

# Julie Maloney

Dear Friends,

Oh how I wish you a fine 2024! This past year combined the darkness with the light. I'm not sure if it has always been like this but oh how I wish us all more light. More light in the larger world. More light in our hearts and souls. Oh how I wish us a way to see more . . . to pay attention so we do not miss the light. Consider a pivot to your point of view. Look up. Look sideways. And look closer.

Happy New Year, beauties!

Love,  
Julie

Julie Maloney



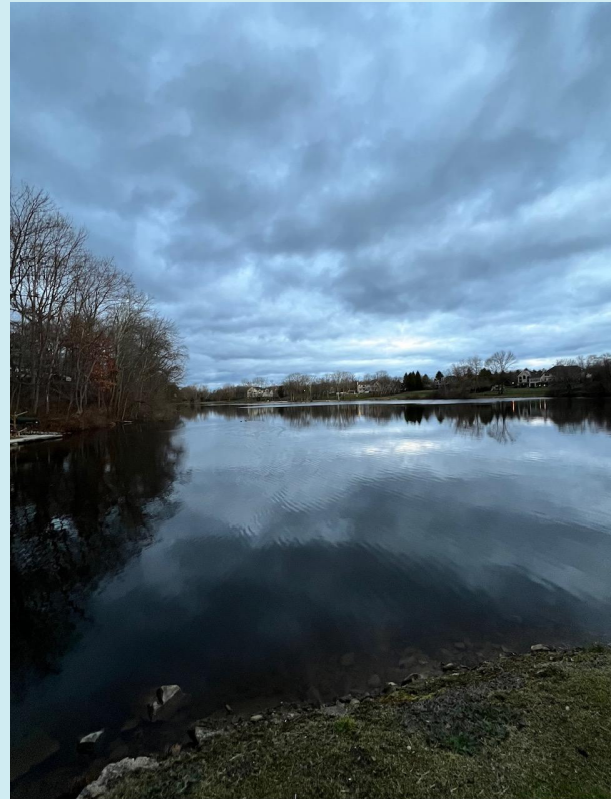


## CLOSE TO HOME OR NOT

### The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least  
sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's  
lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the  
great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with  
forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still  
water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am  
free.



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### WHAT YOU SEE COUNTS

Home - down the road  
The bench  
The garden table  
Xmas Eve-Barton Springs, TX  
A deer - down the road



"The writer is always writing, always sounding words, measuring cadences, hearing, feeling, attending to, taking the pulse of . . . secret rhythms."

--Joyce Carol Oates

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"Pay attention to what comes your way. It isn't coming anybody else's way --only yours."

--Tina Welling

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"Pivot your point of view."

--JM

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Visit: [www.womenreadingaloud.org](http://www.womenreadingaloud.org)

## Listen up!

[Listen here](#)

If you haven't heard LOREN ALLRED sing NEVER ENOUGH, listen up. She's the real voice behind the song from THE GREATEST SHOWMAN. A few years ago, she wasn't ready to show herself even as she sang brilliantly. She preferred to work behind the scenes. One day, she stepped outside and the world took notice.

