



VERSE & VINO

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NOVEMBER 4, 2021

— * —
STREAMING LIVE



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ALKA JOSHI



ALEX MICHAELIDES



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BRYANT TERRY

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The **Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation** is grateful to the many corporations, foundations, individuals and book clubs whose generous support of *Verse & Vino* have made this evening possible.

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WELCOME

The eighth annual *Verse & Vino* is like no other. We're streaming virtually again, and many of you are celebrating together in homes, offices, and at Town Brewing Co. We're here to support a local institution, our Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, yet authors and Library supporters are joining us from around the world. *Verse & Vino*, like our Library, is both local and global.

This year, the reach of our Library is broader than ever. Virtual programs attract participants from across the globe, tonight's authors are joining us from **three continents** and **four time zones**, and in the last fiscal year **40%** more individual donors supported the Library than the year before - many from beyond our region.

That's because libraries bring us together, which in an often-divided world has never been more important.

Your investment in Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation impacts every corner of our community. In the last fiscal year, private funding supported Spanish translation services, provided refurbished laptops for 2500 households, and purchased books and materials on board the Charlotte Mecklenburg Mobile Library, connecting Library staff and resources with the neighborhoods that need them most. **See page 12 for more examples of your impact.**

And of course, Main Library closed a week ago, making way for a technology-forward, state-of-the-art uptown destination that will continue to unite our community for generations to come. Your investment in the comprehensive CommonSpark campaign is making this vision for the future of our Library system a reality, and we hope you'll join us next week to say goodbye to the current Main Library and welcome the future together - it's going to be *One for the Books!*

Thank you for being here tonight. Your support helps Charlotte Mecklenburg Library continue to grow and innovate and unite, and we are thrilled and grateful to celebrate *Verse & Vino* with you.

Warmly,



Jennifer Green

Board Chair
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation



Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE

Executive Director
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation

LEADERSHIP

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VERSE & VINO PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Kara Hunt	Maddie Myers
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SCHEDULE

VERSE & VINO

7:00 PM

RED CARPET PRE-SHOW

Brian Kahn, *Host*
Stacey Michelle, *Correspondent*
Wanda M. Morris, *Debut Author*
Kimmery Martin, *Moderator, Author, Library Trustee*

7:30 PM

WELCOME

Sheri Lynch, *Radio Personality, Author and Speaker*
Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE, *Executive Director, Library Foundation*
Marcellus "MT" Turner, *Library CEO and Chief Librarian*

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Jennifer Green, *Library Foundation Board Chair*

AUTHOR PRESENTATIONS

Janet Evanovich
Alka Joshi
Alex Michaelides
Heather Morris
Bryant Terry

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CLOSING REMARKS

Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE, *Executive Director, Library Foundation*
Sheri Lynch, *Radio Personality, Author and Speaker*

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FEATURING

Sheri Lynch, Emcee

Sheri Lynch is the founder and CEO of NOW! Media, and host of the syndicated Bob & Sheri show, heard in 60-plus markets stateside and around the world on the Armed Forces Radio Network. Sheri has been recognized multiple times by the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation for her exemplary creativity in programming created by and for women. She has also been named one of the Most Influential Women in American Radio for the last 8 years.



In addition to her broadcast career, Sheri is the author of two best-selling books and has a Master's degree in social work. She is a fierce advocate for literacy and education, and lends her support to numerous community organizations as a speaker and fundraiser, particularly on issues that impact children and families.

Sheri and her husband Kevin lay claim to a giant blended family, a pair of insane dogs, and an entire battalion of cats. Her latest book is *Cooking With Cats*.

Check out Sheri's radio show and podcasts: visit www.BobandSheri.com
Follow Sheri on Twitter @SheriLynch and on Instagram @sherilynch1

Brian Kahn, Red Carpet Host

Brian Kahn is just as confused as you are about why he's appearing here. Sure, for about 20 years, he's co-produced, written, and performed in Charlotte Squawks, an annual comedy stage show making fun of all things Charlotte, but his real job is an attorney at McGuireWoods where he practices complex commercial litigation. I mean, c'mon, lawyers are mean and boring. That said, he's honored to be doing this and appreciates getting a pass from his wife for being at a brewery during a weeknight while she takes care of their four teenage boys.



