

An *Oprah Daily* Best Book of 2023 • One of the *Globe and Mail*'s Most Anticipated Titles of 2023 • Listed in CBC Books Fiction to Read in Fall 2023 • A *49th Shelf* Fall Book To Put On Your List

During the hottest summer on record, Bea's dangerous new hobby puts everyone's sense of security to the test.

Forty-nine and sweating through the hottest summer on record, Beatrice Billings is rudderless: her marriage is stale, her son communicates solely through cryptic text messages, her mother has dementia, and she conducts endless arguments with her older sister in her head. Toronto feels like an inadequately air-conditioned museum of its former self, and the same could be said of her life. She dreams of the past, her days as a newlywed, a new mom, a new homeowner gutting the kitchen—now the only novel experience that looms is the threat of divorce.

Everything changes when she googles “escape” and discovers the world of amateur lock-picking. Breaking into houses is thrilling: she's subtle and discreet, never greedy, but as her curiosity about other people's lives becomes a dangerous compulsion and the entire city feels a few degrees from boiling over, she realizes she must turn her guilty analysis on herself. A searingly insightful rendering of midlife among the anxieties of the early twenty-first century, *Breaking and Entering* is an exacting look at the fragility of all the things we take on faith.