Death and Mr. Pickwick
A Novel

Stephen Jarvis

A momentous imaginative work and a true literary page-turner

Death and Mr. Pickwick is the story of stories. Or, to be more precise, the story of the creation of The Pickwick Papers, a novel so popular that its only rival for readers for much of the last two centuries was the Bible. But this novel, based on the life of the artist Robert Seymour, the caricaturist behind Pickwick, and the extraordinary events surrounding the birth of Charles Dickens’s first novel, departs from the accepted origin of Pickwick put forward by Dickens and his publisher, Edward Chapman. And it does so for good reason: the accepted origin is a lie.

Seymour, a boy of prodigious charm and talent, had the rough-and-tumble youth of a Pip or an Artful Dodger. Once his skill at drawing is recognized, he’s apprenticed to a designer, who introduces him to the world of the Victorian illustrator and printmaker. Living a bohemian life in an Islington garret, he falls for Wonk, a fellow apprentice, and struggles to make his way in industrial London. But illustration is a racket filled with intrigues. As he becomes involved in the invention of Pickwick, Seymour descends into the cutthroat world of art and letters.

Written with stunning prose and sublime storytelling by the debut novelist Stephen Jarvis, Death and Mr. Pickwick is a monumental work of the imagination, and a tale of the ugliness hiding under the surface of beauty in the tradition of Cervantes, Nabokov, and, of course, Dickens.

Stephen Jarvis was born in Essex, England. Following graduate studies at Oxford University, he quickly tired of his office job and began doing unusual things on weekends and writing about them for The Daily Telegraph. These activities included the flying trapeze, walking on red-hot coals, getting hypnotized to revisit past lives, and entering the British Snuff-Taking Championship. This led to his books The Bizarre Leisure Book and The Ultimate Guide to Unusual Leisure. Death and Mr. Pickwick is his first novel. He lives in Maidenhead, Berkshire, England.
The Odd Woman and the City
A Memoir
Vivian Gornick

A contentious, deeply moving ode to friendship, love, and urban life in the spirit of Fierce Attachments

A memoir of self-discovery and the dilemma of connection in our time, The Odd Woman and the City explores the rhythms, chance encounters, and ever-changing friendships of urban life that forge the sensibility of a fiercely independent woman who has lived out her conflicts, not her fantasies, in a city (New York) that has done the same. Running steadily through the book is Vivian Gornick’s exchange of more than twenty years with Leonard, a gay man who is sophisticated about his own unhappiness, whose friendship has "shed more light on the mysterious nature of ordinary human relations than has any other intimacy" she has known. The exchange between Gornick and Leonard acts as a Greek chorus to the main action of the narrator’s continual engagement on the street with grocers, derelicts, and doormen; people on the bus, cross-dressers on the corner, and acquaintances by the handful. In Leonard she sees herself reflected plain; out on the street she makes sense of what she sees.

Written as a narrative collage that includes meditative pieces on the making of a modern feminist, the role of the flaneur in urban literature, and the evolution of friendship over the past two centuries, The Odd Woman and the City beautifully bookends Gornick’s acclaimed Fierce Attachments, in which we first encountered her rich relationship with the ultimate metropolis.

Vivian Gornick is the bestselling author of the acclaimed memoir Fierce Attachments, a biography of Emma Goldman, and three essay collections: The Men in My Life, Approaching Eye Level, and The End of the Novel of Love, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

PRAISE

Praise for Vivian Gornick

"One of the most vital and indispensable essayists of our cultural moment." — Phillip Lopate

"Vivian Gornick’s prose is so penetrating that reading it can be almost painful." — Susie Linfield, Los Angeles Times

"Reading [Gornick] is a thrilling, invigorating, challenging experience." — Barbara Fisher, The Boston Sund...
The Making of Zombie Wars
A Novel

Aleksandar Hemon

The seriously, seriously funny roller-coaster ride of sex and violence that Aleksandar Hemon has long promised

Script idea #142: Aliens undercover as cabbies abduct the fiancée of the main character, who has to find a way to a remote planet to save her. Title: Love Trek.

Script idea #185: Teenager discovers his girlfriend’s beloved grandfather was a guard in a Nazi death camp. The boy’s grandparents are survivors, but he’s tantalizingly close to achieving deflowerment, so when a Nazi hunter arrives in town in pursuit of Grandpa, he has to distract him long enough to get laid. A riotous Holocaust comedy. Title: The Righteous Love.

Script idea #196: Rock star high out of his mind freaks out during a show, runs offstage, and is lost in streets crowded with his hallucinations. The teenage fan who finds him keeps the rock star for himself for the night. Mishaps and adventures follow. This one could be a musical: Singin’ in the Brain.

Josh Levin is an aspiring screenwriter teaching ESL classes in Chicago. His laptop is full of ideas, but the only one to really take root is Zombie Wars. When Josh comes home to discover his landlord, an unhinged army vet, rifling through his dirty laundry, he decides to move in with his girlfriend, Kimmy. It’s domestic bliss for a moment, but Josh becomes entangled with a student, a Bosnian woman named Ana, whose husband is jealous and violent. Disaster ensues, and as Josh’s choices move from silly to profoundly absurd, The Making of Zombie Wars takes on real consequence.

Aleksandar Hemon is the author of The Lazarus Project, which was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award; The Book of My Lives, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and three books of short stories, including Nowhere Man, which was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Genius Grant from the MacArthur Foundation. He lives in Chicago.

PRAISE

Praise for The Book of My Lives

"An extraordinary story." —The New Yorker

"At once unimaginable and unforgettable." —Time, a Best Book of the Year
The Fellowship

Philip Zaleski and Carol Zaleski

A stirring group biography of the Inklings, the Oxford writing club featuring J.R.R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis is the twentieth century’s most widely read Christian writer and J.R.R. Tolkien its most beloved mythmaker. For three decades, they and their closest associates formed a literary club known as the Inklings, which met weekly in Lewis’s Oxford rooms and a nearby pub. They read aloud from works in progress, argued about anything that caught their fancy, and gave one another invaluable companionship, inspiration, and criticism.

In The Fellowship, Philip and Carol Zaleski offer the first complete rendering of the Inklings’ lives and works. Lewis maps the medieval mind, accepts Christ while riding in the sidecar of his brother’s motorcycle, becomes a world-famous evangelist and moral satirist, and creates new forms of religiously attuned fiction while wrestling with personal crises. Tolkien transmutes an invented mythology into a breathtaking story in The Lord of the Rings, while conducting groundbreaking Old English scholarship and elucidating the Catholic teachings at the heart of his vision. This extraordinary group biography also focuses on Charles Williams, strange acolyte of Romantic love, and Owen Barfield, an esoteric philosopher who became, for a time, Saul Bellow’s guru. Romantics who scorned rebellion, fantasists who prized sanity, Christians with cosmic reach, the Inklings sought to revitalize literature and faith in the twentieth century’s darkest years—and did so.

Philip Zaleski and Carol Zaleski are the coauthors of Prayer: A History and The Book of Heaven. Philip is also the former editor of the Best American Spiritual Writing series. Carol is the author of several books and a professor of religion at Smith College.

PRAISE

Praise for Prayer: A History

"A finely written, accessible, and informative thematic history of prayer." — Library Journal

"A rich study . . . [The Zaleskis] rival Karen Armstrong in their lucid prose and expansive vision." — Kirkus Reviews
A novel of the improbable friendship that arises between a Nazi officer and a Jewish chessplayer in Auschwitz

SS Obersturmführer Paul Meissner arrives in Auschwitz from the Russian front wounded and fit only for administrative duty. His most pressing task is to improve camp morale and he establishes a chess club, and allows officers and enlisted men to gamble on the games. Soon Meissner learns that chess is also played among the prisoners, and there are rumors of an unbeatable Jew known as "the Watchmaker." Meissner's superiors begin to demand that he demonstrate German superiority by pitting this undefeated Jew against the best Nazi players. Meissner finds Emil Clément, the Watchmaker, and a curious relationship arises between them. As more and more games are played, the stakes rise, and the two men find their fates deeply entwined. Twenty years later, the two meet again in Amsterdam—Meissner has become a bishop, and Emil is playing in an international chess tournament. Having lost his family in the horrors of the death camps, Emil wants nothing to do with the ex-Nazi officer despite their history, but Meissner is persistent. "What I hope," he tells Emil, "is that I can help you to understand that the power of forgiveness will bring healing." As both men search for a modicum of peace, they recall a gripping tale of survival and trust.

A suspenseful meditation on understanding and guilt, John Donoghue's *The Death's Head Chess Club* is a bold debut and a rich portrait of a surprising friendship.

*John Donoghue* has published numerous articles about the treatment of mental illness in a variety of medical journals. He lives in Liverpool and this is his first novel.
Bluestone
New and Selected Poems

James Lasdun

A generous selection that shows the poet James Lasdun at his lyrically inventive best

Two men grapple with jumper cables, trying "to make a stand // in this last corner of our realm; machinery . . ." A man on his way to see his therapist encounters a female police officer in an elevator and feels himself regressing to "the original essence, the masculine / criminal salt." A teenager is tricked into eating a spoonful of lime pickle by his girlfriend’s father. An Englishman in the Catskills ponders the nature of exile, is chased by yellow jackets, gets a haircut. James Lasdun’s subjects are often quotidian—but his treatment of them never is. Under his transformative gaze, the familiar becomes strange, the local becomes foreign, and the minor becomes epic.

Lasdun has been winning acclaim since his first collection, 1988’s A Jump Start—Helen Vendler has lauded his ability to give "brisk shape to contemporary and classical events"; The New York Times has praised the "sharp, slicing imagery" of his work. Now, in Bluestone, which selects from all three of his previous collections and includes poems from his fourth, Water Sessions, previously available only in the U.K., readers will be able to appreciate the full sweep of this capacious talent: his delicate wit, his gift for invention, his keen observational eye. It is a gathering that affirms Lasdun’s position as, to quote Anthony Hecht, one of "the most gifted, vivid, and deft poets now writing in English."

