

AMERICAN ROULETTE

MEDIA KIT

“My hope is that you read this book, and work harder to be part of doing something about gun violence, before this story hits closer to home.”

- **Fred Guttenburg**

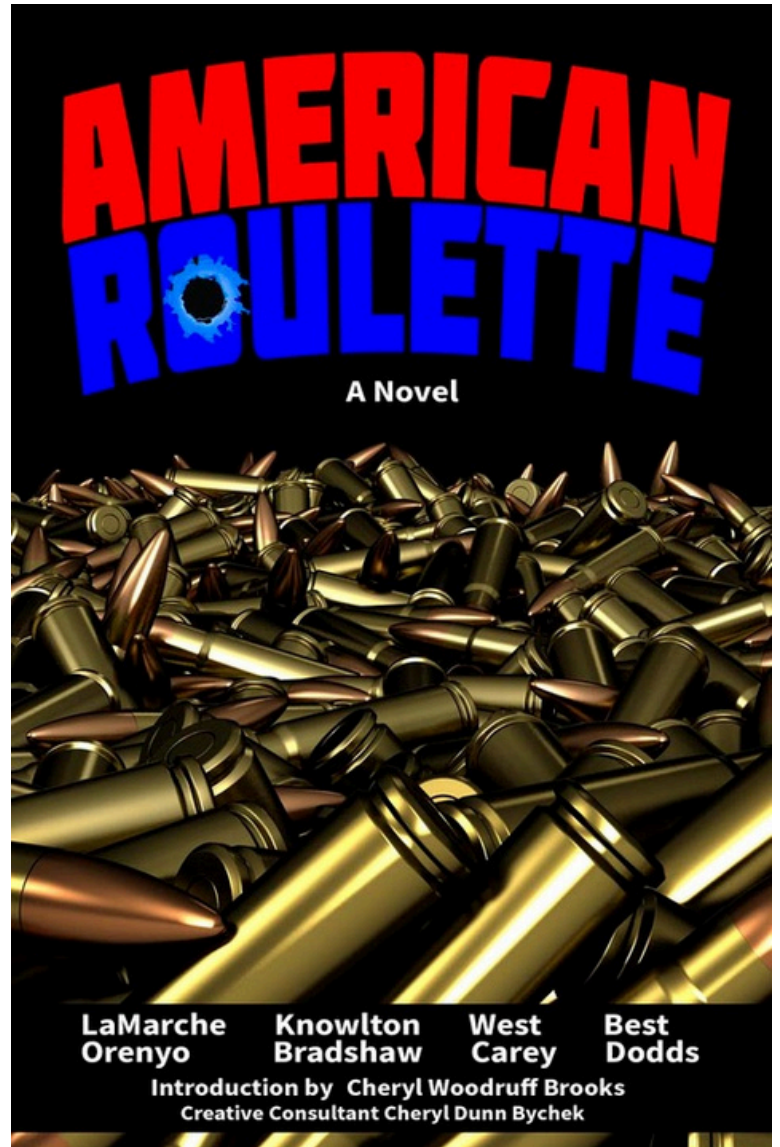


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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Roulette Gives a Voice to America's Gun Violence Crisis

Acclaimed novel now issued as a free audiobook

CARLISLE, Pa. (October 21, 2025) – Since the 2017 Las Vegas massacre—the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history—more than 300,000 Americans have died by firearm. Against this grim backdrop, the authors of the acclaimed thriller American Roulette announced the release of a free audiobook version of their novel, now available for download at americanroulettebook.com or on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

Because many Americans shy away from discussions about the victims of gun violence, a group of eclectic authors collaborated to create a work of fiction to encourage more dialogue about the increasing scourge of gun violence in America.

American Roulette takes readers—and now listeners—on a suspenseful journey through the lives of eight diverse characters whose paths intersect at the site of a mall mass shooting. The novel transcends the boundaries of genre, offering readers a powerful exploration of gun violence, its aftermath, and the sobering challenge it poses to our nation.

