



# LONDON 2020

## International Rights Guide

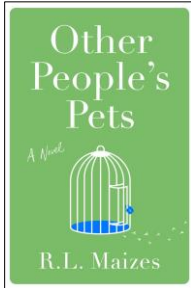
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**OTHER PEOPLE'S PETS by R.L. Maizes (July 2020)**

*Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: manuscript; Page count: 304*

La La Fine's world stops being whole when her mother, who never wanted a child, abandons her twice. First, when La La falls through thin ice on a skating trip, and again when the accusations of "unfit mother" hit too close to home. Left alone with her father—a locksmith by trade and a thief in reality—La La is denied a regular life. She becomes her father's accomplice, calming the watch dog while he strips families of their most precious belongings.

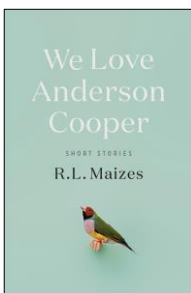
When her father's luck runs out and he is arrested for burglary, everything La La has painstakingly built unravels. In her fourth year of veterinary school, she is forced to drop out, leaving school to pay for her father's legal fees the only way she knows how—robbing homes.

As an animal empath, she rationalizes her theft by focusing on houses with pets whose maladies only she can sense and caring for them before leaving with the family's valuables. The news reports a puzzled police force—searching for a thief who left behind medicine for the dog, water for the parrot, or food for the hamster.

Desperate to compensate for new and old losses, La La continues to rob homes even after her father flees custody. But it's a strategy that will ultimately fail her.

*Other People's Pets* examines the gap between the families we're born into and those we create and the danger that holding onto a troubled past may rob us of the future.

**"While reading R.L. Maizes' *Other People's Pets*, I could not stop saying, as La La mouths to herself at one point, *remarkable*. Every time the novel opened up yet again to reveal some new depth, much like La La and her ability to experience the emotions of the animals around her, I worried how the novel could hold such wonder without bursting, could control the pain and joy of this *remarkable* story. But Maizes possesses such magic. This examination of family, across all lines and definitions, will open you up in such necessary, beautiful ways."**—Kevin Wilson, bestselling author of *Nothing to See Here* and *The Family Fang*



**WE LOVE ANDERSON COOPER by R.L. Maizes (July 2019)**

*Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: finished copies; Page count: 176*

In this quirky, humorous, and deeply human short story collection, Pushcart Prize-nominated author R.L. Maizes reminds us that even in our most isolated moments, we are never truly alone. In *We Love Anderson Cooper*, characters are treated as outsiders because of their sexual orientation, racial or religious identity, or simply because they look different. A young man courts the publicity that comes from outing himself at his bar mitzvah. When a painter is shunned because of his appearance, he learns to ink tattoos that come to life. A paranoid Jewish actuary suspects his cat of cheating on him—with his Protestant girlfriend. In this debut collection, humor complements pathos. Readers will recognize themselves in these stories and in these protagonists, whose backgrounds are vastly different from their own, because we've all been outsiders at some point.

**R.L. Maizes** was born and raised in Queens, New York. She now lives in Boulder County, Colorado. Maizes's short stories have aired on National Public Radio and have appeared in the literary magazines *Electric Literature*, *Witness*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Slice*, and *Blackbird*, among others. Her essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Lilith*, and elsewhere. Maizes is an alumna of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Tin House Summer Writer's Workshop. Her work has received Honorable Mention in *Glimmer Train's* Fiction Open contest, has been a finalist in numerous other national contests, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.



### **Praise for *We Love Anderson Cooper*:**

**“Maizes’s direct manner of storytelling and her imperfect yet unmistakably human characters are sure to win over readers.”—*Publishers Weekly***

**“Each succinct fictional nugget rolls inexorably along its own quirky trajectory, arrives at its own unexpected destination, and never overstays its welcome...this is a book about the heart. Breaking news: Maizes’ gently witty and vaguely weird collection is well worth reading.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)**

