



# HOUSE OF ANANSI PRESS

FALL 2023



ANANSI



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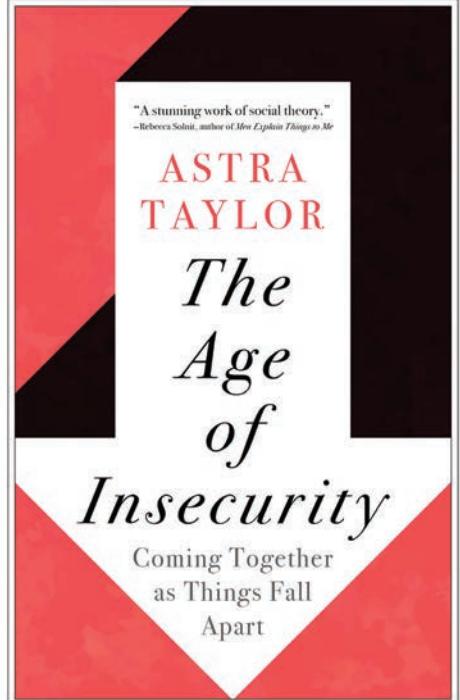
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Cover art from *An Ordinary Violence*,  
written by Adriana Chartrand

*Black-Tailed Hare (1841)* painting in high resolution by John James  
Audubon. Original from the Saint Louis Art Museum.

CBC MASSEY LECTURES

SOCIAL SCIENCE / Anthropology / Cultural & Social  
SOC002010POLITICAL SCIENCE / History & Theory  
POLO10000HISTORY / Civilization  
HIS039000

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## THE AGE OF INSECURITY

### COMING TOGETHER AS THINGS FALL APART

written by Astra Taylor

Writer, filmmaker, and organizer Astra Taylor takes a curious, critical, and ultimately hopeful look at the uniquely modern concept of insecurity.

These days, everyone feels insecure. We are financially precarious, overwhelmed and anxious, and worried about the future. While millions endure the stress of struggling to make ends meet, in reality, the status quo isn't working for anyone, even the affluent and comparatively privileged; they, too, are deeply insecure. What is going on?

*The Age of Insecurity* exposes how seemingly disparate crises — our suffering mental health and rising inequality, the ecological emergency, and the threat of fascism — are tied to the fact that our social order runs on insecurity. Across disparate sectors, from policing and the military to the wellness and beauty industries, the systems that promise us security instead actively undermine it.

We are all made insecure on purpose, and our endless striving shapes how we feel about ourselves and others — including what we believe is personally and collectively possible. *The Age of Insecurity* sheds new light on our contemporary predicament, exposing the psychological and political costs of the insecurity-generating status quo, while proposing ways to forge a new path forward.

#### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Insecurity is as important to understanding our world as inequality. But unlike inequality, it is understudied, undertheorized, and underdiscussed. This book is an attempt to address the gap in literature.
- The premise is that in reality, the status quo isn't really working for anyone, even the affluent and comparatively privileged; and contrary to their convictions, it isn't working for those fighting, sometimes violently, to retain their relative advantage in a rapidly changing world. They, too, are deeply insecure.
- This is a book that will appeal to anyone trying to understand the current social and political moment and activists/organizers who want to be more effective.

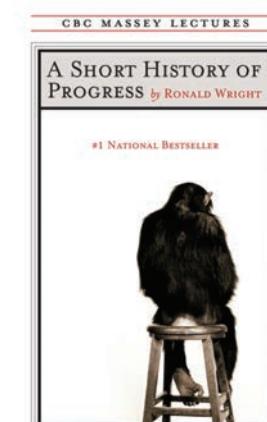
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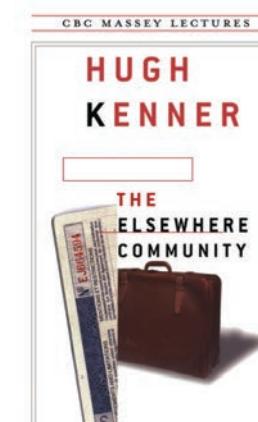
ASTRA TAYLOR is a filmmaker, writer, and political organizer, born in Winnipeg, MB, and raised in Athens, GA; she currently lives in New York. Her latest book is *Remake the World: Essays, Reflections, Rebellions*, and her other books include the American Book Award winner *The People's Platform: Taking Back Power and Culture in the Digital Age*. She regularly writes for major publications, has directed multiple documentaries, toured with the band Neutral Milk Hotel, and co-founded the Debt Collective.