James Lasdun was born in London and now lives in upstate New York. He has published two novels as well as several collections of short stories and poetry. He has been long-listed for the Man Booker Prize and short-listed for the Los Angeles Times, T. S. Eliot, and Forward prizes in poetry, and he was the winner of the inaugural BBC National Short Story Award. His nonfiction has been published in Harper’s Magazine, Granta, and the London Review of Books.

PRAISE

Praise for Landscape with Chainsaw

Bluestone
New and Selected Poems
James Lasdun

A generous selection that shows the poet James Lasdun at his lyrically inventive best

Two men grapple with jumper cables, trying “to make a stand // in this last corner of our realm; machinery . . .” A man on his way to see his therapist encounters a female police officer in an elevator and feels himself regressing to “the original essence, the masculine / criminal salt.” A teenager is tricked into eating a spoonful of lime pickle by his girlfriend’s father. An Englishman in the Catskills ponders the nature of exile, is chased by yellow jackets, gets a haircut. James Lasdun’s subjects are often mundane—but his treatment of them never is. Under his transformative gaze, the familiar becomes strange, the local becomes foreign, and the minor becomes epic.

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PRAISE

Praise for Landscape with Chainsaw

The Anchoress
A Novel

Robyn Cadwallader

A startling and strange debut novel about a young girl’s desperate choice to isolate herself from the world

England, 1255: Sarah is only seventeen when she chooses to become an anchoress, a holy woman much like Saint Hildegard of Bingen, shut away in a small cell, measuring seven by nine paces, at the side of the village church. Fleeing the grief of losing a much-loved sister in childbirth and the pressure to marry, she decides to renounce the world, with all its dangers, desires, and temptations, and to commit herself to a life of prayer. But it soon becomes clear that even the thick, unforgiving walls of her cell cannot keep the outside world away, and Sarah’s body and soul are still in great danger.

Robyn Cadwallader’s powerful debut novel tells an absorbing, entirely human, and compulsively readable story of faith, desire, shame, fear, and the very human need for connection and touch. Compelling, evocative, and haunting, The Anchoress is both quietly heartbreaking and thrillingly unpredictable.

Robyn Cadwallader has published numerous prizewinning short stories and reviews, as well as a book of poetry and a nonfiction book based on her PhD thesis concerning attitudes toward virginity and women in the Middle Ages. She lives among vineyards outside Canberra, Australia, when not traveling to England for research and visiting ancient archaeological sites along the way.

PRAISE

"Robyn Cadwallader does the real work of historical fiction, creating a detailed, sensuous and richly imagined shard of the past. She has successfully placed her narrator, the anchoress, in that tantalizing, precarious, delicate realm: convincingly of her own distant era, yet emotionally engaging and vividly present to us in our own." —Ge...
The Road In Is Not the Same Road Out
Poems
Karen Solie

A profound new collection from one of poetry’s rising stars

"Introducing Karen Solie, I would adapt what Joseph Brodsky said some thirty years ago of the great Les Murray: ‘. . . He is, quite simply, the one by whom the language lives.’ . . . And, yes, as we embark on the third millennium of our so-called Common Era, she is indeed the one by whom the language lives." — Michael Hofmann, London Review of Books

A sublime singer of existential bewilderment, Karen Solie is one of contemporary poetry’s most direct and haunting voices. A poet of the in-between places—the purgatory of wayside motels and junkyards, the abandoned Calgary ski jump and the eternal noon of Walmart—her poems stake out startlingly new territory and are songs for our emerging world, an age of uncertainty and melting icebergs.

In Solie’s new collection, The Road In Is Not the Same Road Out, she restlessly excavates our civilization, the moments of tough luck, casual violence, naked desire, and inchoate menace, pursuing "Beauty and terror / in equal measure" and fixing on the "Intrigue of a boarded-up building. / We want to get in there and find out what’s the matter with it." Amplifying the elegant recklessness of her Griffin Poetry Prize–winning collection Pigeon, these poems bear an uncanny poetic intelligence and unflinching vision.

Karen Solie was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Her collections include Short Haul Engine, Modern and Normal, Pigeon, and The Living Option. She has received the Griffin Poetry Prize, the Pat Lowther Award, and the Trillium Book Award for Poetry. The Living Option was named one of the best poetry books of 2013 by the National Post (Toronto) and The Independent (London). Solie lives in Toronto, Canada.

PRAISE

Praise for Karen Solie

"Solie’s work should be read wherever English is read." —Michael Hofmann, London Review of Books
Why Grow Up?
Subversive Thoughts for an Infantile Age

Susan Neiman

A wry and witty meditation on modernity's obsession with youth and its denigration of maturity

In Why Grow Up? the philosopher Susan Neiman asks not just why one should grow up but how. In making her case she draws chiefly from the thought of Kant and Rousseau, who articulated very different theories on the proper way to "come of age." But these thinkers complement each other in seeking a "path between mindlessly accepting everything you're told and mindlessly rejecting it," and in learning to live without despair in a world marked by painful realities and uncertainties.

Neiman challenges both those who dogmatically privilege innocence and those who see youth as weakness. Her chief opponents are those who equate maturity with cynicism. "In our day it is more common to meet people who are stuck in the mire of adolescence. The world turns out not to reflect the idea and ideals they had for it? So much the worse for ideals."

To move beyond these immature positions, Neiman writes, is not simply to lapse into quiet resignation but to learn to take joy and satisfaction in what can be done and known, and to face rather than feel defeated by our inevitable limits.

Susan Neiman is a moral philosopher and essayist. She is the author of several books, including Moral Clarity: A Guide for Grown-Up Idealists and Evil in Modern Thought: An Alternative History of Philosophy. She is currently the director of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam.

PRAISE

Praise for Susan Neiman

"[Neiman] is not only a fine analyst but an acute stylist too, both scintillating and self-disciplined—a very rare thing in a philosopher." —Jonathan Rée, The Times Literary Supplement
The New World
A Novel

Chris Adrian and Eli Horowitz

An innovative story of love, decapitation, cryogenics, and memory by two of our most creative literary minds

Jorie has just received some terrible news. A phone full of missed calls and sympathetic text messages seem to indicate that her husband, Jim, a chaplain at the hospital where she works as a surgeon, is dead. Only, not quite—rather, his head has been removed from his body and cryogenically frozen. Jim awakes to find himself in an altogether unique situation, to say the least: his body gone but his consciousness alive, his only companion a mysterious, disembodied voice.

In this surreal and unexpectedly moving work, Chris Adrian and Eli Horowitz spin a tale of loss and adjustment, death and reawakening. Simultaneously fabulist and achingly human, The New World finds Jorie grieving the husband she knew while Jim wrestles with the meaning of life after death. Conceived in collaboration with Atavist Books, The New World interrogates love and loss in the digital era.

Chris Adrian is the author of The Great Night, Gob’s Grief, The Children’s Hospital, and A Better Angel. Selected by The New Yorker as one of its 20 Under 40, he lives in Brooklyn, New York. Eli Horowitz was the managing editor and then publisher of McSweeney’s for eight years. The author of The Silent History, he is also the coauthor of The Clock Without a Face, a treasure-hunt mystery, and Everything You Know Is Pong, an illustrated cultural history of Ping-Pong, and his design work has been honored by I.D., Print, and the American Institute of Graphic Arts. He lives in San Francisco.
In his brilliantly enjoyable and freewheeling new book, John Gray draws together the religious, philosophic, and fantastical traditions that question the very idea of human freedom. We flatter ourselves about the nature of free will and yet the most enormous forces—logical, physical, metaphysical—constrain our every action. Many writers and intellectuals have always understood this, but instead of embracing our condition we battle against it, with everyone from world conquerors to modern scientists dreaming of a "human dominion" almost comically at odds with our true state.

Filled with wonderful examples and drawing on the widest possible reading (from the Gnostics to Philip K. Dick), The Soul of the Marionette is a stimulating and engaging meditation on everything from cybernetics to the fairground marionettes of the title.

John Gray is the author of many critically acclaimed books, including The Silence of Animals, The Immortalization Commission, Black Mass, and Straw Dogs. A regular contributor to The New York Review of Books, he has been a professor of politics at Oxford, visiting professor at Harvard and Yale, and professor of European thought at the London School of Economics. He now writes full-time.

Praise for Straw Dogs

"This powerful and brilliant book is an essential guide to the new millennium. Straw Dogs challenges all our assumptions about what it is to be human, and convincingly shows that most of them are delusions." —J. G. Ballard
Shoot straight from the hip. Tell it like it is. Keep it real.

We love these commands, especially in America, because they invoke what we love to believe: that there is an authentic self to which we can be true. But while we mock Tricky Dick and Slick Willie, we are inventing identities on Facebook, paying thousands for plastic surgeries, tuning into news that simply verifies our opinions. This is frontier forthrightness gone dreamy: reality bites, after all, and faith-based initiatives trump reality-based ones, and becoming disillusioned is a downer.

In his new book, part memoir, part cultural analysis, Keep It Fake: Inventing an Authentic Life, Eric G. Wilson clarifies this confusion. He draws on neuroscience, psychology, sociology, philosophy, art, film, literature, and his own life to explore the possibility that there’s no such thing as unwavering reality. Whether our left brains are shaping the raw data of our right into fabulous stories, or we are so saturated by society’s conventions that we’re always acting out prefab scripts, we can’t help but be phony.

But are some fakes more real than others? Are certain lies true? In lively prose—honest, provocative, erudite, witty, wide-ranging (as likely to riff on Bill Murray as to contemplate Plato)—Keep It Fake answers these questions, uncovering bracing truths about what it means to be human and helping us turn our necessary lying into artful living.

The Unfortunates
A Novel

Sophie McManus

The riveting, hilarious, and epic story of a prominent American family on the cusp of ruin

This extraordinary debut novel by Sophie McManus is a contemporary American tragedy of breathtaking scope: a dramatic story of pharmaceutical drug trials and Wall Street corruption; of pride and prejudice; of paranoia and office politics; of inheritance, influence, class, and power.

