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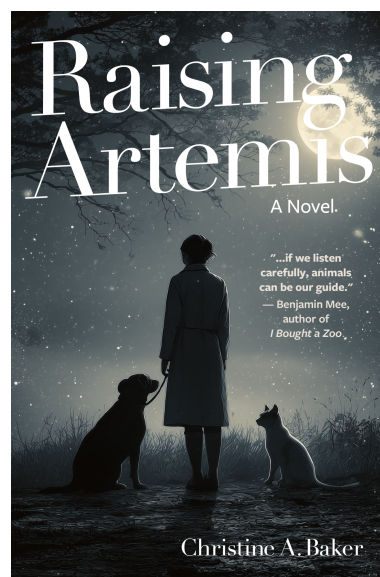
A moving debut novel about healing, reinvention and the extraordinary bond between humans and animals

“...For every pet parent who has ever wondered if their beloved companions still linger close, this book leans into the truth we feel in our bones: they do.”

Clinton, CT: Award-winning writer Christine Baker has spent her career exploring stories of resilience, reinvention, and the relationships that shape who we become. Inspired in part by her own experiences navigating profound personal loss—including surviving 9/11 and rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy—Baker turned to the enduring bond between humans and animals as the foundation for her debut novel, **“Raising Artemis”** (Roundfire Books, December 8, 2026).

“This is a story about how animals enhance us, and how the animals we choose to share our lives with become part of us.”

*– Benjamin Mee, bestselling author of We Bought a Zoo,
adapted into the film starring Matt Damon*



After a COVID-era breakdown forces Dr. Artemis Niche to leave medicine, she discovers that healing doesn't always happen in hospitals. After leaving medicine, Artemis is drawn to a struggling animal shelter where the creatures in her care begin reshaping her understanding of grief, love, and purpose. As she transforms the small shelter into a sanctuary, she slowly learns to forgive herself — and discovers the life she was always meant to live. She's encouraged to adopt a kitten, setting her on an unexpected journey guided by beloved animals, both living and departed. Narrated by Lucy, her beloved cat speaking from beyond, *Raising Artemis* is a luminous novel about healing, and the extraordinary ways animals guide us home.

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“Raising Artemis”

Christine Baker | December 8, 2026 | Roundfire Books | Magical Realism

Paperback | 978-1-80695-010-2 | \$23.95 US

Ebook | 978-1-80695-011-9 | \$9.99

Early Praise for “Raising Artemis”

“This is a story about how animals enhance us, and how the animals we choose to share our lives with become part of us. Animals understand the truly fundamental things about life, the world, and the Universe around us. And if we listen carefully, animals can be our guide.”

– Benjamin Mee, Author of “I Bought a Zoo”

“This magical book had me from the start. The voice of Lucy the cat captures all I believe — and more — about our connection with the animals who come into our lives as teachers, soulmates.”

– Elena Mannes, Author of “Soul Dog”

“‘Raising Artemis’ is, at its core, a story about the kind of grief that rearranges an existence — the quiet, brutal, raw grief of the loss of loved animals who were witnesses to a soul throughout the various chapters of life.”

– Coleen A. Ellis, CT, CPLP, Pet Loss Pioneer, Author & Speaker





More about Christine Baker



Christine Baker is an award-winning storyteller, speaker, and lifelong animal lover. Her writing explores the quiet magic woven into everyday life — the resilience we discover in loss, and the extraordinary ways animals shape our journeys.

She is the author of “Why She Plays: The World of Women’s Basketball” (University of Nebraska Press, 2008), a groundbreaking book that gives voice to female athletes and celebrates their passion for the game. Her work has earned recognition including the Wesleyan University Rulewater Prize and Mount Saint Mary College Distinguished Alumni Award, and

she has received multiple screenplay honors including being named a Sundance Screenwriters Institute Top 10 Finalist. As a screenwriter, her scripts have garnered festival selections and industry acclaim.

Christine lives in Connecticut, where she can be found tending her garden, walking along the shoreline, or sharing her home with animals who always seem to have the last word. Find out more about them at her [website](#).

