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**Cynren Press** is an independent publisher located in Chester County, Pennsylvania, with a focus on **history, culture, memoir, and biography**. Our fiction imprint, **Cennan Books**, publishes **historical fiction** that illuminates well-known historical events or that offers unique perspectives and **world fiction** offering readers insights into cultures and lifeways through engaging fictional accounts.

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# They Called Us Girls

Stories of Female Ambition from Suffrage to Mad Men

Kathleen Courtenay Stone

In mid-twentieth-century America, women faced a paradox. Thanks to their efforts, World War II production had been robust, and in the peace that followed, more women worked outside the home than ever before, even dominating some professions. Yet the culture, from politicians to corporations to television shows, portrayed the ideal woman as a housewife. Many women happily assumed that role, but a small segment bucked the tide—women who wanted to use their talents differently, in jobs that had always been reserved for men.

In *They Called Us Girls: Stories of Female Ambition from Suffrage to Mad Men*, author Kathleen Stone meets seven of these unconventional women. In insightful, personalized portraits that span a half-century, Kathleen weaves stories of female ambition, uncovering the families, teachers, mentors, and historical events that led to unexpected paths. What inspired these women, and what can they teach women and girls today?

## Praise

They persisted! The adventurous lives of seven women who soared past the barriers of patriarchy in the decades before the women's movement began. They brought their gifts to the world. But, as Kathleen Courtenay Stone reminds us, they were only doing something that would have been normal for a man. *They Called Us Girls* is a reminder of what talented women once endured, and the stories it tells so deftly should continue to inspire us today. Not every barrier has disappeared.

—Louis Menand, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Metaphysical Club*

How do smart girls become great women? There's no simple recipe or path. Thanks to the fortitude of the women profiled in this book—who came of age at a time rife with obstacles and low expectations—the course is clearer. Kathleen Courtenay Stone has crafted an important and engaging book that should be required reading for every young woman. *They Called Us Girls* reminds us what women routinely encountered not so long ago, and how these particular estimable women transcended and triumphed.

—Lisa Napoli, author of *Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR*

*They Called Us Girls* is the happy product of a deeply engaged pursuit. Kathleen Courtenay Stone has used research and heedful and empathic interviewing to create a genuinely inspiring study. Searching for the secret of later life success, she speaks with women from all backgrounds and professions and weaves interludes from her own life into the presentation. The book is tightly written and broadly illuminating.

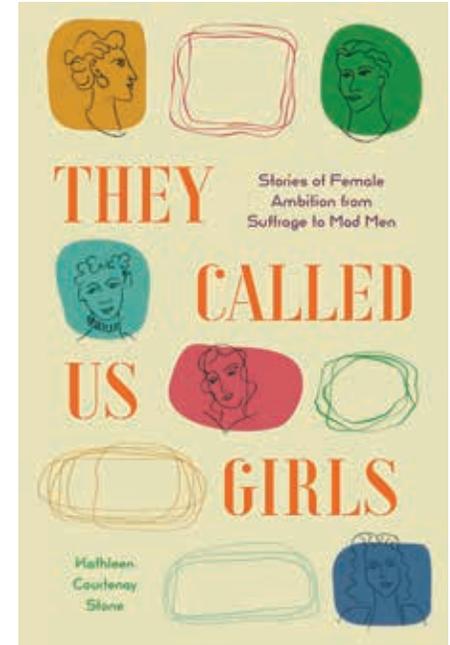
—Sven Birkerts, author of *Changing the Subject: Art and Attention in the Internet Age*

Kathleen Courtenay Stone introduces us to seven remarkable women, all born in the early twentieth century, whose contributions to American society are largely unknown. Distinguished by race, ethnicity, and circumstance, they all overcame seemingly insurmountable barriers to make their mark in typically male areas of work, including medicine, law, and science. Stone also shares her own experiences from girlhood to the legal profession, weaving together the women's stories with her own to craft a captivating and inspiring narrative.

—Virginia G. Drachman, Tufts University

*They Called Us Girls*, riveting and inspiring, illuminates the remarkable lives of amazing women born in the first half of the last century. Kathleen Stone's subjects are diverse in their backgrounds and professions, but all are trailblazers whose quiet triumphs opened doors for us who follow behind. This is an important book.

