Sorrowland
A Novel
Rivers Solomon

A triumphant, genre-bending breakout novel from one of the boldest new voices in contemporary fiction

Vern—seven months pregnant and desperate to escape the strict religious compound where she was raised—flees for the shelter of the woods. There, she gives birth to twins, and plans to raise them far from the influence of the outside world.

But even in the forest, Vern is a hunted woman. Forced to fight back against the community that refuses to let her go, she unleashes incredible brutality far beyond what a person should be capable of, her body wracked by inexplicable and uncanny changes.

To understand her metamorphosis and to protect her small family, Vern has to face the past, and more troublingly, the future—outside the woods. Finding the truth will mean uncovering the secrets of the compound she fled but also the violent history in America that produced it.

Rivers Solomon's Sorrowland is a genre-bending work of Gothic fiction. Here, monsters aren't just individuals, but entire nations. It is a searing, seminal book that marks the arrival of a bold, unignorable voice in American fiction.

Rivers Solomon writes about life in the margins, where they are much at home. In addition to appearing on the Stonewall Honor List and winning a Firecracker Award, Solomon's debut novel An Unkindness of Ghosts was a finalis for a Lambda, a Hurston/Wright, an Otherwise (formerly Tiptree) and a Locus award. Solomon's second book, The Deep, based on the Hugo-nominated song by Daveed Diggsp-fronted hip-hop group clipping, was the winner of the 2020 Lambda Award and shortlisted for a Nebula, Locus, Hugo, Ignyte, Brooklyn Library Literary, British Fantasy, and World Fantasy award. Solomon's short work appears in or is forthcoming from Black Warrior Review, the New York Times, the New York Times Magazine, Guernica, Best American Short Storie...

PRAISE

Praise for An Unkindness of Ghosts
"What Solomon achieves with this debut—the sharpness, the depth, the precision—puts me in mind of a syringe full of stars. I want to say about this book, its only imperfection is that it ended." —NPR

"Cunning, dark, and unapologetic; atmospheric and visceral; the kind of story that pulls you in and doesn't..."
Letters to Camondo

Edmund de Waal

A tragic family history, told in a collection of imaginary letters to a famed collector, Moïse de Camondo

Letters to Camondo is a collection of imaginary letters from Edmund de Waal to Moïse de Camondo, the banker and art collector who created a spectacular house in Paris, now the Musée Nissim de Camondo, and filled it with the greatest private collection of French eighteenth-century art.

The Camondos were a Jewish family from Constantinople, “the Rothschilds of the East,” who made their home in Paris in the 1870s and became philanthropists, art collectors, and fixtures of Belle Époque high society, as well as being targets of antisemitism—much like de Waal’s relations, the Ephrussi family, to whom they were connected. Moïse de Camondo created a spectacular house and filled it with art for his son, Nissim; after Nissim was killed in the First World War, the house was bequeathed to the French state. Eventually, the Camondos were murdered by the Nazis.

After de Waal, one of the world’s greatest ceramic artists, was invited to make an exhibition in the Camondo house, he began to write letters to Moïse de Camondo. These fifty letters are deeply personal reflections on assimilation, melancholy, family, art, the vicissitudes of history, and the value of memory.

Edmund de Waal is one of the world’s leading ceramic artists, and his porcelain is held in many major international collections. He is the author of The Hare with Amber Eyes, which won the Costa Biography Award and the RSL Ondaatje Prize, and The White Road: Journey into an Obsession.
A Lonely Man
A Novel

Chris Power

The author of Mothers delivers an existential mystery that explores the uncertain intersection between fiction and reality, and the disastrous consequences of a chance encounter.

Two men, both British, both writers, meet by chance in Berlin. Robert is trying and failing to finish his next book while balancing his responsibilities as a husband and father. Patrick, a recent arrival in the city, is initially secretive about his past, but eventually he reveals that he has been ghostwriting the autobiography of a wealthy Russian oligarch. That man is now dead, and Patrick claims to be a hunted man himself.

Although Robert doubts its veracity, he is fascinated by Patrick’s story, which he senses might hold the key to his own foundering novel. Over the course of several drunken nights, he draws out the details of Patrick’s past, all the while ensnaring himself ever tighter in what seems to be not only a misanthrope’s delusion but a devastatingly dangerous international plot.

Through an elegant and existential game of cat-and-mouse, Chris Power’s A Lonely Man depicts an attempt to create art at the brink of empathy and imagination. Robert must decide what is his for the taking—and whether it’s only actual events that can bring a story to life.


PRAISE

Praise for Mothers

"You won't be able to put [Mothers] down: As soon as you finish the quietly suspenseful book, you'll want to reread its opening story." —Ann Hulbert, The Atlantic

"[Power’s characters] yearn for the individual moments in their lives to mean something, a quality that makes them lovingly human . . . Power manages to convey..."
Until Proven Safe
The History and Future of Quarantine

Geoff Manaugh and Nicola Twilley

The past, present, and future of an idea whose time has clearly come: Quarantine

Quarantine is such a simple, profound, and effective idea that it’s almost hard to realize that it is in fact an idea—a concept that needed to be discovered, figured out, refined, and, of course, applied. We are now all too aware of how it is applied, but we know far less about how the idea came to be—and where it may yet go.

Geoff Manaugh and Nicola Twilley’s Until Proven Safe tracks the idea of quarantine around the globe, through time and space, chasing the story from the lazarettos and quarantine islands of Venice—built before communicable diseases were really understood—to the hallways of the CDC, NASA, and the cutting-edge labs and conference rooms where the future technology of quarantine is being developed.

The result is a dazzling, thrilling tour of an idea that could not be more urgent or relevant, a book full of stories, people, and insights that is as irresistible and compelling as it is definitive.


Nicola Twilley is the author of the blog Edible Geography, cohost of the award-winning podcast Gastropod, and a contributing writer at The New Yorker. They live in Los Angeles.
The Holly
Five Bullets, One Gun, and the Struggle to Save an American Neighborhood

Julian Rubinstein

An award-winning journalist’s dramatic account of a shooting that shook a community to its core, with important implications for the future

On the last Friday evening of the summer of 2013, five shots rang out in the parking lot of a new Boys & Girls Club in the northeast Denver neighborhood known as the Holly. Long a destination for African American families fleeing the Jim Crow South, the Holly had become an “invisible city” within a city, a cradle of civil rights activism in a historically white metropolis that in recent decades had struggled under the weight of gang violence and urban blight. While shootings weren’t uncommon, the identity of the shooter came as a shock to Denver’s mayor and members of the city’s donor class who had supported him. His name was Terrance Roberts, and he was a third-generation resident of the Holly, a former member of the Bloods, and the community’s most revered—and controversial—anti-gang activist.

In *The Holly*, the award-winning journalist and Denver native Julian Rubinstein reconstructs the events leading up to the fateful confrontation that left a local gang member paralyzed and sparked a two-year legal battle in which Roberts tried to clear his name by proving that he acted in self-defense. Much more than the story of a shooting, *The Holly* is a sociopolitical saga that explores the porous boundaries between a city’s elites and its most disadvantaged citizens, as well as the fraught interactions of police, confidential informants, activists, gang members, and ex-gang members trying—or not—to put their ...

Julian Rubinstein is a journalist and the author of *Ballad of the Whiskey Robber*. His writing has appeared in *The New Yorker, Rolling Stone*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, and has been featured in *The Best American Essays*.

PRAISE

Praise for *Ballad of the Whiskey Robber*

"A story of the sort that would make even the most dry-mouthed journalist slobber . . . With a keen eye for the ridiculous, fearlessly high-speed prose and an extraordinary wealth of reported detail, Rubinstein conducts the affair like an unusually thoughtful carnival barker." —Ben Ehrenreich, *The N*...
Second Place
A Novel
Rachel Cusk

From the author of the Outline trilogy, a fable of human destiny and decline, enacted in a closed system of intimate, fractured relationships

A woman invites a famed artist to visit the remote coastal region where she lives, in the belief that his vision will penetrate the mystery of her life and landscape. His provocative presence provides the frame for a study of female fate and male privilege, of the geometries of human relationships, and of the struggle to live morally in the intersecting spaces of our internal and external worlds. With its examination of the possibility that art can both save and destroy us, Second Place is deeply affirming of the human soul, while grappling with its darkest demons.

Rachel Cusk is the author of a trilogy of novels, Outline, Transit, and Kudos; the memoirs A Life’s Work, The Last Supper, and Aftermath; and several other novels: Saving Agnes, winner of the Whitbread Award; The Temporary; The Country Life, which won the Somerset Maugham Award; The Lucky Ones; In the Fold; Arlington Park; and The Bradshaw Variations. She was chosen as one of Granta’s 2003 Best of Young British Novelists. She lives in London.

PRAISE

Praise for Rachel Cusk

"Cusk, like the best artists, has renovated her work from its deepest interior—the self—transforming her private crises into an expansive aesthetic vision." —Meaghan O’Gieblyn, The New York Times Book Review

"Cusk’s prose . . . is a tight guitar string or a wire from an espalier. Her descriptions . . . have a bewilde...
In just six years, ACT UP, New York, a broad and unlikely coalition of activists from all races, genders, sexualities, and backgrounds, changed the world. Armed with rancor, desperation, intelligence, and creativity, it took on the AIDS crisis with an indefatigable, ingenious, and multifaceted attack on the corporations, institutions, governments, and individuals who stood in the way of AIDS treatment for all. They stormed the FDA and NIH in Washington, D.C., and started needle exchange programs in New York; they took over Grand Central Terminal and fought to change the legal definition of AIDS to include women; they transformed the American insurance industry, weaponized art and advertising to push their agenda, and battled—and beat—The New York Times, the Catholic Church, and the pharmaceutical industry. Their activism, in its complex and intersectional power, transformed the lives of people with AIDS and the bigoted society that had abandoned them.

Based on more than two hundred interviews with ACT UP members and rich with lessons for today’s activists, Let the Record Show is a revelatory exploration—and long-overdue reassessment—of the coalition’s inner workings, conflicts, achievements, and ultimate fracture. Sarah Schulman, one of the most revered queer writers and thinkers of her generation, explores the how and the why, examining, with her characteristic rigor and bite, how a group of desperate...

Sarah Schulman is the author of more than twenty works of fiction (including The Cosmopolitans, Rat Bohemia, and Girls, Visions and Everything), nonfiction (among them Stagestruck, My American History, The Gentrification of the Mind), and theater (Carson McCullers, Manic Flight Reaction, and more), and the producer and screenwriter of several feature films (The Owls, Mommy Is Coming, and United in Anger, among others). Her writing has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, Slate, and many other outlets. She is a Distinguished Professor of Humanities at College of Staten Island, a Fellow at the New York Institute of Humanities, the recipient of multiple fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and the New York Foundation for the Art...
In the fall of 2009, the data artist Jer Thorp wrote a pair of algorithms to inscribe names on the 9/11 Memorial in Manhattan. The project involved designing a layout that allowed for “meaningful adjacencies”—family members, business partners, coworkers—to be etched into the bronze in close proximity. Thorp presented his results in competition against another team, a group of financial analysts who had also been working on the problem. The analysts were confident they’d found the most highly optimized solution—a maximum of about 93 percent of the adjacencies could be satisfied—when Thorp, a long-haired artist working on an old broken laptop, presented his layout: it was 99.99 percent solved. The analysts, it turned out, had looked at the data but not at how the data was to be represented. But Thorp considered each name as a unique unit in a real system. He’d solved a data problem by honoring the people from whom the data came, as well as the world in which that data would live.

The memorial project represents Thorp’s approach to data as a rich medium for personal and community growth. This human-centered approach has defined his work, from *The New York Times* to the Museum of Modern Art to the Library of Congress; from a submarine at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico to a boat in the middle of Africa's Okavango Delta; from Manchester’s town hall to an abandoned school in St. Louis’s north side.

In *Living in...*

**Jer Thorp** is one of the world’s foremost data artists and a leading voice for the ethical use of big data. He was *The New York Times'* first data artist in residence and has served as the innovator in residence at the Library of Congress. His data-inspired artwork has been shown around the world and has appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *Scientific American, The New Yorker, Popular Science, Fast Company, Business Week, Discover, Wired,* and *The Harvard Business Review*. Thorp is an adjunct professor in New York University’s renowned Interactive Telecommunications Program, and is the cofounder of the Office for Creative Research. He lives in New York City. *Living in Data* is his first book.
Burning Man
The Trials of D. H. Lawrence
Frances Wilson

An electrifying, revelatory life of D. H. Lawrence, with a focus on his difficult middle years

"Never trust the teller," wrote D. H. Lawrence, "trust the tale." Everyone who knew him told stories about Lawrence, and Lawrence told stories about everyone he knew. He also, again and again, told stories about himself: the pioneer of autofiction. No writer before Lawrence had made so permeable the border between life and literature. In *Burning Man: The Trials of D. H. Lawrence*, the acclaimed biographer Frances Wilson tells a new story about Lawrence, focusing on his decade of superhuman writing and travel between 1915, when *The Rainbow* was prosecuted, and 1925, when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Taking after Lawrence’s own model, Dante, and adopting the structure of his *Divine Comedy*, *Burning Man* is a distinctly Lawrentian biography, one that pursues Lawrence around the globe and reflects his life of wild allegory.

Eschewing the confines of a full-length biography, *Burning Man* is a triptych of lesser-known episodes drawn from lesser-known sources, and from the tales of Lawrence told by his friends in letters, memoirs, and diaries. Focusing on three critical turning points in Lawrence's pilgrimage (his crises in Cornwall, Italy, and New Mexico) and three central adversaries—his wife, Frieda; the writer Maurice Magnus; and his benefactress, Mabel Dodge Luhan—Wilson uncovers a lesser-known Lawrence, both as a writer and as a man.

Dizzyingly original, exhaustively researched, and always revelatory, *B...*

Frances Wilson is a critic, a journalist, and the author of several works of nonfiction, including *Literary Seductions; The Courtesan's Revenge; The Ballad of Dorothy Wordsworth*, which won the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize; *How to Survive the Titanic*, winner of the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography; and *Guilty Thing: A Life of Thomas De Quincey*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and she received a fellowship from the New York Public Library's Cullman Center in 2018. She lives in London with her daughter.

PRAISE

Praise for *Guilty Thing*

"A revelatory study of its subject . . . [Wilson] is a biographer with a De Quinceyan eye for pattern, and a sharp sense of the ironies that made her subject's life at once so rich and so denuded." —Dan Chiasson, *The New..."
A blazingly insightful, provocative study of violence against women from the peerless feminist critic.

Why has violence, and especially violence against women, become so much more prominent and visible across the world? To explore this question, Jacqueline Rose tracks the multiple forms of today’s violence – historic and intimate, public and private – as they spread throughout our social fabric, offering a new, provocative account of violence in our time.

From trans rights and #MeToo to the sexual harassment of migrant women, from the trial of Oscar Pistorius to domestic violence in lockdown, from the writing of Roxanne Gay to Hisham Mitar and Han Kang, she casts her net wide. What obscene pleasure in violence do so many male leaders of the Western world unleash in their supporters? Is violence always gendered and if so, always in the same way? What is required of the human mind when it grants itself permission to do violence?

