

I was born in New York in 1962; grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts; went to boarding school in New Hampshire, and to college in New Haven, Connecticut. So I consider myself a New Englander, even though I'm not one by birth.

I've worked as a journalist, in the television business, and even (briefly, in college) as a substitute teacher. But I've spent most of my life in publishing: at William Morrow, and then at Hyperion, where I was Editor in Chief. In January 2008, I left Hyperion to found a startup called *Cookstr.com* and ran that for six years. It's now part of Macmillan Publishers, where I've worked since 2014.

Books have been the constant in my life. From those my mother read me when I was too young to read, to those father read us when we could read but still liked to be read to. From books I read under the covers, long after I was supposed to be asleep—including every single thriller by the magnificent Alistair Maclean—to books that I found in my teens that helped me imagine all different kinds of lives, and see the world through others' eyes.

I've written four books. The first—*Send: Why People Email So Badly and How to Do it Better*—was written with my friend David Shipley. The second, *The End of Your Life Book Club*, is about the books I read with my mother when she was dying. The third is *Books For Living*, about the role books can play in our lives and how they can show us how to live each day more fully and with more meaning. And the fourth is *We Should Not Be Friends*, which is about the power of friendships, especially unlikely ones, to change our lives.

I live in New York City with my husband, David Cheng. We've been together since way back when I first moved to Hong Kong in 1984. We have one African violet, that's a bit lopsided; books everywhere; and are obsessed with our neighbor's adorable dog, Oliver, a Havanese. We also have five godchildren, one niece, and four nephews.

I love meeting fellow readers and hearing from readers about all different kinds of books. I answer everyone, though sometimes it can take me a bit of time. My favorite question to ask or be asked is a simple one: "What are you reading?"

A warm, funny, irresistible book that follows an improbable and life-changing college friendship over the course of forty years--from the best-selling author of *The End of Your Life Book Club*

A "searching, tender, insightful, and wise memoir...Reading this beautifully written and generous book, you will find yourself thinking of your own friendships" --Dani Shapiro, author of *Signal Fires*

By the time Will Schwalbe was a junior at college, he had already met everyone he cared to know: the theater people, writers, visual artists and comp lit majors, and various other quirky characters including the handful of students who shared his own major, Latin and Greek. He also knew exactly who he wanted to avoid: the jocks. The jocks wore baseball caps and moved in packs, filling boisterous tables in the dining hall, and on the whole seemed to be another species entirely, one Will might encounter only at his own peril.

All this changed dramatically when Will collided with Chris Maxey, known to just about everyone as Maxey. Maxey was physically imposing, loud, and a star wrestler

who was determined to become a Navy SEAL (where he would later serve for six years). Thanks to the strangely liberating circumstances of a little-known secret society at Yale, the two forged a bond that would become a mainstay of each other's lives as they repeatedly lost and found each other and themselves in the years after graduation.

From New Haven to New York City, from Hong Kong and Panama to a remarkable school on an island in the Bahamas--through marriages and divorce, triumphs and devastating losses--*We Should Not Be Friends* tracks an extraordinary friendship over decades of challenge and change. Schwalbe's marvelous new work is, at its heart, a joyful testament to the miracle of human connection--and how if we can just get past our preconceptions, we may find some of our greatest friends.