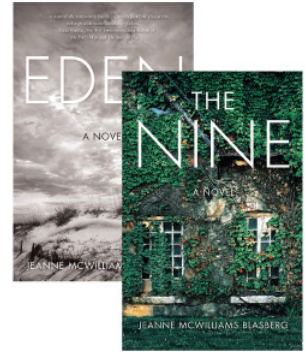


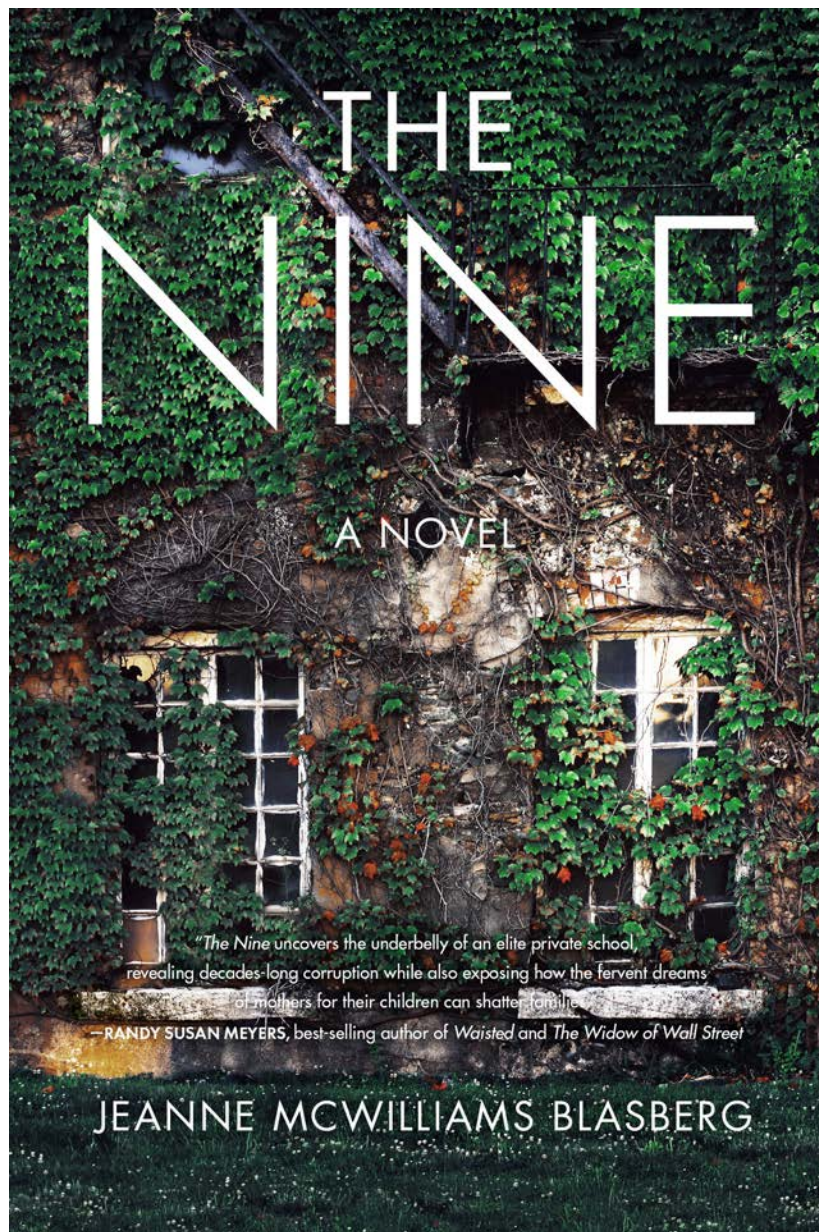


# JEANNE McWILLIAMS BLASBERG

Author of *Eden* and *The Nine*



## MEDIA KIT



BOOK

# THE NINE

*"...one of those suspenseful highly addictive novels that keeps you saying, "just one more chapter" until suddenly you've stayed up all night to finish it."* — Christopher Castellani, author of *Leading Men*

Hannah Webber fears she will never be a mother, but her prayers are finally answered when she gives birth to a son. In an era of high-stakes parenting, nurturing Sam's intellect becomes Hannah's life purpose. She invests body and soul into his development, much to the detriment of her marriage. She convinces herself, however, that Sam's acceptance at age fourteen to the most prestigious of New England boarding schools overseen by an illustrious headmaster, justifies her choices.

