Catapult
Counterpoint Press
Soft Skull

SPRING 2021
ON SALE 1/5/2021
COUNTERPOINT
HARDCOVER

978-1-64009-406-2
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BISAC 1: Body, Mind & Spirit - Inspiration & Personal Growth
BISAC 2: Family & Relationships - Death, Grief, Bereavement
BISAC 3: Biography & Autobiography - Personal Memoirs
Page Count: 304  Trim Size: 6 x 9
Carton Count: 12

Marketing and Publicity
- National Media campaign, including NPR and print attention
- Women's magazines and website coverage
- Online interviews, reviews, and literary blog coverage
- Coverage in religious publications, podcasts, and websites
- Coverage on parenting websites and publications
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- Events throughout the Bay Area
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The Night Lake
A Young Priest Maps the Topography of Grief
Liz Tichenor

Called "such a sad, tough story, but finally so life-affirming, filled with spirit and love" by Anne Lamott, this is a raw and intensely affecting memoir by a young priest about loss of a child, its grief and its aftermath, and the hard-won joy that can follow.

Liz Tichenor has taken her newborn son, five weeks old, to the doctor, from a cabin on the shores of Lake Tahoe. She is sent home with the baby, who is pronounced "fine" by an Urgent Care physician. Six hours later their baby dies in their bed. Less than a year and a half before, Tichenor's mother had jumped from a building and killed herself after a long struggle with alcoholism. As a very young Episcopal priest, she has to "preach the good news," to find faith where there is no hope, but she realizes these terrible parts of her own life will join her in the pulpit.

The Night Lake is the story of finding a way forward through a tragedy that seems like it might be beyond surviving, and of learning to do so while trying to lead her community. It's the story of parenting a toddler who is delighted with the world and doesn't yet understand death, of standing in vulnerability before a congregation, and of learning to carve out space for the slow labor of learning to live again, in grief.

"Written with extraordinary insight and grace, The Night Lake is a stunning and powerful reminder that tragedy can't be overcome by avoidance; that surrendering to heartache loosens its grip; that true acceptance abides even the deepest pain." --Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, author of The Revisioners

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Berkeley, California  Author Hometown: Lebanon, New Hampshire

Liz Tichenor has put down roots in the Bay Area but is originally from New Hampshire and the Midwest. An Episcopal priest, she serves as rector at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Pleasant Hill, California. Tichenor and her husband, Jesse, are raising two young children and continuing to explore the adventure of living, parenting, and leading in the community.

Rights

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Audio: British:
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Book Club: Translation:
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Comparative Titles by Other Authors

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Picnic In the Ruins
Todd Robert Peterson

A madcap caper across the RV-strewn vacation lands of southern Utah meets a meditation on mythology, authenticity, the ethics of preservation, and one nagging question: “who owns the past?”

Anthropologist Sophia Shepard is researching the impact of tourism on cultural sites in a remote national monument on the Utah-Arizona border when she unexpectedly crosses paths with two small-time criminals. The Ashdown brothers were hired to steal maps from a “collector” of Native American artifacts, but instead of delivering as promised, the brothers are out to strike it rich.

But their ineptitude has alerted the local sheriff to their presence—and forced their employer, a former lobbyist seeking lucrative monument land that may soon be open to energy exploration, to send a fixer to clean up their mess before it upsets her machinations. Sheriff Dalton, following the Ashdowns’ trail, soon discovers he’s not dealing with a simple burglary—and any hope the sheriff had for peace and quiet is long gone.

Peterson is a co-founder of Partners in the Parks, a collegiate outdoor learning program that works with the National Parks Service, which he ran for a decade.

“In this twenty-first-century fusion of Zane Grey, Tony Hillerman, and Craig Childs, Todd Robert Petersen gives us a page-turner of a murder mystery.” --Stephen Trimble, editor of Red Rock Stories

“A murderously addictive thrill-ride through the remote, rugged Utah-Arizona borderlands, where looting and vandalism of ancient cultural sites remain all too prevalent.” --Scott Graham, National Outdoor Book Award-winning author of Mesa Verde Victim

“Reading Picnic in the Ruins is like watching a Tarantino film—scenes unfold to reveal a cast of divergent characters who are destined to collide; and when they do, you won’t want to look away. Todd Robert Petersen delivers a roller coaster of a book!” --Margaret Mizushima, award-winning author of the Timber Creek K-9 Mysteries, including Hanging Falls

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Cedar City, Utah
Author Hometown: Moses Lake, Washington

Todd Robert Petersen is the author of It Needs to Look Like We Tried and teaches film studies and creative writing at Southern Utah University. He lives in Cedar City, Utah.

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Return indicator: Full copies only
Reprint: 1st Serial: Special Markets: Agent:

Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)

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The Center of Everything
A Novel
Jamie Harrison

Set against the wild beauty of Montana as a woman attempts to heal from a devastating accident, this generational saga from the award-winning author of The Widow Nash is a heartfelt examination of how the deep bonds of family echo throughout our lives.

For Polly, the small town of Livingston, Montana, is a land charmed by raw, natural beauty and a close network of family that extends back generations. But the summer of 2002 finds Polly at a crossroads: a recent head injury has scattered her perception of the present, bringing to the surface long-forgotten events. As Polly’s many relatives arrive for a family reunion during the Fourth of July holiday, a beloved friend goes missing on the Yellowstone River. Search parties comb the river as carefully as Polly combs her mind, and over the course of one fateful week, Polly arrives at a deeper understanding of herself and her larger-than-life relatives. Weaving together the past and the present, from the shores of Long Island Sound to the landscape of Montana, The Center of Everything examines with profound insight the memories and touchstones that make up a life and what we must endure along the way.

- The daughter of the beloved writer Jim Harrison, Jamie Harrison is a brilliant talent of the contemporary American West in her own right.
- Her previous novel, The Widow Nash, won the MPIBA Reading the West Award, and was a finalist for the High Plains Book Award.
- Beloved NPR Commentator Nancy Pearl is a big fan of Harrison’s.

"Despite various mysteries and suspicious deaths in this story about a Montana woman uncovering secrets past and present, Harrison wisely concentrates less on plot twists than on exploring the trickiness of memory where love and family are concerned... Through small moments, particularly shared meals and drinks, the reader becomes intimately involved in Polly’s inner life and falls in love with a vividly portrayed Montana devoid of Western clichés. A sharply intelligent, warmhearted embrace of human imperfection--the kind of book that invites a second reading."
--Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Livingston, Montana
Author Hometown: Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Jamie Harrison, who has lived in Montana with her family for more than thirty years, has worked as a caterer, a gardener, and an editor, and is the author of The Center of Everything, The Widow Nash, and the four Jules Clement/Blue Deer mysteries: The Edge of the Crazies, Going Local, An Unfortunate Prairie Occurrence, and Blue Deer Thaw. She was awarded the Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association Reading the West Book Award for The Widow Nash, and was a finalist for the High Plains Book Award.

Rights

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Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)
The Widow Nash/Jamie Harrison/Hardcover
9781619029286 6/17 Catapult/Counterpoint Press $26.00
The Widow Nash/Jamie Harrison/Trade Pape...
9781640090361 5/18 Catapult/Counterpoint Press $16.95
The Widow Nash/Jamie Harrison/Ebook
9781619029903 6/17 Catapult/Counterpoint Press $15.99

Comparative Titles by Other Authors
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9780385544252 6/19 Penguin Random House/Random House $28.95
The Lager Queen of Minnesota/U. Ryan Stradal/Hardcover
9780399563050 7/19 Penguin Random House $26.00
Deep River/Karl Marlantes/Hardcover
9780802125385 7/19 Grove Atlantic/Atlantic Monthly Press $30.00
A Long Way From Home/Peter Carey/Hardcover
9780252435990 2/18 Penguin Random House/Knopf $26.95
**OLIGARCHY**

A Novel

Scarlett Thomas

From the author of *The Seed Collectors* comes a darkly comic take on power, privilege, and the pressure put on young women to fit in—and be thin—at their all-girls boarding school.

It's already the second week of term when Natasha, the daughter of a Russian oligarch, arrives at a vast English country house for her first day of boarding school. She soon discovers that the headmaster gives special treatment to the skinniest girls, and Tash finds herself thrown into the school's unfamiliar, moneyed world of fierce pecking orders, eating disorders, and Instagram angst.

The halls echo with the story of Princess Augusta, the White Lady whose portraits—featuring a hypnotizing black diamond—hang everywhere and whose ghost is said to haunt the dorms. It's said that she fell in love with a commoner and drowned herself in the lake. But the girls don't really know anything about the woman she was, much less anything about one another. When Tash's friend Bianca mysteriously vanishes, the routines of the school seem darker and more alien than ever before. Tash must try to stay alive—and sane—while she uncovers what's really going on.

Hilariously dark, *Oligarchy* is *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* for the digital age, exploring youth, power, and privilege. Scarlett Thomas captures the lives of privileged teenage girls, in all their triviality and magnitude, seeking acceptance and control in a manipulative world.

"The privileged teenage girls in this dark comedy, attending a dysfunctional, third-string boarding school in the countryside north of London, get caught up in a mass-psycho, contagious version of anorexia nervosa. Thomas’s prose is fast-thinking, entertaining and punchy." --*The New York Times Book Review*, Editors’ Choice

"One of the funniest novels in recent years . . . It takes a special kind of audacity to write a comic novel about teenagers with eating disorders, but Thomas executes it brilliantly . . . . It's Thomas' boldness, as well as her writing—every sentence seems painstakingly constructed—that make *Oligarchy* such a remarkable novel. It’s brash, bizarre and original, an unflinching look at a group of young women who have become 'hungry ghosts, flickering on the edge of this world.'" —Michael Schaub, NPR

"In this delicious Gothic set in a British boarding school, the daughter of a massively rich Russian finds herself menaced equally by Instagram, an anorexia epidemic, and a spectral ancestor whose haunting portraits seem to watch her every move." --O, *The Oprah Magazine*

"Oligarchy uses the familiar phenomena of adolescent copycatting and boarding-school insularity to cannily and eerily create a world that feels women-focused but proves to be the reverse . . . Steering [her] protagonists toward liberation, [Thomas] seem[s] to suggest that an honest reckoning with misogyny might produce not only solidarity, but also change." —Lily Meyer, *The Atlantic*

**About the Author/Illustrator**

Author Residence: Kent, UK

Scarlett Thomas was born in London in 1972. Her other novels include *The Seed Collectors*, *PopCo*, and *The End of Mr. Y*, which was long-listed for the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction, and she teaches creative writing at the University of Kent.
American Manifesto
Saving Democracy from Villains, Vandal...
Sky Time in Gray's River
Living for Keeps in a Forgotten Place
Robert Michael Pyle

An ecologist reflects on the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest as he describes the lives of plants, animals, and humans through every season of the year during his thirty years in the village of Gray's River, near the mouth of the Columbia River--long out of print, this classic of nature writing is being given a new life in trade paperback.

Sky Time in Gray's River is an elegant meditation on life in the rural Northwest. Although Robert Michael Pyle is a lepidopterist and southwestern Washington is notable for its lack of butterflies, something about the village of Gray's River spoke to him on a visit more than thirty years ago. Ever since then he has lived in the village, one of the first to be established near the mouth of the Columbia River and only tenuously connected to the world of the twenty-first century. Sky Time in Gray's River brings Gray's River to life by compressing those thirty years into twelve chapters, following the lives of the people, plants, and animals that make the village their home, month by month through the seasons.

Through his story of how the village changed his life, Pyle illustrates how a special place can transform anyone lucky enough to find it. He shows that you don't have to travel far to see something new every day--if you know how to look.

"An instant classic . . . one of the very best accounts of a closely observed life." --Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"A testament to one person's determined attempt to live a rural life in complete concord with nature." --The Oregonian

"A beautiful big-hearted book from a leading figure in the resurgence of American nature writing." --Kathleen Dean Moore, author of Piano Tide and Wild Comfort

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Grays River, Washington  Author Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Robert Michael Pyle took his PhD in butterfly ecology at Yale University, worked as a conservation biologist in Papua New Guinea, Oregon, and Cambridge, and has written full-time for many years. His twenty-two books include Wintergreen (John Burroughs Medal), Where Bigfoot Walks (Guggenheim Fellowship), Magdalena Mountain: A Novel, and The Nature Matrix (coming this Fall from Counterpoint). He lives and writes in rural Southwest Washington.

Rights

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Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)

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Marketing and Publicity

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ON SALE 1/26/2021
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$16.95/$23.00

BISAC 1: Nature - Ecosystems & Habitats - Rivers
BISAC 2: Biography & Autobiography - Environmentalists & Naturalists
BISAC 3: Body, Mind & Spirit - Nature Therapy
Page Count: 288  Trim Size: 5-1/2 x 8-1/4
Carton Count: 24
The Low Desert
Gangster Stories
Tod Goldberg

Raymond Carver meets Elmore Leonard in this extraordinary collection of contemporary crime writing set in the critically acclaimed Gangsterland universe, a series called "gloriously original" by The New York Times Book Review.

With gimlet-eyed cool and razor-sharp wit, these spare, stylish stories from a master of modern crime fiction assemble a world of gangsters and con men, of do-gooders breaking bad and those caught in the crossfire. The uncle of an FBI agent spends his life as sheriff in different cities, living too close to the violent acts of men; a cocktail waitress moves through several desert towns trying to escape the unexplainable loss of an adopted daughter; a drug dealer with a penchant for karaoke meets a talkative lawyer and a silent clown in a Palm Springs bar.

Witty, brutal, and fast-paced, these stories expand upon the saga of Chicago hitman-turned-Vegas-Rabbi Sal Cupertine--first introduced in Gangsterland and continued in Gangster Nation--while revealing how the line between good and bad is often a mirage.

- Forthcoming TV show
- Explores the popular Sal Cupertine/Rabbi David Cohen/Gangsterland universe
- Gangsterland was a finalist for the Hammett Prize

Praise for Tod Goldberg's Gangster Series:
"Gloriously original." --The New York Times Book Review
"An instant classic." --Kirkus Reviews (starred review)
"As sharp as a straight razor. But a lot more fun." --Lee Child

Series Overview
The Gangsterland series features the character Sal Cupertine, a legendary Chicago hitman who is forced to disappear, and takes on the identity of Las Vegas-based Rabbi David Cohen.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Indio, California
Author Hometown: Berkeley, California

Tod Goldberg is the author of more than a dozen books, including Gangsterland, a finalist for the Hammett Prize; Gangster Nation; The House of Secrets, coauthored with Brad Meltzer; and Living Dead Girl, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. His writing has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Review of Books, Las Vegas Weekly, and The Best American Essays, among other publications. He lives in Indio, California, where he directs the low-residency MFA in creative writing and writing for the performing arts at the University of California, Riverside.

Rights

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Audio: Book Club: Publisher
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Restriction: World

Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)
Gangster Nation/Tod Goldberg/Hardcover 9781619027237 9/17 Catapult/Counterpoint $28.00
Gangster Nation/Tod Goldberg/Trade Paper... 9781640091061 9/18 Catapult/Counterpoint $16.95
Gangster Nation/Tod Goldberg/Ebook 9781619026982 9/17 Catapult/Counterpoint $15.99
Gangsterland/Tod Goldberg/Hardcover 9781619023444 9/14 Catapult/Counterpoint $26.00

Comparative Titles by Other Authors
Orange World/Stories/Karen Russell/Hardcover 9780525656135 5/19 Penguin Random House/Knopf $25.95
The Man Who Came Uptown/George Pelecanos/Hardcover 9780316479820 9/18 Hachette/Mulholland $27.00
**Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer**

**Essays**

**Wendell Berry**

A brief meditation on the role of technology in his own life and how it has changed the landscape of the United States from "America's greatest philosopher on sustainable life and living" (*Chicago Tribune*).

"A number of people, by now, have told me that I could greatly improve things by buying a computer. My answer is that I am not going to do it. I have several reasons, and they are good ones."

First published in *Harper's* magazine in the late 1980s, Wendell Berry's "Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer" challenges the idea circulating then (and now) that our advanced technological age is a good thing. The volume of reader response to his essay far exceeded any the magazine had seen before. Berry answered his critics with the longer essay "Feminism, the Body, and the Machine," which is also included here in this slim volume.

