How We Can Win

Race, History and Changing the Money Game That's Rigged

Kimberly Jones

A breakdown of the economic and social injustices facing Black people and other marginalized citizens inspired by political activist Kimberly Jones' viral video, “How Can We Win.”

“So if I played 400 rounds of monopoly with you and I had to play and give you every dime that I made, and then for 50 years, every time that I played, if you didn’t like what I did, you got to burn it like they did in Tulsa and like they did in Rosewood, how can you win? How can you win?”

How We Can Win will expand upon statements Kimberly Jones made in a viral video posted in June 2020 following the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police. Through her personal experience, observations, and Monopoly analogy, she illuminates the economic disparities Black Americans have faced for generations and offers ways to fight against a system that is still rigged.

Kimberly Jones is a former bookseller, and now she hosts the Atlanta chapter of the popular Well-Read Black Girl book club. She has worked in film and television with trailblazing figures such as Tyler Perry, Whitney Houston, and 8Ball & MJG. Currently, in addition to writing YA novels, she is a director of feature films and cutting-edge diverse web series. She also regularly lectures on working and succeeding in the Atlanta film market. Her first book, I'm Not Dying with You Tonight, came out i...
Test Gods

Virgin Galactic and the Making of a Modern Astronaut

Nicholas Schmidle

In the spirit of *The Right Stuff*, updated for the 21st century, *Test Gods* is an epic story about extreme bravery and sacrifice, about the thin line between lunacy and genius. But most of all is i...

Based on exclusive inside reporting, *New Yorker* writer Nicholas Schmidle tells the remarkable story of the test pilots, engineers, and visionaries behind Virgin Galactic’s campaign to build a space tourism company. Schmidle follows a handful of characters—Mark Stucky, Virgin’s lead test pilot; Richard Branson, the eccentric billionaire funding the venture; Mike Moses, the grounded, unflappable president; Mike Alsbury, the test pilot who lost his life; and others—through personal and professional dramas, in pursuit of their collective goal: to make space tourism a reality.

Along the way, Schmidle weaves his relationship with his father—a former fighter pilot and decorated war hero—into the tragedies and triumphs that Branson’s team encounters out in the Mojave Desert as they design, build, and test-fly their private rocketship. Gripping and novelistic, *Test Gods* leads us, through human drama, into a previously unseen world—and beyond.

Nicholas Schmidle is a writer at the *New Yorker*, and the author of *To Live or to Perish Forever: Two Tumultuous Years in Pakistan*. His work has also appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Atlantic*, *Slate*, the *Washington Post*, and many others. Schmidle has been a National Magazine Award finalist, a two-time Livingston Award finalist, and winner of a Kurt Schork Award. He is a former fellow at the Institute of Current World Affairs, the New America Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Center for I...
Tinderbox

HBO's Ruthless Pursuit of New Frontiers

James Andrew Miller

From the New York Times bestselling author of Those Guys Have All the Fun comes the unvarnished, comprehensive, and astonishing history of HBO, told for the first time through the disruptors who ...

The exclusive story of HBO’s key creators, executives, actors, and directors gives readers an unprecedented peek behind the curtain at the founding and triumph of the first “pay-channel” that brought America The Sopranos, Sex and the City, The Wire, Succession, and countless, groundbreaking, culture-shifting shows. James Andrew Miller collects insider accounts of the humble beginnings, devastating missteps, controversial business decisions, and, of course, backstage drama and celebrity gossip from the set.

Since televisions entered Americans’ living rooms, the question of whether programming should be “free”—paid for with advertising—has loomed, to the extent that some broadcasters, lobbyists and fearmongers warned someone would come along and disrupt their Madison Avenue–championed business model. But who would pay for something that had always been free? Home Box Office dared to ask that question in 1972, opening the doors for other pay-channels and ultimately the streaming platforms that are now the norm. They created different, better content—or at least they convinced viewers that different was better. HBO gave us violent scenes with blood and guts, shows like Tales from the Crypt that were actually scary, romcoms with sex instead of suggestion. We take their big-budget, “prestige” TV for granted now, but their success was far from assured at the outset.

HBO’s audacity built the viewing culture we have today and permanentl...

PRAISE

Praise for Live from New York

“Constantly entertaining . . . It’s revealing, it’s funny, it’s mesmerizing.”
—Entertainment Weekly

“A guilty pleasure of the highest order . . . Live from New York shines.”—Lev Grossman, Time

“A sharp-clawed, incisive account of how nearly three decades' worth of comic talent has emerged from a single television show.”—Janet Maslin, The New York Times

James Andrew Miller is an award-winning journalist and co-author of the #1 New York Times bestseller Those Guys Have All the Fun: Inside the World of ESPN; Powerhouse: The Untold Story of Hollywood's Creative Artists Agency; Live from New York: The Complete, Uncensored History of
Chasing History
A Kid in the Newsroom

Carl Bernstein

The Pulitzer Prize-winning co-author of All the President’s Men—the chronicle of the investigative report about the Watergate break-in and resultant political scandal which led to President Richard Nixon's resignation.