—Claire Messud, author of *The Emperor's Children* and *The Woman Upstairs*



**BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY/  
Women  
SOCIAL SCIENCE/Women's Studies**

Cynren Press | March 1, 2022  
978-1-947976-24-5 | \$30.00  
Hardcover | 236 pages  
9 in H | 6 in W  
34 photos

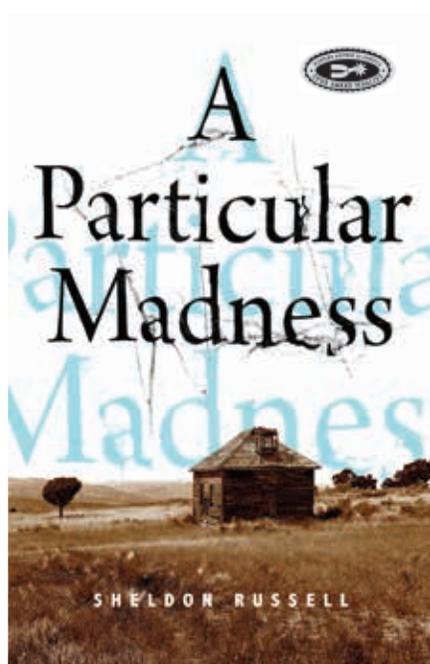
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Kathleen Stone knows something about female ambition. As a lawyer, she was a law clerk to a federal judge, a litigation partner in a law firm, and senior counsel at a financial institution. She also taught seminars on American law in six foreign countries, including as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. Kathleen's work has been published in *Ploughshares*, *Arts Fuse*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Timberline Review*, and *The Writer's Chronicle*. She holds graduate degrees from Boston University School of Law and the Bennington Writing Seminars and lives in Boston with her husband.





FICTION / Psychological  
FICTION / Coming of Age

Cennan Books | October 26, 2021  
978-1-947976-26-9 | \$31.50  
Hardcover | 312 pages  
9.21 in H | 6.14 in W

Other Available Formats  
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## A Particular Madness

### Sheldon Russell

**Amid the impoverishment of post-Depression Oklahoma, Jacob Roland hungers for a world beyond his reach. But, trapped by poverty and a growing mental illness, he is thwarted at every turn. Will he forever be a prisoner of a particular madness?**

Growing up in the rural impoverishment of post-Depression Oklahoma, and surrounded by feuding family factions, free-spirited Jacob Roland hungers for knowledge and a world beyond his reach.

But dark forces are growing in Jacob, twisting with the same ruthless, relentless power of a tornado across the Oklahoma prairies. Jacob battles against these aberrant forces, but, trapped by poverty and a growing mental illness, he is thwarted at every turn. For every light—a chance at college, the love of a poised, sophisticated woman—there is a greater darkness within him.

Failed by circumstance, community, and his own mental health, is there an escape for Jacob's bright, wounded spirit, or will he forever be a prisoner of a particular madness?

### Praise

Sheldon Russell's latest book, *A Particular Madness*, is a must-read. The story is so unique and well written that one simply cannot stop turning the pages. Dr. Russell's fund of knowledge, along with his description and language of a day gone by, for most, builds as each page is turned. Although this is a work of fiction, there is a reality that gives the reader pause to consider "what if?" The reader cannot help but wonder as a new chapter is turned what will happen next. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to compare this book to others with similar themes, as it is that unique.

—Richard Moore, PhD, former Fort Supply Asylum counselor

As I read *A Particular Madness*, I kept rooting for Jacob Roland. I wanted him to graduate from college, succeed, and become a successful writer. I wanted him to overcome his mental illness and his poor upbringing. I wanted him to marry the woman he loved from an early age and take care of his aging parents, who had struggled to survive. But that may not be the reality of rural America at a time when mental illness was misunderstood and mistreated. Much like it still is today.

Sheldon Russell shows how he has become a masterful storyteller through this book. He shows how he knows what happens to a poor rural boy who grows up where everyone thinks he's like his "crazy uncles." *A Particular Madness* is a story that needs to be told. You'll root for Jacob Roland, like I did. You'll laugh at some of his relatives' antics. You'll be captivated from the opening pages to the closing.