- Berry was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama.
- Berry is considered America's "modern-day Thoreau" and "the poet laureate of America's farmland."
- Berry is the author of more than 40 works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, many set in the fictional Kentucky town of Port Williams.
- This is the sixth selection in the Counterpoints series.

**Praise for Wendell Berry:**

"In writing about the fate of the natural world, Berry is a prophet of the domestic." --Dean Kuipers, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

"Wendell Berry is our National Guardian Angel!" --Richard Horan, *The Christian Science Monitor*

"Compelling, luminous ... our modern-day Thoreau. He is unlike anybody else writing today. He writes at least as well as George Orwell and has an urgent message for modern industrial capitalism . . . nobody can risk ignoring him." --Andrew Marr, *New Statesman*

"It's no great observation to note that we live in an incredibly polarized time, but, curiously, Berry doesn't fit neatly into the conservative or liberal camp. There is just enough in his writing to both satisfy and provoke those of all ideological allegiances . . . In these times we could all use his patient instruction." --Jonathan Foiles LCSW, *Psychology Today*

**Series Overview**

Each palm-size book in the Counterpoints series is meant to stay with you, whether safely in your pocket or long after you turn the last page. From short stories to essays to poems, these little books celebrate our most-beloved writers, whose work encapsulates the spirit of Counterpoint Press: cutting-edge, wide-ranging, and independent.

**About the Author/Illustrator**

**Author Residence:** Port Royal, Kentucky  
**Author Hometown:** Port Royal, Kentucky

Wendell Berry is an essayist, novelist, and poet. In 2010, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama. He lives with his wife, Tanya Berry, on their farm in Henry County, Kentucky.

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Earth's Wild Music
Celebrating and Defending the Songs of the Natural World
Kathleen Dean Moore

At once joyous and somber, this thoughtful gathering of new and selected essays spans Kathleen Dean Moore’s distinguished career as a tireless advocate for environmental activism in the face of climate change.

In her newest collection, Moore selects essays that celebrate the music of the natural world as a reminder of what can be taken from us—the yowl of wolves, tick of barnacles, laughter of children, shriek of falling mountains. Alongside these selections are brand new essays born from the sorrow and iniquity of this new age of extinction, all bearing witness to the glories of this world and the sins against it. Each group of essays moves, as Moore herself has been moved, from celebration to lamentation to bewilderment to the determination to act.

In Earth's Wild Music, Moore reminds us that whatever is left of the planet after its pillaging is the world in which those who remain must live. Whatever genetic song-lines, whatever fragments of whale-squeal and shattered harmonies are left, that's what evolution will have to work with. Music is the shivering urgency and exuberance of life on-going. In a time of terrible silencing, Moore asks, who will forgive us if we do not save the songs?

- Moore is a well-loved figure on the environmental stage and a tireless activist.
- Moore is an in-demand speaker and her many keynote addresses can be viewed on YouTube.
- Her previous book, Great Tide Rising, was an Oregon Book Award Finalist
- Her novel, Piano Tide, was the 2017 WILLA Literary Award Winner in Contemporary Fiction and shortlisted for the ASLE Environmental Creative Book Award

Praise for Earth's Wild Music:
“Kathleen Dean Moore is a celebrant of life, a philosopher in love with the world and enraged by destruction of its bounty. She brings her fierce attention and generosity of spirit to the varieties of kinship that enjoy Earth's astonishing soundtrack. Loon, wolf, meadowlark, bear, canyon wren, Beethoven, Puccini, and Leonard Bernstein all assist her in this paean and plea for awakening the moral imagination and getting real about facing up to and transforming human destructiveness.” --Alison Hawthorne Deming, author of Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit


"In this poetic tribute to the beauty of the earth and its inhabitants, Kathleen Dean Moore brings her readers in touch with the spiritual way that birds and mammals, other animals, and natural sounds demonstrate our need to preserve ecosystems. A lovely read." --Peter H. Raven, President Emeritus, Missouri Botanical Garden

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Corvallis, Oregon
Author Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio
Kathleen Dean Moore is the author or co-editor of many books about our moral and emotional bonds to the wild, reeling world, including Wild Comfort, Moral Ground, and Great Tide Rising. She is the recipient of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers’ Association Award and the Oregon Book Award, along with the WILLA Literary Award for her novel Piano Tide. A philosopher and activist, Moore writes from Corvallis, Oregon and Chichagof Island, Alaska.
You're Leaving When?
Adventures in Downward Mobility
Annabelle Gurwitch

From the New York Times bestselling author of I See You Made an Effort comes a timely and hilarious chronicle of downward mobility, financial and emotional.

With signature "sharp wit" (NPR), Annabelle Gurwitch gives irreverent and empathetic voice to a generation hurtling into their next chapter with no safety net and proving that our no-frills new normal doesn’t mean a deficit of humor. In these essays, Gurwitch embraces homesharing, welcoming a housing-insecure young couple and a bunny rabbit into her home. The mother of a college student in recovery who sheds the gender binary, she relearns to parent, one pronoun at a time. She wades into the dating pool with a reupholstered vagina and flunks the magic of tidying up. You’re Leaving When? is for anybody who thought they had a semblance of security but wound up with a fragile economy and a blankie. "What do we do when we’ve already reinvented in midlife?" Gurwitch offers stories of resilience, adaptability, low-rent redemption, and the kindness of strangers. Even in a Zoom.

- Gurwitch has successfully positioned herself the go-to writer and humorist on topics related to the Sandwich Generation.
- The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times have excerpted two pieces from this book.
- TV rights to the Los Angeles Times piece have been optioned and it also has been commissioned to be a part of a PBS series airing in the spring, funded by Barbara Ehrenreich’s Economic Hardship Reporting project.
- Using her background as comedic actress, TV host, and NPR commentator, Gurwitch regularly appears in The New Yorker, The New York Times, WJ, McSweeney’s, Real Simple, AARP, the Los Angeles Times, and Hadassah Magazine.
- Gurwitch was the beloved host of TBS’s Dinner and a Movie for seven years.
- Gurwitch’s prior essay collection, I See You Made an Effort, was a New York Times bestseller and Thumber Prize finalist.

"Everyone needs a friend to guide them through the American middle class in decline, and you couldn’t do better than Annabelle Gurwitch. She is sharp-eyed, un-foolable, and hilarious." --Barbara Ehrenreich

Praise for Annabelle Gurwitch
"Annabelle Gurwitch tackles every life passage, with a courageous wit that makes even the darkest moments more bearable." --Heather Havrilesky, author of How To Be a Person In This World

"Reading Annabelle Gurwitch feels like staying up all night in a freewheeling conversation with my funniest, wisest, most magnetic friend." --Maria Semple, author of Where’d You Go, Bernadette

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Los Angeles, CA
Author Hometown: Alabama
Annabelle Gurwitch is an actress and New York Times bestselling author of I See You Made an Effort. Her other books include Wherever You Go, There They Are; You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up (w Jeff Kahn); and Fired! (also a Showtime Comedy Special). Gurwitch was the longtime cohost of Dinner & a Movie and a regular commen-tator on NPR. She’s written for The New Yorker, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, O, The Oprah Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, and Hadassah Magazine. Gurwitch was the news anchor of HBO’s award-winning Not Necessarily the News, resident humorist for The Nation, and her acting credits include Seinfeld, Murphy Brown, Boston Legal, Dexter, and Melvin Goes to Dinner. Gurwitch was a finalist for the Thurber Prize for American Humor, a finalist for an Audiw Award in Humor, and a finalist for a Los Angeles Press Club Southern California Journalism Award, and Time featured her in their annual Ten Ideas That Are Changing the World issue.

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Author’s Previous Titles (Sales Track)

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On Harrow Hill
John Verdon

When an old colleague comes to him for help solving the mysterious death of his town’s most prominent resident, retired NYPD detective Dave Gurney must use all of his analytical skills to hunt a murderer who just might be killing from beyond the grave.

The idyllic community of Larchfield is rocked to its core when Angus Russell, its wealthiest and most powerful citizen, is found dead in his mansion on Harrow Hill. A preliminary analysis of DNA gathered at the crime scene points to the guilt of local bad boy Billy Tate, whose hatred for the victim was well known. Except that Tate fell from the roof of a local church and was declared dead by the medical examiner the day before Russell was killed. When police rush to the mortuary, they discover Tate’s coffin has been broken open from the inside and the body is gone.

A series of murders soon follows as Larchfield loses its collective mind. Gun sales explode. Conspiracy theories and religious fundamentalism spread. The once-peaceful town becomes a magnet for sensation seekers, self-proclaimed zombie hunters, TV producers eager for ratings, and apocalyptic preachers rallying the faithful for the end of days. His quiet retirement shattered, ex-NYPD detective Dave Gurney finds himself not only facing down a murderer, but struggling to restore order to the town rapidly spiraling out of control.

- The Dave Gurney series is an international bestseller.
- Peter Pan Must Die won the Nero Award for the Best American Detective Novel of 2014.
- This is the seventh novel in the Dave Gurney series.

Praise for the Dave Gurney series
"John Verdon writes grown-up detective novels, by which I mean stories with intelligent plots, well-developed characters and crimes that have social consequences . . . the author’s brainy gumshoe-for-hire, Dave Gurney, checks all these boxes." --The New York Times Book Review

"Verdon is a gifted writer and storyteller." --Booklist

"Why isn’t John Verdon huge? Like household name huge? Verdon has a very distinctive style, one that is slightly offbeat without being off-putting . . . Verdon is an author deserving of your time and attention." -Bookreporter.com

Series Overview
The Dave Gurney series features an ex-NYPD detective whose analytical crime-solving methods have drawn comparisons to Sherlock Holmes.

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: Delaware County, NY  Author Hometown: New York, NY
John Verdon is the author of the Dave Gurney series of thrillers, international bestsellers published in more than two dozen languages: Think of a Number, Shut Your Eyes Tight, Let the Devil Sleep, Peter Pan Must Die, Wolf Lake, White River Burning, and On Harrow Hill. Before becoming a crime fiction writer, Verdon had two previous careers: as an advertising creative director and a custom furniture maker. He currently lives with his wife, Naomi, in upstate New York. Find out more at johnverdon.net.
**This Town Sleeps**

Dennis E. Staples

Part mystery, part ghost story, a long unsolved murder becomes the singular fixation of an Indigenous American man living in far northern Minnesota as he grapples with his identity and that of his lover, a heavily closeted white man.

On an Ojibwe reservation called Languille Lake, within the small town of Geshig at the hub of the rez, two men enter into a secret romance. Marion Lafournier, a midtwenties gay Ojibwe man, begins a relationship with his former classmate Shannon, a white man who isn’t ready to acknowledge his identity. While Marion is far more open about his sexuality, neither is immune to the realities of the lives of gay men in small towns and closed societies.

Then one night, while roaming the dark streets of Geshig, Marion unknowingly brings to life the spirit of a dog from beneath the elementary school playground. The mysterious revenant leads him to the grave of Kayden Kelliher, an Ojibwe basketball star who was murdered at the age of seventeen and whose presence still lingers in the memories of the townsfolk. While investigating the fallen hero’s death, Marion discovers family connections and an old Ojibwe legend that may be the secret to unraveling the mystery he has found himself in.

Set on a reservation in far northern Minnesota, *This Town Sleeps* explores the many ways history, culture, landscape, and lineage shape our lives, our understanding of the world we inhabit, and the stories we tell ourselves to make sense of it all.

"Elegant and gritty, angry and funny. Staples’s work is emotional without being sentimental. Dennis unmakes something in us, then remakes it, a quilt of characters that embody this town, this place, which sleeps but doesn’t dream, or it is all a dream we want to wake up from with its characters." -Tommy Orange, author of *There, There*

"In this novel we travel to familiar literary terrain: a community—in this case, an Indigenous reservation in northern Minnesota—that is still suffering from the ravages of colonialism and its aftermath. Yet Staples approaches this grand injustice with a fresh intimacy, informing us of the ways it continues to singe people's lives, and how the search for truth-in one's identity, hopes, love—defines them." --*The New York Times Book Review*

"With gentle wit, frank sensuality, and a keen eye for small town and reservation life, Dennis E. Staples debuts a tender, suspenseful, irresistible first novel!" --Louise Erdrich

**About the Author/Illustrator**

Author Residence: Bemidji, Minnesota  
Author Hometown: Bemidji, Minnesota  
**Dennis E. Staples** is an Ojibwe writer from Bemidji, Minnesota. He graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts with an MFA in fiction. He is a graduate of the 2018 Clarion West Writers Workshop and a recipient of the Octavia E. Butler Memorial Scholarship. His work has appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction* and *Nightmare* magazine. He is a member of the Red Lake Nation.

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On Extinction
How We Became Estranged from Nature
Melanie Challenger

This "hybrid of travelogue and natural science" by an award-winning author is "truly poetic"—now revised with a new introduction and accompanied by the voices of two young activists calling for new kind of relationship to our planet (The New York Times Book Review).

Our era is now dubbed the Anthropocene: The Age of Man. Our species has become the primary cause of the extinction of other life and of the dramatic changes we see across the planet. In her twenties, Melanie Challenger began a series of journeys to explore the link between her own estrangement from nature and these striking transformations. From an exploration of an abandoned mine in England to an Antarctic sea voyage to South Georgia’s old whaling stations, from a sojourn in South America to a stay among an Inuit community in Canada, she began to uncover the connections between human activity and the living world around us. In time, her travels became a loose meditation on extinction, on how losses affect us and why they matter.

On Extinction is part travelogue, part environmental history. Woven through her journey are the thoughts of the anthropologists, biologists, and philosophers who have come before her. Drawing on their words as well as firsthand witness and ancestral memory, Challenger traces the mindset that led to our destructiveness and proposes a path of redemption rooted in our emotional responses. This sobering yet illuminating book looks beyond natural devastation to examine why and what’s next.

"On Extinction is a strange hybrid of travelogue and natural science, misted over with a wanderer’s lonesome observations of a world in the process of disappearing . . . Amid this solid research, there is fine and truly poetic prose." -- The New York Times Book Review

"A deep look at the human capacity for extinction twined with roamings to the far ends of the earth, from poet and fledging natural historian Challenger...She has a rangy curiosity that extends well past ignorance and alienation as the sole agents of the man-made extinction...A formidable inquiry into why the marvels of nature and the distinctiveness of cultures are constantly imperiled." Kirkus Reviews

"Erudite and impassioned, Melanie Challenger’s On Extinction is a ruminative examination on the way our 21st century world is changing quickly . . . A timely and important book, On Extinction will make you think, one of the finest things a book can do."

--The Dallas Morning News

"[Challenger] has a keen awareness of how the past is layered beneath the present, and how transient both natural and human systems are... [On Extinction] lets the reader observe a creative and intelligent mind at work on problems that face all of us."

--Columbus Dispatch

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: North Yorkshire, UK  Author Hometown: Oxford, UK
Melanie Challenger is the author of Galatea, an award-winning first collection of poems, and co-author, with Zlata Filipovic, of Stolen Voices, a history of twentieth-century conflict compiled through war diaries. She has received a British Council Darwin Award for her work. She lives in the Scottish Highlands.

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Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)  ISBN  On sale  Publisher  Price US/Can.
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On Extinction/Melanie Challenger/Trade P...  9781619021945  10/13  Catapult/Counterpoint  $17.95

Comparative Titles by Other Authors  ISBN  On sale  Publisher  Price US/Can.
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The Seabird’s Cry/Adam Nicolson/Trade Paperback  9781250159596  2/19  Macmillan/Picador  $20.00
Inheritor’s of the Earth/Chris D. Thomas/Hardcover  9781598467798  9/17  Hachette/Public Affairs  $28.00
The Mushroom at the End of the World/Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing/H...  9780691162751  9/15  Princeton University Press  $29.95
The Mushroom at the End of the World/Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing/T...  9780691178325  9/17  Princeton University Press  $19.95
Apology to the Young Addict
A Memoir
James Brown

Husband, addict, father, skeptic. Now sixty—with years of sobriety under his belt—the celebrated author of The Los Angeles Diaries and This River returns with his most moving work of memoir yet.

