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# REGIONAL NEWS

## CANADA

### Editorial

Dear Readers:

I was preparing to write about **Swiss cultural markers** (you'll encounter plenty of them in this edition of the Regional News) and how they might serve to provide some social stability in an often unhinged world. Then I stumbled upon the news about Toblerone and the Matterhorn (look for it on [www.swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch)). In a nutshell, the undisputed #1 iconic Swiss mountain will disappear from Toblerone's packaging! Why?

Because part of the production of the distinctive chocolate (the brand was established in Berne in 1908 but is now in American multinational hands) will be moved to Slovakia. "Swissness" legislation will then prevent the Matterhorn from keeping its formerly rock-solid spot on the package; the famous peak will be replaced by a "modernised mountain logo". Suddenly, one of the most recognisable Swiss symbols no longer matters here! But wait, there's more: "The bear hidden on the side

of the Matterhorn will be retained." Well, that's a relief, but email me if you've ever actually spotted that bear while you were munching on those chocolate triangles / pyramids.

Is it any wonder it's hiding? Maybe not - perhaps it just doesn't want to be the next cultural casualty ...! [avs@telus.net](mailto:avs@telus.net)



ANDREW VON STUERMER  
REGIONAL EDITOR

### *The Swiss Representations in Canada present:*

#### *The Swiss Film Club!*

You love Swiss movies and so do we! That's why we're expanding our film programming this year and are proud to launch the Swiss Film Club in Canada!

We'll meet on a regular basis to watch and discuss the best of contemporary Swiss cinema. All feature films will be available online across Canada, and there will also be select in-person screenings and discussions. Each film will be followed by a conversation around the movie and its subject matter, either live or in a recorded interview.

■ Want to stay in the loop? We'll announce Swiss Film Club events in a newsletter. Sign up for our [newsletter](#) and invite the movie enthusiasts in your circle to join as well!



### *Les Représentations suisses au Canada présentent le Swiss Film Club !*

Vous aimez les films suisses et nous aussi ! Pour cette raison, nous poursuivons notre programmation cinématographique cette année et sommes fiers de lancer le Swiss Film Club au Canada !

Dans ce cadre, nous nous réunirons régulièrement pour regarder et discuter des meilleures œuvres contemporaines du cinéma suisse. Tous les longs métrages seront disponibles en ligne, dans tout le Canada. Ceci-dit, quelques projections et discussions seront aussi offertes en personne. Toutes ces propositions seront suivies d'une conversation autour du film et de son sujet, soit en direct, soit sous forme d'un entretien enregistré.

■ Comment être au courant de la programmation ? Toutes les offres du Swiss Film Club seront annoncées dans nos [infolettres](#). Inscrivez-vous et invitez tous les cinéphiles de votre entourage à faire de même!



### Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

Here's a short review of past events:

At the end of January, we had our annual Absenden; we celebrated all the shooters for their efforts to win a medal. Our new members Julien and Danielle put on a great dinner.

On February 4, the fondue night with the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce was a great success and included several young attendees.

The following day, we had our History Book Reveal. After six years of dedicated work by the committee, the book was ready to be presented to past presidents. V. Meier organised a great lunch enjoyed by all.

The AGM was held in person at the Chalet, as well as virtually for the out-of-town members. The Executive members were re-elected. Thank you E. Brügger for preparing the open-faced sandwiches!

Visit our website [www.scmra.ca](http://www.scmra.ca) for the 2023 Programme Calendar and to see photos from our events.

We look forward to another successful outdoor shooting season!

MARLIES BAUMANN

### Swiss Club Saskatoon

What a lot to catch up on! Our AGM was held in October 2022.

- The Executives elected for the coming fiscal year are:  
Elisabeth Eilinger, President; Riel Castro-Zunti, Vice-President;  
Hayley Schwendemann, Secretary; Georg Nievergelt, Treasurer;  
and Barbara Wingeier, Social Convener.

Our Santa evening in early December was a smaller group than normal, but it was enjoyed by those in attendance. This cold potluck usually features many platters of cold cuts, and this event was no exception. The outstanding dessert was homemade cremeschnitte brought by the Raess family.

