



Spring Summit
May 18 - May 21

MAY SCHEDULE

**Find what virtual and in-person events
are on during The Muse & The
Marketplace's Spring Summit**



Spring Summit
May 18 - May 21

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SCHEDULE FOR MAY 18

Time	Event
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET	Manuscript Mart Day 1

SCHEDULE FOR MAY 19

Time	Event
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET	Manuscript Mart Day 2
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET	Literary Trivia Night @ GrubStreet Center*

*IN PERSON EVENT AT GRUB CENTER

*BLUE, UNDERLINED TEXT IS CLICKABLE LINKS ONLINE



**Spring Summit
May 18 - May 21**

FRIDAY, MAY 19

7:00-9:00 PM PARTY

IN-PERSON EVENT

Literary Trivia Night hosted by GrubStreet's Muse & the Marketplace May 2023 Publishing Summit (May 18-21)



LITERARY TRIVIA NIGHT

It's trivia time! The Muse & the Marketplace is hosting a free literary trivia night for word nerds, writers, and readers alike. Test your knowledge of all things literary as you compete to win fun prizes, including GrubStreet classes, tote bags, mugs, and more. Bring your own trivia dream team or come ready to make new friends (we'll help everyone find teams)! Beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase. This event is free and open to all. Please register in advance.

If you are interested in the business of book publishing and connecting with literary agents and editors, check out the rest of our weekend summit programming.

[Please register in advance on Eventbrite](#)

SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, MAY 20

Time	Event
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM ET	Saturday Wake-Up Call
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET	"2023 Book Trends and the Near Future of Publishing: What Writers Need to Know" Keynote Panel
11:15 AM- 12:00 PM ET	Shop Talk Roundtables 1A through 1F
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET	Lunch Break
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET	Coffee Networking
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET	"How We Made This: Yellowface" Keynote Panel
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM ET	Shop Talk Roundtables 2A through 2F
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET	Break
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET	Book Look-Alike + 1.5 Minutes of Fame Party @ GrubStreet Center *

*IN PERSON EVENT AT GRUB CENTER

*BLUE, UNDERLINED TEXT IS CLICKABLE LINKS ONLINE



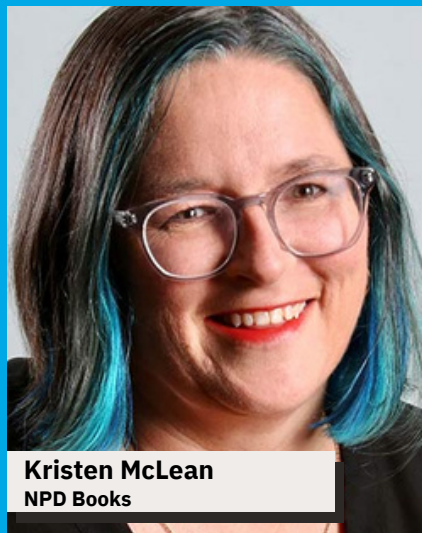
Spring Summit
May 18 - May 21

SATURDAY, MAY 20

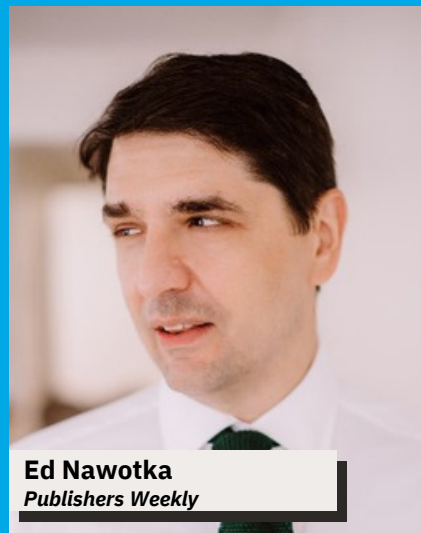
10:00-11:00 AM ET KEYNOTE



Jane Friedman
The Business of Being a Writer



Kristen McLean
NP Books



Ed Nawotka
Publishers Weekly

"2023 BOOK TRENDS AND THE NEAR FUTURE OF PUBLISHING: WHAT WRITERS NEED TO KNOW"

It's often said that the pandemic has accelerated changes already underway in business, and that's proven especially true for book publishing. Even though the industry is often considered slow and not as susceptible to technological change (and print books saw their best sales in a decade!), it's been a transformative few years for the business of books. And more change is coming.