The last in his recovery triptych that started with The Los Angeles Diaries and continued with This River, with Apology to the Young Addict, James Brown writes about finding a new path in life while raising three sons, making peace with the family whose ghosts have haunted him, and helping the next generation of addicts overcome their disease. Opening with the tragic tale of an elderly couple consumed by opioid addiction and moving through the horrors of a Las Vegas massacre to the loss of a beloved sponsor, these essays draw on Brown’s personal journey to illustrate how an individual life, in all its messiness and charm, can offer a blueprint for healing. Haunting and hopeful, Apology to the Young Addict is a reinvention of the recovery story and a lasting testimony from the master of the modern memoir.

"James Brown’s Apology to the Young Addict does not just breathe new life into addiction writing, it does so with enough grace, heart, and grab-you-by-the-throat style to transcend the genre and quality as genuine literature. These beautiful essays will serve as balm for survivors of the opioid crisis, those still struggling to make it out, and pretty much anyone else trying to stay sane in these insane times. Prose-wise— with all due respect to his late namesake—James Brown has earned his title as the Godfather of Junkie Soul." --Jerry Stahl, author of Permanent Midnight

"James Brown, already among the best memoirists in America, has surpassed his own high standards in Apology to the Young Addict. This superbly written book is about addiction, yes, but it is equally a book about courage, perseverance, love, desperation, recovery, and healing. More than anything, it is a book that reminds us, again and again, of the power of storytelling. In the pages of this heartbreaking but oddly exhilarating memoir, Brown deploys his narrative skills with precision, grace, complexity, and masterfully controlled intensity of emotion. What a fine piece of work." -Tim O’Brien, author of The Things They Carried

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Lake Arrowhead, CA

**THE ELEPHANT OF BELFAST**

**A Novel**

S. Kirk Walsh

Inspired by true events, this vivid and moving story of a young woman zookeeper and the elephant she's compelled to protect through the German blitz of Belfast during WWII speaks to not only the tragedy of the times, but also to the ongoing sectarian tensions that still exist in Northern Ireland today--perfect for readers of historical and literary fiction alike.

In October 1940, twenty-year-old zookeeper Hettie Quin meets Violet, a three-year-old elephant arriving at the Belfast docks from Ceylon. Soon she becomes Violet's dedicated zookeeper at the Bellevue Zoo. In mourning for the recent loss of her sister and the abandonment of her father, she finds contentment in her relationship with Violet and her fellow zookeepers.

Six months later, in April 1941, Belfast is attacked. One evening, over five hours, 674 bombs are dropped and almost a thousand civilians are killed. During the bombings, Hettie Quin fights to save her elephant and survive the destruction and escalating sectarian unrest of the city.

Inspired by the life of Denise Austin, S. Kirk Walsh deftly renders the changing relationship between Hettie and her young charge, and their growing dependence on each other for survival and solace. *The Elephant of Belfast* is a complicated portrait of love, loss, grief, and resilience.

- Novels set during WWII continue to do very well in the marketplace
- Based on a lesser-known event of WWII

"*The Elephant of Belfast* knocked me flat and picked me up, not just once but many times over the course of S. Kirk Walsh's deeply satisfying telling. There's so much life in these pages, life as well as death--we're in wartime Belfast, dear reader, and the Luftwaffe is dropping bombs--that I couldn't help but feel changed by the end, experienced. Only the best novels do that, and the very fine *Elephant of Belfast* belongs in that rank." --Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn's Long Half-Time Walk*

"*The Elephant of Belfast* boasts not one but two dauntless heroines: Hettie, a young Irish zookeeper and Violet, a young Indian elephant. From their first meeting, Hettie is determined to protect Violet and as dangers mount, we cannot help cheering on her devotion and her resourcefulness. Walsh has written a novel of deep affection and knife-edge suspense. A brilliant debut." --Margot Livesey, author of *The Boy in The Field*

"*The Elephant of Belfast* is a lovely book about a fascinating piece of history, and its two heroines--animal and human--are enthralling and beautifully drawn. S. Kirk Walsh writes wonderfully about heartbreak both personal and historic." --Elizabeth McCracken, author of *Sisters* and *The Double Life of Liliane*

**About the Author/Illustrator**

**Author Residence:** Austin, TX  
**Author Hometown:** Detroit, MI

S. Kirk Walsh is a writer living in Austin, Texas. Her work has been widely published in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Longreads*, *StoryQuarterly*, and *Electric Literature*, among other publications. Over the years, she has been a resident at Ucross, Yaddo, Ragdale, and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Walsh is the founder of Austin Bat Cave, a writing and tutoring center that provides free writing workshops for young writers throughout Austin.

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Blow Your House Down
A Story of Family, Feminism, and Treason
Gina Frangello

"A pathbreaking feminist manifesto, impossible to put down or dismiss. Gina Frangello tells the morally complex story of her adulterous relationship with a lover and her shortcomings as a mother, and in doing so, highlights the forces that shaped, silenced, and shamed her: everyday misogyny, puritanical expectations regarding female sexuality and maternal sacrifice, and male oppression."

--Adrienne Brodeur, author of Wild Game

Gina Frangello spent her early adulthood trying to outrun a youth marked by poverty and violence. Now a long-married wife and devoted mother, the better life she carefully built is emotionally upended by the death of her closest friend. Soon, Frangello is caught up in a recklessly passionate affair, leading a double life while continuing to project the image of the perfect family. When her secrets are finally uncovered, both her home and her identity will implode, testing the limits of desire, responsibility, love, and forgiveness.

Blow Your House Down is a powerful testimony about the ways our culture seeks to cage women in traditional narratives of self-sacrifice and erasure. Frangello uses her personal story to examine the place of women in contemporary society: the violence they experience, the rage they suppress, the ways their bodies often reveal what they cannot say aloud, and finally, what it means to transgress "being good" in order to save your own life.

"Compelling, honest, and thought-provoking, Gina Frangello's memoir is an inspired addition to her astounding body of work." --Charlize Theron

"Gina Frangello can always make me think and laugh; she's also one of the very few authors who's made me cry. Blow Your House Down is searing, honest, heartbreakingly, heart-mending, and a hell of a wild ride. Frangello says things women aren't allowed to say, even to ourselves." --Rebecca Makkai, author of The Great Believers

"Gina Frangello's Blow Your House Down blazes open a radical new portrait of a woman's life with dazzling honesty and breathtaking beauty. Threading through the terrors of breast cancer and caretaking a dying father, navigating the end of a long-term marriage and the burst of new love, Blow Your House Down reveals the epic journey of one woman's life and body. This book is a heart beating, not beaten. This book is a mighty heart-song." --Lidia Yuknavitch, author of Verge and The Chronology of Water

"In Blow Your House Down, Gina Frangello has created a form, a structure of her own out of necessity: the need to tell all the stories, especially the ones we feel cannot be told. In the process, she gives us a new language through which we might come to some sort of reckoning with ourselves. This book is an excavation of the deepest and most complex corridors of the heart." --David L. Ulin, author of The Lost Art of Reading

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Chicago, IL  Author Hometown: Chicago, IL

Gina Frangello is the author of Every Kind of Wanting, A Life in Men, Slut Lullabies, and My Sister's Continent. Her short fiction, essays, book reviews, and journalism have been published in Ploughshares, The Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Huffington Post, Fence, Five Chapters, Prairie Schooner, Chicago Reader, and many other publications.

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Marketing and Publicity

- National Media Attention, including NPR and print features
- Women's magazines and website coverage
- Online and print review coverage in literary outlets
- Local media coverage throughout LA and Chicago (print, online, radio)
- Strong push for Most Anticipated 2021 lists
- Two City Tour: Chicago and Los Angeles
- IndieNext Campaign
- LibraryReads Campaign
- Goodreads giveaways
- Bookstagram outreach
- Advertising on literary sites
- Paid and organic social promotion
- Targeted email newsletters
Trees In Trouble
Wildfires, Infestations, and Climate Change
Daniel Mathews

A troubling story of the devastating and compounding effects of climate change in the Western and Rocky Mountain states, told through in-depth reportage and conversations with ecologists, professional forest managers, park service scientists, burn bosses, activists, and more.

Climate change manifests in many ways across North America, but few as dramatic as the attacks on our western pine forests. In Trees in Trouble, Daniel Mathews tells the urgent story of this loss, accompanying burn crews and forest ecologists as they study the myriad risk factors and refine techniques for saving this important, limited resource.

Mathews transports the reader from the exquisitely aromatic haze of ponderosa and Jeffrey pine groves to the fantastic gnarls and whorls of five-thousand-year-old bristlecone pines, from genetic test nurseries where white pine seedlings are deliberately infected with their mortal enemy to the hottest megafire sites and neighborhoods leveled by fire tornadoes or ember blizzards.

Scrupulously researched, Trees in Trouble not only explores the devastating ripple effects of climate change, but also introduces us to the people devoting their lives to saving our forests. Mathews also offers hope: a new approach to managing western pine forests is underway. Trees in Trouble explores how we might succeed in sustaining our forests through the challenging transition to a new environment.

"The appeal of Mathews' evaluation of these valuable conifer forests may skew slightly to the more scientifically minded reader, yet his deeply personal connection to the land and its majestic trees makes this equally suitable for any tree lover and everyone concerned about the state of the planet." - Booklist

"A walk in the woods with an environmental journalist and natural-history writer reveals that the forested world is in grave danger . . . His book sounds a timely warning to pay more heed to the health of the woodlands. Thoughtful environmental reportage suggesting that the fate of trees is the fate of all life." - Kirkus Reviews

"Natural historian Mathews vividly relates the complex environmental situation facing America's western pine forests in this fascinating account . . . Eco-conscious readers, even those unversed in this seemingly niche subject, will be intrigued and enlightened by Mathews' thoughtful work." - Publishers Weekly

"Lays out challenges facing today's pine forests that inspire new respect for their strength and resilience-and for the dilemma they're in." - Amy Wang, The Oregonian

About the Author/Illustrator

Daniel Mathews is the author of Natural History of the Pacific Northwest Mountains, Rocky Mountain Natural History, and Cascade-Olympic Natural History. During a career of writing about the natural history of western North America, he has backpacked far and wide, watched for fires from Desolation Peak Lookout, witnessed a forty-inch-thick fir crash onto his family's house in a storm, and lived for several years in a forest cabin without electricity, heating with firewood and writing by kerosene lamp. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

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Secrets of Happiness
Joan Silber

When a man discovers his father in New York has long had another, secret, family—a wife and two kids—the interlocking fates of both families lead to surprise loyalties, love triangles, and a reservoir of inner strength.

Ethan, a young lawyer in New York, learns that his father has long kept a second family—a Thai wife and two kids living in Queens. In the aftermath of this revelation, Ethan’s mother spends a year working abroad, returning much changed, and events introduce her to the other wife. Across town, Ethan’s half brothers are caught in their own complicated journeys: one brother’s penchant for minor delinquency has escalated, and the other must travel to Bangkok to bail him out, while the bargains their mother has struck about love and money continue to shape their lives.

As Ethan finds himself caught in a love triangle of his own, the interwoven fates of these two households elegantly unfurl to encompass a woman rallying to help an ill brother with an unreliable lover and a filmmaker with a girlhood fates of these two households elegantly unfurl to encompass a woman rallying to help an ill brother with an unreliable lover and a filmmaker with a girlhood fates of these two households elegantly unfurl to encompass a woman rallying to help an ill brother with an unreliable lover and a filmmaker with a girlhood fates of these two households elegantly unfurl to encompass a woman rallying to help an ill brother with an unreliable lover and a filmmaker with a girlhood.

- Silber's previous book, Improvement, was the winner of the 2018 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and the 2017 National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction
- Improvement was named a Best Book of the Year by The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Newsday, The Seattle Times, and Kirkus Reviews
- Silber has been twice-nominated for the National Book Award
- She received the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story, as well as the recipient of an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Praise for Improvement:
“This is a novel of richness and wisdom and huge pleasure. Silber knows, and reveals, how close we live to the abyss, but she also revels in joy, particularly the joy that comes from intimate relationships... [A] perfectly balanced mix of celebration and wryness.”
--The Washington Times Book Review

"Joan Silber's quietly brilliant novel Improvement weaves an intricate, zigzagging pattern out of the lives of a dozen people, and six well-chosen narrators provide the voices... The multiplicity of voices in this production gives a wonderful aural dimension to the weave of inadvertently interlocked lives." --The Washington Post

About the Author/Illustrator:
Author Residence: New York, NY
Author Hometown: Millburn, NJ
Joan Silber is the author of nine books of fiction. Her book Improvement was the winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award and was named one of the best books of the year by The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, among others. A previous book, Fools, was long-listed for the National Book Award and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Other works include The Size of the World, finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction, and Ideas of Heaven, finalist for the National Book Award and the Story Prize. She lives in New York and teaches in the Warren Wilson MFA Program.

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Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)

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Out of the Shadows
Six Visionary Victorian Women in Search of a Public Voice
Emily Midorikawa

Queen Victoria’s reign was an era of breathtaking social change, but it did little to create a platform for women to express themselves. But not so within the social sphere of the séance—a mysterious, lamp-lit world on both sides of the Atlantic, in which women who craved a public voice could hold their own.

Out of the Shadows tells the stories of the enterprising women whose supposedly clairvoyant gifts granted them fame, fortune, and, most important, influence, as they crossed rigid boundaries of gender and class as easily as they passed between the realms of the living and the dead. The Fox sisters inspired some of the era’s best-known political activists and set off a transatlantic séance craze. While in the throes of a trance, Emma Hardinge Britten delivered powerful speeches to crowds of thousands. Victoria Woodhull claimed guidance from the spirit world as she took on the millionaires of Wall Street before becoming America’s first female presidential candidate. And Georgina Weldon narrowly escaped the asylum before becoming a celebrity campaigner against archaic lunacy laws.

Drawing on diaries, letters, rarely seen memoirs and texts, Emily Midorikawa illuminates a radical history of female influence that has been confined to the dark until now.

Praise for A Secret Sisterhood:
"In digging up the forgotten friendships chronicled in A Secret Sisterhood, Emily Midorikawa has done much service to literary history . . . These four women, however iconic they have now become, were not two-dimensional icons, nor were they plaster angels: they were real people, with all the neediness, anxiety, ardor, and complexity that come with the territory." --Margaret Atwood, from the foreword

"A Secret Sisterhood offers a clever new perspective on established literary figures. While we may inherit family and circumstances, we get to choose our friends: and those these famous women writers have chosen reveal much that is fresh and fascinating about their lives and their work." --Tracy Chevalier, author of Girl with a Pearl Earring

"A thought-provoking meditation on literary friendship as well as engagingly intimate glimpses of four of the world’s finest writers in a pursuit that, for women of their times, skirted the edges of decency." --San Francisco Chronicle

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: London, UK
Author Hometown: York, UK

Emily Midorikawa is the coauthor of A Secret Sisterhood: The Literary Friendships of Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot and Virginia Woolf. Her work has been published in the Washington Post, the Paris Review, Lapham’s Quarterly, TIME.com, and elsewhere. She is a winner of the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize and was a runner-up in the SI Leeds Literary Prize and the Yeovil Literary Prize. She teaches at New York University-London.

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The Five/Halle Rubenhold/Hardcover
The Husband MacmillanSt. Martins/Hardcover
Too Fat, Too Slutty, Too Loud/Anne Helen Petersen/Hardcover
What She Ate/Laura Shapiro/Hardcover

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Lost In Summerland
Essays
Barrett Swanson

Barrett Swanson embarks on a personal quest across the United States to uncover what it means to be an American amid the swirl of our post-truth climate in this collection of critically acclaimed essays and reportage.

A trip with his brother to a New York psychic community becomes a rollicking tour through the world of American spiritualism. At a wilderness retreat in Ohio, men seek a cure for toxic masculinity, while in the hinterlands of Wisconsin, anti-war veterans turn to farming when they cannot sustain the heroic myth of service. And when his best friend's body washes up on the shores of the Mississippi River, he falls into the gullet of true crime discussion boards, exploring the stamina of conspiracy theories along the cankered byways of the Midwest.

Traversing the country, Barrett Swanson introduces us to a new reality. At a moment when grand unifying narratives have splintered into competing storylines, these critically acclaimed essays document the many routes by which people are struggling to find stability in the aftermath of our country's political and economic collapse, sometimes at dire and disillusioning costs.

