



WILLIAM MORROW

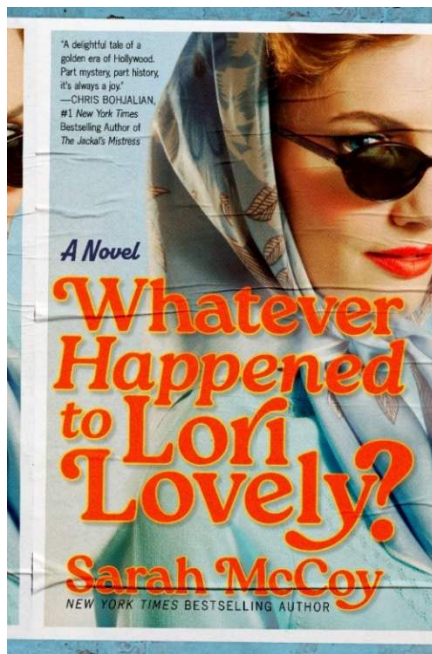
An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers
195 Broadway • New York, New York • 10007

For immediate release

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New York Times, USA Today and international bestselling author Sarah McCoy returns with a thrilling novel based on a true story—one of the bright stars of Hollywood’s Golden Age gives it all up to become a nun.



“A mesmerizing tale of glamour, secrets, and reinvention, I absolutely loved it. This is the kind of novel you can’t wait to see on the big screen. C’mon Hollywood, make it happen!”

— **JAMIE FORD**, *New York Times* bestselling author
of *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy*

“Enchanting... a sparkling emotional story of young love, Hollywood glamour, heart-wrenching betrayal, and devastating tragedy, all set to the backdrop of the 1960s film industry.”

— **KRISTIN HARMEL**, *New York Times* bestselling
author of *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau*

“[A] balm for the spirit, a beautifully-written, moving, page-turner that I didn’t want to end. Lori Lovely is a blueprint for how to create joy and meaning in a troubled world!”

— **JEANINE CUMMINS**, #1 *New York Times*
bestselling author of *Speak to Me of Home*

“The divine Sarah McCoy has written a novel of heartbreak and hope. Brava!”

— **ADRIANA TRIGIANI**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The View From Lake Como*

“Sarah McCoy brings to life one of Hollywood’s golden ages, the 1960s, in this delightful tale of a starlet who trades the movies for the monastery, leaving her forlorn fans wondering why. Part mystery, part history, it's always a joy.”

— **CHRIS BOHJALIAN**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling Author of *The Jackal's Mistress*

“A beautifully crafted tale of unexpected life-turns, impossible choices, hidden powers of destiny and coming of age. *Whatever Happened to Lori Lovely?* will warm your heart as it did mine. This is Sarah McCoy’s best book.”

— **TATIANA DE ROSNAY**, *New York Times* and international bestselling author of *Sarah’s Key*

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LORI LOVELY

by *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and international bestselling author Sarah McCoy

September 2, 2025 | William Morrow

In 1969, twenty-three-year-old starlet Lori Lovely, the apple of Hollywood's eye, shocks the world by ditching a promising film career to take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as a Benedictine nun. Gossip columnists and scandal sheets can't get enough of the story. Why would such a beautiful girl take the veil? Was she hiding from someone? Did it have anything to do with the tragic death of her costar, heartthrob singer Lucas Wesley?

In 1990, Lu Tibbott is under the gun to complete her senior thesis in modern American history. Instead of spending weeks in dusty archives, Lu decides to dig into a true twentieth-century mystery and write about her aunt Lori, now the Mother Abbess at a cloistered convent in rural New England. Biographers, journalists, and media types have long speculated about her aunt Lori's sudden departure from Hollywood. Mother Lori, however, has refused all requests for interviews—until Lu arrives at the abbey with a tape recorder in hand. To her delight, Mother Lori announces she's finally ready to talk...but only if Lu is truly ready to listen.

