



THREE ROOMS PRESS

PUBLISHER OF CUT-THE-EDGE CREATIVE
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NO STOPPING US NOW A NOVEL LUCY JANE BLEDSOE



“A timeless and triumphant story of courage in the face of opposition, as well as a glimpse into the early days of Title IX’s implementation.”

—*Foreword Reviews* (starred review)

Award winning author Lucy Jane Bledsoe’s first young adult novel, **NO STOPPING US NOW**, is a powerful, moving story about finding one’s own voice through the joys of sports, love, and the strength of sisterhood.

Louisa loves to play basketball, but in 1974, her Portland, Oregon high school only offers a team for boys. An encounter with feminist Gloria Steinem teaches her about Title IX—the law that bans discrimination based on gender—so she asks her principal to start a girls team. Little does she know that she’ll soon be viciously targeted by male coaches at her school, lied to by the school board, and fall in love—a couple of times—as she fights for a fair chance to be an athlete. Based on the author’s true story, it is a compelling examination of the courage it takes to stand up for what’s right.

MARKETING POINTS:

- Based on author’s own story of fighting for Title IX implementation in high school
- Release date anticipates the June 23, 2022 50th Anniversary of the passage of Title IX
- Author is critically-acclaimed for her past adult, middle grade, and young adult novels
- Outreach includes outreach to national and regional media, as well as trade publications
- Significant outreach directly to women’s organizations planning events around Title IX
- Direct outreach to book clubs and youth sports organizations—particularly basketball—to promote interest among the target audience

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Lucy Jane Bledsoe has published thirteen adult, middle grade, and young adult novels. Her story collection *Lava Falls* won the Devil’s Kitchen Fiction Award; she is also a three-time finalist for the Ferro-Grumley award for LGBTQ fiction and a six-time finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for fiction. She’s been awarded a California Arts Council Fellowship in Literature, an American Library Association Stonewall Award, two Pushcart nominations, a Yaddo fellowship, and two National Science Foundation Artists & Writers in Antarctica Fellowships. Bledsoe is a writing workshop leader, with a passion for travel, basketball, storytelling, and social justice activism, and she has spent the last three years working to expand and safeguard voting rights for all. She lives in Berkeley, CA.



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COMING
SOON!
**NO STOPPING
US NOW**
ON SALE
April 26, 2022

HIGH PRAISE FOR LUCY JANE BLEDSOE AND **NO STOPPING US NOW**

"A timeless and triumphant story of courage in the face of opposition, as well as a glimpse into the early days of Title IX's implementation. Knowledgeable about, and appreciative of, the trailblazers who fought for fairness and equal opportunities for women in sports, **No Stopping Us Now** is an excellent historical novel."

Foreword Reviews (starred review)

"The cause is just, the action absorbing, the sexist flack still all too familiar."

Kirkus Reviews

"**No Stopping Us Now** reminds us of the battles fought, and won, by the first generation of Title IX athletes, those girls and women who made possible all of the opportunities female athletes have today. I guarantee you'll be rooting for Louisa as she speaks truth to power and stands up to opponents on and off the court."

Sue Macy, author, *Breaking Through: How Female Athletes Shattered Stereotypes in the Roaring Twenties*

"The characters are beautifully drawn, the story expertly plotted and moving and as a former D-I basketball player, it is close to my heart."

Mary Volmer, author of *Reliance, Illinois*

"It's tempting to say that **No Stopping Us Now** transports us back to the intense battles teen girls faced in the early years of Title IX, except that similar battles rage on today. This timeless story is a must-read for adolescents trying to find themselves and their powerful voices both personally and politically."

Sherry Boschert, author, *37 Words: Title IX and Fifty Years of Fighting Sex Discrimination*

"Fearlessly invokes a recent past we must become reacquainted with, the better to understand how far women have come and what's at stake for our rights and opportunities."