* Cheryl Strayed chose "Notes From a Last Man" for *Best American Travel Writing 2018*
* Robert Macfarland chose the title essay for *Best American Travel Writing 2020*. This essay about going to a psychic camp with his brother was originally published in *Atavist* and has been optioned by Channing Tatum's company for feature film.
* "Consciousness Razing" was a cover story for *Harpers* in November 2019.
* *Harpers* will be running the brand-new just-finished piece "Disaster City" as their July 2020 cover piece. This is about our author volunteering at a disaster preparedness training site just before the emergence of an international pandemic.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Madison, WI
Author Hometown: Waukesha, WI

Barrett Swanson's essays have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The Believer*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *The Atavist*, among other publications. He is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and has been anthologized two editions of *The Best American Travel Writing*. He was the Halls Emerging Artist Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, and he and his wife live in the Midwest.
Only the River
A Novel
Anne Raeff

A family displaced by World War II finds a new home in Central America, only to watch their fortunes rise and fall on the back of a revolution—from the California Book Award silver medalist and Simpson Literary Prize finalist.

Fleeing the ravages of wartime Vienna, Pepa and her family find safe harbor in the small town of El Castillo, on the banks of the San Juan River in Nicaragua. There her parents seek to eradicate yellow fever while Pepa falls under the spell of the jungle and the town’s eccentric inhabitants. But Pepa’s life— including her relationship with local boy Guillermo—comes to a halt when her family abruptly moves to New York, leaving the young girl disoriented and heartbroken.

As the years pass, Pepa’s and Guillermo’s lives diverge, and Guillermo’s daughter transforms into an accidental revolutionary. Pepa’s son defies his parents’ wishes and joins the revolution in Nicaragua, only to disappear into the jungle. It will take decades before the fates of these two families converge again, revealing how love, grief, and passion are intertwined with a nation’s destiny.

Spanning generations and several wars, Only the River explores the way displacement both destroys two families and creates new ones, sparking a revolution that changes their lives in the most unexpected ways.

"Epic and cinematic, wrought and soulful, it is a deeply serious novel, yet full of tenderness . . . its traces will haunt a reader’s heart and mind." --Joan Frank, The Washington Post

"An expert storyteller, Raeff deftly draws readers into the worlds, however big or small, that her characters inhabit." --Erica Flint, San Francisco Chronicle

"In this novel, Anne Raeff weaves a multigenerational tale of love and war while at the same time casting a magic spell. Her authorial voice is incantatory. Characters and events caught in recent tragedies take on aspects of myth. The novel feels unique, timely, and yet timeless. I couldn’t put it down." --Elizabeth Farnsworth, author of A Train Through Time

"Anne Raeff is a master of the family novel, and of the diaspora novel, and of the novel that spans decades and continents. Is there nothing she can’t do? With Only the River she gives us, in her trademark exquisite prose, the deeply moving story of two families joined and separated by a tiny patch of land in Nicaragua, a country as passionate and divided as the unforgettable characters who populate this marvelous book." --Ann Packer, author of The Children’s Crusade

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Berkeley, CA

Anne Raeff’s short story collection, The Jungle Around Us, won the 2015 Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction, was a finalist for the California Book Award, and was named one of the 100 Best Books of 2016 by the San Francisco Chronicle. Her novel Winter Kept Us Warm was awarded the California Book Award’s Silver Medal in Fiction, was a finalist for the Simpson Literary Prize, and was a finalist for the Northern California Book Award. Her stories and essays have appeared in New England Review, ZYZZYVA, and Guernica, among other places. She lives in San Francisco with her wife, Lori, Juztice, and their two cats. Find out more at anneraeff.com.
Braver Than You Think
Around the World on the Trip of My (Mother’s) Lifetime
Maggie Downs

Newly married and established in her career as an award-winning newspaper journalist, Maggie Downs quits her job, sells her belongings, and embarks on the solo trip of a lifetime: Her mother’s.

As a child, Maggie Downs often doubted that she would ever possess the courage to visit the destinations her mother dreamed of one day seeing. “You are braver than you think,” her mother always insisted. That statement would guide her as, over the course of one year, Downs backpacked through seventeen countries—visiting all the places her mother, struck with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease, could not visit herself—encountering some of the world’s most striking locales while confronting the slow loss of her mother.

Interweaving travelogue with family memories, Braver Than You Think takes the reader hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, white-water rafting on the Nile, volunteering at a monkey sanctuary in Bolivia, praying at an ashram in India, and fleeing the Arab Spring in Egypt.

By embarking on an international journey, Downs learned to make every moment count—traveling around the globe and home again, losing a parent while discovering the world. Perfect for fans of adventure memoirs like Wild and Welcome to the Goddamn Ice Cube, Braver Than You Think explores grief and loss with tenderness, clarity, and humor, and offers a truly incredible roadmap to coping with the unimaginable.

"With a mother in the final stages of Alzheimer’s, Maggie Downs tries to run from her grief, but instead takes us to the far reaches of the globe, cuddling (and being bitten) by endangered monkeys, bonding with elephants, and working to save sea turtles. It’s a journey to make any of us wonder if we’re braver than we think." - Diana Marcum, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of The Tenth Island

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Palm Springs, CA

Marketing and Publicity

- Mailing to media that covers paperbacks
- Social media promotion
- Influencer outreach

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Braver Than You Think/Maggie Downs/Hardc...
Braver Than You Think/Maggie Downs/Ebook
Rough Magic/Lara Prior-Palmer/Trade Paperback
Thirst: 2600 Miles to Home/Heather Anderson/Trade Paperback
Welcome to the Goddamn Ice Cube/Blair Braverman/Trade Paperb...
Lesson In Red
Maria Hummel

A companion to Still Lives--a Reese's Book Club x Hello Sunshine selection--this savvy thriller exposes dark questions about power and the art world and reveals the fatal mistakes that can befal those who threaten its status quo.

Brenae Brasil is a rising star at Los Angeles Art College, the most prestigious art school in the country, and her path to art world celebrity is all but assured. Until she is found dead on campus, just after completing a provocative documentary about female bodies, coercion, and self-defense.

Maggie Richter's return to L.A. and her job at the Rocque Museum was supposed to be about restarting her career and reconnecting with old friends. With mounting pressure to keep the museum open, the last thing she needs is to find herself at the center of another art world mystery. But when she uncovers a number of cryptic clues in Brasil's video art, Maggie is suddenly caught up in the shadowy art world of Los Angeles, playing a very dangerous game with some very influential people.

- Maria Hummel's previous novel Still Lives was a Reeses's Book Club x Hello Sunshine selection.
- Still Lives was also a Book of the Month Club pick.
- Art museum setting is popular with readers and provides a marketing hook.

Praise for Still Lives:
"It's a thrilling mystery that will leave you wondering which characters you can and can't trust . . . There's a twist at the end that still keeps us up at night, it's THAT good." -Reese Witherspoon

"Both savvy and lyrical-the perfect beach read for either coast." -The Wall Street Journal

"An ambitious, intelligent and often uncomfortable study of gender, violence and art." -The Guardian

"Has a heck of a hook to draw in a wide swath of readers. . . . It manages an impressive twofor: It sucks you into a compelling story, before forcing you to contemplate the big, uncomfortable ideas it's considering. It's a fresh choice for Reese's Book Club, to be sure." -Entertainment Weekly

"Aa stunning achievement for a writer who perfectly captures an outsider's ambivalence about the city's pluses and minuses, and most notably its sensational crimes and the dark angels we make of its victims." -Los Angeles Times

"A delicious Los Angeles noir that combines the glitz and glamour of fine art with the grit and grime of crime and sexual objectification, Still Lives is a thought-provoking novel packaged in one hell of a mystery." -The Daily Beast

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Burlington, VT
Maria Hummel is a novelist and poet. Her most recent novel, Still Lives, was a Reese Witherspoon x Hello Sunshine Book Club pick, of the Month Club pick, and BBC Culture Best Book of 2018, and has been optioned for television and translated into multiple languages. She is also the author of Motherland, a San Francisco Chronicle Book of the Year; and House and Fire, winner of the APR/Honickman Poetry Prize. She has worked and taught at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Stanford University; and the University of Vermont. She lives in Vermont with her husband and sons.

Rights

Territories:
Audio:
British:
Restriction: World

Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)
Still Lives/Maria Hummel/Hardcover
Still Lives/Maria Hummel/Trade Paperback
Still Lives/Maria Hummel/Ebook
Motherland/Maria Hummel/Hardcover

Comparative Titles by Other Authors
Broken Monsters/Lauren Beukes/Hardcover
You Will Know Me/Megan Abbott/Hardcover
Conviction/Denise Mina/Hardcover
The Art Forger/B.A. Shapiro/Hardcover

ISBN
978160021112 6/19
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978160022379 1/14
978036216821 7/16
978036215054 6/19
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On sale
Catapult/Counterpoint
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Catapult/Counterpoint

Return indicator: Full copies only

$26.00
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$26.00
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Agent:
Counterpoint

British:
Translation:
Agency:

$26.00
$29.00
$27.00
$23.95

Audio: Return indicator: Full copies only

Book Club:

Pubisher:

Return indicator: Full copies only
The Natural Mother of the Child
A Memoir of Nonbinary Parenthood
Krys Malcolm Belc

Krys Malcolm Belc's visual memoir-in-essays explores how the experience of gestational parenthood—conceiving, birthing, and breastfeeding his son Samson—eventually clarified his gender identity.

As a nonbinary, transmasculine parent, Krys Malcolm Belc has thought a lot about the interplay between parenthood and gender. Giving birth to his son Samson clarified his gender identity and allowed him to project a more masculine self. And yet, when his partner Anna adopted Samson, the legal documents listed Belc as "the natural mother of the child."

By considering how the experiences contained under the umbrella of "motherhood" don't fully align with Belc's own experience, The Natural Mother of the Child journeys both toward and through common perceptions of what it means to have a body and how that body can influence the perception of a family. The Natural Mother of the Child is a visual memoir-in-lyric-essays, an archive of Belc's queerness. By engaging directly with the documentation often thought to constitute a record of one's life—childhood photos, birth certificates—Belc creates a new kind of life record, one that addresses his own ambivalence about the "before" and "after" so prevalent in trans stories, which feels apart from his own.

The Natural Mother of the Child is the story of a person moving past societal expectations to take control of his own narrative, with prose that delights in the intimate dailiness of family life and explores how much we can ever really know when we enter into parenting.

- This book is a highly visual experience filled with photographs, documents, and illustrations that enhance the story.
- The Natural Mother of the Child is a much-needed addition to the conversation surrounding the trans experience of parenthood.
- Through his role as the memoir editor of SplitLip Magazine, Belc has cultivated a strong Twitter presence and wide support network.

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: Philadelphia, PA
Author Hometown: South Jersey

Krys Malcolm Belc's work has appeared in Granta, Black Warrior Review, Tin House Online, The Rumpus, and elsewhere. He lives in Kensington, Philadelphia with his partner and their three young children.

Rights
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Audio: Return indicator: Full copies only
British: Reprint:
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Restriction: US, Canada, Open Mkt
Special Markets:
Agency:

Comparative Titles by Other Authors
Old in Art School/Nell Painter/Hardcover 9781640099613 6/18 Catapult/Counterpoint $26.00
The Argonauts/Maggie Nelson/Hardcover 9781555970778 5/15 Graywolf $23.00
Heating and Cooling/Beth Ann Fennelly/Hardcover 97803930899479 10/20 Norton $22.95
A Year Without a Name/Cyrus Grace Dunham/Hardcover 9780316444065 10/19 HBG/Little Brown $26.00
Something That May Shock and Discredit You/Daniel Mallory Or... 9781982197911 2/10 S&S/Atria $29.00
Hold Still/Sally Mann/Hardcover 9780316247764 2/16 HBG/Little Brown $32.00

Marketing and Publicity
- National Media Attention, including NPR and print features
- Men/women's magazines and website coverage
- LGBTQI+ coverage
- Coverage on parenting websites and publications
- Local Philadelphia media coverage
- Author events in Philadelphia and New York City

- IndieNext Campaign
- LibraryReads Campaign
- Goodreads giveaways
- Bookstagram outreach
- Advertising on literary sites
- Paid and organic social promotion
- Targeted email newsletters
**Between Everything and Nothing**

*The Journey of Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal and the Quest for Asylum*

**Joe Meno**

Bestselling author Joe Meno brings his novelist’s eye to the true story of two asylum seekers and their international journey through the chaos of an unjust immigration system.

Long before their chance meeting at a Minneapolis bus station, Ghanian asylum seekers Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal had already crossed half the world in search of a new home. Seidu, who identifies as bisexual, lived under constant threat of exposure and violence in a country where same-sex acts are illegal. Razak’s life was also threatened after corrupt officials contrived to steal his rightful inheritance. Forced to flee their homeland, both men embarked on separate odysseys through the dangerous jungles and bureaucracies of South, Central, and North America. Like generations of asylum seekers before, they presented themselves legally at the U.S. border, hoping for sanctuary. Instead, they were imprisoned in private detention facilities, released only after their asylum pleas were denied. Fearful of returning to Ghana, Seidu and Razak saw no choice but to attempt one final border crossing. Their journey north to Canada in the harsh, unforgiving winter proved more tragic than anything they had experienced before.

Based on extensive interviews, Joe Meno’s intimate account builds upon the international media attention Seidu and Razak’s story has already received, highlighting the harrowing journey of asylum seekers everywhere while adding dimension to one of the greatest humanitarian concerns facing the world. “Meno, a professor of creative writing and prolific fiction writer, tracks the grueling journeys of his complexly rendered protagonists, Razak and Seidu . . . The author portrays them convincingly as hapless pawns in a massive explosion of migration, countered in the Americas with greed and cruelty . . . The narrative is dispiriting, as Meno documents the Kafkaesque, for-profit reality of today’s immigration morass, but Meno writes deftly, with a fine sense of detail and place, bringing an all-too-common story to life. A well-paced and engaging account, highly relevant to current political debates.” *Irku*s Reviews (starred review)

“A suspenseful account of two Ghanaian refugees’ quest for political asylum . . . Meno’s well-written story of survival and friendship puts individual faces on the plight of millions of refugees around the world. Readers will be equal parts outraged and inspired by this novelistic account.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“The most important book I’ve read in a long time. *Between Everything and Nothing* vividly dramatizes what the world needs to know about the tragic effects of our corrupt and dehumanizing immigration system. Though harrowing, the story of Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal is also deeply inspiring, revealing how two powerless but fiercely courageous asylum seekers, battered by years of injustice and cruelty, held fast to their religious faith, their dignity, and their love and hope for humanity.” —Sigrid Nunez, author of *The Friend*

**About the Author/Illustrator**

Author Residence: Chicago, IL

Joe Meno is a fiction writer and journalist who lives in Chicago. He is the winner of the Nelson Algren Literary Award, a Pushcart Prize, and the Great Lakes Book Award and was a finalist for the Story Prize. The bestselling author of seven novels and two short story collections, including *Marvel and a Wonder, The Boy Detective Fails, and Hairstyles of the Damned*, he is a professor in the English and creative writing department at Columbia College Chicago. Find out more at joemeno.com.

**Rights**

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*RKUS Reviews (starred review)*

**Marketing and Publicity**

- Mailing to media that covers paperbacks
- NYT Paperback Row
- Social media promotion
- Influencer outreach
Colorful
A Novel
Eto Mori

A beloved and bestselling classic in Japan, this groundbreaking tale of a dead soul who gets a second chance is now available in English for the very first time.

"Congratulations, you've won the lottery!" shouts the angel Prapura to a formless soul. The soul hasn't been kicked out of the cycle of rebirth just yet--he's been given a second chance. He must recall the biggest mistake of his past life while on 'homestay' in the body of fourteen-year-old Makoto Kobayashi, who has just committed suicide. It looks like Makoto doesn't have a single friend, and his family don't seem to care about him at all. But as the soul begins to live Makoto's life on his own terms, he grows closer to the family and the people around him, and sees their true colors more clearly, shedding light on Makoto's misunderstandings.

Since its initial release over twenty years ago, Colorful has become a part of the literary canon, not only in Japan--where it has sold over a million copies--but around the world, having been translated into several different languages. Now, Eto Mori's beloved classic is finally available in English.

