**PRESS RELEASE**

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**EMILY & VIRGINIA**

**A NOVEL**

**BY**

**ROBERT MCDOWELL**

“An extraordinary novel! Robert McDowell’s book is deeply intelligent, devoted, poetic and timeless, a fantasy so real you can taste it. Woven from meticulous research of the mind and heart, this meeting of Emily Dickinson and Virginia Woolf is a gem. McDowell knows these women, two brilliant artists, each “irreverent, a pistol painfully shy.”

--Barbara Dana, author of *A Voice of Her Own: Becoming Emily Dickinson* and *Young Joan*

Readers in the know will notice that Robert McDowell’s novel, *Emily & Virginia,* follows the structure of Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*, but the story is utterly new.

Woolf and Emily Dickinson team up in this evolved magical realism tale to journey from the Afterlife to Ashland, Oregon in 2021. Their goal is to guide 25-year-old Lily Ramsay, Manga artist, through her coming-of-age crises and save her from the terrifying De la Nuit, dark agents from the Other World who intend to do her eternal harm.

Woolf and Dickinson become Lily’s eccentric ‘aunts’, protecting and mentoring her in life, work and love. The dynamic between the iconic writers will charm and delight readers who already love them, delivering on a divine pairing that until now one could only dream of.

McDowell excels at evoking the voices and physical presences of Woolf and Dickinson as they defend and support their young charges, battle Afterlife enemies and become matchmakers for Lily and the young man she meets (who happens to have a ‘thing’ for Virginia’s sister, the painter Vanessa Bell). Emily’s sister, Lavinia, Vanessa and other members of the Bloomsbury group appear in this tale, aiding their Afterlife cohorts in their project. Readers may especially appreciate the appearance of Leonard Woolf and his pet monkey, Mitz.

Virginia Woolf was four-years-old in 1886 when Emily Dickinson died. The two never met…until now. McDowell delivers one of the most satisfying, unexpected and entertaining team-ups of literary stars in the history of American and English literature.

*Emily & Virginia* is a love letter to these two amazing women and a compelling coming-of-age tale of a talented artist from a new, now generation.

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**Emily & Virginia by Robert McDowell • July 21, 2021 •**

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