Activist Fred Guttenberg says, "My daughter Jaime was murdered in the Parkland school shooting. Over the course of the past five years, I have been on a mission to help people truly understand the reality of gun violence. This book, American Roulette, does just that."

According to the Gun Violence Archive, in 2025 alone there have already been 503 mass shootings across the United States, resulting in thousands of injuries and deaths. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death among children in America, with U.S. children 80% more likely to die from firearms than their peers in other developed nations. Overall, more than 40,000 Americans die each year from gun-related injuries, including homicides, suicides, and accidental shootings, leaving countless families and communities devastated.

- MORE -

Press Release - cntd.

The audiobook of *American Roulette* was brought to life by John Greenman, a veteran broadcaster who spent more than three decades in television news and public affairs with NBC affiliates and Maine Public Television; Katie Greenman, an educator and longtime children's librarian with a passion for storytelling; and Alan Grover, a career journalist, broadcaster, documentarian, and musician.

"Our creative team is pleased to make this audiobook available free of charge," said Matthew Best, one of the authors. "We are especially grateful to have such talented narrators bring our characters to life—their voices add depth and humanity to the story in a way that makes it even more powerful. Our hope is that by removing barriers to access, more people will engage with the story, reflect on the real-world toll of gun violence, and join the conversation about how we can prevent further firearm tragedies in our country."

American Roulette was created by ten authors—Pat LaMarche, Sherry Knowlton, J.M. West, Matthew Best, Robert Bradshaw, Phyllis Orenyo, Andy Carey, and James Dodds—with an introduction by Cheryl Woodruff Brooks and creative consultation by Cheryl Dunn Bychek. Each author crafted a protagonist whose life is forever changed by violence, weaving a tapestry of stories that culminates in a powerful reflection on tragedy, resilience, and choice.

Published by Milford House, an imprint of Sunbury Press, *American Roulette* was originally released October 24, 2023, and is available in print and e-book formats at bookstores and online retailers.

The authors of *American Roulette* donate every cent of their print royalties from the book to gun violence prevention. The new free audiobook version has been made available through the additional generosity of the book's print publisher Milford House, an imprint of Sunbury Press; its voice artists, John Greenman, Katie Greenman, and Alan Grover (who also donated their time and talent); and the Charles Bruce Foundation, a 501(c)(3) arts and culture nonprofit.

For more information about *American Roulette*, the authors and reviews visit [here](#).

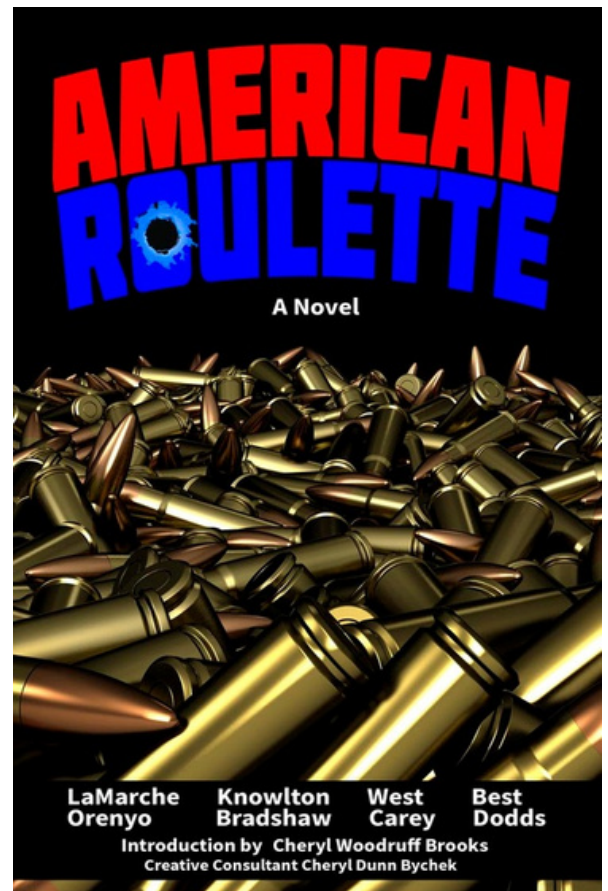
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American Roulette Synopsis

One unremarkable Friday in April, a stream of ordinary people makes their way to Liberty Mall in Anywhere, USA, to shop, work, keep appointments, or catch a movie. A typical day in an average town. American Roulette tells the story of eight of those people.

