

Myriad buys love story from Tammye Huf

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The interracial romance is inspired by the true story of Huf's great-great-grandparents

Myriad has bought the world rights to a debut novel by Tammye Huf, *A More Perfect Union*, directly from the author. Set in 1840s Ireland, New York, and pre-Civil War Virginia, the novel is an interracial love story inspired by the true story of Huf's great-great-grandparents. The novel will be published

in spring 2021.

The book follows the story of Henry, who escapes the Irish famine and sails to America. In Virginia he meets Sarah, a slave woman torn from her family and sold to another plantation. They fall in love despite interracial love being considered 'an illegal abomination', but Sarah is trapped on Jubilee Plantation, where she must navigate the power system of the white masters and the hierarchy of her fellow slaves.

Candida Lacey, publishing director, said: "This is a love story of epic proportions - a forbidden relationship that has been forged in secrecy and faces betrayal and jeopardy at every turn. Tammye Huf is a born storyteller and this is a breathtakingly exciting, heart-wrenching and extraordinarily polished debut novel. It is also a fresh look at some of the most fateful years in America's past. Tammye wears her research lightly but there is an unmistakable authenticity to the description of life on US president James Madison's Montpelier Plantation where her great-great grandparents met. She has told their story with passion, conviction and grace."

Huf met with Myriad's associate editor Anna Burt at last year's Winchester Festival. Burt said: "As soon as Tammye told me the plot of her novel, I was desperate to read it. A couple of months later she emailed the manuscript and I read it in a couple of days. I felt in such safe hands with Tammye's prose and her clear tenderness for the true story behind it. Hers is a really exciting voice and I am over the moon that Myriad will be launching her writing career."

Huf is originally from the USA before moving to Germany and then to the UK with her husband and children. She has worked as a teacher and is a copywriter and translator, and has published stories in *Diverse Voices Quarterly*, *The Forge*, *Ginosko Literary Journal*, *The Storyteller*, *Necessary Fiction*, *New Plains Review*, and *The Penmen Review*.

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