations playwright. This latest play is a riveting musical.

[The Cole Trilogy](#) ReadHowYouWant.com

D'Ohsson's *Tableau général de l'Empire ottoman* is the most authoritative, magnificently illustrated work of the Enlightenment on Islam and the Ottomans. A practical work for statesmen, the *Tableau* delighted all readers with profuse illustrations -- verbal and visual -- of Ottoman life.

[Songs of Willow Frost](#) The Harem Midwife

Returning to 1816 London to help military surgeon Alec Comrie build a civilian practice, Will Starling becomes acquainted with the medical world's seedy underbelly and strives to uncover the nature of one charismatic surgeon's evils.