

—Inspired by the pioneering volunteer endeavors of Hilda Cornish and the Little Rock club women and community leaders who worked diligently in the 1930s to help other women, especially the impoverished, throughout the state of Arkansas

COVERED BUTTONS

[A Novel]

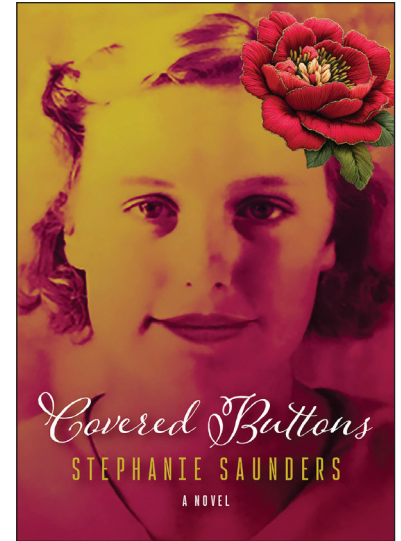
by *Stephanie Saunders*

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Macon, Georgia—"Stephanie Saunders brilliantly shakes up stereotypes of 1930s-era women from Arkansas and deftly layers her characters with complicated and rich-inner lives," says Ann Weisgarber, author of *THE PROMISE*. "Pitch-perfect and written with compassion, *COVERED BUTTONS* is a thought-provoking, unforgettable work of historical fiction that is as timely today as it was ninety years ago."

In the foothills of the Ozarks, seventeen-year-old Thea is stitched into a life she never chose. After losing her mother and best friend, and with no path forward beyond marriage and motherhood, Thea finds unexpected kinship in her unconventional stepmother and her infamous grandmother. Between a world of books and embroidery, secrets stitched in buttons, and the quiet defiance of women's care networks, Thea begins to imagine a life beyond her small Arkansas town. But when a violent betrayal shatters the illusion of love and tragedy strikes where a new family and a reunited friendship had just begun to grow, Thea must choose: remain bound by the threads of grief or step into a future of her own making.

Set in 1939 and inspired by the grassroots birth control movement in Arkansas, *COVERED BUTTONS* is a story of friendship, resistance, and the quiet revolution of women who dare to dream differently.

"Stephanie Saunders pieces together the heartache, longing, humor, and strength of these resilient Ozark women with a deft hand. The result is a glorious patchwork quilt of a novel that both dazzles and warms you."

—Michelle Collins Anderson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *THE FLOWER SISTERS*

"With clarity and grace, Stephanie Saunders chronicles the lives of women in rural Arkansas, allowing us to experience their friendships, losses, and courage in the face of brutal poverty. Rooted in history, *COVERED BUTTONS*, deftly explores the underground birth control movement of the 1930s and the dauntless women at its center." —Frances de Pontes Peebles, author of *THE SEAMSTRESS*

"It's refreshing to read an Ozarks historical novel in which 'women's work'—sewing, quilting, tending the sick and the dead—takes front and center in the story and is integrated into the larger social issues of the time. *COVERED BUTTONS* takes the parts of life that are often overlooked and focuses our attention on them, finding drama and significance in unexpected places."

—Steve Wiegenstein, author of *SCATTERED LIGHTS*



Arkansas native **Stephanie Saunders** is associate professor of Spanish and director of the Honors Fellows Program at Lyon College. Author of *FASHION, GENDER, AND AGENCY IN LATIN AMERICAN AND SPANISH LITERATURE*, she is also coeditor of *THE NEW LATIN AMERICAN FASHION READER*.

Author photo: Giuseppe Pandolfi-de-Rinaldis

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