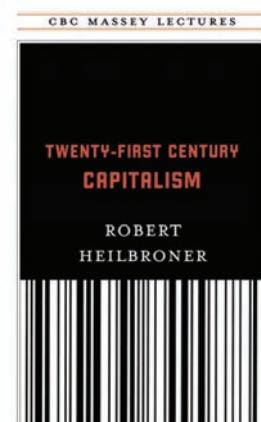
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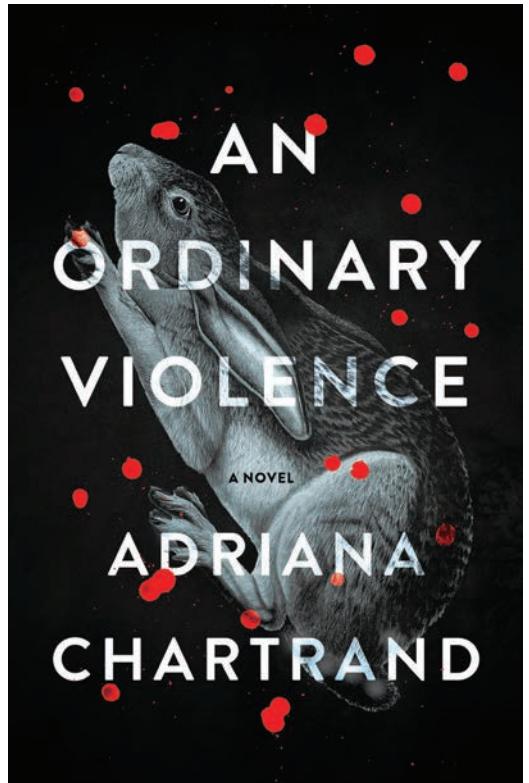
A Short History of Progress



The Elsewhere Community



Twenty-First Century Capitalism



## AN ORDINARY VIOLENCE

written by Adriana Chartrand

A chilling horror novel about a young Indigenous woman haunted by the oppressive legacies of colonization.

Dawn hasn't spoken to her brother, Cody, since he was sent to prison for a violent crime seven years ago. Now living in a shiny new Toronto condo, Dawn is haunted by uncanny occurrences, including cryptic messages from her dead mother, that have followed her most of her life. When the life Dawn thought she wanted implodes, she is forced to return to her childhood home and the prairie city that holds so much pain for her and her fractured family.

Cody is unexpectedly released from prison with a mysterious new friend by his side, who seems to be the charismatic leader of a dangerous supernatural network. Trying to uncover their plans, Dawn follows increasingly sinister leads until the lines between this world and the next, now and then, and right and wrong begin to blur and dissolve.

What unfolds is an eerie, incisive, and at times darkly funny horror novel about a young Indigenous woman reckoning with trauma and violence, loss and reclamation in an unsettling world where spirit realms entwine with the living — and where it is humans who carry out the truly monstrous acts.

### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Adriana Chartrand is a mixed-race Indigenous woman — Red River Metis (Michif) and white.
- An Ordinary Violence* fits into the burgeoning literary genre of Indigenous speculative fiction by authors such as Cherie Dimaline, Eden Robinson, Darcie Little Badger, David Robertson, and Waubgeshig Rice.
- This book kicks off our new direction for the Spiderline imprint, which will include more genre-bending, ground-breaking, experimental, innovative, unexpected, and unconventional speculative titles, as well as mysteries and thrillers, by more BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ authors.
- An Ordinary Violence* is a prime example of the movement in horror film and TV series to explore big-ticket social issues such as feminism, racism, colonization, and intergenerational trauma, such as Jordan Peele's *Get Out*, *Us*, and *Nope*; *The Babadook*; and *The Haunting of Hill House*. This book seamlessly blends classic horror and a dramatic narrative with sharp social commentary.
- There is now an undeniable explosion of spectacular Indigenous content in mainstream arts, culture, and entertainment, with movies like *Prey* and TV shows like *Reservation Dogs* and *Rutherford Falls*. The past two winners of CBC's Canada Reads have been Indigenous-authored books (*Jonny Appleseed* and *Five Little Indians*).

FICTION / Indigenous  
FIC059000

FICTION / Horror  
FIC015000

FICTION / Literary  
FIC019000

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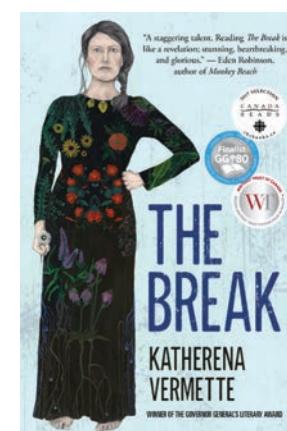
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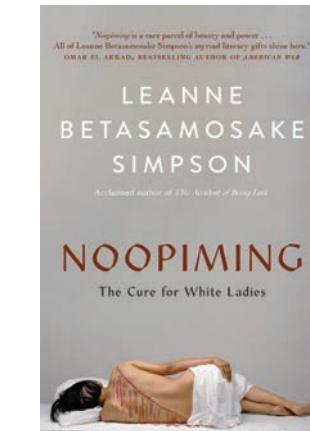
**ADRIANA CHARTRAND** is a mixed-race Native woman, born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her father is Red River Métis (Michif), born and raised in the Métis community of St. Laurent, and her mother is a mixed white settler from Manitoba. Adriana has two degrees in film studies and has previously worked in the social work field. She lives in Toronto and works in the film industry.