Jacob's final words will haunt you too.

—Joe Hight, author of *Unnecessary Sorrow*



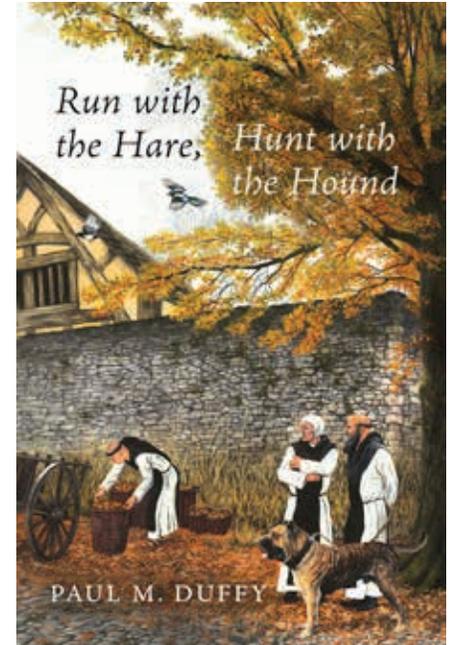
Dr. Sheldon Russell is the author of eleven books, including his award-winning historical fiction and his popular Hook Runyon mystery series. His work has garnered two Oklahoma Book Awards for Fiction, a Langum Prize for American Historical Fiction, a Spur Award for Best Western Historical Novel of 2020 from the Western Writers of America, and starred reviews from both *Booklist* and *Publishers Weekly*. Russell is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Central Oklahoma. He and his wife, Nancy, a sculptor, currently live on the ranch where he grew up. Russell's upbringing in the Gloss Mountains of Oklahoma has provided him a rich background for understanding the struggles of life in rural America.

# Run with the Hare, Hunt with the Hound

Paul M. Duffy

**The son of a slave must become master of his world. Eight hundred years of history start here.**

On a remote Gaelic farmstead in medieval Ireland, word reaches Alberic of conquering Norman knights arriving from England. Oppressed by the social order that enslaved his Norman father, he yearns for the reckoning he believes the invaders will bring—but his world is about to burn. Captured by the Norman knight Hugo de Lacy and installed at Dublin Castle as a translator, Alberic's confused loyalties are tested at every turn. When de Lacy marches inland, Alberic is set on a collision course with his former masters amidst rumours of a great Gaelic army rising in the west. Can Alberic navigate safely through revenge, lust and betrayal to find his place amidst the birth of a kingdom in a land of war?



**FICTION / Historical / Medieval**

**Cennan Books** | October 11, 2022

978-1-947976-34-4 | \$30.00

Hardcover | 342 pages

9.21 in H | 6.14 in W

2 maps

**Other Available Formats**

Ebook: 978-1-947976-35-1

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Paul Duffy is one of Ireland's leading field archaeologists and has directed numerous landmark excavations in Dublin as well as leading projects in Australia, France and the United Kingdom. He has published and lectured widely on this work, and his books include *From Carrickfergus to Carcassonne—the Epic Deeds of Hugh de Lacy during the Cathar Crusade* (2018) and *Ireland and the Crusades* (2021). He has given many talks and interviews on national and international television and radio (RTÉ, BBC, NPR, EuroNews). Paul has also published several works of short fiction (*Irish Times*, *Causeway/Cathsair*, *Outburst*, *Birbeck Writer's Hub*) and in 2015 won the Over the Edge New Writer of the Year Award. He has been shortlisted for numerous Irish and international writing prizes and was awarded a writing bursary in 2017–2018 by Words Ireland.





## Arribada

A Novel

Estela González

Mariana Sánchez Celis has traveled the world as a pianist trained at the Juilliard School of Music. But when her mother has a stroke and her beloved uncle suddenly disappears, Mariana must put her life on hold to return to her home in Ayotlan, Mexico.

She soon discovers her town is no longer the place she remembers. Ayotlan's beaches, sea turtle colonies, and historic center are decimated under decades of neglect and abuse. What part did her late father have in this? And could it be related to her uncle's disappearance?

When Fernanda Lucero, a member of the indigenous Concáac people, convinces Mariana to join her sea turtle and architectural conservation projects, the deepening love between Mariana and Fernanda threatens to put them both further in harm's way. This, together with the web of secrets Mariana unravels, stands to radically transform her and her family's fate.

