American Harvest

*God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland*

Marie Mutsuki Mockett

*An epic story of the American wheat harvest, the politics of food, and the culture of the Great Plains*

For over one hundred years, the Mockett family has owned a seven-thousand-acre wheat farm in the panhandle of Nebraska, where Marie Mutsuki Mockett’s father was raised. Mockett, who grew up in bohemian Carmel, California, with her father and her Japanese mother, knew little about farming when she inherited this land. Her father had all but forsworn it.

In *American Harvest*, Mockett accompanies a group of evangelical Christian wheat harvesters through the heartland at the invitation of Eric Wolgemuth, the conservative farmer who has cut her family’s fields for decades. As Mockett follows Wolgemuth’s crew on the trail of ripening wheat from Texas to Idaho, they contemplate what Wolgemuth refers to as “the divide,” inadvertently peeling back layers of the American story to expose its contradictions and unhealed wounds. She joins the crew in the fields, attends church, and struggles to adapt to the rhythms of rural life, all the while continually reminded of her own status as a person who signals “not white,” but who people she encounters can’t quite categorize.

*American Harvest* is an extraordinary evocation of the land and a thoughtful exploration of ingrained beliefs, from evangelical skepticism of evolution to cosmopolitan assumptions about food production and farming. With exquisite lyricism and humanity, this astonishing book attempts to reconcile competing versions of our national story.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Where the Dead Pause, and the Japanese Say Goodbye*

“[Mockett] has the ability, fully available only to those on the margins, ‘to see through more than one set of eyes.’” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“Part memoir, part travelogue and part investigation . . . Fascinating, wide-reaching.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

Marie Mutsuki Mockett is the author of a novel, *Picking Bones from Ash*, and a memoir, *Where the Dead Pause, and the Japanese Say Goodbye*, which was a finalist for the PEN Open Book Award. She lives in San Francisco.
Little Constructions
A Novel

Anna Burns

The darkly comic second novel from the author of the Man Booker Prize winner Milkman, now available in the United States

In the small town of Tiptoe Floorboard, the Doe clan, a close-knit family of criminals and victims, has the run of the place. Yet there are signs that patriarch John Doe’s reign may be coming to an end. When Jetty Doe breaks into a gun store and makes off with a Kalashnikov, the stage is set for a violent confrontation. But while Jetty is making her way across town in a taxi, an elusive, chatty narrator takes us on a wild journey, zooming in and out on various members of the Doe clan with long, digressive riffs that chase down the causes and repercussions of Jetty’s act.

Before Milkman took the world by storm after winning the Man Booker Prize, Anna Burns had already honed her distinctive voice. In her second novel, Little Constructions, she exhibits the same linguistic brio, coruscating wit, and scintillating insight into men, women, and the roots of violence. A wickedly funny novel that swoops and spirals as it examines the long shadow of abuse and violent crime, Little Constructions explores what transpires when unspeakable realities, long hidden from view, can no longer be denied.

PRAISE

“Prose so profound and so punchy, at once scattergun and forensic. . . Every line leaves a darkly sparkling residue you won’t be able to wash off.” —The Telegraph

“An exceptionally bold, violent, and blackly comic tale. . . [In] Burns’s delirious imagination, you'll find much salient wisdom.” —Financial Times

Anna Burns was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She is the author of three novels, including Milkman and No Bones, and a novella Mostly Hero. She lives in East Sussex, England.
Homie
Poems
Danez Smith

Danez Smith is our president

Homie is Danez Smith’s magnificent anthem about the saving grace of friendship. Rooted in the loss of one of Smith’s close friends, this book comes out of the search for joy and intimacy within a nation where both can seem scarce and getting scarcer. In poems of rare power and generosity, Smith acknowledges that in a country overrun by violence, xenophobia, and disparity, and in a body defined by race, queerness, and diagnosis, it can be hard to survive, even harder to remember reasons for living. But then the phone lights up, or a shout comes up to the window, and family—blood and chosen—arrives with just the right food and some redemption. Part friendship diary, part bright elegy, part war cry, Homie is the exuberant new book written for Danez and for Danez’s friends and for you and for yours.

