

*Antoinette
and Her Friends
Resist*

Antoinette and Her Friends Resist



Stephanie C. Fox



Bloomfield, Connecticut, U.S.A.

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*Dolls represent us.
They do what we want to do.
Perhaps they can show us how to make a
better world a reality.*

This book is for people who care about democracy.

That means protecting female bodily autonomy.

*We must all work to beat back fascism and
misogyny if we hope to have a healthy political
system, civil society, economy, and ecosystem.*

For independent women.

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The Situation

Antoinette was angry, and she had a plan.
She wouldn't bury the lede: women were dying.
The law had been weaponized against them to
take away reproductive rights and access to the
reproductive healthcare that goes with that,
particularly abortion.



Actually, Antoinette was furious.
She had plenty of company, both with her friends
and with complete strangers around the planet.
This was the situation:

The previous November, Antoinette had given a
concert on Election Day. It dealt with a crucial
national question: would we come out of the polls
with a woman who worked all her life as an attorney
and a politician to uphold democracy and help
others, or would a bully return to the White House?

The bully had won.

Antoinette had coined a name for him: Herr Pumpkingropenfuhrer.

This moniker covered his fascist tendencies, his orange visage, and his criminal dealings with women.

That was just the beginning of the explanation for Antoinette's anger, because it wasn't simply that the candidate she had voted for hadn't won the election. It was much worse than that.

The bully was making this a revenge presidency.

There were currently more than 8.2 billion people living on the Earth. That was a lot of people to either get along with or offend, to help or hurt.

Hurting people is never productive for anyone.

Herr Pumpkingropenfuhrer was breaking laws, ignoring laws, and ordering the prosecution of anyone who had ever challenged him, both personally and during his previous term.

This time, he had staffed his administration with like-minded sycophants who consistently flattered him and did his bidding.

That meant doing things that, for the attorneys, would have gotten them disbarred in a properly functioning democracy. For all them, it could have meant prison.

They were religious nationalist fascists, and their isolationist policies had already racked up a huge national debt in just a few months.

Meanwhile, taking advantage of the groundwork laid during the bully's previous presidency, state attorneys general and legislators were waging war on women's reproductive health.

Many state legislatures had banned abortion at every stage of pregnancy, including before a woman could know that she was pregnant. They were criminalizing miscarriages, surveilling women and their physicians, and prosecuting them.

Antoinette wasn't alone with her fury; with her friends, Lilith, Ileandra, Manon, Mallory, Jasvinder, Nichelle, and Willow, they were eight dolls.

They were angry that a selfish, obtuse, and deliberately stupid bully was back to do as much damage he could. He was assiduously breaking the institutions of government.

That bully had been voted out of office after one term, and four years of competent leadership and respect for democracy had ensued.

Another politician -a decent man with a law degree – had worked to undo the damage he had done to our nation's standing in the international community, to our environmental laws, and our sense of democracy and the rule of law.

But the bully, after spending those intervening years being prosecuted for crimes and fraud, and convicted of rape in a civil court, was voted back in.

He had lied to the voters, promising to “only be a dictator for a day.” Enough of them believed him to vote him back into office.

Dictators never revert to being democratic, no matter what they say otherwise, but enough voters had fallen for it to vote him back into office.

Herr Pumpkingropenfuhrer had a colossal sense of entitlement, he cared only for his own self-aggrandizement, and he displayed signs of dementia.

He scolded any journalist who dared to challenge him with a question, then banned them from government premises.

He couldn't abide the slightest criticism from anyone, not even late-night comedians. He was the equivalent of a king who could neither cope with nor accept jokes from a court jester.

He ignored his oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

In short, Herr Pumpkingropenfuhrer was a fascist dictator, and he was doing his best to murder democracy in the United States of America.

The fascists had a slogan that was worn on red caps, tee shirts, and emblazoned on signs and bumper stickers:

Make America Great Again.

But America was already great, just not in their view. America was a melting pot of people, cultures, cuisines, skills, etc.

The fascist slogan needed a slight revision:

Make America Grate Again.

The credit for that quip went to Antoinette's father, with whom she watched MSNBC and CNN's news reports with disgust.

Liberty, justice, equality...it was getting more and more inclusive of all citizens, so that people of all races, creeds, backgrounds, of both sexes, and whatever sexual preference would have access to education, work, and other opportunities.

Many white males saw their group's dominance in the nation shrinking as other people gained access,

and they were angry. They wanted to roll the clock back on all that.