Cecilia Somner’s fate hangs in the balance. A larger-than-life heiress to a robber baron’s fortune, once known for her cruel wit as much as for her tremendous generosity, CeCe is now in opulent decline. Afflicted with a rare disease and touched by mortality for the first time, her gilded, bygone values collide with an unforgiving present. Along with her troubled son, George, and his outsider wife, Iris, CeCe must face the Somners’ dark legacy and the corrupting nature of wealth. As the Somner family struggles to find a solution to its troubles, the secrets and lies between CeCe, George, and Iris grow entangled. CeCe’s world topples, culminating in a crime as unforgettable as it is unexpected.

While no riches can put things right for the unfortunate Somners, when all is lost, they learn what life beyond the long, shimmering shadow cast by the Somner dynasty may become. The Unfortunates, hilarious and heartbreaking by turns, is most of all a meditation on love: as delusional obsession, as transformation, and ultimately as a coming to grace.

Sophie McManus was born in New York City and is a graduate of Vassar College and Sarah Lawrence College’s MFA program. She is a recipient of fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Saltonstall Foundation, and the Jentel Foundation. Her work has appeared in American Short Fiction and Tin House, among other publications. The Unfortunates is her first book.

PRAISE

"In finely etched detail as sharp as shards of glass, McManus reveals in The Unfortunates the corrupting power of wealth and the myriad ways it infects individual lives and families. It is as relevant as it is compulsively readable." — Amanda Coplin, author of The Orchardist
Parallax
And Selected Poems

Sinéad Morrissey

A T. S. Eliot Prize–winning collection from one of Ireland’s major contemporary poets

PARALLAX: (Astron.) Apparent displacement, or difference in the apparent position, of an object, caused by actual change (or difference) of position of the point of observation. (OED)

In Parallax Sinéad Morrissey documents what is caught, and what is lost, when houses and cityscapes, servants and saboteurs (“the different people who lived in sepia”), are arrested in time by photography (or poetry), subjected to the authority of a particular perspective. Assured and disquieting, Morrissey’s poems explore the paradoxes in what is seen, read, and misread in the surfaces of the presented world.

Sinéad Morrissey was born in 1972 and grew up in Belfast. She is the author of five poetry collections: There Was Fire in Vancouver, Between Here and There, The State of the Prisons, Through the Square Window, and Parallax. She has been the recipient of the 2013 T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry, the Patrick Kavanagh Award, the Irish Times/Poetry Now Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, and first prize in the 2007 U.K. National Poetry Competition. She lectures in creative writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen’s University in Belfast, and is Belfast’s first poet laureate.

PRAISE

“Parallax is something of a treasure trove . . . Morrissey’s poetic framings and exposures of author, reader/viewer, and object in dynamic and angular relation to each other make her a compelling advocate, and exemplary practitioner, of both seeing and doing things differently.” —Fran Brearton, The Guardian
Notes on the Death of Culture
Essays on Spectacle and Society

Mario Vargas Llosa; Edited and Translated from the Spanish by John King

A provocative essay collection that finds the Nobel laureate taking on the decline of intellectual life

In the past, culture was a kind of vital consciousness that constantly rejuvenated and revived everyday reality. Now it is largely a mechanism of distraction and entertainment. *Notes on the Death of Culture* is an examination and indictment of this transformation—penned by none other than Mario Vargas Llosa, who is not only one of our finest novelists but one of the keenest social critics at work today.

Taking his cues from T. S. Eliot—whose essay “Notes Toward a Definition of Culture” is a touchstone precisely because the culture Eliot aimed to describe has since vanished—Vargas Llosa traces a decline whose ill effects have only just begun to be felt. He morns, in particular, the figure of the intellectual: for most of the twentieth century, men and women of letters drove political, aesthetic, and moral conversations; today they have all but disappeared from public debate.

But Vargas Llosa stubbornly refuses to fade into the background. He is not content to merely sign a petition; he will not bite his tongue. A necessary gadfly, the Nobel laureate Vargas Llosa, here vividly translated by John King, provides a tough but essential critique of our time and culture.

Mario Vargas Llosa was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2010 “for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual’s resistance, revolt, and defeat.” He has also won the Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world’s most distinguished literary honor. His many works include *The Feast of the Goat, The Bad Girl, and Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter*. John King is a professor of Latin American cultural history at the University of Warwick, England. He is the coeditor, with Efraín Kristal, of *The Cambridge Companion to Mario Vargas Llosa*, and he has edited and translated several volumes of Vargas Llosa’s essays, including *Making Waves* (FSG, 1996) and *Touchstones* (FSG, 2007).

PRAISE

Praise for *Making Waves*

“*Making Waves* is fascinating . . . [It] is a diverse and representative volume that allows us, for the first time, to trace this enigmatic, often brilliant writer’s . . . intellectual journey.” —Jay Parini, *The New York Times Book Review*
“Who the hell’s heaven is this?” Rowan Ricardo Phillips offers many answers, and none at all, in Heaven, the piercing and revelatory encore to his award-winning debut, The Ground. Swerving elegantly from humor to heartbreak, from Colorado to Florida, from Dante’s Paradise to Homer’s Iliad, from knowledge to ignorance to awe, Phillips turns his gaze upward and outward, probing and upending notions of the beyond.

“Feeling, real feeling / with all its faulty / Architecture, is / Beyond a god’s touch”—but it does not elude Phillips. Meditating on feverish boyhood, on two paintings by Chuck Close, on Shakespeare’s Measure for Measure, on a dead rooster by the side of the road in Ohio, on an elk grazing outside his window, his language remains eternally intoxicating, full of play, pathos, and surprise.

“The end,” he writes, “like / All I’ve ever told you, is uncertain.” Or, elsewhere: “The only way then to know a truth / Is to squint in its direction and poke.” Phillips—who received a 2013 Whiting Writers’ Award as well as the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award—may not be certain, but as he squints and pokes in the direction of truth, his power of perception and elegance of expression create a place where beauty and truth come together and drift apart like a planet orbiting its star. The result is a book whose lush and wounding beauty will leave its mark on readers long after they’ve turned the last page.

Rowan Ricardo Phillips, the winner of a Whiting Writers’ Award, the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, and the GLCA New Writers Award for Poetry, is the author of The Ground (FSG, 2012). He lives in New York City and Barcelona.

PRAISE

Praise for The Ground

“A truly extraordinary book, the best first book by an American poet I’ve read in years.” —Lawrence Joseph, Commonweal
Hell's Gate
A Novel

Richard Crompton

The gripping second novel in Crompton’s sharply plotted Mollel series—"a compulsive whodunit" (Ian Rankin)

It must have been someone’s idea of a joke. Too many offended egos back at headquarters, too many influential people unhappy with him in Nairobi. And yet, with his record, almost impossible to dismiss. So where had they sent Mollel? Straight to Hell.

When Mollel, a former Maasai warrior turned detective, ends up in a small, fly-blown town on the edge of a national park, it looks as if his career has taken a nosedive. His colleagues are a close-knit group and they have not taken kindly to a stranger in their midst. Mollel suspects they are guilty of the extortion and bribery that plague the force, but when the body of a flower worker turns up in the local lake, he wonders if they might be involved in something more disturbing.

For all is not as it seems in Hell’s Gate. Amid rumors of a local death squad, disappearances, and blackmail, Mollel is forced not only to confront his Maasai heritage but also to ask himself where justice truly lies. In upholding the law, is he doing what is right?

Richard Crompton is a former BBC journalist and producer. He moved to East Africa several years ago with his wife, a human rights lawyer who worked on the Rwanda genocide trials. Crompton won the Daily Telegraph Short Story Award in 2010, and his first novel, Hour of the Red God, was published to great popular acclaim in 2013. He lives in Nairobi.

"[Crompton] has done something near-miraculous and made the figure of the incorruptible loner-detective fresh again." —The Telegraph
Brazil, according to no less an observer than Elizabeth Bishop, is a place where poets hold a place of honor. "Among men, the name of 'poet' is sometimes used as a compliment or term of affection, even if the person referred to is . . . not a poet at all. One of the most famous twentieth-century poets, Manuel Bandeira, was presented with a permanent parking space in front of his apartment house in Rio de Janeiro, with an enamelled sign POETA—although he never owned a car and didn't know how to drive." In a culture like this, it is difficult to underestimate the importance of the nation's greatest poet, Carlos Drummond de Andrade.

Drummond, the most emblematic Brazilian poet, was a master of transforming the ordinary world, through language, into the sublime. His poems—musical protests, twisted hymns, dissonant celebrations of imperfection—are transcriptions of life itself recorded by a magnanimous outcast. As he put it in his "Seven-Sided Poem": "When I was born, one of those twisted / angels who live in the shadows said: / 'Carlos, get ready to be a misfit in life!' . . . World so wide, world so large, / my heart's even larger."

Multitudinous Heart, the most generous selection of Drummond’s poems available in English, gathers work from the various phases of this restless, brilliant modernist. Richard Zenith’s selection and translation brings us a more vivid and surprising poet than we knew.

Carlos Drummond de Andrade (1902–1987) was born in a small town in Minas Gerais. While he spent most of his life working as a government bureaucrat, he regarded poetry as his true vocation, and his first book was published in 1930. During six decades of writing, his work went through many phases, transcending styles and schools while being strongly influenced by modernism. Few critics or serious readers would dispute his status as Brazil’s greatest poet. Richard Zenith lived in Brazil and France before immigrating to Portugal in 1987. He has translated the poetry of Luís de Camões, Fernando Pessoa, Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen, and João Cabral de Melo Neto.
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Valley Fever
A Novel
Katherine Taylor

A razor-sharp, cross-generational tragicomedy set in California’s wine-soaked Central Valley

Ingrid Palamede never returns to places she’s lived in the past. For her, "whole neighborhoods, whole cities, can be ruined by the reasons you left." But when a breakup leaves her heartbroken and homeless, she’s forced to return to her childhood home of Fresno, California. Back in the real wine country, where grapes are grown for mass producers like Gallo and Kendall-Jackson, Ingrid must confront her aging parents and their financial woes, soured friendships, and blissfully bad decisions. But along the way, she rediscovers her love for the land, her talent for harvesting grapes, and a deep fondness and forgiveness for the very first place she ever left.

