

**For Immediate Release
April 2024**

Contact: KanoPress@gmail.com

Kano Press releases *The Spectators*, the second novel in its mission to publish “books that include humor and a transcendent point of view, stories that evoke openings.”

Novelist Betsy Robinson had worked for magazines, published novels with indie presses (winning prizes from Mid-List Press and Black Lawrence Press), and had professional experience in all aspects of publishing. She had a wonderful agent. But still her books *Cats on a Pole* and *The Spectators* made the rounds fruitlessly. “They weren’t rejected,” says Robinson. “Nobody would read them!”

Feeling as if both books—firmly rooted in our current cultural tumult—would miss their window, she decided to start Kano Press, despite the bleak realities of publishing and selling books without a platform of a million followers, without a celebrity name, and given that her stories will most likely appeal to a small, albeit ever-increasing, part of the reading public who are more interested in owning uncomfortable truths than in slick humor or denial.

After being blown away by *Sun House* by David James Duncan (*The Brothers K*, *The River Why*), she reached out for a blurb for Kano’s September 3rd release, *The Spectators*. Says Robinson, “Duncan not only understood what I’m writing but wrote a treatise, allowing me to extract from it an ecstatic cover blurb:”

“A novel that in the last chapter reaches the only heaven to which I aspire: a life fully awake to this beautiful bleeding Earth”

—David James Duncan

What is *The Spectators* about?

“It’s about right now and the mess we are in,” says Robinson. “It’s about dealing with a herd we are all part of by default of our nature as human beings, and how to negotiate this when we can’t control its movement.”

With this story, Robinson hopes to do her part to soften people and wake them up to a softness and connectedness which, if done in critical mass, will keep us from self-destructing.

For more information on the author and both novels, see the following Advanced Reading Copy coversheet. And to request a PDF or EPUB galley, email KanoPress@gmail.com.

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***The Spectators* ARC coversheet**

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Title: *The Spectators*

Author name: Betsy Robinson

Publisher: Kano Press

Pub date: September 3, 2024

Page count: 216

5 illustrations

Price: \$16.00

ISBNs: 979-8-9896892-2-4 paperback

979-8-9896892-3-1 e-book

Distribution: Ingram

Publicity: KanoPress@gmail.com

Description of the book:

Front Cover Blurb:

“A novel that in the last chapter reaches the only heaven to which I aspire: a life fully awake to this beautiful bleeding Earth”

—David James Duncan, author of *Sun House* and *The Brothers K*

This is what you get when you mix apathy, shamanism, Buddhism, esoteric Yogic traditions, quantum physics, the power of DNA ancestry, and cluelessness with a small band of older women negotiating chaos in New York City in the era just preceding Trump.

Part love letter to NYC’s Upper West Side, part an ode to friendship between a writer and her creations (reluctant psychic protagonist Lily Hogue and her loner friends, with guest appearances of real and fictional historical events and people, from Bernie Madoff to Paul Simon to terrorists), *The Spectators’* cast of characters battles the problems of foreknowing disasters we cannot control and being part of an uncontrollable human herd.

Book trailer: <https://youtu.be/LJnfvqa8YIA?si=0dKBp22xQF9byMn8>

Author bio:

Betsy Robinson writes funny fiction about flawed people. Her novel *The Last Will & Testament of Zelda McFigg* is winner of Black Lawrence Press’s 2013 Big Moose Prize and was published in September 2014. This was followed by the February 2015 publication of her edit of *The Trouble with the Truth* by Edna Robinson, Betsy’s late mother, by Simon & Schuster/Infinite Words. She published revised ebook and paperback editions of her Mid-List Press award-winning first novel, a tragicomedy about falling down the rabbit hole of the U.S. of A. in the 1970s, *Plan Z* by Leslie Kove, when it went out of print. Her articles have been published in *Publishers Weekly*, Lithub, *Journal of Compressed Creative Arts*, *Oh Reader*, *The Sunlight Press*, *Prairie Fire*, *Salvation South*, *Next Avenue*, *Lit Mag Roundup* and many other publications. Betsy is an editor (former managing editor of *Spirituality & Health*), fiction writer, journalist, and playwright. www.BetsyRobinson-writer.com