So, one of them wrote Agenda 2025, named for the year that the orange fascist was projected to return to power for a second term as president of the United States.

Agenda 2025 attacks liberal intellectual academic policies, voting rights, reproductive rights, access to books and other written material that wasn't in line with fascism and authoritarianism: gay rights in art and entertainment, transgender people in the military, women in the military, and many other things exhibited by a diverse, free, civil society.

To enforce this, the author of Agenda 2025 had been put in charge of handling the nation's budget.

The nation was as divided, as it had been before the Civil War of 1861-1865. That division had been about slavery. The current conflict was between those who wanted democracy and those who felt overlooked by it.

Antoinette, meanwhile, has realized that she was not powerless to fight back. She was personally wealthy, and had not tied up all of her money in the stock market, or even the bulk of it. It was available for a fight, and with her friends, she was well-equipped and determined to resist.

The Dolls

Antoinette Frances de Sauvelle

This is Antoinette.



Antoinette is a virtuoso concert violinist, a composer, a conductor, and a soprano opera singer who graduated from the Julliard School of Music in New York City. She also studied at the Curtis School of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Her violin was made by luthier Antonio Stradivarius in the 1680s.

Antoinette keeps smiling, ready to please her listeners. Because she is on the autism spectrum, she does not always make eye contact. Nevertheless, she makes sure to do that when she is done speaking, singing, or playing.

She has an extensive wardrobe, as her profession necessitates attention to sartorial details. Her couturière is happy to make her dresses and other outfits. Stephanie C. Fox designs and sews everything for Antoinette and her friends – and with pockets, because women’s clothing should always have them.

Antoinette gives concerts around the United States and in other nations. Her concerts often have a theme: herstory (women’s history!), ecosystems and environmental protection, holidays, politics and current events.

She divides her personal time between Avon, Connecticut, where she has a house near her family, and New York City, where she has an apartment.

Her net worth, which is over \$40 million, has taken on an importance beyond that of simply taking care of herself and those she loves, because Antoinette has made up her mind to fight fascism – particularly over women’s reproductive autonomy.

She will be funding a resistance effort that shall include the participation of her friends.

They are looking forward to it.

Lilith Hermione Wandcraft, Esquire

This is Lilith Hermione Wandcraft.



Lilith is a witch, a lawyer, and a politician.

She grew up in Washington, D.C. and New York City. Lilith graduated from New York University and the Georgetown University Law Center.

She has a concerned expression because she has plenty to be worried about.

Lilith just left a post that ended with the election of a fascist president.

For 4 years, she worked for a decent, law-respecting, democratic-minded president of the United States, as a member of the Cabinet, in a secret post: Secretary of Magic. She carried sensitive and top-secret documents that required a secure transport.

She also met with her counterparts at state and local levels at home, and internationally.

Lilith enjoyed that job because it gave her a chance to make a difference in the world.

All that is over now, and although it is normal in the United States for the personnel of a presidential administration to be replaced when a new one is elected, what is happening now is not.

Therefore, Lilith will be working with her close friend Antoinette to help resist the radical fascist takeover of her country.

The dolls will need Lilith's legal advice in order to carry out their plan to maintain female bodily autonomy in the face of a pandemic of anti-abortion policies.

It's a legal hellscape, and Lilith is determined to fight it.

Ileandra

This is Ileandra.



Ileandra is a botanist from a planet that is light-years away from Earth, elsewhere in our Milky Way galaxy.

Don't ask me her middle or last name. They are too difficult for a human to pronounce, and she hasn't spelled either one for me.

Ileandra's huge eyes evolved due to a nocturnal work pattern. Her planet's ecosystem is severely depleted. Millennia ago, its climate changed drastically due to overconsumption of resources, making most regions very hot – too hot to work outside during the day.

Because that damage was inflicted millennia ago, by her people's ancestors, few plants and insects thrive there. Food is scarce. And it is too hot to work outside during the day.

Ileandra has traveled to our planet to collect samples of as many plants as she can, to take them home with her. She will then work to make them thrive in greenhouses and ultimately outside, in the ecosystem, to provide more nutritious food for her people to eat.

Ileandra has visited Antoinette and Lilith before, and she is back to collect more plants.

Her favorite fruit, after all that she has found on Earth, is still the strawberry, though she is always ready to try others.

Ileandra is very interested in the people of Earth, because they are following the same self-destructive pattern that her own people did eons ago. It is sad to watch, but she can't stop herself from doing so.

Watching it all feels like watching a slow-moving vehicle crash with devastating, maiming injuries.