Lu is shocked to discover that the story of Lori Lovely's rise in Hollywood was far more tumultuous than she'd ever expected, a fairy tale twisting with ambition, unforeseen alliances, forbidden love, and secrets. What began as a history thesis now threatens to upend all their lives with its unexpected truths, especially as the media gets wind of Lu's project and begins to ask...*Whatever happened to Lori Lovely?*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SARAH McCOY is the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and international bestselling author of the novels *Whatever Happened To Lori Lovely?*, *Mustique Island*, *Marilla of Green Gables*, *The Mapmaker's Children*, *The Baker's Daughter*, a 2012 Goodreads Choice Award Best Historical Fiction nominee, the novella "The Branch of Hazel" in *Grand Central*, and *The Time It Snowed in Puerto Rico*. Her work has been featured in *Newsweek*, *Lit Hub*, *Write or Die Tribe*, *Real Simple*, *The Millions*, *Huffington Post*, and other publications. She hosted the NPR WSNC Radio monthly program "Bookmarked with Sarah McCoy" and is the founder of The McCoy Grant. Sarah previously taught English writing at Old Dominion University and at the University of Texas at El Paso. She lives with her husband Doc B, dog Gilly, and cat Tutu in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Connect with Sarah on Instagram at @SarahMMcCoy, on her Facebook Fan Page, Goodreads, or via her website, www.sarahmccoy.com.

Publication information:

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LORI LOVELY? by Sarah McCoy
William Morrow | September 2, 2025 | Hardcover ISBN 9780063338746 \$30
Will also be available as an ebook and digital audio

More Praise for WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LORI LOVELY?

“A tale with heart that deepens to explore questions of love, loyalty, fame and faith.”

— **CHARMAINE WILKERSON**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Black Cake*

“Inspired by the actual lives and careers of three Hollywood actresses, best-selling McCoy tenderly portrays the anxiety produced when what-if becomes what’s next?”

— **BOOKLIST**

“Sarah McCoy has given readers a precious gift with this novel, plunging us deep into the beating heart of Hollywood's golden era and its unlikely leading lady. ... Heartfelt and charming—what a beautiful journey it is to find out all that happened to Lori Lovely!”

— **ALLISON PATAKI**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Finding Margaret Fuller*

“Take one small town girl, add a Hollywood breakout role, romance with a dazzling costar, and throw in a sudden disappearance behind the walls of a convent and what do you get? You get *Whatever Happened to Lori Lovely*, the poignant and captivating new novel by the ever-so-talented Sarah McCoy. I know you will love this tender and deeply reflective novel as much as I did!”

— **DEBORAH GOODRICH ROYCE**, nationally bestselling author of *Reef Road*

“I love a good story about a woman with a complicated past, especially one that takes its inspiration from real life events and resonates with meaning and emotion.”

— **BRENDA NOVAK**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Summer That Changed Everything*

“[W]ith starry faces, events, and landmarks to keep you completely immersed in this love story, and a shock twist at the heart that knocked my socks off. Not only is it beautifully told—it’s beautifully written, too. If you’re into star-crossed love stories writ large: buckle up. You’re gonna LOVE it.”

— **ANDY CORREN**, author of *Dirtbag Queen*

“With a completely unique premise and richly woven details, each page of *Whatever Happened to Lori Lovely?* leaves the reader hungry for more. Sarah McCoy has another best-seller!”

— **MARY WEBBER O’MALLEY**, Host/Producer and bookseller at Skylark Bookshop

“McCoy’s (*Mustique Island*) heartwarming dual-timeline novel, based partially on the life of Mother Dolores Hart, who acted in a film with Elvis Presley before becoming a Benedictine nun, is for readers who like their Hollywood tearjerkers sprinkled with themes of faith, family, and love.”

— **LIBRARY JOURNAL**

“Sarah McCoy’s charming seventh novel, *Whatever Happened to Lori Lovely?*, combines a lush, compelling story of young love and Hollywood glamour with a quiet, nourishing narrative of a woman who found her true vocation thousands of miles from stardom.”

— **SHELF AWARENESS**