For 2023, the Executive is looking for new locations and days / times to hold the AGM and the Santa party. Our regular restaurant for the AGM is no longer open at noon, so last year's meeting had to be held in the evening - our members would prefer noon.

The raclette lunch is on March 5; we're expecting a large group for this very popular meal. The June BBQ will be held on Father's Day, June 18, in Neuanlage, SK. This community is north of Saskatoon, and the event will be held at the Community Hall in town.

### Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

Looking back on 2022, we at the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club (OVSC) are thrilled to have been able to see many members at in-person gatherings once again. After several years of cancelled and virtual-only events due to the pandemic, gathering to celebrate our traditions with friends old and new was all the more special.

To celebrate August 1st, the OVSC hosted Swiss National Day celebrations at the beautiful Billings Bridge Estate, complete with delicious sausages, the Swiss national anthem sung by the Montagna Singers, a prize-filled tombola, a lampion parade at dusk, and games and competitions for children and adults alike.

In December, the Club hosted an in-person Christmas party for its youngsters. The Samichlaus party included crafts, festive Christmas carols sung by the choir, delicious treats, a

talent show, and it ended with a special appearance by Samichlaus himself who handed out presents to all the children in attendance.

This year, we're holding our first in-person AGM since the start of the pandemic, a wonderful time to catch up on everything going on at the OVSC, and to see other members.

The other clubs are also up and running again: the Seniors' Club is hosting monthly luncheons; the Montagna Singers choir is in full swing; and the Swiss Parents' Club is starting up again after many years.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events! For more information, or to get involved, visit:

[www.ottawavalleysswiss-club.ca](http://www.ottawavalleysswiss-club.ca).

OLIVIA CRAFT



We now have a social media presence, a Facebook account. The account is private, but the homepage provides limited information and includes our contact details. If you would like to receive information about our Club and its activities, contact us at [swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com](mailto:swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com), or call / text me at 1 - 306 - 260 - 8030.

New members are always welcome, and membership is free the first year. Even though our name is Swiss Club Saskatoon, we welcome Swiss from anywhere in Saskatchewan. ELISABETH EILINGER, PRESIDENT





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## Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver

### Introducing New Team Members at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver



#### Silvana Renggli-Frey

##### Consul & Deputy Consul General

Dear Fellow Citizens:

It's a big pleasure to introduce myself to you! In August 2022, I assumed the position of Head of Chancery and Operations. I'm very pleased to be working with such a great and professional team here at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver. I worked for the FDFA for many years and was most recently posted with my family in South India where I managed the operational Consulate General at Swissnex. Vancouver has welcomed us warmly - and with good weather. We are happy to be here!

[Article 5](#) of the Swiss Abroad Act demands a lot of personal responsibility from Swiss citizens abroad. It describes your duty to keep your file at the Consulate up to date; for example in regards to contact information or changes to your civil status. Please do take this responsibility seriously - it will enable us to serve you better. Together with my great team, I'm happy to offer our consular services here at the Consulate General **in an uncomplicated, friendly, and efficient manner**. If you have any feedback on our services, please let me know!

#### Judith Cole-Hunziker

##### Visa & Admin Officer

Grüezi - Hello!



I started as the new Visa & Admin Officer at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver in January. Originally from Luzern, Switzerland, I moved to Canada in 2000 after meeting my now-husband on a backpacking trip in Australia. We have two daughters that kept me busy with their activities, and I've been working in Admin and Customer Service for the past 20 years. In my new role at the Consulate, I'm very happy to continue to work in the same field, but this time in a Swiss environment right downtown Vancouver!

#### Tamara Shtanova

##### Science & Technology Officer



I'm very excited to have joined the team at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver this February!

As a University of Alberta graduate, I have spent the last decade working in various roles in higher education and with private organisations with a vast array of stakeholders. My experience includes teaching, student advising, international partnership management, and marketing.