Emma Franz is a store security guard with a secret. Earl Bricker, a retired factory worker, loves his country, his wife, and his good-old-boy network. Roger Elliot, mid-twenties and miserable, has more than a few axes to grind. High school senior Caitlin Browning, having triumphed over personal challenges, hopes for a quiet evening with her boyfriend. Reverend Chris Dietrich has a special surprise for his weekly Bible study group. Leah McCall, TV personality and teacher, drops by the food court to visit her best friend. Will Humphreys' part-time job at the mall offers him little relief from the relentless bullying that plagues his existence.

At 5:17 PM, one of these characters' actions will change the lives of all the others. Later that night, professional crisis consultant Steven Bradley arrives to help the community deal with the aftermath. An eclectic group of authors spent six months collaborating on American Roulette, a blockbuster novel full of tension, dread, and anguish. Individual authors created one of the eight key characters—complete with a supporting cast—who find themselves sharing a common destiny. Readers have but a single day to get to know each of the protagonists before time and circumstances seal their fate.



About the Authors



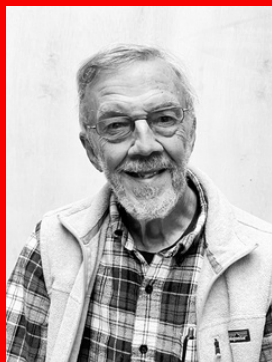
A concern for the increasing scourge of gun violence in America brought together ten collaborators to write *American Roulette*. Most are award winners. All are standouts in their field. They write for every genre—novels, nonfiction, kids’ lit, academic publications, journalism—one wrote for broadcast, and several have blogs. When this varied group isn’t writing, they are teaching, leading congregations, troubleshooting, reporting the news, running businesses, traveling, and inspiring others to believe in themselves.

Together, Pat LaMarche, Sherry Knowlton, J.M. West, Matthew Best, Robert Bradshaw, Phyllis Orenyo, Andy Carey, and James Dodds (with an introduction by Cheryl Woodruff Brooks and creative consultant Cheryl Dunn Bychek) created a narrative and donated their time. The authors donate earnings from print and eBook sales to nonprofit organizations that address gun violence in the United States via The Charles Bruce Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization that supports the arts and those who make them.

About the Audiobook Narrators



The three audiobook narrators, John Greenman, Katie Greenman, and Alan Grover also volunteered their time and waived any earnings from sales of American Roulette as their contribution toward highlighting the continuing gun violence problems in America. With a background in Government and International Relations, Greenman worked in commercial and public television news and public affairs at NBC affiliates and Maine Public Television. Katie Greenman worked as a longtime educator, children's librarian, and early literacy instructor. The Greenmans have recorded many audiobooks. Alan Grover is a career journalist, broadcaster, documentarian and musician.



John Greenman



Katie Greenman



Alan Grover

Book/E-book Details

Title: American Roulette

Authors: Pat LaMarche, Sherry Knowlton, J.M. West, Matthew Best, Phyllis Orenyo, Robert Bradshaw, Andrew Carey, James Dodds. Introduction by Cheryl Woodruff Brooks. Creative consultant Cheryl Dunn Bychek.

Categories: Thrillers/Political
Thrillers/Suspense
Disasters
Anthologies

ISBN: Hard Cover w/dust jacket 979-8-88819-141-5
Trade Paperback 979-8-88819-142-2
Ebook 979-8-88819-143-9

Print Length: 254 pages

Publisher: Milford House Press, an imprint of Sunbury Press, Inc.