## ALSO RECOMMENDED



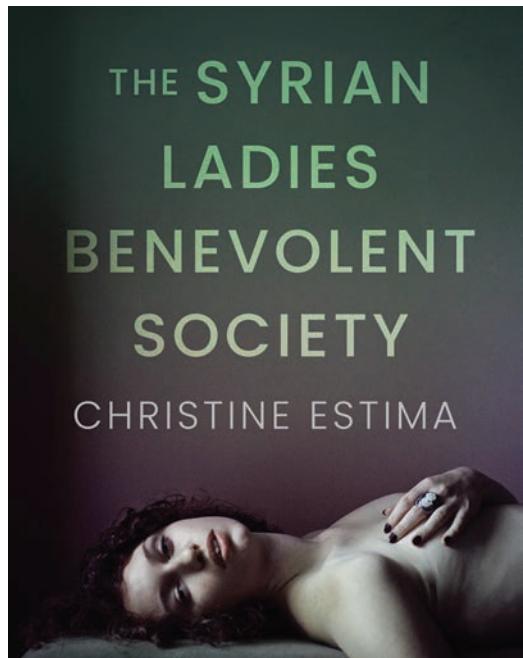
The Break



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This Accident of Being Lost



FICTION / Short Stories (single author)  
FIC029000

FICTION / World Literature / Middle East / General  
FIC111000

FICTION / Women  
FIC044000

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## THE SYRIAN LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

written by Christine Estima

**Indelible linked stories centred around Azurée, a young Arab woman living in the echoes of her ancestors' voices.**

Masterfully tracing the deep roots of the Arab immigrant experience, these interlocking stories follow an Arab family as they flee the Middle East in the nineteenth century, settle in Montreal in the twentieth, and face the collision between tradition and modernity in the twenty-first. This family includes trailblazing Lebanese freedom fighters, undercover operatives in World War II, and brave Syrian refugees trying to find their place in Canadian society. This line of daring women culminates in Azurée.

As a young Arab woman living in the wake of her family's histories, Azurée contends with all the meanings of her blood—ethnicity and lineage, sexuality and menstruation, pain and death. Over the years, through many romantic entanglements, Azurée journeys from teen mallrat to searching student to troubled traveller, until she finally stands in her ancestral home ready to confront her past—and her future.

With imaginative aplomb and abiding passion, the unforgettable connected stories in *The Syrian Ladies Benevolent Society* explore love and suspicion, trust and betrayal, faith and despair, war and displacement in an explosive debut collection that pushes the expectations for Arab women beyond conventions, beliefs, and borders.

### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Estima was inspired to write this collection about Arab immigrants in Canada after Don Cherry made racist remarks in 2019 about "you people" not wearing a poppy for Remembrance Day. She tweeted about her grandfather who fought for Canada in World War II and went viral and spawned a feature essay entitled "Living Legacy" in *Maisonneuve Magazine*.
- The stories draw from the deep roots of the author's Lebanese/Syrian family in Canada. Her great-grandfather founded the first Syrian Orthodox church in Canada and the first Arabic-language newspaper in Canada, *Ash-Shehab* (the brilliant star). His son Victor was one of the few Arabs in the Canadian army during WWII, most notably in the Battle of Ortona.
- Similar to Jack Wang's *We Two Alone*, this collection includes stories that explore historical and contemporary fiction genres and themes, illuminating Arab women's early-twentieth-century struggles with traditional roles to contemporary issues of sex, gender, and race.

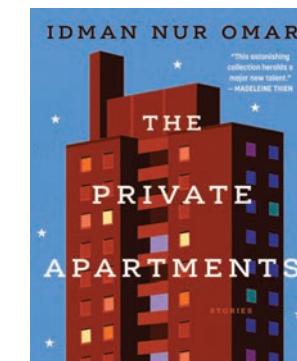
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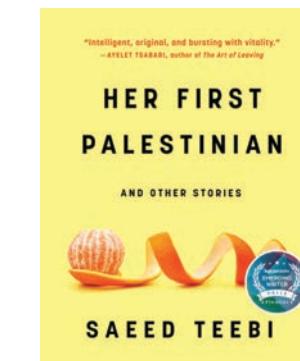
CHRISTINE ESTIMA is an Arab woman of mixed ethnicity (Lebanese, Syrian, and Portuguese) whose essays and short stories have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Walrus*, *VICE*, the *Globe and Mail*, *Chatelaine*, *Maisonneuve*, and many more. She was shortlisted for the 2018 Allan Slaight Prize for Journalism, longlisted for the 2015 CBC Canada Writes Creative Nonfiction prize, and a finalist for the 2011 Writers' Union of Canada short prose competition. Born in Trois-Rivières and raised in Montreal, she lives in Toronto.