When he arrives at Dunning, Sam is glad to be out from under his mother's close watch. And he enjoys his newfound freedom—until, late one night, he stumbles upon evidence of sexual misconduct at the school and is unable to shake the discovery.

Both a coming-of-age novel and a portrait of an evolving mother-son relationship, *The Nine* is the story of young man who chooses to expose a corrupt world operating under its own set of rules—even if it means jeopardizing his mother's hopes and dreams.



Publisher: She Writes Press

Release Date: August 20, 2019

Paperback ISBN: 978-1631526527

Paperback Price: \$16.95

## PRAISE FOR THE NINE

“Woven throughout the disturbing, plot-driven narrative is a poignant mother-son drama... In fluid prose, Blasberg combines two tales through two alternating voices... A helicopter mom turns out to be no match for a well-funded conspiracy; engaging, with a likable young protagonist.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“*The Nine* uncovers the underbelly of an elite private school, revealing decades-long corruption, while also exposing how the fervent dreams of mothers for their children can shatter families. Jeanne Blasberg delves with unflinching precision into the chasms between parents and children, a novel revelatory for the author’s willingness to scrutinize both mother and son and their stifling bond.”

— Randy Susan Meyers, bestselling author of *The Widow of Wall Street* and *Waisted*.

“*The Nine* is one of those suspenseful, highly addictive novels that keep you saying, “just one more chapter” until suddenly you’ve stayed up all night to finish it. Hannah and Sam — the tenacious, devoted mother and her humble, endearing son — make an irresistible team as they take on the dark narcissism and systemic exploitation of an elite world that attempts to break them. I love this book’s iconoclastic impulse and its ultimate faith in the values of work over privilege, and love over loyalty.”

— Christopher Castellani, author of *Leading Men*

“*The Nine*, Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg’s eagerly awaited second novel, delivers a tightly plotted tale that taps the vein of secret terror every first-time parent harbors when sending a child on their own into the world. With devastating precision, Blasberg mines the insecurity, the denial, the projected hope and ambition of a mother singularly devoted to her only child played against revelations of dark doings at an elite prep school... That the reader ratchets back and forth between sympathy and antipathy toward Hannah’s fierce love, blinding wishfulness, and searing heartache reflects Blasberg’s skill at avoiding the easy trope of the overbearing mother. Along the way to the resolution of this complex story, the reader also keenly feels the gamut of coming-of-age wonder and pain that characterize the thoughtfully developed character of Sam. While he is a child in trouble, he turns out not to be a troubled child, a comfort to both the reader and the other characters. A painful, beautiful book.”

— Barbara Stark-Nemon, author of *Even in Darkness* and *Hard Cider*

## MORE PRAISE FOR THE NINE

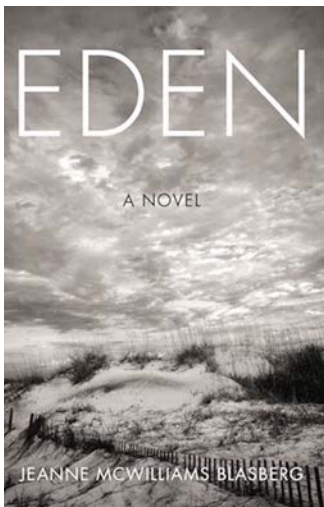
"Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg's compelling new novel, *The Nine*, is a complex and beautifully wrought tale of the sacrifices parents and children make to join the ranks of the elite, and the shocking secrets they find once they get there. It will surely be catnip for book groups—Dead Poets Society crossed with a conspiracy thriller, with a helicopter mom's midlife crisis thrown in for good measure—and it'll keep the reader turning pages as fast as she can."

