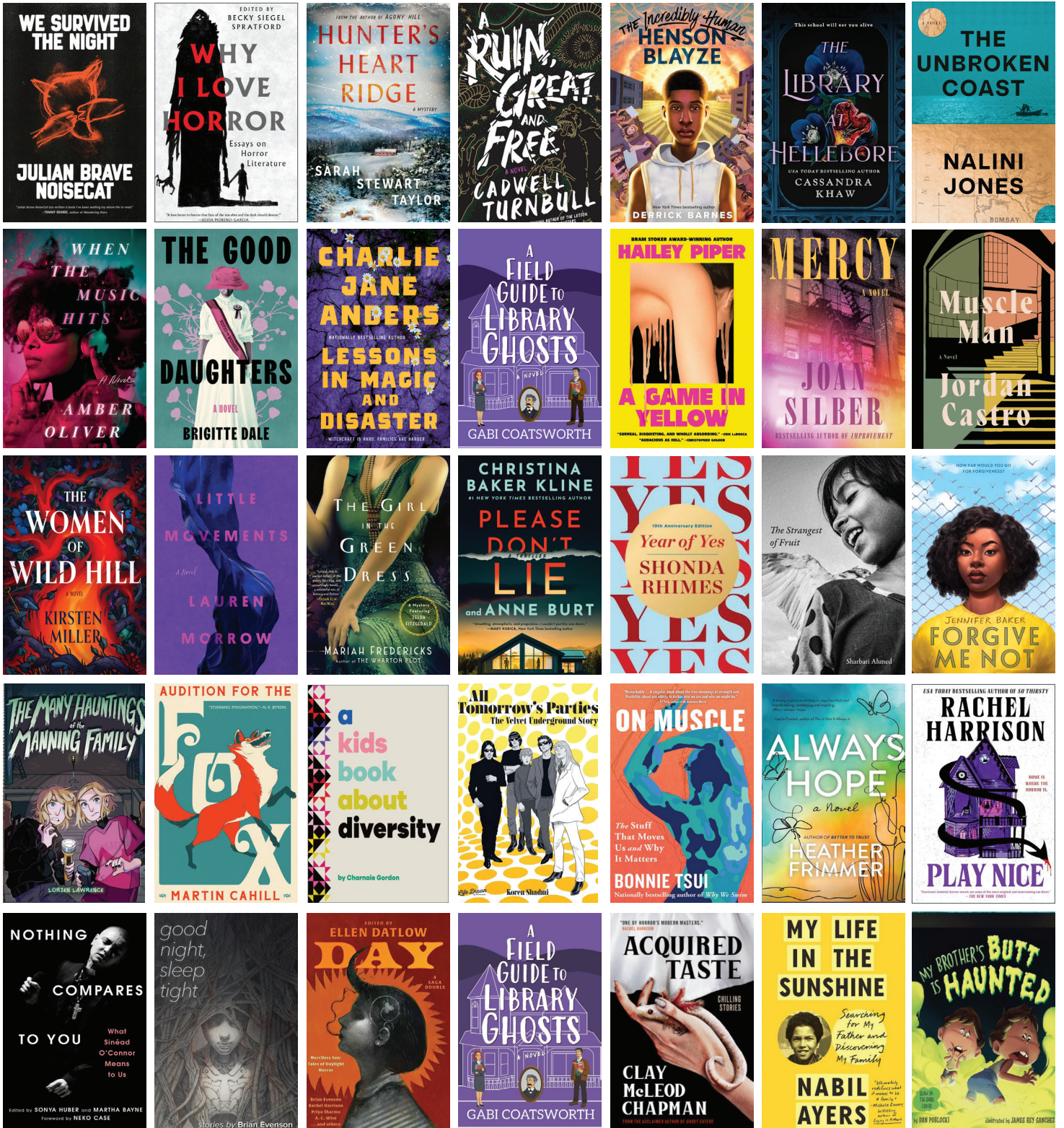


StoryFest'25

IN PRINT • IN PERSON



westportlibrary.org/storyfest

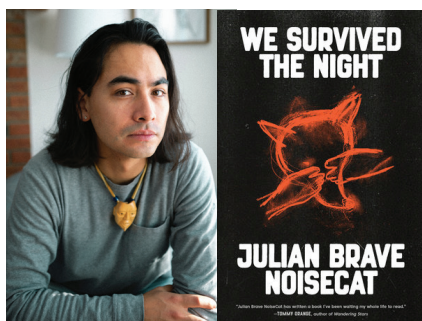
STORYFEST'25

StoryFest is a multi-day, genre-spanning literary festival, now in its eighth year. It is a celebration of the story in all its forms, and storytellers from across all media. Those attending will hear award-winning and debut authors talk about their work and books they have coming out this fall.