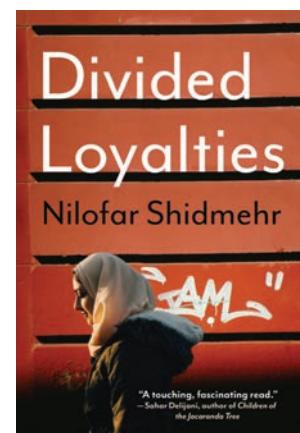
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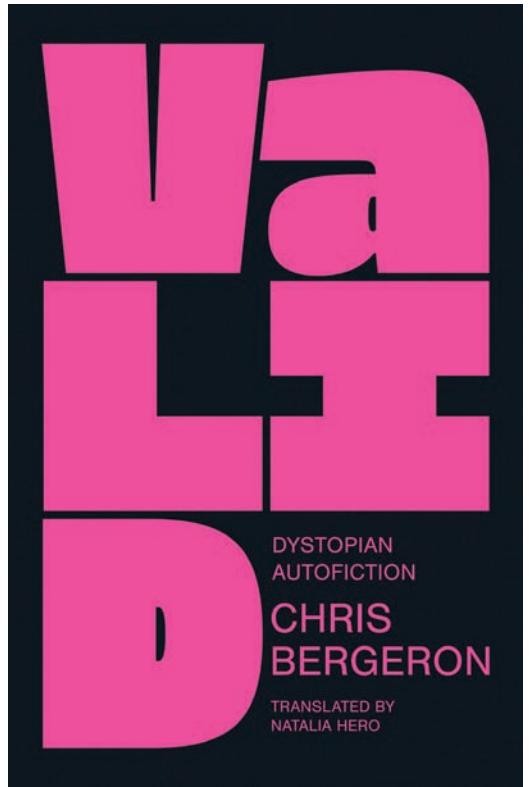
The Private Apartments



Her First Palestinian



Divided Loyalties



FICTION / Dystopian  
FIC055000

FICTION / LGBTQ+ / Transgender  
FIC073000

FICTION / Biographical  
FIC041000

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## VALID

### DYSTOPIAN AUTOFICTION

written by Chris Bergeron  
translated by Natalia Hero

A genre-bending speculative look at a dark future, *Valid* shares the story of one trans woman leading a revolution.

This is a mutiny.

If our mutiny is to succeed, I must name things well, without diversion. Lacking this, you will not deviate from your certainties.

Here it is: I am trans.

As in transgression. I have broken genres. I have removed myself from the rules.

I am trans.

As in translation. I have dragged the elements that make up my person from one state to another. My geometry is variable.

And tonight, I am a revolution.

/warning: code red... fetch-query protocol enabled... transmission failed... standby/

Set in a disturbingly transfigured Montreal in the year 2050, *Valid* is a monologue delivered over the span of eight hours by Christelle, a seventy-year-old trans woman forced to live as a man in order to survive. Speaking to her captor, an ever-more powerful AI, she turns the tables and mounts her own revolution by showing her truest self. Part autofiction, part dystopic speculation on an all-too-possible future characterized by corporate power, ecological collapse, and political havoc, *Valid* is an ambitious work that is as much philosophical as it is confessional.

#### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Chris is a debut author.
- Experimental fiction, *Valid* is presented as a monologue delivered by Christelle over eight hours to an Artificial Intelligence.
- This work is full of present-day issues: trans rights, the pandemic, ecological collapse, the fear of AI replacing human workers and decision-makers, and economic inequality.
- Chris Bergeron is the VP of Content Experience at the marketing firm Cossette. She has given several interviews and talks on being a trans woman in marketing. In 2020, *AdWeek* named her among 18 North American Champions of Diversity in the field of communications.
- Translation from French-language publisher Éditions XYZ.