*Arribada* is the story of a well-to-do woman pushed to confront her role in environmental and social injustice. It is the saga of a family faced with the realization that their comfortable position rests, beyond a strong work ethic, on crimes against what they hold dearest: the natural world, their town, and their loved ones.

### Praise

*Arribada* is romantic, poetic, elegiac, and fascinating. González has created a world of love and mystery. Word to word, event to event, this novel is beautiful. It begs to be savored.

—Sandra Scofield, author of *Swim: Stories of the Sixties and The Last Draft*

A novel about how even the most painful truths can bring power and freedom.

—Eileen Gonzales, *Foreword Reviews*

This novel will open eyes.

—Amy Hoffman, author of *Dot & Ralfie* and other books

*Arribada* is a wonderful read, and like its title implies, it has the power to make readers arrive where it matters.

—Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The House of Broken Angels*

Set in a fictional seaside locale, based partly on Mazatlán, this seductive, mesmerizing novel lyrically interweaves the encroaching consumerism of resorts, thinning beaches, and disappearing tortoises, all while presenting an intimate, generational family portrait replete with orphans, murder, sensuality, and compassion, including a lesbian affair that leads to a community reclamation of land. And always at the center—the ocean. Unforgettable.

—Lee Hope, Founding Editor, *Solstice Magazine*

FICTION/World Literature/Mexico  
FICTION/LGBTQ+/Lesbian

Cennan Books | May 10, 2022

978-1-947976-31-3 | \$30.00

Hardcover | 234 pages

9.21 in H | 6.14 in W

### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-32-0

### Available From

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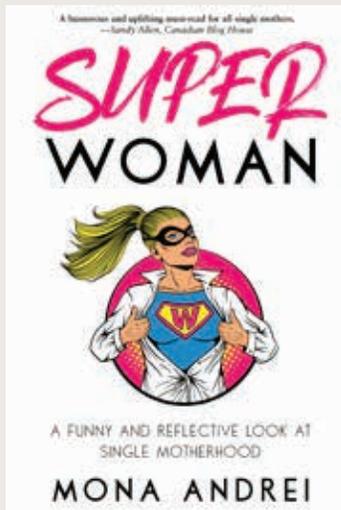
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Estela González holds an MFA in creative writing and a PhD in Latin American literature. As a binational and bilingual writer, she tells stories in English and Spanish about race, class, gender, and environmental justice. Growing up in Mexico, Estela regularly visited her family in Mazatlán, where decades-long intensive development has led to the demise of beaches and sea turtle colonies. Her research and support of fishermen protecting sea turtles in the Sea of Cortés deepen her reflections on environmental justice, race relations, and sexuality.

Her work is featured in the *Barcelona Review*, the *Cobalt Review*, *Connotation Press*, *Cronopio*, *Flash Frontier*, *Flyway Magazine*, *Kudzu House*, *Label Me Latina*, *La Colmena*, *Luvina*, the *Fem*, and the *Revista Mexicana de Literatura Contemporánea*, as well as in outstanding collections such as *Best of Solstice Literary Magazine*, *Feminine Rising* (Cynren Press, 2019), and *Under the Volcano*. *Arribada* was a 2019 finalist for Feminist Press's Louise Meriwether Award.



## Superwoman: A Funny and Reflective Look at Single Motherhood

Mona Andrei

Cynren Press | March 8, 2021

978-1-947976-22-1 | \$17.50

Paperback | 174 pages

9 in H | 6 in W

1 illustration

### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-23-8

They put the tiny, red-faced bundle into her arms, and time stopped. She gazed at that puckered little face and whispered, *Welcome to the world, baby girl.*

Little did she know that within weeks, she would become a single mother—not exactly what she had imagined for her daughters and herself, but exactly what needed to happen.

This is the story of a single mother, but it's more than that. Sometimes funny, sometimes reflective, it's also your story—a story of that peculiar, trying, and wonderful state of motherhood.

