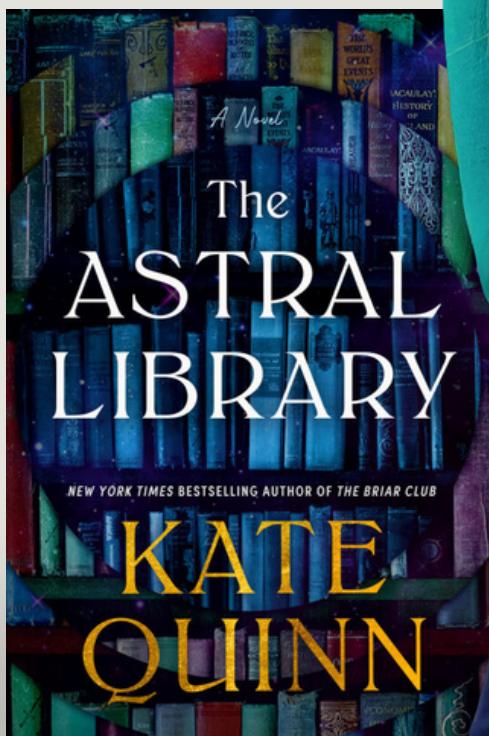


SPRING 2026

# FALL FOR THE BOOK

ROMANTASY  
MINIFEST  
STORYSPRINT  
VIRTUAL EVENTS  
& MORE



Kate Quinn  
April 30

[FALLFORTHEBOOK.ORG](http://FALLFORTHEBOOK.ORG)

# HELLO SPRING EVENTS!

I'm excited for all of the stories Fall for the Book's lineup will share this spring – from a night of Romantasy, to the return of Story Sprint where we challenge brave local writers to craft a story on the spot, to a headline event with bestselling writer Kate Quinn, whose new novel imagines a library where readers disappear to a new life in their favorite book.

Books have always offered this – an escape, a respite. We need this. Honestly, I've needed it a lot lately. Good stories do let us escape for a time, but they offer something more: they make us more awake to the world around us, to the lives and experiences of people different from us. And we need that, too.

Fall for the Book has always believed that literature and storytelling unite us, that books create connections between people and across communities, and that there is value in reading and experiencing stories together. We hope to see you this spring, to share new stories with you, whether it's a momentary escape into another world, or a story that helps you find your way through this one.

*New Season,  
New Stories-*

*A letter from  
Director Kara Oakleaf*



Photo by Aster Equine Photography

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

A Spring full of free and fabulous events await

**13 JAN**

*Podcast*  
Daughters  
of Bronze

**10 FEB**

*Podcast*  
Considering  
Us

**19 FEB**

*In-Person*  
Mini Fest

**24 FEB**

*In-Person*  
A Night of  
Romantasy

**3 MAR**

*Virtual*  
The Big  
Freeze

**10 MAR**

*Podcast*  
Experimental  
Memoirs

**25 MAR**

*In-Person*  
Story Sprint

**31 MAR**

*Virtual*  
The 27<sup>th</sup> Mile

**7 APR**

*Podcast*  
Don't Take This  
the Wrong Way

**14 APR**

*Virtual*  
Traveling in  
Bardo

**30 APR**

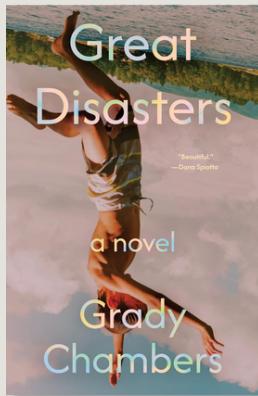
*In-Person*  
Headliner  
Kate Quinn

**12 MAY**

*Podcast*  
Poetry in  
Conversation

# MINI FEST

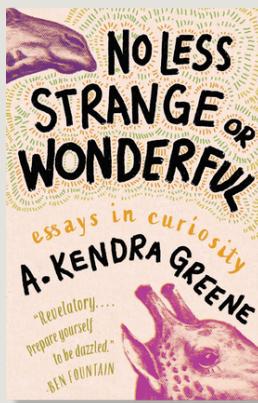
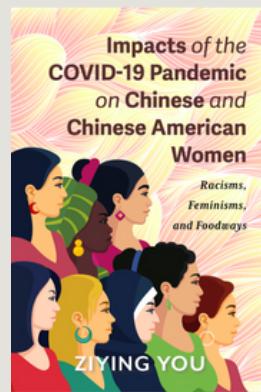
A FULL DAY OF LITERARY FUN  
THURSDAY, FEB. 19



A tale of male friendship and loneliness, the novel *Great Disasters* by Grady Chambers follows six young men from their early 2000s Chicago high school, through the war, love, and heartbreak. Slipping between memories and adulthood, it explores humor, hope, addiction, loss and more in this portrait of friends moving forward together and apart.