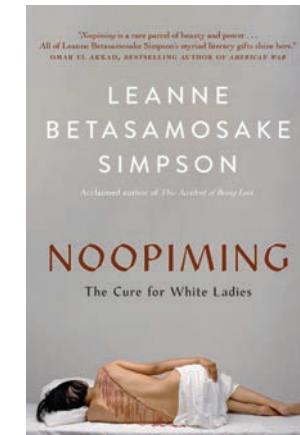
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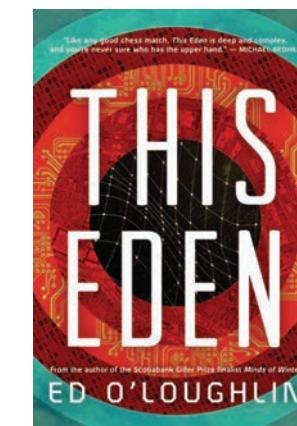
**CHRIS BERGERON** is diverse and fluid: after beginning a career in journalism and eventually winding up at the helm of the weekly cultural magazine *Voir*, she now dedicates her artistic vitality to Cossette, a leading global marketing agency. She offers speaking engagements on leadership, diversity, inclusion, and trans rights. Chris lives in Montreal.



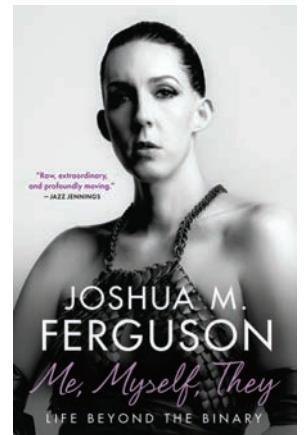
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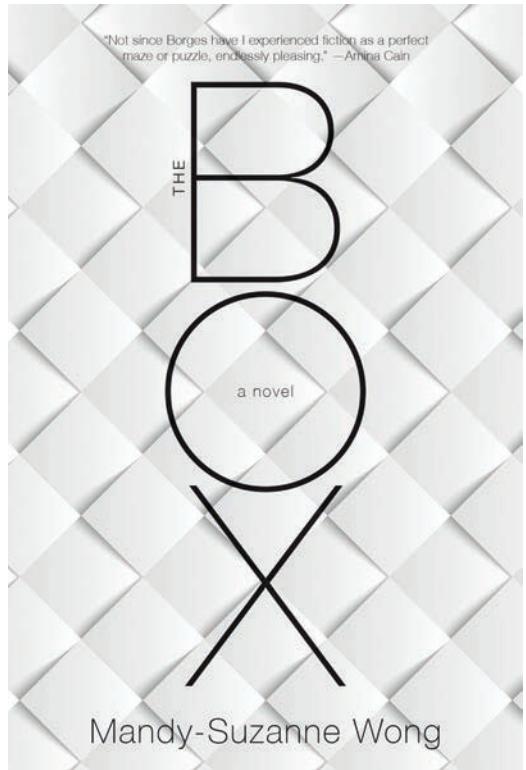
Noopiming



This Eden



Me, Myself, They



FICTION / Literary  
FIC019000

FICTION / Dystopian  
FIC055000

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## THE BOX

written by Mandy-Suzanne Wong

A stylistically dazzling dystopian novel about things, people, and the forces and seams between them.

In a dark and crooked lane in an unnamed city where it won't stop snowing, a small white box falls from a coat pocket. It is made of paper strips woven tightly together; there is no apparent way to open it without destroying it. What compels a passing witness to this event to pick up the box and chase after the stranger who dropped it? *The Box* follows a delicate yet impenetrable rectangle as it changes hands in a collapsing metropolis, causing confluences, conflicts, rifts, and disasters. Six narrators, each with a distinct voice, give accounts of different junctures in the box's life. From a newly hired curator of a renowned art collection to a couple who own an antiquarian bookshop to a hotel bartender hiding from a terrible past, the storytellers repeat rumours and rely on faulty memories, grasping at an object that continually escapes them. Haunting all their varied recollections is one mysterious woman who, convinced of either the box's value or malevolence, pursues it with deadly desperation.

## KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Explores themes of: mysterious forces; social collapse; climate change; the unreliability of memory; disconnection and loss.
- For fans of the Netflix series' *Black Mirror* and *Kaleidoscope*.
- Advance praise: "The Box is an extraordinary novel, gamesome and philosophical. Not since Borges have I experienced fiction as a perfect maze or puzzle, endlessly pleasing. The reader enters it, fascinated, just as s/he goes out into the snow, which is always falling. Mandy-Suzanne Wong is a writer to watch." — Amina Cain, author of *A Horse at Night* and *Indelicacy*

## CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

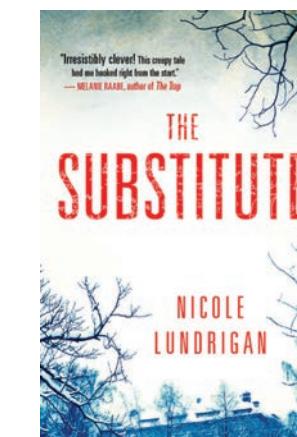
**MANDY-SUZANNE WONG** is a Bermudian writer of fiction and essays. Her works include the novel *Drafts of a Suicide Note* (Regal House, 2019); the essay collection *Listen, we all bleed* (New Rivers Press, 2021); and the chapbooks *Awabi* and *Artificial Wilderness*. Her work has appeared in *Arcturus*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *Entropy*, *Island Review*, and *Necessary Fiction*, and has won recognition in the Best of the Net, Aeon Award, and Eyelands Flash Fiction competitions.