“Carl Bernstein, Washington Star.”

With these words, the sixteen-year-old senior at Montgomery Blair High School set himself apart from the high school crowd and set himself on a track that would define his life. Carl Bernstein was far from the best student in his class—in fact, he was in danger of not graduating at all—but he had a talent for writing, a burning desire to know things that other people didn’t, and a flair for being in the right place at the right time. Those qualities got him inside the newsroom at the Washington Star, the afternoon paper in the nation’s capital, in the summer of 1960, a pivotal time for America, for Washington, D.C., and for a young man in a hurry on the cusp of adulthood.

Chasing History opens up the world of the early 1960s as Bernstein experienced it, chasing after grisly crimes with the paper’s police reporter, gathering colorful details at a John F. Kennedy campaign rally, running afoul of union rules, and confronting racial tensions as the civil rights movement gained strength. We learn alongside him as he comes to understand the life of a newspaperman, and we share his pride as he hunts down information, gets his first byline, and discovers that he has a talent for the job after all.

By turns exhilarating, funny, tense, and poignant, Chasing History shows us a country coming into its own maturity along with young Carl Bernstein, and when he strikes out on his own after five years at the Star.

Carl Bernstein is the author or coauthor of five bestselling books, most notably All the President’s Men, written with Bob Woodward. He, Woodward, and the Washington Post were awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for breaking and investigating the Watergate story, which led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and set the standard for modern investigative reporting. He is also the author of biographies of Pope John Paul II and Hillary Clinton and a memoir of his family’s experiences...
Lorraine Hansberry: The Life Behind A Raisin in the Sun

The Life Behind A Raisin in the Sun

Charles J. Shields

The New York Times bestselling author of Mockingbird masterfully delivers the moving story of the life of the woman behind A Raisin in the Sun, the most widely anthologized, read, and performed p...

Written when she was just twenty-eight, Lorraine Hansberry’s landmark A Raisin in the Sun is listed by the National Theatre as one of the hundred most significant works of the twentieth century. Hansberry was the first Black woman to have a play performed on Broadway, and the first Black and youngest American playwright to win a New York Critics’ Circle Award. Yet so much of her life has escaped public knowledge: the influence of her upper class background, her fight for peace and nuclear disarmament, the reason why she embraced Communism during the Cold War, and her dependence on her white husband—her best friend, critic, and promoter. Many of the identity issues about class, sexuality, and race that she struggled with are relevant and urgent today.

This dramatic telling of a passionate life—a very American life through self-reinvention—uses interviews with close friends in politics and theater, privately held correspondence, and deep research to reconcile old mysteries, and to raise new questions about a life not fully described until this, the authoritative biography of one of the twentieth century’s most admired playwrights, Lorraine Hansberry.

PRAISE

Praise for Mockingbird

“Shields is a scrupulous journalist who respects [Lee’s] privacy even as he opens up her life. This biography will not disappoint those who loved the novel and the feisty, independent, fiercely loyal Scout in whom Harper Lee put so much of herself.”—Garrison Keillor, The New York Times Book Review

“An impressively unauthorized biography of the famously reclusive author.”—New York, Best Summer Reading roundup

Checkmate in Berlin

The Cold War Showdown That Shaped the Modern World

Giles Milton

The lively, immersive story of the race to seize Berlin in the aftermath of World War II that fired the starting gun for the Cold War, by the internationally bestselling master of popular history...

Berlin’s fate was sealed at the 1945 Yalta Conference: the city, along with the rest of Germany, was to be carved up between the victorious powers—American, British, French, and Soviet. On paper, it seemed a pragmatic solution. In reality, now that the four powers were no longer united by the common purpose of defeating Germany, they wasted little time reverting to their pre-war hostility toward and suspicion of each other. The veneer of civility between Allies and Soviets was to break down in spectacular fashion. Rival systems, rival ideologies, and rival personalities ensured that Berlin became an explosive battleground.

The warring leaders who ran the zones that Berlin and Germany were divided into were charismatic, mercurial, larger-than-life men you’d sooner expect to find in a Quentin Tarantino movie than a history book, and Giles Milton brings them all to rich and thrilling life—resourced from their diaries, memoirs, and unpublished papers. We meet men like America’s explosive Frank “Howlin” Howley, a blunt sharp-tongued colonel with a relish for mischief who detested all Russians, and the Soviet Vassily Sokolovsky, who motored around Berlin in a luxury, American-made LaSalle sedan. Worldly and urbane, Sokolovsky sparkled with jokes, witty aphorisms, and folksy Russian proverbs and peppered his speech with quotes from the novels of Jane Austen.

Checkmate in Berlin will recount the first battle of the Cold War as we’ve ne...

PRAISE

Praise for Soldier, Sailor, Frogman, Spy, Airman, Gangster, Kill or Die

“Earns its place in a crowded field by bringing a completely fresh, very human approach . . . It has a wonderful immediacy and vitality—living history in every sense.”