Bonnie J. Morris, women's history professor and author of *What's the Score? Twenty-Five Years of Teaching Women's Sports History*

"Lucy Bledsoe conjures up everyday sexism on the cusp of Title IX with powerful immediacy. From Shirley Chisholm and Gloria Steinem, to macrame and hip-huggers, we are solidly in 1974. Yet there's something absolutely contemporary in the way Bledsoe captures the perils, the highs, and the awkward, nonverbal jostling of high school social life. **No Stopping Us Now** takes a historic moment for women's sports and replays it in all its sweaty, visceral glory."

Alison Bechdel, author, *Fun Home* and *The Secret to Superhuman Strength*

"So many young women athletes today grow up without understanding the importance of Title IX and how hard previous generations struggled for the opportunity to participate in the sports they loved. In writing **No Stopping Us Now**, Bledsoe not only informs and entertains, she directly connects young readers to an integral part of women's sports history that should never be forgotten."

Lyndsey D'Arcangelo, sports writer; co-author, *Hail Mary: The Rise and Fall of the National Women's Football League*

"**No Stopping Us Now** is full of such heart, love and courage. A stunning and brave journey from start to finish, I loved Louisa and her bold crew of superstar athletes who rose up together to be seen, valued and heard. This is a book to be treasured, taught and shared. I want my children and students to know what it means to fight for what you believe in. To take up space, to raise your voice and most of all, to get on the court and play."

Ellen Hagan, author, *Don't Call Me a Hurricane*

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Photo: Su Evers



ABOUT LUCY JANE BLEDSOE

Lucy Jane Bledsoe has published thirteen adult, middle grade, and young adult novels. *The New York Times* says her novel *A Thin Bright Line* “triumphs as an intimate and humane evocation of day-to-day life under inhumane circumstances;” *Ms. Magazine* hails her novel *The Evolution of Love* as “fabulous feminist fiction;” her story collection *Lava Falls* won the Devil’s Kitchen Fiction Award. Bledsoe is a three-time finalist for the Ferro-Grumley award for LGBTQ fiction and a six-time finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for fiction. She’s been awarded a California Arts Council Fellowship in Literature, an American Library Association Stonewall Award, two Pushcart nominations, a Yaddo fellowship, and two National Science Foundation Artists & Writers in Antarctica Fellowships. She is one of a tiny handful of people who have done research at all three American stations in Antarctica. Bledsoe is a writing workshop leader, with a passion for travel, basketball, storytelling, and social justice activism, and she has spent the last three years working to expand and safeguard voting rights for all. She lives in Berkeley, CA.

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ABOUT THREE ROOMS PRESS

Three Rooms Press is a fiercely independent NYC-based press inspired by diversity, dada, punk, and passion since 1994. Our list includes more than 100 critically-acclaimed titles. All of our books are distributed in the US and internationally by Publishers Group West.

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Peter Carlaftes
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THE STORY BEHIND

NO STOPPING US NOW

BY LUCY JANE BLEDSOE

This is a true story based on my own experience as a 17-year-old girl in Portland, Oregon. Like my protagonist, I did indeed get invited to do an event, as the youth representative, with Gloria Steinem, and that meeting changed my life. With a group of older feminists, I began advocating for the state of Oregon to comply with Title IX. I testified at the State Legislature, to the Portland Public School Board, and organized my fellow students. My activism paid off and we won. I finally got to play basketball on a team, something I'd longed for my whole life. The true story continues from there. Our high school football coach defied his colleagues and volunteered to coach the girls' basketball team, and we went on to win the State championship—with my former nemesis trying to take credit for the win. As I write in the prologue, nearly all of the events in the novel took place as written. I've included a few personal relationships from my life a year or two after this story as well, to fill out the emotional journey.

I've been trying to find a way to tell this story for many years. When I realized that I wanted, above all else, for the story to empower girls and young women to find their joy and strength through activism and sport, I knew I had to write it as a YA novel. The recent courageous activism of the women in the WNBA, around issues of gender and racial justice, inspired me to get the book written.

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