This panel of publishing industry experts will discuss current sales trends in the United States, the rise of BookTok and its importance to the publishing community, how bricks-and-mortar bookstores are performing, the many ways that publishers and authors are already taking advantage of and grappling with artificial intelligence (including ChatGPT), the rise of Substack vs The Twitter Troubles, and much more. They will share what authors who are hoping to publish a book in the near future can do now to give their projects and careers the best possible chance of success.

VIRTUAL EVENT

SAT, MAY 20

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM ET

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE OPTIONS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
<p>1A: Get Your Work Noticed by Literary Agents</p>	<p>Literary agents can receive hundreds or thousands of queries in a year and may sign only a handful of new clients. What are some important things you can do to make sure your work gets noticed? Are your query letter and pages all that matter, or can prior publications, awards, social media presence, an MFA, industry connections, and more also factor in? Join this moderated 45-minute Q&A with literary agents Miriam Altshuler and Mitchell Waters to hear their thoughts and ask your most pressing questions.</p>	<p>Miriam Altshuler & Mitchell Waters</p>
<p>1B: Ask Us Anything for BIPOC Writers</p>	<p>What unique opportunities and challenges do BIPOC writers still face in an industry that has been historically dominated by white authors and publishing professionals? What new trends are we seeing for BIPOC in 2023? As a BIPOC writer, what can you do to give your work its best chance of finding success in this industry? Join literary agents Cherise Fisher and Kiana Nguyen — both veterans of our popular Agents & Editors of Color Panel — to hear their thoughts and ask your most pressing questions in this moderated 45-minute Q&A.</p>	<p>Cherise Fisher & Kiana Nguyen</p>
<p>1C: Crafting the Nonfiction Book Proposal</p>	<p>Nonfiction writers and memoirists looking to snag an agent or editor's attention face a puzzling challenge early on in the process: the book proposal. You've probably heard of it, but what is it, exactly? How do you describe your book before it is actually written? Do you need to mention your Twitter followers, those pesky comp titles, or the prize you won in 2007? And what are the building blocks of a good book proposal anyway? Join literary agents Lucy Cleland and Eric Smith as they share their thoughts on how to craft this potential workhorse of editorial and marketing power and answer audience questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Lucy Cleland & Eric Smith</p>

SAT, MAY 20

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM ET

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE OPTIONS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
<p>1D: Small Presses and Indie Publishing vs. the Big 5</p>	<p>What are the pros & cons of choosing to publish with a small press or independent publishing house versus the traditional Big 5 (Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Penguin Random House, and Simon & Schuster)? How can you identify reputable small presses and indies, and what are some red flags to watch out for? How do contracts, the editorial process, and marketing and publicity support compare? Whichever option you choose, how can you give your work the best chance of success? Join editors José Araguz and Nathan Rostron to hear their thoughts and ask your most pressing questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>José Araguz & Nathan Rostron</p>
<p>Sessions 1E: Finding Your Unique Publishing Path</p>	<p>Every published writer's path is different. What are the range of publishing options available to you and how do you determine the best fit for your work and goals? Whether you're working on your first personal essay or your fifth novel, how do you identify the best next step for your career and what you can do to get there? Are we seeing new publishing paths opening up in 2023, or older ones disappearing? Join literary agents Veronica Goldstein and Lori Galvin for this 45-minute moderated Q&A to hear their thoughts and ask your questions.</p>	<p>Veronica Goldstein & Lori Galvin</p>
<p>1F: Ask Us Anything for Disabled Writers</p>	<p>What unique possibilities and challenges do writers with disabilities face in the publishing industry? How can you find agents and publishers committed to supporting disabled writers, ensure that your accessibility needs are met throughout the publication process, and give your work its best chance of finding success? What new trends are we seeing for disabled writers and publishing professionals in 2023? Join literary agents Ayla Zuraw-Friedland and Natalie Edwards in this 45-minute moderated Q&A to hear their thoughts and ask your most pressing questions.</p>	<p>Ayla Zuraw-Friedland & Natalie Edwards</p>