With all the sharp-tongued wit of her first novel, Rules for Saying Goodbye, Katherine Taylor examines high-class, small-town life among the grapes—on the vine or soaked in vodka—in Valley Fever, a blisteringly funny, ferociously intelligent, and deeply moving novel of self-discovery.

Katherine Taylor is the author of Rules for Saying Goodbye. She lives in Los Angeles.

PRAISE

Praise for Rules for Saying Goodbye

"Bursts of brilliant dialogue and description illuminate many already bright scenes from California to Massachusetts to Rome, from teenage through 20-something. Taylor's story moves far and fast and is engaging and entertaining at every point." —The Boston Globe
Louisa Meets Bear
Fiction

Lisa Gornick

A youthful affair may be brief, but the repercussions can haunt your life—and your family’s

When Louisa and Bear meet at Princeton in 1975, sparks fly. Louisa is the sexually adventurous daughter of a geneticist, Bear the volatile son of a plumber. They dive headfirst into a passionate but explosive affair that will alter the course of their lives, changing how they define themselves in the years and relationships that follow. Louisa Meets Bear is a gripping collection of linked stories from an author whose work "starts off like a brushfire and then engulfs and burns with fury" (The Huffington Post).

Reading Louisa Meets Bear is like assembling a jigsaw puzzle, as we uncover the subtle and startling connections between new characters and the star-crossed lovers. We meet a daughter who stabs her mother when she learns the truth about her father, a wife who sees herself clearly after finding a man dead on her office floor, a mother who discovers a girl in her teenage son’s bed. Each character is striking, each rendered with Gornick’s trademark sympathy and psychological acuity. We follow them from San Francisco to New York City and from Guatemala to Venice, from 1961 to 2009, through pregnancies, tragedies, and revelations, until we return to Louisa and Bear.

With the deeply human, flawed characters of Elizabeth Strout’s Olive Kitteridge, and with Alice Munro’s piercing insight into the lives of women, Louisa Meets Bear grapples with whether we can—or can’t—choose how and whom we love.

Lisa Gornick is the author of the novels Tinderbox and A Private Sorcery. Her stories and essays have appeared widely, including in AGNI, Prairie Schooner, and The Sun, and have received many awards. She holds a BA from Princeton and a PhD in clinical psychology from Yale, and is a graduate of the writing program at New York University and the psychoanalytic training program at Columbia. She lives with her family in New York City.

PRAISE

Praise for Tinderbox

"This vivid portrait of a family unravelling is perfect for book clubs." —People (four stars)
Irrepressible
The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham

Emily Bingham

The hidden story of the outcast princess of one of America's most powerful families

Forbears can become fairy-tale figures, especially when they defy tradition and are spoken of only in whispers. For the biographer and historian Emily Bingham, the secret of who her great-aunt was, and just why her story was buried for so long, led to Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham. Raised like a princess in one of the most powerful families in the American South, Henrietta was offered the helm of a publishing empire. Instead, she ripped through the Jazz Age like an F. Scott Fitzgerald character: intoxicating and intoxicated, selfish and shameful, seductive and brilliant, and often terribly troubled. In New York, Louisville, and London she drove men and women wild with desire, and her youth blazed with sex. But her lesbian love affairs made her the subject of derision and drove a doctor to try to cure her. After the speed and pleasure of her youth, the toxicity of judgment coupled with her own anxieties led to years of addiction and breakdowns.

Henrietta rode the cultural cusp as a muse to the Bloomsbury group, the daughter of the ambassador to England during the rise of Nazism, the seductress of royalty and athletic champions, and a pre-Stonewall figure who never buckled to convention. Henrietta’s audacious physicality made her unforgettable in her own time, and her ecstatic and at times harrowing story brings to life an essential chapter in America’s twentieth century.

Emily Bingham is the great-niece of Henrietta Bingham. She is the author of Mordecai: An Early American Family and the coeditor of The Southern Agrarians and the New Deal: Essays After "I'll Take My Stand." She earned a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and frequently teaches at Centre College. She lives with her family in Louisville, Kentucky.

PRAISE

Praise for Mordecai

"With a historian's care and a novelist's sense of story, Bingham brings to life a family of Southern Jews struggling to reconcile loyalty to their tradition . . . It's a testament to Bingham's talents that she has made the Mordecais feel every bit as loving and complicated as families really are.” —Nicholas Lemann, aut...
A dark, poetic mystery about the women of the remote village of Kulumani and the lionesses that hunt them

Told through two haunting, interwoven diaries, Mia Couto’s *Confession of the Lioness* reveals the mysterious world of Kulumani, an isolated village in Mozambique whose traditions and beliefs are threatened when ghostlike lionesses begin hunting the women who live there.

Mariamar, a woman whose sister was killed in a lioness attack, finds her life thrown into chaos when the outsider Archangel Bullseye, the marksman hired to kill the lionesses, arrives at the request of the village elders. Mariamar’s father imprisons her in her home, where she relives painful memories of past abuse and hopes to be rescued by Archangel. Meanwhile, Archangel tracks the lionesses in the wilderness, but when he begins to suspect there is more to them than meets the eye, he starts to lose control of his hands. The hunt grows more dangerous, until it’s no safer inside Kulumani than outside it. As the men of Kulumani feel increasingly threatened by the outsider, the forces of modernity upon their traditional culture, and the danger of their animal predators closing in, it becomes clear the lionesses might not be real lionesses at all but spirits conjured by the ancient witchcraft of the women themselves.

Both a riveting mystery and a poignant examination of women’s oppression, *Confession of the Lioness* explores the confrontation between the modern world and ancient traditions to produce an atmospheric, gripping novel.

*Mia Couto*, born in Beira, Mozambique, in 1955, is one of the most prominent writers in Portuguese-speaking Africa. After studying medicine and biology in Maputo, he worked as a journalist and headed several Mozambican national newspapers and magazines. Couto has been awarded several important literary prizes, including the 2014 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, the Premio Camões (the most prestigious Portuguese-language award), the Prémio Vergílio Ferreira, the Prêmio União Latina de Literaturas Românicas, and others. He lives in Maputo, where he works as a biologist.

Praise for Mia Couto
Imperium
A Fiction of the South Seas

Christian Kracht; Translated from the German by Daniel Bowles

An outrageous, fantastical, uncategorizable novel of obsession, adventure, and coconuts

In 1902, a radical vegetarian and nudist from Nuremberg named August Engelhardt set sail for what was then called the Bismarck Archipelago. His destination: the island Kabakon. His goal: to found a colony based on worship of the sun and coconuts. His malnourished body was found on the beach on Kabakon in 1919; he was forty-three years old.

Christian Kracht’s Imperium uses the outlandish details of Engelhardt’s life to craft a fable about the allure of extremism and its fundamental foolishness. Engelhardt is at once a sympathetic outsider—mocked, misunderstood, physically assaulted—and a rigid ideologue, and his misguided notions of purity and his spiral into madness presage the horrors of the mid-twentieth century.

Playing with the tropes of classic adventure tales like Treasure Island and Robinson Crusoe, Kracht’s novel, an international bestseller, is funny, bizarre, shocking, and poignant—sometimes all on the same page. His allusions are misleading, his historical time lines are twisted, his narrator is unreliable—and the result is a novel that is also a mirror cabinet and a maze pitted with trapdoors. Both a provocative satire and a serious meditation on the fragility and audacity of human activity, Imperium is impossible to categorize, and utterly unlike anything you’ve read before.

Christian Kracht is a Swiss novelist, journalist, and screenwriter. His previous books include Faserland, 1979, and I Will Be Here, in Sunshine and in Shadow. Imperium was the recipient of the 2012 Wilhelm Raabe literature prize. Daniel Bowles is a visiting assistant professor of German studies at Boston College. His previous translations include novels by Thomas Meinecke and short texts by Alexander Kluge and Rainald Goetz.

PRAISE

“Imperium is astonishing and captivating, a tongue-in-cheek Conradian literary adventure for our time.” —Karl Ove Knausgaard, author of My Struggle

“Imperium is, first and foremost, one thing—marvelous literature.” —Erhard Schütz, Der Freitag
Apollo in the Grass
Selected Poems

Aleksandr Kushner; Translated from the Russian by Carol Ueland and Robert Carnevale

A selection of poems from one of Russia's greatest contemporary poets

To renew the wish to live, I remember a waterfall.
It clutches at stones, hangs like a wild grapevine
In a blind homeland of stone letters, stone books—
Here's the one who takes life in totally, perishing every instant.

—from "The Waterfall"

For the Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky, the work of Aleksandr Kushner was indispensable. "Kushner is one of the best Russian lyric poets of the twentieth century, and his name is destined to rank with those close to the heart of everyone whose mother tongue is Russian."

Kushner's poems are simultaneously deeply traditional in their mastery of form—as well as in their influences, which can be traced through Akhmatova back to Pushkin—and wryly provocative in their subtle political protests and doubts about the survival of poetry. The poems in Apollo in the Grass, written after the fall of the Soviet Union as Russia entered the age of Putin, are a place where the mythical and the everyday coexist, where the Fall of Icarus and the Siege of Leningrad are contemporaneous. Kushner's Russia, a place that's "brazen, despotic, beggarly, harrowing," is a land of "creatures made of snow and bruises." But these lyrical poems are also pieces of exquisite chamber music, songs where poetry dazzles but "greatness is not sooner scaled to the heart / Than to anything very enormous."

