

“A tender, satisfying celebration of resilience and chosen family.”
--*The Prairies Book Review*

CUTIE PIES BY THE SLICE

A 1930s Historical Novel of Strength and Belonging

KIMBERLY NIXON



Some people inherit a family. Lila Young has to build one from scratch.

When twenty-year-old Lila arrives in a small Midwestern town, hoping for a fresh start with her older brother, she discovers she's more alone than ever. Determined to make a life of her own, she opens Cutie Pies by the Slice, where neighbors gather over coffee and strangers slowly become the family she's always longed for.

As the pie shop flourishes, so does Lila's confidence. Agnes and Maggie become the sisters she never had, and Vern—a quiet, dependable man who faithfully carries her daily bank deposits—becomes someone she learns to trust.

Then Lila uncovers a devastating secret: without her knowledge, her thriving business has become entangled in organized crime. As hidden loyalties surface and those she loves are drawn into dangerous choices, she must decide whether broken trust can be rebuilt—and whether forgiveness is worth the risk.

Set during Prohibition and the Great Depression, *Cutie Pies by the Slice* is a heartfelt novel of resilience, redemption, and chosen family. Filled with unforgettable characters, small-town charm, and the comforting aroma of fresh-baked pie, it celebrates the quiet courage of ordinary people who discover that the sweetest things in life aren't inherited—they're earned.

BOOK DETAILS

Pub Date: October 6, 2026

Genre: Historical Fiction

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kimberly Nixon believes every family has stories worth telling. Drawn to forgotten histories, resilient women, and the ties that bind generations, she writes historical fiction inspired by the remarkable lives of ordinary people. Her award-winning novels, *Rock Bottom, Tennessee* and *Rock Bottom Rising*, grew from the true story of her grandmother's felony conviction in 1925 Tennessee. Her children's book, *A Visit from Grandypants*, celebrates the joy of family across generations.

Kimberly lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, Paul, and is always searching for the next story hidden in her family's past.



CONTACT: Lydia Jacobson, lydia@prbythebook.com

PRBYTHEBOOK

TALKING POINTS

- What makes a family: blood relationships versus the family we choose
- How Kimberly's own family history has inspired her historical fiction
- How opening *Cutie Pies by the Slice* helps Lila discover her independence and confidence
- How food, recipes, and shared meals connect people
- The importance of gathering places in creating strong communities
- Why Kimberly is drawn to telling the overlooked stories of ordinary women
- What Lila learns about forgiveness
- Why letting go of how she thinks life should be becomes essential to Lila's growth
- Balancing historical accuracy with compelling fiction when writing about ordinary lives

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Lila was inspired by a woman who was like a grandmother to you—how did you craft the character balancing fact and fiction?
2. Why was Depression-era Lima, Ohio, the right setting for a story about women's resilience?
3. What did your research process look like for *Cutie Pies by the Slice*?
4. What can historical fiction teach us about the present?
5. What do baking and the pie shop come to represent in Lila's journey?
6. How does Lila's definition of family change throughout the story?
7. What role do Agnes and Maggie—and female friendship more broadly—play in Lila's life?
8. Why was it important to show Lila's kindness and generosity as strengths, especially during times of hardship?
9. Your novels often focus on ordinary women living through extraordinary circumstances. What draws you to those stories?
10. What do you hope readers take away from Lila's story about resilience and starting over?

TIMELY TIE-INS

AUGUST

- Women's Equality Day – 26

OCTOBER

- National Family History Month
- National Women's Small Business Month
- National Book Month
- National Dessert Day – 14

SEPTEMBER

- National Read a Book Day – 6
- National Grandparents Day – 13
- National Women's Friendship Day – 20

November

- National Novel Writing Month
- National Author's Day – 1
- Thanksgiving – 26