On Violence and On Violence Against Women is a timely and urgent agitation against injustice, a challenge to radical feminism and a meaningful call to action.

Jacqueline Rose is the author of numerous books about psychoanalysis, literature and culture, feminism, and the Middle East. She is codirector of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, cofounder of Independent Jewish Voices, and a fellow of the British Academy. Rose is a frequent contributor to the London Review of Books and The Guardian, among many other publications.
Girl One
A Novel

Sara Flannery Murphy

Orphan Black meets Margaret Atwood in this twisty supernatural thriller about female power and the bonds of sisterhood

Josephine Morrow is Girl One, the first of nine “Miracle Babies” conceived without male DNA, raised on an experimental commune known as the Homestead. When a suspicious fire destroys the commune and claims the lives of two of the Homesteaders, the remaining Girls and their Mothers scatter across the United States and lose touch.

Years later, Margaret Morrow goes missing, and Josie sets off on a desperate road trip, tracking down her estranged sisters who seem to hold the keys to her mother’s disappearance. Tracing the clues Margaret left behind, Josie joins forces with the other Girls, facing down those who seek to eradicate their very existence while uncovering secrets about their origins and unlocking devastating abilities they never knew they had.

A spellbinding supernatural thriller, Girl One combines the provocative imagination of Naomi Alderman’s The Power with the propulsive, cinematic storytelling of a Marvel movie. In her electrifying new novel, Sara Flannery Murphy digs deep into women’s extraordinary power and reveals an unassailable truth: so much strength lies in numbers.

Sara Flannery Murphy is the author of the novel The Possessions and Girl One. She grew up in Arkansas, studied library science in British Columbia, and received her MFA in creative writing at Washington University in St. Louis. She lives in Utah with her husband and their two sons.

PRAISE

Praise for Sara Flannery Murphy

“A suspenseful debut novel that’s stylish and deliciously creepy.” —People

“A kind of love story to our mortal selves, tenderly prying into the ways we have of grieving and of letting go.” —Sarah Ditum, The Guardian
Pure Flame
A Legacy

Michelle Orange

An intellectual, personal, and ultimately ferocious reckoning with feminism, family, and motherhood from a celebrated critic

In this searing work of cultural memoir, Michelle Orange explores illness, mortality, and questions of maternal legacy, in pursuit of what Adrienne Rich called our “great untold story”: that of the mother-daughter bond. Through the interconnected lives of three women—Orange’s grandmother, her mother, and herself, born at the beginning, the middle, and toward the end of the twentieth century, respectively—*Pure Flame* traces the impact and influence on that bond of a century’s various seismic shifts: what has been gained, lost, and what remains only dimly understood. A question posed during a 1971 gathering of some of the era’s most powerful female writers, thinkers, and activists—including Susan Sontag, Germaine Greer, and Elizabeth Hardwick—offers a touchstone for the book’s blend of social, cultural, and personal inquiry: If a woman is not to model herself after her mother, by whose example should she live?

*Pure Flame* grapples with this question among many, reckoning in particular with the transformation of Orange’s mother from part-time teacher to MBA to CEO—a personally rewarding but grueling journey that took her away from her family and had lasting effects on her health. Written with warmth and rigor, Orange’s account of their relationship becomes pressurized in critical and unexpected ways, resulting in an urgent, revelatory meditation on becoming, selfhood, freedom, attachment, storytelling, and w...

Michelle Orange is author of the essay collection *This Is Running for Your Life*, which was named a best book of 2013 by *The New Yorker*. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker, Harper’s Magazine, The New York Times, Slate, Bookforum, The Nation*, and many other outlets. A contributing editor and columnist for the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, she is a faculty mentor in the graduate writing program at Goucher College and an adjunct assistant professor of writing at Columbia University.

PRAISE

Praise for Michelle Orange

"With its stew of high and low cultural references and extremely confident voice, Orange’s essay collection *This Is Running for Your Life* displays a crackling brain.” —Meg Wolitzer, NPR

"Michelle Orange’s mind and work are splendid, original, absolutely thrilling.” —Kurt And...
Double Blind
A Novel

Edward St. Aubyn

A dramatic and powerful reflection on nature, nurture, inquiry, perception, and the myriad ways we try to understand what it means to be alive

Double Blind is the masterful new novel from Edward St. Aubyn: an ambitious, thrilling synthesis of art, science, and philosophy that explores some of the biggest ideas and most pressing questions of our times. Following three friends and their circle through a year of transformation, and moving between London, Oxford, Cap d’Antibes, Big Sur, and a rewilded corner of Sussex, it is about the headlong pursuit of knowledge—for the purposes of pleasure, revelation, money, sanity, or survival—and the consequences of fleeing what we already know about others and ourselves.

When Olivia meets a new lover, Francis, just as she is welcoming her dearest friend Lucy back from New York, her dedicated academic life expands precipitously. Her connection to Francis, a committed naturalist living off-grid, is immediate and startling. Eager to involve Lucy in her joy, Olivia introduces the two—but Lucy has news of her own that binds the trio unusually close. Over the months that follow, Lucy’s boss Hunter, Olivia’s psychoanalyst parents, and a young man named Sebastian are pulled into the friends’ orbit, and not one of them will emerge unchanged.

Expansive, playful, and compassionate, Double Blind investigates themes of inheritance, determinism, freedom, consciousness, and the stories we tell about ourselves. St. Aubyn’s major new novel is as compelling about ecology, psychoanalysis, genetics, and neuroscience as it is...

Edward St. Aubyn was born in London. His acclaimed Patrick Melrose novels are Never Mind, Bad News, Some Hope, Mother’s Milk (winner of the Prix Femina étranger and short-listed for the Man Booker Prize), and At Last. The series was made into a BAFTA Award–winning Sky Atlantic TV series starring Benedict Cumberbatch. St. Aubyn is also the author of A Clue to the Exit, On the Edge (short-listed for the Guardian Fiction Prize), Lost for Words (winner of the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize), and Dunbar, his reimagining of King Lear for the Hogarth Shakespeare project.

PRAISE

Praise for Edward St. Aubyn

"Everything St. Aubyn writes is worth reading for the sheer joy of being..."
Last Best Hope
The Revival of America
George Packer

An acclaimed National Book Award-winning author diagnoses America’s descent into a failed state, and envisions a path toward overcoming our injustices, paralyses, and divides

How, in a few decades, did the United States transform from a broadly prosperous middle-class country, with relatively healthy institutions and competent leaders, to a nation defined by discredited elites, hollowed-out institutions, and blatant inequalities—feared and pitied by our friends, mocked and sabotaged by our adversaries, first in the world in Covid cases and deaths, and led in recent years by an incompetent authoritarian bigot? Last Best Hope is a bracing account of our current crisis and of how a new era of civic revitalization may bring it to an end.

Combining reportage with historical narrative, autobiography, and political analysis, Packer depicts and assesses the four inadequate narratives that dominate American public life: Libertarian America, which imagines a nation of individuals responsible for their own fate, and serves the interests of corporations and the wealthy; Cosmopolitan America, the ideology of Silicon Valley and the professional elite, which celebrates globalization and leaves many American communities behind; Diverse America, which defines citizens as members of large identity groups that have inflicted or suffered oppression; and White America, a shallow nationalism that fears the contamination of non-whites and treachery of coastal elites, and poses the greatest threat to democracy in our lifetime.

At a time when many fear that the American experiment in self-government ...

George Packer is a staff writer at The Atlantic, and the author of many previous books, including The Unwinding (winner of the National Book Award), The Assassins’ Gate, and Our Man (a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Award for biography).
A provocative, exhilaratingly new understanding of America’s most confounding metropolis—not just a great city, but a full-blown modern city-state

America is obsessed with Los Angeles. And America has been thinking about Los Angeles all wrong, for decades, on repeat. Los Angeles is not just the place where the American dream hits the Pacific. Not just the end of the line anymore. Not just the vanishing point of America’s western drive. Not just a city.

Los Angeles is best understood as a city-state. Functionally, aesthetically, mythologically, even technologically—a small independent territory, a sovereign place, a city and surrounding regions bound together by population density and an aura of autonomy and a sense of unfurling destiny. This is Los Angeles.

Deeply researched and reported, provocatively argued, and eloquently sung, Rosecrans Baldwin’s *Everything Now* reveals the borders and probes the ecology of this Great American City-State, enumerates its cultural treasures and economic prowess, hails its heroes and charts its landmarks, plumbs its social and economic history, catalogs its canonical literature (from John Fante to Joan Didion to Mike Davis to Octavia Butler), probes its religions and spiritual practices, its languages and cuisines, and seeks the keys to its future. It is a protean, vibrant place—vastly more than its many, many parts.

Welcome to Los Angeles, the Great American City-State.

Rosecrans Baldwin is the author of *You Lost Me There* and *Paris, I Love You But You're Bringing Me Down*. He lives in Los Angeles, California.
Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch
A Novel

Rivka Galchen

The startling, witty, highly anticipated second novel from the critically acclaimed author of *Atmospheric Disturbances*

The story begins in 1618, in the German duchy of Württemberg. Plague is spreading. The Thirty Years’ War has begun, and fear and suspicion are in the air throughout the Holy Roman Empire. In the small town of Leonberg, Katharina Kepler is accused of being a witch.

Katharina is an illiterate widow, known by her neighbors for her herbal remedies and the success of her children, including her eldest, Johannes, who is the Imperial Mathematician and renowned author of the laws of planetary motion. It’s enough to make anyone jealous, and Katharina has done herself no favors by being out and about and in everyone’s business. So when the deranged and insipid Ursula Reinbold (or as Katharina calls her, the Werewolf) accuses Katharina of offering her a bitter, witchy drink that has made her ill, Katharina is in trouble. Her scientist son must turn his attention from the music of the spheres to the job of defending his mother.

Facing the threat of financial ruin, torture, and even execution, Katharina tells her side of the story to her friend and next-door neighbor Simon, a reclusive widower imperiled by his own secrets.

Drawing on real historical documents but infused with the intensity of imagination, sly humor, and intellectual fire for which Rivka Galchen is known, *Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch* will both provoke and entertain. The story of how a community becomes implicated in collective aggression and ...

Rivka Galchen is the recipient of a William Saroyan International Prize for Fiction and a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award, among other distinctions. She writes regularly for *The New Yorker*, whose editors selected her for their list of 20 Under 40 American fiction writers in 2010. Her debut novel *Atmospheric Disturbances* (2008) and her story collection *American Innovations* were both *New York Times* Best Books of the Year. She has received an MD from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Galchen lives in New York City.

### PRAISE

Praise for Rivka Galchen

“Skillful, imaginative, often funny . . . In that grand tradition of American innovators, perhaps Ms. Galchen’s greatest artistic creation is herself.”
The Reason for the Darkness of the Night
Edgar Allan Poe and the Forging of American Science

John Tresch

An innovative new biography of Edgar Allan Poe—highlighting his infatuation, feuds, and fascination with science and the mountebanks, mystics, and experimenters of his time

We all think we know Poe—the most popular American writer around the world, dissolute puzzle-maker, pioneer of detective fiction, and author of haunting, atmospheric verse. But what if there was another side to the man who wrote “The Raven” and “The Fall of the House of Usher”? What if Poe were as well known for his speculations about the birth of the universe or his “Sonnet—to Science”?

In *The Reason for the Darkness of the Night: Edgar Allan Poe and the Forging of American Science*, John Tresch offers a bold new life of one of the nineteenth century’s most iconic writers. By shining a spotlight on a time when the line between speculative endeavors and scientific inquiry was blurred, Tresch reveals Poe to have been much more than a practitioner of science fiction—in fact, he was an avid commentator on scientific developments, publishing and circulating in literary milieux that also played host to lectures and demonstrations by the era’s most prominent scientists, semi-scientists, and pseudo-intellectual rogues. As one newspaper put it, “Mr. Poe is not merely a man of science—not merely a poet—not merely a man of letters. He is all combined; and perhaps he is something more.”

Beginning with his study of mathematics and engineering at West Point, and taking us through the tumultuous years leading up to publication of “The Raven,” Tresch shows that Poe nurtured a fascination with science from his earliest d...

John Tresch is Professor and Mellon Chair in History of Art, Science, and Folk Practice at the Warburg Institute, London. He has held fellowships at the New York Public Library, the Institute for Advanced Studies, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, and has been a visiting researcher at King’s College London and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He is the author of *The Romantic Machine: Utopian Science and Technology After Napoleon.*

**PRAISE**

Praise for *The Romantic Machine*
In this international bestseller by the award-winning novelist Mariana Leky, a heartwarming story unfolds about a small town, a grandmother whose dreams foretell a coming death, and the young woman forever changed by these losses and her loving, endearingly oddball community.

On a beautiful spring day, a small village in Western Germany wakes up to an omen: Selma has dreamed of an okapi. Someone is about to die.

Luise, Selma’s ten-year-old granddaughter, looks on as the predictable characters of her small world begin acting strangely. Protesting that they are not superstitious, each of the villagers grapples with the buried secrets and deferred decisions that have suddenly become urgent in the face of death.

Luise’s mother struggles to decide whether to end her marriage. An old family friend, known only as the optician, tries to find the courage to tell Selma he loves her. Only Sad Marlies remains unchanged, still moping around her house and cooking terrible food. But when death finally comes, the circumstances are outside anyone’s expectations.

Across three defining moments in her life, Luise grapples with life’s big questions alongside her devoted friends, young and old. A story about the absurdity of life and death, a bittersweet portrait of village life and the wider world that beckons beyond, it is also a thoughtful meditation on the way loss and love shape not just a person, but a community. Mariana Leky’s What You Can See from Here is a charmer—a moving novel of grief, first love, reluctant love, late love, and finding one’s place in the world, even if that place is right where you started.

Mariana Leky was born in Cologne and lives in Berlin. She is the author of the novels The Gentlemen’s Tailor and First Aid, for which she received the Advancement Prize for Young Artists from the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. Leky began her career as a bookseller and later studied cultural journalism at the University of Hildesheim. Her most recent novel, What You Can See from Here, won the Comburg-Stipendium and the Via-Communis-Literaturpreis in Germany.

Tess Lewis is a writer and translator from the French and German. Her translations include works by Peter Handke, Walter Benjamin, Klaus Merz, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Christine Angot, Pascal Bruckner, and Jean-Luc Benoziglio.
Republic of Detours
How the New Deal Paid Broke Writers to Rediscover America
Scott Borchert

The incredible story of a WPA program that set out to create a state-by-state guidebook to America—and employed some of the biggest names in American letters

The plan was as idealistic as it was audacious—and perhaps flat-out crazy. Take thousands of broke writers—whether formally unemployed or self-anointed, communists or nonconformists, urbanites or country dwellers, young or old, poets or reporters, but all of them American in some shape or form—and put them to work writing a guidebook to a country in the throes of the Great Depression. Or forty-eight guides to be exact, one for each state, along with hundreds of miscellaneous books dedicated to cities, territories, folklore, and even slave narratives, all of varying quality, each revealing distinct regional sensibilities.