In *Superwoman: A Funny and Reflective Look at Single Motherhood*, popular humor blogger Mona Andrei brings you her sage and snickery insights on being a single mom, with all its gore and glory. Through a series of interviews, you'll also get a voyeuristic peek into the lives of other single mothers—and don't we all love that feeling of Thank goodness, I'm not the only one! We're all superwomen here.



## A Feigned Madness

Tonya Mitchell

Cennan Books | Oct. 6, 2020

978-1-947976-20-7 | \$21.00

Paperback | 396 pages

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W

### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-09-2

Audio: 978-1-947976-33-7

*A Feigned Madness* is a meticulously researched, fictionalized account of the woman who would come to be known as daredevil reporter Nellie Bly. At a time of cutthroat journalism, when newspapers battled for readers at any cost, Bly emerged as one of the first to break through the gender barrier—a woman who would, through her daring exploits, forge a trail for women fighting for their place in the world.



## What She Lost

Melissa W. Hunter

Cennan Books | Oct. 8, 2019

978-1-947976-15-3 | \$17.00

Paperback | 322 pages

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W

12 photos

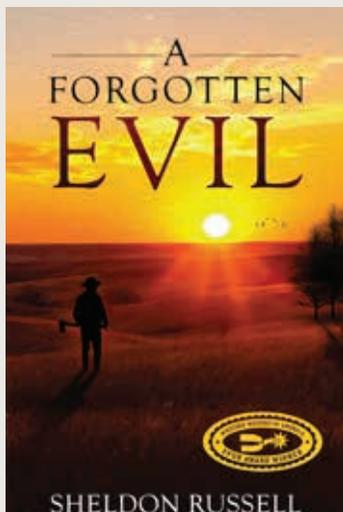
### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-16-0

Audio: 978-1-947976-29-0

For thirteen-year-old Sarah Waldman, life in the small Polish town of Olkusz is grounded in her close-knit family and their Jewish traditions. But as the Nazis come to power, Sarah and her family are subjected to the horrors of life in the ghetto and concentration camps. Is it possible to resurrect a life from the ruins? Or will Sarah be forever haunted by the memories of what she lost?

Part memoir, part fiction, *What She Lost* is the reimagined true-life story of the author's grandmother growing into a woman amid the anguish of the Holocaust. It is a tale of resilience, of rebuilding a life, and of rediscovering love.



## A Forgotten Evil

Sheldon Russell

Cennan Books | Oct. 8, 2019

978-1-947976-18-4 | \$17.00

Paperback | 280 pages

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W

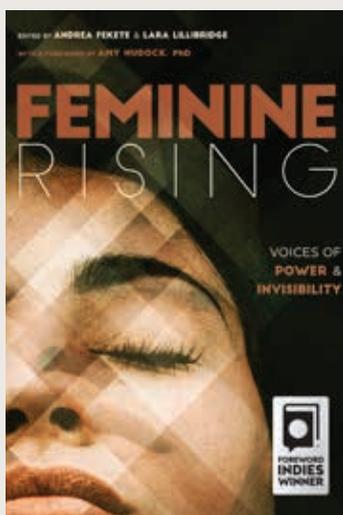
### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-30-6

Audio: 978-1-947976-30-6

In the American West, as the nation heals from the Civil War that nearly destroyed it, new battle lines are being drawn. Caleb Justin, orphaned and grieving, and his comrade Joshua Hart, a tough, worldly runaway, leave their home along the Ohio River bound for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, intent to join Sheridan's troops in their pursuit of Indian lands. But a badly healed foot injury ends Caleb's dream of joining up. While Joshua is assigned to George Armstrong Custer's troops, Caleb finds himself alone and undefended on the war-ravaged prairie, picking up whatever work he can—until his capture by Indians changes everything.

But in the winter of 1868, as the snow drifts, Custer is set to turn his cavalry on a Cheyenne camp along the Washita River. Joshua and Caleb find themselves trapped in the crossfire of one of the bloodiest battles of frontier history. Will their desperate courage be enough for them to survive?



