



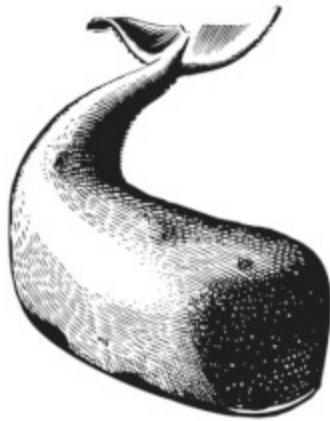
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Former PRH Exec Brendan Cahill Launches Navigator Books

By Ed Nawotka | Mar 05, 2026



NAVIGATOR



Photo Navigator Books

Former Penguin Random House executive and industry veteran Brendan Cahill has launched Navigator Books, a Philadelphia-based publisher focused on history, biography, memoir, and historical fiction. The company plans to publish

three titles this year, beginning in July, with plans to expand to six in 2027.

"Our goal is to publish books that matter and endure, and to reach a broad readership," Cahill, who serves as CEO and publisher, said in a statement.

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Cahill previously worked as a founding editor at Penguin's Gotham Books imprint, founding publisher of Open Road Integrated Media, and CEO of NatureShare. He also founded and spent a decade running PRH Labs at Penguin Random House.

Navigator's physical books will be distributed in North America through a new hybrid printing, warehousing, sales, and distribution partnership with Lakeside Book Company. Open Road will handle sales and marketing of Navigator's e-books and streaming audio titles in English globally.

In a press release, Cahill emphasized that the company's model centers on cultivating long-term relationships with authors, working with them to develop ideas and establish careers.

"There are many talented established and emergent authors who are frustrated by today's publishing landscape," Cahill said. "Navigator Books is excited to join the new generation of innovative and dynamic author-centric independent book publishers seeking to transform the industry by addressing its legacy limitations."

Navigator's debut list includes *Just Give Me a Chance to Fail: The Biography of NFL Hall of Fame Linebacker Sam Mills* by veteran football journalist Paul Domowitch (July), *Brainrot: A Cultural History* by pseudonymous Ivy League undergraduate Olivia Shelly Alcott (August), and *Dark Messiah*, a debut historical novel by Sara Z. Carson set in a fictional world inspired by Jim Jones's cult (September). Navigator holds world rights in all languages, e-book, and audio.

Open Road CEO David Steinberger, who has known Cahill for years, credited him with helping set Open Road on its path to success in its early days alongside founder Jane Friedman. "We are thrilled to have Navigator entrust us with its digital distribution and marketing as Brendan builds an ambitious new list," Steinberger said.

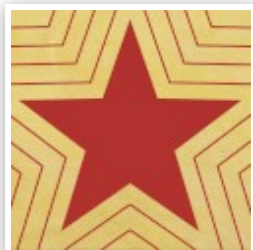
Cahill owns and operates Navigator independently, supported by a small in-house team augmented by outside partnerships for cover design, pre-press, marketing, and publicity, and funded in part by a group of startup and industry investors. The company is based at Philadelphia's Pennovation Center.

A version of this article appeared in the 03/09/2026 issue of *Publishers Weekly* under the headline:

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