All this fell within the purview of the Federal Writer’s Project, a division of the Works Progress Administration founded to employ not just writers but anyone who seemed ill-suited to manual labor. It was a predictably eclectic organization, directed by an equally eccentric man, Henry Alsberg—a disheveled Manhattanite prone to fits of melancholy who took his advice from the anarchist Emma Goldman. When Alfred Kazin sat for an interview at the New York office of the FWP, he encountered a room “crowded with men and women lying face down on the floor, screaming that they were on strike.”

Even W. H. Auden couldn’t help but remark that the whole thing was “one of the noblest and most absurd undertakings ever attempted by a state.”

Republic of Detours tells the story of this raucous, Whitm...

Detective Mario Conde returns to solve a mystery spanning centuries of occult history

Detective Mario Conde is facing his sixtieth birthday. What does he have to show for his decades on the planet? A failing body, a slower mind, and a decrepit country, in which both the ideals and the failures of the Cuban Revolution are being swept away in favor of a new and newly cosmopolitan worship of money.

Rescue comes in the form of a new case: an old Marxist turned flamboyant practitioner of Santería appears on the scene to engage Conde to track down a stolen statue of the Virgen de Regla—a black Madonna. This sets Conde on a quest that spans twenty-first-century Havana as well as the distant past, as he delves as far back as the Crusades in an attempt to uncover the true provenance of the statue.

Through vignettes from the life of a Catalan peasant named Antoni Barral, who appears throughout history in different guises—as a shepherd during the Spanish Civil War, as a vassal to a feudal lord—we trace the Madonna to present-day Cuba. With Barral serving as Conde's alter ego, unstuck in time, and Conde serving as the author's, we are treated to a panorama of history and reminded of the impossibility of always remaining on its sidelines, no matter how obscure we may think our place in the action.

Equal parts The Name of the Rose and The Maltese Falcon, The Transparency of Time cements Leonardo Padura's position as a preeminent literary crime writer of our time.

Leonardo Padura was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1955. The author of The Man Who Loved Dogs and Heretics, his genre-bending literary crime novels featuring the detective Mario Conde have been widely translated and formed the basis for the 2016 Netflix miniseries Four Seasons in Havana.

Anna Kushner was born in Philadelphia and first traveled to Cuba in 1999. She has translated the novels of Guillermo Rosales, Norberto Fuentes, Gonçalo M. Tavares, and Leonardo Padura.
Four Thousand Weeks
Time Management for Mortals

Oliver Burkeman

Time is our biggest worry: there is too little of it. The award-winning, renowned Guardian columnist Oliver Burkeman offers a lively, entertaining philosophical guide to time and time management, setting aside superficial efficiency solutions in favor of reckoning with and finding joy in the finitude of human life.

The average human lifespan is absurdly, insultingly brief. Assuming you live to be eighty, you have just over four thousand weeks.

Nobody needs telling there isn’t enough time. We’re obsessed with our lengthening to-do lists, our overfilled inboxes, work-life balance, and the ceaseless struggle against distraction; and we’re deluged with advice on becoming more productive and efficient, and “life hacks” to optimize our days. But such techniques often end up making things worse. The sense of anxious hurry grows more intense, and still the most meaningful parts of life seem to lie just beyond the horizon. Still, we rarely make the connection between our daily struggles with time and the ultimate time management problem: the challenge of how best to use our four thousand weeks.

Drawing on the insights of both ancient and contemporary philosophers, psychologists, and spiritual teachers, Oliver Burkeman delivers an entertaining, humorous, practical, and ultimately profound guide to time and time management. Rejecting the futile modern obsession with “getting everything done,” Four Thousand Weeks introduces readers to tools for constructing a meaningful life, showing how many of the unhelpful ways we’ve come to think about time aren’t inescapable, unchanging truths, but choices we’ve made as individuals and as a society—and that we could do things differently.


PRAISE

Praise for The Antidote

“Burkeman's tour of the 'negative path' to happiness makes for a deeply insightful and entertaining book. This insecure, anxious and sometimes unhappily married English writer knows his stuff.”

Héctor Tobar, Los Angeles Times
Alec
A Novel

William di Canzio

A reimagining and continuation of E. M. Forster’s literary masterpiece Maurice, told from the gamekeeper Alec Scudder’s perspective

William di Canzio’s Alec, inspired by Maurice, E. M. Forster’s secret novel of a happy same-sex love affair, tells the story of Alec Scudder, the gamekeeper Maurice Hall falls in love with in Forster’s classic, published only after the author’s death.

Di Canzio follows their story past the end of Maurice to the front lines of battle in World War I and beyond. Forster, who tried to write an epilogue about the future of his characters, was stymied by the radical change that the Great War brought to their world. With the hindsight of a century, di Canzio imagines a future for them and a past for Alec—a young villager possessed of remarkable passion and self-knowledge.

Alec continues Forster’s project of telling stories that are part of “a great unrecorded history.” Di Canzio’s debut novel is a love story of epic proportions, at once classic and boldly new.

William di Canzio’s plays have been staged in New York, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Philadelphia; at Yale University and the O’Neill Theater Center; and at the National Constitution Center. Di Canzio has taught literature and writing at Smith College, Haverford College, and Yale University. Since 2013, he has taught in the Pennoni Honors College of Drexel University.
More Anon
Selected Poems

Maureen N. McLane

Selected poems of Maureen N. McLane

More Anon gathers a selection of poems from Maureen N. McLane’s critically acclaimed first five books of poetry.

McLane, whose 2014 collection This Blue was a finalist for the National Book Award, is a poet of wit and play, of romanticism and intellect, of song and polemic. More Anon presents her work anew. The poems spark with life, and the concentrated selection showcases her energy and style.

As Parul Seghal wrote in Bookforum, “To read McLane is to be reminded that the brain may be an organ, but the mind is a muscle. Hers is a roving, amphibious intelligence; she’s at home in the essay and the fragment, the polemic and the elegy.” In More Anon, McLane—a poet, scholar, and prizewinning critic—displays the full range of her vertiginous mind and daring experimentation.

Maureen N. McLane is the author of five previous books of poetry, including Some Say; Mz N: the serial: A Poem-in-Episodes; and the 2014 National Book Award finalist This Blue. Her book My Poets, a hybrid of memoir and criticism, was a finalist for the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography.
Breathing Fire
Female Inmate Firefighters on the Front Lines of California's Wildfires

Jaime Lowe

A dramatic, revelatory account of the female inmate firefighters who battle California wildfires for less than a dollar an hour

On February 23, 2016, Shawna Lynn Jones stepped into the brush to fight a wildfire that had consumed ten acres of terrain on a steep ridge in Malibu. Jones carried fifty pounds of equipment and a chainsaw to help contain the blaze. As she fired up her saw, the earth gave way under her feet and a rock fell from above and struck her head, knocking her unconscious. A helicopter descended to airlift her out. As it took off, she was handcuffed to the gurney. She was neither a desperate Malibu resident nor a professional firefighter. She was a female inmate firefighter, briefly trained and equipped, and paid one dollar an hour to fight fires while working off her sentence.

As California has endured unprecedented wildfires over the past decade, the state has come to rely heavily on its prison population, with imprisoned firefighters making up at least 40 percent of Cal Fire's on-the-ground fire crews. Of those imprisoned workers, 250 are women. In Breathing Fire, Jaime Lowe expands on her revelatory work for The New York Times Magazine to follow Jones and her fellow female inmate firefighters before, during, and—if they're lucky—after incarceration. Lowe takes us into their lives, into the prisons and the women's decisions to join the controversial program, into the fire camps where they live and train, and onto the front lines, where their brave work is unquestionably heroic—if often thankless.

Jaime Lowe is a frequent contributor to The New York Times Magazine and other national publications, and has appeared regularly on This American Life, RadioLab, and NPR. She is the author of Mental and Digging for Dirt and has taught writing at Wallkill Correctional Facility. Born and raised in California, she lives in New York City.

PRAISE

Praise for Mental

"With clear-eyed candor, wicked wit, and edgy tenderness, Lowe's story defies the streamlined trajectory of an easy recovery narrative." —Leslie Jamison, author of The Empathy Exams

"I owe writes with verve and rhythm and willed forthrightness about her
Believers
Making a Life at the End of the World
Lisa Wells

In search of answers and action, award-winning poet and essayist Lisa Wells brings us Believers, introducing trailblazers and outliers from across the globe who have found radically new ways to live and reconnect to the Earth in the face of climate change.

We find ourselves at the end of the world; how then shall we live?

Like many of us, Lisa Wells has spent years overwhelmed by news of apocalyptic-scale climate change and a coming sixth extinction. She did not need to be convinced of the stakes. But what can be done? Wells embarked on a pilgrimage, seeking answers in dedicated communities—outcasts and visionaries—on the margins of society.

Wells meets Finisia Medrano, an itinerant planter and misanthrope leading a group of nomadic activists to rewild the American desert. She finds a group of environmentalist Christians practicing "watershed discipleship" in New Mexico; another group in Philadelphia turning the tools of violence into tools of farming—guns into plowshares. She watches the world’s greatest tracker teach how to read a trail, and visits botanists who are restoring land overrun by invasive species and destructive humans. She talks with survivors of catastrophic wildfires in California as they try to rebuild in new ways that acknowledge the fires will come again.

Blending reportage, memoir, history, and philosophy, Wells opens up seemingly intractable questions about the damage we have done and how we might reckon with our inheritance. "Brilliant in its quest . . . [and] an essential document of our time" (Charles D’Ambrosio), Believers demands transformation: If the Earth is our home, if our home is being destroyed—how then shall we live?


PRAISE

"Reminds me of The Empathy Exams by Leslie Jamison, for the
The critic and scholar Heather Cass White offers an exploration of the nature of reading

Heather Cass White’s *Books Promiscuously Read* is about the pleasures of reading and its power in shaping our internal lives. It advocates for a life of constant, disorderly, time-consuming reading, and encourages readers to trust in the value of the exhilaration and fascination such reading entails. Rather than arguing for the moral value of reading or the preeminence of literature as an aesthetic form, *Books Promiscuously Read* illustrates the irreplaceable experience of the self that reading provides for those inclined to do it.

Through three sections—Play, Transgression, and Insight—which focus on three ways of thinking about reading, *Books Promiscuously Read* moves among and considers many poems, novels, stories, and works of nonfiction. The prose is shot through with quotations reflecting the way readers think through the words of others.

*Books Promiscuously Read* is a tribute to the whole lives readers live in their books, and aims to recommit people to those lives. As White writes, “What matters is staying attuned to an ordinary, unflashy, mutely persistent miracle; that all the books to be read, and all the selves to be because we have read them, are still there, still waiting, still undiminished in their power. It is an astonishing joy.”

Heather Cass White has edited three collections of Marianne Moore’s work: *New Collected Poems; A-Quiver with Significance: Marianne Moore, 1932–1936; and Adversity & Grace: Marianne Moore, 1936–1941*. She is a professor of English at the University of Alabama.
Cynthia Saltzman’s *Plunder* recounts the fate of Paolo Veronese’s *Wedding Feast at Cana*, a vast, sublime canvas that the French, under the command of the young Napoleon Bonaparte, tore from a wall of the monastery of San Giorgio Maggiore, on an island in Venice, in 1797. Painted in 1563 during the Renaissance, the picture was immediately hailed as a masterpiece. Veronese had filled the scene with some 130 figures, lavishing color on the canvas to build the illusion that the viewers’ space opened onto a biblical banquet taking place on a terrace in sixteenth-century Venice. Once pulled from the wall, the Venetian canvas crossed the Mediterranean rolled on a cylinder; soon after, artworks commandeered from Venice and Rome were triumphantly brought into Paris. In 1801, the Veronese went on exhibition at the Louvre, the new public art museum founded during the Revolution in the former palace of the French kings.

As Saltzman tells the larger story of Napoleon’s looting of Italian art and its role in the creation of the Louvre, she reveals the contradictions of his character: his thirst for greatness—to carry forward the finest aspects of civilization—and his ruthlessness in getting whatever he sought. After Napoleon’s 1815 defeat at Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington and the Allies forced the French to return many of the Louvre’s plundered paintings and sculptures. Nevertheless, *The Wedding Feast at Cana* rema...

Cynthia Saltzman is the author of *Portrait of Dr. Gachet: The Story of a Van Gogh Masterpiece and Old Masters, New World: America’s Raid on Europe’s Great Pictures*. A former reporter for *Forbes* and *The Wall Street Journal*, she is the recipient of a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation and has degrees in art history from Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.
Democracy Rules

Jan-Werner Müller

A highly anticipated and much-needed guide to saving democracy from one of our most essential political thinkers

Today, democracy appears to be the only game in town. No other system of governance attracts loyalty and support on such a large scale. And yet democracy is also in crisis, with the rise of illiberal leaders and political discontent across the West. If democracy is a game, we seem less and less sure what its rules and intended results are supposed to be.

In his previous book, What Is Populism?, Jan-Werner Müller offered an authoritative diagnosis of populist rulers and movements around the world and the threat they pose. It was hailed as “the most essential work to comprehend Trump’s appeal” by The Washington Post and as “essential reading” by The Guardian. In Democracy Rules, Müller offers a blueprint for how democracies can survive and flourish, even in trying times. In a series of elegant essays, Müller shows that today’s “democracy defense industry” is badly misguided—fears of the return of fascism and other totalitarian ideologies are exaggerated, the idea that we live in a “post-truth” age is false, and “polarization” is not a useful way to describe our political ills.

Instead, Müller sweeps away common myths in order to reconsider democracy’s first principles, above all the “institutionalized uncertainty” that allows democracies to balance conflict and cooperation and function effectively without suppressing disagreement. The breakdown of the social contract between elites and other citizens ...


PRAISE

Praise for What Is Populism?

"[A] brilliant book. There is no better guide to the populist passions of the present." —Ivan Krastev, The New York Times

"Essential reading." —The Guardian
The Man Who Hated Women
Sex, Censorship, and Civil Liberties in the Gilded Age

Amy Sohn

The New York Times–bestselling author Amy Sohn presents a narrative history of Anthony Comstock, anti-vice activist and U.S. Postal Inspector, and the remarkable women who opposed his war on women’s rights at the turn of the twentieth century.

Anthony Comstock, special agent to the Post Office, was one of the most important men in the lives of nineteenth-century women. His eponymous law, passed in 1873, penalized the mailing of contraception and obscenity with harsh sentences and steep fines; his name was soon equated with repression and prudery.

Between 1873 and the ratification of the nineteenth amendment in 1920, eight remarkable women were tried under the Comstock Law. These “sex radicals” supported contraception, sexual education, gender equality, and a woman’s right to sexual pleasure. They took on Comstock in explicit, bold, personal writing, seeking to redefine work, family, sex, and love for a new era.

The Man Who Hated Women tells the overlooked story of their valiant attempts to fight Comstock in court and the press. They were publishers, editors, and doctors, including the first woman presidential candidate, Victoria C. Woodhull; the birth control activist Margaret Sanger; and the anarchist Emma Goldman. In their willingness to go against a monomaniac who viewed reproductive rights as a threat to the American family, they paved the way for modern-day feminism. Risking imprisonment and death, they redefined contraceptive access as a human civil liberty.