- A classic in Japan--now in English for the first time
- More than 1 million copies sold in Japan
- The award-winning animated film adaptation remains popular online

"Certain books, you know the ones, get under your skin. I was extraordinarily moved by Eto Mori's Colorful. It was as if Makoto was speaking directly into my own ear in the dark. This intimate, brave novel has already been read by millions in Japan. It cries out to be read by millions more." --Peter Orner, author of Maggie Brown & Others

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Tokyo, Japan, Toronto, Canada
Eto Mori has been a literary star in Japan for over thirty years. She has won numerous major awards in Japan including the Naoki Prize, one of Japan's most prestigious awards for popular fiction. Colorful has been translated into seven different languages, and adapted into three films. Colorful is her first novel to be translated into English. She lives in Tokyo, Japan. Jocelyne Allen has translated hundreds of short stories, novels, and manga, including the Eisner Award-winning titles Frankenstein by Junji Ito and Onward Toward Our Noble Deaths by Shigeru Mizuki. She splits her time between Toronto and Tokyo.
Desert Notebooks
A Road Map for the End of Time
Ben Ehrenreich

Layering climate science, mythologies, nature writing, and personal experiences, National Magazine Award winner Ben Ehrenreich presents a stunning reckoning with our current moment and with the literal and figurative end of time—“a beautiful meditation on adapting to future cataclysm” (Publishers Weekly).

Desert Notebooks examines how the unprecedented pace of destruction to our environment and an increasingly unstable geopolitical landscape have led us to the brink of a calamity greater than any humankind has confronted before. As inhabitants of the Anthropocene, what might some of our own histories tell us about how to confront apocalypse? And how might the geologies and ecologies of desert spaces inform how we see time and act toward the pasts we have erased and paved over, this anxious present, the future we have no choice but to build? Ehrenreich draws on the stark grandeur of the desert to ask how we might reckon with the uncertainty that surrounds us and fight off the crises that have already begun.

In the canyons and oases of the Mojave and in Las Vegas’s neon apocalypse, Ehrenreich finds beauty, and even hope, surging up in the most unlikely places, from the most barren rocks, and the apparent emptiness of the sky. Desert Notebooks is a vital and necessary chronicle of our past and our present—unflinching, urgent—yet timeless and profound.

- Ben Ehrenreich is the son of New York Times bestselling author, Barbara Ehrenreich
- Ehrenreich’s sister is Rosa Brooks, the Los Angeles Times columnist

“These are the kind of conversations we need to be having—with ourselves and with others. And the desert seems like the right austere setting to be having them. These fine essays take a deep tradition in American writing and extend it into our uncertain and collapsing present.” --Bill McKibben, author of Falter and The End of Nature

“A profound, impressed, enlightened, and invigorating analysis of the planetary crisis by an elegant and generous thinker.” --Max Porter, Buzzfeed

“The crisis humanity faces is total. In sharply featured, compelling prose—the landscape writing here has the heartbreaking clarity of the experience of desert light—Ben Ehrenreich’s stunning Desert Notebooks combs through history, literature, myth, physics, and ecology to understand how we got here, and how we might find our way out, into forms of time that are made not of our thralldom to capital and petroleum but of our relationships to each other, to our fellow creatures, to plants and rocks and landscapes, and to the stars overhead. Ehrenreich wants you to join him here, on earth. The thrill of Desert Notebooks is that in its lucid pages such a miracle seems almost possible.”

--Anthony McCann, author of Shadowlands

“It’s been a long time since I read anything as exciting and illuminating as Ben Ehrenreich’s superb new book. Very few writers have addressed the current planetary crisis as powerfully and insightfully. The book is extraordinary as much for the rigor of its writing here has the heartbreaking clarity of the experience of desert light—Ben Ehrenreich’s stunning Desert Notebooks combs through history, literature, myth, physics, and ecology to understand how we got here, and how we might find our way out, into forms of time that are made not of our thralldom to capital and petroleum but of our relationships to each other, to our fellow creatures, to plants and rocks and landscapes, and to the stars overhead. Ehrenreich wants you to join him here, on earth. The thrill of Desert Notebooks is that in its lucid pages such a miracle seems almost possible.”

--Amitav Ghosh

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Barcelona, Spain  Author Hometown: Syosset, New York

The Inland Sea
A Novel
Madeleine Watts

A young Australian woman unable to find her footing in the world begins to break down when the emergencies she hears working as a 911 operator and the troubles within her own life gradually blur together, forcing her to grapple with how the past has shaped her present.

Drifting after her final year in college, a young writer begins working part-time as an emergency dispatch operator in Sydney. Over the course of an eight-hour shift, she is dropped into hundreds of crises, hearing only pieces of each. Callers report car accidents and violent spouses and homes caught up in flame.

The work becomes monotonous: answer, transfer, repeat. And yet the stress of listening to far-off disasters seeps into her personal life, and she begins walking home with keys in hand, ready to fight off men disappointed by what they find in neighboring bars. During her free time, she gets black-out drunk, hooks up with strangers, and navigates an affair with an ex-lover whose girlfriend is in their circle of friends.

Two centuries earlier, her great-great-great-great-grandfather—the British explorer John Oxley—traversed the wilderness of Australia in search of water. Oxley never found the inland sea, but the myth was taken up by other men, and over the years, search parties walked out into the desert, dying as they tried to find it.

Interweaving a woman’s self-destructive unraveling with the gradual worsening of the climate crisis, The Inland Sea is charged with unflinching insight into our age of anxiety. At a time when wild fires have swept an entire continent, this novel asks what refuge and comfort looks like in a constant state of emergency.

- Author is a bookseller at McNally Jackson who has early support from other indie stores
- Publishing to coincide with Australia’s wildfire season

"An eyecatcher in both premise and language, which is rough-and-tough, visceral, and absorbing." --Barbara Hoffert, Library Journal

"Joins recent efforts like Richard Powers’s The Overstory and Jenny Offill’s Weather--two novels that have bent the genre norms of realism to ecocritical ends . . . The large crises of the novel are shot through with smaller pains--indignities and heartbreak and badly inserted IUDs that serve as micro indices for other kinds of harm." --Molly MacVeagh, Los Angeles Review of Books

"Full of heart and disquiet, astute and precise, almost savage in its eloquence, illuminated about what it feels like to love, to be left, to want more." --Leslie Jamison, author of The Empathy Exams

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: New York, NY    Author Hometown: Sydney, Australia
Madeleine Watts grew up in Sydney, Australia and currently lives in New York. She has an MFA in creative writing from Columbia University, and her fiction has been published in The White Review and The Lifted Brow. Her novella, Afraid of Waking It was awarded the Griffith Review Novella Prize. Her non-fiction has appeared in The Believer, the Los Angeles Review of Books, and Literary Hub. The Inland Sea is her first novel.

Rights


Comparative Titles by Other Authors

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Craft in the Real World
Rethinking Fiction Writing and Workshopping
Matthew Salesses

A groundbreaking resource for fiction writers, teachers, and students, this manifesto and practical guide challenges current models of craft and the writing workshop by showing how they fail marginalized writers, and how cultural expectations inform storytelling.

The traditional writing workshop was established with white male writers in mind; what we call craft is informed by their cultural values. In this bold and original examination of elements of writing—including plot, character, conflict, structure, and believability—and aspects of workshop—including the silenced writer and the imagined reader—Matthew Salesses asks questions to invigorate these familiar concepts. He upends Western notions of how a story must progress. How can we rethink craft, and the teaching of it, to better reach writers with diverse backgrounds? How can we invite diverse storytelling traditions into literary spaces?

Drawing from examples including One Thousand and One Nights, Curious George, Ursula K. Le Guin’s A Wizard of Earthsea, and the Asian American classic No-No Boy, Salesses asks us to reimagine craft and the workshop. In the pages of exercises included here, teachers will find suggestions for building syllabi, grading, and introducing new methods to the classroom; students will find revision and editing guidance, as well as a new lens for reading their work. Salesses shows that we need to interrogate the lack of diversity at the core of published fiction: how we teach and write it. After all, as he reminds us, “When we write fiction, we write the world.”

• Salesses is a beloved teacher, and some of the material in this book have been used by prominent writers like Roxane Gay and Alexander Chee in their teaching.
• There are very few books about writing craft by writers of color; there is a great need for this gap to be filled.

“Craft in the Real World is an instant essential book. Every writer, every writing teacher, every critic, every reviewer, anyone interested in how language works needs to read this. Now.” --Beth Nguyen, author of Stealing Buddha’s Dinner

“Astounding in its research and the case it makes for craft, Craft in the Real World asks writers and teachers of writing to claim our place as conscious participants in and makers of culture.” --Tiphanie Yanique, author of Land of Love and Drowning

“Our students put their hearts on pages and they hand those pages to us. It’s a profound act of trust and Matthew Salesses shows us how to be worthy of it. Craft in the Real World is required reading for writers, writing teachers, and everyone who loves language and what it can accomplish in our beautiful, complicated world.”

--Megan Stielstra, author of The Wrong Way to Save Your Life

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Author Hometown: Storrs, Connecticut

Matthew Salesses is the author of three novels, Disappear Doppelgänger Disappear, The Hundred-Year Flood, and I’m Not Saying, I’m Just Saying, and a forthcoming essay collection. He has taught at Coe College, the Ashland MFA program, the Tin House and Kundiman summer workshops, and writing centers like Grub Street and Inprint, among others. He has edited fiction for Gulf Coast, Redivider, and The Good Men Project and has written about craft and creative writing workshops for venues like NPR’s Code Switch, The Millions, Electric Literature, and Pleiades. He was adopted from Korea and currently lives in Iowa.

Craft in the Real World
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“Craft in the Real World is an instant essential book. Every writer, every writing teacher, every critic, every reviewer, anyone interested in how language works needs to read this. Now.” --Beth Nguyen, author of Stealing Buddha’s Dinner

“Astounding in its research and the case it makes for craft, Craft in the Real World asks writers and teachers of writing to claim our place as conscious participants in and makers of culture.” --Tiphanie Yanique, author of Land of Love and Drowning

“Our students put their hearts on pages and they hand those pages to us. It’s a profound act of trust and Matthew Salesses shows us how to be worthy of it. Craft in the Real World is required reading for writers, writing teachers, and everyone who loves language and what it can accomplish in our beautiful, complicated world.”

--Megan Stielstra, author of The Wrong Way to Save Your Life

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Author Hometown: Storrs, Connecticut

Matthew Salesses is the author of three novels, Disappear Doppelgänger Disappear, The Hundred-Year Flood, and I’m Not Saying, I’m Just Saying, and a forthcoming essay collection. He has taught at Coe College, the Ashland MFA program, the Tin House and Kundiman summer workshops, and writing centers like Grub Street and Inprint, among others. He has edited fiction for Gulf Coast, Redivider, and The Good Men Project and has written about craft and creative writing workshops for venues like NPR’s Code Switch, The Millions, Electric Literature, and Pleiades. He was adopted from Korea and currently lives in Iowa.

Craft in the Real World
Rethinking Fiction Writing and Workshopping
Matthew Salesses

A groundbreaking resource for fiction writers, teachers, and students, this manifesto and practical guide challenges current models of craft and the writing workshop by showing how they fail marginalized writers, and how cultural expectations inform storytelling.

The traditional writing workshop was established with white male writers in mind; what we call craft is informed by their cultural values. In this bold and original examination of elements of writing—including plot, character, conflict, structure, and believability—and aspects of workshop—including the silenced writer and the imagined reader—Matthew Salesses asks questions to invigorate these familiar concepts. He upends Western notions of how a story must progress. How can we rethink craft, and the teaching of it, to better reach writers with diverse backgrounds? How can we invite diverse storytelling traditions into literary spaces?

Drawing from examples including One Thousand and One Nights, Curious George, Ursula K. Le Guin’s A Wizard of Earthsea, and the Asian American classic No-No Boy, Salesses asks us to reimagine craft and the workshop. In the pages of exercises included here, teachers will find suggestions for building syllabi, grading, and introducing new methods to the classroom; students will find revision and editing guidance, as well as a new lens for reading their work. Salesses shows that we need to interrogate the lack of diversity at the core of published fiction: how we teach and write it. After all, as he reminds us, “When we write fiction, we write the world.”

• Salesses is a beloved teacher, and some of the material in this book have been used by prominent writers like Roxane Gay and Alexander Chee in their teaching.
• There are very few books about writing craft by writers of color; there is a great need for this gap to be filled.

“Craft in the Real World is an instant essential book. Every writer, every writing teacher, every critic, every reviewer, anyone interested in how language works needs to read this. Now.” --Beth Nguyen, author of Stealing Buddha’s Dinner

“Astounding in its research and the case it makes for craft, Craft in the Real World asks writers and teachers of writing to claim our place as conscious participants in and makers of culture.” --Tiphanie Yanique, author of Land of Love and Drowning

“Our students put their hearts on pages and they hand those pages to us. It’s a profound act of trust and Matthew Salesses shows us how to be worthy of it. Craft in the Real World is required reading for writers, writing teachers, and everyone who loves language and what it can accomplish in our beautiful, complicated world.”

--Megan Stielstra, author of The Wrong Way to Save Your Life

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Author Hometown: Storrs, Connecticut

Matthew Salesses is the author of three novels, Disappear Doppelgänger Disappear, The Hundred-Year Flood, and I’m Not Saying, I’m Just Saying, and a forthcoming essay collection. He has taught at Coe College, the Ashland MFA program, the Tin House and Kundiman summer workshops, and writing centers like Grub Street and Inprint, among others. He has edited fiction for Gulf Coast, Redivider, and The Good Men Project and has written about craft and creative writing workshops for venues like NPR’s Code Switch, The Millions, Electric Literature, and Pleiades. He was adopted from Korea and currently lives in Iowa.
Fake Accounts
Lauren Oyler

A woman in a post-election tailspin discovers that her boyfriend is an anonymous online conspiracy theorist in this provocative and subversive debut novel that examines social media, sex, feminism, and fiction, the connection they've all promised, and the lies they help us tell.

On the eve of Donald Trump's inauguration, a young woman snoops through her boyfriend's phone and makes a startling discovery: he's an anonymous internet conspiracy theorist, and a popular one at that. Already fluent in internet fakery, irony, and outrage, she's not exactly shocked by the revelation. Actually, she's relieved--he was always a little distant--and she plots to end their floundering relationship while on a trip to the Women's March in DC. But this is only the first in a series of bizarre twists that expose a world whose truths are shaped by online lies.

Suddenly left with no reason to stay in New York and increasingly alienated from her friends and colleagues, our unnamed narrator flees to Berlin, embracing on her own cycles of manipulation in the deceptive spaces of her daily life, from dating apps to expat meetups, open-plan offices to bureaucratic waiting rooms. She begins to think she can't trust anyone--shouldn't the feeling be mutual?

Narrated with seductive confidence and subversive wit, Fake Accounts challenges the way current conversations about the self and community, delusions and gaslighting, and fiction and reality play out in the internet age.

- Author is extremely well-connected and notorious for her take-downs of popular authors.
- We have a blurbs promised from Sloane Crosley and others and we expect plenty of coverage considering Lauren's profile and media connections.

"Fake Accounts is an absorbing and shameless examination of the way self-mythologies are forged and performed in the public privacy of the internet. Fans of Lauren Oyler's divisive, ferocious criticism will love this 21st century comedy of bad manners."

---Catherine Lacey, author of Nobody is Ever Missing and The Answers

"Only if a novelist is traditional in the right ways--in her moral intelligence, in her complex eloquence, in her patient plotting--can she properly register the real newness of our hurtling world of social media and a mediated society. Lauren Oyler has written a very funny and serious contemporary novel. You must pick it up if you read fiction and/or tweets."

---Benjamin Kunkel, author of Indecision and Utopia or Bust: A Guide to the Present Crisis

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Brooklyn, NY; Berlin, DE  Author Hometown: Hurricane, WV

Rights

Territories: US, Canada, Open Mkt
Audio: Full copies only
Book Club: 1st Serial
British: Special Markets: Audio: Full copies only
Translation: 1st Serial
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Comparative Titles by Other Authors

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**Love Is an Ex-Country**

Randa Jarrar

Queer. Muslim. Arab American. A proudly Fat woman. Randa Jarrar is all of these things. In this provocative memoir of a cross-country road trip, she explores how to claim joy in an unraveling and hostile America.