SATURDAY, MAY 20

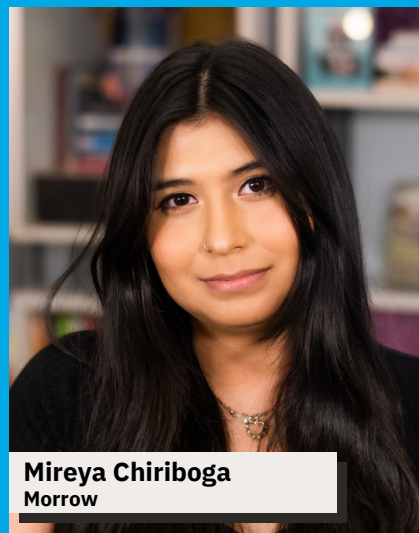
2:00-3:00 PM ET KEYNOTE



R. F. Kuang
Yellowface



May Chen
Morrow/Avon



Mireya Chiriboga
Morrow

HOW WE MADE THIS: *YELLOWFACE*

#1 New York Times bestselling author R. F. Kuang will headline our May publishing summit. The critically acclaimed author of *Babel* and the *Poppy War* trilogy enters new literary territory with her next book [Yellowface](#) (May 16), “a spellbinding tale of artistic theft that fearlessly wrestles with questions of cultural appropriation and exploitation, racism, diversity, tokenism, ambition, friendship, and the irresistible power of storytelling.” Kuang will be joined by two members of her HarperCollins editorial team — May Chen and Mireya Chiriboga — whose own experiences as industry professionals informed the plot of the book. Together, they will pull back the curtain on how they collaborated professionally throughout the writing, publishing, and launch processes to bring *Yellowface* into the world.

To celebrate, we are teaming up with Porter Square Books: Boston Edition to give away 50 free copies of *Yellowface* to May summit attendees. Claim yours as an [add-on](#) to your May summit registration or add a copy to your order when you [register](#).

VIRTUAL EVENT

SAT, MAY 20

3:15 - 4:00 PM ET

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE OPTIONS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
<p>2A: How Can Writers Show Up as Literary Citizens?</p>	<p>As you join our summit conversations about burnout and professionals leaving the publishing industry, challenges faced by historically marginalized writers, forces that drive resources towards a few bestsellers at the expense of the midlist, and so much more, you might be wondering: what can I do to help? How do we work together to create a world in which books and storytelling can thrive? Join literary agents Saba Sulaiman and Katherine Fausset as they share their thoughts on this topic and answer questions from the audience in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Saba Sulaiman & Katherine Fausset</p>
<p>2B: The Love Triangle: Author-Agent-Editor Relationships</p>	<p>How do authors, agents, and editors work together to bring book projects into the world? How do you build relationships with your professional team, resolve differences of opinion when they arise, and balance your artistic vision and creative integrity with the practical realities of the publishing process? Join literary agent Malaga Baldi and editor Foyinsi Adegbonmire as they share their thoughts and answer audience questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Malaga Baldi & Foyinsi Adegbonmire</p>
<p>2C: What Writers Should Know about Burnout in the Publishing Industry</p>	<p>When we asked agents and editors what publishing trends from the past year they feel are most important to discuss with writers, burnout and colleagues leaving the industry were top of mind for most. What's happening and how is this likely to impact writers at every stage of their careers? Join literary agents Reiko Davis and Chris Bucci as they break down what they are seeing and engage in a 45-minute moderated Q&A with the audience.</p>	<p>Reiko Davis & Chris Bucci</p>

SAT, MAY 20

3:15 - 4:00 PM ET

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE OPTIONS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
<p>2D: Publishing's Racial Reckoning: A Check-In 3 Years After the Summer of 2020</p>	<p>In the midst of protests against police brutality and systemic racism following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, the publishing industry reckoned with its own issues with diversity, from the lack of diverse professionals at the executive and leadership levels to systemic barriers facing BIPOC writers to the failure of works published to reflect the diversity of the broader population. Many publishing and literary organizations committed to taking concrete actions to address these issues. So, how is the industry doing three years later? Where are we seeing progress and where do we still have a long way to go? Join literary agents Serene Hakim and Mariah Stovall as they share what they are seeing and answer audience questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Serene Hakim & Mariah Stovall</p>
<p>2E: How Do We Define a Book's Success?</p>	<p>Is it the size of the author's advance, book sales, time on bestseller lists, reviews, awards, going viral on TikTok, or are there other ways of thinking about how successful a book is? Does this vary across genres or at different stages of a writer's career? Which of these measures can an author influence and which depend on the work of their agent, editor, marketing and publicity teams, influencers, or just plain luck? How can you set realistic expectations for your own books and career and define success on your own terms? Join literary agents Kiele Raymond and Dara Hyde as they break down this important topic and engage with audience questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Kiele Raymond & Dara Hyde</p>
<p>2F: Teens Only! Ask a Literary Agent</p>	<p>Open to teen students in GrubStreet's Young Adult Writing Program only. Have you ever wondered who literary agents are and what they do? What should teen writers know about the publishing industry? Would an agent ever consider signing a teen author? How should younger aspiring authors be thinking about their careers while they are still in high school or college? Join literary agent Kaitlyn Katsoupis as she answers these and all of your other questions in this 45-minute moderated question and answer session.</p>	<p>Kaitlyn Katsoupis</p>