—Anthony Horowitz, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Alex Rider Adventure series, in the Wall Street Journal

Praise for Churchill’s Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

“Milton is a meticulous researcher and masterful storyteller. Churchill’s Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare, with its ghastly details and dollops of droll British humor, will reward readers who appreciate military history and good writ...
Big Vape

The Incendiary Rise of Juul

Jamie Ducharme

For readers of Bad Blood and The Smartest Guys in the Room, an eye-opening work of narrative nonfiction chronicling the rise of Juul and the deadly cost of the search for a “safe cigarette”

It began with a smoke break. James Monsees and Adam Bowen were two ambitious graduate students at Stanford’s “Designing for Social Systems Program”, and in between puffs after class, they dreamed of a “safe cigarette.”

Their solution was the Juul, a sleek, modern device similar to a thumb drive that could vaporize nicotine into a conveniently potent dose. The company they built around that device, Juul Labs, would go on to become a $38 billion company, selling sixteen million Juul devices in 2017 alone and addicting a whole new generation of underage tobacco users.

But as their sales skyrocketed, a health crisis broke out with vape users dying of mysterious lung illnesses, and Juul Labs began to crumble internally due to infighting, backstabbing, and betrayal. Time magazine reporter Jamie Ducharme traces how the duo of Monsees and Bowen created Big Vape—along with the explosion of e-cigarette use in America—and how, in the process, they went from public health visionaries and Silicon Valley wunderkinds to two of the most reviled businessmen in the country.

With rigorous reporting and clear-eyed prose that reads like a nonfiction thriller, Big Vape uses the dramatic rise and fall of Juul to tell a larger story of big business, big tobacco, and the deadly cost of a product that was too good to be true.

PRAISE

“Big Vape is more than just brilliantly reported and elegantly written. It is also a richly populated book—filled not just with human characters, but with matters of science, finance, invention, ambition, ethics, hubris and blazing ingenuity. Even the cunning little product at the center of the story—the Juul itself—becomes a sort of character in Jamie Ducharme’s hands. Ducharme brings the best skills of journalist and lyricist to tell an exceedingly important story—and to tell it irresistibly.”

—Jeffrey Kluger, bestselling co-author of Apollo 13 and author of Apollo 8

Jamie Ducharme is a journalist at Time magazine where she covers health, science, medicine, breaking news, politics, and business.
The untold story of a national trauma—NASA’s Challenger explosion—and what really happened to America’s Teacher in Space, illuminating the tragic cost of humanity setting its sight on the stars

You’ve seen the pictures. You think you know what happened. You do not.

On the morning of January 28, 1986, NASA’s space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after blasting off from Cape Canaveral. Christa McAuliffe, America’s “Teacher in Space,” was instantly killed, along with the other six members of the mission. Right? Wrong.

Thirty-five years after NASA’s revitalization program literally went up in smoke, Kevin Cook uncovers the untold story of the disastrous order to launch on an ice-cold Florida day. For the first time, he takes readers inside the shuttle for those agonizing two minutes and forty-five seconds after the fire which, yes, some of the astronauts survived.

But this is more than a simple corrective to a now-dimming memory. Centering on McAuliffe, a charmingly ordinary civilian on the cusp of history, The Burning Blue animates the mission’s colorful cast of characters, which featured the second female astronaut (who was also the first Jewish astronaut), the second Black one, and the first Asian-American and Buddhist in space. Drawing intimate portraits of the people wearing the spacesuits and detailing how they earned the right to suit up, Cook makes readers temporarily forget the tragedy toward which the tale is hurtling. Infused with drama, immediacy, and compelling characters, The Burning Blue reveals the human price paid for politics and capital-P Progress on that ill-fated, unforgettable morning.

Kevin Cook is the author of Tommy’s Honor, Ten Innings at Wrigley, Titanic Thompson, and Kitty Genovese. He has written for The New York Times, Men’s Journal, GQ, Smithsonian, and many other publications, and appeared on CNN, NPR, and Fox News. An Indiana native, he now lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.
Dear Miss Metropolitan

A Novel

Carolyn Ferrell

A stunning and original novel in the tradition of Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys* that lyrically explores the intersections of grief and rage, personal and c...

Award-winning author Carolyn Ferrell’s *Dear Miss Metropolitan* tells the fragmented story of Fern, Gwinnie, and Jesenia, three girls abducted by a monster who calls himself Boss Man and held captive in a decaying house in Queens for a decade. Inspired by real events, the tale is inventively revealed by multiple narrators before, during, and after, their ordeal. Documents, newspapers, excerpts from books, photographs, interviews, and other forms of media piece together the larger story.

By the time they are rescued only two of them remain. In the aftermath, the “victim females” are subjected to the further trauma of becoming symbols as the survivors, now patients in a facility, continue to adapt to their present and their unrelenting past. The mystery of the disappearance and the illumination of myths about race, gender, and the definitions of community and family are at the center of this inventive and urgent fable of survival.