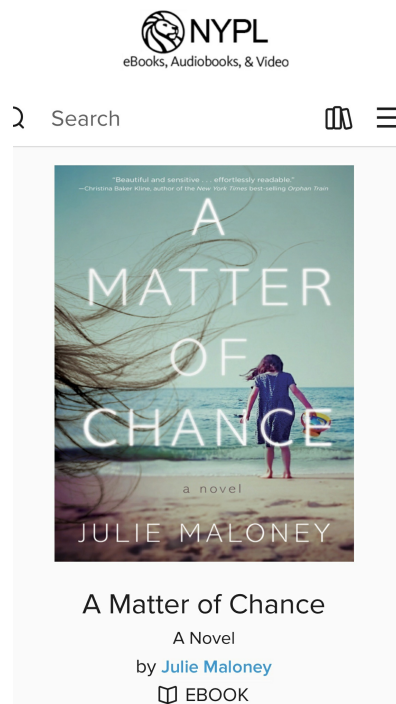
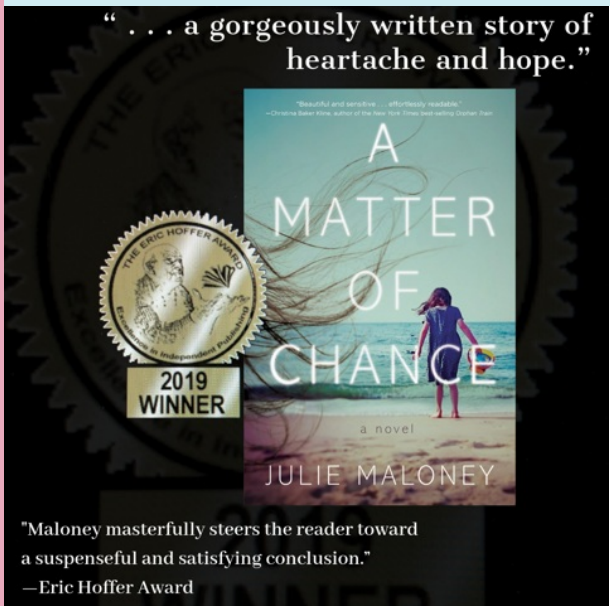
Will you step outside in 2024?





## AUDIO BOOK

I am thrilled with the narration of my audio book by Amanda Dolan. If you're pressed for time, don't stop reading. Reach for an audio book. If you prefer reading on your tablet, check out the ebook for "A Matter of Chance." Thank you, NYPublic Library.



## WHAT MOVES ME

I'm trying to keep up with everything I love.  
It's not easy when you love so much.



After I read *The Ocean At The End Of The Lane* by NEIL GAIMON, I became a life-long fan. A few weeks ago, I heard him read *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens at Town Hall in NYC. He did not disappoint.

Art rarely disappoints me. There is just so much to learn. A while back, I heard Joyce Carol Oats say how little she knew. I was shocked. I've written before about this but it still haunts me. If JCO knows so little, what do I possibly have stored in my own brain? Yet, I keep shoveling in as much as I can to help me be more than I am in this moment. When is enough enough? I have so many books to read. Books that I cannot wait to devour.

Enough is not enough when you're constantly learning and trying to be better at living. A writer is someone who writes. I am a writer. I love taking something from nothing and as the iconic author Anthony Doerr says, mix "meticulous research with imagination." Oh the joy of this--to create something from nothing. Why it is boundless!

Look at Ada Limon's first line in this poem HOW TO TRIUMPH LIKE A GIRL:

*I like the lady horses best . . .*

I am already hooked.  
And you?

" . . . Ears up, girls, ears up!"  
I want to swallow this line whole.  
And you?

Be moved more in 2024.  
Be as alive as you can be.

As one manuscript is looking to land, I'm researching the other. Historical fiction about the disappearance of my grandfather. Pictured below is my mother and her brother, my Uncle Joe. The story is huge and tragic and tender.



[Visit my website.](#)



## *How to Triumph Like a Girl*

Ada Limón, 1976

I like the lady horses best,  
how they make it all look easy,  
like running 40 miles per hour  
is as fun as taking a nap, or grass.  
I like their lady horse swagger,  
after winning. Ears up, girls, ears up!  
But mainly, let's be honest, I like  
that they're ladies. As if this big  
dangerous animal is also a part of me,  
that somewhere inside the delicate  
skin of my body, there pumps  
an 8-pound female horse heart,  
giant with power, heavy with blood.  
Don't you want to believe it?  
Don't you want to lift my shirt and see  
the huge beating genius machine  
that thinks, no, it knows,  
it's going to come in first.



## **WHAT'S IN A HUG**

Cherish a hug.  
Wherever you find it. Whenever it happens.  
Cherish a hug.

I am not a scientist but I am sure our serotonin levels rise when we hug. Our muscles relax and for a sliver of a moment, our stress drops a notch. There's a reason a

newborn baby needs *skin to skin* touch. How lovely to meet a friend and begin the visit with a hug. Don't ignore it. Don't let it pass you by. In today's world, we may have to ask, "Okay if I hug you?" That's okay. Ask.