PRAISE

Praise for Don’t Call Us Dead

“These poems can’t make history vanish, but they can contend against it with the force of a restorative imagination. Smith’s work is about that imagination—its role in repairing and sustaining communities, and in making the world more bearable.”—The New Yorker

Danez Smith is the author of Don’t Call Us Dead, winner of the Forward Prize for Best Collection and a finalist for the National Book Award, and [insert boy], winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. They live in Minneapolis.
Postcolonial Love Poem

Poems

Natalie Diaz

Natalie Diaz’s highly anticipated follow-up to When My Brother Was an Aztec, winner of an American Book Award

Postcolonial Love Poem is an anthem of desire against erasure. Natalie Diaz’s brilliant second collection demands that every body carried in its pages—bodies of language, land, rivers, suffering brothers, enemies, and lovers—be touched and held as beloveds. Through these poems, the wounds inflicted by America onto an indigenous people are allowed to bloom pleasure and tenderness: “Let me call my anxiety, desire, then. / Let me call it, a garden.” In this new lyrical landscape, the bodies of indigenous, Latinx, black, and brown women are simultaneously the body politic and the body ecstatic. In claiming this autonomy of desire, language is pushed to its dark edges, the astonishing dunefields and forests where pleasure and love are both grief and joy, violence and sensuality.

Diaz defies the conditions from which she writes, a nation whose creation predicated the diminishment and ultimate erasure of bodies like hers and the people she loves: “I am doing my best to not become a museum / of myself. I am doing my best to breathe in and out. // I am begging: Let me be lonely but not invisible.” Postcolonial Love Poem unravels notions of American goodness and creates something more powerful than hope—in it, a future is built, future being a matrix of the choices we make now, and in these poems, Diaz chooses love.

PRAISE

Praise for Natalie Diaz:

“Diaz is a powerful new poetic voice, and she is broadening the venues for and reach of Indigenous perspectives through her teaching, cross-disciplinary collaborations, and language preservation efforts.”—MacArthur Foundation

Natalie Diaz is the author of the poetry collection When My Brother Was an Aztec. She has received many honors, including a MacArthur Fellowship, a USA Fellowship, and a Lannan Literary Fellowship. She teaches at Arizona State University.
Barn 8

A Novel

Deb Olin Unferth

An unforgettably exuberant and potent novel by a writer at the height of her powers

Two auditors for the U.S. egg industry go rogue and conceive a plot to steal a million chickens in the middle of the night—an entire egg farm’s worth of animals. Janey and Cleveland—a spirited former runaway and the officious head of audits—assemble a precarious, quarrelsome team and descend on the farm on a dark spring evening. A series of catastrophes ensues.

Deb Olin Unferth’s wildly inventive novel is a heist story of a very unusual sort. Swirling with a rich array of voices, Barn 8 takes readers into the minds of these renegades: a farmer’s daughter, a former director of undercover investigations, hundreds of activists, a forest ranger who suddenly comes upon forty thousand hens, and a security guard who is left on an empty farm for years. There are glimpses twenty thousand years into the future to see what chickens might evolve into on our contaminated planet. We hear what hens think happens when they die. In the end the cracked hearts of these indelible characters, their earnest efforts to heal themselves, and their radical actions will lead them to ruin or revelation.

Funny, whimsical, philosophical, and heartbreaking, Barn 8 ultimately asks: What constitutes meaningful action in a world so in need of change? Unferth comes at this question with striking ingenuity, razor-sharp wit, and ferocious passion. Barn 8 is a rare comic-political drama, a tour de force for our time.

PRAISE

Praise for Wait Till You See Me Dance

“Unferth swerves from the mundane to the extraordinary, from biting to soaringly celebratory, often in a single sentence.” —The New York Times Book Review

“One of the most important voices in fiction.” —Newsweek

Deb Olin Unferth is the author of six books. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and three Pushcart Prizes, and was a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist. Her work has appeared in Granta, Harper’s Magazine, McSweeney’s, and The Paris Review.
Later

My Life at the Edge of the World

Paul Lisicky

A stunning portrait of community, identity, and sexuality by the critically acclaimed author of The Narrow Door

When Paul Lisicky arrived in Provincetown in the early 1990s, he was leaving behind a history of family trauma to live in a place outside of time, known for its values of inclusion, acceptance, and art. In this idyllic haven, Lisicky searches for love and connection and comes into his own as he finds a sense of belonging. At the same time, the center of this community is consumed by the AIDS crisis, and the very structure of town life is being rewired out of necessity: What might this utopia look like during a time of dystopia?

Later dramatizes a spectacular yet ravaged place and a unique era when more fully becoming one’s self collided with the realization that ongoinness couldn’t be taken for granted, and staying alive from moment to moment exacted absolute attention. Following the success of his acclaimed memoir, The Narrow Door, Lisicky fearlessly explores the body, queerness, love, illness, community, and belonging in this masterful, ingenious new book.

