

Elena Stokes | Wunderkind PR
917-887-0784 | elena@wunderkind-pr.com

Brianna Robinson | Wunderkind PR
845-825-0180 | brianna@wunderkind-pr.com

Sometimes, the bear chooses you

LEAVE NO TRACE

By Randee Dawn

Advance Praise for LEAVE NO TRACE

“The story is propulsive, engaging, and just plain old good. It’s always a treat to read Randee’s work!”

— Zin E. Rocklyn, author of *Flowers for the Sea*

“Randee deftly weaves together Celtic lore and modern conspiracy theories, along with a healthy dose of modern pop music and the people left in a hit song’s wake, to explore a near future where nothing is as it seems.

As soon as you think you know where the story is heading, Dawn veers off course and leaves the reader stranded in the woods, literally and figuratively. A must-read.”

— Jennifer Allis Provost, author of *The Poison Garden series*

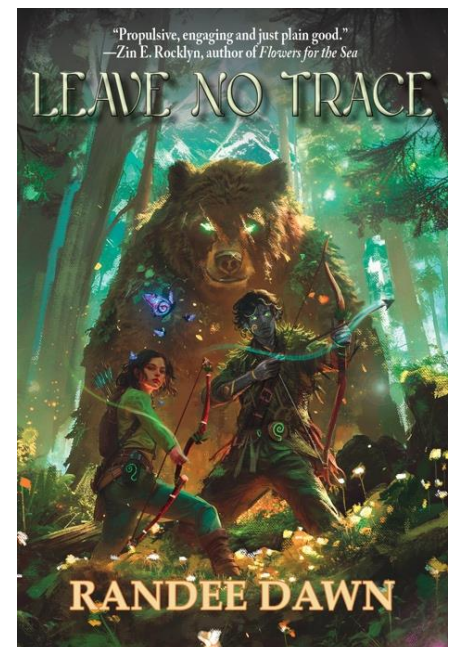
“A killer story. Characters leap off the page with delicious moral complexities. Randee has brought something unique and rich to the mythology of the fae, and that is no mean feat.”

— L.J. Cohen, author of *Derelict and Litany for a Broken World*

For fans of Celtic lore, pop music, and conspiracy theories you’ll love Randee Dawn’s **LEAVE NO TRACE** (CAEZIK SF & Fantasy; 8/19/25; Trade Paperback; ISBN-1978-1647101619), a clash of worlds – magic and technology, future and past, rural and urban – against the backdrop of a bear hunt and a war between fae and humans

Lexi is a 17-year-old who’s grown up in the forest alongside a father who dragged her there after a magical “sickness” afflicted the rest of their family. While there she befriends Gil, a magic keeper of the forest, who tasks her with keeping the godlike bear Artio safe.

But when a hunting party takes aim at Artio, Lexi discovers how much she could lose by not taking a stand. It’ll be up to her to open her own path to the future -- even as she’s drawn into a battle for survival between fae and humans.



About LEAVE NO TRACE:

Seventeen-year-old Lexi has been living in a remote stretch of the Rocky Mountains since her father dragged her – and her now-missing brother – there ten years ago, after the rest of their family was afflicted with a mysterious, magical sickness. Her paranoid father thinks they’ve escaped the “disease,” and as long as they remain in the woods, they’ll be safe.

But that fear means everyone is keeping secrets. Lexi can’t tell him about her friend Gil, who pops up in the forest among a traveling stand of birch trees, who once saved her life – and who is definitely not human. She also can’t tell her father about the magic Gil has shown her she possesses, which allows her to open the path to wherever she needs to go. Meanwhile, Gil has never told Lexi that he’s hoping she’ll join in a heated fight between magical creatures and humans ... on the side of the fae. And that’s not the only thing Gil’s hiding, because he knows the true nature of forest guardian Artio, an enormous, godlike bear.

Everything changes when pop star T.J. Furey, his foster sister Steph, and T.J.’s manager Tony hire Lexi and her father to lead a hunt, with Artio as the target. If Lexi can’t prevent Artio’s death, she’ll never see Gil again – but she can’t do that without risking her father’s wrath. When it turns out that Tony is harboring a dark past and a major grudge against all things magical, Lexi feels trapped. In order to save Artio, keep Gil, and escape the forest, Lexi is going to need all her heart, skills, and magic to open the true path to her – and humanity’s – future.

LEAVE NO TRACE plays the clash of worlds – magic and technology, future and past, rural and urban – against the backdrop of a bear hunt and a war between fae and humans.



About RANDEE DAWN:

Born in Virginia, and raised in Maryland, Randee Dawn is now a Brooklyn-based author and journalist who writes speculative fiction at night and entertainment and lifestyle stories during the day for publications like the *New York Times*, NBCNews.com, *Variety*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Emmy Magazine*.

Her humorous pop culture fantasy novel *Tune in Tomorrow* was published in 2022 by Solaris/Rebellion, and *Publishers Weekly* praised her for her ability to: “balance over-the-top drama and comedy with genuine intrigue to create a fun story with plenty of heart.” *Lightspeed* praised *Tune in Tomorrow* as “an excellent read if you’re looking for something to make you smile... well worth your time.”

In 2025 Randee has three new books out, including: *The Only Song Worth Singing* (Arc Manor/Caezik, April); *Leave No Trace* (Arc Manor/Caezik, August) and *We Interrupt This Program* (the next entry in the *Tune*-iverse) (Solaris Nova, Fall). She is also the co-editor of *The Law & Order: SVU Unofficial Companion*; co-edited the anthology *Across the Universe: Tales of Alternative Beatles* and has dozens of short stories published in anthologies and magazines.