Hugs from my grandchildren are like manna from heaven. Because they do not live near me, I savor the feeling and tuck it deep inside me so it doesn't fade. I call it up because I must. Loving is vital for me to survive. Not only receiving it but giving it. I always think there's plenty to go around, but it ebbs and flows.

Love more. Then love more again.

Get closer.

"Tell me about your life" opens the door to a new friend as well as an old friend who needs to be heard. Maybe set up a play date. I have an early breakfast date with a *forever friend* this Tuesday. Then I'll be back at my desk recharged.

Make a hug a priority.  
Everyone of us needs a hug.

Give one. Get one.

--Julie Maloney



## WE'RE WORKING



I had the pleasure of moderating a panel for the Morristown Festival of Books in NJ this past October. Hosting fab





authors Elizabeth Graver and Idra Novey speak about their new stunning novels was so stimulating. But let me tell you that when I stepped off the stage and saw some of the writers from a workshop I've been leading for a long time on Zoom, I was jumping up and down! What a surprise!

Writers make the best friends. I'm so happy to call stunning novelist Maryann McFadden my writing partner. We check in on each other almost daily. A text. A quick phone call (did I say quick) sometimes, but most importantly it is the support we give to each other. We all need a team cheering us on. Put me on your team for 2024 if you need me.



Such an honor to interview these writers at the Morristown Festival of Books. Look for this festival next fall. It's a beauty of a day.

Of course I'm walking in the rain. I'm grateful to have feet that take me up and down the road in my neighborhood and beyond . . . wherever I travel to, I'm walking. I'll be walking in the countryside in England leading a writing retreat in the late spring.

**Questions:**  
[julie@juliemaloney.net](mailto:julie@juliemaloney.net)



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## **WHAT FEEDS ME**

"I see a dream as something precariously balancing on a marshmallow. An idea grows legs and finds a heartbeat."  
--JM

It's not just the reader and the listener engaged in the book in this sculpture. It's the one legged balancing act. Did you notice? And what of the neck growing out of the arm? I want the peace of the hands clasped gently over the listener's knee. What grabs you at first sight?

Loved visiting Austin over the holidays to be with my youngest daughter and her family. All 7 of us went to this new bookstore. The friendly vibe made us happy. We browsed and bought. A bookstore is one of my top happy places.

What's your happy place?  
Don't have one?  
Find at least one in 2024!  
Go!



THE WHITE BUFFALO is by artist, Vivian Grady of MI. Along with her talented daughter, Lisa, both participated in the Greece Writer's Retreat that I led last June. Yes! A mother/daughter combination attended a writing retreat and what an experience it was to witness such love and respect they had for each other. In a recent phone conversation I had with Vivian, she explained how the image came to her in a dream. It had an earlier version but as she worked with it, it transformed.

What do you dream about?

Start at the beginning, then allow it to process and change. The journey tells the story.

My sister sent me this stunning book I hadn't heard of before: *GIRLS STANDING ON LAWNS* by Maira Salman and Daniel Handler. Printed in Italy and sold at THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART in NYC, it is a beauty. Buy it. Read it in one short sitting. Elegant and moving, you will return to it again and again. Promise.

Find a book that moves you.

Place it somewhere accessible so you can see it each day.



I love nature. Growing up in Newark, NJ, I started out as a city girl. As I've matured, I've started a surprise love affair with nature. I've discovered another JOY. I'm in love all over again. I even dance outside down the road. Landscapes do not elude me. I see them. This wild landscape is from the island of Madeira in Portugal where I will be writing in May. It will be an adventure, for sure.