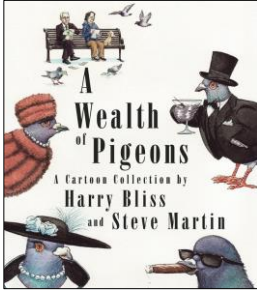
**“Told with humor and wisdom, these charming stories burst with possibility: At any moment, a character might risk all, or the world might tilt on its axis. Here is a wildly entertaining new voice, one to revel in.”—Rebecca Makkai, author of *The Great Believers***

**“I can’t remember the last time I read an entire book with a smile on my face. But from R.L. Maizes’s title, *We Love Anderson Cooper*, until the last story here, I grinned. These stories are funny, yes. But they are also so big-hearted and honest that I wanted to thrust them into everyone’s hands and make them read this book so we would all be grinning together as we recognized that these oddball characters are really exactly like us.”—Ann Hood, author of *The Knitting Circle* and *The Book That Matters Most***

**“A unique angle of vision—devastating and funny. In her stories, R.L. Maizes probes the fusion of alienation and yearning, the persistence of attachment to animals and to people.”—Ursula Hegi, author of *Stones from the River* (Book #1 of the Burgdorf Cycle Series)**

**“I found myself dazzled, moved, and lost in admiration for these unforgettable stories, each one a gem. Where do I sign up for the R.L. Maizes school of brilliantly depicting off-kilter love and loss with unfailing wit and empathy?”—Elinor Lipman, author of *Good Riddance* and *On Turpentine Lane***

**“The title story in *We Love Anderson Cooper* will break your heart in all the best ways and it will also make you laugh; such is the blueprint for all that is ahead in this stunning collection. R.L. Maizes has such a gift for taking us where we’ve never been, yet reminding us of what we know about love, grief, a place of belonging.”—Jill McCorkle, author of *Life After Life***



**A WEALTH OF PIGEONS: A Cartoon Collection by Harry Bliss and Steve Martin (November 2020)**

*Editor: Deb Futter; Material: early .pdf due March; Page count: 272*

“I’ve always looked upon cartooning as comedy’s last frontier. I have done stand-up, sketches, movies, monologues, awards show introductions, sound bites, blurbs, talk show appearances, and tweets, but the idea of a one-panel image with or without a caption mystified me. I felt like, yeah, sometimes I’m funny, but there are these other weird freaks who are actually funny. You can understand that I was deeply suspicious of these people who are actually funny.”

So writes the multitasking comedian Steve Martin in his introduction to *A Wealth of Pigeons: A Cartoon Collection*. In order to venture into this lauded territory of cartooning, he partnered with the heralded *New Yorker* cartoonist Harry Bliss. Steve shared caption and cartoon ideas, Harry provided impeccable artwork, and together they created this collection of humorous cartoons and comic strips with amusing commentary about their collaboration throughout. The result: this gorgeous, funny, singular book, perfect to give as a gift or to buy for yourself.

**Steve Martin** is one of the most well-known talents in entertainment. His work has earned him an Academy Award®, five Grammy® awards, an Emmy®, the Mark Twain Award, and the Kennedy Center Honors. As an author, Martin’s work includes the novel *An Object of Beauty*, the play *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, a collection of comic pieces, *Pure Drivel*, a bestselling novella, *Shopgirl*, and his memoir *Born Standing Up*. Martin’s films include *The Jerk*, *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*, *Roxanne*, *Parenthood*, *L.A. Story*, *Father of the Bride*, and *Bowfinger*.

**Harry Bliss** is an internationally syndicated cartoonist and cover artist for the *New Yorker* magazine. His syndicated comic ‘Bliss’ appears in newspapers internationally. He has written and illustrated over twenty books for children and is the founder of the Cornish CCS Fellowship for Graphic Novelists in Cornish, New Hampshire. [www.harrybliss.com](http://www.harrybliss.com).

**MY FIRST BLACK BOYFRIEND by Chris Rock (May 2021)**

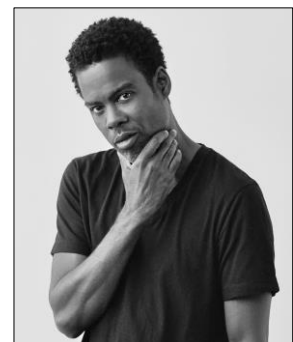
*Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: manuscript due April; Page count: 288*

From the iconic comedian, actor, director, and producer, Chris Rock, comes a new book comprised of essays about relationships and race.

