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## New chapters

Minnesota authors and publishers are busy these days. Here's what some of them are excited about.

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### AUTHORS

Ellen Hart is looking forward to December publication of "Night Vision," her 14th mystery featuring Minneapolis restaurateur and reluctant sleuth Jane Lawless. Hart's equally excited about the stand-alone novel she's working on. She describes the story, set in St. Paul, as "suspense but with a great depth of characterization, a very twisty kind of book," told from four points of view.

"I needed a new challenge" says the Minneapolis author, who no longer writes her Sophie Greenway culinary mysteries. "When you try to grow too much in a series and try to take it in a different direction, especially one focused on cheese and apricots and cherry Danish, publishers balk. I read a lot of series, and I understand that. I don't want that world to change too significantly."

That's why she's stretching her writing muscles with the new, stand-alone novel.

"I see a change in my writing," she says. "Language is more important, and the reader's emotional tie to characters has become more important. That's the most significant underpinning in the new book. Characters are what call me to write. I'm fascinated by what makes people do what they do."

Former Minnesotan **Nicole Kelby** writes from Florida that she has completed the script for a film version of her most recent novel, "Whale Season," which she'll co-produce with country singer/actor Dwight Yoakam, who'll also play one of the leads.

"This all came about because of radio," she writes. "A group of listeners in OK (Oklahoma) called a radio host and told him about 'Whale Season.' He loved it and gave it to his pal, Dwight, and now I'm flying across the country taking meetings. The script is a little darker, more real, but still funny. Dwight wants to be a hillbilly Cary Grant, a comedic romantic lead. He's never done that."

"Whale Season," which was published in paperback this month, will be in Target stores through February in the company's Breakout Books program.

### PUBLISHING

MMarianne Richmond, president of Minneapolis-based Marianne Richmond Studios, has sold her millionth picture book. Richmond, who founded her greeting card and gifts business in 1991, published her first book in 1997. Among her titles are "Hooray for You!" a celebration of each child's unique qualities, which has been licensed by Scholastic (the Harry Potter publisher) for worldwide school distribution. "I Love You So ..." is in the children's book section at Target stores, which will also carry Richmond's forthcoming book, "Fish Kisses and Gorilla Hugs." Her book "My Shoes Take Me Where I Want to Go," aimed at sparking a child's imagination, is in the holiday issue of Creative Child magazine.

**Brett Waldman**, owner of Tristan Publishing, was one of the happiest publishers at the Midwest Booksellers Association trade show at RiverCentre. And no wonder. He has bought an entire building to be his company's headquarters. Since Waldman launched Tristan Publishing four years ago, he had worked out of a little, windowless space in back of a Golden Valley warehouse. His new building, at 2355 Louisiana Ave. N., Golden Valley, consolidates warehouse and office space in 10,000 square feet. The company also has a new sales director, Barb Shimshock. Tristan's newest offering is "Slap on a Little Lipstick ... You'll be Fine," a sassy empowerment gift book by local author/illustrator Jodi Hills that has accompanying accessories, such as magnets, small lipsticks, journals and cards.

### ANTHOLOGIES

University of Minnesota psychologist Martha Farrell Erickson is among 100 experts who contributed to Samantha Ettus' just-published book, "The Experts' Guide to the Baby Years: 100 Things Every Parent Should Know" (Clarkson Potter). Erickson, whose chapter is about separation anxiety, is director of the university's Irving B. Harris training programs.

Minnesota historians **Biloine (Billie) Young** and **Paul Nagel** contributed to "I Wish I'd Been There: Twenty Historians Bring to Life Dramatic Events that Changed America" (Clarkson Potter). Contributors responded to this question from Byron Hollinshead: "What is the scene or incident in American history that you would like to have witnessed — and why?" The book begins with Young's interpretation of a funeral of a chieftain in 1030 in Cahokia, a metropolis on the Mississippi.