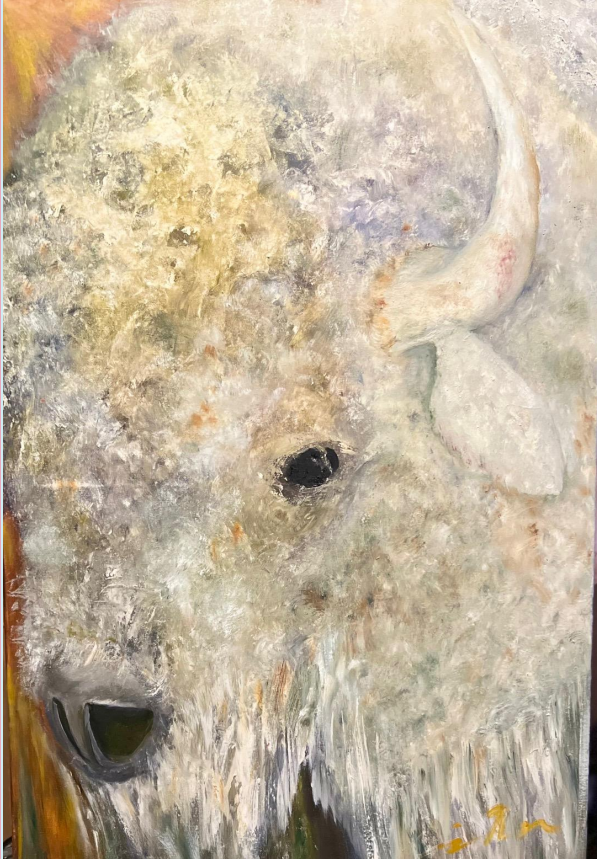
What are you doing in 2024 that will bring you out of your comfort zone?

Even if you head to a new museum or a different boardwalk at the beach, go to a different environment. Capture it with all of your senses.

Here's a list to try if you're stuck:

1. take a walk around a different park
2. eat a different donut
3. stop in at the local church or synagogue when there's no service
4. plan something - anything
5. make the first gesture
6. sit on the fire escape when it's cold
7. be kind





REST.

If at all possible, find moments to rest. It is not something I do naturally but I know it is important to listen to my body.

Check in with your body in 2024.  
Do not ignore what it's telling you.  
How do you feel?

--JM

**"The world will not beg you to make art but it needs you to make art."**

-- JM

"Writing is like being in love with ourselves and life around us."

--Tina Welling, *WRITING WILD*

**"But sometimes a long speech is called for."**

--Elizabeth George,  
*Write Away*

**REST IS NEEDED**

--JM

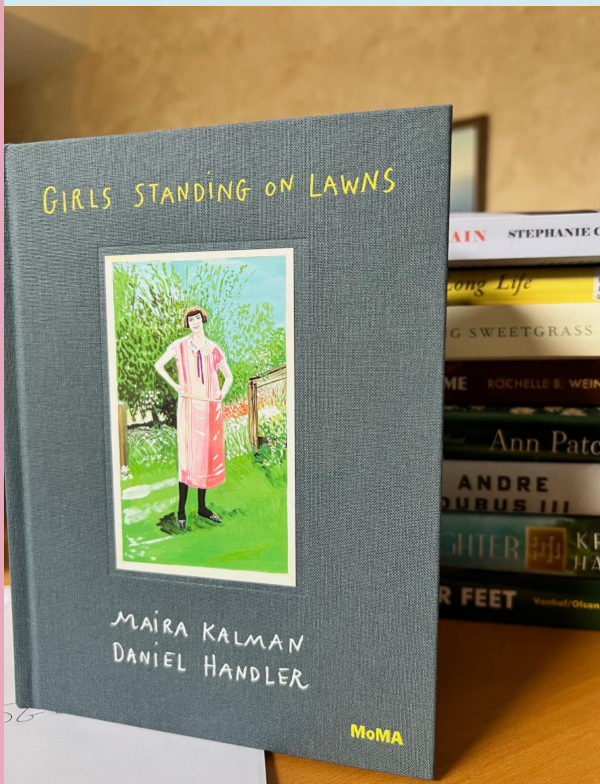
Finding a home for a new manuscript requires herculean strength. I am in the midst of this right now. My new novel is titled, "THE HORSE WITH A BLUE EYE." Keep sending positivity my way. We all need each other. It takes a village and I'm exploring this right now.

What do you need in 2024?  
Look around and reach out.  
Ask and then listen.

