The Accidental Empress Allison Pataki Campen

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eldest of the aristocratic Nesle sisters, into the arms of the King. Over the following decade, she and three of her younger sisters—ambitious Pauline; complacent Diane, and cunning Marie Anne—will conspire, betray, suffer, and triumph in a desperate fight for both love and power as each becomes the king's favorite for a time. In the tradition of The Other Boleyn Girl, The Sisters of Versailles is a clever, intelligent, and absorbing novel that historical fiction fans will devour. Based on meticulous research on a group of women never before written about in English, Sally Christie's stunning debut is a complex exploration of power and sisterhood—of the admiration, competition, and even hatred that can coexist within a family when the stakes are high enough. "This marvelous novel kept me up way past my bedtime. I just had to be there with the Post cereal heiress through every twist and turn."—Martha Hall Kelly, New York Times bestselling author of Lilac Girls "Allison Pataki takes the reader on a luxurious ride filled with jet-setting locales and opulent mansions, while deftly revealing how Marjorie Post's humble beginnings fed her desire to become a new kind of heiress, forging her own way through the world and keenly aware of her legacy."—Fiona Davis, New York Timesbestselling author of The Lions of Fifth Avenue Mrs. Post, the President and First Lady are here to see you. . . . So begins another average evening for Marjorie Merriweather Post. Presidents have come and gone, but she has hosted them all. Growing up in the modest farmlands of Battle Creek, Michigan, Marjorie was inspired by a few simple rules: always think for yourself, never take success for granted, and work hard—even when deemed American royalty, even while covered in imperial diamonds. Marjorie had an insatiable drive to live and love and to give more than she got. From crawling through Moscow warehouses to rescue the Tsar's treasures to outrunning the Nazis in London, from serving the homeless of the Great Depression to entertaining Roosevelts, Kennedys, and Hollywood's biggest stars, Marjorie Merriweather Post lived an epic life few could imagine. Marjorie's journey began gluing cereal boxes in her father's barn as a young girl. No one could have predicted that C. W. Post's Cereal Company would grow into the General Foods empire and reshape the American way of life, with Marjorie as its heiress and leading lady. Not content to stay in her prescribed roles of high-society wife, mother, and hostess, Marjorie dared to demand more, making history in the process. Before turning thirty she amassed millions, becoming the wealthiest woman in the United States. But it was her life-force, advocacy, passion, and adventurous spirit that led to her stunning legacy. And yet Marjorie's story, though full of beauty and grandeur, set in the palatial homes she built such as Mar-a-Lago, was equally marked by challenge and tumult. A wife four times over, Marjorie sought her happily-ever-after with the blue-blooded party boy who could not outrun his demons, the charismatic financier whose charm turned to betrayal, the international diplomat with a dark side, and the bon vivant whose shocking secrets would shake Marjorie and all of society. Marjorie did everything on a grand scale, especially when it came to love. Bestselling and acclaimed author Allison Pataki has crafted an intimate portrait of a larger-than-life woman, a powerful story of one woman falling in love with her own voice and embracing her own power while shaping history in the process.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • For readers of Philippa Gregory, Paula McLain, and Daisy Goodwin comes a sweeping and powerful novel by Allison Pataki. Sisi tells the little-known story of Empress Elisabeth of Austria-Hungary, the Princess Diana of her time, in an enthralling work of historical fiction that is also a gripping page-turner. Married to Emperor Franz Joseph, Elisabeth—fondly known as Sisi—captures the hearts of her people as their "fairy queen," but beneath that dazzling persona lives a far more complex figure. In mid-nineteenth-century Vienna, the halls of the Hofburg Palace buzz not only with imperial waltzes and champagne but with temptations, rivals, and cutthroat intrigue. Feeling stifled by strict protocols and a turbulent marriage, Sisi grows restless. A free-spirited wanderer, she finds solace at her estate outside Budapest. There she rides her beloved horses and enjoys visits from the Hungarian statesman Count Andrássy, the man with whom she's unwittingly fallen in love. But tragic news brings Sisi out of her fragile seclusion, forcing her to return to her capital and a world of gossip, envy, and sorrow where a dangerous fate lurks in the shadows. Through love affairs and loss, dedication and defiance, Sisi struggles against conflicting desires: to keep her family together, or to flee amid the collapse of her suffocating marriage and the gathering tumult of the First World War. In an age of crumbling monarchies, Sisi fights to assert her right to the throne beside her husband, to win the love of her people and the world, and to save an empire. But in the end, can she save herself? Featuring larger-than-life historic figures such as Bavaria's "Mad King Ludwig" and the tragic Crown Prince Rudolf, and set against many of Europe's grandest sites—from Germany's storied Neuschwanstein Castle to England's lush shires—Sisi brings to life an extraordinary woman and the romantic, volatile era over which she presided. Praise for Sisi "Pataki successfully juggles numerous political and personal plot lines while maintaining her focus on a fascinating central character. . . . Readers of Pataki's first book will want to know the rest of Sisi's story, but this novel stands on its own for historical fiction fans."—Library Journal "A deeply moving book about a complex character."—BookPage "A satisfying saga of the late Habsburg period."—Kirkus Reviews "Pataki brings richness and relevance to the story of the woman who worked tirelessly to protect the face of an empire."—Publishers Weekly "Pataki simply stuns me with each new book. I savor each page. Sisi is her best yet!"—Kathie Lee Gifford "Readers will enjoy the glorious dilemma of whether to turn the pages swiftly, breathlessly following Empress Sisi from one astonishing, heartbreaking adventure to the next, or to linger and luxuriate in Pataki's vivid, sumptuous descriptions of the Habsburg court."—Jennifer Chiaverini, New York Times bestselling author of Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker "This entire novel is irresistible—completely impossible to put down! Pataki reimagines the reign of the nineteenth-century Princess Diana in this stunning book."—Michelle Moran, internationally bestselling author of Rebel Queen "Emotional, exuberant, masterly, Sisi swept me into the glittering, treacherous world of the waning Habsburg empire. A must-read."—Lynn Cullen, bestselling author of Mrs. Poe

