

SOFT SKULL PRESS

**NEW TITLES AND
SELECTED BACKLIST**



FALL 2019

SOFT SKULL



EXQUISITE MARIPOSA

A Novel

FIONA ALISON DUNCAN

In the aftermath of a reality TV deal gone wrong, Fiona Alison Duncan asks the question, Can you rewrite your life? The answer, her debut novel *Exquisite Mariposa*, follows a cast of housemates as they navigate questions of art making and economics, breakups and breakdowns, and the internet and its many obsessions.

Given the initials F.A.D. at birth, Fiona Alison Duncan has always had an eye for observing the trends around her. But after years of trying to please others, looking for answers in books and astrological charts, and clocking endless hours as a celebrity journalist just to make rent, Fiona discovers another way of existing: in the Real, a phenomenological state few humans live in.

Fiona's journey to the Real takes her to Koreatown, Los Angeles, where she sublets a room in La Mariposa. There, she meets a cast of friends and lovers, like Amalia, an artist whose muse is her pet pigeon; Lucien, an infamous philanderer; and Morgan, whose anxiety keeps her from ever sitting still. When Fiona is offered the chance to turn her new household into a reality TV show, she jumps at the opportunity—but it isn't long before she begins to question this new script.

In the midst of her Saturn Return, Fiona pulls the plug on the reality TV deal, heals a few addictions, and returns to writing with *Exquisite Mariposa*, a debut novel starring her

housemates as they ask questions of survival, art, love, language, and the possibilities of rewriting one's life.

OCTOBER

\$16.95

Trade Paperback

Original

Ebook Available

World Rights:

Soft Skull

FICTION

9781593765781

208 pages

5.5" x 8.25"

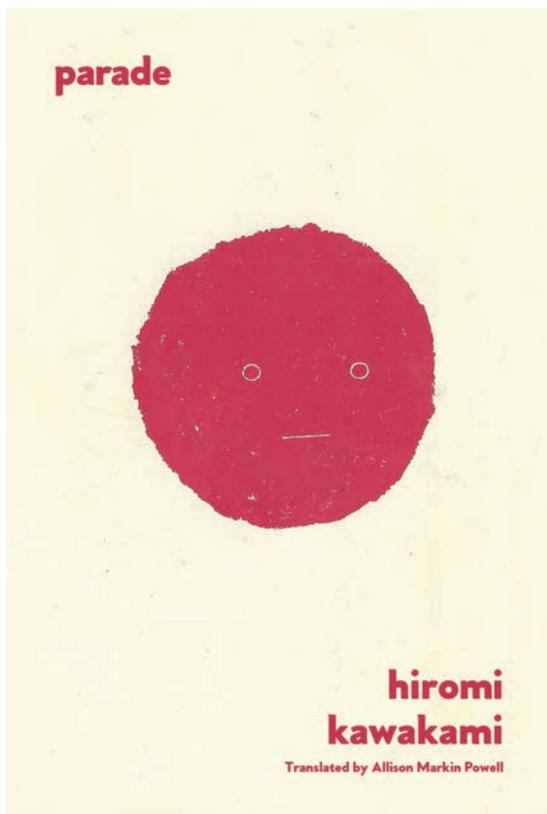


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FIONA ALISON DUNCAN is a Canadian American artist, writer, and organizer. She's the founding host of Hard to Read, a lit series, and Pillow Talk, community organizing on sex, love, and communication. She lives in New York and Los Angeles.

fionaad.com

fifidunks



PARADE

A Folktale

HIROMI KAWAKAMI

TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE
BY ALLISON MARKIN POWELL

A brief, disquieting companion to the bestselling *Strange Weather in Tokyo*, set during a summer afternoon and featuring a mischievous pair of creatures called *tengu*

On a summer afternoon, Tsukiko and her former high school teacher have prepared and eaten *somen* noodles together.

“Tell me a story from long ago,” Sensei says.

“I wasn’t alive long ago,” Tsukiko says, “but should I tell you a story from when I was little?”

“Please do,” Sensei replies, and so Tsukiko tells him that, when she was a child, she awakened one day to find something with a pale red face and something with a dark red face in her room, arguing with each other. They had human bodies, long noses, and wings. They were *tengu*, creatures that

appear in Japanese folktales.

The *tengu* attach themselves to Tsukiko and begin to follow her everywhere. Where did they come from and why are they here? And what other invisible and unacknowledged forces are acting upon Tsukiko’s seemingly peaceful world?

NOVEMBER

\$11.95

Trade Paperback

Original

Ebook Available

US/Canadian Rights:

Soft Skull

All Other Rights:

The Wylie Agency

FICTION

9781593765804

96 pages

4" x 6"

Praise for *Strange Weather in Tokyo*

“Simply and earnestly told, this is a profound exploration of human connection and the ways love can be found in surprising new places.”

