Welcome to Erewhon

Erewhon Books is a new independent publisher focusing on novel-length works of speculative fiction: science fiction, fantasy, and related genres.

At Erewhon, our mission is to publish thoughtful, groundbreaking, and unforgettable books that go straight to the reader’s heart, effortlessly strange stories that take readers on powerful emotional journeys. We embrace the liminal and unclassifiable and champion the unusual, the uncanny, and the hard-to-define. Our books ask hard questions about issues of sociopolitical change, power and privilege, and the impact of ideas and technologies. They explore and investigate society, poke at social norms, and celebrate the unique, diverse, and underrepresented identities and communities of the world we live in, all through the lens of entertaining, thought-provoking, and risk-taking speculative fiction. Every book on our list will have strong literary merit and broad appeal to both the growing science fiction and fantasy fan base and mainstream readers who like books with speculative elements.

This vision is executed by a team with many years of experience in publishing and founding new endeavors that change the publishing landscape, under the editorial eye of Liz Gorinsky and Sarah Guan, two of the most acclaimed and perceptive editors in the speculative fiction field.

In our first season you can see Erewhon’s mandate in play across a range of books that are wildly different from each other but all books we want to see in the world. In The Fortress, a matriarchal society takes in a man guilty of toxic masculinity, adultery, and worse and rehabilitates him in brutal, tender, and controversial ways. In The Scapegracers, a young lesbian named Sideways discovers her coven and, with their help, begins to figure out not only how to harness her power but how to navigate high school. And in The Unraveling, a far future society’s experiments with bioengineering have created a world that has broken the barriers of gender, bodies, and more.

These three books are the first examples of the sort of provocative, beautiful, ground-breaking fiction that we hope to publish for many years to come. We encourage you to join us on this journey and look forward to connecting you with works of fiction that will delight, captivate, engage, and excite you.

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THE EREWHON TEAM

Liz Gorinsky, Publisher and editor.
Liz started her editorial career at Tor Books, editing a list that included popular and acclaimed speculative fiction authors Mary Robinette Kowal, Liu Cixin, Annalee Newitz, Thomas Olde Heuvelt, Nisi Shawl, Catherynne M. Valente, and Jeff VanderMeer. Books she has edited have won or been nominated for all the field’s major awards. She won the 2017 Hugo Award for Best Editor, Long Form, and the 2016 Alfie Award, designed and presented by George R. R. Martin. She was part of the team that founded Tor.com and acquired and edited short fiction and comics for that site for many years.

Sarah Guan, Editor.
Sarah comes to Erewhon after a varied career at Ace, DAW, and Orbit, where she worked with acclaimed authors such as Fonda Lee, winner of the World Fantasy and Aurora Awards and finalist for the Nebula and Locus Awards; Tasha Suri, Locus and two-time British Fantasy Awards nominee; Tade Thompson, winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award and the African Speculative Fiction Society’s inaugural Nommo Award; Kacen Callender, winner of the Stonewall and Lambda Literary Awards; and many more.

Martin Cahill, Marketing and Publicity Manager.
Martin has worked in SEO, publicity, and marketing for many years and has worn many hats in the speculative fiction community, including literary agent freelancer, publicity and marketing specialist, and fiction writer.

Jillian Feinberg, Editorial Assistant.
Jillian worked as an assistant editor for Book Smugglers Publishing in their short-story section and interned at The Experiment Publishing and Market Partners International.

Peter Burri, Business Advisor.
Peter Burri is the co-founder of the successful independent press The Experiment and has twenty-five years of experience in publishing operations and financing.
THE FORTRESS

S. A. Jones

A vital and searing examination of the dark heart of masculinity confronted by a women-led society, and a new and in demand addition to the canon of feminist SF by a skilled and authoritative author. The Handmaid’s Tale meets Herland at a party thrown by Anaïs Nin.

Jonathon Bridge has a corner office in a top-tier law firm, tailored suits and an impeccable pedigree. He has a fascinating wife, Adalia, a child on the way, and a string of pretty young interns as lovers on the side. He’s a man who’s going places. His world is our world: the same chaos and sprawl, have-nots, men and women, skyscrapers and billboards. But it also exists alongside a vast, self-sustaining city-state called The Fortress where the indigenous inhabitants—the Vaik, a society run and populated exclusively by women—live in isolation.

When Adalia discovers his indiscretions and the ugly sexual violence pervading his firm, she agrees to continue their fractured marriage only on the condition that Jonathan voluntarily offers himself to The Fortress as a supplicant and stay there for a year. Jonathon’s arrival at The Fortress begins with a recitation of the conditions of his stay: He is forbidden to ask questions, to raise his hand in anger, and to refuse sex.