## Feminine Rising: Voices of Power & Invisibility

Edited by Andrea Fekete  
and Lara Lillibridge

Cynren Press | Apr. 30, 2019

978-1-947976-08-5 | \$28.00

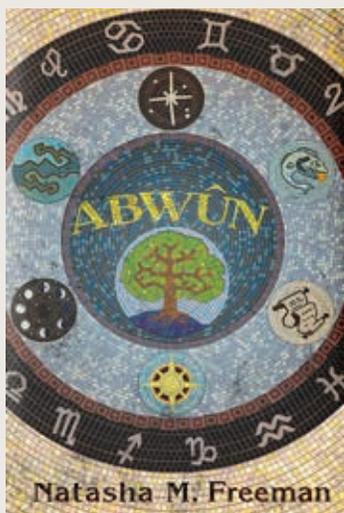
Paperback | 286 pages

10 in H | 7 in W

### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-09-2

*Feminine Rising: Voices of Power & Invisibility* brings together women of all races, nationalities, and sexual orientations to reflect on the unique experience of womanhood. International poets and essayists, both award-winning and emergent, unite to celebrate women's differences, while embracing their sameness.



## Abwûn

Natasha M. Freeman

Cennan Books | Apr. 30, 2019

978-1-947976-11-5 | \$18.00

Paperback | 360 pages

8 in H | 5 in W

### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-12-2

The Q document—source of the Synoptic Gospels—could shake the foundations of the world's major religions. Its existence has never been proved—until now. Should it be shared with all mankind to return human spiritual awareness to its purest form? Or should it be destroyed?



## Divorcing Mom: A Memoir of Psychoanalysis

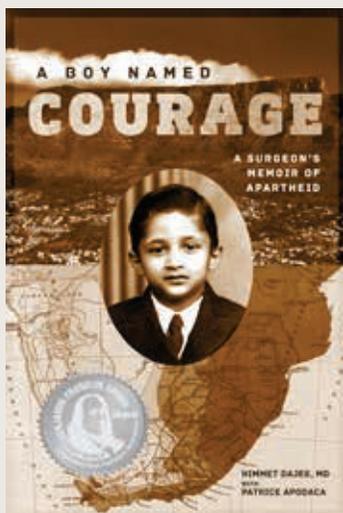
**Melissa Knox**

Cynren Press | Jan. 22, 2019  
978-1-947976-05-4 | \$28.00  
Hardcover | 226 pages  
8.5 in H | 5.5 in W  
9 photos

### Other Available Formats

Paperback: 978-1-947976-06-1  
Ebook: 978-1-947976-07-8

Psychoanalysis was her family's religion—instead of wafers and wine, there were Seconals, Nembutals, and gin. Baptized into the faith at fourteen, Melissa Knox endured her analyst's praise of her childlike, victimized mother—who leaned too close, ate off Melissa's plate, and thought "pedophile" meant "silly person." Gaslighted with the notions that she'd seduced her father, failed to masturbate, and betrayed her mother, Melissa shouldered the blame. Her story of a family pulled into and torn apart by psychoanalysis exposes the abuse inherent in its authoritarianism as Melissa learns, with a startling sense of humor and admirable chagrin, that divorcing Mom is sometimes the least crazy thing to do.



## A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid

**Himmet Dajee,  
with Patrice Apodaca**

Cynren Press | Oct. 9, 2018  
978-1-947976-00-9 | \$28.00  
Hardcover | 222 pages  
8.5 in H | 5.5 in W  
18 photos

### Other Available Formats

Paperback: 978-1-947976-01-6  
Ebook: 978-1-947976-02-3

Both heartbreaking and triumphant, this compelling story is one of love, loss, struggle, and a search for identity set against dramatic historical events. From the ugly past of South African apartheid to a dazzling career in medicine, one man is determined to live up to his name: Courage.



## Diary of a Beatlemania: A Fab Insider's Look at the Beatles Era

**Patricia Gallo-Stenman**

Cynren Press | Oct. 9, 2018  
978-1-947976-03-0 | \$24.50  
Paperback | 214 pages  
9 in H | 6 in W  
31 photos

### Other Available Formats

Ebook: 978-1-947976-04-7

Amid the cultural and social upheaval of the early 1960s, four mop-top lads from Liverpool strummed onto the music scene and into the hearts of teenage girls. Taken from the vintage diary of a Philadelphia schoolgirl at the heart of the Beatles craze, from her weekly *Teen to Teen* newspaper column to her friendship with Victor Spinetti, this lighthearted memoir offers an insider's look at what it meant to be a Beatlemania.





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