

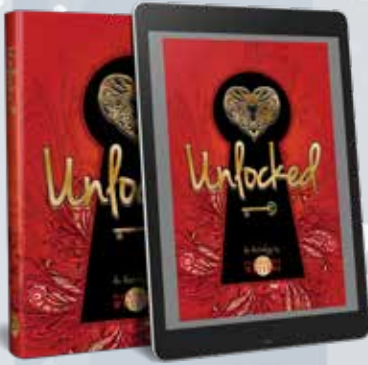
Holiday Gift Guide

Books and Bits and Bobs

from the

PAPER LANTERN
WRITERS

The Season of Giving & what better than a book?



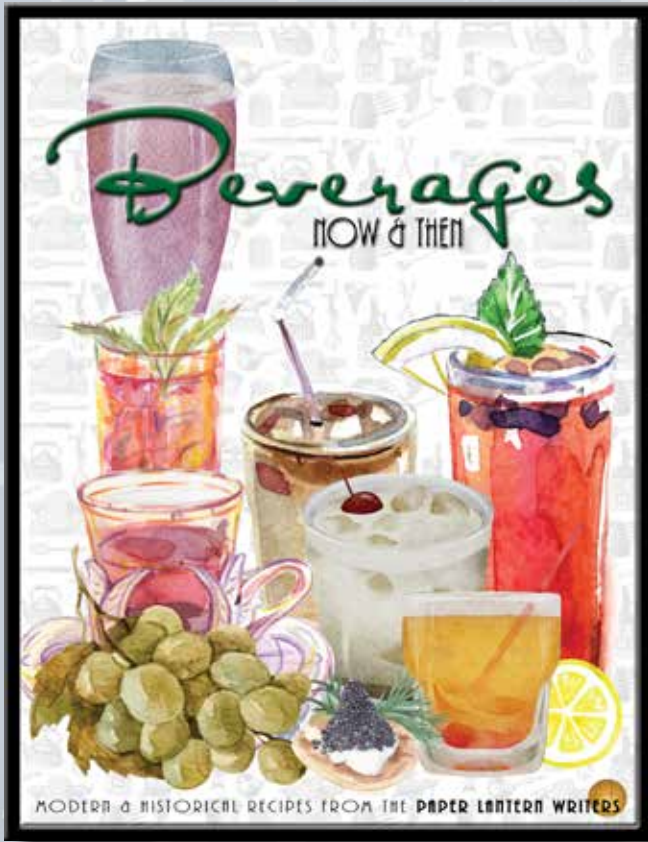
A book & a treat!

All year long, the Paper Lantern Writers bring you scintillating historical tales from across time. So, this winter season, share your favorite books with your friends and family. Paired with a snack to carry them through the last pages, or a journal or pen to record their thoughts, or something beautiful to wear, adding a little treat can personalize the gift of a good book.

Just click on any of the pictures or links in this guide to go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to order.

Our Gift to You! A Holiday Cookbook!

from the Paper Lantern Writers



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Blind Tribute

by Mari Anne Christie



& a Feather Quill Pen

Freedom of the press is in peril. Families are torn apart by politics and principle. Opposing political parties manipulate the public to consolidate power. The struggle between citizens and government tugs at the threads of the American Constitution-- and democracy itself. In a matter of moments, the United States will shatter, beginning the long march of the American Civil War.

Harry Wentworth, gentleman of distinction and journalist of renown, exploits his position as Executive Editor of the Philadelphia Daily Standard to try to arrest the momentum of both Union and Confederacy. His calls for a peaceful resolution are worth no more than the ink he buys to print them.

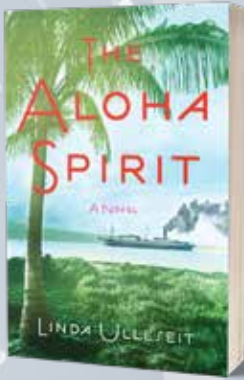
So, he must finally resolve his own moral quandary: comment on the war from his influential position in Northern Society or make a news story and a target of himself in a Southern city he has long since left behind. His choices, from the first day of the war to the last, will irrevocably alter his mind, his body, his spirit, and his purpose as an honorable man.

