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- ★ *O: The Oprah Magazine's* "Top 20 Books to Read This Summer"
- ★ Amazon's "Best Books of 2017"
- ★ LibraryReads top ten for May
- ★ Indie Next List for June
- ★ *Library Journal's* Great First Acts
- ★ *Glamour's* "New Books for Women You're Guaranteed to Love This Summer"
- ★ *Bustle's* "The Top 17 Fiction Debuts of 2017"
- ★ *New York Post's* "This Week's Must-Read Books"
- ★ *Philadelphia Inquirer's* "16 Great Choices" for summer
- ★ Nevada Public Radio's "From the Experts: Best Summer Reads"



"Hypnotic debut" –*O: The Oprah Magazine*

"Riveting ... a movingly written, multivoiced novel examining how one tragic circumstance can sow doubt about fundamental things. ... a transporting vision of community, connection, and forgiveness."

–*Publishers Weekly* starred review

"Chancellor digs deep in these pages, unearthing broken hearts, secrets, betrayals, passion and—most impressively—grace. What a joy to find a book that is both propulsive and perfectly composed."

–Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, author of *The Nest*

Out for a hike one scorching afternoon in Sycamore, Arizona, a newcomer to town stumbles across what appear to be human remains embedded in the wall of a dry desert ravine. As news of the discovery makes its way around town, Sycamore's longtime residents fear the bones may belong to Jess Winters, the teenage girl who disappeared suddenly some eighteen years earlier. In the days it takes the authorities to make an identification, the residents rekindle stories, rumors, and recollections both painful and poignant as they revisit Jess's troubled history. In resurrecting the past, the people of Sycamore will find clarity, unexpected possibility, and a way forward for their lives.

Skillfully interweaving multiple points of view, Bryn Chancellor knowingly maps the bloodlines of a community and the indelible characters at its heart. Evocative and atmospheric, *Sycamore* is a coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a moving exploration of the elemental forces that drive human nature—desire, loneliness, grief, love, forgiveness, and hope—as witnessed through the inhabitants of one small Arizona town.



Bryn Chancellor's debut novel *Sycamore* has been hailed as "hypnotic" (*O: The Oprah Magazine*) and "a movingly written, multivoiced novel. ... a transporting vision of community, connection, and forgiveness" (*Publishers Weekly* starred review). Her story collection *When Are You Coming Home?* (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2015) won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize, and her short fiction has appeared in *Gulf Coast*, *Blackbird*, *Colorado Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Phoebe*, and elsewhere. Honors include the Poets & Writers Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award; fellowships from the North Carolina, Arizona, and Alabama state arts councils; and scholarships from the Bread Loaf and Sewanee writers conferences. A native of California raised in Arizona, she earned her M.F.A. from Vanderbilt University and is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. www.brynochancellor.com



More Reviews and Critical Praise for *Sycamore*

- * “Rich, strange, erotic. Set in Arizona’s craggy red-rock country, this hypnotic debut ... shifts nimbly between past and present and from character to character, cutting away the net of riddles that ensnares *Sycamore*’s residents.” (*O: The Oprah Magazine*, “Top 20 Books to Read this Summer”)
- * “A mystery, a coming-of-age story, and an ensemble drama are woven together in this tale of love, loss, grief...and human remains found deep in the desert.” (*Glamour*, “New Books by Women You’re Guaranteed to Love This Summer”)
- * “This masterfully written suspense will draw you in immediately.” (*Bustle*, “The 15 Best Fiction Books of May”)
- * “This quietly affecting novel builds up a picture of an ordinary teen, in an ordinary town, and how her disappearance and the very town itself have become inextricably bound in ways that speak to our ability to navigate love, betrayal, deception, desire, and secrets.” (*The Amazon Book Review*, Best Books of 2017)
- * “Chancellor’s absorbing first novel begins quietly, quickly gains momentum, and ends explosively. ... This gripping debut is a must for readers of literary fiction with an over-the-top final twist.” (*Library Journal* starred review)
- * “[A] meaty, suspenseful debut.” (*Booklist*)
- * “Chancellor ... is a patient and skillful scribe. She deftly dissects the lives of more than a dozen characters. ... With a few opening words in each chapter, we’re immersed in their worlds and the hefty burdens of their years-long emotional struggle.” (*Atlanta Journal Constitution*)
- * “Glimmers with its author’s keen understanding of lives at all ages and stages ... few of her creations can be called minor, and all are drawn with care and compassion. At once haunting and hopeful, *Sycamore* displays Chancellor’s talent across all of fiction’s realms and showcases her generosity of spirit. ... Powerful and moving.” (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)
- * “Riveting. ... a book you’ll want to read in one sitting. ... Chancellor’s narrative is brilliant, shifting back and forward in time as a variety of characters’ reveal their backstories, their relationship with Jess and what they recall about the night she disappeared. ... *Sycamore* keeps you on the edge of your seat from first page to last.” (*The Missourian*)
- * Chancellor takes time in threading the relationships between the teen and newfound friends, acquaintances and even peripheral characters who have something to say about the town and the times. ... takes readers beyond a standard whodunit and provides a more compelling take on what the experience does to the town.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*)
- * “Beautifully structured, compellingly plotted and its multi-character cast captures the yin and yang of human behavior. It is a sometimes painful saga that addresses the joys of love, the pain of betrayal and the devastation of life-altering sorrows that never fully abate.” (*New Jersey Star Ledger*)
- * “Intimate. ... It moves very well to piece the mystery together at the end.” (Nevada Public Radio, “From the Experts: Best Summer Reads”)
- * “[An] emotional and addicting debut. ... [an] unforgettable page-turner. Four and a half stars.” (*RT Book Reviews*)
- * “What’s more wonderful than a novel that keeps you up at night and haunts you through the day? That describes Bryn Chancellor’s *Sycamore*, about the discovery of a body that might belong to a vanished teenaged girl, a community pulling together and apart, and secrets.” (Caroline Leavitt, author of *Cruel Beautiful World*)
- * “Rendered with razor sharp clarity, deep empathy, and abiding grace. ... This novel hums with emotional intelligence and structural complexity, and has a big old human ache in its heart.” (Pam Houston, author of *Contents May Have Shifted*)
- * “Bryn Chancellor explores the complexities of a small-town girlhood with insight and compassion. A page-turner and a heart-breaker, *Sycamore* marks the arrival of a shining new voice.” (Tayari Jones, author of *Silver Sparrow*)
- * “*Sycamore* ... maps out the grief, the regrets, and the strength of an entire community. This is a powerful debut novel, one without flaw, and it will slay you.” (Kevin Wilson, author of *Tunneling to the Center of the Earth* and *The Family Fang*)
- * “Haunting and elegiac, Chancellor’s multivocal narrative brims with intelligence and insight, and her subtle writing poignantly illuminates the ways in which we are sometimes bound, for better and for worse, by a collective sorrow.” (Claire Vaye Watkins, author of *Gold Fame Citrus*)
- * “Weaves a suspenseful web ... With astute emotional and psychological observations, Chancellor successfully shows the power of the unknown.” (Jill McCorkle, author of *Life After Life*)