**WHAT'S YOUR POINT OF VIEW FOR**

**2024?** Are you willing to see things straight on or do you need time to make an adjustment? Here are a few of my grandchildren looking directly into the center of Lake Austin after several of us hiked up Mount Bonnell. I have no doubt that the children saw things differently than the adults. Try looking at something through the eyes of a child.

Tap into VULNERABILITY.  
It clears out your sinuses.







"Sometimes I feel  
I have nothing to  
say"



"Well you listen"  
said the mole, "which  
says a lot."







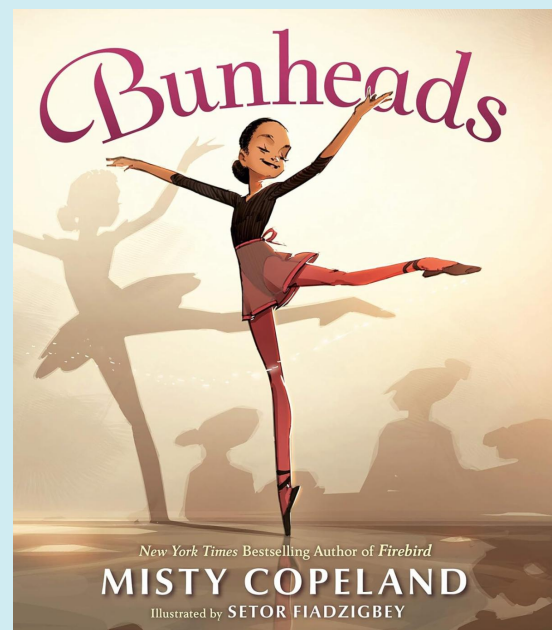
## WHAT I WANT IS DIFFERENT NOW

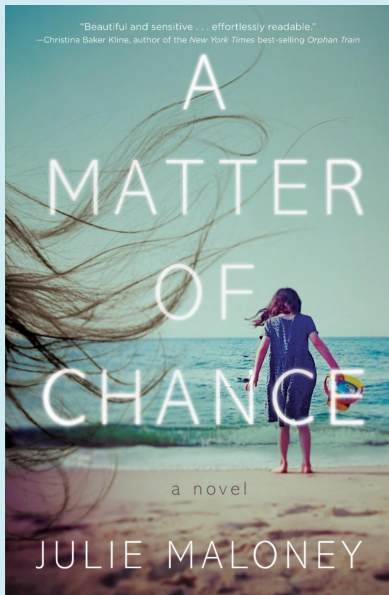
**focus, noun** - 1. a central point, as of attraction, attention or activity.

--Random House Webster's Dictionary

Visited STORM KING ART CENTER in Orange County, NY, for the first time and loved it. Self-guided walking tour is the best. Go somewhere new this year. Make 2024 a year of surprises and lessons learned.  
--JM

**So many fantastic books are published every day for children.** Here is a beautiful story inspired by spectacular prima ballerina MISTY COPELAND. Recommended for 4-8 year-olds. Take a peek: "Bunheads is an inspiring tale for anyone looking for the courage to try something new." Beautifully illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey.





## Books make perfect gifts any time of year . . .

"Beautifully written and impossible to forget."

--**Caroline Leavitt**, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Cruel Beautiful World*.

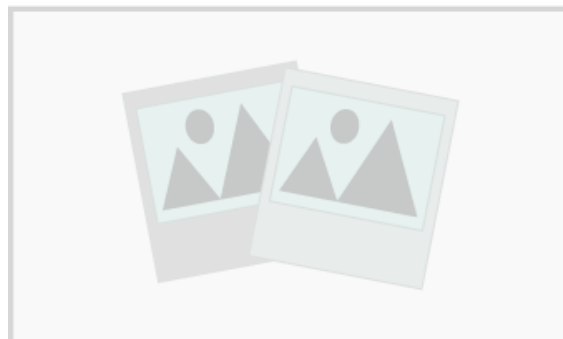
"Julie Maloney's debut novel is a remarkable, riveting journey."

--**Jacqueline Sheehan**, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Lost and Found*.

ORDER NOW!

**Julie Maloney, Author**

To learn more about the Author and the Book, please visit [www.juliemaloney.net](http://www.juliemaloney.net)





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