A first-generation Canadian, I first arrived in Edmonton on a cold winter day in 2009. After spending eight years in Alberta and currently in my sixth year in British Columbia, I consider both these friendly Canadian provinces my home. I'm thrilled to have an opportunity to give back to the Western Canada community in my new role. As Science and Technology Officer, I aim to be an empathetic relationship builder and serve as a link between stakeholders in Switzerland and Western Canada, promoting science, higher education, entrepreneurship, and innovation globally.

I'm passionate about interacting with and supporting students and professionals - their questions, creative solutions, and career paths inspire me every day. Are you a Swiss university alum, a visiting student, or a researcher in Canada? Or perhaps an aspiring Canadian professional interested in exploring business development opportunities in Switzerland? Please feel free to contact me, share your story, and let me know how the Swiss Consulate might support you. To learn about our networking events, I encourage you to subscribe to our newsletter at [www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver](http://www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver). I wish you all the best and look forward to connecting with you!

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## Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (ESMC)

**We need more singers**  
Ages: 18+, male

Our choir is strong but can always do with more singers to better cover all voice ranges. Why become a member?

1. Annual membership fee of only \$50
2. Free uniforms
3. Subsidized travel (Alberta, Canada, International)
4. Regular performances
5. Auditions all year round (we prefer September)
6. Immersion in the rich culture of Switzerland
7. Camaraderie with friends on a weekly basis
8. Members with diverse business backgrounds and cultures
9. You don't have to be Swiss to become a member

Singing has many health benefits: "reduces stress, stimulates immune response, reduces pain, improves memory, improves lung function, develops a sense of belonging and connection, helps with grief, improves mental health and mood, improves speaking ability." (Theconversation.com)



### Rehearsals

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran 10014-81 Ave.

**When:** Tuesday 7:30pm-9:30pm

ESMC has been supporting the Edmonton community for over 40 years. The choir has awarded music scholarships to deserving musical aspirants in the city. Our artistic director, Elizabeth Anderson was awarded a Con Spirito award, and the choir places in the top ranking at Swiss singing festivals. Our repertoire is in: Swiss-German, Rumansh, French, German, Italian, Ukrainian and English languages. ESMC has workshops with local artists and is able to offer private lessons. We have produced four CD's; My Heimat, Viva, Kamerade, Heilige Nacht.



[www.esmca.ca](http://www.esmca.ca)



[secretary@esmca.ca](mailto:secretary@esmca.ca)



Hans 780-464-1266 Ron 780-718-2439

**The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir sends greetings to everyone. One of our major challenges is new singers, or lack thereof. For details on this, please refer to the flyer above.**

We're in full swing rehearsing the songs we plan to present at our spring concert on June 18, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton. But before then, we'll participate at the annual Landsgemeinde organised by the Edmonton Swiss Society at the Ol' MacDonald's Resort on the south shore of Buffalo Lake. More details to follow later.

As for our long-term outlook, we're planning to attend the triennial North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA) Sängerfest - June 20 to 23, 2024 - in Pittsburgh, PA.

Please visit our website [www.esmca.ca](http://www.esmca.ca) for more information about future events, and on how to join us. Like us on Facebook "Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir", or enter our name into YouTube to watch and listen to one of our many performances.

PETER THUT

## Swiss Club Toronto Theatre Group

## Theateraufführung 2023

## „ In Himmel wänd alli “

Lustspiel in drei Akten von Andreas Kessner

Dialektbearbeitung: Fritz Klein

The play is in Swiss-German and will be performed by the Toronto Theatre Group at the following locations:

- Wellesley: Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm.  
Rec. Complex / Community Centre, 1000 Maple St.
- Toronto: Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 2:00 pm.  
Latvian Canadian Centre, 4 Credit Union Drv.  
Contact: Maggie Hess at (905) 508 - 8014  
Email: [walter.brunner@sympatico.ca](mailto:walter.brunner@sympatico.ca)

After the COVID induced break, the Theatre Group is looking forward to once again seeing you at one of the performances. We hope to make it an exciting event for everyone!

For more details, please contact your local Swiss club representative. For reservations in Toronto, please call or email Maggie Hess or Walter Brunner.