In The Man Who Hated Women, Amy Sohn brings these women’s stories to vivid life, recounting their personal and romantic travails and political battles. Without them, there would be no...

Amy Sohn is the New York Times–bestselling author of five novels, including Prospect Park West and Motherland. A former columnist at New York and the New York Post, she has also written for Harper’s Bazaar, Playboy, Elle, The Nation, and many other publications. She has been a writing fellow at Headlands Center for the Arts, Writers Omi, and the Studios at MASS MoCA. A lifelong New Yorker, she lives in Brooklyn with her daughter.

PRAISE
Embassy Wife  
A Novel

Katie Crouch

A page-turning thriller following two women abroad searching for the truth about their husbands—and their country

Katie Crouch’s Embassy Wife introduces us to Persephone Wilder, a displaced genius posing as the wife of an American diplomat in Namibia. She takes her job as a representative of her country seriously, and comes up with an intricate set of rules to survive such problems as how to dress in hundred-degree weather without showing too much skin, how not to look drunk at embassy functions, and how to eat roasted oryx with grace. She also suspects her husband is not actually the ambassador’s general counsel, but a secret agent in the CIA. Ever the embassy wife, she takes the new trailing spouse, Amanda Evans, under her wing.

Amanda Evans has just arrived in Namibia, mere weeks after giving up her Silicon Valley job, as her husband, Mark, has accepted a Fulbright. But once they arrive in the sub-Saharan desert, it becomes clear that Mark, who lived in Namibia two decades earlier, had other reasons for returning. Their marriage, which seemed solid in the safety of home, feels tenuous in the glaring heat of the Kalahari. Mark, it seems, has secrets born twenty years ago, and this journey is actually a quest to find a woman he left behind. When Amanda’s daughter becomes involved in an actual international conflict, lines are drawn in the sand, and it is clear that her own government won’t stand up for her or her daughter.

Propulsive and provocative, Embassy Wife compellingly explores the limits of human resilience...


PRAISE

Praise for Abroad

“Crouch ventures daringly into dark new terrain . . . with a psychological grab-your-throat thriller . . . [Abroad] holds you in its ever-tightening grip, with a heady mix of history, burning secrets and exquisite language.” —San Francisco Chronicle
Essays Two
Lydia Davis

A collection of essays on translation, foreign languages, Proust, and one French city, from the master short-fiction writer and acclaimed translator Lydia Davis

Lydia Davis, who has been called “a magician of self-consciousness” by Jonathan Franzen and “the best prose stylist in America” by Rick Moody, gathered a selection of her essays for the first time in 2019 with Essays One. Now she continues her nonfiction project with Essays Two.

This edition collects, for the first time, Davis’s essays and talks on the art of translation; the experience of translating Proust, Flaubert, and Michel Leiris; learning a foreign language through reading; and an extended immersion in the city of Arles.

Davis, the winner of the Man Booker International Prize for her fiction and a finalist for the National Book Award, showcases her sharp literary mind and invaluable insight in this new collection of her nonfiction works.

Lydia Davis is the author of Essays One, a collection of essays on writing, reading, and art. She is also the author of one novel and seven story collections, including Varieties of Disturbance, a finalist for the 2007 National Book Award, and, most recently, Can’t and Won’t. Davis is the acclaimed translator of Swann’s Way and Madame Bovary, both of which were awarded the French-American Foundation Translation Prize. The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis was described by James Wood in The New Yorker as a “grand cumulative achievement.” She is the winner of the 2013 Man Booker International Prize.
To Walk Alone in the Crowd
A Novel

Antonio Muñoz Molina;
Translated from the Spanish by Guillermo Bleichmar

A flâneur-novel tracing the path—and inner thoughts—of a nameless wanderer as he walks the length of Manhattan

De Quincey, Baudelaire, Poe, Joyce, Walter Benjamin, Melville, Lorca, Whitman . . . each a walker and city dweller, each a collagist and chronicler, each picking the detritus of his era off the filthy streets and assembling it into something new, shocking, and beautiful. In To Walk Alone in the Crowd, Antonio Muñoz Molina emulates these classical inspirations, following their peregrinations as well as telling their stories, in a book that is part memoir, part novel, part chronicle of urban wandering.

A master collagist himself, Muñoz Molina assembles overheard conversations, subway ads, commercials blazing away on public screens, snatches from books hurriedly packed into bags or shoved under one’s arm, mundane anxieties, and the occasional true flash of insight—struggling to announce itself amid this barrage of data—into a poem of contemporary life: an invitation to let oneself be carried along by the sheer energy of the digital metropolis.

A denunciation of the harsh noise of capitalism, of the conversion of everything into either merchandise or garbage (or both), To Walk Alone in the Crowd is also a celebration of the beauty and variety of our world, of the ecological and aesthetic gaze that can, even now, recycle waste into art and provide an opportunity for rebirth.

Antonio Muñoz Molina is the author of more than a dozen novels, including In the Night of Time, Sepharad, and Like a Fading Shadow. He is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including Spain’s National Narrative Prize, the Planeta Prize, and the Príncipe de Asturias Prize. He has been a full member of the Royal Spanish Academy since 1995. He lives in Madrid and New York City.

Guillermo Bleichmar was born in Argentina and grew up in Buenos Aires and Mexico City. He holds a BA in English Literature from Columbia and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. He teaches liberal arts at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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PRAISE
Inflamed
Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice
Rupa Marya and Raj Patel

An associate professor of medicine at UCSF and a frontline responder to the COVID-19 pandemic teams up with the activist and bestselling author of The Value of Nothing to explain how colonization has made us sick and how decolonizing food and medicine can help us heal.

The coronavirus pandemic and the shocking racial disparities in its impact. A surge in inflammatory illnesses such as gastrointestinal disorders and asthma. Mass uprisings around the world in response to systemic racism and violence. Climate refugees. Deaths of despair. This is the epoch of endless fire. Your body, society, and planet are inflamed. What is the cause? And how do we begin to restore our individual and collective health?

Boldly original and deeply researched, Inflamed takes us on a medical tour through our digestive, endocrine, circulatory, respiratory, reproductive, immune, and nervous systems. Unlike a traditional anatomy book, however, this groundbreaking work illuminates what ails us as a whole, mapping the hidden connections between our biological systems and the profound injustices of our political, economic, social, and ecological systems. Inflammation is connected to the ground beneath our feet, the food that we eat, the air that we breathe, and the diversity of microbes living inside us, which regulate everything from our brain development to our immune system. It's connected to the number of traumatic events we experienced as children and to the trauma endured by our ancestors. It's connected not only to access to health care but to the very models of health that physicians bring to their medical practice.


Dr. Rupa Marya is a physician, an activist, a mother, and a composer. She is an associate professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, where she practices and teaches internal medicine. She is also a cofounder of the Do No Harm Coalition, and at the invitation of Lakota health leaders, she is helping to set up the Mni Wiconi Health Clinic and Farm at Standing Rock in order to decolonize medicine and food.

Raj Patel is a research professor at the University of Texas at Austin’s Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, a professor in the university’s department of nutrition, and a research associate at Rhodes University, South Africa. He is the author of Stuffed and Starved and the New York Times–bestselling The Value of Nothing.
A tender and fierce debut novel that explores the bond between two siblings—one the biological child and one adopted from an orphanage in Thailand

It is the day of her brother’s wedding and our narrator is still struggling with her toast. Despite a recent fracture between them, her brother, Danny, has asked her to give a speech and she doesn’t know where to begin, how to put words to their kind of love. She was nine years old when she traveled with her parents to Thailand to meet her brother, six years her junior. They grew up together like any other siblings, sharing a bucolic childhood in Northern California. Yet when she holds their story up to the light, it refracts in ways she doesn’t expect.

What follows is Immediate Family, a heartfelt letter addressed to Danny and an attempt at a full accounting of their years growing up, invoking everything from the Victorian adoption plot to childless women in literature to documents from Danny’s case file. It’s also a confession, of sorts, to the parts of her life that she has kept from him, including her own struggle with infertility. And as the hours until the wedding wane, she uncovers the words that can’t and won’t be said aloud.

Ashley Nelson Levy has published fiction and essays in ZYZZYVA, Catapult, The Atlas Review, and Fourteen Hills. Her work has been a notable mention in Best Nonrequired Reading and received the Bambi Holmes Award for Emerging Writers. She received her MFA from Columbia University, where she was a Klein/Lemann Fellow. In 2015, she cofounded Transit Books, an independent publishing house with a focus on international literature.

“Composed with emotional candor and intellectual clarity, Immediate Family is about the improbable relentlessness of love . . . It’s a book that refuses tidy conclusions, and yet by the time I turned the last page, this book that had undone me had also left me magnificently whole.” —Anthony Marra
What About the Baby?  
Some Thoughts on the Art of Fiction  

Alice McDermott

A collection of essays, lectures, and observations on the art of writing fiction from an expert novelist

Look: Artistic inspiration, religious faith, does not come to most of us with the beating of wings or the leaping of flames or the cinematic, middle-of-the-night aha moment that cuts to an acceptance speech in Stockholm. It comes through long effort, through moving ahead and falling back, through working in the dark. It comes to us in moments of passionate intuition and over long days and nights of painful silence. It arrives in the usual and yet miraculous confluence of ordinary events. It comes and goes. It leaves us in doubt. It is sustained by doubt. It is the work of a lifetime.

What About the Baby? Some Thoughts on the Art of Fiction gathers Alice McDermott’s essays and lectures regarding her own “work of a lifetime” as a bestselling novelist and professor of writing. From technical advice (“check that your verbs aren’t burdened by unnecessary hads and woulds”) to setting the bar (“I expect the fiction I read to carry with it the conviction that it is written with no other incentive than it must be written”), from the demands of readers (“they’d been given a story with a baby in it and they damn well wanted that baby accounted for”), to the foibles of public life (“I’ve never subscribed to the notion that a movie adaptation is the final imprimatur for a work of fiction—despite how often I’ve been told by encouraging friends and strangers: Maybe they’ll make a movie of your novel . . . as if I’d b...

Alice McDermott is the author of eight previous novels, including The Ninth Hour; Someone; After This; Child of My Heart; Charming Billy, winner of the 1998 National Book Award; and At Weddings and Wakes—all published by FSG. That Night, At Weddings and Wakes, and After This were all finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. Her stories and essays have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The New Yorker, Harper’s Magazine, and elsewhere. For more than two decades she was the Richard A. Macksey Professor of the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University and a member of the faculty at the Sewanee Writers Conference.
Dirty Work
Essential Jobs and the Hidden Toll of Inequality in America

Eyal Press

A groundbreaking, urgent report from the front lines of "dirty work"—the work that society considers essential but morally compromised

Drone pilots who carry out targeted assassinations. Undocumented immigrants who man the "kill floors" of industrial slaughterhouses. Guards who patrol the wards of America’s most violent and abusive prisons. In Dirty Work, Eyal Press offers a paradigm-shifting view of the moral landscape of contemporary America through the stories of people who perform society’s most ethically troubling jobs. As Press shows, we are increasingly shielded and distanced from an array of morally questionable activities that other, less privileged people perform in our name.

The COVID-19 pandemic has drawn unprecedented attention to the issue of "essential workers," and to the health and safety risks to which workers in prisons and slaughterhouses are exposed. But Dirty Work examines another, less familiar set of occupational hazards: psychological and emotional hardships such as stigma, shame, PTSD, and moral injury. These burdens fall disproportionately on low-income workers, undocumented immigrants, women, and people of color.

Illuminating the moving, at times harrowing stories of the people doing society’s dirty work, and incisively examining the structures of power and complicity that shape their lives, Press reveals fundamental truths about the moral dimensions of work, and the hidden costs of inequality in America.

Eyal Press is an author and a journalist based in New York. The recipient of the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, an Andrew Carnegie fellowship, a Cullman Center fellowship at the New York Public Library, and a Puffin Foundation fellowship at Type Media Center, he is a contributor to The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Nation, and numerous other publications. He is the author of Beautiful Souls and Absolute Convictions.

Praise

Praise for Beautiful Souls

"A hymn to the mystery of disobedience . . . What makes you eager to push this book into the hands of the next person you meet are the small, still moments, epics captured in miniature . . . Essential." —Mark Oppenheimer, The New York Times
In a disorienting and seamy Paris, a Japanese adoptee is haunted by the woman he once loved

When Fumiko emerges after one month locked in her dorm room, she’s already dead, leaving a half-smoked Marlboro Light and a cupboard of petrified food in her wake. For her boyfriend, Henrik, an aspiring translator, these remnants are like clues, propelling him forward in a search for meaning. Meanwhile, Fumiko, or perhaps her doppelgänger, reappears: in line at the Louvre, on street corners and subway platforms, and on the dissection table of a group of young medical students, including “you.”

Henrik’s inquiry expands beyond Fumiko’s seclusion and death, across the absurd, entropic streets of Paris and the figures that wander them, from a jaded group of Korean expats, to an eccentric French widow, to the indelible woman whom Henrik finds sitting in his place on a train. It drives him into the shadowy corners of his past, where, as a Japanese adoptee, his Danish parents raised him in a house without mirrors. And it mounts to a charged intimacy shared with his best friend’s precocious daughter, who may be haunted herself.

David Hoon Kim’s debut is a transgressive, darkly comic novel of becoming lost and found in translation. With each disarming, echoic chapter, Paris Is a Party, Paris Is a Ghost plunges us more deeply beneath the surface of things, to the displacement, exile, grief, and desire that hide in plain sight.

David Hoon Kim is a Korean-born American educated in France, who took his first creative writing workshop at the Sorbonne before attending the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and the Stegner Program. His fiction has appeared in The New Yorker, Ninth Letter, Brins d’éternité and XYZ La revue de la nouvelle. He has received fellowships and grants from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Michener-Copernicus Society of America, the MacDowell Colony, the Elizabeth George Foundation, among others. Paris Is a Party, Paris Is a Ghost is his first book. He writes in English and in French.
The Arbornaut
A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us
Meg Lowman; Foreword by Sylvia A. Earle

Nicknamed the “Real-Life Lorax” by National Geographic, the biologist, botanist, and conservationist Meg Lowman—aka “Canopy Meg”—takes us on an adventure into the “eighth continent” of the world’s treetops, along her journey as a tree scientist, and into climate action.

One of the world’s first tree-top scientists, Meg Lowman is as innovative as MacGyver and as can-do as the Unsinkable Molly Brown. A pioneer in her field—she invented one of the first treetop walkways—she is a tireless advocate for the earth and has spent decades educating citizens across the globe. In a voice as infectious in its enthusiasm as in its practical optimism, The Arbornaut chronicles her irresistible story.

