

## Remains committed to telling stories of the under-represented

# Race, power, drive: Welteroth shares all in new book

By Leanne Italie

When she was about to graduate from college, Elaine Welteroth came up with a life plan: She'd hit the top of a magazine masthead, then move into TV, books, film and beyond.

She wasn't messing around. The 32-year-old is way ahead of schedule after making firsts at Teen Vogue, both as beauty-health director and top editor, and then checking off "book" on Tuesday with the release of her memoir, "More Than Enough".

"I think I've always been an ambitious person. I had this kind of blueprint in my mind of what success would look like," Welteroth told The Associated Press ahead of the book's debut. "The thing what I didn't predict was just how fast the magazine part would happen."

In 2016, to fanfare, Welteroth was named editor in chief of Teen Vogue, making her the youngest and only the second person of African American heritage in Condé Nast's 107-year history to hold such a title. But she was only getting started, transforming the dusty property into an engaging platform



Elaine Welteroth poses for a portrait on June 5, 2019 in New York City. (AP)

for activism, inclusion, politics and social justice, and earning rock star status among young fans as she helped steer Teen Vogue into the digital age.

### Change-makers

She developed the Teen Vogue Summit, bringing together young change-makers to soak up the words of elders Hillary Clinton and Maxine Waters, along with peer idols Yara Shahidi, Rowan Blanchard and

others. "We were able to help change the way many adults think about young people, who for too long have been underestimated and thought of as the selfie generation," Welteroth said. "They are much more concerned about the issues impacting our world and how they can change them than we've ever given them credit for."

The first summit played out amid hard times for the magazine industry. Teen Vogue's print edition folded in late 2017 and Welteroth resigned soon after. Her frank retelling of those days includes some dark moments of ill health and personal frustrations for the self-avowed perfectionist and workaholic. "Burnout is real," said the small-town Northern California native, looking back on her wide-eyed era after 11 years in the media business. That includes a stop at Ebony magazine.

Still struggling with workaholic tendencies, Welteroth remains committed to telling stories of the under-represented, just as she was at Teen Vogue. Only now, she's doing it not as the youngest or the first, but with friends and acquaintances named

Ava (DuVernay), Shonda (Rhimes) and Lena (Waithe), having already earned a farewell hug and blessings from the person who took her career next level when she invited her into the "Condé Castle," Anna Wintour.

"I have this arsenal of powerful, creative black women who are excelling in their careers, and it's amazing to be alive right now. There's never been a better time to be an empowered woman," Welteroth said.

DuVernay wrote the foreword to the book, published by Viking, concluding that Welteroth's story, at least thus far, points to the value of "knowing that the bad is our choice and the good is our choice. And to work to choose the good. Every day. In every way."

Welteroth, also a judge on Bravo's rejuvenated "Project Runway", hopes to lift others as she was lifted by her mentors of color. Only now, she's not struggling to make it to the table, and she's not the first at the table. She's building her own table as a free agent.

"There's so much more to do," said Welteroth, her signature aviator glasses in place, long curls pulled back as she chatted about the future.

"Sometimes when you're a first, it's a mixed bag of sorts because it reminds you of so much more progress we have to make."

Welteroth's book takes us back to Newark, California, where she grew up working class, one of two children of a white father, Jack, and a black mother, Debra. She said her parents were committed to keeping black culture alive in their home in a predominantly white enclave skirting the southern edge of the San Francisco Bay.

### Opposed

Her parents, Welteroth said, have diametrically opposed backgrounds, Debra a child of the Baptist church and backwoods Georgia who loves singing gospel and worked as a typist, and Jack a chain-smoking, guitar-playing hippie wild child and ex-carpenter who cussed like a sailor and drank a little too much.

The mixed-race experience, Welteroth said, is an identity that goes underexplored in our culture.

"My mother and my father decided before their children were born that they were going to raise black children because it would just be easier that way, and they wanted

to make things simple for us," said Welteroth, who identifies as a black woman.