Jonathon is utterly unprepared for what will happen to him over the course of the year—not only to his body, but to his mind and his heart. This absorbing, confronting and moving novel asks questions about consent, power, love and fulfilment. It asks what it takes for a man to change, and whether change is possible without a radical reversal of the conditions that seem normal.
“A Molotov cocktail of a book: intensely furious, perversely fascinating, and unputdownable.”
—Jodi McAlister, author of Valentine

“Unsettling and unashamed, The Fortress is a damning judgement on patriarchy, and a meditation on the labours of atonement.”
—Damon Young, award-winning philosopher and author

“It’s an imaginative exploration of the contours and confines of patriarchy, and what might lay beyond them, as immersive and thought-provoking as the fiction of Ursula Le Guin.”
—Sydney Morning Herald

“Stunning, speculative novel, equal parts entertaining and moving, and one of the first books I’ve encountered with truly autonomous female characters.”
—Angela Meyer, author and editor

**Marketing Plans**

- Interviews and profiles with mainstream print magazines and websites on The Fortress and where it stands in our current political climate
- Cover reveal on The Mary Sue, Book Riot, and/or other feminist forward genre sites
- Excerpt and interview with the author at EW/Variety/Deadline, tying this story to others such as The Handmaid’s Tale, etc.
- Outreach to book clubs and other educational reading groups
- Major prepublication campaign including galley distribution to media, trade publications, booksellers, retailers, librarians, etc.
- National media campaign including TV, radio, and online interviews
- Comprehensive social media promotion across all Erewhon platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr

S. A. Jones is a Melbourne-based novelist and essayist whose work has been published in venues including The Guardian. She holds a PhD in history and has been a senior executive and a Shadow Ministerial staffer. In 2013 she was recognized by Westpac and The Australian Financial Review as one of Australia’s 100 Women of Influence for her public policy work. *The Fortress* is her third novel.
THE SCAPEGRACERS
Hannah Abigail Clarke

A YA crossover title combining the perennially popular genres of witches and high school society told in a bright, distinctive, and inclusive voice, and the debut of a talented young voice writing Erewhon’s first series acquisition.

Skulking near the bottom of West High’s social pyramid, Sideways Pike lurks under the bleachers doing magic tricks for Coke bottles. As a witch, lesbian, and lifelong outsider, she’s had a hard time making friends. But when the three most popular girls pay her $40 to cast a spell at their Halloween party, Sideways gets swept into a new clique. The unholy trinity are dangerous angels, sugar-coated rattlesnakes, and now—unbelievably—Sideways’ best friends.

Together, the four bond to form a ferocious and powerful coven. They plan parties, cast curses on dudebros, try to find Sideways a girlfriend, and elude the fundamentalist witch hunters hellbent stealing their magic. But for Sideways, the hardest part is the whole ‘having friends’ thing. Who knew that balancing human interaction with supernatural peril could be so complicated?

Rich with the urgency of feral youth, The Scapegracers explores growing up and complex female friendship with all the rage of a teenage girl. It subverts the trope of competitive mean girls and instead portrays a mercilessly supportive clique of diverse and vivid characters. It is an atmospheric, voice-driven novel of the occult, and the first of a three-book series.
Hannah Abigail Clarke is here and queer, etc. They have been previously published in Portland Review, PRISM International, and Chaleur. They will graduate from college at Miami University (of Ohio) come May. *The Scapegracers* is their first novel.
In the distant future somewhere in the galaxy, a society has emerged where everyone has multiple bodies, cybernetics has abolished privacy, and individual and family success within the rigid social system is reliant upon instantaneous social approbation.

Young Fift is an only child of the staid gender, struggling to maintain their position in the system while developing an intriguing friendship with the poorly-publicized bioengineer Shria—somewhat controversial, since Shria is bail-gendered.

In time, Fift and Shria unintentionally wind up at the center of a scandalous art spectacle which turns into the early stages of a multi-layered revolution against their strict societal system. Suddenly they become celebrities and involuntary standard-bearers for the upheaval.

Fift is torn between the survival of Shria and the success of their family cohort; staying true to their feelings and caving under societal pressure. Whatever Fift decides will make a disproportionately huge impact on the future of the world. What’s a young staid to do when the whole world is watching?
MARKETING PLANS

• Presence at BEA 2020, signing ARCs
• Interviews and roundtables with other voices writing hard science fiction
• Presence at Readercon in Boston, to launch the book
• Presentation with, or partnership, with bioengineering groups for discussion on the book
• Major prepublication campaign including galley distribution to media, trade publications, booksellers, retailers, librarians, etc
• National media campaign including TV, radio, and online interviews
• Comprehensive social media promotion across all Erewhon platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr

Benjamin Rosenbaum has been nominated for the Hugo, Nebula, BSFA, Sturgeon, and World Fantasy Awards. He is the author of the short story collection The Ant King and Other Stories, and the Jewish historical fantasy tabletop roleplaying game “Dream Apart.” Originally from Arlington, VA, he lives near Basel, Switzerland with his wife and children.
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