SATURDAY, MAY 20

7:00-9:00 PM PARTY

IN-PERSON EVENT

Book Look-Alike Party hosted by GrubStreet's Muse & the Marketplace May 2023 Publishing Summit (May 18-21)



BOOK LOOK-ALIKE + 1.5 MINUTES OF FAME PARTY

Inspired by the brilliant trend of matching [Rihanna](#) and [Taylor Swift](#) outfits with popular book covers, our Saturday [Muse](#) party theme is: match your outfit to a book cover! You don't need to read or even like the book, just wear something that captures the vibes of its cover. This can be as simple as an accessory, or as elaborate as you choose to make it. Hype your own book, or a friend's, or any book you are eager to talk about with other Boston writers and book lovers. Spend weeks planning the perfect book look or image search a book cover that matches whatever you happen to be wearing that day. Bring a copy of the book or a photo of its cover to show your fellow partygoers. We will give out prizes for the most inspired outfit and book cover pairings.

And while we can't guarantee you 15 minutes of fame, but we can offer you 1.5 minutes on the Writers' Stage during the open mic portion of the evening! Whether this is your debut on the Boston literary scene or you're well-established and sharing from your latest work, hook our literary and book-loving community with a 90-second sample of your creative writing in any genre. Beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase and we will host themed networking opportunities. The event is free and open to anyone aged 21 and over.

[Please register in advance on Eventbrite](#)

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SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, MAY 21

Time	Event
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM ET	Sunday Wake-Up Call
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET	"Why Do We Do This? Finding the Writerly Purposes That Make Publishing Worth It" Keynote Panel
11:15 AM-12:00 PM ET	Shop Talk Roundtables 3A through 3G
12:00 PM - 12:15 PM ET	Closing Ceremonies
7:30 PM- 8:30 PM ET	Seaport as Muse Write Night @ GrubStreet Center *

*IN PERSON EVENT AT GRUB CENTER

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Spring Summit
May 18 - May 21

SUNDAY, MAY 21

10:00-11:00 AM ET KEYNOTE



Victor LaValle
Lone Women: A Novel



Rebecca Makkai
I Have Some Questions for You



Maggie Shipstead
You Have a Friend in 10A: Stories

"WHY DO WE DO THIS? FINDING THE WRITERLY PURPOSES THAT MAKE PUBLISHING WORTH IT" MUSE KEYNOTE PANEL

In the face of all the difficulties authors encounter as we attempt to navigate the world of publishing, why do we continue to labor for years over our stories and the business of launching them into the world? Come hear how our panel of highly accomplished authors — Victor LaValle, Rebecca Makkai, and Maggie Shipstead — think about questions of writerly purpose in their own projects and careers, and discover what keeps them motivated and artistically engaged despite challenges they've encountered in their own publishing journeys.

SUN, MAY 21

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM ET VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE OPTIONS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
<p>3A: How and Why to Get Published in a Literary Journal or Magazine</p>	<p>What are literary journals and magazines, and how can publishing in one boost your visibility and career as a writer? How can you find the publications that best fit your work and give yourself the best chance of catching the editors' eyes? What happens once your piece has been selected? What kinds of awards is your work eligible for after it gets published and what does winning these mean for you? Join The Southern Review prose editor Sacha Idell and Muse Lead (and recent Southern Review and Electric Literature editorial assistant) Preety Sidhu as they share their thoughts on this topic and answer your most pressing questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Sacha Idell & Preety Sidhu</p>
<p>3B: Social Media Influence: BookTok, BookTube, Twitter, and More</p>	<p>According to the New York Times, BookTok “has gone from being a novelty to becoming an anchor in the publishing industry and a dominant driver of fiction sales.” So, what do writers need to know about BookTok and other social media channels? Have recent changes at Twitter impacted the platform’s long-running importance to publishing and, if so, how? How can writers know which forms of social media engagement are a good fit for them and which to avoid? Join literary agents Carrie Howland and Haley Casey as they break down the importance of social media influence in the book world and answer your questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Carrie Howland & Haley Casey</p>
<p>Sessions 3C: Bestsellers vs. the Midlist and Diversity</p>	<p>From TikTok’s algorithms to Barnes & Noble’s stocking decisions to where publishers invest their marketing and publicity resources, many forces can drive book sales towards a few bestsellers while squeezing the midlist, and especially books by historically marginalized writers. What does this mean for you as a writer and how can you give your work its best chance for success in this publishing landscape? Join literary agents Haley Heidemann and Leah Pierre as they share what they are seeing in the industry and answer your most pressing questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Haley Heidemann & Leah Pierre</p>