Randa Jarrar is a fearless voice of dissent who has been called "politically incorrect" (Michelle Goldberg, *The New York Times*). As an American raised for a time in Egypt, and finding herself captivated by the story of a celebrated Egyptian belly dancer's journey across the United States in the 1940s, she sets off from her home in California to her parents' in Connecticut.

Coloring this road trip are journeys abroad and recollections of a life lived with daring. Reclaiming her autonomy after a life of survival--domestic assault as a child, and later, as a wife; threats and doxxing after her viral tweet about Barbara Bush--Jarrar offers a bold look at domestic violence, single motherhood, and sexuality through the lens of the punished-yet-triumphant body. On the way, she schools a rest-stop racist, destroys Confederate flags in the desert, and visits the Chicago neighborhood where her immigrant parents first lived.

Hailed as "one of the finest writers of her generation" (Laila Lalami), Jarrar delivers a euphoric and critical, funny and profound memoir that will speak to anyone who has felt erased, asserting: *I am here. I am joyful.*

- Randa Jarrar is a public figure whose views have been controversial.
- Previous book *Him, Me, Muhammad Ali* won the American Book Award, the PEN Oakland Award, and Story Prize Spotlight Award.
- Lalai Lalami says, "Her voice is assured, fiercely independent, laced with humor and irony--and always, always, honest."

"If you have ever felt lonely or horny or angry or magnificent; if you have had no country or too many countries or you have left your country behind; if you have spoken truth to power or trusted the wrong people and suffered the consequences; if you have ever gotten in a car and driven across the landscape because you had to: this memoir is for you. What a boon it is, a perfect, unforgettable howl of a book." --Carmen Maria Machado, author of *In the Dream House*

"Randa Jarrar is the Arab femme daddy of my dreams and her voice is nothing short of ROYAL. Imagine Hatshepsut as the daughter of immigrants, motoring across the United States of America, glorying in the art of the road trip: that's the type of literary, diasporic, and necessary realness Randa serves."

--Myriam Gurba, author of *Mean*

"There wasn't a page in this memoir that didn't make me want to jump up and cheer, murmur in awe, scream with laughter, or weep. Randa Jarrar is a top-notch writer, a tender warrior, a truth teller of sensuous and magnificent power; she is exactly the kind of role model we need right now." --Melissa Febos, author of *Abandon Me*

**About the Author/Illustrator**

Author Residence: Los Angeles, CA  
Author Hometown: Chicago, IL

Randa Jarrar is the author of the novel *A Map of Home* and the collection of stories *Him, Me, Muhammad Ali*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine, Salon, Bitch, BuzzFeed*, and elsewhere. She is a recipient of a Creative Capital Award and an American Book Award, as well as awards and fellowships from the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, Hedgebrook, PEN, and others. A professor of creative writing and a performer, Jarrar lives in Los Angeles.

**Rights**

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**Marketing and Publicity**

- National Media Attention, including NPR and print features
- Women's magazines and website coverage
- Online reviews, interviews and literary/feminist coverage
- LGBTIQ+ coverage
- Local media (interviews, reviews, radio)
- Outreach throughout Los Angeles
- Strong push for Most Anticipated 2021 reading lists
- Author events in the Los Angeles area
- IndieNext Campaign
- LibraryReads Campaign
- Goodreads giveaways
- Bookstagram campaign
- Advertising on literary sites
- Paid and organic social promotion
- Promo on author's social media
- Targeted email newsletters
**Black Sunday**

A Novel

Tola Rotimi Abraham

"Simultaneously unique and universal" (NPR), this fiercely original debut novel follows the fate of four siblings over the course of two decades in Nigeria as they search for agency, love, and meaning in a society ripe with hypocrisy.

Twin sisters Bibike and Ariyike are enjoying a relatively comfortable life in Lagos in 1996. Then their mother loses her job due to political strife, and the family, facing poverty, becomes drawn into the New Church, an institution led by a charismatic pastor who is not shy about worshipping earthly wealth.

Soon Bibike and Ariyike’s father wagers the family home on a "sure bet" that evaporates like smoke. As their parents’ marriage collapses in the aftermath of this gamble, the twin sisters and their two younger siblings, Andrew and Peter, are thrust into the reluctant care of their traditional Yoruba grandmother.

Inseparable while they had their parents to care for them, the twins’ paths diverge once the household shatters. Each girl is left to locate, guard, and hone her own fragile source of power.

Written with astonishing intimacy and wry attention to the fickleness of fate, Tola Rotimi Abraham’s debut, Black Sunday, takes us into the chaotic heart of family life, tracing a line from the euphoria of kinship to the devastation of estrangement. In the process, it joyfully tells a tale of grace and connection in the midst of daily oppression and the constant incursions of an unremitting patriarchy. This is a novel about two young women slowly finding, over twenty years, in a place ripe with hypocrisy but also endless life and love, their own distinct methods of resistance and paths to independence.

"Tola Rotimi Abraham’s Black Sunday will destroy you. It won’t be an explosion or any other ultraviolent thing. Instead, the novel will inflict a thousand tiny cuts on you, and your soul will slowly pour from them . . . The first standout element in Black Sunday is the writing itself. Abraham mixes poetry, Yoruba, pidgin English, and street philosophy into a mesmerizing style. The novel’s chapters alternate between the point of view the four siblings, and each one has a distinctive voice that makes whatever they’re talking about feel like something that happened to someone you know . . . Abraham creates believable characters whose stories could easily have come from real life, stories full of mistakes, rejection, and poverty that mirror some of the things we’ve all lived through. That makes them simultaneously unique and universal, and it makes it easy to understand the way they see the world, even if their lens is ugly . . . Black Sunday is a literary wound that bleeds pain for a while, but you should stay the course, because that’s followed by lots of love, beauty, and hope." - Gabino Iglesias, NPR

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Iowa City, IA

Tola Rotimi Abraham is a writer from Lagos, Nigeria. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, she has taught writing at the University of Iowa. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in Catapult, The Des Moines Register, The Nigerian Literary Magazine, and other venues. Black Sunday is her first novel. She lives in Iowa City.
Dead Souls
Sam Riviere

For readers of Roberto Bolaño’s Savage Detectives and Muriel Spark’s Loitering with Intent, this metaphysical mystery disguised as a picaresque romp follows one poet’s spectacular fall from grace to ask a vital question: Is everyone a plagiarist?

A scandal has shaken the literary world. As the unnamed narrator of Dead Souls discovers at a cultural festival in central London, the offender is Solomon Wiese, a poet accused of plagiarism. Later that same evening, at a bar near Waterloo Bridge, our narrator encounters the poet in person, and listens to the story of Wiese’s rise and fall, a story that takes the entire night—and the remainder of the novel—to tell.

Wiese reveals his unconventional views on poetry, childhood encounters with “nothingness,” a conspiracy involving the manipulation of documents in the public domain, an identity crisis, a retreat to the country, a meeting with an ex-serviceman with an unexpected offer, the death of an old poet, a love affair with a woman carrying a signpost, an entanglement with a secretive poetry cult, and plans for a triumphant return to the capital, through the theft of poems, illegal war profits, and faked social media accounts--plans in which our narrator discovers he is obscurely implicated.

Dead Souls is a metaphysical mystery brilliantly encased in a picaresque romp, a novel that asks a vital question for anyone who makes or engages with art: Is everyone a plagiarist?

• The debut novel from an established UK poet and experimental prose writer (author of 81 Austerities, Kim Kardashian’s Marriage, After Fame, and Safe Mode)
• A brilliant and bitingly funny critique of the current publishing industry that will appeal to booksellers.

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: Edinburgh, Scotland  Author Hometown: Norfolk, England

Marketing and Publicity
• National Media Attention, including NPR and print features
• Men’s magazines and website coverage
• Online Interviews, Reviews, and Literary Blog Coverage

• Bookseller and librarian outreach
• Bookstagram campaign
• Goodreads giveaway
• Social media promotion
• Targeted email newsletters

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**Spirit Run**

A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America's Stolen Land

Noé Álvarez

The son of working-class Mexican immigrants flees a life of labor in fruit-packing plants to run in a Native American marathon from Canada to Guatemala in this "stunning memoir that moves to the rhythm of feet, labor, and the many landscapes of the Americas" (Catriona Menzies-Pike, author of *The Long Run*).

Growing up in Yakima, Washington, Noé Álvarez worked at an apple-packing plant alongside his mother, who "slouched over a conveyor belt of fruit, shoulder to shoulder with mothers conditioned to believe this was all they could do with their lives." A university scholarship offered escape, but as a first-generation Latino college-goer, Álvarez struggled to fit in.

At nineteen, he learned about a Native American/First Nations movement called the Peace and Dignity Journeys, epic marathons meant to renew cultural connections across North America. He dropped out of school and joined a group of Dené, Secwépemc, Gitxsan, Dakelh, Apache, Tohono O’odham, Seri, Purépecha, and Maya runners, all fleeing difficult beginnings. Telling their stories alongside his own, Álvarez writes about a four-month-long journey from Canada to Guatemala that pushed him to his limits. He writes not only of overcoming hunger, thirst, and fear—dangers included stone-throwing motorists and a mountain lion—but also of asserting Indigenous and working-class humanity in a capitalist society where oil extraction, deforestation, and substance abuse wreck communities.

Running through mountains, deserts, and cities, and through the Mexican territory his parents left behind, Álvarez forges a new relationship with the land, and with the act of running, carrying with him the knowledge of his parents’ migration, and—against all odds in a society that exploits his body and rejects his spirit—the dream of a liberated future.

- *Spirit Run* is a New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice and a PNBA bestseller
- *Spirit Run* would be an ideal FYE adoption and has been under-promoted for academic adoptions
- More than a running book, *Spirit Run*’s spirit comp is Born to Run mixed with When I Was Puerto Rican
- It has been widely embraced in the athletic community, named a Best New Running Books of 2020 by Runner’s World

"A beautiful read." --Ari Shapiro, "All Things Considered," NPR

"Lyrical . . . Part travelogue, part traditional memoir . . . The story of the striving, first-generation kid made good is a familiar one; Álvarez makes his ache." --The New York Times Book Review

"More than another tale of blistered feet and dehydration. It’s about the immigrant experience, about the indigenous experience—and finding one’s place as a witness when you’re neither." --Salon

**About the Author/Illustrator**

Author Residence: Boston, MA
Author Hometown: Yakima, WA

Noé Álvarez was born to Mexican immigrant parents and raised working-class in Yakima, Washington. He holds degrees in philosophy and creative writing from Whitman College and Emerson College, respectively. He studied conflict analysis, peacemaking, and conflict resolution at American University and in Northern Ireland, received a fellowship at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, and researched U.S. drug policy, military aid, and human rights issues in Colombia’s Putumayo jungles. He lives in Boston, where, until recently, he worked as a security officer at one of the nation’s oldest libraries, the Boston Athenaeum.

**Rights**

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**Contact Information**

Marketing and Publicity

- NYT Paperback Row
- Social media promotion
- Influencer outreach

**Influencer outreach**

- Social media promotion
- NYT Paperback Row

**Publishing Information**

- 5-1/2 x 8-1/4
- 240 pages
- US, Canada, Open Mkt

**Comparative Titles by Other Authors**

- Spirit Run: *Born to Run* mixed with *When I Was Puerto Rican*
- Spirit Run: His story is similar to that of the first-generation kid who made good

**About the Author/Illustrator**

Noé Álvarez was born to Mexican immigrant parents and raised working-class in Yakima, Washington. He holds degrees in philosophy and creative writing from Whitman College and Emerson College, respectively. He studied conflict analysis, peacemaking, and conflict resolution at American University and in Northern Ireland, received a fellowship at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and researched U.S. drug policy, military aid, and human rights issues in Colombia's Putumayo jungles. He lives in Boston, where, until recently, he worked as a security officer at one of the nation's oldest libraries, the Boston Athenaeum.

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- Book Club: PRH/Vintage
**Brother, Sister, Mother, Explorer**

A fableistic, incantatory debut novel of enormous power and grace about a sister trying to hold back her brother from the edge of the abyss for readers of Jesmyn Ward and Tommy Orange.

In the tourist town of Ciudad de Tres Hermanas, in the aftermath of their mother’s passing, two siblings spend a final weekend together in their childhood home. Seeing her brother, Rafa, careening toward a place of no return, Rufina devises a bet: if they can make enough money performing for privileged tourists in the plaza over the course of the weekend to afford a plane ticket out, Rafa must commit to living. If not, Rufina will make her peace with Rafa’s own plan for the future, however terrifying it may be.

As the siblings reckon with generational and ancestral trauma, set against the indignities of present-day prejudice, other strange hauntings begin to stalk these pages: their mother’s ghost kicks her heels against the walls; Rufina’s vanished child creeps into her arms at night; and above all this, watching over the siblings, a genderless, flea-bitten angel remains hell-bent on saving what can be saved.

"Brother, Sister, Mother, Explorer is so full of voice. It is utterly bright and original." --Tommy Orange, author of *There There*

"Brother, Sister, Mother, Explorer is a haunting of a novel centered around the hustle of an utterly unforgettable brother and sister. Jamie Figueroa's faultless language surprises, enchants, and does nothing less than articulate that which is unseen and eaten by profound grief. Supervised by a wild, booted angel (a character for the ages), this marvel of a first novel seems powered by a force that wrecks itself and is made glorious, again and again, until its stunning conclusion. Singular, devastating, and divine." --Marie-Helene Bertino, author of *Parakeet*

"In language that is blade-sharp and sun-bright, Jamie Figueroa weaves a story of generations of love and loss that is powerful and aching and utterly new. *Brother, Sister, Mother, Explorer* will never, ever leave me." --Ramona Ausubel, author of *Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty* and *No One Is Here Except All of Us*

"Jamie Figueroa’s writing is decadent. Sentences in this book require the reader to breathe and sigh with the revelation of their beauty; others slap you in the face with their sharp assumptiveness. *Brother, Sister, Mother, Explorer* begins in prayer and does what prayer does--gives us hope, reveals our deepest griefs, and sometimes even redeems." --Tiphanie Yanique, author of *Land of Love and Drowning*

**About the Author/Illustrator**

**Author Residence:** Northern New Mexico  
**Author Hometown:** Puerto Rico/Ohio

Jamie Figueroa received her MFA in creative writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her writing has appeared in *Epoch*, *McSweeney’s*, and *American Short Fiction*. She is the recipient of the Truman Capote Scholarship and is a Bread Loaf scholar. Boricua by way of Ohio, Figueroa lives in northern New Mexico.

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**Marketing and Publicity**

- National Media Attention, including NPR and print features
- Women's magazines and website coverage
- Online reviews/interviews in literary coverage
- Online/print reviews/interviews in Hispanic outlets
- Debut author features in *Poets & Writers*, *Publishers Weekly* and *Writer's Digest*
- Strong push for Most Anticipated 2021 reading lists
- Author events in the Santa Fe area
- IndieNext Campaign
- LibraryReads Campaign
- Goodreads giveaways
- Bookstagram outreach
- Advertising on literary sites
- Paid and organic social promotion
- Targeted email newsletters

**Rights**

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Low Country
A Memoir
J. Nicole Jones

The Glass Castle meets Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil in this incandescent debut memoir of one family's changing fortunes in the Low Country of South Carolina, a tale inseparable from the region's storms and shipwrecks, ghosts and folklore.

J. Nicole Jones is the only daughter of a prominent South Carolina family, a family that grew rich building the hotels and seafood restaurants that draw tourists to Myrtle Beach. But at home, she is surrounded by violence and capriciousness: a grandfather who beats his wife, a barman father who dreams of being a country music star. At one time, Jones's parents can barely afford groceries; at another, her volatile grandfather presents her with a fur coat.

After a girlhood of extreme wealth and deep debt, of ghosts and folklore, of cruel men and unwanted spectacle, Jones finds herself face to face with an explosive possibility concerning her long-abused grandmother that she can neither speak nor shake. And through the lens of her own family's catastrophes and triumphs, Jones pays homage to the landscapes and legends of her childhood home, a region haunted by its history: Eliza Pinckney cultivates indigo, Blackbeard ransacks the coast, and the Gray Man paces the beach, warning of Hurricane Hazel.