—*BuzzFeed*

“In quiet, nature-infused prose that stresses both characters’ solitude, Kawakami subtly captures the cyclic patterns of loneliness while weighing the definition of love.”

—*Booklist*

“In its love of the physical, sensual details of living, its emotional directness, and above all in the passion for food, this is somewhat reminiscent of Banana Yoshimoto’s *Kitchen*.”

—*Independent (UK)*

“A dream-like spell of a novel, full of humor, sadness, warmth, and tremendous subtlety. I read this in one sitting and I think it will haunt me for a long time.”

—*Amy Sackville*



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HIROMI KAWAKAMI was born in Tokyo in 1958. In 1996, she was awarded the Akutagawa Prize for *Tread on a Snake (Hebi o Fumu)*, and in 2001 she won the Tanizaki Prize for her novel *Strange Weather in Tokyo (Sensei No Kaban)*, which was an international bestseller. The book was short-listed for the 2012 Man Asian Literary Prize and the 2014 International Foreign Fiction Prize.

ALLISON MARKIN POWELL is a translator, editor, and publishing consultant. In addition to Hiromi Kawakami’s *Strange Weather in Tokyo*, *The Nakano Thrift Shop*, and *The Ten Loves of Nishino*, she has translated books by Osamu Dazai and Fuminori Nakamura, and her work has appeared in *Words Without Borders* and *Granta*, among other publications. She maintains the database japaneseliterature.english.com.



MITZ

The Marmoset of Bloomsbury

SIGRID NUNEZ

WITH AN AFTERWORD BY PETER CAMERON

By 2018 National Book Award–winning author Sigrid Nunez, *Mitz* is an intimate portrait of the life and marriage of Leonard and Virginia Woolf, as refracted through their small, sickly, pampered, affectionate pet marmoset, *Mitz*

In 1934, a sickly marmoset named Mitz came into the care of Leonard and Virginia Woolf. After nursing her back to health, Leonard was rarely seen without the monkey on his shoulder. Mitz moved with the Woolfs between their homes in London and Sussex. She developed her own special relationships with the family’s cocker spaniels and with the various members of the Woolfs’ circle, including T. S. Eliot and Vita Sackville-West. Mitz also played a vital role in helping the Woolfs escape a close call with Nazis in Germany just before World War II.

Blending letters, diaries, and memoirs, Sigrid Nunez reconstructs Mitz’s life, painting it against the backdrop of Bloomsbury in its twilight years. Tender, affectionate, and filled

with humor, this novel offers a striking look at lives shadowed by war, death, and mental illness, as well as the happiness and productivity the creature inspired. A new edition, now with an afterword by Peter Cameron.

AUGUST
\$15.95
Trade Paperback New Edition
Ebook Available
North American Rights: Soft Skull
All Other Rights: The Joy Harris Literary Agency

FICTION
9781593765828
128 pages
5.5" x 8.25"

Praise for *Mitz*

“In short, glistening sentences that refract the larger world, Ms. Nunez describes the appealingly eccentric, fiercely intelligent Woolfs during a darkening time.”
—*The Wall Street Journal*

“The tender biography of a sickly marmoset that was adopted by Leonard Woolf and became a fixture of Bloomsbury society.”
—*Dwight Garner, The New York Times*

“Nunez takes great risks with this novel . . . At its very best the book takes on the edginess of *Mrs. Dalloway*.”
—*Chicago Tribune*



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SIGRID NUNEZ has published seven novels, including *A Feather on the Breath of God*, *For Rouenna*, *The Last of Her Kind*, and, most recently, *The Friend*, which won the 2018 National Book Award for Fiction. Her honors include a Whiting Award, a Berlin Prize Fellowship, the Rome Prize in Literature, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Rosenthal Family Foundation Award. Nunez is also the author of *Sempre Susan: A Memoir of Susan Sontag*.

sigridnunez.com

PETER CAMERON’s novels include *The Weekend*, *Andorra*, *The City of Your Final Destination*, *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*, and, most recently, *Coral Glynn*.

UNITED STATES

Publishers Group West, a division of IPS
1700 Fourth Street
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ips@ingramcontent.com • 866-400-5351
www.pgw.com

CANADA

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SOFT SKULL PRESS

1140 Broadway, Suite 704
New York, NY 10001
www.softskull.com
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For general queries, email contact@catapult.co

For media queries and review copies, please contact:
Megan Fishmann, Associate Publisher/Senior Director of Publicity:
megan.fishmann@counterpointpress.com

For sales and marketing queries, please contact:
Jennifer Kovitz, Vice President & Associate Publisher, Sales and Marketing:
jennifer.kovitz@catapult.co

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