Born in St. Petersburg in 1936, Aleksandr Kushner is regarded as one of the finest contemporary Russian poets. Besides poetry, he has published essays, children's verse, and translations, notably of the poems of Philip Larkin. Apollo in the Snow, the first selection of his work translated into English, includes poems from 1960 to 1987. He has lived in St. Petersburg his entire life, except when he was evacuated as a young child during the siege in World War II.
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God and Jetfire
Confessions of a Birth Mother

Amy Seek

A searching, eloquent memoir about the joys and hardships of open adoption

God and Jetfire is a mother’s account of her decision to surrender her son in an open adoption and of their relationship over the twelve years that follow. Facing an unplanned pregnancy at twenty-two, Amy Seek and her ex-boyfriend begin an exhaustive search for a family to raise their child. They sift through hundreds of “Dear Birth Mother” letters, craft an extensive questionnaire, and interview numerous potential couples. Despite the immutability of the surrender, it does little to diminish Seek’s newfound feelings of motherhood. Once an ambitious architecture student, she struggles to reconcile her sadness with the hope that she’s done the best for her son, a struggle complicated by her continued, active presence in his life.

For decades, closed adoptions were commonplace. Now, new laws are guaranteeing adoptees’ access to birth records, and open adoption is on the rise. God and Jetfire is the rare memoir that explores the intricate dynamics and exceptional commitment of an open-adoption relationship from the perspective of a birth mother searching for her place within it.

Written with literary poise and distinction, God and Jetfire is a story of a life divided between grief and gratitude, regret and joy. It is an elegy for a lost motherhood, a celebration of a family gained, and an apology to a beloved son.

Amy Seek is a landscape architect. She lives and works in New York City.
The stunningly vibrant final novel in the bestselling Ibis Trilogy

It is 1839 and China has embargoed the trade of opium, yet too much is at stake in the lucrative business and the British Foreign Secretary has ordered the colonial government in India to assemble an expeditionary force for an attack to reinstate the trade. Among those consigned is Kesri Singh, a soldier in the army of the East India Company. He makes his way eastward on the Hind, a transport ship that will carry him from Bengal to Hong Kong. Along the way, many characters from the Ibis Trilogy come aboard, including Zachary Reid, a young American speculator in opium futures, and Shireen, the widow of an opium merchant whose mysterious death in China has compelled her to seek out his lost son. The Hind docks in Hong Kong just as war breaks out and opium "pours into the market like monsoon flood." From Bombay to Calcutta, from naval engagements to the decks of a hospital ship, among embezzlement, profiteering, and espionage, Amitav Ghosh charts a breathless course through the culminating moment of the British opium trade and vexed colonial history.

With all the verve of the first two novels in the trilogy, Flood of Fire completes Ghosh's unprecedented reenvisioning of the nineteenth-century war on drugs. With remarkable historic vision and a vibrant cast of characters, Ghosh brings the Opium Wars to bear on the contemporary moment with the storytelling that has charmed readers around the world.

Amitav Ghosh is the internationally bestselling author of Sea of Poppies (short-listed for the Man Booker Prize) and River of Smoke, the first two novels in the Ibis Trilogy, of which Flood of Fire is the final installment. He has written ten other novels and works of nonfiction, including three essay collections. A frequent contributor to The New Yorker, The New Republic, The New York Times, and others, his work has been translated into more than twenty languages.

PRAISE

"A writer of supreme skill and intelligence." —The Atlantic Monthly

Many scientific and philosophical ideas are so powerful that they can be applied to our lives at home and work and school to help us think smarter and more effectively about our behavior and the world around us. Surprisingly, many of these ideas remain unknown to most of us.

In *Mindware*, the world-renowned psychologist Richard E. Nisbett presents these ideas in clear and accessible detail, offering a tool kit for better thinking and wiser decisions. He has made a distinguished career of studying and teaching such powerful problem-solving concepts as the law of large numbers, statistical regression, cost-benefit analysis, sunk costs and opportunity costs, and causation and correlation, probing how best to teach others to use them effectively in their daily lives. In this groundbreaking book, he shows that a course in a given field—statistics or economics, for example—often doesn’t work as well as a few minutes of more practical instruction in analyzing everyday situations. *Mindware* shows how to reframe common problems in such a way that these powerful scientific and statistical concepts can be applied to them. The result is an enlightening and practical guide to the most powerful tools of reasoning ever developed—tools that can easily be used to make better professional, business, and personal decisions.

Richard E. Nisbett is a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan and one of the world’s most respected psychologists. He has been awarded the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award of the American Psychology Association, the William James Fellow Award for Distinguished Scientific Achievements, and the Donald T. Campbell Award for Distinguished Research in Social Psychology, among others. His books *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently . . . and Why* and *Intelligence and How to Get It: Why Schools and Cultures Count* have won multiple awards and been translated into more than ten languages.
A Manual for Cleaning Women
Selected Stories
Lucia Berlin; Edited by Stephen Emerson; Foreword by Lydia Davis

Stories from a lost American classic "in the same arena as Alice Munro" (Lydia Davis)

"In the field of short fiction, Lucia Berlin is one of America's best kept secrets. That's it. Flat out. No mitigating conditions." —Paul Metcalf

A Manual for Cleaning Women compiles the best work of the legendary short-story writer Lucia Berlin. With her trademark blend of humor and melancholy, Berlin crafts miracles from the everyday—uncovering moments of grace in the cafeterias and Laundromats of the American Southwest, in the homes of the Northern California upper classes, and from the perspective of a cleaning woman alone in a hotel dining room in Mexico City.

The women of Berlin's stories are lost, but they are also strong, clever, and extraordinarily real. They are hitchhikers, hard workers, bad Christians. With the wit of Lorrie Moore and the grit of Raymond Carver, they navigate a world of jockeys, doctors, and switchboard operators. They laugh, they mourn, they drink. Berlin, a highly influential writer despite having published little in her lifetime, conjures these women from California, Mexico, and beyond. Lovers of the short story will not want to miss this remarkable collection from a master of the form.

Lucia Berlin (1936–2004) was first published when she was twenty-four in The Atlantic Monthly and in Saul Bellow and Keith Botsford’s journal The Noble Savage. Berlin worked brilliantly but sporadically throughout the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. Her stories are culled from her early childhood in various Western mining towns; her glamorous teenage years in Santiago, Chile; three failed marriages; a lifelong problem with alcoholism; her years spent in Berkeley, New Mexico, and Mexico City; and the various jobs she later held to support her writing and her four sons, including as a high-school teacher, a switchboard operator, a physician’s assistant, a nurse, and a cleaning woman.

PRAISE

Praise for So Long

"[The stories] are told in a conversational voice and they move with a swift and often lyrical economy. They capture and communicate moments of grace and cast a lovely, lazy light that lasts. Berlin is one of our finest writers and here she is at the height of her powers." —Molly Giles, San Francisco Chronicle
Landfalls
A Novel
Naomi J. Williams

The gripping story of a dramatic eighteenth-century voyage of discovery

In her wildly inventive debut novel, Naomi Williams reimagines the historical La Pérouse expedition, a voyage of exploration that left Brest in 1785 with two frigates, two hundred men, and overblown Enlightenment ideals and expectations, in a brave attempt to circumnavigate the globe for science and the glory of France.

Deeply grounded in historical fact but refracted through a powerful imagination, Landfalls follows the exploits and heartbreaks not only of the men on the ships but also of the people affected by the voyage—natives and other Europeans the explorers encountered, loved ones left waiting at home, and those who survived and remembered the expedition later. Each chapter is told from a different point of view and is set in a different part of the world—ranging from London to Tenerife, Alaska to remote South Pacific islands and Siberia, and eventually back to France. The result is a beautifully written and absorbing tale of the high seas, scientific exploration, human tragedy, and the world on the cusp of the modern era.

By turns elegiac, profound, and comic, Landfalls reinvents the maritime adventure novel for the twenty-first century.

Naomi Williams lives in Northern California with her family. Landfalls is her first novel.
A revelatory and pathbreaking account of the highly secretive world of the Soviet intelligence services

Near and Distant Neighbors
A New History of Soviet Intelligence
Jonathan Haslam

A uniquely comprehensive and rich account of the Soviet intelligence services, Jonathan Haslam’s Near and Distant Neighbors charts the labyrinthine story of Soviet intelligence from the October Revolution to the end of the Cold War.

Previous histories have focused on the KGB, leaving military intelligence and the special service—which specialized in codes and ciphers—lurking in the shadows. Drawing on previously neglected Russian sources, Haslam reveals how both were in fact crucial to the survival of the Soviet state. This was especially true after Stalin’s death in 1953, as the Cold War heated up and dedicated Communist agents the regime had relied upon—Klaus Fuchs, the Rosenbergs, Donald Maclean—were betrayed. In the wake of these failures, Khrushchev and his successors discarded ideological recruitment in favor of blackmail and bribery. The tactical turn was so successful that we can draw only one conclusion: the West ultimately triumphed despite, not because of, the espionage war.

In bringing to light the obscure inhabitants of an undercover intelligence world, Haslam offers a surprising and unprecedented portrayal of Soviet success that is not only fascinating but also essential to understanding Vladimir Putin’s power today.

Jonathan Haslam is Professor of the History of International Relations at Cambridge University, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He was a visiting professor at Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, and is a member of the society of scholars at the Johns Hopkins University. His previous work includes Russia’s Cold War: From the October Revolution to the Fall of the Wall, No Virtue Like Necessity: Realist Thought in International Relations Since Machiavelli, The Vices of Integrity: E. H. Carr, 1892–1982, and several histories of Soviet foreign policy in the 1930s.

PRAISE

Praise for Russia’s Cold War

“Jonathan Haslam has produced the first comprehensive account of Soviet policy between the October Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall, using an astonishing array of original materials that take readers into the heart of decision-making in Moscow and its satellites.” —Michael Burleigh, The Sunday Telegraph...
The Night Stages
A Novel

Jane Urquhart

A female pilot recalls her affair with a man obsessed with the disappearance of his brother

After a tragic accident leaves Tamara alone on the most westerly tip of Ireland, she begins an affair with a charismatic meteorologist named Niall. It’s the 1950s, and Tamara has settled into civilian life after working as an auxiliary pilot in World War II. At first her romance is filled with passionate secrecy, but when Niall’s younger brother, Kieran, disappears after a bicycle race, Niall, unable to shake the idea that he may be to blame, slowly falls into despondency. Distraught and abandoned after their decade-long relationship, Tamara decides she has no option but to leave.