Mallory Miranda Moonmist, M.D.

This is Mallory.



Mallory is a witch and a gynecologist.

Mallory grew up in Salem, Massachusetts, and met Lilith each summer from age 10 through high school as they attended the Salem School for Witchcraft, which was a summer program there.

Mallory's favorite subject in witch school was potions, while Lilith preferred fighting the dark arts – fitting choices considering their future non-magic professions!

Because Lilith was not from the area, she would stay with Mallory and her family each summer, thus ingraining a life-long friendship.

Later, Mallory did her pre-medical studies (with minors in political science and women's studies) at Columbia University. Antoinette met her eating lunch at a Le Pain Quotidien, was introduced to Lilith later on, and from there, their friendships grew.

At Harvard Medical School, Mallory knew she wanted to become a gynecologist. She worked hard and on matching day, which is when soon-to-be-graduates find out where they will do their residencies, she found out that she would be at the Brigham and Women's Hospital next.

From there, she decided that home is best, and joined a medical practice in the Boston area. Eventually, she established her own practice in Salem, Massachusetts, and she donates her services to migrant women and low-income women.

No one should have to live with ruined health or a forced pregnancy – or die – due a law that dictates that. This situation arose in the past few years, due to the orange fascist. Mallory came of age with the ruling of *Roe v. Wade* in place, and now it is gone.

Mallory is able to deliver a proper standard of care to her local patients, but she is not satisfied with that. What about women in other states?!

Manon Vianne Poirier

This is Manon.



Manon is an art historian and curator.

Manon is Belgian and French; her father grows pears in the Flemish Brabant region of Belgium, and her mother is from Paris, France. She grew up traveling between both places, enjoying all that each has to offer in art and culture.

She is a graduate of the Sorbonne in Paris, where she studied art history and ancient texts. She surprised her family after that by announcing her intention to study in the United States, where she completed her M.A. in Museum Studies, History Track, at Cooperstown, New York, followed by a Ph.D. in Preservation Studies at The Winterthur/University of Delaware.

She divides her time between Paris and New York City, working at the Louvre and Christie's Auction House.

Manon has had an H-1B visa to work in the United States for many years. It is for specialty occupations, which includes work as a curator.

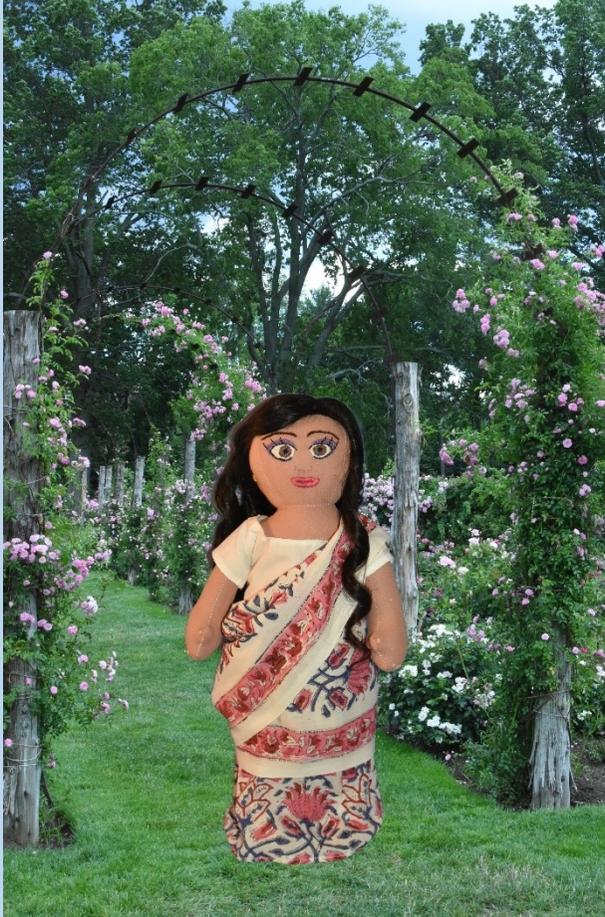
However, she is applying for permanent United States citizenship. She can do that without giving up her French and Belgian citizenships. This is more about personal and employment security than love of America, unfortunately.

If America were still functioning as a healthy democracy, Manon would be looking forward to being a member of that as well, but instead, she is focused more on protecting herself. If she has any healthcare needs that feel threatened or insecure, she will go back to France to deal with them.

