

SUMMER READING

# Texas Women AUTHORS

AS SUMMER READING LISTS AROUND, LET'S CELEBRATE A FEW WOMEN WRITERS WHO CALL TEXAS HOME. BEGIN WITH A HISTORICAL FICTION TRILOGY AND CONTINUE WITH THREE STORIES WHERE TEXAS IS ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS.

## THAT WHICH REMAINS

C.F. Yetmen



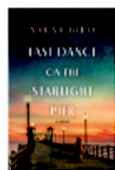
Wading through the suspicion, corruption and uncertainty of 1945 Germany, Anna Klein clings to the hope for normalcy and returning to her pre-war life.

Displaced with her young daughter, separated from her husband and reliant on the kindness of a family friend for shelter, she lands a coveted job in the typing pool at the American Collecting Point where the Monuments Men are working to retrieve and return Nazi-looted art to its rightful owners. When an impromptu promotion to the job of translator for Captain Henry Cooper pushes Anna into the world of mysterious art dealings during the war, she discovers she has a talent — and the courage — to confront the perpetrators of these wartime crimes and to right these wrongs, which goes far deeper than simply returning some pictures to their owners. In the process, Anna realizes her future holds a much greater purpose than she ever realized and that she has the power to chart a new path forward, if she can decide to take it.

*That Which Remains* won an Ippy Gold Award in 2022 and is Book 3 in the Ann Klein Trilogy. *The Roses Underneath* won Ippy Gold in 2015 and *What is Forgiven* won Ippy Silver in 2018.

## LAST DANCE ON THE STARLIGHT PIER

Sarah Bird



July 3, 1932: Shivering and in shock, Evie Grace Devlin watches the Starlite Palace burn into the sea and wonders how she became a person who would cause a man to kill himself. She'd come to Galveston to escape a dark past in vaudeville and become a good person, a nurse.

When that dream is cruelly thwarted, Evie is swept into the alien world of dance marathons.

*Last Dance on the Starlight Pier* is a sweeping novel that brings to spectacular life the enthralling worlds of both dance marathons and the family-run empire of vice that was Galveston.

ton in the '30s. Unforgettable characters tell a story that is still deeply resonant today as America learns what Evie learns — that there truly isn't anything this country can't do when we do it together. That indomitable spirit powers a story that is a testament to the deep well of resilience in us all that allows us to not only survive the hardest of hard times, but to find joy, friends, and even family, in them.

## GONE TO DALLAS

Laurie Moore-Moore



Sara arrives in Dallas a 19-year-old widow — armed with plenty of pluck — determined to open a general store in the tiny settlement of log cabins on the Trinity River. But Dallas is an untamed world of cattle chasers, buffalo hunters, freighters, lawyers and a bordello madame set on taking over the town. Can Sara overcome her own uncertainty, vandalism, threats and being gun shot?

In this tale of migration, betrayal, dreams and determination, Sara strives to create her general store while living Dallas' true history — from the beginnings of Le Reunion (the European colony across the Trinity) to a frozen river, a grand ball and the mighty fire that burns Dallas to the ground. Dallas is a challenging place, especially with the Civil War looming. Even with the friendship of a former Texas Ranger and Dallas' most important citizen — another woman — is Sara strong enough to meet the challenge? Failure means being destitute in Dallas.

## THE LIFEGUARDS

Amanda Eyre Ward



Austin's Zilker Park is a wonderland of greenbelt trails, live music and moms who drink margaritas. Whitney, Annette and Liza have grown thick as thieves as they have raised their children together for 15 years. While each of them has their own set of values and backgrounds, they share the belief that they can shelter their children from an increasingly dangerous world. The women's three teenaged sons are about to begin a carefree summer as lifeguards in their safe neighborhood. But one night while the three women are enjoying happy hour, their sons return on bicycles from a late-night dip in their favorite swimming hole. The boys share a secret — news that will shatter the perfect world their mothers have so painstakingly created.

Combining three mothers' points of view in a powerful narrative tale with commentary from entertaining neighborhood listservs, secret text messages and police reports, *The Lifeguards* is both a story about the secrets we tell to protect the ones we love and a riveting novel of suspense filled with half-truths and betrayals, fierce love and complicated friendships, and the loss of innocence of one hot summer night. ♦