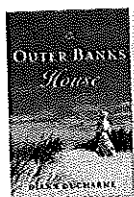


BREAKING IN

10 Notable Debuts

1 Diann Ducharme **THE OUTER BANKS HOUSE**



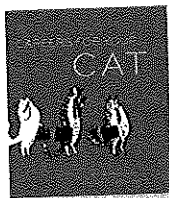
(historical fiction; Crown)

THE STORY: A tale that combines history, romance and coming-of-age drama as a couple fights to keep their

love alive against the intolerance and racism raging in the post-war South. **THE AUTHOR'S STYLE:** "Ducharme has laced her novel with the sounds and the smells of the North Carolina shoreline. Highly recommended for fans of Southern fiction." —*Library Journal*

LEARN MORE: diannducharme.com

2 Ann Dziemianowicz & Ann Boyajian **CAREERS FOR YOUR CAT**



(humor; Ten Speed)

THE BOOK: An indispensable illustrated feline career guide to help cats reach

their full potential as contributing members of their households in today's challenging economic climate. **FROM THE AUTHOR'S CAT:** "The Meowers-Briggs personality quiz alone was enough to make this the best book ever written."

3 Sean Ferrell **NUMB** (literary fiction; Harper)



THE STORY: An amnesiac who can't feel pain discovers fame in a lion's cage and notoriety on the streets of New York as

he tries to find out how and why he became numb. **THE AUTHOR'S STYLE:** "Ferrell's elegant and beautiful prose ensnared me from the start. *Numb* is a serious book, but it's an exciting one, too." —Elisabeth Black, writer

LEARN MORE: byseanferrell.com

4 Jess Haines **HUNTED BY THE OTHERS**



(young adult; Zebra)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: "A fun, high-octane ride with a take-charge heroine who will leave you wanting more."

—Alexandra Ivy, bestselling author
IN THE AUTHOR'S WORDS: "[Critiques] helped me to tighten up and focus the novel ... [and] gave me some invaluable advice on what to do, and what not to do, to locate and land an agent."

LEARN MORE: jesshaines.com

5 Cicily Janus **THE NEW FACE OF JAZZ:**



An Intimate Look at Today's Living Legends and the Artists of Tomorrow (music; Billboard)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

"Probably one of the most important books on jazz to date." —Wynton Marsalis, Grammy winner
AUTHOR'S WORDS: "I was a jazz studies major in college and grew up with Pat Metheny and other greats playing almost constantly. ... I knew what jazz was before I knew about classical or rock or world music, and I've always felt it is a part of who I am."

LEARN MORE: newfaceofjazz.com

6 Tchicaya Missamou & Travis Sentell **IN THE SHADOW OF FREEDOM:**



A Heroic Journey to Liberation, Manhood and America (memoir; Atria)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

"A remarkable escape story by a young soldier caught in the devastating Congo civil war—a polished, engaging story of courage and will." —Kirkus

ON WRITING TRUE: "I was entrusted with creating the definitive account of one man's hopes, fears, struggles and successes. My goal was to find the paper-thin margin between honoring that trust and creating a cohesive, fast-paced narrative." —Sentell
LEARN MORE: intheshadowof.freedom.com; travissentell.com

7 Lissa Rankin WHAT'S UP DOWN THERE?



Questions You'd Only Ask Your Gynecologist If She Was Your Best Friend (health; St. Martin's Griffin)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

"This book is just what every woman needs: a gynecologist girlfriend who answers the kinds of questions that women are still afraid to ask. ... Lissa writes with a unique brand of cheeky, girlfriend, hip warmth that tickles me pink. This book is a pleasure." —Dr. Christiane Northrup (from the book's introduction) **IN THE AUTHOR'S WORDS:** "As women, we all struggle with who we really are and whether our lives reflect our truest selves. I now strive to be authentic, in all aspects of my life, whether I'm healing or painting or writing or teaching."

LEARN MORE: lissarankin.com

8 Eli Stutz PICKLE IMPOSSIBLE



(middle grade; Bloomsbury)
THE STORY: Pursued by the sneakiest pickle thieves in history, two French children race across Europe

to win an international pickle contest. **BEHIND THE BOOK:** A former reporter, camp counselor, radio host and teacher, Stutz found himself cast into the world of storytelling by his

4-year-old son, who demanded a new story each night before bedtime.

LEARN MORE: elistutz.com

9 John Verdon THINK OF A NUMBER



(thriller; Crown)
THE STORY: A homicide investigator tracks a killer whose seeming ability to read people's minds has police

fearing he can't be stopped. **THE AUTHOR'S STYLE:** "John Verdon has done something remarkable in his debut thriller. ... He has successfully juggled every storytelling ball, character, atmosphere, prose, pace and plot, with the skill and assuredness of a veteran novelist at the top of his game."
 —David Baldacci, bestselling author

10 Kiersten White PARANORMALCY



(young adult; HarperTeen)
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: "Paranormalcy seduced me. The two sexy paranormals who vie for [heroine]

Evie's affections each had their own victory; one won Evie's heart, and the other won mine." —Aprilynne Pike, bestselling author of *Wings* **IN THE AUTHOR'S WORDS:** "Everyone knows that teenagers have more fun. Turns out writing for teenagers is more entertaining, too."

LEARN MORE: kierstenwhite.com WD

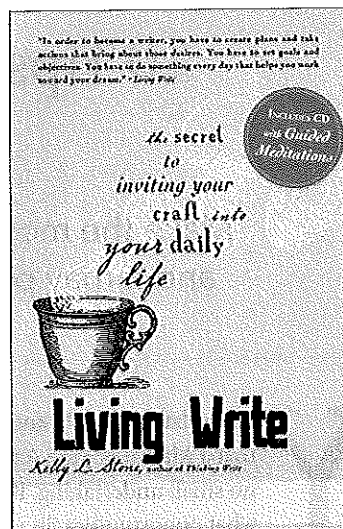
CHUCK SAMBUCHINO is the editor of *Guide to Literary Agents*.

GET INSPIRED

Learn more about the journeys of these debut authors, including the query letter Eli Stutz used to snag an agent, at guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog (click "Breaking In").

Start off each day write.

I don't have time to write.
 I'm so busy with work and my family.
 I'll never get my book written.



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