With apologies to our fans in Ottawa, we decided not to travel to Ottawa for a performance.

WALTER BRUNNER



Pre-COVID, a scene from the play "Im Meischter sini Geischter"

## Swiss Club Thames Valley

As I sit here at my desk on Family Day, I hope that everyone is able to spend some time with their families on this lovely weekend.

The Swiss Club Thames Valley is busy getting ready for a couple of events. The first one is a Metzgete on March 4, which will be held in Milverton. The 2nd event is a theatre play on April 16 with the Swiss Club Toronto Theatre Group.

Please check out our Facebook group "Thames Valley Swiss Club" and our website <https://swissclubtv.wixsite.com/swiss-club-thames-va>.

Have a great day!

CHRISTINE HEIMPEL

## Matterhorn Swiss Club (Montreal)

Our next event will be the AGM which will take place at the end of April in a nice restaurant in Dorval. This will be followed by lunch at the same location. Invitations with all the details will be sent out to members in due time.

This year, **the Matterhorn Club will be celebrating its 70th anniversary**. To commemorate the occasion, we're planning a special outing for early summer. Information will be sent out to members once details have been finalised.

We hope to have a good turnout at both events. Until then, everyone stay safe and healthy! New members are always welcome.

WALTER SPIRIG, PRESIDENT, 514 - 694 - 3718



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## Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Western Canada)

## VIP Meet & Greet with Swiss Athletes at the FIS Nordic Junior / U23 World Ski Championships

The FIS Nordic Junior / U23 World Ski Championships were held at the Whistler Olympic Park from January 27 to February 5. More than 530 athletes from 38 countries competed for world championship titles in cross-country skiing, ski jumping, and Nordic combined.

As Switzerland was also represented in Whistler, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver and the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) decided to organise a VIP Meet & Greet with the Swiss athletes.

On January 28, roughly 20 SCCC members and guests made their way to Whistler in bright sunshine to support and welcome the Swiss athletes during the Junior cross-country ski sprint qualifying and final races. With loud cheers, Swiss flags, and cowbells, the attendees waited in the VIP area in the Cross Country Stadium to support the Swiss athletes and give them that final push over the finish line. Filled with excitement and suspense, everybody enjoyed watching the impressive sprints of the young athletes. In addition to the sporting spectacle, SCCC members and their guests enjoyed the VIP area hosted by Nordiq Canada. Fire pots, cozy blankets, delicious hot chocolate, soups, and sandwiches kept everyone warm.

After the final sprint, the attendees had the opportunity to meet and exchange some words with the Swiss athletes and trainers. The athletes very much enjoyed the Swiss support they received so far away from home.

It was a fantastic event with lots of new contacts, good conversations, great weather, and exciting cross-country ski action.

Everyone enjoyed soaking up the sun and getting some vitamin D. It was great to see SCCC members reconnecting with each other and getting to know fellow Swiss from the area.



In spite of all the Swiss fan support, on this day Switzerland had no medal luck in the Junior cross-country sprint finals. However, this was only the start of the championship, and during the week, the Swiss athletes did win some medals:

- On February 2, Swiss athlete Marina Kaelin won bronze in the Cross-Country Junior Individual Free 10 km competition claiming Switzerland's first medal;
- In the Cross-Country Junior Mixed Relay U23 race, Switzerland's Kaelin, Wigger, Weber, and Savary claimed the bronze medal.

"Chapeau" to the Swiss athletes and their great results and performances. We wish you much success in the future. Hopp Schwiiz!



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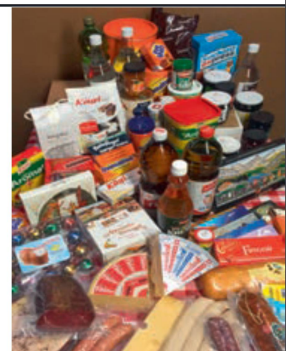
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## FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS SUISSES DE L'EST DU CANADA FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN EASTERN CANADA

### Compatriotes et Ami.e.s de la Communauté Suisse,

Nous avons déjà commencé les préparatifs pour l'organisation de notre Fête Nationale Suisse qui aura lieu le samedi 29 juillet 2023, toujours au Mont Sutton.