The high summer season. A long-awaited wedding. Surprises at a historic beach inn. **From a USA Today bestselling author** At the historic Seabreeze Inn, a summer beach wedding has sisters Ivy and Shelly Bay busier than ever with wedding plans. New guests arrive for the high summer season, bringing with them fresh challenges. As Ivy prepares the old beach house for a family wedding, surprising discoveries from decades past arise once again. Read Seabreeze Wedding as a standalone or as part of the beloved Summer Beach series. RSVP now and join the party. REVIEWS for the SUMMER BEACH SERIES "Seabreeze Inn is truly an enjoyable, lovely read that will lift your spirits." - Amazon Reviewer E.S. "This book is the perfect blend of mystery and romance in a spectacular setting. I love how the women in Jan's stories are always intelligent and strong. At the core of all her books is a strong, close-knit family. " - Amazon Reviewer B.J.T. "For fans of romantic sagas, a compelling voice to follow." -Booklist

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The New York Times best-selling author of The Traitor's Wife fictionalizes the little-known and tumultuous love story of “Sisi,” the 19th-century Austro-Hungarian empress and captivating wife of Emperor Franz Joseph.

A rich and sweeping novel of courage, duty, sacrifice, and love set during the French Revolution from New York Times bestselling author Allison Pataki and her brother Owen Pataki Three years after the storming of the Bastille, the streets of Paris are roiling with revolution. The citizens of France are enlivened by the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity. The monarchy of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette has been dismantled—with the help of the guillotine—and a new nation is rising in its place. Jean-Luc, an idealistic young lawyer, moves his wife and their infant son from a comfortable life in Marseille to Paris, in the hopes of joining the cause. André, the son of a denounced nobleman, has evaded execution by joining the new French army. Sophie, a young aristocratic widow, embarks on her own fight for independence against her powerful, vindictive uncle. As chaos threatens to undo the progress of the Revolution and the demand for justice breeds instability and paranoia, the lives of these compatriots become inextricably linked. Jean-Luc, André, and Sophie find themselves in a world where survival seems increasingly less likely—for themselves and, indeed, for the nation. Featuring cameos from legendary figures such as Robespierre, Louis XVI, and Thomas-Alexandre Dumas, Where the Light Falls is an epic and engrossing novel, moving from the streets and courtrooms of Paris to Napoleon’s epic march across the burning sands of Egypt. With vivid detail and imagery, the Patakis capture the hearts and minds of the citizens of France fighting for truth above all, and for their belief in a cause greater than themselves. Praise for Where the Light Falls “Compulsively readable . . . a compelling tale of love, betrayal, sacrifice, and bravery . . . a sweeping romantic novel that takes readers to the heart of Paris and to the center of all the action of the French Revolution.”—Bustle “Succeeds in forcefully illustrating the lessons of the French Revolution for today’s democratic movements.”—Kirkus Reviews “Devotees of Alexandre Dumas and Victor Hugo will devour this tale of heroism, treachery, and adventure.”—Library Journal “This is a story of the French Revolution that begins with your head in the slot watching how fast the blade of the guillotine is heading for your neck—and that’s nothing compared to the pace and the drama of what follows.”—Tom Wolfe