During the pandemic, Chinese and Chinese American women faced a double threat of illness and vitriolic racism. In its aftermath, folklorist Ziying You addresses this experience by examining gender, religion, community building, and more, alongside connections with historical and enduring racism.

*Sponsored by Institute for Immigration Research & Folklore Round Table.*



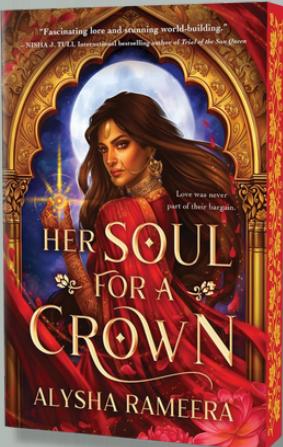
Artist and author A. Kendra Greene guides readers to explore the wonder in the mundane and engage with the unique and fascinating parts of this world in *No Less Strange or Wonderful: Essays in Curiosity*. In twenty-six illustrated essays, Greene embraces joy and the sublime in fantastical, yet real tales of exploding sharks, sentient bags of wasps, trees riding bicycles, and more.

The fourth annual Mini Fest takes place on Thursday, February 19 from 10:30 AM - 6 PM  
in Fenwick Library on George Mason's Fairfax Campus.

To find the full descriptions for these spotlighted events and the rest of the lineup, visit our website.

# BOOKS & BANTER

ENJOY A NIGHT OUT WITH YOUR BOOK BESTIES



## FOR THE LOVE OF THE GODS: A NIGHT OF ROMANTASY

24 FEB | 7 PM

*Stacy C. Sherwood Center*

Assassin heroines, rogue gods, and the potential for love amidst the storm? Count us in! Romantasy fans unite for this evening of divine mythological mischief featuring Rachel Van Dyken, author of the Norse-inspired *Fallen Gods*, and Alysha Rameera, author of a Sri Lankan-inspired *Her Soul for a Crown*. Moderated by award-winning audiobook narrator, Kit Swann.

In partnership with the City of Fairfax

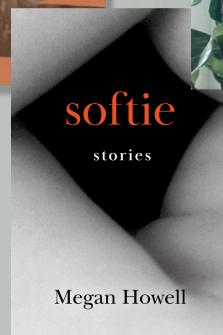
## STORY SPRINT

3 WRITERS  
2 SENTENCES  
20 MINUTES

25 MARCH | 7 PM

*Stacy C. Sherwood Center*

What do you get when you give three writers two sentences and twenty minutes? A Story Sprint! Emcee and author Zach Powers will pull two audience-suggested sentences from a hat to serve as the opening and closing lines for these impromptu tales. Featured sprinters Hannah Grieco, Megan Howell, and Michael Don will then write for their lives. This interactive race will include writing games for attendees, followed by a reading of the final stories.



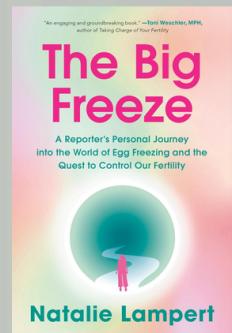
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# VIRTUAL BOOK TALKS

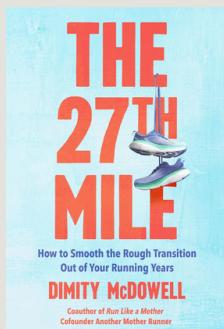
LET THE FESTIVAL COME TO YOU

## THE REALITY OF FREEZING YOUR EGGS

What are the rapidly-growing number of women wanting to freeze their eggs really facing? Where is the line between marketing and reality and the risks versus the benefits in this often mysterious field of fertility and personal control? Natalie Lampert chronicles her journey into the business of egg freezing, sharing her personal experience and in-depth research in her new book.