Manon has an American fiancé from whom she does not want to be blocked by any isolationist political agenda. He works as a restaurateur, running his own French-Indian fusion establishment in Manhattan. He is applying for French citizenship so he can open a location in Paris.

Jasvinder Lakshmi Shivdasani

This is Jasvinder.



Jasvinder is an internationally acclaimed sitar player and singer.

She is from India, and she appears in many Bollywood movies, so she lives in Mumbai.

However, she travels internationally to give concerts, which is how she met Antoinette.

They first met during a term at the Juilliard School in New York City, where they participated in some group performances. This is a crucial part of the musical education offered at the Juilliard School.

Jasvinder has studied the sitar in India with the renowned Anoushka Shankar at the Shankar Mahadevan Academy and the Madras Music Academy before going to work as a professional sitarist.

She lives with her family and enjoys cooking traditional Indian foods, including Hindu and Sikh cuisine favorites with her sister, who is a practitioner of Ayurvedic medicine.

When she is not away giving concerts or practicing on her sitar, Jasvinder loves to go with her sister to shop for spices, mangoes, and other fresh ingredients.

The family garden is full of herbs and her favorite flowers, jasmine and lotus. The lotus is the national flower of India, and it grows in a small pond in their yard – mostly white and pink.

Jasvinder is very politically aware and well-informed. She is concerned about climate change, as the increase in temperatures is felt with particular intensity in her country.

Another issue that concerns her deeply is human overpopulation, a thing that she has in common with Antoinette. India's population has surpassed that of China recently, and is currently at 1.4 billion...the highest count of any nation on Earth.

Nichelle Ida Belle, D.V.M., Ph.D.

This is Nichelle.



Nichelle is a veterinary marine biologist.

She grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she graduated from the prestigious Catholic school for Black girls, St. Mary's Academy. She was then accepted to college and graduate school at Tulane University, where she ended up on the faculty. This fit in perfectly with her career plans and intention of remaining near her family.

However, for veterinary school, she had to leave the state. She graduated from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville, which offers the chance to do clinical work with stranded marine life.

Nichelle loves living in New Orleans for several reasons: the Creole and Cajun food, the music and Mardi Gras festivals, the history and historic sites of the city, and the warm climate. She hates the cold. Her small apartment is located in the French Quarter, with a balcony overlooking the street.

Her work as a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology keeps her busy traveling whenever she is not teaching. A typical academic year has her teaching a cohort of graduate students who are working toward doctorates in marine biology while giving lectures and visiting aquariums.

Nichelle tends to think of aquariums as marine creature prisons. Nevertheless, she visits the inmates to provide them with veterinary care, graduate students in tow.

During the summer months, Nichelle will go out on her research boat, the *Yemoja*, with several of her graduate students. She likes to scuba dive in the Caribbean Sea and look for sea turtles. Plastic pollution is an ever-present health risk to marine life, and she tries to help the turtles as often as she can.

She loves other sea and aquatic creatures, particularly otters, but she doesn't have to go out to sea to find them. They prefer the estuary of the Mississippi River, including Lake Pontchartrain.

Willow Ophelie Noyer, C.P.A.

This is Willow.



Willow is an accountant and art history enthusiast.

She is Québécoise. That means that she is Canadian, a native French speaker, and that she is from the province of Québec.

She grew up in Québec City, in the Frontenac Hotel, which looks a lot like a French chateau. It

dominates the city skyline, towering over the historic district from a hill that overlooks the city.

Willow had the run of that hotel as a child, watching the guests. She loved listening to them interact with each other, and hearing them describe their travels and careers. It made her realize that she didn't want to be a hotelier, like her parents.

Willow attended the prestigious McGill University in Montreal, where she majored in accounting and art history. Known as Canada's Cultural Capital, that city was a wonderful place for an art lover, with an annual fireworks festival, a symphony orchestra, and several film festivals.

After that, she went to Providence, Rhode Island for her training as a travel agent, where she enjoyed visiting the art museum at the Rhode Island School of Design. She graduated from Johnson & Wales University with an M.S. in Economic and Sustainable Global Tourism Development.

With her credentials, Willow found work as a travel agent for a company that focuses on garden tourism, called Friendship Tours, in central Connecticut.

It was after a concert that Willow attended in the Sunken Garden of the Hill–Stead Museum in Farmington, Connecticut that she met Antoinette. They chatted, and Antoinette found out that Willow was ready for another challenge: that of overseeing the logistics of her travels while managing her finances.

She was hired on the spot, and the two have been enjoying working together ever since.