Join The Artemis Circle

For readers who believe animals don’t just comfort us — they guide us. The Artemis Circle is a quiet gathering place for readers who feel the sacred bond between humans and animals.

You’ll receive private letters, early event access, and reflections on grief, purpose, and the mysterious ways animals guide us home.

No noise. No politics. Just story and connection. <https://www.raisingartemis.com/>

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In an interview, Christine Baker can discuss:

- Why stories of healing, reinvention and second chances resonate so deeply in today's world.
- How surviving 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy shaped her understanding of resilience and influenced the emotional heart of “Raising Artemis”.
- The extraordinary bond between humans and animals, and what our animal companions can teach us about love, loss, resilience and hope.
- Why physician burnout, identity and finding purpose after profound loss became central themes in “Raising Artemis”.
- The journey from award-winning screenwriter and sports nonfiction author to writing the novel she calls "the most important book I've ever written."

An Interview with Christine Baker

- 1. You’ve written screenplays and published a nonfiction book about women’s basketball, yet you call “Raising Artemis” “the most important book I’ve ever had to write.” Why was it important to you to tell this story, at this moment?**

I've reinvented my own career several times over the years—from higher education marketing and public relations to consulting, ghostwriting, web design, screenwriting, and nonfiction. In many ways, each chapter was a step toward creating the life that would eventually allow me to write the stories I was always meant to tell. “Raising Artemis” began as a deeply personal exploration of how animals have shaped my own life, but it evolved into something much bigger: a novel about healing, purpose, and the courage to embrace a new identity when life asks us to begin again. That's why it feels like the most important book I've ever written.

- 2. What role can animals play in helping us heal from grief, burnout and major life transitions?**

I don't think animals solve our problems, but I do believe they help carry us through them. They have an extraordinary way of grounding us in the present moment, offering



unconditional companionship when words or advice simply aren't enough. Growing up, I never really thought of myself as an only child. In my mind, my brothers included our Siamese cat, Charlie, and our black Labrador, Sam. I've always felt deeply connected to animals, as though we understood one another without needing words. They've been with me through every chapter of my life—the joyful ones and the heartbreaking ones—and that lifelong relationship became the emotional foundation for “Raising Artemis”.

3. Why was it important to set the novel during the COVID-19 pandemic? What lessons did that time period offer us?

The pandemic didn't create our fears or our grief—it revealed them. It stripped away the routines, identities, and distractions we relied on, forcing many of us to ask who we were when everything familiar fell away. For Artemis, that moment becomes the catalyst for confronting long-buried loss and discovering a new purpose. While “Raising Artemis” begins during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's ultimately a story about what happens after life falls apart—and how we find the courage to build something meaningful in its place.

4. Lucy narrates portions of the novel after her death. Why was it important for the animals themselves to have a voice?

Animals are at the heart of this story, so it felt important that they weren't simply observed by the humans around them—they had their own perspective. Lucy isn't just a narrator; she's a witness to Artemis's life. Our animals see us at our very best and our very worst. They stand beside us through every chapter, asking for nothing in return, quietly shaping who we become. I wanted to imagine what that lifelong witness might have to say if she were finally given a voice.

5. What are the differences between writing novels and writing screenplays? How did your screenwriting background inform your writing process for “Raising Artemis”?

Screenwriting taught me discipline and structure. Every scene has to earn its place, and every line of dialogue has to move the story forward. Writing a novel gave me the freedom to slow down and explore the emotional lives of my characters in a way a screenplay never could. While “Raising Artemis” is entirely fiction, it allowed me to explore questions about healing, purpose, and the human-animal bond that have shaped



my own life. I wanted readers to connect not because the events are true, but because the emotions are.

6. One of the central themes of *Raising Artemis* is reinvention. Why do you think stories about healing, second chances, and finding a new purpose resonate so deeply with readers today?

I think we've all reached moments in life when we've realized the path we carefully planned is no longer the one we're meant to follow. Reinvention is rarely something we choose; more often, it's something life asks of us. "*Raising Artemis*" is about finding the courage to let go of the life you thought you wanted so you can discover the life waiting for you instead. My hope is that readers see their own possibility reflected in Artemis's journey.