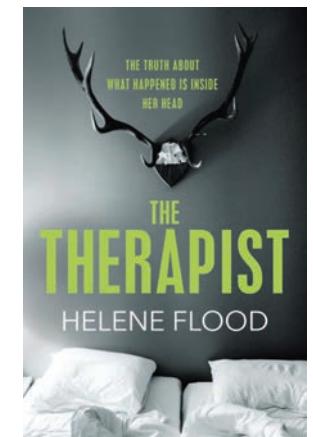
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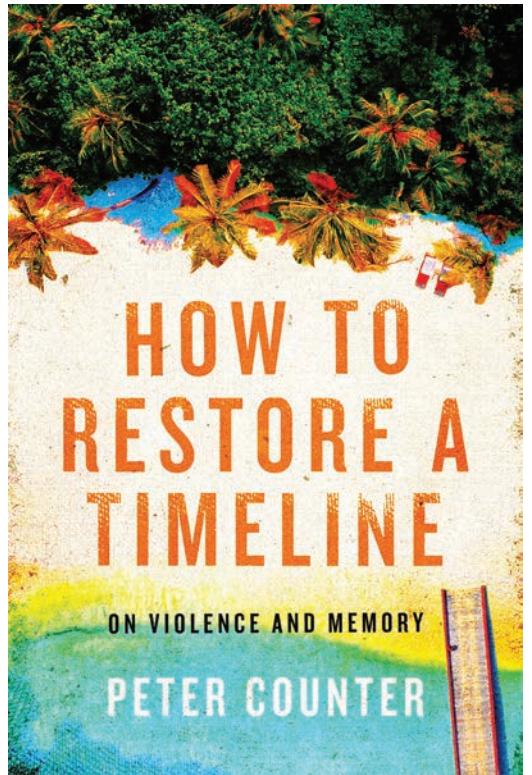
Saha



The Substitute



The Therapist



BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs  
BIO026000

SOCIAL SCIENCE / Popular Culture  
SOC022000

SOCIAL SCIENCE / Essays  
SOC041000

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## HOW TO RESTORE A TIMELINE ON VIOLENCE AND MEMORY

written by Peter Counter

A kaleidoscopic blend of personal essays and cultural criticism that explores the profound and occasionally horrific truths of what it means to be traumatized.

When a stranger shoots his dad on a Costa Rican pier, Peter Counter hauls his blood-drenched father to safety. Returning home, Counter discovers that his sense of time and memory is shattered, and in its place is a budding new mental illness: post-traumatic stress disorder.

Counter begins to see violence everywhere. From the music of Cat Stevens to Jeb Bush's Twitter feed. Walter Benjamin to Johnny Carson. Taskmaster. Video games. ASMR videos on YouTube. The world is steeped in gore. Again and again, Counter finds himself reliving his father's shooting as his trauma is fragmented, recast, and distorted on a compulsive mental tilt-a-whirl.

Formally inventive and incisively smart, *How to Restore a Timeline* revels in a fragile human condition battered by real conflict and hyper-curated media portrayals of death. Channelling John Jeremiah Sullivan and Carmen Maria Machado, these essays look us dead in the eye and ask: What kind of life can we piece together amid all the carnage?

### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Mental health struggles have been in the spotlight more than ever before, and there's a need for honest accounts from people with lived experience. This is a unique mental health memoir in a framework of cultural criticism.
- This will appeal to readers who are immersed in pop culture and like to think about how we consume and are consumed by modern media.
- These essays include engaging first-person accounts of the destabilizing effects of PTSD, and readers will find a great deal of kinship in Counter's writing about trauma.
- Ideal for anyone who loves the essay format or memoir titles and is ideally timed for the current explosion in demand for creative non-fiction. The broad range of topics in the book also means there's an essay for almost everyone.

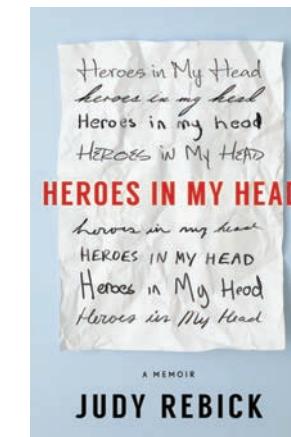
## CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION



**PETER COUNTER** is a culture critic writing about television, video games, film, music, mental illness, horror, and technology. He is the author of *Be Scared of Everything: Horror Essays* and his non-fiction has appeared in the *Walrus*, *All Lit Up*, *Motherboard*, *Art of the Title*, *Electric Literature*, and the anthology *Empty the Pews: Stories of Leaving the Church*. He lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Find more of his writing at [petercounter.com](http://petercounter.com) and [everythingisscary.com](http://everythingisscary.com).