Follow Charlotte Squawks on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
[@cltsquawks](https://www.instagram.com/cltsquawks)

Stacee Michelle, Red Carpet Correspondent

Stacee Michelle is a successful entrepreneur who cultivated a career as a brand consultant, wardrobe stylist and media personality. You can catch her producing and styling shoots for commercial and personal clients, helping companies develop and enhance their brand through design and content marketing, or hosting a variety of events including Super Bowl and New York Fashion Week

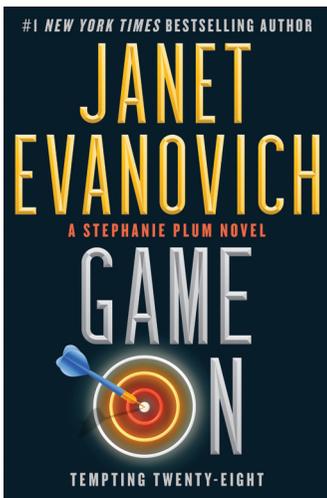


Follow her adventures on Instagram @itsStaceeMichelle and read more at www.stacee-michelle.com

AUTHORS

Janet Evanovich

Over the last twenty-five years, Janet Evanovich has written a staggering twenty-four #1 *New York Times* bestsellers in the Stephanie Plum series. In addition to the Plum novels, Janet has coauthored the *New York Times* bestselling Fox and O'Hare series, the Knight and Moon series, the Lizzy and Diesel series, the Alexandra Barnaby novels, and the graphic novel, *Troublemaker* (with her daughter, Alex Evanovich).



Game On

Stephanie Plum returns to hunt down a master cyber-criminal operating out of Trenton in the 28th book in the wildly popular series.

When Stephanie Plum is woken up in the middle of the night by the sound of footsteps in her apartment, she wishes she didn't keep her gun in the cookie jar in her kitchen. And when she finds out the intruder is fellow apprehension agent Diesel, six feet of hard muscle and bad attitude who she hasn't seen in more than two years, she still thinks the gun might come in handy.

Turns out Diesel and Stephanie are on the trail of the same fugitive: Oswald

Wednesday, an international computer hacker as brilliant as he is ruthless. Stephanie may not be the most technologically savvy sleuth, but she more than makes up for that with her dogged determination, her understanding of human nature, and her willingness to do just about anything to bring a fugitive to justice. Unsure if Diesel is her partner or her competition in this case, she'll need to watch her back every step of the way as she sets the stage to draw Wednesday out from behind his computer and into the real world.

Thank you to Atria Books for supporting Janet Evanovich's participation in *Verse & Vino*.

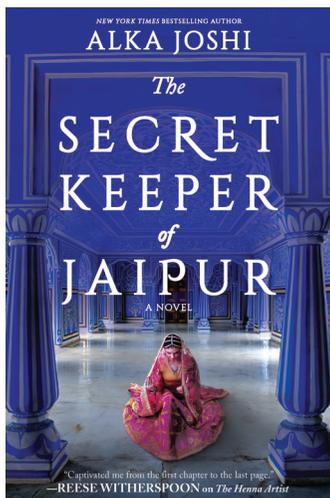


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AUTHORS

Alka Joshi

Alka Joshi was born in India and raised in the U.S. since the age of nine. She has a B.A. from Stanford University and an M.F.A. from California College of Arts. At age 62, Joshi published her debut novel, *The Henna Artist*, which immediately became a *New York Times* bestseller, a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick, was longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and is being developed into an episodic series by Miramax TV. The sequel, *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, will be followed by a third book in the trilogy in 2023.



The Secret Keeper of Jaipur

In *New York Times* bestselling author Alka Joshi's intriguing new novel, henna artist Lakshmi arranges for her protégé, Malik, to intern at the Jaipur Palace in this tale rich in character, atmosphere, and lavish storytelling.