Includes black-and-white illustrations

PRAISE

“Such a beautifully rendered and provocative novel. Ferrell has given me a world I could never have imagined filled with so many people I feel like I’ve always known. A stunner.”—Jacqueline Woodson, bestselling author of *Red at the Bone, Another Brooklyn* and National Book Award winner *Brown Girl Dreaming*

Carolyn Ferrell is the author of the short-story collection, *Don’t Erase Me*, which was awarded the Art Seidenbaum Award of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize program, the John C. Zacharis Award given by *Ploughshares*, and the Quality Paperback Book Prize for First Fiction. She has also received grants from the Fulbright Association, German Academic Exchange (DAAD), City University of New York MAGNET Program, and National Endowment for the Arts. Ferrell’s stories have been anthologized in *Best Ameri...
Leaving Breezy Street

A Memoir

Brenda Myers-Powell with April Reynolds

The stunning account of Chicago’s Dreamcatcher Foundation founder Brenda Myers-Powell’s brutal, beautiful life, Leaving Breezy Street is a critical addition to the American canon, because this is...

Fourteen-years-old, poor, mother dead, two babies to feed and clothe, and a grandmother who is, well, not full of motherly kindness, to put it mildly. What’s a girl to do?

When Brenda Myers hit the streets of the South Side of Chicago she was barely a teenager. But she was pretty as hell, and funny, and determined to make a living. For the next twenty or more years, she moved all around the country—to New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, L.A., even border towns in Canada—finding new pimps, parties, drugs, and endless, fresh heartache. And all the while, she would try to make her way back to her daughters. And she would also try to find a way forward—to a life of dignity, respect and self-respect, truth, and most of all, loving kindness. And she would find it.

What do we know about those we call sex workers, prostitutes, and a host of uglier names? We know what reporters and the showrunners of premium cable shows reveal. But until Leaving Breezy Street we have not heard from a woman who has lived—and survived—this life. What is like? How does it work? How do you get into it? And how can anyone climb out?

Leaving Breezy Street is an unforgettable memoir that belongs on that special shelf alongside Jeannette Walls’s The Glass Castle, Ishmael Beah’s A Long Way Gone, and James McBride’s The Color of Water. We have no say into which worlds we are born. But sometimes we can find a way out.

Includes color photographs.

Brenda Myers-Powell has been advocating for victims of sex trafficking since 1997. She is the co-founder and executive director of the Dreamcatcher Foundation, and has sat on the board of numerous organizations. In 2020, she was selected to serve on the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Brenda’s work with Dreamcatcher and victims was the focus of the Sundance Award–winning documentary Dreamcatcher.

April Reynolds teaches philosophy and creative writing at New York University. Her first ...
Couple Found Slain

After a Family Murder

Mikita Brottman

Critically acclaimed author and psychoanalyst Mikita Brottman offers literary true-crime writing at its best, taking us into the life of a murderer after his conviction—when most stories end but ...

On February 21, 1992, twenty-two-year-old Brian Bechtold walked into a police station in Port St. Joe, Florida, and confessed that he’d shot and killed his parents in their family home in Silver Spring, Maryland. He said he’d been possessed by the devil. He was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia and ruled “not criminally responsible” for the murders on grounds of insanity.

But after the trial, where do the “criminally insane” go? Mikita Brottman reveals Brian’s inner life leading up to the murder, as well as his strange afterlife in a maximum-security psychiatric hospital, neither in prison nor free, where he remains incarcerated to this day. Her spare, fluid writing illuminates the underworld of forensic psych wards in America and the motivations and aspirations of those held there, often indefinitely.

Brottman has known Brian for years, and she weaves his story, her own history of depression and hospitalization, and those of other incarcerated people she has worked with into a fascinating, deeply intimate narrative about what it means to be innocent, guilty, or insane. In the tradition of One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Couple Found Slain takes us into underworld of forensic psych wards in America and the forgotten lives of those held there, often indefinitely.

PRAISE

Praise for An Unexplained Death

“This is a learned, lucid, and finally heartbreaking account of urban obsession. It’s David Fincher’s film Zodiac crossed with accounts of Judge Crater’s disappearance crossed with Ms. Brottman’s wild take on the unknowability of life and the necessity of staying obsessed. Ms. Brottman is a groove—and so is her book.”—James Ellroy

“[A] page-turning look at the darker impulses of the human psyche.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Brottman meticulously follows any and all threads she can . . . but Brottman’s book is, sneakily, more than just a true crime narrative.”—NPR

Mikita Brottman, PhD, is an Oxford-educated scholar and psychoanalyst and the author of several previous books, including An Unexplained Death, The Great Grisby, and The Maximum Security Book Club. She is a professor of humanities at the Maryland Institute Collee of Art in Baltimore.
Yoga Pant Nation

Laurie Gelman

The hilarious, irreverent Jen Dixon is class mom—again—for her son’s fifth grade year, and a class bully, spin-teacher training, and her irresistible granddaughter keep her on her toes and perpet...