— Holly LeCraw, author of *The Swimming Pool* and *The Half Brother*

"Blasberg is a wonderful storyteller... Watching misunderstandings happen between mother and son is like being unable to look away from a car crash. ...the reader feels each character's hurt as vividly as if they were in the story themselves... not a typical 'whodunnit' novel."

— Online Book Club

## PRAISE FOR EDEN



"*Eden* is not just another farewell-to-the-summer-house novel, but instead a masterfully interwoven family saga with indelible characters, unforgettable stories, and true pathos. Most impressive, there's not an ounce of fat on this excellent book."

— Anita Shreve, NYT best selling author of *The Pilot's Wife*

"Blasberg's evocative prose captures the place and atmosphere... An engrossing, character-driven family saga." — KIRKUS

"This debut novel rings with lively dialogue that vivifies the rarified ethos of a family across generations." — THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

"..a beautifully written masterpiece that takes you on a historical journey...." — BOSTON HERALD

"A stirring historical novel perfect for women's fiction fans." — BOOKLIST

## AWARDS FOR EDEN

Winner of the 2017 Beverly Hills Book Awards for New Fiction,

Winner of the 2017 Beverly Hills Book Awards for Women's Fiction, Winner of the 2018 Benjamin Franklin Silver Award for Best New Voice in Fiction, Finalist of the 2017 International Book Awards for Historical Fiction, Second Place Winner for the 2017–2018, Reader Views Literary Awards for General Fiction/Novel, Shortlisted for the 2018 Sarton Women's Book Award for Historical Fiction, Finalist for the 2018 New England Society in the City of New York Book Award for Fiction

## PRAISE FOR JEANNE

# AN ENGAGING AND ENERGETIC SPEAKER

"Jeanne was very informative and enthusiastic, though the amount of work she described was not for the faint of heart. A most useful session."

"Excellent account of one person's experience with Hybrid Publishing and what you can expect in terms of energy expended and costs."

"[Jeanne] did a nice job and managed to speak from her personal experience without making it all about her. She brought in examples of hybrid published books that were very professionally produced and, for the first time, I saw this as an option. It actually took some of the pressure off when meeting with agents."

— Muse and the Marketplace attendees

"I organized a national radio tour for Jeanne around the launch of *Eden*. She was adept at fielding interview questions in an entertaining manner for both live and taped segments. She is a high energy person who speaks with humor and honesty and I look forward to working with Jeanne again in the future."

— Terry Cater, Playback Producers, LLC

"Jeanne Blasberg is a force in both the literary world as well as the world of taking risks and "jumping" toward a passion. Her interview on the *When to Jump* podcast was captivating for our global audience because she embodies, and reflects, the honesty and authenticity that any great storyteller must possess. More importantly, Jeanne has 'walked the walk' and her lessons are both sincere and invaluable."

— Mike Lewis, author of *When to Jump* and *When to Jump Podcast*

## SEEN AND HEARD IN

Boston Common | Improper Bostonian | Boston Globe

Publisher's Weekly | theday.com | SCENE | JewishBoston | Working Mother

Boston Herald Radio | When to Jump | Hank Garner | Silverton Audio

AUTHOR

# JEANNE BLASBERG



After graduating from Smith College, Jeanne embarked on a career in finance. Even as she worked primarily with numbers, she always had an interest in writing. She made stops on Wall Street, Macy's, and Harvard Business School before turning more seriously to fiction and memoir. She has kept a journal throughout her life, eventually taking inspiration from her childhood writings to pen her first novel, *Eden*.

Jeanne is the founder of the Westerly Memoir Project as well as a board member of the Boston Book Festival. She is a student and board member of Grub Street, one of the country's pre-eminent creative writing centers where she wrote and revised her second novel, *The Nine* which will be released by She Writes Press in August 2019.

Jeanne and her husband split their time between Boston, MA and Westerly, RI. They love to travel, hike, ski, and spend time on the water. She caught the travel bug during a three-year stint in Europe. She's found that her power of observation is the strongest on foreign soil, providing ample inspiration for her personal essays and travel writing.

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