It's the spring of 1969, and Lakshmi, now married to Dr. Jay Kumar, directs the Healing Garden in Shimla. Malik has finished his private school education. At twenty, he has just met a young woman named Nimmi when he leaves to apprentice at the Facilities Office of the Jaipur Royal Palace. Their latest project: a state-of-the-art cinema.

Malik soon finds that not much has changed as he navigates the Pink City of his childhood. Power and money still move seamlessly among the wealthy class, and favors flow from Jaipur's Royal Palace, but only if certain secrets remain buried. When the cinema's balcony tragically collapses on opening night, blame is placed where it is convenient. But Malik suspects something far darker and sets out to uncover the truth. As a former street child, he always knew to keep his own counsel; it's a lesson that will serve him as he untangles a web of lies.

Thank you to MIRA Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers for supporting Alka Joshi's participation in *Verse & Vino*.



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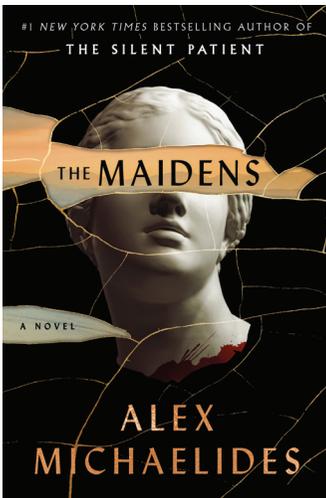
AUTHORS

Alex Michaelides

Alex Michaelides was born and raised in Cyprus. He has an M.A. in English literature from Trinity College, Cambridge University, and an M.A. in screenwriting from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. *The Silent Patient* was his first novel and it spent over a year on the *New York Times* bestseller list and sold in a record-breaking 50 countries. He lives in London.



Photo: Wolf Marloh



The Maidens

Edward Fosca is a murderer. Of this Mariana is certain. But Fosca is untouchable. A handsome and charismatic Greek Tragedy professor at Cambridge University, Fosca is adored by staff and students alike—particularly by the members of a secret society of female students known as The Maidens. Mariana Andros is a brilliant but troubled group therapist who becomes fixated on The Maidens when one member, a friend of Mariana’s niece Zoe, is found murdered in Cambridge.

Mariana, who was once herself a student at the university, quickly suspects that behind the idyllic beauty of the spires and turrets, and beneath the ancient traditions, lies something sinister. And she becomes convinced that, despite his alibi, Edward Fosca is guilty of the murder. But why would the professor target one of his students? And why does he keep returning to the rites of Persephone, the maiden, and her journey to the underworld?

When another body is found, Mariana’s obsession with proving Fosca’s guilt spirals out of control, threatening to destroy her credibility as well as her closest relationships. But Mariana is determined to stop this killer, even if it costs her everything—including her own life.

Thank you to Celadon Books, a division of Macmillan for supporting Alex Michaelides’ participation in *Verse & Vino*.



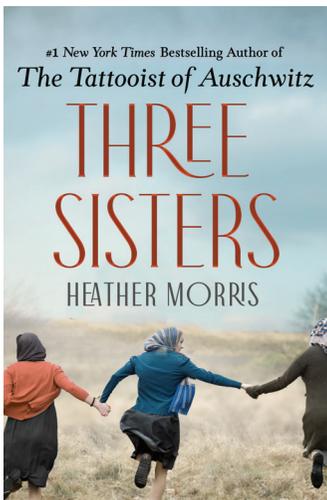
CELADON
BOOKS

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AUTHORS

Heather Morris

Heather Morris is a native of New Zealand who now lives in Australia. While working in a hospital in Melbourne, she studied and wrote screenplays, one of which was optioned by an Academy Award-winning screenwriter in the U.S. In 2003, Heather met a gentleman, Lale Sokolov, who “might have a story worth telling,” and entrusted the innermost details of his life during the Holocaust to her. Heather originally wrote his story as a screenplay – before reshaping it into her debut novel, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. She is also the author of *Cilka’s Journey*. Together they’ve sold eight million copies worldwide.



Three Sisters

'I want you to make a promise to me that you will always take care of your sisters. That you will always be there for one another. That you will not allow anyone to take you away from each other, ever. Do you understand?'