Retail Price: Hard Cover w/dust jacket \$44.95
Trade Paperback \$22.95
Ebook \$ 9.99

Distributor: Ingram

Release Date: October 24, 2023

Audiobook Details

Title: American Roulette

Authors: Pat LaMarche, Sherry Knowlton, J.M. West, Matthew Best, Phyllis Orenyo, Robert Bradshaw, Andrew Carey, James Dodds. Introduction by Cheryl Woodruff Brooks. Creative consultant Cheryl Dunn Bychek.

Categories: Thrillers/Political
Thrillers/Suspense
Disasters
Anthologies

Narrators: John Greenman, Katie Greenman, Alan Grover

Listening

Length: 9 hours, 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Publisher: The Charles Bruce Foundation

Retail Price: Free

Availability: Available to download at americanroulettebook.com and <https://youtu.be/cT1aLmrALc4>.

Release Date: September 11, 2025

All publicity inquiries should be directed to kalehmanpr@gmail.com. Book clubs, educators, and other organizations seeking to elevate the discussion of gun violence, as well as all other inquiries, send them to americanroulettebook@gmail.com.

The authors of American Roulette donate every cent of their print royalties from the book to gun violence prevention. The new free audiobook version has been made available through the additional generosity of the book's print publisher Milford House, an imprint of [Sunbury Press](#); its voice artists, John Greenman, Katie Greenman, and Alan Grover (who also donated their time and talent); and the Charles Bruce Foundation, a 501(c)(3) arts and culture nonprofit.

Praise

"I have spent the past five years of my life working to reduce gun violence. My daughter Jaime was murdered in the Parkland school shooting. Over the course of the past five years, I have been on a mission to help people truly understand the reality of gun violence.

This book, *American Roulette*, does just that. I was not prepared for this book, and it truly impacted me. The approach to this book with multiple authors who have experience in the many areas around crime, gun violence, and its aftermath, is unique and brings a unique sense of reality. When you read this book, you will feel as if this could be happening now in a place that you recognize. My hope is that people read this book and put themselves in the shoes of the many families already affected by gun violence. My hope is that you read this book, and work harder to be part of doing something about gun violence, before this story hits closer to home."

– **Fred Guttenberg, gun violence prevention activist**

"*American Roulette* is filled with believable characters; I loved some of them and loathed others, but they all jumped off the page. The characters' tangible humanity is exactly what makes *American Roulette* as difficult to read as it is necessary. As the president of Brady United, an organization that works to prevent gun violence, I have seen mass shootings reduce real people, whose lives meant everything to them and their families, to casualty statistics, headlines, and hashtags, over and over again.

American Roulette doesn't do that. *American Roulette* forces us to reckon with the ways that easy access to guns can erase an unsuspecting person's life in an instant, and all their hopes, dreams, and ambitions, and with that, tear apart the fabric of families, communities, and our society. This book is not a light read. But it is an urgent one. I would recommend this book to so many, but for victims and survivors, I would approach it with extreme caution. With that caveat, if you want to examine the root causes of gun violence and our joint role in trying to end it, this is a book for you, especially for those of you concerned that nothing will ever change or worried that everything will. My hope is that, like art so often does, *American Roulette* will pierce through the rhetoric and preconceived notions surrounding guns and gun violence, to speak directly to your heart and inspire change."

– **Kris Brown, President, Brady**

Praise

"I was gratified to come across American Roulette, both as a writer and as a citizen. As a writer, I'm intrigued by the intricacies of the project, an anthology of linked stories about the effects of a typical American mass shooting. As a citizen, I was grateful that someone had the courage to speak out on this issue, particularly since we live in a time where violence is becoming an accepted solution to any disagreement. The contributors of American Roulette have attempted to do something morally courageous and artistically remarkable."

— **Ed Aymar, multiple-Anthony Award-nominated author of When She Left**

"American Roulette grabs you by both head and heart as it leads you through dark prickly places, then points you toward the light."

— **Tim Tigner, best-selling author of The Price of Time**

"Amazing book. I was impacted by this true-to-life story that reaffirms the reality of the dangers that we, our families, loved ones, and friends face on any given day. American Roulette is a profound, emotional, and riveting read. I found myself not wanting to turn the pages but feeling compelled to do so."

