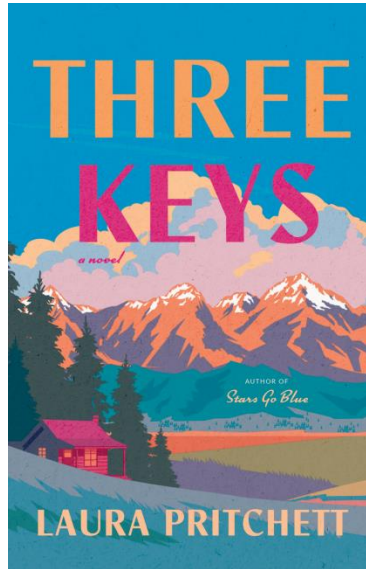


Laura Pritchett's Love of Nature Takes Many Forms Two new novels to be released in 2024

Two novels, one love of Mother Earth.

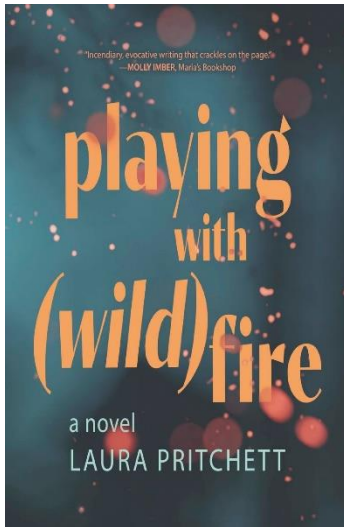
Laura Pritchett, author of five previous novels and winner of the PEN USA Award for Fiction, the Milkweed National Fiction Prize, the WILLA, the High Plains Book Award, and several Colorado Book Awards, has *two* novels coming out in 2024 (blame the pandemic!).



The two books could not be more different. *Playing with [Wild]Fire* (Torrey House, Feb 2024) is a literary work composed of experimental, boundary-blurring work, and the other, *Three Keys* (Ballantine, July 2024) is a traditional upmarket novel. But both share one important thing: The call for **environmental justice and the plea for renewed caretaking for Mother Earth.**

As with her other novels, both books are set in contemporary Colorado, though *Three Keys* also takes readers to New Mexico, Arizona, and New Zealand. A lifelong Coloradoan, Pritchett is known for championing the complex and contemporary West, giving voice to the working class, blasting apart myth and stereotypes, and hopefully “re-writing the traditional Western.”

You can reach Laura at L_pritchett@msn.com for speaking engagements. You can preorder *Playing with {Wild}Fire* [here](#) and the other will be available soon. Read on to find out more!



Evacuation orders are coming. A wildfire is bearing down. *Playing With {Wild} Fire* recounts the trauma and communal moments of a mountain town’s inhabitants as a wildfire roars their way.

Playing with experimental form in order to subvert storytelling expectations, told in polyphonic voices to inspire inclusion, and with a storyline which causes forced companionship in ways that disrupt our bifurcated country, this book plays with expectations on every level. Above all, it shows us that demolition might actually be an opportunity for renovation for the ways we choose to live on planet Earth.

Playing with {Wild}Fire recounts the days leading up to a Colorado mountain town’s evacuation from a wildfire, and is based on Pritchett’s own experience of the 2012 and 2020 fires near her hometown in northern Colorado. The book is told from multiple points of view, and is a polyphonic tale of what wildfire does to community—and how bifurcated neighbors must come together to help and heal after moments of trauma.

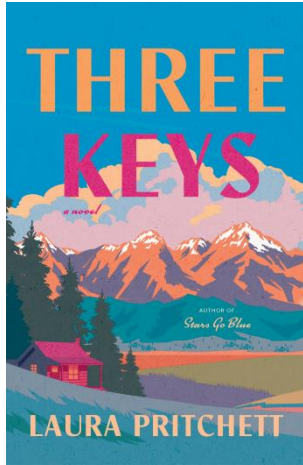
What others are saying:

“For those of us who live in the West, wildfire is no longer a distant threat but a regular companion. This novel, more than any I’ve read, captures this reality because here, as in all her work, Laura Pritchett embraces the whole of life in the Anthropocene – music, food, sex, illness, hope, motherhood, addiction, work, and more – in stories as breathtakingly true and tender as they are, yes, playful.” – Ana Maria Spagna, author of *Pushed*

“Inventive, sassy, urgent. In times when we need a different approach to so much, this novel is rich with surprises of all kinds, from start to finish.” – Alyson Hagy, author of *Scribe*

“*Playing with Wildfire* is a wise and imaginative collection . . . Pritchett’s expansive exploration of what community means in the face of climate change fueled megafires includes a cast of endearing and original characters who split apart and come together and find ways to keep living joyfully—which is, of course, the challenge we all face.” - Claire Boyles, author of *Site Fidelity*

“The broad sweeping compassion of this polyvocal novel takes my breath away. When communities experience devastation like the wildfire at the center of Laura Pritchett's newest novel, everyone experiences the same events, but in their own ways. These many modes of seeing and understanding are the realities from which we weave the story of the world. Reading Pritchett’s wise and attentive book, I entered into the heart(s) of a human and greater-than-human community that felt like my own.” — Camille T. Dungy, author of *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden*



She was looking for the right keys, but the door was always open.

Ammalie has just lost the three keys of her life’s purpose—her husband, her job, and her mom-ing role. She’s also mystified to find herself in middle-age—how exactly had *that* happened? The idea of becoming irrelevant, invisible, of letting her life vaguely slip away—well, the terror of that has her driving through Nebraska with a fork in her hair.

What she *does* have is this: Three literal keys. Keys to empty homes she plans on breaking into.

She embarks on an international and increasingly problematic journey as she seeks to find a life truly her own. And that middle-age business? As someone breaking the law, she finds there’s real benefit to being invisible, which she uses to her advantage as necessary—until she becomes the striking, bold, and very much manifested self she wants to be.

Laura Pritchett’s seventh novel is a delightful exploration of the very-serious business of living a full and honest life. Filled with heartbreak and humor, she tackles the unavoidable sorrows and joys coming of age (again) with the zest and vigor it deserves.

Author bio:

Laura Pritchett is the author of seven novels, two nonfiction books, and editor of three environmental-based anthologies. Her work has been the recipient of the PEN USA Award, the Milkweed National Fiction Prize, the WILLA, the High Plains Book Award, and several Colorado Book Awards. Known for championing the complex and contemporary West, giving voice to the working class, and “re-writing the traditional Western,” her books are always explorations of the very-serious business of living a full and honest life. Pritchett developed and directs the MFA in Nature Writing at Western Colorado University. When not writing or teaching, she’s generally found exploring the mountains of her home state of Colorado. www.laurapritchett.com

A note about the publishers:

Playing with {Wild}Fire is published by [Torrey House](#) Press, whose mission statement is “Voices for the Land.” They are the only literary, nonprofit book publisher focusing on conservation through literature in the American West.

Three Keys is published by [Ballantine](#), an imprint of Penguin Random, and is known for books defined by the intersection of quality and wide appeal.