Jane Urquhart’s mesmerizing novel opens as Tamara makes her way from Ireland to New York. During a layover in Gander, Newfoundland, a fog moves in, grounding her plane and stranding her in front of the airport’s mural. As she gazes at the nutcracker-like children, missile-shaped birds, and fruit blossoms, she revisits the circumstances that brought her to Ireland and the family entanglement that has forced her into exile. Slowly she interweaves her life story with Kieran’s as she searches for the truth about Niall.

With The Night Stages, this celebrated bestselling author has written a magnificent, elegiac novel of intersecting memories that explores the meaning of separation and reunion, the sorrows of fractured families, and the profound effect of Ireland’s harshly beautiful landscape on lives lived in solitude.

Jane Urquhart, one of Canada's best-loved writers, is the author of seven internationally acclaimed novels, a collection of stories, and four books of poetry. She is the recipient of numerous international awards, including Le Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger in France, the Harboufront Festival Prize, and Canada's Governor General’s Award. She lives in Ontario, Canada, and occasionally in Ireland.

PRAISE

Praise for A Map of Glass

"The most compelling depiction of the sense of place in human lives." —Alice Munro

"Urquhart has a great gift for the melding of ideas, events, and individuals into a significant whole. Hugely compelling and illuminating." —Claire Messud

"Urquhart's language is vivid enough to take your breath away." —The Boston Glo...
Paradise of the Pacific
Approaching Hawaii

Susanna Moore

The dramatic history of America’s tropical paradise

The history of Hawaii may be said to be the story of arrivals—from the eruption of volcanoes on the ocean floor 18,000 feet below, the first hardy seeds that over millennia found their way to the islands, and the confused birds blown from their migratory routes, to the early Polynesian adventurers who sailed across the Pacific in double canoes, the Spanish galleons en route to the Philippines, and the British navigators in search of a Northwest Passage, soon followed by pious Protestant missionaries, shipwrecked sailors, and rowdy Irish poachers escaped from Botany Bay—all wanderers washed ashore, sometimes by accident. This is true of many cultures, but in Hawaii, no one seems to have left. And in Hawaii, a set of myths accompanied each of these migrants—legends that shape our understanding of this mysterious place.

In Paradise of the Pacific, Susanna Moore, the award-winning author of In the Cut and The Life of Objects, pieces together the elusive, dramatic story of late-eighteenth-century Hawaii—its kings and queens, gods and goddesses, missionaries, migrants, and explorers—a not-so-distant time of abrupt transition, in which an isolated pagan world of human sacrifice and strict taboo, without a currency or a written language, was confronted with the equally ritualized world of capitalism, Western education, and Christian values.

Susanna Moore is the author of the novels The Life of Objects, The Big Girls, One Last Look, In the Cut, Sleeping Beauties, The Whiteness of Bones, and My Old Sweetheart, and two books of nonfiction, Light Years: A Girlhood in Hawai‘i and I Myself Have Seen It: The Myth of Hawai‘i. She is from Hawaii.

PRAISE

Praise for The Life of Objects

“I find this book exhilarating—truly exciting, new, everything good—the people, the clothes, the food: every word.” —Joan Didion, author of Blue Nights
The adoption of the landmark Voting Rights Act in 1965 enfranchised millions of Americans and is widely regarded as the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement. And yet fifty years later we are still fighting heated battles over race, representation, and political power—over the right to vote, the central pillar of our democracy.

A groundbreaking narrative history of voting rights since 1965, Give Us the Ballot tells the story of what happened after the act was passed. Through meticulous archival research, fresh interviews with the leading participants in the ongoing struggle, and incisive on-the-ground reporting, Ari Berman chronicles the transformative impact the act had on American democracy and investigates how the fight over the right to vote has continued in the decades since. From new strategies to keep minorities out of the voting booth, to cynical efforts to limit political representation by gerrymandering electoral districts, to the Supreme Court’s recent stunning decision that declared a key part of the Voting Rights Act itself unconstitutional, to the efforts by the Justice Department and grassroots activists to counter these attacks, Berman tells the dramatic story of the pitched contest over the very heart of our democracy.

At this important historical moment, Give Us the Ballot brings new insight to one of the most vital political and civil rights issues of our time.

Ari Berman is a contributing writer for The Nation and an investigative journalism fellow at the Nation Institute. His first book, Herding Donkeys: The Fight to Rebuild the Democratic Party and Reshape American Politics, was published in 2010 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Rolling Stone, and The Guardian, and he is a frequent political commentator on MSNBC and NPR.
**Chasing Lost Time**

The Life of C. K. Scott Moncrieff: Soldier, Spy, and Translator

Jean Findlay

The thrilling first-ever biography of Proust translator C. K. Scott Moncrieff, penned by his great-great-niece

“And suddenly the memory returns. The taste was that of the little crumb of madeleine which on Sunday mornings at Combray (because on those mornings I did not go out before church-time), when I went to say good day to her in her bedroom, my aunt Léonie used to give me . . .” With these words, Marcel Proust’s narrator is plunged back into the past. Since 1922, English-language readers have been able to take this leap with him thanks to translator C. K. Scott Moncrieff, who wrestled with Proust’s seven-volume masterpiece—published as *Remembrance of Things Past*—until his death in 1930.

While Scott Moncrieff’s work has shaped our understanding of one of the finest novels of the twentieth century, he has remained hidden behind the genius of the man whose reputation he helped build. Now, in this biography—the first ever of the celebrated translator—Scott Moncrieff’s great-great-niece, Jean Findlay, reveals a fascinating, tangled life.

Catholic and homosexual; a partygoer who was lonely deep down; secretly a spy in Mussolini’s Italy and publicly a debonair man of letters; a war hero described as “offensively brave,” whose letters from the front are remarkably cheerful—Scott Moncrieff was a man of his moment, thriving on paradoxes and extremes. In *Chasing Lost Time*, Findlay gives us a vibrant, moving portrait of the brilliant Scott Moncrieff, and of the era—changing fast and forever—in which he shone.

Jean Findlay was born in Edinburgh and studied law and French at Edinburgh University, then theater in Krakow with Tadeusz Kantor. She ran a theater company, writing and producing plays in Berlin, Bonn, Dublin, Rotterdam, and the Pompidou Centre in Paris. She has written for *The Scotsman, The Independent, The Guardian*, and *Time Out*, and she lives in Edinburgh with her husband and three children. She is the great-great-niece of C. K. Scott Moncrieff.

**PRAISE**

“A first-rate, playful, moving biography.” — *The Times* (London)
A family of four—mother, father, and two boys—moves to the south coast of Norway, to a new house on a newly developed site. It is the early 1970s and the family’s trajectory is upwardly mobile: The future seems limitless. In painstaking, sometimes self-lacerating detail, Karl Ove Knausgaard paints a world familiar to anyone who can recall the intensity and novelty of childhood experience, one in which children and adults lead parallel lives that never meet. *My Struggle: Book 3* gives us Knausgaard’s vivid, Technicolor recollections of childhood, his emerging self-understanding, and the multilayered nature of time’s passing, memory, and existence.

Karl Ove Knausgaard was born in Oslo in 1968. His first novel, *Out of the World*, was published in 1998 and won the Norwegian Critics Literary Prize for Fiction—the first time a debut had won this award. His second novel, *A Time for Everything*, came out six years later, won multiple prestigious prizes, and was named one of the 25 Best Books of the Last 25 Years by Norway’s major newspaper; it was his first book to be translated into English (“Strange and marvelous,” said *The New York Review of Books*). With the publication of the first volume of *My Struggle* in 2009, he became a household name in Norway. He lives in rural Sweden with his wife and their children.

**PRAISE**

"Perhaps the most significant literary enterprise of our times." —Rachel Cusk, *The Guardian*


"It's unbelievable . . . I need the next volume like crack." —Zadie Smith

"What others might cast off, he picks up, wipes clean, narrates in r...
Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China

Evan Osnos

A vibrant, colorful, and revelatory inner history of China during a moment of profound transformation

Winner of the 2014 National Book Award in nonfiction.

An Economist Best Book of 2014.

From abroad, we often see China as a caricature: a nation of pragmatic plutocrats and ruthlessly dedicated students destined to rule the global economy—or an addled Goliath, riddled with corruption and on the edge of stagnation. What we don’t see is how both powerful and ordinary people are remaking their lives as their country dramatically changes.

As the Beijing correspondent for The New Yorker, Evan Osnos was on the ground in China for years, witness to profound political, economic, and cultural upheaval. In Age of Ambition, he describes the greatest collision taking place in that country: the clash between the rise of the individual and the Communist Party’s struggle to retain control. He asks probing questions: Why does a government with more success lifting people from poverty than any civilization in history choose to put strict restraints on freedom of expression? Why do millions of young Chinese professionals—fluent in English and devoted to Western pop culture—consider themselves “angry youth,” dedicated to resisting the West’s influence? How are Chinese from all strata finding meaning after two decades of the relentless pursuit of wealth?

Writing with great narrative verve and a keen sense of irony, Osnos follows the moving stories of everyday people and reveals life in the new China to be a battlegro...

Evan Osnos is a staff writer at The New Yorker, where he served as the China correspondent from 2008 to 2013. He is the winner of two Overseas Press Club awards and the Asia Society’s Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Journalism on Asia. Previously, he worked at the Chicago Tribune, where he was part of a team that won the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 2008. He lives in Washington, D.C.

PRAISE

"For those new to China, Mr. Osnos beautifully portrays the nation in all its craziness, providing a ringside seat for the greatest show on earth." —The
Some Desperate Glory
The First World War the Poets Knew
Max Egremont

The story of World War I, through the lives and words of its poets

The hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of what many believed would be the war to end all wars was in 2014. And while World War I devastated Europe, it inspired profound poetry—words in which the atmosphere and landscape of battle are evoked perhaps more vividly than anywhere else.