From climbing solo hundreds of feet into Australia’s rainforests to measuring tree growth in the northeastern United States, from searching the redwoods of the Pacific coast for new life to studying leaf-eaters in Scotland’s Highlands, from a bioblitz in Malaysia to conservation planning in India to collaborating with priests in Ethiopia’s last forests—Lowman launches us into the life and work of a scientist and ecologist. She also offers hope, specific plans, and recommendations for action; despite devastation across the world, we can still make an immediate and lasting impact against climate change. A blend of memoir and fieldwork, The Arbornaut is for fans of Hope Jahren’s Lab Girl and the work of E. O. Wilson, Jane Goodall, Robert MacFarlane, and Helen MacDonald.

Come live among scientists and travel the world (even in a hot-air balloon)!

The Arbornaut is the engrossing story of how a nerdy tree climber and the only girl at the science fair grew into an inspiring innovator and interna...

Meg Lowman, Ph.D., aka “Canopy Meg,” is an American biologist, educator, ecologist, writer, editor, and public speaker. She is the executive director of the TREE Foundation and a professor at the National University of Singapore, Arizona State University, and Universiti Sains Malaysia. Nicknamed the “Real-Life Lorax” by National Geographic and “Einstein of the Treetops” by The Wall Street Journal, Meg Lowman pioneered the science of canopy ecology. Her motto is “no child left indoors.” She travels extensively, conducting research, doing outreach, and speaking to audiences large and small.
Putting It Together
How Stephen Sondheim and I Created "Sunday in the Park with George"

James Lapine

A behind-the-scenes look at the making of the iconic musical
Sunday in the Park with George

Putting It Together chronicles the two-year odyssey of creating the iconic Broadway musical Sunday in the Park with George. In 1984, James Lapine, then a fledgling playwright and director, met Stephen Sondheim, already a legendary Broadway composer, and the two decided to turn Georges Seurat's masterwork Sunday on the Island of La Grand Jatte into a musical.

Through Lapine's recollections, conversations between Lapine, Sondheim, and the original cast and crew of the production, and a treasure trove of personal photographs, sketches, script notes, and sheet music from the making of the show, the two Broadway icons lift the curtain on their beloved musical. Putting It Together delves deep into the making of Sunday in the Park with George and the story of how a Broadway icon went off-Broadway with a neophyte nineteen years his junior to create a Pulitzer Prize– and Tony Award–winning smash hit.

James Lapine is a preeminent director, playwright, screenwriter, and librettist. He is the recipient of three Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical (Passion, Falsettos, Into the Woods), as well as nine Tony Award nominations, five Drama Desk Awards, a Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and a Peabody Award, among other honors. He has also been inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Mr. Abbott Award for lifetime achievement in theater.

Stephen Sondheim is a composer, lyricist, and Broadway icon. He is the recipient of eight Tony Awards (including a Tony for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre), a Pulitzer Prize in Drama, an Academy Award for Best Song, eight Grammy Awards, eight Drama Desk Awards, and many other honors. He was awa...
Agatha of Little Neon
A Novel
Claire Luchette

“Blazingly original, wry, and perfectly attuned to the oddness—and the profundity—of life” (Cristina Henríquez), Claire Luchette’s debut, Agatha of Little Neon, is a novel about yearning and sisterhood, figuring out how you fit in (or don’t), and the unexpected friends who help you find your truest self.

Agatha has lived every day of the last seven years with her sisters: they work together, laugh together, pray together. Their world is contained within the little house they share. The four of them are devoted to Mother Roberta and to their quiet, purposeful life.

But when the parish goes broke, the sisters are forced to move. They land in Woonsocket, a former mill town now dotted with wind turbines. They head up a halfway house, where they live alongside castoffs like the jawless Tim Gary and the headstrong Lawnmower Jill. Agatha is forced to venture out into the world alone, to teach math at a local all-girls high school, where for the first time in years she will have to reckon with what she sees and feels all on her own. Who will she be if she isn’t with her sisters? These women, the church, have been her home—or has she just been hiding?

Disarming, delightfully deadpan, and full of searching, Claire Luchette’s Agatha of Little Neon offers a view into the lives of women and the choices they make. It is a novel about female friendship and devotion, the roles made available to us, and how we become ourselves.

Claire Luchette’s work has appeared in VQR, Kenyon Review, Ploughshares, and Granta. A 2020 National Endowment for the Arts fellow, Luchette graduated from the University of Oregon MFA program and has received grants and scholarships from MacDowell, the Corporation of Yaddo, the Millay Colony, Lighthouse Works, the Elizabeth George Foundation, and the James Merrill House. Agatha of Little Neon is Luchette’s first novel.

PRAISE

"Full of small devotions, pith and vigor, and a bounty of tender feeling for a world that is not quite as full of grace as it could be, this bold debut shines with a light all its own.” —Alexandra Kleeman

"Claire Luchette is so wildly talented that I would follow her anywhere . . . A novel that's blazingly original, wry, and perfectly attu...
The Death of My Father the Pope
A Memoir

Obed Silva

A man mourning his alcoholic father faces a paradox: to pay tribute, lay scorn upon, or pour a drink. A wrenching, dazzling, revelatory debut

Weaving between the preparations for his father's funeral and memories of life on both sides of the U.S.–Mexico border, Obed Silva chronicles his father's lifelong battle with alcoholism and the havoc it wreaked on his family. Silva and his mother had come north across the border to escape his father's violent, drunken rages. His father had followed and danced dangerously in and out of the family's life until he was arrested and deported back to Mexico, where he drank himself to death, one Carta Blanca at a time, at the age of forty-eight.

Told with a wry cynicism, a profane, profound anger, an antic, brutally honest voice, and a hard-won classical frame of reference, Silva channels the heartbreak of mourning while wrestling with the resentment and frustration caused by addiction. The Death of My Father the Pope is a fluid and dynamic combination of memoir and an examination of the power of language—and the introduction of a unique and powerful literary voice.

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Obed Silva immigrated to the United States as a toddler. After years in the gang lifestyle—which left him paralyzed from the waist down, the result of a gunshot wound—he discovered the power of book learning, earned a master's degree in medieval literature, and became a respected English professor in East L.A. The Death of My Father the Pope is his first book.
Anyway, it’s always like that. You do your best to keep to yourself and then, one fine day, you somehow find you’re caught up in something that sweeps you along with it to the bitter end.

In a city smothering under the summer sun and an overdose of la dolce vita, Leo Gazarra spends his time in an alcoholic haze, bouncing between run-down hotels and the homes of his rich and well-educated friends, without whom he would probably starve. At thirty, he’s still drifting: between professions that mean nothing to him, between human relationships both ephemeral and frayed. Everyone he knows wants to graduate, get married, get rich—but not him. He has no ambitions whatsoever. Rather than toil and spin, isn’t it better to submit to the sweet alienation of the Eternal City? Rome, sometimes a cruel and indifferent mistress, sometimes sweet and sublime. There can be no half-measures with her, either she’s the love of your life or you have to leave her.

First discovered by Natalia Ginzburg, Gianfranco Calligariach’s *Last Summer in the City* is a forgotten classic of Italian literature, of a similar stature to *The Great Gatsby* or *The Catcher in the Rye*—and its recent reissue has brought with it comparisons to writers such as Capote, Hemingway, Franzen, and Moravia. Biting, tragic, endlessly quotable, it is at last making its debut in English translation, along with an introduction from longtime fan André Aciman.

Gianfranco Calligariach was born in Asmara, Eritrea, and grew up in Milan before moving to Rome, where he worked as a journalist and screenwriter. He wrote many successful TV shows for RAI, the national public broadcasting company of Italy, and founded the Teatro XX Secolo in 1994. He is the author of many novels, including *La malinconia dei Crusich*, which was the winner of the Viareggio-Répaci Prize. *Last Summer in the City* is the first of his novels to be translated in English.

Howard Curtis lives in London and has translated more than sixty books from the French, Italian, and Spanish.
King Kong Theory

Virginie Despentes; Translated from the French by Frank Wynne

"Blistering with anger, and so precisely phrased that it feels an injustice to summarize it." —Nadja Spiegelman, The New York Review of Books

I'm writing as an ugly chick and for the ugly chicks, the frigid, the unfucked and the unfuckables, for all those girls who who are excluded from the marketplace of hot girls, and for all those guys who don't want to be protectors, for those who would like to be but don't know how, for those who are not ambitious, competitive, or well-endowed. Because this ideal of the seductive white woman that gets waved about in front us—well, I'm pretty sure it doesn't exist.

Powerful, provocative, and personal, King Kong Theory is a candid account of how the author of Baise-moi and Vernon Subutex came to be Virginie Despentes. Drawing from personal experience, Despentes shatters received ideas about rape and prostitution, and explodes common attitudes about sex and gender.

An autobiography, a call for revolt, a manifesto for a new punk feminism, King Kong Theory is Despentes's most beloved and reviled work, and is here made available again in a brilliant new translation by Frank Wynne.

Virginie Despentes is a writer and filmmaker. She worked in an independent record store in the early 1990s, was a sex worker, and published her first novel, Baise Moi, when she was twenty-three. She adapted the novel for the screen in 2000, codirecting with the porn star Coralie Trinh Thi. Upon release, it became the first film to be banned in France in twenty-eight years. Despentes is the author of more than fifteen other works, including Apocalypse Baby, Bye Bye Blondie, Pretty Things, and the Vernon Subutex trilogy.

Frank Wynne has translated the work of many authors, including Michel Houellebecq, Boualem Sansal, Frédéric Beigbeder, and the late Ivorian novelist Ahmadou Kourouma. He won the International IMPAC Literary Award with Houellebecq ...

PRAISE

"Despentes writes not as other people speak but as she speaks, with unbridled brutality . . . There is an almost sacrificial generosity to her voice, a willingness to say it for you that makes any woman want to copy out the phrases as her own . . . King Kong Theory is blistering with anger, and so precisely phrased that it feels an inuiust..."
Paris may burn, the world may crumble, but Vernon Subutex shall reign supreme!

As storm clouds gather, portending a final reckoning, ersatz rave-cult leader Vernon Subutex decides to return to Paris. Even if it means leaving behind his disciples. He has to. He's got a dentist's appointment.

Back in the city, he learns that an old friend from his days homeless on the Paris streets has died and left him half of a lottery win. But when Vernon returns to his commune with news of this windfall, it's not long before his disciples turn on one another. Such good fortune does not accord with the principles Vernon has handed down.

Meanwhile, the monstrous film producer Laurent Dopalet is determined to make Aïcha and Céleste pay for their attack on him, whatever it takes and whoever gets hurt. And before long, the whole of Paris will be reeling in the wake of the terrorist atrocities of 2015 and 2016, and all the characters in this kaleidoscopic portrait of a city and an era will be forced to confront one another one last time. In the wake of this chaos and hate, the question will rise again: After all he's been through, who is Vernon Subutex? And the answer: He is the future.

Virginie Despentes's epochal trilogy ends here—in fire, blood, and even forgiveness. But not everyone will survive to see the dawning of the golden age of Subutex.

Virginie Despentes is a writer and filmmaker. She worked in an independent record store in the early 1990s, was a sex worker, and published her first novel, Baise-moi, when she was twenty-three. She adapted the novel for the screen in 2000, codirecting with the porn star Coralie Trinh Thi. Upon release, it became the first film to be banned in France in twenty-eight years. Despentes is the author of more than fifteen other works, including Apocalypse Baby, Bye Bye Blondie, Pretty Things, and the essay collection King Kong Theory.

Frank Wynne has translated the work of many authors, including Michel Houellebecq, Boualem Sansal, Frédéric Beigbeder, and the late Ivorian novelist Ahmadou Kourouma. He won the International IMPAC Literary Award with H...
Field Study
Chet’la Sebree

Winner of the 2020 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets

Somewhere between Claudia Rankine’s Citizen and Maggie Nelson’s Bluets belongs Chet’la Sebree’s Field Study: a genre-bending exploration of black womanhood and desire, written as a lyrical, surprisingly humorous, and startlingly vulnerable prose poem

I am society’s eraser shards—bits used to fix other people’s sh*t, then discarded. Somehow still a wet nurse, from actual babes to Alabama special elections.

Seeking to understand the fallout of her relationship with a white man, the poet Chet’la Sebree attempts a field study of herself. Scientifically, field studies are objective collections of raw data, devoid of emotion. But during the course of a stunning lyric poem, Sebree’s control over her own field study unravels as she attempts to understand the depth of her feelings in response to the data of her life. The result is a singular and provocative piece of writing, one that is formally inventive, playfully candid, and soul-piercingly sharp.

Interspersing her reflections with Tweets, quips from TV characters, and excerpts from the Black thinkers—Audre Lorde, Maya Angelou, Tressie McMillan Cottom—who inspire her, Sebree analyzes herself through the lens of a society that seems uneasy, at best, with her very presence. She grapples with her attraction to, and rejection of, whiteness and white men; probes the malicious manifestation of colorism and misogynoir throughout American history and media; and struggles with, judges, and forgives herself when she has more questions than answers. “Even as I accrue these notes,” Sebree writes, “I’m still not sure I’ve found the pulse.”

A poem of love, heartbreak, womanhood, art, sex, Blackness, and America—sometime...

Chet’la Sebree is the director of the Stadler Center for Poetry and Literary Arts at Bucknell University and the author of Mistress, winner of the 2018 New Issues Poetry Prize and nominated for an NAACP Image Award in 2019. She holds an MFA in creative writing, with a focus in poetry, from American University, and has received fellowships from the Delaware Division of the Arts, the MacDowell Colony, Hedgebrook, Yaddo, Vermont Studio Center, and the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies. Her poetry has appeared in the Kenyon Review, Guernica, Pleiades, and elsewhere.
The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic

Revised and Expanded Edition

Jessica Hopper; Foreword by Samantha Irby

An acclaimed career-spanning collection from a fiercely feminist and revered contemporary rock critic, reissued with new material

Throughout her career, spanning more than two decades, Jessica Hopper, a revered and pioneering music critic, has examined women recording and producing music, in all genres, through an intersectional feminist lens. The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic features oral histories of bands such as Hole and Sleater Kinney, interviews with the women editors of 1970s-era Rolling Stone, and intimate conversations with iconic musicians such as Björk, Robyn, and Lido Pimienta. Hopper journeys through the truths of Riot Grrrl's empowering insurgence; decamps to Gary, Indiana, on the eve of Michael Jackson's death; explodes the grunge-era mythologies of Nirvana and Courtney Love; and examines the rise of emo. The collection also includes profiles and reviews of some of the most-loved, and most-loathed, women artists making music today: Fiona Apple, Kacey Musgraves, M.I.A., Miley Cyrus, Lana Del Rey.

In order for the music industry to change, Hopper writes, we need “the continual presence of radicalized women . . . being encouraged and given reasons to stay, rather than diminished by the music that glues our communities together.” The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic—published to acclaim in 2015, and reissued now with new material and an introduction by Samantha Irby—is a rallying cry for women-centered history and storytelling, and a groundbreaking, obsessive,...