En ce moment, nous sommes encore à la recherche d'un petit groupe folklorique venant de la Suisse, pour quelques heures de prestation, l'après-midi et en soirée. Pour quiconque a de l'information pour un groupe musical, svp communiquer avec nous à [fedesuisse@gmail.com](mailto:fedesuisse@gmail.com).

Notre comité s'est quelque peu renouvelé. Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à Valérie Martinez, notre nouvelle vice-présidente, ainsi qu'à Érika Schimann, secrétaire, qui a déjà fait partie du comité par le passé. Elles se joignent à Jeannette Perriard, trésorière, ainsi qu'aux administrateurs et administratrices, Silvia Baertschi, Barbara Gasser, Sebastian Hertner, Kenneth Hill, Urs Kaiser, Louis Savaria, Barbara Zaugg-Beugger.

Lors de notre assemblée générale annuelle, nous avons nommé M. Carl Diehl membre d'honneur et nous lui avons remis un certificat d'appréciation.

En 1976, au Chalet du Mont-Royal, a eu lieu une réception olympique pour les athlètes de la Suisse et du Liechtenstein. Par la même occasion, ce fût une célébration du 1er août. C'était la première fois que tous les clubs suisses étaient réunis pour un évènement commun.

Suite à cela, la Swiss National Society (créée en 1875) a nommé M. Diehl pour qu'il compose un comité qui devait trouver un endroit propice pour célébrer, chaque année, la Fête Nationale Suisse. Il devait y avoir de la place pour plusieurs centaines de personnes, un endroit fermé...comme un chalet avec commodités et stationnement. Et ça ne devait pas être à plus d'une heure et demie de Montréal.

Des recherches ont été faites en plusieurs endroits de la province, Laurentides, Outaouais, Montérégie, Cantons-de-l'Est. Lors d'un voyage d'affaires en Suisse, une rencontre inopinée de M. Diehl...dans l'avion...avec le propriétaire, à ce moment-là, du Mont Sutton...

M. Diehl et son comité ont visité plusieurs sites, pour ensuite prendre la décision que le Mont Sutton avait tout ce qu'il fallait et, en plus, était le plus pittoresque. Ainsi, à partir de 1977, le Mont Sutton est devenu le site où la plus grande Fête Nationale Suisse est célébrée, en dehors de la Suisse!

Quelques années plus tard, M. Diehl est devenu un membre du comité de la Fédération des Sociétés Suisses de l'Est du Canada. M. Carl Diehl, un chaleureux merci pour avoir trouvé ce magnifique endroit!

Continuez à visiter notre site internet [www.fedesuisse.com](http://www.fedesuisse.com) et à nous suivre sur Facebook [www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse](https://www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse).

VOTRE COMITÉ 2023

### Dear Swiss Community; Dear Friends:

We're preparing for our Swiss National Day celebrations, to be held on Saturday, July 29, as always at Mont Sutton! Currently, we're still looking for a small folklore band from Switzerland to perform for a few hours in the afternoon / evening. If you know of anyone, please contact us at [fedesuisse@gmail.com](mailto:fedesuisse@gmail.com).

There have been some changes to our committee: We welcome Valérie Martinez, Vice-President, and Érika Schimann, Secretary. They join Jeannette Perriard, Treasurer, and Directors Silvia Baertschi, Barbara Gasser, Sebastian Hertner, Kenneth Hill, Urs Kaiser, Louis Savaria, and Barbara Zaugg-Beugger. At our AGM, we named Mr. Carl Diehl an honorary member and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

In 1976, there was an Olympic reception at the Chalet du Mont-Royal for the athletes from Switzerland and Liechtenstein. It was also an August 1st celebration, and it was the first time all the Swiss clubs gathered for a common event.