* Winner of a New Apple Literary Award for General Fiction



The Aloha Spirit

by Linda Ullseit



& a Honolulu Cookie Company gift box

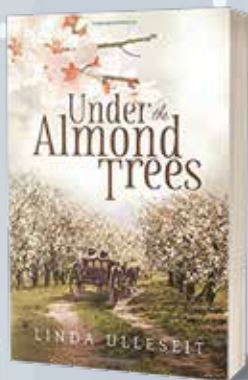
The spirit of aloha is found in Hawaii's fresh ocean air, the flowers, the trade winds . . . the natural beauty that smooth the struggles of daily life. In 1922 Honolulu, unhappy in the adoptive family that's raised her, Dolores begins to search for that spirit early on—and she begins by running away at sixteen to live with her new-lywed friend Maria.

Trying to find her own love, Dolores marries a young Portuguese man named Manolo. His large family embraces her, but when his drinking leads to physical abuse, only his relative Alberto comes to her rescue—and sparks a passion within Dolores that she hasn't known before. Staunch Catholics can't divorce, however; so, after the Pearl Harbor attack, Dolores flees with her two daughters to California, only to be followed by both Manolo and Alberto. In California, Manolo's drinking problems continue—and Alberto's begin. Outraged that yet another man in her life is turning to the bottle for answers, Dolores starts to doubt her feelings for Alberto. Is he only going to disappoint her, as Manolo has? Or is Alberto the embodiment of the aloha spirit she's been seeking?



Under the Almond Trees

by Linda Ullseit



& Almond Cake Mix

Under the Almond Trees is the story of three ordinary women in California who lived extraordinary lives.

It starts with a falling tree branch that kills Ellen VanValkenburgh's husband in 1862, forcing her to assume leadership of his paper mill, something women weren't allowed to do. Women weren't allowed to vote yet, either. Ellen decided that had to change, and became a suffragette.

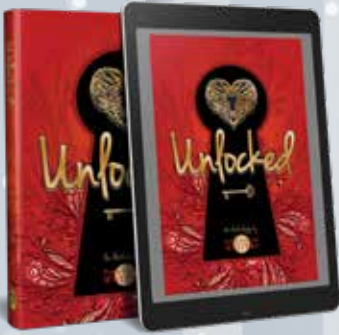
In 1901, Emily Williams, Ellen's daughter-in-law, became an architect – very much against her family's wishes. No one would hire a woman, but Emily would not be deterred. She and her life partner Lillian set out to build homes themselves.

By the 1930's women enjoyed more freedom, including the vote. Even so, Ellen's granddaughter Eva VanValkenburgh chose a traditional life of marriage and children, even closing her photography business at her husband's insistence. When he later refused to pay for their daughter's college education, Eva followed the example of her Aunt Emily and reopened her photography business.



Joanna's Choice

by C.V. Lee



& a Purple Orchid Pillow

In the 15th century Channel Islands, a peasant girl longs to escape her scandalous past. But when the opportunity arises, will she take the chance?

Joanna is faced with a lifetime of drudgery, saddled with scandal and fearful for her safety. But when she least expects it, a mysterious stranger appears, ready to carry her away to a life of ease—but can she trust placing her future in his hands?

This short story can only be found in *Unlocked: An Anthology by the Paper Lantern Writers*.



Judging Noa

by Michal Strutin



& a Chocolate Babka

Noa, at sixteen, sets out with the twelve tribes of the Exodus, dreaming of a life of freedom and the Promised Land that her father says will be theirs. When religious fanatics kill her father, Noa and her four sisters are in danger of being sold into bondage. Noa vows to win women's rights of inheritance to protect her sisters and herself. Pleading her case before ever-higher courts, Noa encounters a malicious judge. When she mutters a curse against him and he dies, she is charged with witchcraft.

Gaining strength and complexity as she approaches the highest judge, Noa and her pursuit causes turmoil among the tribes: she is a notorious troublemaker. And she is heroic. Based on a few biblical verses, the turbulence of Noa's life is set against the sweeping turbulence of the Exodus and a rigid patriarchy. In *Judging Noa*, Noa's quest for justice is a journey that has as much meaning today as it did then.



The Lines Between Us

by Rebecca D'Harlingue



& a Hardcover Notebook

In 1661 Madrid, Ana is still grieving the loss of her husband when her niece, sixteen-year-old Juliana, suddenly vanishes. Ana frantically searches the girl's room and comes across a diary. Journeying to southern Spain in the hope of finding her, Ana immerses herself in her niece's private thoughts. After a futile search in Seville, she comes to Juliana's final entries, and, discovering the horrifying reason for the girl's flight, abandons her search.