The now beloved hero of Laurie Gelman’s Class Mom and You’ve Been Volunteered has a lot on her plate this year, from childcare duties for her daughter’s two-year-old to her determined mission to become a spin instructor. When her husband’s ex-wife shows up to her first ever class as a full-fledged teacher—and compliments her performance!—she can’t help but wonder what the catch is.

Throw in a mandate from the PTA president to raise $10,000 for the fifth graders’ new Chrome books and her daughter’s mother-in-law (whom no one has ever met) visiting for Christmas, and Jen is going to need more than her regular spin class to get her through the year. But as ever, humor is her best stress relief. Her acerbic emails to the class parents and friendly spars with her daughter over how organic is organic-enough for baby food will have you laughing out loud and texting Jen’s best lines to your friends.

PRAISE

Praise for Laurie Gelman

“Much as Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle exposed the seedy underside of the meatpacking industry, Class Mom exposes the underside of room parenting. . . . But, unlike The Jungle, Gelman’s novel gives readers a lot to laugh about, including some very, very funny emails. . . . In the end, it's impossible not to root for Jen as a fellow foot soldier in the guerrilla war against so-called perfect mothers.” —The New York Times Book Review

“Irreverent and hilarious.” —The New York Post

Laurie Gelman was born and raised in the Great White North. She spent twenty-five years as a broadcaster in both Canada and the United States before trying her hand at writing novels. The author of Class Mom and You’ve Been Volunteered, Laurie has appeared on Live with Kelly and Ryan, Watch What Happens Live, and The Talk, among others. She lives in New York City with her husband, Michael Gelman, and two teenage daughters.
T: The Story of Testosterone, the Hormone that Dominates and Divides Us

The Story of the Hormone that Dominates, Divides, and Drives Us

Carole Hooven

Harvard human evolutionary biologist Carole Hooven reveals the most cutting-edge research about testosterone to illuminate the real biology of masculinity and makes the case that understanding th...

Through accessible, riveting storytelling, Hooven tells the truth about testosterone. This seemingly unexceptional molecule made up of hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon is how evolution equips male animals to compete for mates—and humans are no exception. Testosterone drives many surprising aspects of human development and is also a major player in our sex lives, athletic abilities, career preferences, parenting styles, gender transitions, violent crime, and so much more.

In talking frankly about the hormone’s role in our lives, Hooven allays concerns that acknowledging testosterone’s power would validate pernicious gender stereotypes and the male-dominated status quo, ultimately blocking the road to a fairer society. She argues that the science of testosterone is nothing to fear. Instead, it helps us to better understand ourselves and each other, illuminating solutions to some of our most challenging problems and bridging gender and cultural divides.

T is a fascinating journey through human evolutionary biology, grounded in our everyday lives and relationships.

Carole Hooven, PhD, is lecturer and codirector of undergraduate studies in the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. She earned her PhD at Harvard, studying sex differences and testosterone, and has taught there ever since. Hooven has received numerous teaching awards, and her popular Hormones and Behavior class was named one of the Harvard Crimson’s “top ten tried and true.”
By Michael Punke, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Revenant—the basis for the Academy Award–winning film starring Leonardo DiCaprio—returns to the nineteenth-century western frontier ...

In December 1866, tensions were rising in Wyoming, between the Native American tribes who had lived on the land for generations and the settlers who would destroy their home. Crazy Horse and his fellow Lakota hunters had been watching for months as Colonel Carrington and his army set up camp on one of the most crucial swaths of hunting ground in hundreds of miles, and began to build forts. More disconcertingly, the settlers had brought women and children, which meant they planned to stay.

As the Lakota and neighboring tribes set forth with repeated attacks to discourage the settlers, Captain William J. Fetterman, anxious and arrogant, claimed that he could take offense and rid the area of Native American people with only a small army of eighty men. And he would—unless Crazy Horse could find a way to lure the army to their doom.

A story of protection and betrayal, of courage, wit, and perseverance against unfathomable odds, Ridgeline grapples with essential questions about who owns land: those who are born on it, or those who would kill to claim it.

Praise for Michael Punke

“Punke has added considerably to our understanding of human endurance and of the men who pushed west in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark—a significant feat.”—The Washington Post Book World

“One of the great tales of the nineteenth-century West.”—The Salt Lake Tribune

Michael Punke is the author of four books including The Revenant, #1 New York Times bestseller and basis for the Academy Award–winning film. In his diverse professional career, Punke has served as the US ambassador to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, history correspondent for the Montana Quarterly, and an adjunct professor at the University of Montana. As a high school and college student, he worked summers as a “living history interpreter” at Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming...
The Council of Animals

Nick McDonell

Roald Dahl meets Animal Farm in national bestselling author Nick McDonell’s The Council of Animals, a uniquely witty and waggish fable—with illustrations by Steven Tabbutt—in which a cat, a dog, ...

