



October 2019

Dear Reader,

I am thrilled to welcome you to Catherine House. Blending the gothic elements of beloved classics like *Rebecca*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Wuthering Heights* with a sexy, modern suspense edge, and distinguished by a singular voice, this literary debut is the perfect page-turner for next summer. Set within an elite university buried deep in the woods and behind a large, locked iron gate, *Catherine House* is an irresistible combination of cinematic storytelling and haunting atmosphere with a decidedly feminist bent.

It also marks the debut of an extraordinary new writer. Elisabeth Thomas possesses a bold imagination, and fierce, elegant style, along with a true reverence for the female pioneers of gothic literature. With *Catherine House*, Elisabeth set out to write the kind of story she'd loved as a young girl: a tale of surreal intrigue and dark secrets; daring damsels trapped in ghostly, intricate manors. She then brilliantly recast these elements for a new generation, with her pitch-perfect mix of realism and horror, an elite-campus setting, and all led by a supremely modern heroine—and I promise you, Ines Murillo is no virginal maiden; she is dangerous, curious, and deeply rebellious. She is also our way into the vivid and rarefied world of Catherine.

And the house itself might be one of the novel's most captivating characters; dark and dusty and oh-so-gothic, Catherine is a crumbling and isolated institution, almost castle-like in its splendor, and populated by an incredibly diverse cast. This was particularly important to Elisabeth, who grew up in a rapidly gentrifying Brooklyn neighborhood; she was one of only a few black students at her private school, and yet the world around her seemed diverse in a way she rarely saw reflected in her classroom or favorite novels. Elisabeth later studied at Yale University, where she was a member of one of their elusive secret societies, and now works as an archivist at The Museum of Modern Art—so, as you might imagine, she has an abiding interest in powerful institutions (and their secrets).

Part mystery, part gothic horror, part story of a young woman in search of meaning and a sense of belonging in the world, *Catherine House* is so delicious, so twisty and immersive . . . I swear, you may never want to leave.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Williams
Executive Editor

Jessica.Williams@harpercollins.com