Now in its eighth year, StoryFest is the largest annual literary festival in Connecticut and one of the biggest in the Northeast. It is a celebration of the story in all its forms and storytellers from across all media, each year drawing scores of authors and hundreds of readers, writers, and fans.

Past participants include National Book Award finalist Jason Reynolds; Goosebumps author R.L. Stine; acclaimed essayist and memoirist Roxane Gay, New York Times best-selling authors Michael Lewis, Mitch Albom, Claire Messud, Angie Kim, Stephen Graham Jones, and Caroline Kepnes; young adult superstars Nic Stone, Tiffany Jackson, and L.L. McKinney; Emmy Award winner Sheila Nevins; best-selling memoirist Isaac Fitzgerald; Kirkus Prize recipient Saeed Jones; and Pinkalicious author/illustrator Victoria Kann.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7 PM



Julian Brave NoiseCat, *We Survived the Night*

StoryFest kicks off as we celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day with author and Oscar-nominated filmmaker (for his documentary *Sugarcane*) Julian Brave Noisecat. Noisecat's highly anticipated memoir, *We Survived the Night*, releases nationwide October 14, and we'll have copies one night early to celebrate the launch!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Thursday, 6 PM | Visual Storytelling with Arthur Nager: Develop Your Photographic Vision to Create a Compelling Portfolio, Book, or Exhibition

Learn to tell visual stories with acclaimed photographer Arthur Nager. **BROOKS PLACE**

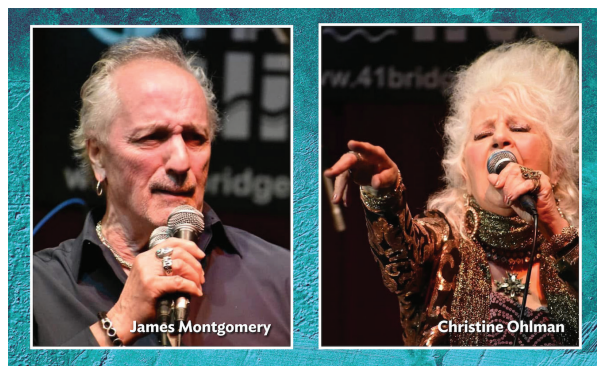
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7 PM



Bonnie Blue: James Cotton's Life in the Blues: Film Screening and Concert Event

Doors: 6 PM; film: 6:30 PM (concert to follow)

StoryFest kicks off its main event weekend by showcasing storytelling through film and music, starting with a screening of the documentary, *Bonnie Blue: James Cotton's Life in the Blues*. That will be followed by a performance by James Montgomery's Blues Band featuring SNL Beehive Queen Christine Ohlman, showcasing songs from the film. **Tickets: \$30.**



STORYFEST'25 CREATES

Saturday, 12-1:30 PM | WORKSHOP: Writing Heroes & Villains: A Screenwriting Crash Course with Claire Ayoub, Writer/Director of *Empire Waist*

Build a three-dimensional hero with clear wants and fears, and create challenges for that hero to go against and grow by the end of the film — including how to build a most excellent villain. For all ages. **MCCALL ROOM**

Saturday, 4-5 PM | WORKSHOP: Book Bedazzling: A Course in Creativity & Fun with Allie Joy, Board Certified Art Therapist and Licensed Counselor

Would you like to get crafty? Select a favorite book to bedazzle with gems, glitter, and other embellishments. Ages: All ages; adults encouraged! **MCCALL ROOM**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

StoryFest's busiest day features panel discussions, author talks, and signings, plus a live edition of Jennifer Baker's *Minorities in Publishing* podcast. More than 30 authors will be in attendance, including first-time in-person guests Charlie Jane Anders (*All the Birds in the Sky*), Christina Baker Kline (*Orphan Train*), and Cadwell Turnbull (*No Gods, No Monsters*); returning favorites Rachel Harrison (*Black Sheep*) and Lorien Lawrence (*Fright Watch*); plus many, more. **All Free With A Day Pass!**

10 AM-12 PM Spooky Stories in the Cobblestone Barn (for kids) WESTPORT MUSEUM For History & Culture

Get in the Halloween spirit with award-winning and best-selling authors Lorien Lawrence and Dan Poblocki, Westport Children's Library treasure Lynne Perrigo, plus a special appearance by Washington Irving himself!

11 AM-12 PM PANEL: Writing the Self and Others: Turning Lived Experience into Art! TREFZ FORUM

Explore how writers mine the truth and histories of their own lives and the lives of others to create stories as bold as life itself. With Nabil Ayers, Mariah Fredericks, Koren Shadmi, and Bonnie Tsui. Moderator: Sonya Huber.

12-1 PM PANEL: Becky Spratford Presents: 'Why I Love Horror' TREFZ FORUM

Horror expert and critic Becky Siegel Spratford gathers some of the most celebrated contemporary horror writers to discuss why they love the genre. With Clay McLeod Chapman, Rachel Harrison, Cassandra Khaw, and Hailey Piper.