"A Southern song of love and loss rendered in language both gossamer and precise, Low Country is what happens when one family's dreams, gossip and ghost stories meet the only writer capable of weaving them together. Harrowing, beautiful and bold, the music of this memoir lingers long beyond the last page." --Allie Rowbottom, author of JELL-O Girls

"From horse thieves to hurricanes, from shattered Southern myths to fractured family ties, from Nashville to Myrtle Beach to Miami, Low Country is a lyrical, devastating, fiercely original memoir. It's a fever dream from which you will not want to be awakened and one hell of a debut book." --Justin Taylor, author of Riding with the Ghost

"Essential reading for anyone who has ever felt in-between or grappled with multiple truths about their homeland. J. Nicole Jones loves and indict the rich and unique South Carolina culture that made her, offering a portrait of an American region that produces a double bind familiar to many: impossible to stay, impossible to leave." --Emma Copley Eisenberg, author of The Third Rainbow Girl

"Low Country is an enthralling book, with sentences so stunning they should be memorized. Mocked by prep-school kids for talking 'like a hick' and then chided by her nana for talking 'like a Yankee,' J. Nicole Jones explores her Southern roots, her attempts to leave them, and her return. Her writing about betrayals and love (there is so much love)--bound with stories of ghostly land and seascapes--is brilliant. Having read this book, I know that if she wrote a book about lint, I'd read it. I'd read anything by Jones." --Jeannie Vanasco, author of Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: Brooklyn, NY
Author Hometown: Myrtle Beach, SC

J. Nicole Jones received her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Columbia University, and has since held editorial positions at VICE magazine and Vanity Fair. Her viral essay defending the art of memoir, "Why's Everyone So Down on the Memoir?" was published by the Los Angeles Review of Books and Salon, and her reviews and other writings have appeared in magazines including Harper's. She grew up in South Carolina, and now lives in Brooklyn and Tennessee.
This "fiercely written and endlessly readable" novel of a teenage girl in thrall to a magnetic--and terrifying--preacher who promises to save her dying town is "a godsend" *Entertainment Weekly*.

Drought has settled on the town of Peaches, California. The area of the Central Valley where fourteen-year-old Lacey May and her alcoholic mother live was once an agricultural paradise. Now it's an environmental disaster, a place of cracked earth and barren raisin farms. In their desperation, residents have turned to a cult leader named Pastor Vern for guidance. He promises, through secret "assignments," to bring the rain everybody is praying for.

Lacey has no reason to doubt the pastor. But then her life explodes in a single unimaginable act of abandonment: her mother, exiled from the community for her sins, leaves Lacey and runs off with a man she barely knows. Abandoned and distraught, Lacey May moves in with her widowed grandma, Cherry, who is more concerned with her taxidermy mouse collection than her own granddaughter. As Lacey May endures the increasingly appalling acts of men who want to write all the rules and begins to uncover the full extent of Pastor Vern's shocking plan to bring fertility back to the land, she decides she must find her mother no matter what it takes.

Possessed of an unstoppable plot and a brilliantly soulful voice, *Godshot* is a book of grit and humor and heart, a debut novel about female friendship and resilience, mother-loss and motherhood, and seeking salvation in unexpected places. It introduces a writer who gives Flannery O'Connor's Gothic parables a Californian twist and who emerges with a miracle that is all her own.

- This explosive literary debut about a young woman coming into her own power in the face of religious extremism, addiction, sexual abuse, and abandonment was so hotly anticipated we moved up the hardcover pub date.
- An Indie Next Selection

"[A] haunting debut . . . This is a harrowing tale, which Bieker smartly writes through the lens of a teenager on the cusp of understanding the often fraught relationship between religion and sexuality . . . It’s a timely and disturbing portrait of how easily men can take advantage of vulnerable women—and the consequences sink in more deeply with each page."--Annabel Gutterman, *Time*

"Drawn in brilliant, bizarre detail--baptism in warm soda, wisdom from romance novels--Lacey’s twin crises of faith and femininity tangle powerfully. Fiercely written and endlessly readable, a novel like this is a godsend."--*Entertainment Weekly*

**About the Author/Illustrator**

_Author Residence: _Portland, Oregon  
_Author Hometown: _Central Valley, California

**Chelsea Bieker** is from California’s Central Valley. She is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Writer’s Foundation Award and her fiction and essays have been published in *Granta*, *McSweeney’s*, *Catapult* magazine, *Electric Literature*, and *Joyland*, among other publications. She was awarded a MacDowell Colony fellowship and holds an MFA in creative writing from Portland State University. *Godshot* is her first novel.

**Rights**

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On Vanishing
Mortality, Dementia, and What It Means to Disappear
Lynn Casteel Harper

An essential book for those coping with Alzheimer's and other cognitive disorders that "reframe[s] our understanding of dementia with sensitivity and accuracy...to grant better futures to our loved ones and ourselves" (Parul Sehgal, The New York Times).

An estimated 50 million people in the world suffer from dementia. Diseases such as Alzheimer's erase parts of one's memory but are also often said to erase the self. People don't simply die from such diseases; they are imagined, in the clichés of our era, as vanishing in plain sight, fading away, or enduring a long goodbye. In On Vanishing, Lynn Casteel Harper, a Baptist minister and nursing home chaplain, investigates the myths and metaphors surrounding dementia and aging, addressing not only the indignities caused by the condition but also by the rhetoric surrounding it. Harper asks essential questions about the nature of our outsize fear of dementia, the stigma this fear may create, and what it might mean for us all to try to "vanish well."

Weaving together personal stories with theology, history, philosophy, literature, and science, Harper confronts our elemental fears of disappearance and death, drawing on her experiences with people with dementia both in the U.S. health-care system and within her own family. In the course of unpacking her own stories and encounters--of leading a prayer group on a dementia unit, of meeting individuals dismissed as "already gone" and finding them still possessed of complex, vital inner lives; of witnessing her grandfather's final years with Alzheimer's and discovering her own heightened genetic risk of succumbing to the disease--Harper engages in an exploration of dementia that is unlike anything written before on the subject.

Expanding our understanding of dementia beyond progressive vacancy and dread, On Vanishing makes room for beauty and hope, and opens a space in which we might start to consider better ways of caring for, and thinking about, our fellow human beings. It is a rich and startling work of nonfiction that reveals cognitive change as an essential aspect of what it means to be mortal.

"A searching, poetic inquiry into dementia. . . . [Harper] writes without fear or aversion but with a robust, restless curiosity, a keenness to reframe our understanding of dementia with sensitivity and accuracy. . . . In her beautifully unconventional book, Harper examines the porousness of the borders, the power of imagination and language to grant better futures to our loved ones and ourselves." -Parul Sehgal, The New York Times

"A compassionate collection of essays examining dementia from an unusually hopeful point of view... Harper moves smoothly between abstract reflections and concrete experiences, reflecting often on the effects of dementia on her grandfather and on her relationship with him, her fears that a genetic link to the disease may have been passed down to her, and her encounters with many individuals, all described in strikingly specific terms, surviving dementia in their own ways... Moving insights into a situation many will face." Kirkus Reviews

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: New York City, NY

Lynn Casteel Harper is a minister, chaplain, and essayist. Her work has appeared in Kenyon Review Online, North American Review, and Catapult magazine. She is a Barbara Deming Fund grant recipient and the winner of the 2017 Orison Anthology Prize in Nonfiction. She lives in New York City and is currently the minister of older adults at The Riverside Church.

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Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)

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On Vanishing/Lynn Casteel Harper/Ebook...
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The Bright Hour/Nina Riggs/Trade Paperback
Eldercare/Louise Aronson/Hardcover
The Collected Schizophrenias/Esme Weijun Wang/Trade Paperback...

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Marketing and Publicity

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- Social media promotion
- Influencer outreach
Pop Song
Adventures in Art & Intimacy
Larissa Pham

Endlessly inventive, intimate, and provocative, this memoir-in-essays is a celebration of the strange and exquisite state of falling in love, whether with a painting or a person, that interweaves incisive commentary on modern life, feminism, art and sex with the author's own experiences of obsession, heartbreak, and past trauma.

Like a song that feels written just for you, Larissa Pham’s debut work of nonfiction captures the imagination and refuses to let go.

Pop Song is a book about love and about falling in love--with a place, or a painting, or a person--and the joy and terror inherent in the experience of that love. Plumbing the well of culture for clues and patterns about love and loss--from Agnes Martin's abstract paintings to James Turrell's transcendent light works, and Anne Carson's Eros the Bittersweet to Frank Ocean's Blonde--Pham writes of her youthful attempts to find meaning in travel, sex, drugs, and art, before sensing that she might need to turn her gaze upon herself.

Pop Song is also a book about distances, near and far. As she travels from Taos, New Mexico, to Shanghai, China and beyond, Pham meditates on the miles we are willing to cover to get away from ourselves, or those who hurt us, and the impossible gaps that can exist between two people sharing a bed.

Pop Song is a book about all the routes by which we might escape our own needs before finally finding a way home. There is heartache in these pages, but Pham’s electric ways of seeing create a perfectly fractured portrait of modern intimacy that is triumphant in both its vulnerability and restlessness.

About the Author/Illustrator

Larissa Pham is an artist and writer in Brooklyn. Born in Portland, Oregon, she studied painting and art history at Yale University. She has written essays and criticism for the Paris Review Daily, The Nation, Art in America, Guernica, and elsewhere. She was an inaugural Yi Dae Up fellowship recipient from the Jack Jones Literary Arts Retreat. She is also the author of Fantasian, a novella.
My Heart
A Novel
Semezdin Mehmedinovic, with an intro by
Aleksandar Hemon

An intimate work of autobiographical fiction by one of ex-Yugoslavia’s greatest writers about his family’s experience as refugees from the Bosnian war—a timeless story of love, memory, and the resilience of the human spirit.

"Today, it seems, was the day I was meant to die." When a writer suffers a heart attack at the age of fifty, he must confront his mortality in a country that is not his native home. Confined to a hospital bed and overcome by a sense of powerlessness, he reflects on the fragility of life and finds extraordinary meaning in the quotidian. In this affecting autobiographical novel, Semezdin Mehmedinovic explores the love he and his family have for one another, strengthened by trauma; their harrowing experience of the Bosnian war, which led them to flee for the United States as refugees; eerie premonitions of Donald Trump’s presidency; the life and work of a writer; and the nature of memory and grief.

Poetically explosive and pure to the core, My Heart serves as a kind of mirror, reflecting our human strengths and weaknesses along with the most important issues on our minds—love and death, the present and the past, sickness and health, leaving and staying. "Semezdin Memedinović charts the collapse of a world with heartbreaking clarity and precision... conveys the same clear-eyed passion for the truth that one finds in the young Hemingway, the Hemingway of our time." --Paul Auster

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Author Hometown: Kiseljak, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Semezdin Mehmedinovic was born in 1960 in Kiseljak near Tuzla. He studied comparative literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. A poet and an essayist, Mehmedinovic has held the position of an editor in newspapers, weeklies, as well as on the radio and television. He has edited a number of culture magazines and has been involved in the film industry. Sarajevo Blues and Nine Alexandrias have been published among his other works. Since 1996, he has been living in the United States.
Dr. François S. Clemmons

**OFFICER CLEMMONS**

A Memoir

**Dr. François S. Clemmons**

The intimate debut memoir by the man known to the world as *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood’s* Officer Clemmons, who made history as the first African American actor to have a recurring role on a children’s television program.

When he created the role of Officer Clemmons on the award-winning television series *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*, François Clemmons made history as the first African American actor to have a recurring role on a children’s program. A new, wide world opened for Clemmons—but one that also required him to make painful personal choices and sacrifices.

*Officer Clemmons* details Clemmons’s incredible life story, beginning with his early years in Alabama and Ohio, marked by family trauma and loss, through his studies as a music major at Oberlin College, where Clemmons began to investigate and embrace his homosexuality, to a chance encounter with Fred Rogers that changed the whole course of both men’s lives, leading to a deep, spiritual friendship and mentorship spanning nearly forty years.

From New York to Russia, Berlin to California, Grammy Award winner Clemmons has performed for audiences around the world and remains a beloved figure. Evocative and intimate, and buoyed by its author’s own vivacious, inimitable energy, *Officer Clemmons* chronicles a historical and enlightening life and career of a man who has brought joy to millions of adults and children, across generations and borders.

"It’s important to acknowledge heroes who build bridges between all of us. Officer Clemmons offers readers the unique opportunity to understand how one man’s life can have an unexpected, positive impact on millions of people. By sharing his lived truth, his artistic journey, and his friendship with Fred Rogers, Dr. Clemmons has written a memoir from a place of love and faith, in both God and in the power of music, as a gift to the world." —Common, Grammy Award-, Academy Award-, and Golden Globe-winning musician, actor, activist, and author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Let Love Have the Last Word*

"Clemmons, who played Officer Clemmons on *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*, tells of his life as a gay African-American in the postwar era, in this uplifting memoir . . . Clemmons’s thoroughly delightful, inspiring story will speak particularly to artists in marginalized communities." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"[Clemmons] writes candidly about his relationship with Fred Rogers, how his life changed because of the show and the sacrifices he made along the way." —*TIME*, One of the Best New Books of the Month

"The extraordinary story of one of Mister Rogers’ most groundbreaking and endearing ‘neighbors,’ *Officer Clemmons* . . . a dear friend of Rogers for three decades, Clemmons offers a firsthand account of his work on Rogers’ show, a story intertwined with the author’s remarkable career as an operatic singer, actor, playwright, and choir director . . . A heartwarming story that explores the power of friendship as well as race, sexuality, talent, and identity." —*Kirkus Reviews*

### About the Author/Illustrator

Dr. François S. Clemmons received a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College, and a Master of Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon University. He also received an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from Middlebury College. In 1973, he won a Grammy Award for a recording of *Porgy and Bess*; in 1986, he founded and directed the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble; and from 1997 until his retirement in 2013, Clemmons was the Alexander Twilight Artist in Residence and director of the Martin Luther King Spiritual Choir at Middlebury College in Vermont, where he currently resides.

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**Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)**

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**Comparative Titles by Other Authors**

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Bewilderness
Karen Tucker

Set in rural, poverty-stricken North Carolina, this funny, painful, and very wise novel follows two young women—best friends—as they struggle to free themselves from opioid addiction, perfect for readers of Julie Buntin’s Marlena.

Irene, a lonely nineteen-year-old in rural North Carolina, works long nights at the local pool hall, serving pitchers and dodging drunks. One evening, her hilarious, magnetic coworker Luce invites her on a joy ride through the mountains to take revenge on a particularly creepy customer. Their adventure not only spells the beginning of a dazzling friendship, it seduces both girls into the mysterious world of pills and the endless hustles needed to fund the next high.

Together, Irene and Luce run nickel-tossing scams at the county fair and trick dealers into trading legit pharms for birth-control pills. Everything is wild and wonderful until Luce finds a boyfriend who wants to help her get clean. Soon the two of them decide to move away and start a new, sober life in Florida—leaving Irene behind.

Told in a riveting dialogue between the girls’ addicted past and their hopes for a better future, Bewilderness is not just a brilliant, funny, heartbreaking novel about opioid abuse, it’s also a moving look at how intense, intimate friendships can shape every young woman’s life.

- Combines the popular female friendship theme with a darker, timely story about the essential issue of addiction.

- This novel about the fierce friendships that women experience in their teens has broad crossover potential.

“This is a heartrending novel about addiction, love, and fragile starts, and it held me captive with its deft pacing and attention to detail. Tucker shows how the world is made up of small, unheralded stories--of great loves and senseless losses--and her novel sets out, and succeeds, to make us feel one of them.” --Lydia Kielings, author of The Golden State

“Karen Tucker has the chaotic truth-telling energy of a sage and a lack of sentimentality that would give Hunter S. Thompson stomach cramps. This is the novel the opiate epidemic needs.” --Rufi Thorpe, author of The Knockout Queen and The Girls from Corona Del Mar

“Beautiful, gritty, and piercing. Bewilderness is a whirlwind journey through the highs and lows of friendship, love, and addiction. Luce and Irene are young, vulnerable, and utterly human, and you will root for them on every page despite their betrayals and failures. Karen Tucker fearlessly confronts the hardest question of all--why?-- contrasting our brief and shining moments on this earth with the murky and inexplicable border between the here and hereafter. Bewilderness is a tough and tender heartbeat of a read.” --Erika Carter, author of Lucky You

“Karen Tucker’s debut novel Bewilderness captures the relentless tug of addiction--to a person, to a substance, to a feeling—with wrenching honesty and insight. This fierce, heartbreaking story of female friendship and loss--narrated by the wise, sharply funny Irene--had me riveted from the first page. Read it, read it, read it.”--Julie Buntin, author of Marlena

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Asheville, NC

Karen Tucker was born and raised in North Carolina. Her fiction has appeared in The Missouri Review, The Yale Review Online, Tin House, Boulevard, Epoch, and elsewhere. She lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains with her partner and multiple cats.