3 MAR



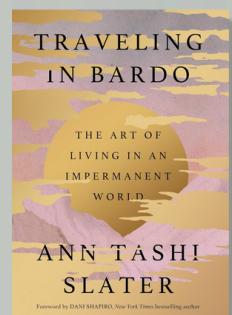
31 MAR

## WHEN THE FINISH LINE DISAPPEARS

What happens when you're told running—or any other physical hobby that has anchored your life—is no longer a healthy choice? Dimity McDowell, runner, author, and founder of the popular website, Another Mother Runner, shares her story and the stories of others who have suffered injury, chronic pain, or illness and been forced to hang up their sneakers. *Presented in partnership with OLLI Mason.*

## THE ART OF LIVING IN AN IMPERMANENT WORLD

Ann Tashi Slater discusses her new book, which draws on Tibetan Buddhist teachings to explore how we move through life's inevitable transitions and losses. Using stories of family, creativity, and everyday change, Slater examines the concept of bardo—the space between endings and beginnings, offering a way to navigate life's shifts with clarity and purpose. *Presented in partnership with OLLI Mason.*



14 APR



# BECOME A FRIEND

AND MEET KATE QUINN



Want to meet Kate Quinn at a private VIP Reception? Join the Friends of Fall for the Book by donating at the Patron Level or above to receive 2 VIP tickets and reserved priority seating during the event itself. Other benefits include: parking passes, signed books, and festival swag.

As a nonprofit, we depend on supporters like you to bring free literary events to our community. Become a Friend today and help us continue our year-round programming!

Scan the QR code or use the link to get started:

[fallforthebook.org/friends](http://fallforthebook.org/friends)



## VIP EVENTS FROM YEARS PAST



Enjoy drinks, a light reception, and a chance to meet your favorite authors one-on-one at the Friends VIP Receptions. *Authors pictured from top left to bottom right:*

*Colson Whitehead, Amor Towles, Bonnie Garmus, and Angie Thomas.*

# HEADLINER KATE QUINN



30 APRIL 7:30 PM  
Stacy C. Sherwood Center

Readers who have ever wished they could live inside their favorite books will love *New York Times* bestselling author Kate Quinn's latest novel, *The Astral Library*. Alix Watson takes refuge from her barren life in the fantasy books of the Boston Public Library, where she meets the Librarian, a mysterious guardian who helps people escape into their favorite books. When a menacing enemy appears, Alix and the Librarian run through the Regency era of Jane Austen, the threatening streets of Sherlock Holmes, and the moral decay of Gatsby's world. Sarah Penner says, "With a cheeky heroine you'll root for from page one, this is bound to be one of the biggest books of the year."



Free tickets go on sale March 30.  
Set a reminder by scanning the QR code.

SPONSORED BY



## A Quick Question with Kate Quinn

*If you could slip into the world of any book, what would it be and why?*

"C.S. Lewis's Narnia, without a doubt! Like Alix, the heroine of *The Astral Library*, I read the *Chronicles of Narnia* very young and spent far too much of my childhood poking around in wardrobes trying to find a door to a magic snowy forest. I was very interested in a fantasy land where I'd be immediately crowned queen!"

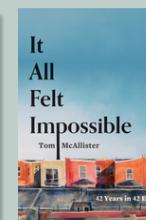
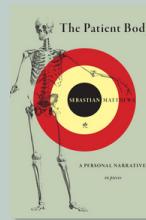
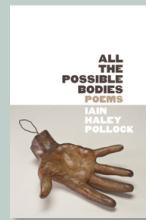




# PODCASTS

WITH

KARA OAKLEAF & SUZY RIGDON



Listen wherever you get your podcasts or visit [fallforthebook.org/media](http://fallforthebook.org/media)

## SAVE THE DATE

28<sup>th</sup> FALL FOR THE BOOK FESTIVAL

*October 6-10, 2026*

A special thank you to our sponsors for the  
Fall for the Book spring events.



Thank you also to all of our  
sponsors who keep the festival  
events going year round.  
See the full list on our website.



And finally, a grateful shout  
out to our bookseller,  
Bards Alley,