The poets—many of whom were killed—show not only the tragedy of the war but also the hopes and disappointments of a generation of men. In Some Desperate Glory, the historian and biographer Max Egremont gives us a transfiguring look at the life and work of this assemblage of poets. Wilfred Owen with his flaring genius; the intense, compassionate Siegfried Sassoon; the composer Ivor Gurney; Robert Graves, who would later spurn his war poems; the nature-loving Edward Thomas; the glamorous Fabian Socialist Rupert Brooke; and the shell-shocked Robert Nichols—all fought in the war, and their poetry is a bold act of creativity in the face of unprecedented destruction.

Some Desperate Glory includes a chronological anthology of the poets’ works, telling the story of the war not only through the lives of these writers but also through their art. This unique volume unites the poetry and the history of the war—so often treated separately—granting readers the pride, strife, and sorrow of the individual soldier’s experience coupled with a panoramic view of the war’s toll on an entire nation.

Max Egremont was born in 1948 and studied modern history at Oxford University. He is the author of several novels and biographies, including Siegfried Sassoon: A Life (FSG, 2005) and Forgotten Land: Journeys Among the Ghosts of East Prussia (FSG, 2011). Egremont is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He lives in England.

PRAISE

Elegant and convincing . . . [Some Desperate Glory] is an exceptionally thoughtful treatment of 11 complicated men . . . Above all, Egremont reminds the reader that the poems record not one amorphous war but 11 individual conflicts.” —Michael Prodger, Evening Standard
The Shelf: From LEQ to LES: Adventures in Extreme Reading

Phyllis Rose

Rose embarks on a grand literary experiment—to read her way through a random shelf of library books, LEQ–LES

Can you have an Extreme Adventure in a library? Phyllis Rose casts herself into the wilds of an Upper East Side lending library in an effort to do just that. Hoping to explore the “real ground of literature,” she reads her way through a somewhat randomly chosen shelf of fiction, from LEQ to LES.

The shelf has everything Rose could wish for—a classic she has not read, a remarkable variety of authors, and a range of literary styles. The early nineteenth-century Russian classic A Hero of Our Time by Mikhail Lermontov is spine by spine with The Phantom of the Opera by Gaston Leroux. Stories of French Canadian farmers sit beside those about aristocratic Austrians. California detective novels abut a picaresque novel from the seventeenth century. There are several novels by a wonderful, funny, contemporary novelist who has turned to raising dogs because of the tepid response to her work.

In The Shelf, Rose investigates the books on her shelf with exuberance, candor, and wit while pondering the many questions her experiment raises and measuring her discoveries against her own inner shelf—those texts that accompany us through life. “Fairly sure that no one in the history of the world has read exactly this series of novels,” she sustains a sense of excitement as she creates a refreshingly original and generous portrait of the literary enterprise.

Phyllis Rose is the author of A Woman of Letters, a biography of Virginia Woolf that was a finalist for the 1979 National Book Award; Parallel Lives: Five Victorian Marriages; Jazz Cleopatra: Josephine Baker in Her Time; The Year of Reading Proust: A Memoir in Real Time; and two collections of essays. She divides her time between Key West and New York City.

PRAISE

"It’s always a pleasure to read Phyllis Rose. She ignites our imagination with her own intellectual curiosity, encouraging us to read widely and take chances." —Judy Blume

"Exhilarating, adventurous, original—Phyllis Rose’s The Shelf is a reminder of what reading and writing are all about." —Azar Nafisi
The Animals: Love Letters Between Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy
Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy; Edited by Katherine Bucknell

The love story between Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy—in their own words

The English novelist and screenwriter Christopher Isherwood was already famous as the author of Goodbye to Berlin when he met Don Bachardy, a California teenager, on the beach in Santa Monica in 1952. Within a year, they began living together as an openly gay couple in the closeted world of Hollywood. Isherwood was forty-eight; Bachardy was eighteen. The Animals is the testimony in letters to their partnership, which lasted until Isherwood’s death in 1986—despite the thirty-year age gap, affairs and jealousy, the pressures of increasing celebrity, and the disdain of twentieth-century America for love between two men.

The letters reveal the private world of the Animals: Isherwood was "Dobbin," a stubborn workhorse; Bachardy was the rash, playful "Kitty." Isherwood had a gift for creating a safe and separate domestic milieu, necessary for a gay man in mid-twentieth-century America. He drew Bachardy into his semi-secret realm, nourished Bachardy’s talent as a painter, and launched him into the artistic career that was first to threaten and eventually to secure their life together.

The letters also tell of public achievements—the critical acclaim for A Single Man, the commercial success of Cabaret—and the bohemian whirl of friendships in Los Angeles, London, and New York. Bold and transgressive, The Animals articulates the devotion, in tenderness and in storms, between two uniquely original spirits.

Christopher Isherwood (1904–1986) was born outside Manchester, England. He lived in Berlin from 1929 to 1933 and emigrated from Europe to the United States in 1939. A major figure in twentieth-century fiction and the gay rights movement, he wrote more than twenty books. Don Bachardy was born in Los Angeles in 1934. His artwork, which parallels David Hockney’s and anticipates Elizabeth Peyton’s, is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the de Young Museum, San Francisco; the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University; and the National Portrait Gallery, London, among others. He lives in Santa Monica, California.
Bulletproof Vest
The Ballad of an Outlaw and His Daughter

Maria Venegas

The haunting story of a daughter’s struggle to confront her father’s turbulent—and often violent—legacy

After a fourteen-year estrangement, Maria Venegas returns to Mexico from the United States to visit her father, who is living in the old hacienda where both he and she were born. While spending the following summers and holidays together, herding cattle and fixing barbed-wire fences, he begins sharing stories with her, tales of a dramatic life filled with both intense love and brutal violence—from the final conversations he had with his own father, to his extradition from the United States for murder, to his mother’s pride after he shot a man for the first time at the age of twelve.

Written in spare, gripping prose, Bulletproof Vest is Venegas’s reckoning with her father’s difficult legacy. Moving between Mexico and New York, between past and present, Venegas traces her own life and her father’s as, over time, a new closeness and understanding develops between them. Bulletproof Vest opens with a harrowing ambush on Venegas’s father while he’s driving near his home in Mexico. He survives the assault—but years later the federales will find him dead near the very same curve, and his daughter will be left with not only the stories she inherited from him but also a better understanding of the violent undercurrent that shaped her father’s life as well as her own.

Maria Venegas was born in the state of Zacatecas, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States when she was four years old. Bulletproof Vest was excerpted in Granta and The Guardian. Venegas’s short stories have appeared in Ploughshares and Huizache. She has taught creative writing at Hunter College and currently works as a mentor at Still Waters in a Storm, a reading and writing sanctuary for children in Brooklyn. She lives in New York City.

PRAISE

"As amazing as that emotional honesty is, it’s the brilliantly executed narrative structure—that stubborn refusal to give in to established perceptions about the memoir—that makes the book truly amazing. It’s likely Bulletproof Vest will be taught in college classes for years to come, not just because of its brutal and heartfelt prose, but..."
Paper Lantern
Love Stories

Stuart Dybek

A new collection of short stories with a common focus on the turmoils of romantic love, by a master of the form

Operatically dramatic and intimately lyrical, grittily urban and impressionistically natural, the varied fictions in *Paper Lantern* all focus on the turmoil of love as only Stuart Dybek can portray it. An execution triggers the recollection of a theatrical romance; a social worker falls for his own client; lovers part as giddily as a kid trying to hang on to a kite. A flaming laboratory evokes a steamy midnight drive across terrain both familiar and strange, and an eerily ringing phone becomes the telltale signature of a dark betrayal. Each story is marked with contagious desire, spontaneous revelation, and, ultimately, resigned courage. As one woman whispers when she sets a notebook filled with her sketches drifting out to sea, “Someone will find you.”

Some of Dybek’s characters recur in these stories, while others appear only briefly. Throughout, they—and we—are confronted with vaguely familiar scents and images, reminiscent of love but strangely disconcerting, so that we might wonder whether we are looking in a mirror or down the barrel of a gun. *Paper Lantern* brims with the intoxicating elixirs known to every love-struck, lovelorn heart, and it marks the magnificent return of one of America’s most important fiction writers at the height of his powers.

*Stuart Dybek* is the author of four other books of fiction, as well as two collections of poetry. The recipient of many prizes and awards—including the PEN/Malamud Award, an Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Whiting Writers’ Award, and four O. Henry Awards—he is the Distinguished Writer in Residence at Northwestern University. He divides his time between Evanston, Illinois; Kalamazoo, Michigan; and the Florida Keys.

**PRAISE**

“[Dybek] somehow manages to conjure up beautiful, detailed imitations of real America, and then infuse them with so much surreal truth that they read like myths or fairy tales . . . His work is full of genuine sentiment, and edge, and beauty. One of the most soulful writers in America.” —George Saunders, *O, The Oprah Magazine*
Carsick
John Waters Hitchhikes Across America

John Waters

The New York Times bestselling cross-country hitchhiking journey with America’s most beloved weirdo

John Waters is putting his life on the line. Armed with wit, a pencil-thin mustache, and a cardboard sign that reads "I'm Not Psycho," he hitchhikes across America from Baltimore to San Francisco, braving lonely roads and treacherous drivers. But who should we be more worried about, the delicate film director with genteel manners or the unsuspecting travelers transporting the Pope of Trash?

Before he leaves for this bizarre adventure, Waters fantasizes about the best and worst possible scenarios: a friendly drug dealer hands over piles of cash to finance films with no questions asked, a demolition-derby driver makes a filthy sexual request in the middle of a race, a gun-toting drunk terrorizes and holds him hostage, and a Kansas vice squad entraps and throws him in jail. So what really happens when this cult legend sticks out his thumb and faces the open road? His real-life rides include a gentle eighty-one-year-old farmer who is convinced Waters is a hobo, an indie band on tour, and the perverse filmmaker’s unexpected hero: a young, sandy-haired Republican in a Corvette.

Laced with subversive humor and warm intelligence, Carsick is an unforgettable vacation with a wickedly funny companion—and a celebration of America’s weird, astonishing, and generous citizenry.