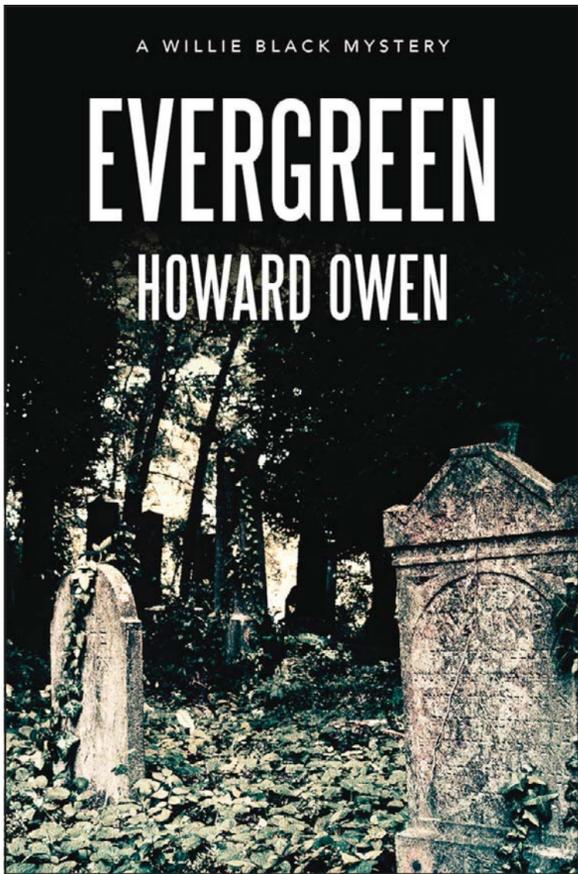
"But as children who didn't understand the nuances of race in America, when that Census card would come around every year, as a little tiny act of rebellion, my brother and I would check both black and white. We didn't understand why we would have to choose one when we are both."

Welteroth has come to embrace her biracial status as one of her "superpowers", along with an ability to empathize with and understand many world views. She also has come to realize, as a mixed-race person, "whether you acknowledge it or not, you have some measure of white privilege and therefore you will have access to certain spaces that you can operate in almost as an undercover change agent."

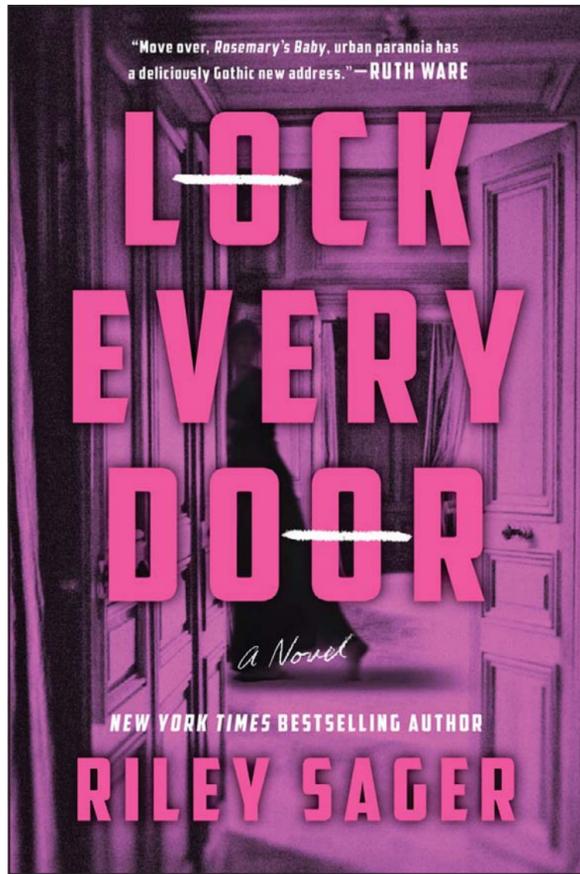
Bridging divides is part of her life plan, between black and white, beauty and politics, young and old, and especially among women.

"This book is about lighting torches," Welteroth said. "This book I hope will inspire young women to dream a little bit bigger and to support other women as you go." (AP)

