

Melissa Naatz – Author Press Kit

Bio

Melissa Naatz is a former paralegal with a background in victim advocacy, now writing emotionally charged, character-driven fiction. Her work draws on a deep understanding of trauma, resilience, and the quiet strength it takes to start over.

Melissa's stories often feature older female main characters, challenging the idea that transformation, purpose, or love has an age limit. Whether she's writing contemporary romance, emotional fiction, or wistful fantasy, her books explore the complexities of identity, connection, and second chances.

Event & Interview Talking Points

- From paralegal work and victim advocacy to fiction: How Melissa's real-world experience informs the emotional depth of her stories.
- Why older female protagonists matter and how they fit or don't fit into popular tropes.
- Beyond the Game: Using sports (professional hockey) as more than a backdrop to explore identity, pressure, and personal reinvention.
- How character-driven, emotionally complex storytelling shapes Melissa's novels.
- Writing across genres: Contemporary romance, emotional fiction, and fairytale-tinged fantasy.
- The power of second chances—on and off the page.
- Navigating the indie publishing journey and building a writing career on her own terms.
- Writing with dyslexia: Finding creativity, resilience, and unique perspective in the challenges of the written word.

Book Blurbs

One Summer Knight

At thirty-eight, Elise White is done believing in happy endings—until a chance encounter with a twenty-seven-year-old knight at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival changes everything. What begins as a playful fairytale becomes something deeper, forcing Elise to confront the pieces of herself she lost in a long, crumbling marriage. A heartfelt story of rediscovery, second chances, and the kind of love that doesn't care about age—only connection.

Publication date: May 14, 2024

ISBN paperback: 979-8-9901214-0-9

ISBN ebook: 979-8-9901214-1-6

Adult contemporary romance

Awards: Pencraft Winner for Summer and Fall of 2024, 2024 Finalist American Fiction

Awards, and Third Place BookFest Awards in Contemporary Romance (2024)

The Things We Break

Tristan Anderson was Evan Carter's first love, first heartbreak, and the boy who promised her escape. Twelve years after addiction, betrayal, and grief pulled them apart, they meet again—older, marked by time, and still bound by something neither can quite let go of. Set in a small town filled with inked scars and unspoken truths, *The Things We Break* explores what it means to be tethered by fate—and how far love can stretch before it shatters.

Publication date: October 15, 2024

ISBN paperback: 979-8-9901214-2-3

ISBN ebook: 979-8-9901214-3-0

Adult contemporary romance

Awards: First Place Literary Fiction for Romance at the BookFest Awards (2025)

How We End

Wyatt Cassidy Halliday knows the cost of desire. At thirty-five, the high-end escort has spent half her life trading beauty for survival beneath the neon lights of Las Vegas. But time is a ruthless dealer, and Wyatt feels her value slipping with every sunset. Julian Silver has it all—fame, fortune, and the kind of hockey career most only dream of—yet when his path collides with Wyatt's, neither can ignore the pull between them. In a city built on risk, their story is one of defiance, vulnerability, and the messy beauty of starting over when everything feels lost.

Publication date: October 29, 2025

ISBN paperback: 979-8-9901214-9-2

ISBN ebook: 979-8-9901214-8-5

Adult contemporary romance

The Forgotten Life of Ella Moon

No one knows who the girl found by the river is—not even the girl herself. A year after waking with no memory, Ella Moon has built a quiet life in a quaint village. But when a mysterious stranger arrives, searching for something lost, her past begins to unravel. A lyrical and haunting tale of identity, love, and the magic that binds us to the stories we forget, *Ella Moon* is a fairytale for anyone who has ever longed to remember who they really are.

Publication date: May 13, 2025

ISBN paperback: 979-8-9901214-4-7 (colored edition)

ISBN paperback: 979-8-9901214-6-1 (black and white edition)

ISBN ebook: 979-8-9901214-5-4

Adult fantasy romance