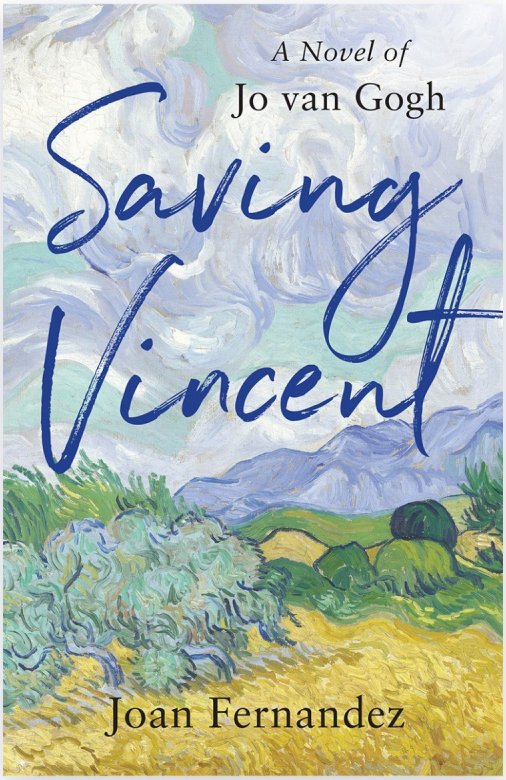
LIBRARY SALES SHEET · 2026 INDIE AUTHOR PROJECT SELECT TITLE

One woman's defiance. The world's greatest artist. The story history almost forgot.



Behind the world's most famous artist is the woman the world forgot. When Vincent and his brother Theo die within months of each other, Jo van Gogh-Bonger is left with nothing but a baby, a mountain of letters, and a legacy of "worthless" canvases. This award-winning novel follows her defiant battle to put Vincent's art before the world, changing the course of history forever.

> *For readers of Susan Vreeland, Marie Benedict, The Paris Wife, Loving Frank, and The Muralist, and patrons drawn to late 19th-century European history and art history.*

Awards & Recognition

2026 First Place, Walter Williams Major Work Award (Missouri Writers Guild)

2026 Finalist, International Book Awards (Fiction: Historical)

2025 IAN Winner (First Novel Over 90,000 Words)

2025 Bronze Medal, IPPY Awards (Popular Fiction)

2024 Winner, American Writing Awards (Art)

2026 Indie Author Project Select, curated into the national library collection on BiblioBoard

2025 IAN Grand Prize, Second Place (Fiction Book of the Year)

2025 Gold Medal, Readers' Favorite (Historical Personage)

2025 Indie Missouri Collection

Trade Reviews

"An intriguing art- and history-filled tribute to an oft-overlooked dynamic woman."
KIRKUS REVIEWS

"A climate of progressive change backdrops a determined widow's efforts in the male-dominated art world in the lovely historical novel, Saving Vincent*."*
FOREWORD REVIEWS

"You've probably never heard of Jo Van Gogh, but were it not for her, none of us would have ever known there was a Vincent van Gogh. In this skillfully researched and propulsive story, Joan Fernandez shares the untold history of a true unsung heroine."
RENÉE ROSEN · *USA Today* bestselling author of *Let's Call Her Barbie*

Ordering Information

Publisher: She Writes Press, distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

Pub Date: April 15, 2025

Format: Trade Paperback / eBook / Audio

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-64742-870-9

eBook ISBN: 978-1-64742-871-6

Audio ISBN: 979-8-9959655-0-3

Specs: $17.99 · 5.5" × 8.5" · 388 pages

LCCN: 2024925818

BISAC: FIC014080 Historical/20th Century · FIC044000 Women · FIC014000 Historical/General

Wholesale: Simon & Schuster (standard trade discounts, returnable)

Digital: BiblioBoard (Indie Author Project Select) / OverDrive

Award-Winning Historical Fiction: A Must-Have for Your Library

Program-ready for book clubs, adult programming, and Women's History Month.

Themes & Discussion Topics

The Forgotten Woman: Reclaiming Jo van Gogh-Bonger

Move beyond the myth of the "tortured artist" to discover the true architect of Vincent van Gogh's fame, and examine how history overlooks the women who preserve our cultural heritage.

Resilience & Female Entrepreneurship

A young widow with a small child and a collection of "worthless" paintings navigates a 19th-century patriarchal society: a masterclass in grit, strategic thinking, and building a billion-dollar legacy from nothing.

Legacy & Stewardship

Explore the emotional weight of inheritance in this mother/son story. How do we honor the brilliance of those we've lost while carving out a future for ourselves and the next generation?

> *"Fernandez does an excellent job in her portrayal of Jo as a strong, determined woman ahead of her time in the male-dominated art world . . . creating an unforgettable portrait of resilience and passion. Very highly recommended."*
>
> **READERS' FAVORITE · FIVE STARS**

Author Visits & Programs

Illustrated talks of 45–60 minutes with Q&A. In person in Missouri and Arizona, or virtual anywhere.

- **The Woman Who Would Not Let Van Gogh Die Twice**, ideal for Women's History Month (March)
- **The Van Gogh Entrepreneur:** Building a Billion-Dollar Legacy from Nothing
- **How Missouri Got Its Van Goghs**

Friends of the Library partnership: $2 from every book sold at your event goes to your Friends group.

Book clubs: free virtual visits anywhere; in-person visits in Missouri and Arizona.

Program-Ready Resources

Free to download at joanfernandezauthor.com/library:

- **Book Club Kit** and discussion guide for community read-alongs and literary analysis
- **Q&A with Joan**
- **Vincent's and Jo's key moments**, and the clues hidden in the section breaks
- **Van Gogh coloring pages** for multi-generational programs
- **"Top Ten Van Gogh Quotes"** printable



JOAN FERNANDEZ is an award-winning author and speaker. Following a 36-year marketing career that included serving as a senior marketing executive and General Partner at Edward Jones, she now uses her strategic background to uplift the overlooked voices of women in history. Her debut novel, *Saving Vincent*, brings to life the story of Jo van Gogh. Joan calls both St. Louis and Sedona home.

Library inquiries: joanferndz@gmail.com · joanfernandezauthor.com/library

Library resources