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author of Feels Like Falling "Jan Moran is the new queen of the epic romance." -- Rebecca Forster, USA Today Bestselling Author "A novel that gives fans of romantic sagas a compelling voice to follow." - Booklist

Celebrate a joyous holiday season with an enchanting story from the USA TODAY bestselling author of Coral Cottage and Seabreeze Inn. Families and friends come together at the Seabreeze Inn, and love is in the air...along with more vintage discoveries at the historic beachside inn. At the Seabreeze Inn, sisters Ivy and Shelly Bay discover boxes of vintage Christmas decorations in the old beach house. When Ivy learns that the former owners had hosted lavish holiday parties from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Eve for the small town of Summer Beach, she decides to restore the tradition and invite neighbors to join them for multicultural celebrations. The beach house is resplendent with old and new decorations, but this Christmas, sisters Ivy and Shelly discover another one of the former owner’s secrets. Soon, Ivy faces a decision that could change her life and those she loves. Bennett, the mayor of Summer Beach, asks the community to pitch in. Ginger Delavie from the nearby Coral Cottage contributes her favorite recipes, and Mitch from Java Beach helps in the kitchen. Dedicated to serving guests and helping them honor their various traditions, the Seabreeze Inn family welcomes the overflow from local families, the single guests who gather for a celebration of their own, and the loners who have nowhere else to go. However, while Bennett is usually happy to help, Ivy might have asked too much of him. This holiday season will test their relationship, especially when Ivy’s grown children voice their opinions. A Seabreeze Inn Christmas is a sweet, feel-good holiday saga in the beloved Summer Beach series. This novel can be read as a stand-alone story without having read the rest of the series. Celebrate a joyful season at the Seabreeze Inn, and share it with friends.

A young French perfumer. A world at war. A personal vengeance that could destroy a family. From a USA Today Bestselling Author Europe, 1939: At the dawn of World War II, French perfumer Danielle Bretancourt and her German husband strive to ensure their family's safety, yet neither can foresee the ultimate cost. From London to Paris, Danielle struggles to find her missing child and aid the Resistance, even as she grieves her losses. As the war intensifies, Danielle is forced to seek refuge in America to save the lives of her remaining family. She draws on her skills as a talented perfumer to pull them out of crushing poverty. Yet even as she forges a new life among the Hollywood elite, she cannot forget her lost child nor the man who risked everything for her. Set between privileged lifestyles and gritty realities, The Perfumer is one woman's story of courage, spirit, and resilience. From Jan Moran, USA Today bestselling author, this beloved, bestselling saga was originally published by St. Martin's Press. Also by Jan Moran: The Chocolatier, The Winemakers, and Hepburn's Necklace. For readers who enjoy the romantic historical fiction of Kristin Hannah and Danielle Steel. “A sweeping tale that transports readers from the lavender-scented fields of Provence to the pulsing boulevards of Paris… Heartbreaking, evocative, and inspiring, this book is a powerful journey.” – Allison Pataki, New York Times Bestselling Author of The Accidental Empress "Jan Moran is the new queen of the epic romance." ?USA Today Bestselling Author Rebecca Forster "A stylish, compelling story of a family torn apart by war and a woman's courageous efforts to bring them back together, with everything from romance to heartache, spying, intrigue, and vivid settings. Danielle is just the kind of feisty female protagonist that I love, but what really sets this saga apart is the backdrop of perfumery that suffuses the story with the delicious aromas of rose, jasmine, lavender, bergamot, etc. You can almost smell them as you read - a remarkable feat!"?Liz Trenow, New York Times Bestselling Author of The Forgotten Seamstress “A sweeping saga of one woman’s journey through World War II and her unwillingness to give up even when faced with the toughest challenges.” — Anita Abriel, Author of The Light After the War “A gripping World War II story of poignant love and devastating, heart-wrenching loss.” — Gill Paul, USA Today and Toronto Globe & Mail Bestselling Author of The Secret Wife "Hard to put down…captivating. A 'must-read.'" ?Marvel Fields, Chairman, American Society of Perfumers "Utterly inescapable. Jan Moran's masterful romance comes with a bonus: she interweaves this romantic tale with a behind-the-scenes look at perfumery. The fascinating result is a tale that rivals Danielle Steele at her romantic best!" ?Allegra Jordan, Author of The End of Innocence

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