PRAISE

Praise for The Narrow Door


“Achingly gorgeous.” — Chicago Tribune

“Stunningly done.” — Slate

“Raw, wry, and meditative.” — The Boston Globe

“So special and at times so unsettling.” — Los Angeles Times

Paul Lisicky is the author of five books, including Famous Builder and Lawnboy. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the NEA, among other organizations. He teaches in the MFA program at Rutgers University and lives in Brooklyn.
I Will Take the Answer

Essays

Ander Monson

A moving and wide-ranging collection of essays by the author of Letter to a Future Lover

The idea of connection permeates I Will Take the Answer, Ander Monson’s fourth book of utterly original and intelligent essays. How is our present connected to our past and future? How do neural connections form memories, and why do we recall them when we do? And how do we connect with one another in meaningful ways across time and space?

In the opening essay, which extends across the book in brief subsequent pieces, a trip through a storm sewer in Tucson inspires Monson to trace the city’s relationship to Jared Lee Loughner, the gunman who shot Gabrielle Giffords and killed six bystanders, along with how violence is produced and how we grieve and honor the dead. With the formally inventive “I in River,” he ruminates on water in a waterless city and the structures we use to attempt to contain and control it. Monson also visits the exuberantly nerdy kingdom of a Renaissance Faire, and elaborates on the enduring appeal of sad songs through the lens of March Sadness, an online competition that he cofounded, an engaging riff on the NCAA basketball tournament brackets in which sad songs replace teams.

As personal and idiosyncratic as the best mixtape, I Will Take the Answer showcases Monson’s deep thinking and broad-ranging interests, his sly wit, his soft spot for heavy metal, and his ability to tunnel deeply into the odd and revealing, sometimes subterranean, worlds of American life.

PRAISE

Praise for Letter to a Future Lover

“A breathtakingly original, thoughtful consideration of what it means to be a reader—or a writer, or a human being . . . [Monson] is one of America’s best living authors . . . A masterpiece, filled with compassion and brilliance.” —NPR

Ander Monson is the author of Letter to a Future Lover and Vanishing Point, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, as well as The Gnome Stories. He lives in Tucson, where he teaches at the University of Arizona.
The Gnome Stories

Stories

Ander Monson

An unsettling, wildly imaginative collection of stories

The Gnome Stories focuses on characters who are loners in the truest sense; who are in the process of recovering from mental, physical, or emotional trauma; and who find solace—or at least a sense of purpose—in peculiar jobs and pursuits.

A man whose wife has left him is robbed, so he decides to start doing his own breaking and entering, into his neighbors’ homes. When another man’s girlfriend is cryogenically frozen by her family after a car accident, he becomes a maintenance worker at the cryogenic facility, eavesdropping on visitors as they whisper secrets to their frozen loved ones. A woman serves as an assistant to the Starvationist, whose methods to help clients lose large amounts of weight are unorthodox, sadistic—and utterly failproof. Another woman and her robot assistant have been hired to tinker with the troubling memories inside a celebrity’s brain.

With The Gnome Stories, Ander Monson presents eleven unforgettable stories about oddly American situations: as surreal as an urban legend and at the same time perfectly mundane.

PRAISE

Praise for Ander Monson

“[A] writer who knows the workings of language as intimately as a cleric knows his holy books . . . Monson knows the cadences and rhythms and syntax that transform the day-to-day into the divine.”—Los Angeles Review of Books

Ander Monson is the author of Other Electricities, a finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award, and four essay collections, including I Will Take the Answer. He lives in Tucson, where he teaches at the University of Arizona.
The More Extravagant Feast
Poems

Leah Naomi Green

Winner of the Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets, selected by Li-Young Lee

The More Extravagant Feast focuses on the trophic exchanges of a human body with the world via pregnancy, motherhood, and interconnection—the acts of making and sustaining other bodies from one’s own, and one’s own from the larger world. Leah Naomi Green writes from attentiveness to the vast availability and capacity of the weedy, fecund earth and from her own human place within more-than-human life, death, and birth. Lyrically and spiritually rich, striving toward honesty and understanding, The More Extravagant Feast is an extraordinary book of awareness of our dependency on ecological systems—seen and unseen.