First came the pandemic, then came The Calamity. The few remaining humans are huddled in impoverished villages. The animals, meanwhile, have convened a gathering, each group sending a representative to debate and vote on whether to help the last human stragglers . . . or to kill and eat them.

As each animal makes its case, the fate of humanity depends on whether each species will act in its own self-interest, or if they will follow the lead of the kindly bear who believes that humans can be rehabilitated. The impending decision forces each animal to confront their past traumas at the hands of the humans while also putting them in the position to reign over the other subspecies—rodents and insects—if they so choose. The desire for power, deeply ingrained prejudices, and glimmers of righteousness guide the members of the council as they work to establish a new world order.

Nick McDonell, born in 1984, is a writer of novels, journalism, and political theory. He studied literature at Harvard and international relations at St. Anthony’s College, Oxford. His fiction has been published in twenty-two languages and appeared on bestseller lists around the world. A film adaptation of his first novel, Twelve, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2010. His academic work on nomadism—The Civilization of Perpetual Movement—was published in 2016 by Hurst & Co. and distrib...
Valedictorians at the Gate

Standing Out, Getting In, and Staying Sane While Applying to College

Becky Munsterer Sabky

A former Ivy League admissions officer shares her stories from the frontlines of the admissions wars and offers advice on how to stand out, get in, and most importantly, stay true to yourself as ...

When Becky Munsterer Sabky was a college senior she was rejected by her dream school, Dartmouth. She had done everything right. Checked every box. Played on every team. And yet still she received, “the thin envelope.” A decade later she was the one helping to make the admissions decisions for the Ivy League university. Drawing back the curtain, Valedictorians at the Gate is a behind-the-scenes look at how best to prepare for the admissions process, from the first day of high school to welcome weekend on campus, with the needed perspective to stay true to yourself, and discover your passions as you battle the other valedictorians at the gate.

Written with actionable advice (do take the SATs multiple times; don’t write your college essay about Hermione Granger), Valedictorians at the Gate answers the questions of just who to ask for a college recommendation (a note from a janitor will turn more heads than a form letter from the chair of the math department), just what to do on campus visits (have the student ask the questions, not their mom and dad), and what curriculum to take (if you like art, go for it over AP physics). This is the book every student and parent wishes to have by their side as they navigate the immensely competitive, and confusing, process of selecting a college.

Perfect for both prospective students, and (hopefully-not-helicoptering) parents, Sabky infuses her wisdom gleaned from years making the tough admission...
The End of Bias: A Beginning

The New Science of Overcoming Unconscious Bias

Jessica Nordell

Implicit bias: persistent, unintentional prejudiced behavior that clashes with our consciously held beliefs. We know that it exists, to corrosive and even lethal effect. We see it in schools, where teachers are more likely to find slim children intelligent. We see it in medicine, where women—especially women of color—receive less pain treatment than men. And as we know from the police killings of so many Black people in America, bias can be deadly. But are we able to step beyond recognition of our prejudice to actually change it?

With over ten years’ immersion in the topic, Jessica Nordell digs deep into the cognitive science, social psychology, and developmental research that underpin current efforts to change unintentional bias by changing our behavior. She examines diversity training, deployed across the land as a corrective but with dubious results. She then explores what works and why: the meditation used at a police department in Oregon that helps officers transform their emotional responses; the diagnostic checklist adopted by doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital to prevent bias in treatment; and the preschool in Sweden, where teachers are trained to avoid stereotyping children.

Biased behavior can be changed, and we already know how to do it.

Includes illustrated charts

PRAISE

On “Is This How Discrimination Ends?” (Atlantic)

“Well-researched, accurate, and thoughtful . . . a model for good, responsible social science journalism.”

—Amy Cuddy, author of Presence: Bringing Your Boldest Self to Your Biggest Challenges

“Unconscious bias is one of the most pressing problems of our time. I’ve devoured everything I can find on how to solve it, and Jessica Nordell’s Atlantic article was the single most fascinating and useful exploration of it that I’ve read. Ever.”

—Adam Grant, author of Originals

Jessica Nordell is a science and culture journalist whose essays on implicit bias have appeared in the Atlantic, the New York Times, the New Republic, and many other publications. A former NPR producer and creative director for Cheerios and Nike, she is the only writer whose beat is the cognitive phenomena of bias and discrimination and is much in demand as a speaker on the subject.
On Consolation

Finding Solace in Dark Times

Michael Ignatieff

Timely and profound philosophical meditations on how great figures in history, literature, music, and art searched for solace while facing tragedies and crises, from the internationally renowned...

When we lose someone we love, when we suffer loss or defeat, when catastrophe strikes—war, famine, pandemic—we go in search of consolation. Once the province of priests and philosophers, the language of consolation has largely vanished from our modern vocabulary, and the places where it was offered, houses of religion, are often empty. Rejecting the solace of ancient religious texts, humanity since the sixteenth century has increasingly placed its faith in science, ideology, and the therapeutic.

