

Harvey Klinger LBF 2026 Hot Titles

THE FARAWAY INN by Sarah Beth Durst

Publishers: North America: Delacorte/PenguinRandomHouse (Spring 2026); UK/Commonwealth: Macmillan Children's; Germany: Loewe; France: Bragelonne; Turkey: Juno Kitap; Portugal: Porto Editora; Brasil: Darkside Entretenimento; The Netherlands: De Fontein; Romania: Storia; Ukraine: Book Club/Family Leisure Club

A cozy YA fantasy from the NYTimes and Internationally Bestselling author of *The Spellshop Series*

One teenage girl nursing a heartbreak
One kind and handsome groundskeeper's son
One grumpy great-aunt
And a bed & breakfast that's more than what it seems

Welcome to Auntie Zee's B&B!

Reeling from a bad break up, sixteen-year-old Calisa jumps at the chance to leave the city and help her great-aunt run her bed and breakfast for the summer. She's expecting a quaint cottagecore inn with mountain views, a burbling stream, frolicking deer, and whatever. What she finds is a rundown property nearly swallowed by the forest. The groundskeeper's seventeen-year-old son, Jayden, has been trying to keep up with repairs, but he doesn't have the skills or experience of his father, who is currently late returning from a work trip. With Auntie Zee's grudging permission, Calisa begins to help Jayden with tasks around the inn, which includes interacting with some very odd guests. There's the woman who trails water behind her everywhere she goes, and the couple who seem to swap personalities every time Calisa encounters them. And then the man in room eight... He only emerges at night and is often found mixing strange, bubbling concoctions in the kitchen under the light of the moon. It's not long before Calisa realizes that the inn is more than just quirky. It's special, with each room holding a portal from a different magical realm. Auntie Zee's B&B is a sanctuary for those who want a respite from their lives elsewhere—really elsewhere. Such a place can't close! Surely, Auntie Zee can't even be considering it. But Calisa is increasingly worried about Auntie Zee. Her aunt disappears for long stretches of time each day, and no one—not Jayden, not the guests, and not the elderly cat sunning herself in the sitting room—has any clue where she goes.

And then one evening, Auntie Zee doesn't return. Worse, the next morning, the always-wet woman from room three bursts into the kitchen in a panic: the portals between realms are malfunctioning.

As Calisa and Jayden work together to figure out Auntie Zee's secret and the secrets of the inn, their relationship grows. But they're running out of time to discover what Calisa's aunt has been hiding -- and the stakes are higher than they know.

Sarah Beth Durst is the New York Times bestselling author of over thirty books for adults, teens, and kids, including cozy fantasy *The Spellshop*. She's been awarded an American Library Association Alex Award, as well as a Mythopoeic Fantasy Award. Several of her books have been optioned for film/television, including *Drink Slay Love*, which was made into a TV movie and was a question on *Jeopardy!* She lives in Stony Brook, New York, with her husband, her children, and her ill-mannered cat. Visit her at sarahbethdurst.com.

A TASTE OF FARAWAY - the second book in the FARAWAY INN series and a third untitled book under contract (synopsis available)

Publishers: North America: Delacorte/PenguinRandomHouse (Fall 2027); UK/Commonwealth: Macmillan Children's

WE RUN THE NIGHT by Peace Mbengei

Publishers: North America: Soho Teen (Fall 2026)

Inspired by the local urban legend of night runners, this chilling, Kenyan-set debut blends horror and the mythical to tell a universal coming-of-age story about a girl facing impossible odds.

Perfect for fans of *She Is a Haunting* and *White Smoke*

When Shani returns to her elite, isolated boarding school after her father's mysterious death, she just wants to finish senior year with her scholarship intact—which means focusing on her work and staying out of trouble. Even with her best friend, Pendo, by her side, she's never quite fit in at Taji Academy. But soon, strange things start happening at school—not only are students coming down with odd, grotesque skin maladies, someone is causing chaos on campus after curfew. Are they night runners, the supernatural entities that terrorize rural neighborhoods in the dark?

The strict administration insists it's just students pulling pranks. Everyone knows that night runners are just an urban legend. But when one of the popular students, Adila, goes missing—and Shani wakes up one morning with mud on her feet, torn clothes, and a pounding headache—she knows it's more than that. As she and others at Taji begin to transform, with no way to contact the outside world, she must figure out what is happening at Taji—before it's too late.

Peace Mbengei is a Kenyan medical doctor who was long listed for the 2019 Writivism short story prize. Her short fiction has appeared in African Writer, Praxis Magazine, Kalahari Review, and Ilanot Review and is forthcoming in Kikwetu Journal, Isele Magazine, and *Halcyone*.