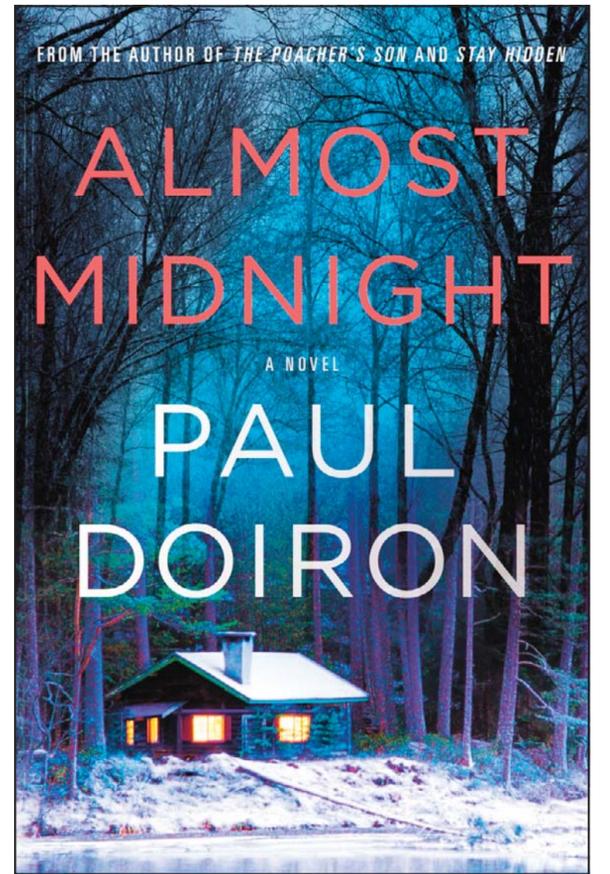
## Books



This cover image released by Permanent Press shows 'Evergreen', a release by Howard Owen. (AP)



This cover image released by Dutton shows 'Lock Every Door', a novel by Riley Sager. (AP)



This cover image released by Minotaur shows 'Almost Midnight', a novel by Paul Doiron. (AP)

## Old friends return in Doiron's 'Almost Midnight'

# 'Evergreen' is a textured, emotionally charged tale

By Bruce DeSilva

'Evergreen' by Howard Owen (Permanent Press)

When Willie Black was 15 months old, his father, Artie Lee, was killed in an apparent automobile accident. That's all Willie — police reporter for a Richmond, Virginia, newspaper — knows about his dad. He's never been curious about the man.

That changes when Willie's aunt on his father's side summons him to her deathbed. She's been tending Artie's grave in Evergreen, an abandoned cemetery, and now it's up to Willie to inherit the chore.

Readers of Howard Owen's underappreciated Willie Black novels already know that Willie's father was black, that his mother was white, and that they weren't allowed to marry in 1960s Virginia. But in "Evergreen", the eighth book in the series, they'll grow as curious as Willie about what really put Artie in his grave.

Finding out is no easy task. Willie's mother won't say and urges Willie to drop it.

Artie's old pals reminisce about his saxophone playing but clam up about his death.

The police chief says there were rumors that the car crash was no accident but has no details.

Old newspaper files are no help.

The death of a black man didn't merit a news story in 1961 Virginia.

Patiently, Willie squeezes a few minor details from townsfolk old enough to remember Artie. Each time he gets a scrap of information, he circles back, telling the witnesses what he knows and teasing out a bit more. He does this so skillfully that it is a pleasure to watch him work.

Eventually, he learns that Artie's death was connected to a Ku Klux Klan rally, a car bombing and a series of betrayals by friends and relatives who were threatened by racist police officers unless they talked. The result is a conclusion that is both wrenching and satisfying.

Readers seeking the thrills of most popular crime fiction won't find it here. Instead, they will find a textured, emotionally charged tale about coming to terms with growing up biracial in America told in the precise language of a writer who honed his craft during 44 years in the newspaper business.

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"Almost Midnight" by Paul Doiron (Minotaur)

In nine previous crime novels, Paul Doiron's protagonist, Maine game warden Mike Bowditch, has made more than his share of friends and enemies. Now, in "Almost Midnight",

two friends featured in earlier books return, and both are in desperate need of help.

One of them is Billy Cronk, an ex-soldier who's prone to paranoia, fiercely loyal, and capable of explosive violence. In an earlier book, Cronk saved Bowditch's life by shooting two gunmen, impetuously dispatching one, who already been rendered helpless, with a bullet to the head.

The other friend is Shadow, a wolf-dog hybrid that Bowditch once rescued from a couple of meth heads and briefly considered keeping as a pet before the beast broke free and fled into the woods.

The plot begins when Cronk calls Bowditch from prison, where he is doing time for that head shot. He begs Bowditch to look into the background of a prison guard but won't explain why. Chalking it up to Cronk's paranoia, Bowditch declines.

But within hours, two shiv-wielding cons ambush the guard. Cronk comes to the rescue, kills one of the attackers, and gets stabbed in the gut for his trouble.

Not long after, a game warden who patrols a mountainous territory near the Androscoggin River calls Bowditch with more bad news. Shadow has been found at a ramshackle farm, the bolt from a crossbow protruding from his torso.

Investigating the prison stabbing is a job for the state police. Because Shadow was shot outside of Bowditch's territory, that's none of his business either. But Bowditch has never been one to stand on protocol. Soon, he's racing between the shoreline, where the prison is located, and the mountains, where Shadow was found, hell-bent on figuring out what his human and canine friends have gotten themselves into.