In 1992 Missouri, in her deceased mother's home, Rachel finds a packet of letters, and a diary written by a woman named Juliana. Rachel's reserved mother has never mentioned these items, but Rachel recognizes the names Ana and Juliana: her mother uttered them on her deathbed. She soon becomes immersed in Juliana's diary, which recounts the young woman's journey to Mexico City and her life in a convent. As she learns the truth about Juliana's tragic family history, Rachel seeks to understand her connection to the writings—hoping that in finding those answers, she will somehow heal the wounds caused by her mother's lifelong reticence.



Royal Regard

by Mariana Gabrielle



& a Fine China Teapot

When Bella Holsworthy returns to England after fifteen years roaming the globe with her husband, an elderly diplomat, she quickly finds herself in a place more perilous than any in her travels—the Court of King George IV. As the newly elevated Earl and Countess settle into an unfamiliar life in London, this shy, not-so-young lady faces wicked agendas, society’s censure, and the realities of a woman soon to be alone in England.

Unaccustomed to the ways of the beau monde, she is disarmed and deceived by a dissolute duke and a noble French émigré with a silver tongue. Hindered by the meddling of her dying husband, not to mention the King himself, Bella must decide whether to choose one of her fascinating new suitors or the quiet country life she has searched the world to find.



Shipmate

by Mariana Gabrielle



& a Backgammon Board

The heavy hands and sharp tongues of Bella Smithson's family have left her almost too timid to converse with a gentleman, much less conduct a husband hunt. Unfortunately, her overbearing aunt and managing cousin are determined to help her escape her black-hearted father and brothers.

Thanks to the Prince of Wales, retiring shipping magnate Myron Clewes has an ever-growing fortune, a fresh-minted peerage, a brand-new flagship, and an impossible set of requirements for a bride. Not least, she must be willing to leave England and everything she knows, possibly for good, in less than two months' time.



'Tis Her Season

by Mariana Gabrielle



& a Mistletoe Ball Ornament

Charlotte Amberly would rather eat a lump of coal for Christmas dinner than marry the Marquess of Firthley, so when her parents cancel her London Season in favor of a rush to the altar, the feisty debutante takes husband-hunting into her own hands.

Alexander Marloughe, reluctant heir to a marquessate, would rather not spend his holiday dashing through the snow after a flibbertigibbet just out of the school-room, but no woman before Charlotte has ever led him such a merry chase.



Fanny Newcomb & The Irish Channel Ripper

by Ana Brazil



& Aunt Sally's New Orleans Pralines

A Jack the Ripper copycat is terrorizing the women of Gilded Age New Orleans.

Desperate to know if her favorite student was a Ripper copycat victim, tenacious and quick-witted Fanny Newcomb turns detective.

Fanny's hunt launches her into New Orleans' darkest enclaves, saloons, and houses of prostitution. She questions authority, seeks out clues, and digs into long-protected secrets. Fanny's search alienates her friends, alarms the police, and antagonizes her would-be fiancé. Her efforts infuriate the Ripper copycat, who vows to murder another of Fanny's students by the end of the week.

Fanny persists, and even appears to succeed in her investigation, until the night her curiosity plunges her into a desperate confrontation with the Ripper copycat.

Can amateur detective Fanny Newcomb stop the Irish Channel Ripper before he murders again?

* Winner of the IBPA Gold for Historical Fiction



Archer's Grace

by Anne M. Beggs



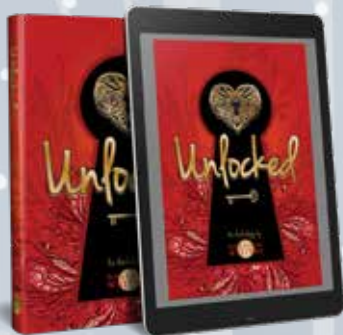
& a Celtic Knot Horse Necklace

Archer's Grace, Book One in the Dahlquin Series. AD 1224, remote Connacht, Ireland, is a volatile island poised for civil war, with England always threatening. Dahlquin and Scragmuir are bitter enemies, locked in a feud older than memory. Neighboring Ashbury is an equal, neutral ally with both. Eloise, sole heir of Dahlquin rebels against her patriarchal society, preferring her horse and hounds to spinning and ledgers until a treasonous siege catapults her and a stranger from her ancestral home, launching them on a perilous journey and spiritual quest across Ireland. Confronting self and societal doubts Eloise must take on far more than she ever expected, finding love and conflict as she comes of age in this historical epoch.



