

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
**J.T. ELLISON**



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**Booksapalooza, Carnitas, and Deadlines**

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February 2019 Newsletter  
Vol. 205

## Hi, Gentle Reader!



Don't Cry For Me, I'm On Deadline...(sung to the tune of Don't Cry For Me, Argentina)

Yes, I'm on deadline...and clearly, I am punchy. I've had my nose to the grindstone since the beginning of the year trying to get a draft done of **GOOD GIRLS LIE**, and I'm starting to see the end. I've been hoping to have my draft done on Valentine's Day, which will give me two weeks to edit and revise before I hand it in to my editor. It's going to be close. Very close. I have two trips this month (you'll recall I was going to take some time off and I ended up deciding to squeeze this book in – ahem) so it's going to be a busy, crazy, fun, word-filled month.

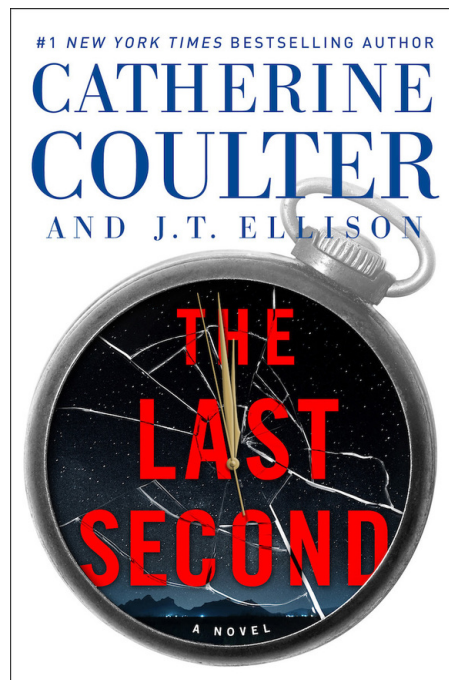
It's been SO cold in Nashville that I had to decamp from the world's most perfect little office and set up shop on the couch downstairs. The cats are fine with this, as it means I am more readily available for scratches, but I miss my view. Yes, I can turn up the heat, but \$\$\$ and BRRR anyway.

But the reading has been good. I'm already 10 books in for the year. Ten books, 40,000 words... yes, that's a good month of January in the books. (See what I did there? Ba-dum-cha)

And of course, the moment I turn in GOOD GIRLS LIE it's time to start promotion of THE LAST SECOND, the 6th Brit in the FBI adventure. Y'all are going to want this book. Believe me. The storyline, the action, it is insane!

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▣ **THE LAST SECOND - On Sale March 26**



From New York Times bestselling authors Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison comes a riveting thriller pitting special agents Nicholas Drummond and Michaela Caine against the head of a private space agency who has the power to end the world as we know it.

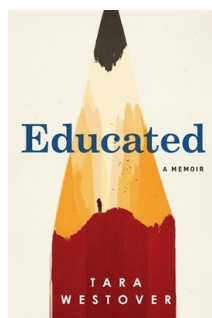
It's Bastille Day in France, and the private French space agency Galactus—France's answer to Space X, owned by the eccentric treasure hunter Jean-Pierre Broussard—has just sent a satellite payload into orbit. Billed as a “communications” satellite, it harbors a frightening reality: a nuclear electromagnetic pulse has been hidden aboard.

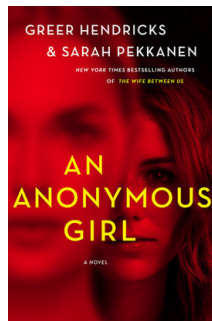
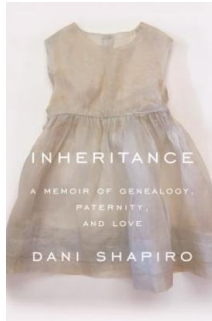
In days, when the satellite is in position, Galactus's head and Broussard's second in command, Dr. Neveah Patel, will have the power to lay waste to the world with her EMP, and create her own immortality with the Holy Grail—the stones of the heavens and the very treasure Broussard has spent his life searching for.

The countdown has begun, and Special Agents Nicholas Drummond and Michaela Caine will go down to the wire to stop this heinous attack. With their signature “nonstop action with enough realism to keep you thinking and scare the daylights out of you at the same time” (*Suspense Magazine*), Coulter and Ellison have created a thriller to take you on a breakneck and breathtaking journey.

**PRE-ORDER, BABY!**

## ▣ What I'm Reading





### **EDUCATED by Tara Westover**

This book spoke to me on a number of levels. I grew up in the mountains, well away from the nearest town, and understand the joy and pain of isolation. But... that's where our similarities end. This is a fascinating look at the lengths some people have to go to in order to become educated. Beautifully written, Tara Westover has a lovely command of language. Heartbreaking, inspiring, and frighteningly real.

### **THE WICKED KING by Holly Black**

This story is wonderful, tricky, intense, and without one lagging moment. It's a superb second book in the series. I can't wait for next September for the third book! If you haven't read it yet, start with [THE CRUEL PRINCE](https://amzn.to/2sxjbWC) and thank me later.

### **INHERITANCE by Dani Shapiro**

This was not the easiest book for me to read, if only for the amount of time spent on the aspects of infertility, but the spirit of it was so beautiful and pure. That Dani was able to write about her experiences at this moment in time, when DNA and ancestry databases are helping to solve crimes and helping families find their truths, it's true serendipity. I think it will help a lot of people who are searching for their own identities. A must-read.