PRAISE

“This book keeps faithful company with the world and earns its name. The darkness and suffering of living on earth are assumed in this work, woven throughout the fabric of its lineated perceptions and insights, and yet, it is ultimately informed by the deep logic of compassion (is there a deeper human logic?).” —Li-Young Lee

Leah Naomi Green is the author of The Ones We Have, winner of the Flying Trout Press Chapbook Prize. She teaches English and environmental studies at Washington and Lee University and lives in an ecological intentional community in Virginia.
The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon

Poems

Jane Kenyon

“Jane Kenyon had a virtually faultless ear. She was an exquisite master of the art of poetry.” —Wendell Berry

Published twenty-five years after her untimely death, *The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon* presents the essential work of one of America’s most cherished poets—celebrated for her tenacity, spirit, and grace. In their inquisitive explorations and direct language, Jane Kenyon’s poems disclose a quiet certainty in the natural world and a lifelong dialogue with her faith and her questioning of it. As a crucial aspect of these beloved poems of companionship, she confronts her struggle with severe depression on its own stark terms. Selected by Kenyon’s husband, Donald Hall, just before his death in 2018, *The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon* collects work from across a life and career that will be, as she writes in one poem, “simply lasting.”

PRAISE

Praise for Jane Kenyon

“I love all of Jane Kenyon’s poems . . . because of the qualities [of] this abiding love of the world and the creatures in it, the compassion, humor, honesty, and clarity . . . The poems are a tribute to her spirit and the spirit of poetry.” —Marie Howe

There’s a village an hour from London. It’s no different from many others today: one pub, one church, redbrick cottages, some public housing, and a few larger houses dotted about. Voices rise up, as they might anywhere, speaking of loving and needing and working and dying and walking the dogs. This village belongs to the people who live in it, to the land and to the land’s past.

It also belongs to Dead Papa Toothwort, a mythical figure local schoolchildren used to draw as green and leafy, choked by tendrils growing out of his mouth, who awakens after a glorious nap. He is listening to this twenty-first-century village, to its symphony of talk: drunken confessions, gossip traded on the street corner, fretful conversations in living rooms. He is listening, intently, for a mischievous, ethereal boy whose parents have recently made the village their home. Lanny.

With Lanny, Max Porter extends the potent and magical space he created in Grief Is the Thing with Feathers. This brilliant novel will ensorcell readers with its anarchic energy, with its bewitching tapestry of fabulism and domestic drama. Lanny is a ringing defense of creativity, spirit, and the generative forces that often seem under assault in the contemporary world, and it solidifies Porter’s reputation as one of the most daring and sensitive writers of his generation.

PRAISE

Praise for Grief Is the Thing with Feathers

“One of the most moving, wildly inventive first novels you’re likely to encounter this year.” —Heller McAlpin, NPR.org


Max Porter is the author of Grief Is the Thing with Feathers, which won the International Dylan Thomas Prize and The Sunday Times/PFD Young Writer of the Year Award, and was short-listed for The Guardian First Book Award and the Goldsmiths Prize.
American Harvest: God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland; Marie Mutsuki Mockett ......................... 2
Barn 8: A Novel; Deb Olin Unferth .......................... 6
Best Poems of Jane Kenyon, The: Poems; Jane Kenyon ................................................................. 11
Burns, Anna; Little Constructions: A Novel ..................... 3
Diaz, Natalie; Postcolonial Love Poem: Poems ..................... 5
Gnome Stories, The: Stories; Ander Monson ..................... 9
Green, Leah Naomi; The More Extravagant Feast: Poems ........ 10
Homie: Poems; Danez Smith ........................................ 4
I Will Take the Answer: Essays; Ander Monson ................. 8
Kenyon, Jane; The Best Poems of Jane Kenyon: Poems ........ 11
Lanny: A Novel; Max Porter .............................. 12
Later: My Life at the Edge of the World; Paul Lisicky ............ 7
Lisicky, Paul; Later: My Life at the Edge of the World ............ 7
Little Constructions: A Novel; Anna Burns ..................... 3
Mockett, Marie Mutsuki; American Harvest: God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland .......................... 2
Monson, Ander; I Will Take the Answer: Essays ................. 8
Monson, Ander; The Gnome Stories: Stories ............................. 9
More Extravagant Feast, The: Poems; Leah Naomi Green ........ 10
Porter, Max; Lanny: A Novel ........................................ 12
Postcolonial Love Poem: Poems; Natalie Diaz .................... 5
Smith, Danez; Homie: Poems ........................................ 4
Unferth, Deb Olin; Barn 8: A Novel ............................. 6