

what we set in motion

A NOVEL

SET IN THE TURBULENT, colorful 1970's, *What We Set in Motion* finds the daughter of a prominent old South Carolina Lowcountry family fleeing to New York's Greenwich Village in pursuit of a dance career. Cut off by her disapproving father and abandoned by her would-be fiancé, Nadine Carter Barnwell must strive on her own to beat the harrowing odds. Penniless and surrounded by the temptation of dubious money-making schemes and the bitter disappointment of seeing a friend fall prey to them, Nadine battles fiercely for her place in the ultra-competitive world of dance — only to reluctantly step away to please a man. It takes the loving, mystical intervention of her beloved aunt back in South Carolina and an unexpected letter from a young girl to set Nadine's chaotic life firmly on the path to fulfilment and the startling realization that every encounter and each choice is a milestone in the quest to forge her own destiny.

"This passionate and engrossing novel explores the human struggle for independence — particularly for women, particularly for southern women from very traditional families. Each page shimmers with a boundless energy. The author has created a world that is real, which means there are profound lessons here about life and love that you will carry away. It's a book I'm thrilled to recommend."

— JUDY GOLDMAN, author of *LOSING MY SISTER*

"With masterful narrative control, Stephanie Austin Edwards has crafted a coming-of-age novel that will appeal to anyone who has ever risked everything to pursue a dream, or wondered what their life would have been like if only they had. Nadine Barnwell is a spunky heroine who learns that no matter how far we travel, or how many obstacles we face on the way, the search for our true selves is always the longest and most difficult journey. *What We Set in Motion* is an impressive debut by an exciting new voice in Southern fiction!"

— Best selling author CASSANDRA KING, author of *THE SUNDAY WIFE*



STEPHANIE AUSTIN EDWARDS is a writing teacher, novelist and grant consultant. Following a twenty-two-year career in New York City working on Broadway, in film and on television she returned to her roots in the South Carolina Lowcountry. *What We Set in Motion*, her debut novel, won a Best Submission Award at the Atlanta Writer's Club Conference in 2013.

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by Stephanie Austin Edwards

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