As editor Deb Futter has said about the acquisition: “There are very few topics that are as evergreen as relationships. And the inimitable, singular Chris Rock is the perfect moderator of that discussion.”

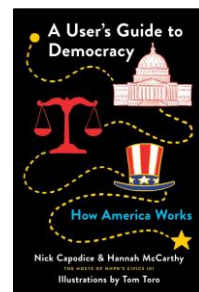
**News of this book has already received coverage in *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*!**

Lauded by peers and critics alike, **Chris Rock** is one of our generation’s strongest comedic voices. As an actor, director, producer and writer he has created many memorable moments. Rock teamed up with Lionsgate and Twisted Pictures in the reimagining of the next *Saw* franchise movie, *Organ Donor*, which he produces and stars in. Rock made a cameo in Netflix’s *Dolemite is my Name!* On television, Rock will next be seen starring as the head of a crime family on season four of FX’s Emmy-winning drama series *Fargo*. Rock has won four Emmy Awards, three Grammy Awards and is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Rock This!* (Hyperion, 1997).



**A USER'S GUIDE TO DEMOCRACY: How America Works by Nick Capodice and Hannah McCarthy; Illustrated by Tom Toro (September 2020)**

*Editor: Jamie Raab; Material: manuscript due March; Page count: 240*



From the hosts of the popular podcast *Civics 101* comes a field guide to everything you've wanted to know about the U.S. government, but have been too afraid to ask. The American government and its processes are notoriously complex and obscure. But within this book are the keys to knowing what you're talking about. This approachable and informative guide gives you the lowdown on everything from the three branches of government, to basic civil rights, to the way that voting actually works. This is the perfect book for anyone who wants to finally understand how the U.S. government works.

***Includes black & white illustrations throughout by New Yorker cartoonist Tom Toro.***

Before hosting and producing *Civics 101*, **Nick Capodice** worked in the Education Department at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum where he wrote and led tours, trained educators, and helped design digital exhibits. He also led beer history and tasting tours for Urban Oyster in Brooklyn.

**Hannah McCarthy** started her journalism career in longform nonfiction print, but soon discovered the magic of ambient sound and a well-placed reverb and found herself in love with audio storytelling. Before hosting *Civics 101*, Hannah spent a couple of years as a producer and reporter for New Hampshire Public Radio, worked on WNYC's *Death, Sex and Money*, and wrote for *New York Magazine*'s Bedford and Bowery.

**THIS CHAIR ROCKS: A Manifesto Against Ageism by Ashton Applewhite (March 2019)**

*Acquiring editor: Jamie Raab; Material: finished copies; Page count: 304*



From author, activist, and TED speaker Ashton Applewhite comes a manifesto calling for an end to discrimination and prejudice on the basis of age. Explaining the roots of ageism in history and how it divides and debases, Applewhite examines how ageist stereotypes cripple the way our brains and bodies function, looks at ageism in the workplace and the bedroom, critiques the portrayal of elders as burdens to society, describes what an all-age-friendly world would look like, and offers a rousing call to action. It's time to create a world of age equality by making discrimination on the basis of age as unacceptable as any other kind of bias. Whether you're older or hoping to get there, this book will change the way you see the rest of your life.

Author and activist **Ashton Applewhite** has been recognized by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, National Public Radio, and the American Society on Aging as an expert on ageism. She blogs at This Chair Rocks, speaks widely around the world, has written for *Harper's* and *Playboy*, and is the voice of Yo, Is This Ageist? In 2016, she joined the PBS site Next Avenue's annual list of Fifty Influencers in Aging as their Influencer of the Year.

**“[This Chair Rocks] provides a positive view of aging that is sorely missing in today's popular culture. Appealing to a wide audience, it might even serve as a spark for positive social change.”—*Library Journal* (starred review)**

**Foreign sales: Italy/Corbaccio (via the author), Korea/Signonsa (via the author), Slovenia/Eno (via the author), Taiwan/Ecus Publishing, UK/Melville House**