The Happy Heart

by Kathryn Pritchett



& a Swirl Silk Scarf

A groovy, tarot-soaked tale about a late-blooming flower child seeking enlightenment.

In 1972 Berkeley, a beleaguered psychic scrambles to prevent her favorite client from jumping ship. Salt water shenanigans ensue on the edge of the San Francisco Bay as the client passes along a Pucci-print scarf fit for a mermaid.

This short story can only be found in *Unlocked: An Anthology by the Paper Lantern Writers*.



A Lady's Revenge

by Edie Cay



& a Badass Soy Wax Candle

Lady Lydia Somerset is an earl's daughter. At the ripe age of twenty-five, she dances the dainty steps of the haute ton as if she were pursuing a husband; but her goals are far more personal. Pugilism, England's manliest pastime, is her only relief. Training in secret with a female boxer keeps her sane, but when her instructor is hired away by one of the men she is seeking to destroy, she is in a bind.

John Arthur was a street kid who dazzled with his fists, but now he dazzles as a miracle worker on the London Stock Exchange. John Arthur knows he shouldn't tangle with bluebloods—he should be happy with a full belly and coin-filled pockets. But when he meets a woman who finds boxing as vital as he does, his life suddenly gets complicated.

*Winner of the Indie Next Generation Book Award in 2020

*Winner of the Golden Leaf Best First Book Award in 2020



The Boxer & the Blacksmith

by Edie Cay



& a Massage Gun

Can London's lady champion fight for love?

As London's undefeated women's boxer, Bess Abbott has the scars—both inside and out—to prove it. But when one of her boxing students, Violet, needs protection, Bess Abbott's rock hard heart cracks open. And when a handsome blacksmith comes along, giving her compliments and treating her, well, like a woman, Bess doesn't know what to do. She's on the ropes in the face of his affections.

Os Worley was a child when he became an accidental stow-away. He grew up not knowing the family or the island that inflected his accent. His only memory of his mother is a head bent, hands working a stitch, a voice humming a melody. Now that he has his own foundry, and his own apprentice, he's come to London to find the woman attached to this impression. His heart is already tempered and quenched, focused on his goal—but a lady boxer threatens to recast his love in her own image.

As Os and Bess face off, will they toe the line or retreat to their corners?

*Winner of the Best Indie Book Award 2021



A Lady's Finder

by Edie Cay



& Extravagant False Eyelashes

Lady Agnes is a scandal thanks to her sister's marriage to a prizefighter. Or rather, she should be, but as a charitable spinster-to-be, she remains firmly invisible, even to those she loves. Suddenly, receiving attentions from the unpredictable and surprisingly resourceful Mr. Jack Townsend, Lady Agnes finds herself believing he might love her and not her dowry. After being overlooked for so long, can she believe he cares for her, or is she a means to an end as her family insists?

Jack About Town is London's best Finder of Lost Things. What few realize is that Jack transcends the spheres of men and women, existing as both, or perhaps neither, sex. True, his most lucrative finds are pornographic artifacts for rich toffs. But now he has found Lady Agnes, a meticulous, generous, knock-down incredible lady who wears men's boots. Best of all, Lady Agnes accepts him in his entirety—a jewel so rare that even Jack is surprised he could find it.

When Jack is commissioned to steal from Lady Agnes's cousin, can Jack find a way to prove his love and still earn the money he needs to protect himself and his home?



Unlocked

an Anthology by the Paper Lantern Writers



& a Treasure Chest

In much the same manner as Pandora, each Paper Lantern Writer takes a turn opening an old wooden chest, digging out stories spanning seven centuries. The individuals in these tales—heroes, villains, and in between—are more than people from the past. Whether they are making mayhem, waging war, or quietly holding their families together, their strength and fortitude shines on the page. From the Swinging Seventies to the Middle Ages, these characters gather, keep, and spill the secrets of their souls.

Who knows what treasures will be found when this ancient trunk is finally Unlocked?



www.PaperLanternWriters.com

Happy Holidays

from the

**PAPER LANTERN
WRITERS**

The Paper Lantern Writers are an author collective focused on historical fiction of all eras. From Medieval Europe to the Gilded Age (and beyond), in locales around the world, from romantic to tragic and back again, our books will take you on the journeys of a lifetime.

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