When they are little girls, Cibi, Magda and Livia make a promise to their father – that they will stay together, no matter what. Years later, at just 15, Livia is ordered to Auschwitz by the Nazis. Cibi, only 19 herself, remembers their promise and follows Livia, determined to protect her sister, or die with her. Together, they fight to survive through unimaginable cruelty and hardship.

Magda, only 17, stays with her mother and grandfather, hiding out in a neighbor’s attic or in the forest when the Nazi militia come to round up friends, neighbors and family. She escapes for a time, but eventually she too is captured and transported to the death camp.

In Auschwitz-Birkenau the three sisters are reunited and, remembering their father, they make a new promise, this time to each other: That they will survive.

Thank you to St. Martin’s Press for supporting Heather Morris’ participation in *Verse & Vino*.

 St. Martin’s Press

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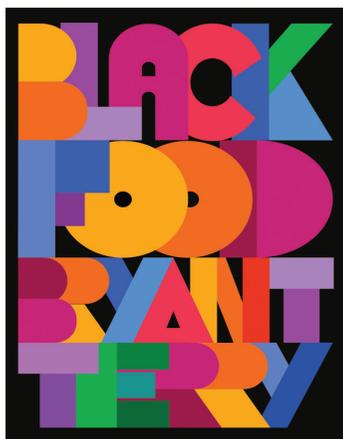
AUTHORS

Bryant Terry

Bryant Terry is an NAACP Image Award winner and a James Beard Award-winning chef and educator and the author of *Afro-Vegan* and *Vegetable Kingdom*. He is renowned for his activism and efforts to create a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system. He is currently the chef-in-residence at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, where he creates programming that celebrates the intersection of food, farming, health, activism, art, culture, and the African Diaspora. His work has been featured in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* and on CBS *This Morning* and on NPR's *All Things Considered*. *San Francisco* magazine included Bryant among the 11 Smartest People in the Bay Area Food Scene and *Fast Company* named him one of 9 People Who Are Changing the Future of Food.



Photo: Adrian Octavius Walker



Black Food

In this stunning and deeply heartfelt tribute to Black culinary ingenuity, Bryant Terry captures the broad and divergent voices of the African Diaspora through the prism of food. With contributions from more than 100 Black cultural luminaries from around the globe, the book moves through chapters exploring parts of the Black experience, from Homeland to Migration, Spirituality to Black Future, offering delicious recipes, moving essays, and arresting artwork.

As much a joyful celebration of culture as a cookbook, *Black Food* explores the interweaving of food, experience, and community through original poetry and essays. The recipes are similarly expansive and generous, including sentimental favorites and fresh takes. Visually stunning artwork from such notables as Black Panther Party creative director Emory Douglas and artist Sarina Mantle are woven throughout, and the book includes a signature musical playlist curated by Bryant.

Black Food is a visual and spiritual feast that will satisfy any soul.

Thank you to 4 Color Books and Penguin Random House for supporting Bryant Terry's participation in *Verse & Vino*.

Penguin
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House

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BONUS DEBUT AUTHOR

Wanda M. Morris

Wanda M. Morris is a corporate attorney who has worked in the legal departments for several Fortune 100 companies. An accomplished presenter and leader, Morris has served as President of the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel and is the founder of its Women's Initiative, an empowerment program for female in-house lawyers. An alumna of the Yale Writers Workshop and Robert McKee's Story Seminar, she is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and Crime Writers of Color.



Photo: Monique and Brandon Chatman



All Her Little Secrets

Ellice Littlejohn seemingly has it all: an Ivy League law degree, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney in midtown Atlanta, great friends, and a “for fun” relationship with a rich, charming executive—her white boss, Michael. But everything changes when Ellice goes to meet Michael in his office and finds him dead with a gunshot to his head.

Ellice has been keeping a cache of dark secrets, including a small-town past and a kid brother who has spent time on the other side of the law. Past and present lives collide as she launches into a pulse-pounding race to protect the brother she tried to save years ago and stop a conspiracy far more sinister than she could have ever imagined.