How do we console each other and ourselves in an age of unbelief? In a series of lapidary meditations on writers, artists, musicians, and their works—from the books of Job and Psalms to Albert Camus, Anna Akhmatova, and Primo Levi—esteemed writer and historian Michael Ignatieff shows how men and women in extremity have looked to each other across time to recover hope and resilience. Recreating the moments when great figures found the courage to confront their fate and the determination to continue unafraid, On Consolation takes those stories into the present, movingly contending that we can revive these traditions of consolation to meet the anguish and uncertainties of our precarious twenty-first century.

PRAISE

Praise for The Warrior’s Honor

“One of the most thoughtful commentators on an issue which seems certain to dominate the early decades of the coming century.”—The New York Review of Books

“Ignatieff’s argument is to my mind irresistible.”—The New York Times Book Review

Praise for Isaiah Berlin

“A model biography of the man of ideas.”—The New York Times

“Remarkable. It cannot be overstated how sublimely Ignatieff takes the measure of this man.”—The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Rarely were biographer and subject better matched.”—Los Angeles Times
Smahtguy
The Life and Times of Barney Frank

Eric Orner

Eric Orner, the acclaimed cartoonist of the country’s earliest and longest-running gay comic strip, The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Greene, presents his debut graphic novel—a dazzling,...

What are the odds that a disheveled, zaftig, closeted kid with the thickest of Jersey accents might wind up running Boston on behalf of a storied Irish Catholic political machine, drafting the nation’s first gay rights laws, reforming Wall Street after the Great Recession, and finding love, after a lifetime assuming that he couldn't and wouldn’t?

In Smahtguy: The Life and Times of Barney Frank, America’s first out member of Congress and gay and civil rights crusader for an era is confirmed as a hero of our age. But more than a biography of an indispensable LGBTQ pioneer, this funny, beautifully rendered, warts-and-all graphic account reveals the down-and-dirty inner workings of Boston and DC politics.

As Frank’s longtime staff counsel and press secretary, Eric Orner lends his first-hand perspective to this extraordinary work of history, paying tribute to the mighty striving of committed liberals to defend ordinary Americans from an assault on their shared society.

PRAISE
“Fresh and gripping, from an artist working at the height of his powers.”
—Alison Bechdel, author of Fun Home

Eric Orner is a former Congressional aide to Barney Frank and the acclaimed author of The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Greene, the country’s first and longest-running gay comic strip. A feature film of the same title appeared in 2005, the same year that Orner retired the comic strip. Orner has also published comic strips and illustrations in the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the New Republic. His cartoon story “Weekends Abroad” was included in Houg...
After the Apocalypse

America’s Role in a World Transformed

Andrew J. Bacevich

A bold and urgent perspective on how American foreign policy must change in response to the shifting world order of the twenty-first century, from the New York Times bestselling author of The Lim...

The purpose of U.S. foreign policy has, at least theoretically, been to keep Americans safe. Yet as we confront a radically changed world, it has become indisputably clear that the terms of that policy have failed. Washington’s insistence that a market economy is compatible with the common good, its faith in the idea of the “West” and its “special relationships,” its conviction that global military primacy is the key to a stable and sustainable world order—these have brought endless wars and a succession of moral and material disasters.

In a bold reconception of America’s place in the world, informed by thinking from across the political spectrum, Andrew Bacevich—founder and president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a bipartisan Washington think tank dedicated to foreign policy—lays down a new approach—one that is based on moral pragmatism, mutual coexistence, and war as a last resort. Confronting the threats of the future—accelerating climate change, a shift in the international balance of power, and the ascendance of information technology over brute weapons of war—his vision calls for nothing less than a profound overhaul of our understanding of national security.

Crucial and provocative, After the Apocalypse sets out new principles to guide the once-but-no-longer sole superpower as it navigates a transformed world.

PRAISE

Praise for Washington Rules

“Tough-minded, bracing, and intelligent . . . The country is lucky to have a fierce, smart peacemonger like Bacevich.”—The New York Times Book Review

“Brilliant . . . Excellent . . . Bacevich’s advice is all the more cogent since it comes from a former soldier.”—The Washington Post

“Eloquent and, above all, passionate . . . Any serious foreign-policy thinker should heed his call.” —Newsweek

Andrew Bacevich is the author of The Limits of Power, Washington Rules, and, most recently, The Age of Illusions: How America Squandered Its Cold War Victory. His writings have appeared in the New York Times, the London Review of Books, and the American Conservative, among other publications. Having served in the army for twenty-three years, he is currently a professor emeritus of history and international relations at Boston University and founder and president of the Quincy Institute for Res...
Public Health Saved Your Life Today
A Doctor's Journey on the Frontlines of Medicine and Social Justice
Leana Wen

Public health commissioner Leana Wen gives an insider’s account of public health and its crucial role—from opioid addiction to global pandemic—and tells an inspiring story of her journey from hom...