1-2 PM PANEL: Coming of Age: Writing Youth, Identity, and the Search for Belonging TREFZ FORUM

Hear how children's and YA writers explore the heartbreak, hopes, hilarities, and horrors of growing up. With Charlie Jane Anders, Derrick Barnes, Lorien Lawrence, and Hailey Piper. Moderator: Charnaie Gordon.

2-3 PM PANEL: Fiction Without Borders: Storytelling Beyond Limits! TREFZ FORUM

Explore fiction that resists categorization, expands perspectives, and reminds us of the limitless power of storytelling. With Martin Cahill, Jordan Castro, Gabi Coatsworth, Nalini Jones, Joan Silber, and Cadwell Turnbull. Moderator: Heather Frimmer.

2-3 PM LIVE PODCAST: Working on Both Sides of the Page: Live Minorities in Publishing Podcast Recording BROOKS PLACE

Publishing professionals and dynamic authors Lauren Morrow and Amber Oliver join host Jennifer Baker for a fun and engaging conversation about their electrifying debut novels.

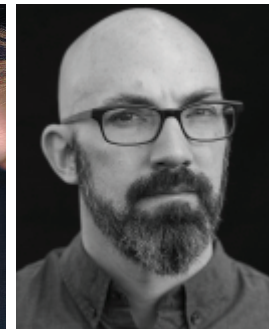
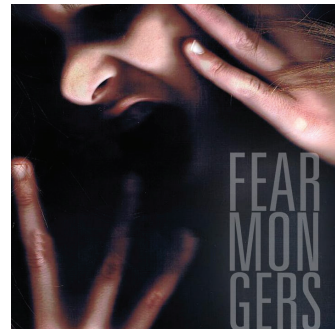
3-4 PM PANEL: Nevertheless, She Persisted: Writing Strong Women TREFZ FORUM

From trailblazers to everyday heroines, literature has long offered a space to reimagine women's roles and voices. In this discussion, authors explore the craft of writing complex female characters who reflect resilience, vulnerability, and the full range of human experience. With Sharbari Ahmed, Christina Baker Kline, Anne Burt, Brigitte Dale, Kirsten Miller, and Sarah Stewart Taylor. Moderator: Liz Matthews.

4-5 PM PANEL: Ellen Datlow Presents: Night and Day TREFZ FORUM

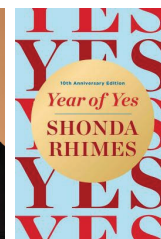
Horror's preeminent editor and StoryFest favorite Ellen Datlow sits down with writers from her new anthology, *Night and Day*, with one side featuring stories about what haunts the night while the other side showcases the terrors that can exist in the light of day. With Clay McLeod Chapman, Brian Evenson, and Rachel Harrison.

SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 18



6 PM Fearmongers LIVE! StoryFest favorite Clay McLeod Chapman closes out StoryFest Saturday with a special live edition of his Verso Studios podcast *Fearmongers*, live on the main stage featuring special guests, readings, spooky shenanigans, and even a surprise or two. **FREE**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20



Award-Winning Producer and Best-Selling Author Shonda Rhimes Celebrates the 10th Anniversary of Year of Yes SOLD OUT

NBC anchor Craig Melvin (*Today*) will be moderating the conversation, and Rhimes

will be joined by special guests and share the new moments that shaped her life over the past 10 years. *This event is presented in partnership with RJ Julia Booksellers.*

Story Fest'25

Sharbari Ahmed
Charlie Jane Anders
Nabil Ayers
Jennifer Baker
Christina Baker Kline
Derrick Barnes
Anne Burt
Martin Cahill
Jordan Castro
Clay McLeod Chapman
Gabi Coatsworth
Brigitte Dale
Ellen Datlow
Brian Evenson
Mariah Fredericks
Heather Frimmer
Charnaie Gordon
Rachel Harrison
Sonya Huber
Nalini Jones
Cassandra Khaw
Lorien Lawrence
Liz Matthews
Kirsten Miller
Lauren Morrow
Julian Brave NoiseCat
Amber Oliver
Hailey Piper
Dan Poblocki
Shonda Rhimes
Koren Shadmi
Joan Silber
Becky Spratford
Sarah Stewart Taylor
Bonnie Tsui
Cadwell Turnbull

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Lance Lundberg Family Foundation

Chris & Jim Corgel

Thank you to our StoryFest'25 Partners

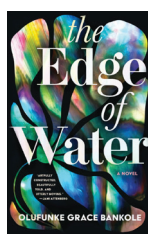


Connecticut Writing Project
at Fairfield University

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SAVE THE DATE



November 6, 7 pm

2025 Westport Prize for Literature
Award Ceremony and Author
Conversation: *The Edge of Water*
by Olufunke Grace Bankole

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