

# Authors On The Map

7:45 – 9:30 am

Monday, October 7

Washington / Clark Rooms

The following authors will pre-sign copies of their new books, which will be distributed to the breakfast attendees at the conclusion of the event.



## Shauna Ahern / *Enough: Notes from a Woman Who Has Finally Found It*

In *Enough: Notes from a Woman Who Has Finally Found It* (Sasquatch Books/PRH), James Beard Award-winner Shauna Ahern offers a collection of fierce, funny and deeply personal essays about her voyage from not feeling “good enough” to finding and embracing her new motto: enough pretending. Ahern’s life as a wife and mother and her career as a successful food blogger and best-selling author of the *Gluten-Free Girlbooks* was interrupted when, at age 48, she suffered a mini-stroke. Seeking to understand the emotional stresses that had contributed to her stroke, Ahern digs into her past and comes out the other side happier, healthier and satisfied with mostly enough. Ahern lives with her husband and recipe co-creator Danny on Vashon Island.

## John Englehardt / *Bloomland*

Seattle writer John Englehardt’s debut novel *Bloomland* (Dzanc Books/IPS) is an unflinching look at one of the most mystifying scourges of our modern age—the epidemic of mass violence. It is finals week at a southern university when a student walks in to the library and opens fire. When he stops, twelve people are dead. *Bloomland* looks at the events that led up to the violence and examines the aftermath of shock and grief through the eyes of three characters: a disillusioned student, a grieving professor, and the shooter himself. In a story made all-too familiar by the evening news, a community is left to wrestle with the fallout from a horrible tragedy. Englehardt, whose work has appeared in numerous newspapers and journals, currently teaches writing at Seattle’s Hugo House. *Bloomland* is the winner of the 2018 Dzanc Prize for Fiction.



## Shea Ernshaw / *Winterwood*

Magic and romance are woven together in Shea Ernshaw’s new novel for young adults, *Winterwood* (Simon Pulse/S&S). Nora Walker, like the women of her family before her, is said to be a witch. She certainly has a special connection to the dark woods surrounding the town of Fir Haven—a connection that leads her to Oliver Huntsman. Oliver has been missing and presumed dead for several weeks, so when he emerges from the woods with no memory of his time there, Nora is determined to uncover the truth behind the boy she has come to love. Shea Ernshaw, in addition to working as a film producer, is the author of the best-selling novel *The Wicked Deep*. She is happiest when lost in a good book, lost in the woods, or writing her next novel.

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## Rachel Fordham / *Yours Truly, Thomas*

Washington writer Rachel Fordham returns to the fictional town of Azure Springs, Iowa, with *Yours Truly, Thomas* (Revell/Baker Pub. Group), a charming historical novel set in 1883. Penny Ercanbeck's job at the Dead Letter Office is to open other people's mail; mostly her days are spent pursuing one dead end after another. So when Penny comes across a particularly poignant love letter from one obviously heartbroken man, she makes it her personal mission to track down its intended recipient and deliver the letter. Penny's search leads her instead to the letter writer himself; a man who never really expected to receive an answer, and certainly didn't believe that his letter might lead to a happy ending. Rachel Fordham, whose previous novel is *The Hope of Azure Springs*, lives near Port Townsend.



## Jackie Shannon Hollis / *This Particular Happiness: A Childless Love Story*



Jackie Shannon Hollis grew up expecting that she would one day become a mother. That assumption is called into question, however, when she meets the man she wants to share her life with—a man with no desire to have children. *This Particular Happiness: A Childless Love Story* (Forest Avenue Press/IPS) is Hollis' deeply personal memoir of the voyage towards a childless life, as she dismantles old assumptions and navigates new roles, learning to listen to her own heart. Her writing has been described as honest and intimate, exploring complex human issues in prose that is both direct and lyrical. Jackie Hollis

spent many years working as a counselor in chemical dependency treatment, and teaches workshops on communication and relationships with her husband Bill. A lifelong Oregonian, she now lives in Portland.

## Jasmin Kaur / *When You Ask Me Where I'm Going*

B.C. writer, illustrator and spoken-word artist Jasmin Kaur makes her debut as a novelist with *When You Ask Me Where I'm Going* (HarperCollins). Written for older teens and young adults, this novel uses poetry, prose and two-color illustration to tell the story of a woman and her daughter who have fled a history of trauma in their homeland and now live undocumented in North America. *When You Ask Me Where I'm Going* is as topical as the day's headlines, exploring issues like immigration, feminism and sexual assault, while still offering lessons in resilience, empowerment and healing. One of *The Tempest's* 40 Women to Watch in 2019, Kaur's work has been celebrated at the American Music Awards by Jennifer Lopez and shared by celebrity activists, including Tessa Mae Thompson and Reese Witherspoon.



## E. J. Koh / *The Magical Language of Others*



E. J. Koh's memoir *The Magical Language of Others* (Tin House Books/Norton, due January 2020) brings a poet's lyricism to a tale of abandonment, reconciliation, forgiveness and identity. At age fifteen, Eun Ji's parents left her and her younger brother behind in California when they returned to Korea for work. In the years following, E. J. will come to know her mother through the letters she receives from Korea—letters seeking forgiveness and love. Rediscovering these letters years later, E. J. begins to understand the woman who both loved and left her, as well as the generations of women before her. E. J. Koh is the author of the award-winning poetry collection, *A Lesser Love*, and her work has appeared in numerous journals. She lives in Seattle.



## **Kate Alice Marshall / *Rules for Vanishing***

Teen readers who like their books with a strong creepiness quotient will love Kate Alice Marshall's new novel *Rules for Vanishing* (Viking BFYR/Penguin). Sara's sister Becca has been missing for a year, last seen when she started down a mysterious forest road—a road that only appears once a year. Sara will do anything to get her sister back, even if it means traveling that unworldly path herself, facing a vengeful ghost and challenging the rules of the path before her. One false move and she will vanish, too. Kate Alice Marshall started writing before she could even hold a pen properly, and has never stopped. She lives in Seattle, and is the author of a previous novel for young adults, *I Am Still Alive*.

## **Melissa Anne Peterson / *Vera Violet***

Washington writer Melissa Anne Peterson's new title *Vera Violet* (Counterpoint/IPS, due February, 2020) is set in a decaying Northwest logging town, far from the gentrified urban centers with their coders, coffee and craft beers. In a town with no jobs and very little hope, the teenage Vera can trust only a close-knit circle of loyal friends, until violence shatters her sense of safety and sends her far from home. Jonathan Evison, author of *Lawn Boy*, calls *Vera Violet* "...the most authentic and exciting debut I've read in a long time. At once gritty and jaw-droppingly lyrical, Peterson's voice is a clarion call for the downtrodden and disenfranchised." In addition to publishing work in *Camas*, *Oregon Quarterly*, and with *Seal Press*, Peterson has worked for more than a decade in endangered species recovery in both Washington and Montana.



## **Johanna Stoberock / *Pigs***



In the tradition of *Lord of the Flies*, Johanna Stoberock's new book *Pigs* (Red Hen Press/IPS) is a beautifully written fable as topical as it is terrifying. Four children labor on an island that is the repository for all the world's garbage, sorting it and feeding it to a herd of insatiable pigs. It seems the perfect solution to a global problem, a neatly closed system—until the day a barrel washes ashore with a boy inside. Garbage, pig fodder or friend? Stoberock is also the author of the novel *City of Ghosts*, and her work has been honored with a James W. Hall Prize for Fiction, and as a runner-up for the 2016 Italo Calvino Prize. Johanna Stoberock lives in Walla Walla, where she teaches at Whitman College.