For anyone concerned about gun violence in this country, the authors have provided a scenario and characters with which readers will immediately identify. Having authored active shooter response plans, facilitated active shooter exercises, and assisted in the response and recovery to an active shooter event, I can attest that the authors are clearly versed in complexities of crisis response which makes American Roulette that much more realistic."

— **John R. Gibb, Former Director, New York State Emergency Management Agency**

Praise

“Welding individual psychology and the politics of gun violence with a moving story, this searing novel confronts the reality of the United States’ most tragic epidemic. . . .

Each of the novel’s authors writes a single character, creating continuity, nuance, and an impressive diversity of voices. Combining the eclecticism of a wide-ranging short story collection with an epic sense of inevitability and dread as the day wears on, these eight authors achieve a subtle poetic harmony. Generalizing labels are undermined, and the true horror of public violence and lost innocence is placed center stage.

Politics are inseparable from this narrative, but its emphasis remains on the travesty that is lost life and the need for constructive help rather than simply placing blame on one group. Readers will find a complex, thought-provoking story about humanity and about modern society’s intractable failures rather than a polemic with prescribed solutions. This book embraces everyone, and as such, makes a case for people coming together against gun violence, loneliness, mental illness, and injustices of every kind.”

— **Warren Maxwell, Independent Book Review**

“We as a nation have done far too little to address the epidemic of gun violence that claims over 40,000 lives a year. It grieves God that we have not protected our children and in addition our communities threatened by gun violence because of their race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Change is often precipitated by the power of stories. It is my hope and prayer that powerful stories such as this one will help us to move toward God’s desire of a peaceable kingdom.”

— **Rev. James S. Dunlop, Bishop, Lower Susquehanna Synod The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

Praise

“American Roulette is an amazingly realistic book. It made me feel like I was living this chaotic day in the life of Anytown, USA. In fact, it was so real I needed to work through some personal trauma before I wrote this review.

On September 15, 1999, a mass shooting took place at Wedgwood Baptist Church. My daughters were supposed to be there (but unknown to me ended up not going). What began as a distraught parent trying desperately to find his daughters ended up with me driving the pastor all night from the church to the hospital, to the morgue, to survey the scene, to National network news interviews, etc. Most days I think I have worked through it. But this book reminded me it's an ongoing process.

The authors have captured the lives of everyday Americans living and trying to get through their own daily challenges. We seldom think about those around us and what is going on in their lives, but the authors, by each taking the life of an individual involved, bring those issues to the forefront. As I said before, it makes it real.

Be warned, if you have suffered trauma, particularly gun trauma, this book may bring it all back. The authors hope that it does not just overwhelm people but calls them to action for gun control. I completely agree!

I would encourage every American to read this book. It could make a difference in the way you view gun violence and particularly the “right” of gun ownership which is out of control in this country.

— **Thomas Law, Retired Executive Director of Tarrant (Fort Worth, TX) Baptist Association**

About the Authors

A concern for gun violence in America motivated ten authors to write American Roulette. Most are award winners. All are standouts in their field. Together they agreed to create a narrative and donate their time. The proceeds from the book will go to gun violence prevention via The Charles Bruce Foundation, a 501(c) 3 charitable organization.

Matthew Best wrote the Chris Dietrich chapters. Rev. Best serves as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as well as the executive director of Health Ministries at Christ Lutheran, which provide free medical and dental care for the poorest of the poor in the region. Rev. Best serves in leadership positions for several community, church, and statewide organizations in Pennsylvania that advocate for those experiencing houselessness and poverty. He also has an extensive background in campaign politics and government. You can read his writings on a variety of topics related to politics and theology, as well as his sermons, book reviews, and other writings, at his blog.

Robert Bradshaw wrote the Steven Bradley chapters. Robert is Managing Partner of Contingency Management Consulting Group, a crisis and emergency management consulting firm. He has more than thirty years' experience in crisis and emergency management, including international work in such countries as Egypt, Chile, France, and the Philippines.