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Marketing and Publicity

- National Media Attention, including NPR and print features
- Women's magazines and website coverage
- Online reviews, interviews and literary/feminist coverage
- Targeted outreach to recovery websites/publications/podcasts
- Pitching to all major applicable books clubs, including Buzzfeed, HelloSunshine, Belletrist, GOOP, and more
- Strong push for Most Anticipated 2021/Summer Reading roundup
- IndieNext Campaign
- LibraryReads Campaign
- Goodreads giveaways
- Bookstagram campaign
- Advertising on literary sites
- Paid and organic social promotion
- Targeted email newsletters
Magnetized
Conversations with a Serial Killer
Carlos Busqued

A riveting psychological portrait for readers of true crime classics such as *My Dark Places*, *The Stranger Beside Me*, and *I’ll Be Gone In the Dark*, one of Argentina’s most innovative writers brings to life the story of a serial killer who, in 1982, murdered four taxi drivers without any apparent motive.

Over the course of one ghastly week in September 1982, the bodies of four taxi drivers were found in Buenos Aires, each murder carried out with the same cold precision. The assailant: a nineteen-year-old boy, odd and taciturn, who gave the impression of being completely sane. But the crimes themselves were not: four murders, as exact as they were senseless.

More than thirty years later, Argentine author Carlos Busqued began visiting Ricardo Melogno, the serial killer, in prison. Their conversations return to the nebulous era of the crimes and a story full of missing pieces. The result is a book at once hypnotic and unnerving, constructed from forensic documents, newspaper clippings, and interviews with Melogno himself. Without imposing judgment, Busqued allows for the killer to describe his way of retreating from the world and to explain his crimes as best he can. In his own words, Melogno recalls a visit from Pope Francis, grim depictions of daily life in prison, and childhood remembrances of an unloving mother who drove her son to Brazil to study witchcraft. As these conversations progress, the focus slowly shifts from the crimes themselves, to Melogno’s mistreatment and misdiagnosis while in prison, to his current fate: incarcerated in perpetuity despite having served his full sentence.

Using these personal interviews, alongside forensic documents and newspaper clippings, Busqued crafted *Magnetized*, a captivating story about one man’s crimes, and a meditation on how one chooses to inhabit the world, or to become absent from it.

- Winner of the XXV Premio San Clemente Rosalía Prize

"Busqued unnerves and entertains readers with this forensic tale synthesized from more than 90 hours of dialogue with a serial killer. The author's interviews with Ricardo Melogno detail not only his crimes, which took place during one week in 1982, but also his motivations—or lack thereof—and the killer's fascinating, disturbing psyche . . . . . Artfully rendered . . . The narrative is perfect for anyone fascinated by the criminal mind, the distinctions between mental illness and possession, or the concept of predestined evil. A truly visceral read that will not let readers look away." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

"Serial killers will never not be compelling, but we risk much when we seek in them entertainment and diversion, without considering what the darkness means, or where it comes from. In *Magnetized*, Carlos Busqued seeks after some of that meaning in his conversations with Argentine serial killer Ricardo Melogno, who was convicted for the 1982 murders of four Buenos Aires taxi drivers, each one committed with cold precision. Busqued bolsters his conversations with forensic reports and newspaper stories, revealing a life lost before it has really begun, and the tragedy it visits upon the world." —Literary Hub

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Buenos Aires, Argentina

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Comparative Titles by Other Authors

- The Killer Across the Table/John E. Douglas/Trade Paperback
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  Publisher: HarperCollins/Dey Street Books
  Price US/Can. $16.99

- Mindhunter/John E. Douglas/Trade Paperback
  ISBN 9781501191961 10/17
  Publisher: S&S/Gallery Books
  Price US/Can. $17.99

- American Predator/Maureen Callahan/Trade Paperback
  ISBN 9780143129767 6/20
  Publisher: PRH/Penguin Books
  Price US/Can. $17.00
You Exist Too Much

A Novel

Zaina Arafat

A “provocative and seductive debut” of desire and doubleness that follows the life of a young Palestinian American woman caught between cultural, religious, and sexual identities as she tries to lead an authentic life (O, The Oprah Magazine).

On a hot day in Bethlehem, a 12-year-old Palestinian-American girl is yelled at by a group of men outside the Church of the Nativity. She has exposed her legs in a biblical city, an act they deem forbidden, and their judgement will echo on through her adolescence. When our narrator finally admits to her mother that she is queer, her mother’s response only intensifies a sense of shame: “You exist too much,” she tells her daughter.

Told in vignettes that flash between the U.S. and the Middle East—from New York to Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine—Zaina Arafat’s debut novel traces her protagonist’s progress from blushing teen to sought-after DJ and aspiring writer. In Brooklyn, she moves into an apartment with her first serious girlfriend and tries to content herself with their comfortable relationship. But soon her longings, so closely hidden during her teenage years, explode out into reckless romantic encounters and obsessions with other people. Her desire to thwart her own destructive impulses will eventually lead her to The Ledge, an unconventional treatment center that identifies her affliction as “love addiction.” In this strange, enclosed society she will start to consider the unnerving similarities between her own internal traumas and divisions and those of the places that have formed her.

Opening up the fantasies and desires of one young woman caught between cultural, religious, and sexual identities, You Exist Too Much is a captivating story charting two of our most intense longings—for love, and a place to call home.

- An Indie Next selection

“Thankfully we have moved beyond tedious questions about the ‘likability’ of fictional women, because the most interesting characters rarely are at all times. Arafat’s heroine is no exception, but the author writes her with great tenderness and just enough self-aware dark humor to allow readers to become invested in this young woman’s efforts to make herself whole.” --Erin Keane, Salon

“At once complicated and engaging, this is the kind of debut novel that announces the arrival of a powerful new author who, besides writing beautifully, has a lot to say.” --Gabino Iglesias, NPR

“This story about love, identity, gender and family is brilliantly written and questions the effects of maternal love.” —Good Morning America

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Brooklyn, NY

Zaina Arafat is a Palestinian-American writer. Her stories and essays have appeared in publications including The New York Times, Granta, The Believer, Virginia Quarterly Review, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, BuzzFeed, VICE, and NPR. She holds an M.A. in international affairs from Columbia University, an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa, and is a recipient of the Arab Women/Migrants from the Middle East fellowship at Jack Jones Literary Arts. She grew up between the U.S. and the Middle East and currently lives in Brooklyn.

Rights

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Author’s Previous Titles (Sales Track) ISBN On sale Publisher Price US/Can.
You Exist Too Much/Zaina Arafat/Hardcover... 9781948226509 6/20 Catapult/Catapult $26.00
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What We Lose/Zinzi Clemmons/Trade Paperback 9780735221734 6/18 PRH/Penguin $16.00
What Belongs To You/Garth Greenwell/Trade Paperback 9781250117892 12/18 Macmillan/Picador $17.00
Freshwater/Akwaeke Emezi/Trade Paperback 9780802128997 12/18 Grove Atlantic/Grove Press $16.00
Prepare Her
Stories
Genevieve Plunkett

Brilliant, biting stories set in not-so-bucolic Vermont, land of antique stores, small town, fading farms, and young women trying to figure out marriage, motherhood, sex and their own power.

Prepare Her tells the stories of young women at the brink of discovering their own power. The crossroads in their lives are not always the obvious kind--divorce, motherhood, coming of age--but sometimes much more private and dramatic. Kitty discovers that her ex-boyfriend has committed a murder; Renee navigates a friendship with Arla, a Jehovah's Witness; Emi realizes that her boyfriend is fetishizing her mental illness; Petra acts recklessly when faced with a client with a gun; and Rachel must grapple with the reality of raising a daughter in a world that she, herself, is still terrified of.

Tempered by its rural and often haunting Vermont setting, this book explores the complexities of gender and power imbalances in a way that transforms normal life into something mysterious, uncharted, and sometimes bewildering. Through this lens, we can see the many subtle, yet staggering injustices endured by the women at the center of these stories, as well as identify what, or who might be responsible.

"Prepare Her, Genevieve Plunkett's debut story collection, is imaginative--an impressive tangle with the ideas of domesticity and womanhood, and a thrilling debut." --Megan Mayhew Bergman, author of Almost Famous Women and Birds of a Lesser Paradise

"The young women and girls in Prepare Her, Genevieve Plunkett's story collection, seem often to be peering at their lives as if through the wrong end of a telescope, deeply focused yet oddly distant from it. These are stories about intimacy and loneliness, and about desire, the desire these young women have to inhabit their bodies fully as sexual beings, to be seen one moment and not seen the next. Few writers capture sex as beautifully and self-consciously, as strangely and humorously, as Plunkett. Simply put, I loved these stories." --Lori Ostlund, author of After The Parade and The Bigness of the World

"Prepare Her, Genevieve Plunkett's debut story collection, is a book about finding the strength to embrace loneliness in order to search for one's squelched and buried self. Plunkett's characters do not always find the answers, but she portrays their struggle to break free from the oppressiveness of marriage and family and grief with such humor and tenderness, with such poetry, that we can believe again in the possibility of triumph over despair, of life over emptiness. This book beats with the heart of our times."--Anne Raeff, author of Winter Kept Us Warm, The Jungle Around Us, and Only the River

"Prepare Her is haunting, lush, unsettling--a brazen examination of shame, wild beauty, and the small and not-so-small cruelties we inflict upon ourselves and each other. Perfectly calibrated and teeming with style, these dark little masterpieces are full of grim brilliance. Plunkett is a rare and ferocious talent, and this is a stunning debut." --Kimberly King Parsons, author of Black Light

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Bennington, VT
Author Hometown: Bennington, VT

Genevieve Plunkett is the recipient of an O. Henry Award. Her work has also appeared in The Best Small Fictions, and journals such as New England Review, The Southern Review, Crazyhorse, The Colorado Review, and Willow Springs. She lives in Vermont with her two children.

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Marketing and Publicity

- National Media Attention, including NPR and print features
- Women's magazines and website coverage
- Online reviews, interviews and literary/feminist coverage
- Strong push for summer reading roundups
- Bookseller and librarian outreach
- Bookstagram campaign
- Goodreads giveaway
- Social media promotion
- Targeted email newsletters
The Weak Spot
A Novel
Lucie Elven

A woman discovers something toxic at work in the isolated village where she is apprenticing as a pharmacist, in this fable-like novel about power, surveillance, prescriptions, and cures by a captivating debut voice.

On a remote mountaintop somewhere in Europe, accessible only by an ancient funicular, a small pharmacy sits on a square. As if attending confession, townspeople carry their ailments and worries through its doors, in search of healing, reassurance, and a witness to their bodies and their lives.

One day, a young woman arrives in the town to apprentice under its charismatic pharmacist, August Malone. She slowly begins to lose herself in her work, lulled by stories and secrets shared by customers and colleagues. But despite her best efforts to avoid thinking and feeling altogether, as her new boss rises to the position of mayor, she begins to realize that something sinister is going on around her.

The Weak Spot is a fable about our longing for cures, answers, and an audience—and the ways it will be exploited by those who silently hold power in our world.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: London, England
Author Hometown: London, England

Lucie Elven has written for publications including The London Review of Books, Granta, and NOON. The Weak Spot is her first book. She lives in London.
## Cosmogony

**Stories**  
Lucy Ives

An energetic, witty collection of stories where the supernatural meets the anomalies of everyday life—deception, infidelity, lost cats, cute memes, amateur pornography, and more.

A woman walks onto a tennis court. A woman has a conversation with a friend's husband in a supermarket. A woman sees a painting at the home of an art collector. A woman goes on a run. A woman takes videos of a cat in a bodega. A woman answers a Craigslist ad to write erotic diaries for money.

*Cosmogony* takes accounts of so-called normal life and mines them for inconsistencies, cruelties, deceptions, and delights. Incorporating a virtuosic range of styles and genres (Wikipedia entry, phone call, math equation, encounters with the supernatural, philosophies of time travel), these stories reveal how the narratives we tell ourselves and believe are inevitably constructed, offering a glimpse of the structures that underlie and apparently determine human existence—and which we ignore at our own peril.

- Includes 6 new stories, alongside stories previously published in *BOMB, Conjunctions,* and *Granta*
- Perfect for readers of Miranda July, Mary Gaitskill, Kelly Link, and Chris Kraus
- Ives' previous novel *Loudermilk* was a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice and IndieNext pick.
- Ives' author fans include Sam Lipsyte, Wayne Koestenbaum, and Elizabeth McKenzie

**Praise for Lucy Ives and *Loudermilk***:

"This clever satire of writing programs exhibits, with persuasive bitterness, the damage wreaked by the idea that literature is competition." -- *The New York Times Book Review, Editors' Choice*

"Hilarious...A riotous success. Equal parts campus novel, buddy comedy and meditation on art-making under late capitalism, the novel is a hugely funny portrait of an egomaniac and his nebbish best friend." -- *The Washington Post*

### About the Author/Illustrator

**Author Residence:** Corinth, VT  
**Author Hometown:** New York, NY

Lucy Ives is the author of the novels *Impossible Views of the World* and *Loudermilk: Or, The Real Poet; Or, The Origin of the World*, as well as the editor of *The Saddest Thing Is That I Have Had to Use Words: A Madeline Gins Reader*. Ives's writing has appeared in *Art in America, Artforum, The Believer, frieze, Granada,* and *Vogue,* among other publications. She received a 2018 Creative Capital/Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant.

### Rights

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Future Feeling
A Novel
Joss Lake

An embittered dog walker obsessed with a social media influencer inadvertently puts a curse on a young man--and must adventure into mysterious dimensions in order to save him--in this wildly inventive, delightfully subversive, genre-nonconforming debut novel about illusion, magic, technology, kinship, and the emergent future.

The year is 20__, and Penfield R. Henderson is in a rut. When he's not walking dogs for cash or responding to booty calls from his B-list celebrity hookup, he's holed up in his dingy Bushwick apartment obsessing over holograms of Aiden Chase, a fellow trans man and influencer documenting his much smoother transition into picture-perfect masculinity on the Gram. After an IRL encounter with Aiden leaves Pen feeling especially resentful, Pen enlists his roommates, the Witch and the Stoner-Hacker, to put their respective talents to use in hexing Aiden. Together, they gain access to Aiden's social media account and post a picture of Pen's aloe plant, Alice, tied to a curse:

Whosoever beholds the aloe will be pushed into the Shadowlands.

When the hex accidentally bypasses Aiden, sending another young trans man named Blithe to the Shadowlands (the dreaded emotional landscape through which every trans person must journey to achieve true self-actualization), the Rhiz (the quasi-benevolent big brother agency overseeing all trans matters) orders Pen and Aiden to team up and retrieve him. The two trace Blithe to a dilapidated motel in California and bring him back to New York, where they try to coax Blithe to stop speaking only in code and awkwardly try to pass on what little trans wisdom they possess. As the trio makes its way in a world that includes pitless avocados and subway cars that change color based on occupants' collective moods but still casts judgment on anyone not perfectly straight, Pen starts to learn that sometimes a family isn't just the people who birthed you.

Magnificently imagined, linguistically dazzling, and riotously fun, Future Feeling presents an alternate future in which advanced technology still can't replace human connection but may give the trans community new ways to care for its own.

Future Feeling is part of a new wave of transgender literature that goes beyond narratives of trauma or redemption to subvert with and play with genre.


About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Ridgewood, Queens
Author Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Joss Lake is a trans writer and educator based in New York whose work has been supported by Queens Council of the Arts, Women and Performance Studies Collective, the Watermill Center, and Columbia University. He runs a literary sauna series called Trans at Rest. This is his debut novel.

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