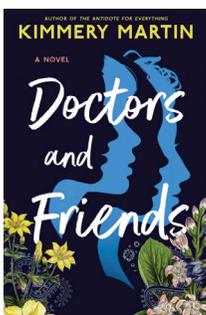
Thank you to William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers for supporting Wanda M. Morris' participation in *Verse & Vino*.



WILLIAM MORROW

Kimberly Martin, Moderator

Kimberly Martin is an emergency medicine doctor-turned novelist whose works of medical fiction have been praised by *The Harvard Crimson*, *Southern Living*, *The Charlotte Observer* and *The New York Times*. A lifelong literary nerd, she serves on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Board of Trustees,



teaches writing seminars and is a frequent speaker at libraries, conferences, and bookstores around the United States.

Kimberly completed her medical training at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Her third novel, *Doctors and Friends*, is set during a global pandemic. Written prior to Covid-19 the book incorporates unexpected wit, razor-edged poignancy, and a deeply relatable cast of characters who provoke both laughter and tears.



Photo: Master Photographer CPP

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NOVEMBER 6-14, 2021



A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CELEBRATION!

Main Library has closed, and will soon be demolished to make way for the new. But first, let's celebrate this turning point! Honor the history of an uptown anchor, say goodbye to the current space and welcome the next chapter together.

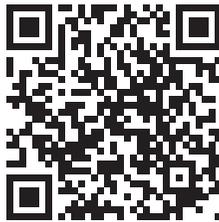
Join us to celebrate your place in the story.

STEP INTO THE STORY

Take a tour through time at Main Library - explore 118 years of innovation, community and opportunity on this spot through audio, video, performance and activities. Bring your book club or group!

**FREE TOURS AVAILABLE WEEKEND DAYS
NOVEMBER 6, 7, 13 AND 14**

To make your *One for the Books* tour reservation or bid on Main Library memorabilia in our online auction, visit foundation.cmlibrary.org.



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GENEROSITY IN ACTION

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY

FOUNDATION

The **Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation** exists to help the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library improve lives and build a stronger community.

The Foundation supports Library services, expands the Library's collection of print and digital materials, enhances programming for all ages, invests in innovative initiatives and strives to grow its endowment for future generations.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DONOR IMPACT

TOTAL RAISED
\$7,004,446
(JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021)



Active Reading



Business Center at West Blvd branch



Community Read



Equity Impact Circles



Library Foundation Operations



MeckTech Computer Distribution



Mobile Library Materials



The CommonSpark Campaign



Spanish Translation Services



Staff Development



Summer Break Reading Program



Story Walks



Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) in West Charlotte



Wi-Fi Technology for Project Outpour and Hope Vibes

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THE COMMONSPARK



The CommonSpark is a multi-year, public-private partnership to infuse **\$143 million** into improving lives and building a stronger community in Mecklenburg County.

The campaign addresses an integrated set of needs: a new Main Library uptown; a Support Services Center for non-public facing operations; systemwide technology, innovation and programming; an endowment for the future and annual operating support.



2

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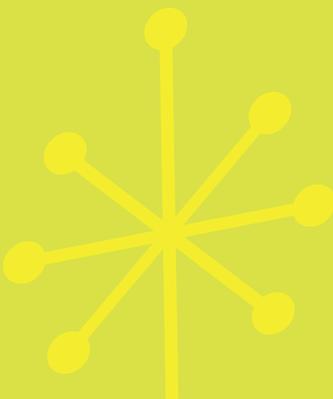
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make check payable to Charlotte Mecklenburg
Library Foundation and mail to:

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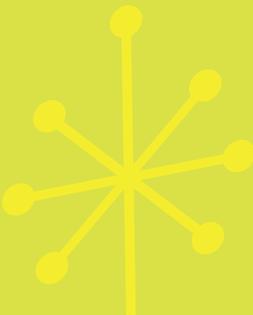


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Verse & Vino 2021

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Please tag us and use the hashtag

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The Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation
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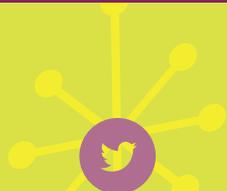
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