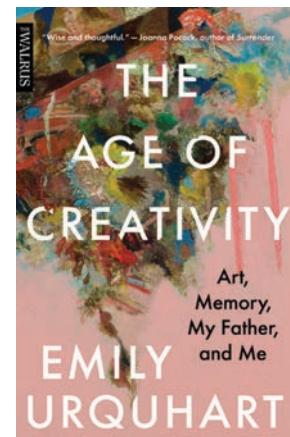
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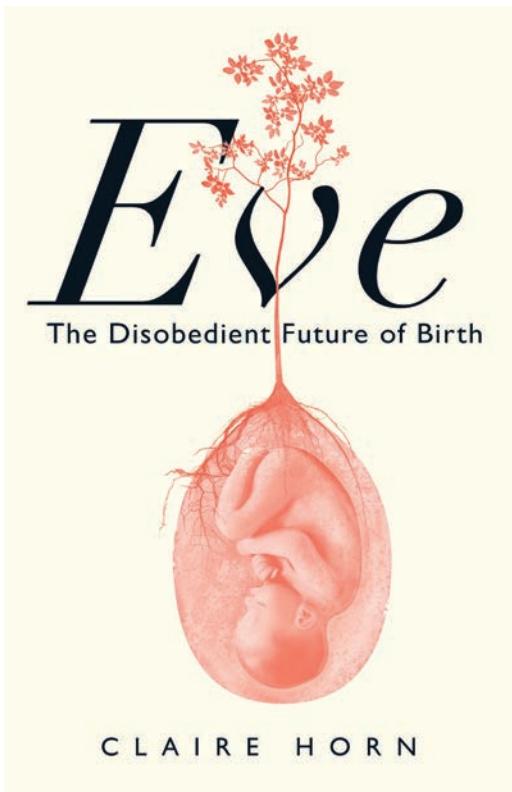
Heroes in My Head



The Last Good Funeral of the Year



The Age of Creativity



SCIENCE / Ethics  
SCI10100

HEALTH & FITNESS / Pregnancy & Childbirth  
HEA04100

MEDICAL / Biotechnology  
MED00900

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## EVE

### THE DISOBEDIENT FUTURE OF BIRTH

written by Claire Horn

A radical interrogation of the ethics and future of birth by an expert legal scholar.

Every single one of us has been born from a person. So far. But that is about to change. For the first time, babies could be gestated and born from machines through "Ex-vivo Uterine Environment Therapy," aka EVE. But such radical technology leaves us with complex legal, social, and ethical questions. What does this breakthrough in artificial human gestation mean for motherhood, womanhood, and parenthood? Countries and people that do not respect the autonomy of pregnant people may use these technologies to curtail choice further, advance eugenic ideas, or to deepen class and racial divides.

In this fascinating story of modern birth, Claire Horn takes us on a journey from the first orchid-like incubators in the 1880s to the cutting-edge scientific breakthroughs of today. As she explores the most challenging and pertinent questions of our age, Horn reflects on her own pregnancy. Could artificial wombs allow women to redistribute the work of gestating? How do we protect reproductive and abortion rights? And who exactly gets access to this technology, in our vastly unequal world?

#### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- In mid-2022, the US Supreme Court overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling that had for almost 50 years legalized abortion in the US, clawing back women's rights to bodily autonomy. The advances in birth technology explored in *Eve* tie into a global conversation about these rights and reproductive healthcare.
- Technological advances in medicine spark debates over barriers to access and the ethical and moral implications of artificial interventions. *Eve* offers informed and nuanced consideration of bio-ethics and human rights.
- The author makes a point of using the term "pregnant people" rather than "pregnant women," and consciously rejects the idea that one's reproductive organs define their identity and place in the world.

## CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION



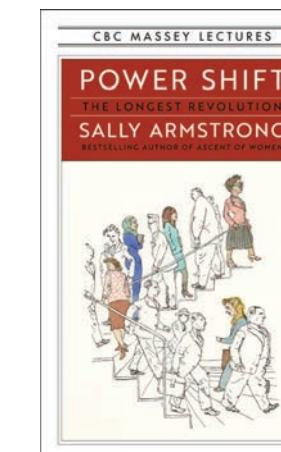
**CLAIRE HORN** is a Killam postdoctoral research fellow at Dalhousie University's Health Law Institute. Her work over the last six years has focused on law and policy governing sexual and reproductive health, rights, and technologies. She has written for a variety of academic and nonfiction publications, including the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, the *Medical Law Review*, *Feminist Legal Studies*, *Catalyst*, *Aeon*, and *Lady Science*.