As a result, the Swiss National Society (founded 1875) appointed Mr. Diehl to form a committee in order to identify a suitable location where the Swiss National Day could be celebrated each year. There had to be space for several hundred people - an enclosed area, such as a chalet with parking and amenities - and it couldn't be more than 90 minutes from Montreal. Several locations in the province were considered: in the Laurentians, the Outaouais, the Montérégie region, and in the Eastern Townships. Then, during a business trip to Switzerland, an unexpected encounter occurred on a plane between the then-owner of Mont Sutton and Mr. Diehl ...

After visiting several sites, Mr. Diehl and his committee decided that Mont Sutton had everything required and was also the most picturesque location. Thus, in 1977, Mont Sutton became the site of the largest Swiss National Holiday celebrations outside of Switzerland! A few years later, Mr. Diehl became a FEDE committee member. Carl Diehl, a warm thank-you for finding this beautiful location!

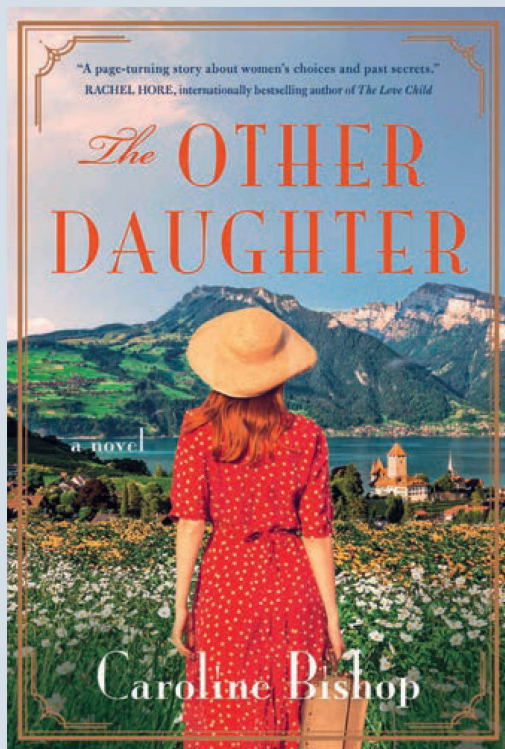
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YOUR 2023 COMMITTEE





## Book Review - "The Other Daughter" by Caroline Bishop



**Caroline Bishop** is a journalist, an editor, and the author of two novels, *The Other Daughter* and *The Lost Chapter*. For the past fifteen years, she has written about travel, food, and theatre for many publications, including *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *The Independent*, and *BBC Travel*. A British-Canadian, she lives in Switzerland. Visit her at [CarolineBishop.co.uk](http://CarolineBishop.co.uk) or connect with her on Twitter [@CalBish](https://twitter.com/CalBish).



*The Other Daughter* is a timely novel about an ambitious London journalist who reports on the fight for women's rights in 1970s Switzerland, and the daughter who uncovers the long-buried truth about the assignment years later—for fans of Genevieve Graham and Heather Marshall.

2016: Jess is at a crossroads in life. In her late thirties, all she has to show for it is a broken marriage and a job teaching a bunch of uninterested kids. But when she discovers a shocking secret about her late mother, Sylvia, Jess begins to question all she's ever known. Her search for answers leads to a 1970s article about women's rights in Switzerland that Sylvia wrote when she was a young journalist. But to uncover the real story of what happened all those years ago, Jess will have to go to Switzerland and find someone who knew her mother ...

1976: Sylvia's life is on track. She has a loving fiancé and her dream job as a features writer in a busy London newsroom—if only her editor would give her the chance to write about something important instead of relegating her to fashion, flowers, and celebrities. When Sylvia learns about the growing women's liberation movement in Switzerland, where women only recently got the right to vote, she knows the story could be her big break. There's just one wrinkle: she's pregnant.

Determined to put her career first, Sylvia travels to Switzerland, and as she meets the courageous band of women fighting for their rights, she stumbles across an even bigger scoop, one that would make her male colleagues take her seriously. But telling the story will change her—and her baby's—life forever.

Inspired by an important chapter of women's history, *The Other Daughter* is an unforgettable novel about the bond between mothers and daughters—and the fight of women, generations over, for the freedom to choose their own path.

PUBLISHER: SIMON & SCHUSTER; 432 PAGES; ISBN13: 978-1982196936

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