LOVE IS AN ALGORITHM by Laura Brooke Robson

North American: Park Row/Harper, Spring 2026; UK/Commonwealth/Australia: Text Publishing

****A *Portalist* Most Anticipated Book of 2026***

Pattern is more than just a dating app—it's your friendly relationship coach. It will tell you whether you should invest in learning your partner's love language (quality time!) or pull the escape hatch (red flags galore!). The latest version of Pattern includes Bug, a friendly AI chatbot guaranteed to give you bespoke relationship advice and revitalize that spark. Take the uncertainty out of love!

Eve wants to make music that's fueled by love, passion, and rage (feelings!). She trusts her gut and her friends and in no way wants to rely on technology, let alone AI, to tell her how she feels. Danny is anxious – about his dad, his dating life, his coffee order (why is it twelve dollars?), and about the dating app he helped create, which seems determined to serve him terrible matches.

When Eve and Danny start dating, it feels like the solution to all of Danny's worries – except when it doesn't. Is she happy? Should he be doing more? Or less? This becomes the catalyst for a revolutionary new version of Dann's app that promises to quantify relationship health and potential, helping users understand what's really going on. Problem solved!

As Pattern and Bug, the ever-so-friendly AI assistant, catch fire, users everywhere begin outsourcing major life decisions to Danny's algorithms. But as Danny reckons with his newfound success, Eve—whose career relies on her ability to write her emotions into song – grows increasingly skeptical of the app's impact on genuine connection. Their relationship becomes the ultimate modern experiment: How do you fall and stay in love in the digital age?

Joyful, generous and smart—an absolute delight moment-to-moment, full of fun and charm, but also sharp and perceptive about creative work, our dependence on technology, and some of the ways relationships can go awry.' -- **Holly Gramazio, NY-Times Bestselling author of *The Husbands***

“Robson has crafted a compelling love story examining intimacy, vulnerability, and communication in the modern age.” —**Margarita Montimore, bestselling author of *Oona Out of Order***

“Smart, funny, immensely readable, and deeply insightful about how we make art, fall in love, and connect with each other in the age of AI. With its sharp humour and delightful dialogue, *Love is an Algorithm* was exactly the book I needed—I tore through it.” — **Else Fitzgerald, *Everything Feels Like the End of the World***

“Warm, funny, emotional, propulsive and real—a beautiful love story.” – **Jessica Stanley, author of *Consider Yourself Kissed***

“The love story of Danny and Even in Laura Robson's novel is one for the ages, but it's also entirely of this moment, when our relationships with friends, family, and lovers are mediated by our phones ... A cutting satire of tech startups and dating, the novel is necessary reading for anyone trying to figure out who they are and what they want in the era of social media. In this funny, fast-paced, and intimate tale, there might be A.A. but there's nothing artificial about emotion.” – **Kyle Chayka, author of *Filterworld***

THE LAST RUN by Rachel Weaver

Publishers: World English: Lake Union (June 2026)

On the bracing edges of Alaska, a single mother is driven to secure her legacy in a powerful novel of family, forgiveness, and finding one's place in the world by the author of *Point of Direction*.

It's been years since Ellie fished the Alaskan coastline—not since her mother died. But when she finds her father beat up behind the local bar, she learns he's done the unforgivable: gambled away the family's commercial fishing boat—her five-year-old son's inheritance and the life she longs to reclaim. For nefarious reasons of his own, the bookie gives them one season to earn the money to buy it back.

Ellie agrees to fish with her father, Pete, bringing her son, Drew, along as they chase the slim hope of paying off the debt. She's no stranger to backbreaking work and little sleep; what she's never been good at is accepting help—or trusting anyone, especially a secretive homesteader with demons of his own. Ellie's growing attraction and the dangerous waters are the least of her worries. She's hiding secrets from everyone and, as the date with the bookie draws closer, she is at risk of losing it all.

Rachel Weaver is the author of the novel *Point of Direction*, which was named a Top Ten Book to Pick Up Now by *O, The Oprah Magazine* and was the winner of the 2015 WILLA Literary Award for contemporary fiction. It was also chosen by the American Booksellers Association as a Top Ten Debut for Spring 2014 and by IndieBound as an Indie Next List pick. Prior to earning her MFA in writing and poetics from Naropa University, Rachel worked for the US Forest Service in Alaska studying bears, raptors, and songbirds. She is on faculty at Wilkes University's low-residency MFA program and at Lighthouse Writers Workshop.