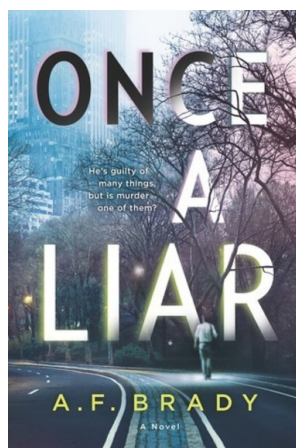
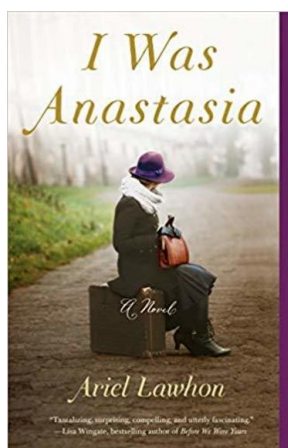
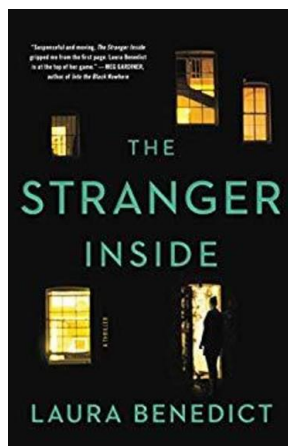
### **AN ANONYMOUS GIRL by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Peckanen**

A solid entry in the domestic suspense genre. The structure is excellent, as is the use of second person POV, which is a very difficult thing. The ending will have you talking!

*Click the covers to learn more!*

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## ▯ Friends I'm Reading



Some incredible books by good friends have just released into the big wide book world, and you should buy them immediately and go see them on tour.

### **THE STRANGER INSIDE** by Laura Benedict

*What if you came home to find a stranger living inside your house? An outstanding, ever-twisting, surprise-filled" psychological drama (Publishers Weekly, starred review), in the tradition of Shari Lapena and Liane Moriarty, from an Edgar- and Thriller Award-nominated author.*

"Can you imagine the nightmare of a stranger taking over your house? The terror you would feel? Benedict turns her unique voice in suspense to this elegant scary mystery, where nothing is as it seems and one woman's truth is shattered by the hidden secrets of her past." (says me)

## **I WAS ANASTASIA by Ariel Lawhon**

*Ariel Lawhon, a rising star in historical suspense, unravels the extraordinary twists and turns in Anna Anderson's fifty-year battle to be recognized as Anastasia Romanov. Is she the beloved daughter, revered icon, and Russian grand duchess or is she an imposter, liar, and the thief of another woman's legacy?*

"Amazing, amazing, amazing." (says me)

## **ONCE A LIAR by A.F. Brady**

*In this electrifying psychological thriller, a high-powered sociopath meets his reckoning when he's accused of the brutal murder of his mistress.*

"Sizzles with sinister madness and incessant tension right to the last page." (says me)

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# Cool Things From the Internet

**Woman Transforms Rotting Tree In Her Yard Into Charming Neighborhood Library**. This is incredible! What a wonderful repurpose of a living entity. It brought me to tears. A few years ago, I had to cut down a river birch in my yard and cried...but my FIL turned bowls for me. Which was lovely, and I still have. Apparently, I was a dryad in a past life.

**How to Host a Soup Group**. Who's in? Might bring this idea to my supper club. What's your favorite soup recipe? I'm taking orders...

**9 Podcasts That Are Basically A Book Club You Can Enjoy At Home By Yourself**. Awesome stuff here!!! I need to extend my listening day dramatically. I wish I could listen and write at the same time.

**How to Configure Your iPhone to Work for You, Not Against You**. This goes into the how but also the why. A thorough guide!

**The Real Book Spy's 2019 Reading Guide: Every Thriller We Know About So Far**. Ryan has put together quite an extensive list! So great to see **THE LAST SECOND** (3/26/19) and **GOOD GIRLS LIE** (Fall 2019) there.

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# A WORD ON WORDS

A WORD ON WORDS is back for Season 4! We've already taped a whole slew of shows. Check out my co-host Mary Laura in **Writing A Mural with Rebecca Makkai**.

And I had so much fun talking cowboys, Wyoming, and the transformative powers of literary crime fiction with **Craig Johnson in Population 19**.

In fun news: Go Team! **The show just received a coveted NETA Award** from the National Educational Telecommunications Association, a major player in the public television world. What an incredible honor!

And the Mid-South EMMY Awards are coming up February 16. We're nominated, which means I get to put on a gorgeous full-length gown, pop the husband in a tux, and play grown up for the night. So exciting!

In all seriousness, to be able to carry on the legacy of this show is one of the greatest joys of my life. Keep Reading!

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## February's Recipe: Tasty Carnitas



This is the most amazing filling for tacos, tostadas, quesadillas... and you can do it with pork, chicken, beef, whatever you want to shred and gobble down. It's sweet and spicy and crunchy and perfection. Takes all of 5 minutes to put together, and cooks slow all day.

**IS IT TACO TUESDAY YET?**

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That's more than you could have possibly wanted from me. Stay warm, read a good book, and take a look outside – the days are getting longer! Oh, and send me some good juju to make the deadline.

peace and hugs,



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*Stay up on all of my book bargains and new books!*

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*Are you still here? Here's a kitten for your troubles!*



Let's be friends. I don't bite!



#KeepReading

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