Jessica Hopper is the author of the books The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic and Night Moves. Her writing has appeared in GQ, Rolling Stone, The New York Times Magazine, The Guardian, Elle, and Bookforum, among other outlets. A longtime contributor to the Chicago Reader, she has been a columnist for The Village Voice and the Chicago Tribune, the music consultant for This American Life, the editorial director for MTV News, and a senior editor at Pitchfork and Rookie. Her essays have appeared in several editions of Best Music Writing, and she currently serves as series editor of the American Music Series at the University of Texas Press.
I Live a Life Like Yours
A Memoir

Jan Grue; Translated from the Norwegian by B. L. Crook

A brilliantly rendered essayistic autobiography from an award-winning Norwegian author about life in a vulnerable body

This is not a story about survival. It is not about how I became a human, but rather how I came to understand that I already was human. I am writing about everything I wanted and how I came to be in possession of it. I am writing about what this cost me, and how I was able to afford it. This is an attempt to write off the language of others . . . I began writing because I needed a language different from the one available to me.

Jan Grue was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy at the age of three. Shifting between specific periods of his life—his youth with his parents and sister in Norway; his years of study in Berkeley, St. Petersburg, and Amsterdam; and his current life as a professor, husband, and father—he intersperses these histories with elegant, astonishingly wise reflections on the world, social structures, disability, loss, relationships, and the body: in short, on what it means to be human. Along the way, Grue moves effortlessly between his own story and those of others, incorporating reflections on philosophy, film, art, and the work of writers from Joan Didion to Michael Foucault. He revives the cold, clinical language of his childhood, drawing from a stack of medical records that first forced the boy who thought of himself as “just Jan” to perceive that his body, and therefore his self, was defined by its defects.

When the Child Was a Child is a love story. It is rich with loss, sorrow,...

Jan Grue is the author of a wide-ranging body of work in fiction, nonfiction, children’s books, and academic literature. When the Child Was a Child was published in 2018 in Norway, where it won the Literary Critics’ Award and was nominated to the Nordic Council’s Literature Prize, the first Norwegian nonfiction book to be so honored in fifty years. Grue holds a PhD in linguistics from the University of Oslo, where he is a professor of qualitative research.

Becky L. Crook is a writer and literary translator. In 2010, she founded SAND, an English literary journal, in Berlin. She led creative writing workshops in the Netherlands for two years before returning to the United States. Between translation projects, she recently finished writing her own f...

PRAISE

“A literary masterpiece that is highly recommended! Six out of six stars.”
The Complete Memoirs

Pablo Neruda; Translated from the Spanish by Hardie St. Martin and Adrian Nathan West

The classic memoir of the Nobel Prize–winning poet, now expanded with newly discovered material

Southern Chile was an open frontier when the beloved poet Pablo Neruda was born there in 1904. A motherless, pensive child in the wild, he began writing poems long before quitting the countryside for Santiago, where he spent his bohemian student years. From there, his memoir follows his travels as a globetrotting Chilean consul—including a stint in Spain during its civil war, and in Mexico, where he attracted attention for aiding a man suspected of conspiring to assassinate Leon Trotsky—and his short-lived service as a Chilean senator. Neruda, a communist, was driven from his senate seat in 1948, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. After a year in hiding, he escaped on horseback over the Andes, then to Europe and Asia. The memoirs conclude shortly after the coup in 1972 that overthrew his close friend Salvador Allende, Chile’s first democratically elected president, as Neruda himself battled cancer.

Now expanded to include newly discovered material, The Complete Memoirs is the definitive edition of Neruda’s classic memoir—a moving, revealing record of his life as a poet, a patriot, and one of the twentieth century’s true men of conscience.

Pablo Neruda (1904–1973), one of the most renowned poets of the twentieth century, was born in Parral, Chile. He shared the World Peace Prize with Paul Robeson and Pablo Picasso in 1950, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1971. His books include Residence on Earth, Canto General, Extravagaria, and Isla Negra.

Hardie St. Martin translated work by Vincente Aleixandre, Roque Dalton, Enrique Lihn, Nicanor Parra, and Luisa Valenzuela, among others. He was the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship in 1965, a P.E.N. International Translation Award, and an ALTA award for excellence in editing and translation. His anthology of Spanish poetry, Roots and Wings, (Harper & Row) is still considered a literary landmark. Hardie died Septe...

PRAISE

Praise for Pablo Neruda
"Easily the most prolific and popular of all twentieth-century poets . . . There is something about Neruda—about the way he glorifies experience, about the spontaneity and directness of his passion—that sets him apart from other poets. It is hard not to be swept awav by the urgency of his languaoe."
The Caiplie Caves
Poems
Karen Solie

A striking new collection of poems that blends the story of a seventh-century monk with contemporary themes

if one asks for a sign
must one accept what’s given?

The Caiplie Caves, Karen Solie’s fifth collection, explores the eastern coast of Scotland, situated among the fishing villages and coves in the county of Fife. At its center is Ethernan, an Irish missionary to Scotland who, in the seventh century, retreated to the Caiplie Caves to consider a life as a hermit. Here, Solie inhabits the mind of a man torn between establishing a priory on May Island and an existence of solitude, his uncertainty pulling him in seemingly contradictory directions. Interwoven with the story of Ethernan are poems whose subjects orbit the physical location of the caves: the fall of a coal-fired power station; an “old man, who raises his spirit like a lamp, / collects Stella cans tossed from the raceway”; seabirds “frontloaded with military tech”; the dichotomous nature of the stinging nettle. With a singular blend of wry and mythic tones, Solie makes the seventh century feel like recent memory and contemporary issues as disjointing as the distant past. These are meditations on the crisis of time and change, on class, power, and belief. Above all, these are ambitious and exhilarating poems from one of today’s most gifted poetic voices.

Karen Solie was born in Moose Jaw and grew up in southwest Saskatchewan, Canada. She is the author of five poetry collections. Her work has won the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, the Trillium Book Award for Poetry, the Pat Lowther Award, the Griffin Poetry Prize, the Latner Poetry Prize, and the Canada Council for the Arts Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award. She has taught in writing programs and at universities across Canada and in Scotland. An associate director for the Banff Centre’s Writing Studio program, she lives in Toronto.

PRAISE

Praise for Karen Solie

“Karen Solie is the great poet of Canadian modernity . . . Wry, sharp-eyed and uncompromising, The Caiplie Caves is the most ambitious collection yet from an essential poet.” —Tristram Fane Saunders, The Telegraph

“Solie’s work should be read wherever English is read.” —Michael Hofmann

“Powerful, philosophical, inte...
The poems in *Here is the Sweet Hand* explore solitude as a way of seeing. In particular, the speakers in francine j. harris’ third collection explore the mystique, and myth, of female loneliness as it relates to blackness, aging, landscape and artistic tradition. The speakers in these poems are often protagonists. Against the backdrop of numerous American cities and towns, and in a time of political uncertainty, they are heroines in their quest to find logic through their own sense of the world.

The poems here are interested in the power of observation. But if there is authority in the individual versus the collective, *Here is the Sweet Hand* also poses questions about the source of that power, or where it may lead.

As in her acclaimed previous collections, harris’ skillful use of imagery and experimentation with the boundaries of language set the stage for unorthodox election commemoration, subway panic, zoomorphism, and linguistic battlefields. From poems in dialogue with the artistry of Toni Morrison and Charles Burnett to poems that wrestle with the moods of Frank Stanford and Ty Dolla $ign, the speakers in this book signal a turn at once inward and opening.

francine j. harris is the author of *play dead*, winner of the Lambda Literary and Audre Lorde Awards and a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her first collection, *allegiance*, was a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery and PEN Open Book Awards. Originally from Detroit, she has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the MacDowell Colony, and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Houston.
Sometimes I Never Suffered

Poems

Shane McCrae

Spanning religious, historical, and political themes, Sometimes I Never Suffered is the stunning seventh collection from the award-winning poet Shane McCrae.

I think now more than half
Of life is death but I can’t die
Enough for all the life I see

In Sometimes I Never Suffered, his seventh collection of poems, Shane McCrae remains “a shrewd composer of American stories” (Dan Chiasson, The New Yorker). Here, an angel, hastily thrown together by his fellow residents of Heaven, plummets to Earth in his first moments of consciousness. Jim Limber, the adopted mixed-race son of Jefferson Davis, wanders through the afterlife, reckoning with the nuances of America’s racial history, as well as his own.

Sometimes I Never Suffered is a search for purpose and atonement, freedom and forgiveness, imagining eternity not as an escape from the past or present, but as a reverberating record and as the culmination of time’s manifold potential to mend.

Shane McCrae is the author of several books of poetry: The Gilded Auction Block; In the Language of My Captor, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and the William Carlos Williams Award; The Animal Too Big to Kill, winner of the 2014 Lexi Rudnitsky / Editor’s Choice Award; Forgiveness Forgiveness; Blood; and Mule. He is the recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. He teaches at Columbia University and lives in New York City.
See/Saw
Looking at Photographs

Geoff Dyer

A lavishly illustrated history of photography in essays by the author of Otherwise Known as the Human Condition

See/Saw shows how photographs frame and change our perspective on the world. Taking in photographers from early in the last century to the present day—including artists such as Eugène Atget, Vivian Maier, Roy DeCarava, and Alex Webb—the celebrated writer Geoff Dyer offers a series of moving, witty, prescient, surprising, and intimate encounters with images.

Dyer has been writing about photography for thirty years, and this tour de force of visual scrutiny and stylistic flair gathers his lively, engaged criticism over the course of a decade. A rich addition to Dyer’s The Ongoing Moment, and heir to Roland Barthes’s Camera Lucida, Susan Sontag’s On Photography, and John Berger’s Understanding a Photograph, See/Saw shows how a photograph can simultaneously record and invent the world, revealing a brilliant seer at work. It is a paean to art and art writing by one of the liveliest critics of our day.

Geoff Dyer is the recipient of a Lannan Literary Award, the International Center of Photography’s Infinity Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award. He lives in Los Angeles and teaches at the University of Southern California.

PRAISE

Praise for The Ongoing Moment

"The author has encyclopedic knowledge of the history of photography . . . Dyer has written a book that cunningly resists the downsizing of the human that is endemic to information-culture.” —John Berger, Harper’s Magazine
The Renunciations
Poems

Donika Kelly

An extraordinary collection of endurance and transformation by the award-winning author of *Bestiary*

*The Renunciations* is a book of resilience, survival, and the journey to radically shift one’s sense of self in the face of trauma. Moving between a childhood marked by love and abuse and the breaking marriage of that adult child, Donika Kelly charts memory and the body as landscapes to be traversed and tended. These poems construct life rafts and sanctuaries even in their most devastating confrontations with what a person can bear, with how families harm themselves. With the companionship of “the oracle”—an observer of memory who knows how each close call with oblivion ends—the act of remembrance becomes curative, and personal mythologies give way to a future defined less by wounds than by possibility.

In this gorgeous and heartrending second collection, we find the home one builds inside oneself after reckoning with a legacy of trauma—a home whose construction starts “with a razing.”

Donika Kelly is the author of *Bestiary*, winner of the 2015 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, the 2017 Hurston/Wright Award for poetry, and the 2018 Kate Tufts Discovery Award. She teaches at the University of Iowa.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Bestiary*

“A testament to poetry’s ability to capture and refine emotion.” —The *New York Times Book Review*

"[A] magical poetry debut . . . Poems about an abusive father yield to those about creatures of legend . . . and the human act of reclaiming your life by telling your story.” —*O, The Oprah Magazine*
An electrifying novel about illness, displacement, and what holds us together, by the author of *Seeing Red*

Ella is an astrophysicist struggling with her doctoral thesis in the “country of the present” but she is from the “country of the past,” a place burdened in her memory by both personal and political tragedies. Her partner, El, is a forensic scientist who analyzes the bones of victims of state violence and is recovering from an explosion at a work site that almost killed him. Consumed by writer’s block, Ella finds herself wishing that she would become ill, which would provide time for writing and perhaps an excuse for her lack of progress. Then she begins to experience mysterious symptoms that doctors find undiagnosable.

As Ella’s anxiety grows, the past begins to exert a strong gravitational pull, and other members of her family come into focus: the widowed Father, the Stepmother, the Twins, and the Firstborn. Each of them has their own experience of illness and violence, and eventually the systems that both hold them together and atomize them are exposed.

Lina Meruane’s *Nervous System* is an extraordinary clinical biography of a family, full of affection and resentment, dark humor and buried secrets, in which illness describes the traumas that can be visited not just upon the body, but on families and on the history of the countries—present and past—that we live in.

Lina Meruane is the award-winning Chilean author of *Seeing Red*. She has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and was a DAAD Writer in Residence in Berlin. She teaches at New York University.

Megan McDowell has translated books by Samanta Schweblin, Alejandro Zambra, and Mariana Enríquez. Her translation of Lina Meruane’s *Seeing Red* won the 2019 Valle-Inclán Prize. She lives in Santiago, Chile.
Walking on Cowrie Shells
Stories

Nana Nkweti

A virtuosic debut collection that roves across genres and styles, by a finalist for the Caine Prize

In her powerful, genre-bending debut story collection, Nana Nkweti’s virtuosity is on full display as she mixes deft realism with clever inversions of genre. In the Caine Prize finalist story “It Takes a Village, Some Say,” Nkweti skewers racial prejudice and the practice of international adoption, delivering a sly tale about a teenage girl who leverages her adoptive parents to fast-track her fortunes. In “The Devil Is a Liar,” a pregnant pastor’s wife struggles with the collision of western Christianity and her mother’s traditional Cameroonian belief system as she worries about her unborn child.

In other stories, Nkweti vaults past realism, upending genre expectations in a satirical romp about a jaded PR professional trying to spin a zombie outbreak in West Africa, and in a mermaid tale about a Mami Wata who forgoes her power by remaining faithful to a fisherman she loves. In between these two ends of the spectrum there’s everything from an aspiring graphic novelist at a comic con to a murder investigation driven by statistics to a story organized by the changing hairstyles of the main character.

Pulling from mystery, horror, realism, myth, and graphic novels, Nkweti showcases the complexity and vibrance of characters whose lives span Cameroonian and American cultures. A dazzling, inventive debut, Walking on Cowrie Shells announces the arrival of a superlative new voice.

Nana Nkweti is a Caine Prize finalist and alumna of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. Her work has garnered fellowships from MacDowell, Kimbilio, Ucross, and the Wurlitzer Foundation, among others. She is a professor of English at the University of Alabama.
The Dragons, the Giant, the Women
A Memoir

Wayétu Moore

An engrossing memoir of escaping the First Liberian Civil War and building a life in the United States

When Wayétu Moore turns five years old, her father and grandmother throw her a big birthday party at their home in Monrovia, Liberia, but all she can think about is how much she misses her mother, who is working and studying in faraway New York. Before she gets the reunion her father promised her, war breaks out in Liberia. The family is forced to flee their home on foot, walking and hiding for three weeks until they arrive in the village of Lai. Finally, a rebel soldier smuggles them across the border to Sierra Leone, reuniting the family and setting them off on yet another journey, this time to the United States.