SUN, MAY 21

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM ET

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE OPTIONS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
<p>3D: The Querying Process</p>	<p>You've completed a book-length manuscript and you're ready to share it with the world – congratulations! Now you just need to find a literary agent who wants to invest in your project and career. How can you identify the agents most likely to be a good fit and write a query letter that will catch their eye? How much should you personalize query letters and what common pitfalls and gimmicks should you avoid? If you are offered representation, what questions should you ask before you sign as a client? Is there any such thing as a typical timeline for successful queries and if you've been trying for a long time with no success, what can you do? Join literary agents Elizabeth Marshea and Stephen Barr as they share their thoughts and answer audience questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Elizabeth Marshea & Stephen Barr</p>
<p>3E: Mergers, DOJ vs. PRH, and the Changing Publisher Landscape</p>	<p>This past fall, the Department of Justice successfully blocked Penguin Random House from acquiring Simon & Schuster, another Big 5 publishing house, stating that "the decision protects authors and promotes diversity and quality of top-selling books." Is this true? What would the merger have meant for authors at every stage of their careers? Are we likely to see more attempts at consolidation among major book publishers? What do you as a writer need to know about the changing publisher landscape and what it means for your work? Join literary agents Eva Scalzo and Amaryah Orenstein as they discuss their thoughts on this topic and answer your questions from an industry perspective in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Eva Scalzo & Amaryah Orenstein</p>

SUN, MAY 21

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM ET

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE OPTIONS

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
<p>3F: What the HarperCollins Strike Means for Writers</p>	<p>Over 250 unionized publishing professionals at HarperCollins recently reached an agreement with the publisher after a historic three-month strike. In an industry known for its low pay and long hours in one of the most expensive cities in the world, this victory secured pay raises, compensation for DEIB work, and more. What does this mean for the industry as a whole and authors in particular, whether aspiring, at another publishing house, or at HarperCollins itself? Are we likely to see more efforts like this across the industry? What roles can writers at every stage of our careers play and why is this important? Join literary agents Heather Carr and Alex Rice as they share their perspectives and answer questions from the audience in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Heather Carr & Alex Rice</p>
<p>3G: The Journey from Acquisition to Publication</p>	<p>What happens between the moment you sell your book and the moment it finally hits bookshelves? How much input will you have in the editorial process, or in cover design? What kinds of marketing and publicity support can you expect and what kinds of promotion will you be expected to do yourself, before and after publication day? Where will your book be available for sale and how is this decided? How long does the process typically take and when will you receive your advance and royalties? Join literary agents Ann Rose and Jennifer Ferrari-Adler as they demystify the publication journey and answer your most pressing questions in this 45-minute moderated Q&A.</p>	<p>Ann Rose & Jennifer Ferrari-Adler</p>

SUNDAY, MAY 21

7:30-8:30 PM PARTY

IN-PERSON EVENT

Seaport as Muse Write Night hosted by GrubStreet's Muse & the Marketplace May 2023 Publishing Summit (May 18-21)



SEAPORT AS MUSE WRITE NIGHT

Join us for a relaxing sunset writing session inspired by Boston's vibrant Seaport neighborhood. You will receive a Seaport-themed prompt, spend some time outside gathering inspiration (weather permitting), and write for at least 30 minutes. Bring something to write on and something to write with. You will have an opportunity to share what you've written with the group. This event is free and open for all ages. Please register in advance.

If you are interested in the business of book publishing and connecting with literary agents and editors, check out the rest of our weekend [summit programming](#).

[Please register in advance on Eventbrite](#)