“Public health saved your life today—you just don’t know it,” is a phrase that Leana Wen likes to use. You don’t know it because good public health is invisible. It becomes visible only in its absence, when it is underfunded and ignored, a bitter truth laid bare as never before by the carnage of Covid-19.

From the frontlines of public health crises, Leana Wen—emergency doctor, health commissioner for Baltimore, and former president of Planned Parenthood—has led the fight against the opioid epidemic, outbreaks of infectious disease, infant mortality, and Covid-19 disinformation. Here in vivid detail, drawing on her deep experience, Wen unveils the invisible hand of public health, showing how it uniquely encompasses science, advocacy, medicine, and politics; how innovative programs can treat gun violence as a contagious disease and racism as a health issue; how public health plays a key role in protecting the vulnerable and keeping streets safe. It is public health, she insists, that ensures that citizens are not robbed of decades of life, and that where children live does not determine whether they live.

Leana Wen’s own story is a uniquely American one, of a child refugee from China whose parents relied on food stamps and were at times homeless. That child went on to attend college at thirteen, graduate from medical school, and turn to public health as the way to make a differenc...

PRAISE

*Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People, 2019
*Modern Healthcare’s 50 Most Influential Physician Executives
*A World Economic Forum Young Global Leader
*Governing’s Public Official of the Year

“Leana Wen is the fierce visionary I want fighting on behalf of all of us.”
—Cynthia Nixon, citation for the 2019 Time 100

“Interacting with Wen is a bit like swallowing a lit firecracker. Except instead of killing you, her force makes you feel smarter and healthier.” —The Atlantic

“One of the most aggressive and innovative public health officials in the nation.”
Accidental Gods

On Men Unwittingly Turned Divine

Anna Della Subin

A provocative history of men who were worshipped as gods that illuminates the connection between power and religion and the role of divinity in a secular age

Ever since 1492, when Christopher Columbus made landfall in the New World and was hailed as a heavenly being, the accidental god has haunted the modern age. From Haile Selassie, acclaimed as the Living God in Jamaica, to Britain’s Prince Philip, who became the unlikely center of a new religion on a South Pacific island, men made divine—always men—have appeared on every continent. And because these deifications always emerge at moments of turbulence—civil wars, imperial conquest, revolutions—they have much to teach us.

In a revelatory history spanning five centuries, a cast of surprising deities helps to shed light on the thorny questions of how our modern concept of “religion” was invented; why religion and politics are perpetually entangled in our supposedly secular age; and how the power to call someone divine has been used and abused by both oppressors and the oppressed. Moving from Guatemala to Korea to India, historian Anna Della Subin explores how such cults arise and shows how deification has served colonized peoples as a means of defiance. Conversely, we see how Columbus, Cortés, and other white explorers amplified stories of their godhood to justify their dominion over native peoples, setting into motion the currents of racism and exclusion that have plagued the New World ever since they touched its shores.

At once deeply learned and delightfully antic, Accidental Gods offers an unusual keyhole through which to observe...

Sexual Justice
Supporting Victims, Ensuring Due Process, and Resisting the Conservative Backlash

Alexandra Brodsky

A pathbreaking work for the #MeToo era, laying out a better response to sexual harms that includes due process for the accused

In the past few years, an astonishing number of sexual harassment victims have come forward with their stories, demanding consequences for their assailants and broad societal change. Each prominent allegation, however, has also set off a wave of questions—some posed in good faith, some distinctly not—about the rights of the accused. As a result, the national conversation about the rights of victims and alleged abusers has grown unduly polarized, inflamed by a public narrative that wrongly presents feminism and fair process as warring interests.

Sexual Justice is an intervention, pointing the way to common ground. As civil rights attorney Alexandra Brodsky makes clear, smart procedures for addressing allegations can let schools and workplaces promote both equality and fairness for all. But, she warns us, we should be wary of the anti-feminist backlash, which hijacks the rhetoric of due process to obscure its true goals: protecting abusers and rolling back progress on sexual harassment.

Drawing on popular culture, notorious cases from the news, and the personal experiences of sexual assault survivors and advocates, Sexual Justice shows that fair process can—indeed, must—be a core part of the Me Too movement. Introducing the legal theories and forgotten histories that explain our current predicament, it illuminates the way to a more just world.

PRAISE
Praise for The Feminist Utopia Project

“This book shows a state-of-the-art feminism where human experience meshes with institutional policy and public life.”
—Chris Kraus, author of I Love Dick

“The collection’s diverse visions and the applause-worthy, rallying intro prove that we might not have to wait for these dreams to become real.”
—Bust

Alexandra Brodsky is a civil rights lawyer with deep ties to the student movement to end campus gender violence. She holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and clerked for the Honorable Marsha S. Berzon on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Brodsky has written about sexual assault for the New York Times, the Guardian, the Washington Post, and the Atlantic, among many other publications. She lives in New York.
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