Spanning this harrowing journey in Moore’s early childhood, her years adjusting to life in Texas as a black woman and an immigrant, and her eventual return to Liberia, The Dragons, the Giant, the Women is a deeply moving story of the search for home in the midst of upheaval. Moore has a novelist’s eye for suspense and emotional depth, and this unforgettable memoir is full of imaginative, lyrical flights and lush prose. In capturing both the hazy magic and the stark realities of what is becoming an increasingly pervasive experience, Moore shines a light on the great political and personal forces that continue to affect many migrants around the world, and calls us all to acknowledge the tenacious power of love and family.

Wayétu Moore is the author of She Would Be King and the founder of One Moore Book. She is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

PRAISE

Praise for Wayétu Moore

"Reading Wayétu Moore’s [work] . . . feels a lot like watching a superb athlete’s performance." —Time

"Wayétu Moore is an inspiration. Her love for Liberia and America is undeniable." —Imbolo Mbue

"[Moore is] a remarkable novelist and storyteller." —Edwidge Danticat
Purgatorio

Dante Alighieri; Translated from the Italian by Mary Jo Bang

The second installment in Mary Jo Bang’s exhilarating, innovative translation of Dante’s The Divine Comedy

Award-winning poet Mary Jo Bang’s new translation of Purgatorio is the extraordinary continuation of her journey with Dante, which began with her transformative version of Inferno. In Purgatorio, still guided by the Roman poet Virgil, Dante emerges from the horrors of Hell to begin the climb up Mount Purgatory, a seven-terrace mountain with each level devoted to those atoning for one of the seven deadly sins. At the summit, we find the Terrestrial Heaven and Beatrice—who will take over for Virgil, who, as a pagan, can only take Dante so far. During the climb, we are introduced to the myriad ways in which humans destroy the social fabric through pride, envy, and vindictive anger.

In her signature lyric style, accompanied by her wise and exuberant notes, Bang has produced a stunning translation of this fourteenth-century text, rich with references that span time, languages, and cultures. The contemporary allusions echo the audacious character of the original, and slyly insist that whatever was true in Dante’s era is still true. Usain Bolt, Tootsie Fruit Chews, the MGM logo, Leo the Lion, Amy Winehouse, Marvin Gaye, Bob Dylan, and Gertrude Stein are among those who make cameo appearances as Bang, with eloquence and daring, shepherds The Divine Comedy into the twenty-first century.

Dante Alighieri (c.1265-1321) is the author of The Divine Comedy, a masterpiece of world literature.

Mary Jo Bang has published eight poetry collections, including A Doll for Throwing and Elegy, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, and a new translation of Dante’s Inferno. She teaches at Washington University in Saint Louis.

PRAISE

“Bang’s translation is uniquely here and now, remixing the poem with a range of often-anachronistic references, while remaining true to the vernacular spirit of the original . . . She reminds us that, above all, [Purgatorio] is an account of wishing, and working, to be better.” —Kevin Young, The New Yorker
The Encircling Trilogy comes thundering to a close as the man at the center is revealed

The final book in Carl Frode Tiller’s groundbreaking Encircling Trilogy is here. In Barbara Haveland’s powerful translation, two new letters circle closer than ever to David, who allegedly lost his memory. One is from Marius, who has led the life of wealth and privilege that David was meant to live. And yet Marius does not appreciate it—desperate for attention, he lies to his girlfriend, with disastrous consequences. The other comes from Susanne, an ex-lover whose affair with David led to the breakup of her marriage. Humiliated by David’s unflattering portrayal of her in his novel, Susanne is determined to exact revenge on him in the most painful possible way.

Last of all we come face-to-face with David himself: a frustrated writer whose early successes have faded. His therapy sessions seem to reveal a dangerous and violent individual bent on getting what he wants at any cost. With David’s own story told, the last piece falls into place, and his true character is unveiled. But as with books one and two, there are twists and turns that upset expectations and leave the reader wondering whom to believe. Across three books, Tiller’s incisive character portraits lay bare the inequalities of class and excesses of wealth in Norwegian society. With Encircling 3: Aftermath, Tiller sounds the unexplored depths of David’s life, in the culmination of this astonishing feat of psychological realism.

Carl Frode Tiller is the author of six novels and four plays. Books in the Encircling Trilogy have been adapted for the theater and translated into multiple languages. He lives in Trondheim, Norway.

Barbara J. Haveland is a leading translator of Norwegian and Danish. She is the translator of all three volumes of The Encircling Trilogy by Carl Frode Tiller, and her recent published works include The Cold Song by Linn Ullmann and new translations of Ibsen’s The Master Builder and Little Eyolf. She lives in Copenhagen.

PRAISE

"[Tiller’s books] are shards . . . leading to an inescapable conclusion: identity is not a monolith but a collage—an odd, overlapping, contradictory collage, impossible to reconcile." — Los Angeles Review of Books
Pilgrim Bell
Poems

Kaveh Akbar

Kaveh Akbar’s exquisite, highly anticipated follow-up to *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*

With formal virtuosity and ruthless precision, Kaveh Akbar’s second collection takes its readers on a spiritual journey of disavowal, fiercely attendant to the presence of divinity where artifacts of self and belonging have been shed. How does one recover from addiction without destroying the self-as-addict? And if living justly in a nation that would see them erased is, too, a kind of self-destruction, what does one do with the body’s question, "what now shall I repair?" Here, Akbar responds with prayer as an act of devotion to dissonance—the infinite void of a loved one’s absence, the indulgence of austerity, making a life as a Muslim in an Islamophobic nation—teasing the sacred out of silence and stillness.

Richly crafted and generous, *Pilgrim Bell*’s linguistic rigor is tuned to the register of this moment and any moment. As the swinging soul crashes into its limits, against the atrocities of the American empire, and through a profoundly human capacity for cruelty and grace, these brilliant poems dare to exist in the empty space where song lives—resonant, revelatory, and holy.

**Praise**

Praise for Kaveh Akbar

“Kaveh Akbar exquisitely and tenaciously braids astonishment and atonement into a singular lyric voice . . . intensely inventive and original.”
—Frank Bidart

“[Akbar’s] poems have as much audacity as humility, a rare mix of openness in a time of flinching anxiety.” —francine j. harris

“Akbar’s poems offer readers, ...
On Compromise
Art, Politics, and the Fate of an American Ideal

Rachel Greenwald Smith

A strident argument about the dangers of compromise in art, politics, and everyday life

On Compromise is an argument against contemporary liberal society's tendency to view compromise as an unalloyed good—politically, ethically, and artistically. In a series of clear, convincing essays, Rachel Greenwald Smith discusses the dangers of thinking about compromise as an end rather than as a means. To illustrate her points, she recounts her stint in a band as a bass player, fighting with her bandmates about “what the song wants,” and then moves outward to Bikini Kill and the Riot Grrrl movement, the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Poetry magazine, the resurgence of fascism, and other wide-ranging topics.

Smith’s arguments are complex and yet have a simplicity to them, as she writes in a concise, cogent style that is eminently readable. By weaving examples drawn from literature, music, and other art forms with political theory and first-person anecdotes, she shows the problems of compromise in action. And even as Smith demonstrates the many ways that late capitalism demands individual compromise, she also holds out hope for the possibility of lasting change through collective action. Closing with a piercing discussion of the uncompromising nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and how global protests against racism and police brutality after the murder of George Floyd point to a new future, On Compromise is a necessary and vital book for our time.

Rachel Greenwald Smith is the author of Affect and American Literature in the Age of Neoliberalism. Her essays have appeared in American Literature, The Account, Mediations, and elsewhere. She teaches at Saint Louis University.
Winner of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize, a lyrical meditation on family, place, and inheritance

Names for Light traverses time and memory to weigh three generations of a family's history against a painful inheritance of postcolonial violence and racism. In spare, lyric paragraphs framed by white space, Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint explores home, belonging, and identity by revisiting the cities in which her parents and grandparents lived. As she makes inquiries into their stories, she intertwines oral narratives with the official and mythic histories of Myanmar. But while her family’s stories move into the present, her own story—that of a writer seeking to understand who she is—moves into the past, until both converge at the end of the book.

Born in Myanmar and raised in Bangkok and San Jose, Myint finds that she does not have typical memories of arriving in the United States; instead, she is haunted by what she cannot remember. By the silences lingering around what is spoken. By a chain of deaths in her family line, especially that of her older brother as a child. For Myint, absence is felt as strongly as presence. And, as she comes to understand, naming those absences, finding words for the unsaid, means discovering how those who have come before have shaped her life. Names for Light is a moving chronicle of the passage of time, of the long shadow of colonialism, and of a writer coming into her own as she reckons with her family’s legacy.

Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint is the author of The End of Peril, the End of Enmity, the End of Strife, a Haven. She has a BA from Brown University, an MFA from the University of Notre Dame, and a PhD from the University of Denver. She teaches at Amherst College.

PRAISE

Praise for The End of Peril, the End of Enmity, the End of Strife, a Haven

"An amazingly beautiful changeling of a book . . . Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint invokes a whole universe." —Jenny Boully

"I was taken from the first page to the last by Myint’s extraordinary sentences . . . and by the powerfully strange world of cities and families and sea..."
The Silk Road
A Novel
Kathryn Davis

Now available in paperback, the latest mesmerizing novel by “the most original novelist in America” (Slate)

The Silk Road begins on a mat in yoga class, deep within a labyrinth on a settlement somewhere in the icy north, under the canny guidance of Jee Moon. When someone fails to arise from corpse pose, the Astronomer, the Archivist, the Botanist, the Keeper, the Topologist, the Geographer, the Iceman, and the Cook remember the paths that brought them there—paths on which they still seem to be traveling.

The Silk Road also begins in rivalrous skirmishing for favor, in the protected Eden of childhood, and it ends in the harrowing democracy of mortality, in sickness and loss and death. Kathryn Davis’s sleight of hand brings the past, present, and future forward into brilliant coexistence; in an endlessly shifting landscape, her characters make their way through ruptures, grief, and apocalypse, from existence to nonexistence, from embodiment to pure spirit.

Since the beginning of her extraordinary career, Davis has been fascinated by journeys. Her books have been shaped around road trips, walking tours, hegiras, exiles, and now, in this triumphant novel, a pilgrimage. The Silk Road is her most explicitly allegorical novel and also her most profound vehicle; supple and mesmerizing, the journey here is not undertaken by a single protagonist but by a community of separate souls—a family, a yoga class, a generation. Its revelations are ravishing and desolating.

Kathryn Davis is the author of eight novels, including Duplex and Labrador. She is the senior fiction writer on the faculty of the writing program at Washington University.

PRAISE


“[Davis] operates in a mode that could be called surreal realism, where the boundaries between reality and fantasy dissolve into a place where imagination is akin to gravity and exerts a pull just as powerful.” —The New York Times Book Review
Back in print, an astonishing novel of art, obsession, and the secrets kept by two very different women

In Kathryn Davis’s second novel, Frances Thorn, waitress and single parent of twins, finds herself transformed by the dazzling magnetism of Helle Ten Brix, an elderly Danish composer of operas. At the heart of what binds them is “The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf,” the Hans Christian Andersen tale of a prideful girl who, in order to spare her new shoes, uses a loaf of bread intended as a gift for her parents as a stepping-stone, and ends up sinking to the bottom of a bog. Helle’s final opera, based on this tale and unfinished at the time of her death, is willed to Frances—a life-changing legacy that compels Frances to unravel the mysteries of Helle’s story and, in so doing, to enter the endlessly revolving, intricate world of her operas.

The ravishing beauty and matchless wit that have characterized Davis’s work from the beginning are here on full display. The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf is a novel as thrilling in its virtuosity as it is moving in its homage to the power of art, a power that changes lives forever.

Kathryn Davis is the author of eight novels, including The Silk Road and Duplex. She is the senior fiction writer on the faculty of the writing program at Washington University.

PRAISE

“All art, we’re told, is about captivity and escape; no art ever saved anybody’s life; and all artists are monsters. A grim message maybe but a brilliant orchestration in a novel as deeply textured, deftly assured, haunting and harmonious as any I’ve read in years.” —John Leonard, The Nation
Factory Summers
Guy Delisle

The legendary cartoonist aims his pen and paper toward his high school summer job

For three summers beginning when he was 16, cartoonist Guy Delisle worked at a pulp and paper factory in Quebec City. Factory Summers chronicles the daily rhythms of life in the mill, and the twelve hour shifts he spent in a hot, noisy building filled with arcane machinery. Delisle takes his noted outsider perspective and applies it domestically, this time as a boy amongst men through the universal rite of passage of the summer job. Even as a teenager, Delisle’s keen eye for hypocrisy highlights the tensions of class and the rampant sexism an all-male workplace permits.

Guy works the floor doing physically strenuous tasks. He is one of the few young people on site, and furthermore gets the job through his father’s connections, a fact which rightfully earns him disdain from the lifers. Guy’s dad spends his whole career in the white collar offices, working 9 to 5 instead of the rigorous 12-hour shifts of the unionized labor. Guy and his dad aren’t close, and Factory Summers leaves Delisle reconciling whether the job led to his dad’s aloofness and unhappiness.

On his days off, Guy finds refuge in art, a world far beyond the factory floor. Delisle shows himself rediscovering comics at the public library, and preparing for animation school—only to be told on the first day, “There are no jobs in animation.” Eager to pursue a job he enjoys, Guy throws caution to the wind.

Born in Québec City, Canada, in 1966, Guy Delisle now lives in the South of France with his wife and two children. Delisle spent ten years working in animation and is best known for his travelogues about life in faraway countries. He is the author of numerous graphic novels and travelogues, including Hostage, Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City and Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea. In 2012, Guy Delisle was awarded the Prize for Best Album for the French edition of Jerusalem at the Angoulême International Comics Festival.

PRAISE

“One of the greatest modern cartoonists.” —The Guardian

“Delisle dwells expansively on what keeps us human, even in the most straitened of circumstances.” —The Globe & Mail

“Hostage, in its beat-by-beat, day-by-day scope, is ultimately a travelogue about the power of imagination.” —The New York Review of Books

“Delisle is known for his richl...
Fictional Father

Joe Ollmann

A dysfunctional family lives in the shadow of a world-famous comic strip and its tyrannical creator

Caleb is a middle-aged painter with a non-starter career. He also happens to be the only child of one of the world’s most famous cartoonists, Jimmi Wyatt. Known for the internationally beloved father-and-son comic Sonny Side Up, Jimmi made millions drawing saccharine family stories while neglecting his own son.

Now sober, Caleb is haunted by his wasted past and struggling to take responsibility for his present before it’s too late. His always patient boyfriend, James, is reaching the end of his rope. When Caleb gets the chance to step out from his father’s shadow and shape the most public aspect of the family business, he makes every bad decision and watches his life fall apart. Is it too late to repair the harm? Are we forever doomed to make the same mistakes our parents did?

Joe Ollmann is a master at portraying inner torment. His characters vacillate and sob and rage. His furrow-browed and deeply lined cartooning has never been more expressive than in Fictional Father. Caleb storms around and slumps in equal measure as he tries to figure out who he is beyond the neglected son of a famous man. In addition to being a devastating portrait of the Wyatt family, Fictional Father is a hilariously sardonic interrogation of art-making and cartooning in particular.