The Cronk case proves far more complicated, involving a conspiracy that puts prisoners, prison guards and even Cronk's family in mortal peril. The Shadow case is difficult as well, hampered by a lack of cooperation from hostile mountain folk.

As usual in a Doiron novel, the characters are well drawn, the Maine landscape is vividly portrayed, and Bowditch pursues his passion to protect the innocent and bring evil doers to justice regardless personal cost.

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"Lock Every Door" by Riley Sager (Dutton)

A historical New York City apartment building complete with wealthy celebrity residents, gargoyles and a storied legacy including the setting of a best-selling book would seem to be the ideal place to call home. The

location couldn't be better, even if the stay is temporary — a three-month apartment-sitting stint, thinks Jules Larsen, the young, down-on-her-luck heroine in the deliciously frightening "Lock Every Door."

Jules can't believe that the ad for house sitter for a luxury apartment at the Bartholomew, the locale of her favorite novel. Located near the more famous Dakota and the San Remo, the Bartholomew — "a mere wisp of thing" only 13 stories tall — had its own lore. Unlike those other "behe-moths", the Bartholomew was "small, intricate, memorable."

In addition to staying in her dream apartment, the job would help Jules rebuild her life. Jobless since her company downsized and homeless since she moved out of her cheating boyfriend's apartment, Jules has been sleeping on her only friend's couch. The job would give her a place to live and pay \$12,000 for the three months, giving her time to look for employment.

The job comes with just a few rules — no visitors, ever, no spending an entire night away; no bothering the residents or gossiping about them. Seems fair, thinks Jules, who ignores that adage, if it's too good to be true, it probably is.

Faster than one can say "Rosemary's Baby", Jules begins to notice oddities in the building, strange

sounds and unusual architecture. Even the wallpaper takes on a sinister feeling. Are those really flowers or eyes watching her? News stories about mysterious deaths and rumors of hauntings are forwarded to her by a friend. Jules strikes up a friendship with another apartment sitter who disappears one night. Turns out the young woman isn't the only apartment sitter who abruptly left.

Tension accelerates with each day's stay as Jules Sager keeps the suspense grounded in reality in his third novel. The appealing Jules has an inner strength but also an acute vulnerability that stems from being alone in the world since her sister disappeared four years before, followed by her parents' death. Jules wants to belong and to have a home. She believes she has found that, however temporarily, especially when it seems the author of her favorite book takes an interest in her.

Dedicated to Ira Levin, the prophetically titled "Lock Every Door" builds to a devastating finale that is more chilling — and believable — than Rosemary giving birth to the son of Satan. Sager uses the darkening atmosphere and the tiniest thing that goes bump in the night, for the utmost terror.

As for locking every door — that may not be enough to keep out real evil. (AP)

Arabic.

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**Cancer online support group:** If you are Cancer patient or family member fighting with this deadly disease, come join our online support group. Best way of dealing with this disease is providing support and share our experience with each other. There are a lot of things which even doctors can't tell so be member of this website and start sharing your experiences which may help others.

October is recognized as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). The primary purpose is to promote self examination and screening mammography as the most effective way to save lives by detecting breast cancer at early stage. For more information visit: <http://fightingwithcancer.webs.com/>

### Latest

**Timbre Talkers meeting:** Timbre Talkers has completed almost 9 years in

Kuwait and is a dynamic and happening club with stalwarts and winners who have represented it to the Division and District levels. "Timbre" means the pitch of sound and each and every member represents a unique sounding speech which resonates as a stupendous orchestra when played together. Our Club meets every first and third Tuesdays at 7.00 pm at Better Books in Salmiya. Our members not only look forward to the innovative meetings but also to the yummy food our members

bring from home.

Do come and witness our meetings and join us for a fun-filled evening.

For details contact: Rohaina Aqueel VP PR, 66634224; Anand Pillai VP Membership 67055797

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**2019 YPP exam:** UN Secretariat Young Professionals Programme (YPP) announces application period for 2019 YPP exam. Please note that both Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic are invited

to take part this year in the 2019 YPP exam as they are un- or under-represented (for further info, visit: YPP site — English and YPP site — French).

Announcement of Application Period: YPP 2019 exams — application period is open!

The application period is open from 7 June through 21 July, 2019 (closes at 11:59 PM New York time). Please log in to [inspira.un.org](http://inspira.un.org) to view and apply to the Job Openings (JO).

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**Drinking problem?:** Friends of Bill W. are available to help. Totally confidential. Email: [rohsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rohsecretary@gmail.com)

**Narcotics Anonymous:** NA can help with addiction problems. Totally confidential: 94087800 English/