Robert has responded to numerous major disasters, including oil spills, severe storms, corporate business crises, and the Fukushima nuclear accident. Among the most noteworthy items in his portfolio is the September 11th attacks, when he established and managed an emergency operations center for American Airlines in response to Flight 77 after it crashed into the Pentagon. Mr. Bradshaw has written technical articles and papers on emergency management and has trained US and international teams on how to respond to crises.

Robert and his team also develop active shooter emergency procedures and provide training and administer emergency drills on active shooter/active assailant response to schools, corporations, and other high-profile clients.

About the Authors

Andrew Carey, PhD, wrote the Will Humphreys chapters. Before transitioning from university professor to mental health counseling, Andy taught coast to coast for more than thirty years at five different universities. His therapeutic experiences include university and community counseling centers, private practice, churches, and a correctional institution. Previous co-editor of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association Journal, he has published numerous academic articles, one in the American Counseling Association's flagship journal. Andy has traveled the US, presenting for various counseling conferences. He now apportions his time between his public health practice, writing novels, and traveling with his wife, Kathy.

James Dodds wrote the Roger Elliot chapters. Originally a creative writing student in college, James turned to technical writing as a more reliable career. After decades of crafting user manuals, he was finally able to return to storytelling. His first attempt resulted in an award, and his tales have since appeared in *The Avenue*, Issue VII: Freedom; *Christmas Gothic Short Stories*; *Bullshit Lit Anthology 01*; and *2100: A Health Odyssey*. He enjoys the quiet countryside west of Spokane, Washington.

Sherry Knowlton wrote the Earl Bricker chapters. She is the award-winning author of the Alexa Williams suspense novels. She has also written the two-volume *Beyond the Sunset* travel memoirs.

Sherry spent much of her early career in state government policy and administration, working with social and human services programs, including services for abused children, rape crisis, domestic violence, and family planning. In the 1990s, she served as Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance. Following public service, Sherry moved to the private sector and focused on Medicaid and Medicare managed care. While running her own consulting business, she put pen to paper in pursuit of her lifelong interest in writing both fiction and nonfiction.

About the Authors

Sherry and her husband, Mike, started traveling in the days of peace and music. They traversed the country in a hippie van. Running out of money several months into the trip, Sherry waitressed the night shift at a cowboy hangout in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Mike washed dishes in a bakery. Undeterred, they embraced the travel experience and continue to explore far-flung places around the globe. So much so that she's written two travel volumes peppered with photos both she and Mike took on the road. Sherry lives in the mountains of south-central Pennsylvania, which doubles as the setting for her suspense novels.

Pat LaMarche wrote the Emma Franz chapters. Pat is an award-winning broadcaster, journalist, and author. She has focused her energies writing and speaking about poverty. Following her 2004 run for vice president of the United States—a year of her life she dedicated to homelessness and its victims—Pat became a shelter director caring directly for those experiencing housing and food insecurity. Pat has a particular interest on the far ends of the homeless spectrum—elder orphans and unhoused babies.

Having authored eight books dealing with poverty and human struggles, Pat still works as a freelance journalist. Educated as a historian, Pat's written a history book, a fantasy novel filled with historic figures, and even a comic book about veterans. Pat relies on any and every method available to direct the attention of the mainstream public toward issues of great importance. *American Roulette* is another of those attempts to focus on humanity's preventable tragedies.

Pat's most recent advocacy project, *The Homeless Remembrance Blanket*, covered 18,000 square feet of the US Capitol's west lawn. Type #memorialblanket into your favorite social media for more information on upcoming projects to raise awareness and help those experiencing homelessness.

About the Authors

Phyllis Orenyo wrote the Caitlin Browning chapters. As far back as she can remember Phyllis wanted to be a writer. As a child she created limericks, poems, and wrote for the school newspapers. Throughout her career, first as a paralegal and subsequently as a mortgage banker, her duties included a great deal of writing. Those writings reflected fact-driven situations. She felt her creativity was limited unless she could find new and interesting ways to express information.