Joe Ollmann lives in Hamilton, the Riviera of Southern Ontario. He has published two books with Drawn & Quarterly, 2011’s Mid-Life and 2017’s The Abominable Mr. Seabrook. He is the winner of the Doug Wright Award for Best Book in 2007 and loser of the same award another time.

PRAISE

“Ollmann spent 10 years researching Seabrook’s strange, ramshackle life, and it shows: his book is wonderfully rich and detailed. Nothing seems to escape his attention or his compassion.” —The Guardian

“[The Abominable Mr. Seabrook is] a cautionary tale, character study and novelistic American tragedy all at once.” —The Globe and Mail
My Begging Chart

Keiler Roberts

“One of comics’ preeminent humorists.” —The AV Club

Keiler Roberts mines the passing moments of family life to deliver an affecting and funny account of what it means to simultaneously exist as a mother, daughter, wife, and artist. Drawn in an unassuming yet charming staccato that mimics the awkward rhythm of life, no one’s foibles are left unspared, most often the author’s own.

When Roberts considers whether or not to dust the ceiling fan, it’s effectively relevant. She can get lost in the rewarding melodrama of playing Barbies with her daughter and will momentarily snap out of her depression. Her harmless fibs to get through the moment are brought up by her daughter a year or two later, yet without hesitation Roberts will request that her daughter’s imaginary friend not visit when she is around. Her MS diagnosis lingers in the background, never taking center stage.

In My Begging Chart, her most encompassing work yet, Keiler meditates on routine and stillness. The vignettes of her everyday life exude immense presence, making her comics thoroughly relatable and reflective of our all-too-human lives as they unfold with humour, sadness, and relieving joy. In transporting these stories onto paper, Keiler observes, and at times relishes, a fleeting present.

Keiler Roberts makes autobiographical comics. She is the recipient of the Slate Cartoonist Studio Prize for Chlorine Gardens and is the author of Powdered Milk, Happy Happy Baby Baby, Miseryland, Rat Time, and Sunburning, which was translated into Spanish as Isolada. Also the winner of the Ignatz Award, she teaches comics at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago.

PRAISE

“Ranging from the mundane nuances of family life to the more life-altering, Roberts’s comics maintain deadpan humor. When we read her black-and-white panels, we don’t feel ashamed of our moments of imperfection; instead, we feel seen.” —Hyperallergic

“Cartooning allows Roberts to break down work and life into their component moments, each ...
Let's Not Talk Anymore

Weng Pixin

A five-generation family history told through what is seen and heard, if not said

*Let's Not Talk Anymore* weaves together five generations of women from Weng Pixin’s family, each at age fifteen. Her lineage is full of breakages—her great grandmother Kuan is sent away from her family in South China, her grandmother Mèi is adopted by a neighbor to help with housework, and her mother, Bing, is heartbroken by her father’s estrangement. Pixin’s own story centers on her feelings of isolation and her rebellion from her mother. She extends the line by envisioning a fictional future daughter, Rita, who questions her family’s legacy. While spanning one hundred years, Pixin moves back and forth in time seamlessly, as each woman experiences loneliness and kinship, hope and longing.

As each story develops, generational traumas are revealed and fraught relationships passed on from mother to daughter. Creative impulses are stifled or nurtured. They struggle with poverty and neglect. And at some point each woman begins to separate herself from her situation and understand the woman she will become.

Pixin’s bold, vibrant paintings fill the aching silences between generations with beauty and emotion. Her paintings conjure complete worlds that these women inhabit. *Let's Not Talk Anymore* is a family history filled with tender moments as these women find connection with plants, animals, and their own creative pursuits, while struggling to connect with one another.

**Weng Pixin** was born and raised in sunny Singapore. She loves to draw, sew, make comics, tell stories, paint, create, and construct using found objects. Pixin grew up listening to stories from her father, who was curious about the way the world works. In turn, when it comes to her art, Pixin loves to create semi-autobiographical comics that reflect her curious nature too. She has published one previous book, *Sweet Time*, which came out in 2020.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Sweet Time*

“*Sweet Time* by Singaporean cartoonist Weng Pixin reflects her endless curiosity, vivid imagination and sense of wonder.” —*Ms* magazine

“In this book of sweeping, colorful, totally gorgeous images, [Weng] explores human relationships, loneliness, memory, and beauty.” —*Electric Literature*

“Compassion and artistic ambition...
Journey through the countryside in this magical realist debut from an underground Chinese cartoonist

In *Night Bus*, a young woman wearing round glasses finds herself on an adventurous late night bus ride that constantly makes detours through increasingly fantastical landscapes. Meanwhile a young cartoonist returns home after art school and tries his hand at becoming a working artist while watching over his aging grandmother whose memory is deteriorating. Nostalgic leaps take us to an elementary school gymnasium that slowly morphs into a swamp and is raided by a giant catfish. Beetles, salamanders, and bug-eyed fish intrude upon the bus ride of the round-glasses woman as the night stretches on. *Night Bus* blends autobiography, horror, and fantasy into a vibrantly detailed surreal world that shows a distinct talent surveying his past.

Nature infringes upon the man-made world via gigantism and explosive abundance—the images in *Night Bus* are often unsettling, not aimed to horrify, but to upset the balance of modern life.

Zuo Ma is part of a burgeoning Chinese art comics scene that pushes emotion to the forefront of the story while playing with action and dreams.

Zuo Ma was born in Zhijiang City in 1983. After graduating from the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology in 2005, he began his career as a cartoonist and freelance illustrator. Ma is considered one of the leaders in the nascent Chinese alternative comics scene.
Rebecca and Lucie in the Case of the Missing Neighbor

Pascal Girard

A maternity leave murder mystery, complete with postpartum physiotherapy and suspicious grocery store footage

Rebecca’s got an eight-month-old baby and a mystery to investigate! Late one summer night as she’s breastfeeding Lucie, she spots two men carrying something heavy into a white minivan. It’s probably nothing serious, but when Rebecca hears that a home health care provider named Eduardo Morales disappeared from the neighbourhood that very night, she puts her detective hat on and gets to work.

Over the course of the subsequent weeks, Rebecca juggles motherhood and detective work—alternating between unproductive visits with the Simard family, for whom the missing Eduardo worked, and tearful visits to potential daycares for Lucie. She faces down inconclusive interviews with evasive subjects and inconveniently timed diaper changes. Pascal Girard’s observational humor and perfect timing shine through each page, highlighting how Rebecca’s (over)confident, brash approach gets results, not just with the troublesome Simards but with everyone in her life.

*Rebecca and Lucie in the Case of the Missing Neighbor* is a lighthearted maternity leave mystery that centers a new mother in all her postpartum glory.

**Pascal Girard** was born in Jonquière, Quebec, Canada, in 1981. He began filling his notebook with drawings on his very first day of school and never stopped. Since he was unable to rid himself of this habit, he naturally decided to make it his career. Girard is the award-winning author of *Nicolas*, *Bigfoot*, *Reunion*, and *Petty Theft*. He lives in Montreal.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Petty Theft*

“You won't find another book as cheerful, or as beautifully told, as *Petty Theft.*” —*The Stranger*

“[In] *Petty Theft*, Pascal Girard offers up a dry, humorous, and neurotic look at his own dating life.” —*The AV Club*

“Drawn with simple, expressive linework, *Petty Theft’s* trials and travails are full of humor.” —*Bitch Med...*
Little Lulu: The Little Girl Who Could Talk to Trees
John Stanley

The high jinks of a bold and brash little girl make these timeless comics laugh-out-loud funny

Forget trying to break into the boys club, Lulu Moppet would rather tear it down! In this volume of Drawn & Quarterly’s landmark reprints of Marge’s *Little Lulu*, our heroine plays pranks on her male counterparts, beating them at their own game and having a lot more fun because of it.

Many of the strips in *Little Lulu: The Little Girl Who Could Talk to Trees* are farcical retellings of classic nursery rhymes and fairy tales—stories Lulu is telling Alvin, the boy she babysits. Only, when Lulu’s running the show, she casts herself as the main character, much to Alvin’s dismay! And rather than barreling straight toward a simple moralistic ending about the importance of sharing or kindness, her yarns veer sideways for a rollicking punch line every time.

Lulu also ventures into the supernatural—encouraging a ghost who isn’t bold enough to scare those around him, flying above her neighbourhood on a magic rocking horse, and entering a haunted house alone, covered in a white sheet, when Tubby and the rest of the boys say she can’t come with them because she’s a girl.

This is the third in Drawn & Quarterly’s best-of reprintings of one of the greatest comics of all time, penned by John Stanley. Younger readers will appreciate the audacity of these kids's pranks, while Stanley’s hilariously true-to-life portrayals of wacky children make these comics extra funny for older readers.

**John Stanley** (1914–1993) was born in New York City. He was a journeyman comics scripter from the 1940s through the 1960s. He began working on *Little Lulu* in 1945 and wrote his final issue in 1959, just after beginning to work on Ernie Bushmiller’s *Nancy*. Stanley is considered by many comics historians to be the most consistently funny and idiosyncratic writer to ever work in the medium.

**PRAISE**

"These timeless comics reveal and revel in the secret world of kids: clubhouses, campouts, tall tales, jealousy, rich kids vs. poor kids, outwitting bullies, vacant lot adventures, and all the intriguing schemes and rivalries that kids cook up.” —*Boing Boing*

"*Little Lulu* was one of the best, and funniest, comics of the 1950s.” —*The Oklahom*
Clyde Fans

Seth

"A masterwork... Clyde Fans is a brilliant trip."—Brian Seznick, The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Legendary cartoonist Seth’s magnum opus Clyde Fans appeared on twenty best of the year lists, including The New York Times, The Guardian, and Washington Post. The first graphic novel nominated for the Giller, Canada’s prestigious national fiction prize, it was also nominated for the Eisner and Trillium Awards.

Clyde Fans peels back the optimism of mid-twentieth century capitalism, showing the rituals, hopes, and delusions of a vanished middle-class—garrulous men in wool suits extolling their wares to taciturn shopkeepers. Like the myth of an ever-growing economy, the Clyde Fans family business is a fraud. The patriarch has abandoned it to mismatched sons, one who strives to keep the company afloat and the other who retreats into his memories.

Abe and Simon Matchcard are brothers, struggling to save their archaic family business selling oscillating fans in a world switching to air conditioning. Simon flirts with becoming a salesman as a last-ditch effort to leave the protective walls of the family home, but is ultimately unable to escape Abe’s critical voice in his head. As Clyde Fans Co. crumbles, so does the relationship between the two men, who choose very different life paths but both end up utterly unhappy.

Seth’s intimate storytelling and gorgeous art allow cityscapes and detailed period objects to tell their own stories as the brothers struggle to find themselves suffocating in an airless home.

Seth is the cartoonist behind the comic book series Palookaville, which started as a pamphlet and is now a semiannual hardcover. His comics have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Best American Comics, and Timothy McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern. His illustrations have appeared in numerous publications, including the cover of The New Yorker, The Walrus, and Canadian Notes & Queries. He is Lemony Snicket’s partner for the series All the Wrong Questions and he designs several classic comics reprint series, notably collections of work by Charles Schulz, John Stanley, and Doug Wright.

He was the subject of the National Film Board documentary Seth’s Dominion. Seth lives in Guelph, Canada, with his wife, Tania, and two cats in a house he has named...

PRAISE

“There’s no room for nostalgia in Seth’s vision. The past is as sharp and
Wendy
Walter Scott

The outrageously funny and painfully relatable satire of an aspiring artist and millennial culture

Walter Scott’s Wendy comics have become a critical sensation, with rave reviews in The New Yorker and The Guardian, and an appearance in the Best American Comics anthology. Learn Wendy’s origin story as Scott hilariously plumbs millennial culture, creative ennui, and the nepotism of the art world’s institutions.

Wendy’s an aspiring artist in a party city, and she’s in a rut. She spends her time snorting mdma in gallery bathrooms and watching Nurse Jackie reruns on her laptop while hungover. So when she’s accepted into the prestigious Flojo Island residency, Wendy vows to buckle down and get working. But during the remote, woodsy residency, Wendy and her collaborator/bff Winona put on a performance piece that becomes the centre of an art world controversy, and so Wendy returns to Montreal, getting a job in a coffee shop to make ends meet.

With Wendy, Scott launches the Wendyverse, brimming with painfully relatable characters like the back-stabbing frenemy Tina, the name-dropping Paloma, the cool drummer Wendy obsesses over, Jeff, and of course, our treasured Wendy, the hot mess we can’t live without. In blunt, laugh out loud funny vignettes with perfect punchlines, Scott illuminates the opacity of artspeak and the ceaseless anxieties plaguing a largely privileged generation.

Walter Scott is an interdisciplinary artist working in comics, drawing, video, performance, and sculpture. His comic series Wendy chronicles the continuing misadventures of a young artist in a satirical imagining of the contemporary art world. Wendy has been published in two volumes by Koyama Press and featured in Canadian Art, Art in America, and on the New Yorker website, and was selected for the 2016 edition of Best American Comics.

PRAISE

"Wendy’s lust for life is inseparable from her knee-jerk self-destruction."—The New Yorker

"Winningly messy."—The Guardian

"The art school party girl who is perhaps the real voice of our generation (sorry Lena Dunham)."—Vice
This critique of the art world will have you crying with laughter

In *Wendy's Revenge*, Scott's titular heroine returns with a fresh set of awkward misadventures and messy nights out. When the book opens, aspiring artist Wendy has decided to move to the west coast to clear her head.

She plans on getting some quality time with her collaborator and friend Winona, only to find Winona packing up to leave, having decided to move back in with her mom on the rez. All alone, *Wendy* endeavours to foster community in Vancouver’s bleak art scene. When her hope and optimism are all used up, she packs her bags for an artist residency in Japan. Wendy then gallery hops and parties around the globe until she stumbles upon the opportunity to unite with former foe Paloma. Together they enact revenge on VVURST, the German publication that once tore her performance art to shreds.

Young artists struggle with mental health issues, they get wasted and hook up with men with gross piercings, and they’re afflicted with an insatiable longing for a stable identity—stability they themselves undermine. Scott’s deceptively simple, inky character drawings evoke millennial culture with such Jungian accuracy that you can’t help but stare and giggle in equal measure. Praised by *The New Yorker*, *Guardian*, *Globe and Mail*, and with an appearance in the *Best American Comics* anthology, it’s clear why Walter Scott’s *Wendy* comics have taken critics by storm.

Walter Scott is an interdisciplinary artist working in comics, drawing, video, performance, and sculpture. His comic series *Wendy* chronicles the continuing misadventures of a young artist in a satirical imagining of the contemporary art world. *Wendy* has been published in two volumes by Koyama Press and featured in *Canadian Art*, *Art in America*, and on the *New Yorker* website, and was selected for the 2016 edition of *Best American Comics*.

**PRAISE**

"I am blown away by Walter Scott’s *Wendy* series." —Zadie Smith

"Wendy, her pals and her milieu comprise a fictional world as fully and funnily inhabited as any in recent Canadian storytelling."—*Globe & Mail*

"Funny, poignant, and scary. Scott makes you laugh and then rips your heart out."—*Literary Hub*
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