Randee is available for interviews! Here are some of the topics she can discuss:

♪ Irish Authenticity

Getting the Irish used in the book "right" – as well as the cadence of the English and the colloquialisms used – was important to Randee. She can talk about the process she used during research to stay authentic and respectful.

🎵 The Power of Music

Randee believes that if there is a "stereotype" that rings true about Irish culture it is the way in which music suffuses daily life. She can discuss how she emphasizes that in the book and how she draws on music to convince readers there is real magic in the world.

🎵 Drawing Inspiration from William Butler Yeats

Randee was inspired in part by W.B. Yeats, whose book *Irish Fairy and Folk Tales*, explored local stories Yeats collected while touring Ireland. Randee can share what it was about the tales that captivated her and helped to inspire the idea for her novel.

🎵 1990s music and backstage band life from an up-close, journalistic perspective

Randee is a longtime entertainment journalist who went out on the road with Radiohead in the 1990s and has interviewed many of the most popular bands of the last decades including Meatloaf, Letters to Cleo, The Stone Roses, Tears for Fears, and Duran Duran. She can share how her time interviewing bands in the 90s inspired her to set her new novel during the height of the Celtic rock boom.

🎵 Drawing Inspiration from Boston and Maryland

Randee was initially inspired to write **THE ONLY SONG WORTH SINGING** while living in Boston. Randee is also an alumna of Boston University, and a portion of the book takes place there as well. Randee can discuss her ties to the area and why the city was such an important influence on the novel. In addition, Randee grew up in Maryland and has strong ties to Baltimore and College Park, two other important locations in the book

🎵 Themes of friendship, identity, found family, and the magic of a live show

Like any classic rock ballad, **THE ONLY SONG WORTH SINGING** has a singing heart that will resonate with any reader. Randee can share the many themes she hopes readers will take away from this story, from the power of friendship to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds and the importance of understanding your roots and claiming your own name, to found family, the power of an incredible song and live performance, and learning to embrace the power you never knew you had.

🎵 The Celtic Rock Boom of the 1990s

THE ONLY SONG WORTH SINGING is sure to strike the right chord for fans of 1990s Celtic Rock, especially bands like Lir, Energy Orchard, The Frames, Ash, Hothouse Flowers, The Cranberries, and of course U2. With her journalistic perspective and extensive exploration of this memorable musical era, Randee can discuss the lasting impact of the Celtic rock boom.

🎵 The writing journey

Randee started writing **THE ONLY SONG WORTH SINGING** in the 1990s, the decade at the story's core. For writers, readers, and creatives (like musicians), Randee can advise what steps you can take to not give up on a project and talk about her own personal journey bringing this story into the world.

🎵 Tales from The Green Place

THE ONLY SONG WORTH SINGING and **LEAVE NO TRACE** (out August 2025) are standalone novels that are part of a collection called *Tales from the Green Place*. Randee can discuss building this world and what's next for her.

Praise for Randee's novel **THE ONLY SONG WORTH SINGING**

"[A] wildly entertaining fairy tale about music and magic as we follow a band of three Irish friends who try to survive their first tour in late '90s America ... if you're looking for a more modern take on some timeless mythology, you won't go wrong with *The Only Song Worth Singing*."

— *Lightspeed Magazine*

"Dawn offers a potent and propulsive blend of Irish legend-inspired urban fantasy and Celtic rock. Dawn's experience as a music writer comes through in her vibrant, authentic portrayal of the band's sound and interpersonal dynamic. This fresh spin on favorite urban fantasy tropes will delight fans of Charles de Lint."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Dynamic and provocative, *The Only Song Worth Singing* sets friendship in its sights as it plays a captivating tune from the otherworld."

—*LoveReading*

"Blends myth with power of music and brotherly bond to tell a story that's suspenseful and extremely romantic in all possible directions. I loved it!"

—**Delia Sherman, award-winning author of *The Porcelain Dove***

"The Only Song Worth Singing has forged in fire the heart of *Daisy Jones & the Six* with the soul of *A Court of Thorns and Roses*. Randee Dawn pulls off this feat with great aplomb, delivering a scintillating plot and an emotional wallop."

— **Aidan Prewett, author of *Woodstock at 50: Anatomy of a Revolution***

"A dark, parasitical fairy tale, *The Only Song Worth Singing* is sex, myth, and rock and roll all the way down to its bass-beating heart. It's a story of faith, friendship, and brotherhood—of learning your roots, and finding your place, even if that means standing between one world and the next."

— **C. S. E. Cooney, World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Saint Death's Daughter***

"With *The Only Song Worth Singing*, Dawn has crafted a sweeping epic that takes you from a thatched cottage in the countryside, to the bustle and glam of New York, to the green and magical place where it all began, against the backdrop of Irish folklore. Truly a magical, musical, must-read."

— **Jennifer Allis Provost, author of *The Poison Garden***

"When you hear a song you love so much that you wish you could live inside it for weeks, feeling it rush through you and touch you in ways only art can, this book can scratch that itch with long nails."

— **Meg Elison, author of *Number One Fan***

"In *The Only Song Worth Singing*, the power of friendship is one of the major themes blended with myth and the power of music. Imagine Irish folklore combined with mysticism – makes for a magical read. Critics call it one of the most entertaining and truthful representations of the music touring world, while the author really makes readers believe there are mystical creatures with the trio on tour."

— **Better To Podcast**