No longer writing expository documents, Phyllis has turned her talents to children's literature. Two of her kids' books have been published. She has donated all of her proceeds to the Charles Bruce Foundation, a charity that supports writers, artists, and musicians. There are two more kids' books in the process of being illustrated for publication.

She currently has refocused her writing, gearing it more for adults. She's working on a short cautionary tale (novella) as well as a murder mystery. Phyllis lives in south-central Pennsylvania where she shares her home with her husband and two cats.

J.M. West wrote the Leah McCall chapters. Author of the award-winning *Madam Bessie Jones, Her Life and Times*, West also penned the fact-based *Carlisle Crime Cases* featuring Homicide Detectives Christopher Snow and Erin McCoy.

A Professor Emerita of English Studies at Harrisburg Area Community College, The Gettysburg Campus, she also taught at Messiah and Shippensburg Universities and served as Assistant Director of the Learning Center (SU). For four years, West cohosted the "Milford House Mysteries," author interviews, and writing tips on the Bookspeak Network at www.blogtalkradio.com.

She and her husband live in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. They have two sons, two grandsons, and a Border Collie mix. In her spare time, West participates in a book club and writing group, and reads voraciously.

About the Authors

Cheryl Woodruff Brooks wrote the introduction. Cheryl Woodruff Brooks, MBA/MA, completed her first book, *Chicken Bone Beach: A Pictorial History of Atlantic City's Missouri Avenue Beach*, in 2017, which was nominated for a 2017 Literary Award with the Schomburg Center in New York City. The book has likewise been used in classrooms, at Purdue University, referenced in *The Oxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies*, and has been catalogued at libraries in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Cheryl's second book, *Golden Beauty Boss: The Story of Madame Sara Spencer Washington and the Apex Empire*, released three weeks after the pandemic, is the first biography written about an African American woman becoming a self-made millionaire in the 1940s. Cheryl released a children's version of both of her books and contributed writing to *After the Pandemic*. Cheryl's most recent and first independent release, *When I Look into the Sea*, is a rhyming children's book designed to encourage kids to believe in themselves and their dreams.

Cheryl Dunn Bychek wove the timelines of these characters into whole cloth. She also edited, proofread, and contributed ideas which helped create this compelling story. Cheryl spent the bulk of her career in professional theater as a public relations and marketing director. A voracious reader since age four, she takes great pleasure in improving the world through her proofreading and editing skills. Cheryl has also been a lifelong activist, earning her first kudos for standing up against bullying in second grade. Her passions are too numerous to mention but include decades of advocating for the LGBTQ+ community (she is the mother of a transgender woman), crusading for peace in the world, and raising awareness and funds to fight cancer, and dementia-related diseases, and AIDS. She is entering her thirtieth year as a judge for the Carbonell Awards for excellence in professional theater in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties in Florida. In her spare time, Cheryl loves to travel.

About the Audiobook Narrators

John Greenman: With a background in Government and International Relations, Greenman earned an MFA in Film and Television from NYU. This led to 33 years of work in commercial and public television news and public affairs at NBC affiliates and Maine Public Television. Retired since 2006, Greenman has been devoted to making free audiobooks of Mark Twain's works and joining his wife, Katie in stewardship of the environment that surrounds them. The Greenmans have lived and worked in Maine since 1978 where they raised two children and enjoy engaging with four grandchildren, ages 3-17.

Katie Greenman: As a longtime educator, children's librarian, early literacy instructor and parent, reading aloud has been an integral part of Katie's world. She was privileged to have time to volunteer for organizations that fostered peace and friendship. Katie and John volunteered with Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) for over 20 years, globally and locally. Since 2003, Katie has engaged with a local US/El Salvador Sister City organization, sistering in solidarity with a Salvadoran community as our countries struggle under increasingly autocratic governments. In 2016 Katie became a part time professional Reflexologist, a meditative and integrative health-balancing practice.

Alan Grover: Alan is a career journalist, broadcaster, documentarian and musician.