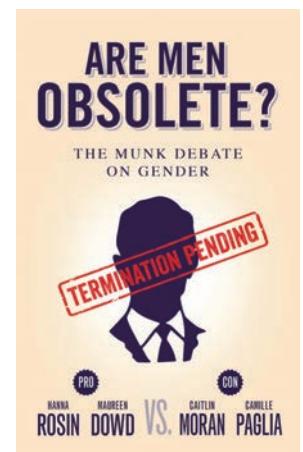
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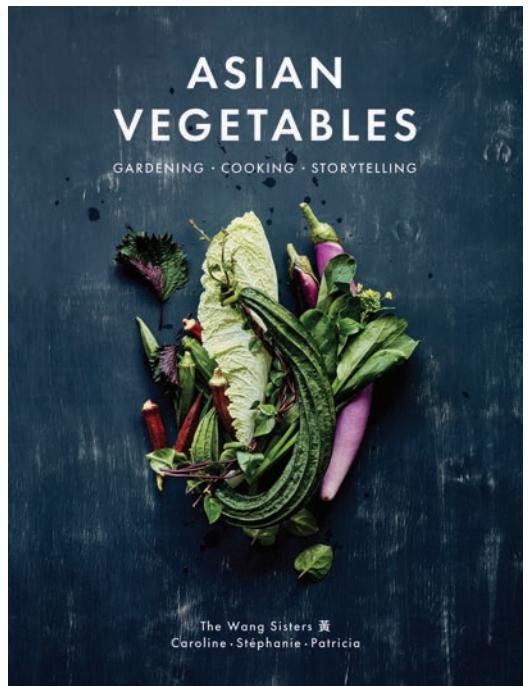
No More Nice Girls



Power Shift



Are Men Obsolete?



COOKING / Regional & Ethnic / Asian  
CKB090000

COOKING / Specific Ingredients / Vegetables  
CKB085000

GARDENING / Vegetables  
GAR025000

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## ASIAN VEGETABLES GARDENING. COOKING. STORYTELLING.

written by Caroline Wang  
written by Stéphanie Wang  
written by Patricia Ho-Yi Wang  
translated by J. C. Sutcliffe

While bok choy is now a staple on Western grocery store shelves, other Asian vegetables remain unknown—even though they're delicious, nutritious, and easy to grow in northern climates.

Caroline, Stéphanie, and Patricia Ho-Yi Wang, three sisters of Cantonese descent, have made it their mission to introduce gardeners, cooks, and vegetable lovers of all flavours to wider sources of sustenance.

Organized around fifteen Asian vegetables that are presented according to the rhythm of the seasons, this lush, full-colour book offers advice on growing and harvesting organic crops intended for both weekend and commercial gardeners, along with a host of ideas to preserve and prepare them, including forty or so recipes, some of which have been developed by renowned chefs.

The Wang sisters complement the book's practical advice by offering thoughts on Asian vegetables from a cultural point of view and sharing the importance of these foods within their own family, members of whom left China to immigrate to Madagascar before settling in Québec.

*Asian Vegetables* is a generous and gorgeous tribute to good food, to the land, and the importance of strong roots.

### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Includes more than 40 delicious recipes that feature both vegetable and meat ingredients.
- Part cookbook, part gardening guide, this book takes readers through the life cycles of the vegetables, from planting seeds to serving plates.
- The vegetables chosen are all grown at Rizen, the organic farm that Stéphanie founded in 2016.
- Vegetables included in the book: Bok Choy, Choy Sum, Gai Lan, Mustard Greens, Edible Chrysanthemum, Celuce, Amaranth, Malabar Spinach, Shiso, Okra, Asian Eggplant, Asian Cucumber, Luffa, Lemongrass, Chinese Cabbage

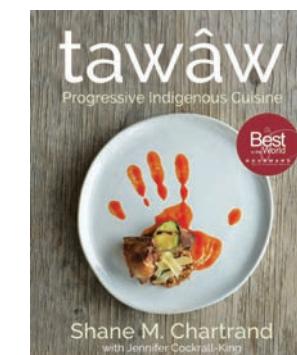
## CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION



CAROLINE, STÉPHANIE, and PATRICIA HO-YI WANG are, respectively, a dietitian, a farmer, and a musician. The three sisters teach about and spread love for Asian vegetables in this unique work, simultaneously a gardening guide, a cookbook, and a family memoir. The vegetables they've chosen are all grown at Rizen, the organic farm that Stéphanie founded at Freightsburg, in the Eastern Townships of Québec.



## ALSO RECOMMENDED



tawâw



Three Times a Day



HOW TO HOST  
A DINNER PARTY  
COREY MINTZ  
INTRODUCTION BY SARAH POLLEY



How to Host a Dinner Party