John Waters is an American filmmaker, actor, writer, and visual artist best known for his cult films, including Hairspray, Pink Flamingos, and Cecil B. DeMented. He is also the author of a memoir, Role Models. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

PRAISE

Waters has made a funny, engaging and—of course—occasionally outrageous book . . . All in all a cool trip and a delightful book." —Jonathan Yardley, The Washington Post
My Two Italies
Joseph Luzzi

A charming, informative personal history that blends the anecdotal, historical, and downright unusual

The child of Italian immigrants and an award-winning scholar of Italian literature, Joseph Luzzi straddles these two perspectives in My Two Italies to link his family’s dramatic story to Italy’s north-south divide, its quest for a unifying language, and its passion for art, food, and family.

From his Calabrian father’s time as a military internee in Nazi Germany—where he had a love affair with a local Bavarian woman—to his adventures amid the Renaissance splendor of Florence, Luzzi creates a deeply personal portrait of Italy that leaps past facile clichés about Mafia madness and Tuscan sun therapy. He delves instead into why Italian Americans have such a complicated relationship with the “old country,” and how Italy produces some of the world’s most astonishing art while suffering from corruption, political fragmentation, and an enfeebled civil society.

With topics ranging from the pervasive force of Dante’s poetry to the meteoric rise of Silvio Berlusconi, Luzzi presents the Italians in all their glory and squalor, relating the problems that plague Italy today to the country’s ancient roots. He shares how his “two Italies”—the earthy southern Italian world of his immigrant childhood and the refined northern Italian realm of his professional life—join and clash in unexpected ways that continue to enchant the many millions who are either connected to Italy by ancestry or bound to it by love.

Joseph Luzzi is the author of Romantic Europe and the Ghost of Italy, which won the Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies from the Modern Language Association. His writing has appeared in The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Bookforum, and The Times Literary Supplement. He has received an essay award from the Dante Society of America, a teaching prize from Yale College, and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The first American-born child in his Italian family, he earned his doctorate from Yale University and is a professor at Bard College.

PRAISE

Praise for My Two Italies: "My Two Italies [is] a brilliant tour de force that is part memoir, part cultural criticism and part paean to the magical city of Florence. A narrative at once elegant and elegiac, the book encapsulates the essence of contemporary Italy-sordid politics, organized crime, the bella figura-in a fast-paced prose that..."
The Symmetry Teacher
A Novel

Andrei Bitov; Translated from the Russian by Polly Gannon

A language-, border-, and genre-crossing extravaganza from one of the creators of the postmodern novel

One of Russia’s finest novelists and an heir to the literature of Gogol, Bulgakov, and Nabokov, Andrei Bitov has been widely hailed as a progenitor of the postmodern novel. *The Symmetry Teacher* is his love letter to the art of storytelling. Layered with playful games between writer and reader, this delightful, challenging work explores the relationship between an author and his creations, and the sacrifices that a writer may make out of ardor for his art.

Bitov tells us that *The Symmetry Teacher* is the “echo” of a British novel that he once read and is now trying to reconstruct through the moth holes of memory and the fog of a foreign tongue. As the book proceeds, we encounter a series of curious episodes: A man meets the devil on a park bench and the devil shows him photographs of the fall of Troy, Shakespeare’s legs, and a terrible event that will take place in his future. A king who reigns over all possible worlds and uses his power to remove stars from the sky turns out to be the compiler of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Villagers squabble over a self-proclaimed space alien, and a literary society decides that it will accept only new members whose works are unwritten. Through it all, Bitov proceeds with the wit and mastery of a fabulist in perfect command of his fables.

*Andrei Bitov* is the author of *Pushkin House*, *Captive of the Caucasus*, and *The Monkey Link*, among other works. He is a cofounder of the Russian PEN club and has received numerous awards and honors, including being named a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government. He lives in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

PRAISE

Blending elements of Nabokov, Calvino, and Percival Everett, Bitov’s shape-shifting novel is not really a novel so much as a narrative puzzle that revels in its own language . . . Bitov, a pioneer postmodern writer, packs physics-defying deaths, mysterious doorbells, and space aliens into this lively literary feat.” — *Publishers Weekly* (st...
Accepting the Disaster
Poems

Joshua Mehigan

An astonishing new collection from one of our finest emerging poets

A shark's tooth, the shape-shifting cloud drifting from a smokestack, the smoke detectors that hang, ominous but disregarded, overhead—very little eludes the curious and sympathetic eye of Joshua Mehigan. The poems in Accepting the Disaster range from lyric miniatures like “The Crossroads,” an eight-line sketch of an accident scene, to “The Orange Bottle,” an expansive narrative whose main character suffers a psychotic episode after quitting medication. Mehigan blends the naturalistic milieu of such great chroniclers of American life as Stephen Crane and Studs Terkel with the cinematic menace and wonder of Fritz Lang. Balanced by the music of his verse, this unusual combination brings an eerie resonance to the real lives and institutions it evokes.

These poems capture with equal tact the sinister quiet of a deserted Main Street, the tragic grandiosity of Michael Jackson, the loneliness of a self-loathing professor, the din of a cement factory, and the saving grandeur of the natural world. This much-anticipated second collection is the work of a nearly unrivaled craftsman, whose first book was called by Poetry “a work of some poise and finish, by turns delicate and robust.”

Joshua Mehigan's first book, The Optimist, was a finalist for the 2005 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Poetry. His poems have appeared in many periodicals, including The New Republic, The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, and Poetry, where he has been a frequent contributor of poems and essays. His writing has also been featured in Poetry Daily and The Writer’s Almanac, and in numerous anthologies. He is the recent recipient of Poetry magazine’s 2013 Levinson Prize and of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Mehigan lives in New York City.

PRAISE

“At nearly every turn Joshua Mehigan makes the right choices—imaginatively and formally—in his exciting new collection, Accepting the Disaster. And they're choices that could never be anticipated—uncanny, really, and thoroughly invigorating. Surprise and inevitability, that is the mark of a first-rate artist, and Mehigan is nothing if not...
New Selected Poems

Les Murray

A fresh selection of the finest poems—some previously uncollected—by one of our finest English-language poets

Why write poetry? For the weird unemployment. For the painless headaches, that must be tapped to strike down along your writing arm at the accumulated moment. For the adjustments after, aligning facets in a verb before the trance leaves you. For working always beyond your own intelligence.

—from “The Instrument”

New Selected Poems contains Les Murray’s own gathering from the full range of his poetry—from the 1960s through Taller When Prone (2004) and including previously uncollected work.

One of the finest poets writing today, Murray reinvents himself with each new collection. Whether writing about the indignities of childhood or the depths of depression, or evoking the rhythms of the natural world; whether writing in a sharply rendered Australian vernacular or a perfectly pitched King’s English, his versatility and vitality are a constant. New Selected Poems is the poet’s choice of his essential works: an indispensable collection for readers who already love his poetry, and an ideal introduction for those who are new to it.

Les Murray is the author of twelve books of poetry. His collection Subhuman Redneck Poems received the T. S. Eliot Prize, and in 1998 he was awarded the Gold Medal for Poetry presented by Queen Elizabeth II. He lives in New South Wales, Australia.
Zibaldone

Giacomo Leopardi; Edited by Michael Caesar and Franco D'Intino; Translated from the Italian by Kathleen Baldwin, Richard Dixon, David Gibbons, Ann Goldstein, Gerard Slowey, Martin Thom, Pamela Williams

A groundbreaking translation of the epic work of one of the great minds of the nineteenth century

Giacomo Leopardi was the greatest Italian poet of the nineteenth century and was recognized by readers from Nietzsche to Beckett as one of the towering literary figures in Italian history. To many, he is the finest Italian poet after Dante. (Jonathan Galassi’s translation of Leopardi’s Canti was published by FSG in 2010.)

Leopardi was also a prodigious scholar of classical literature and philosophy, and a voracious reader in numerous ancient and modern languages. For most of his writing career, he kept an immense notebook, known as the Zibaldone, or “hodge-podge,” as Harold Bloom has called it, in which Leopardi put down his original, wide-ranging, radically modern responses to his reading. His comments about religion, philosophy, language, history, anthropology, astronomy, literature, poetry, and love are unprecedented in their brilliance and suggestiveness, and the Zibaldone, which was only published at the turn of the twentieth century, has been recognized as one of the foundational books of modern culture. Its 4,500-plus pages have never been fully translated into English until now, when a team under the auspices of Michael Caesar and Franco D’Intino of the Leopardi Centre in Birmingham, England, have spent years producing a lively, accurate version. This essential book will change our understanding of nineteenth-century culture. This is an extraordinary, epochal publication.

Giacomo Leopardi (1798–1837) was born in Recanati, Italy. He was a poet, essayist, philosopher, and philologist.

PRAISE
Doctored: The Disillusionment of an American Physician

Sandeep Jauhar

A memoir and an exposé of the health care system by a cardiologist and much-praised author

Doctored is the shocking follow-up to Intern, Sandeep Jauhar’s widely praised chronicle of the harsh realities of a hospital residency. Now the director of the Heart Failure Program at a Long Island hospital, Jauhar uses his own story as a scalpel to lay open the American health-care system.

The patient is ill indeed. A perverse system forces doctors to prescribe unnecessary tests and participate in an elaborate system of cronyism just to cover costs and protect themselves from malpractice suits. Jauhar reports cases where a single patient might see fifteen specialists in one hospital stay, fail to receive a full picture of his actual condition, and leave with a bill for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Jauhar himself wrestles with his conscience as, struggling to make ends meet, he moonlights for a practitioner who charges exorbitant fees for tests of questionable value.

Doctored is a cry for reform; a fascinating look at what really goes on in examining rooms, ORs, and your own doctor’s mind; and, most of all, a deeply personal and unsparing act of introspection by a physician who wants to return meaning and moral grounding to a noble profession that has lost its way. It is certain to kick off controversy and heated debate at a time when the dysfunctionalities of our health-care system remain at the top of the nation’s agenda.

Sandeep Jauhar, MD, PhD, is the director of the Heart Failure Program at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. He writes regularly for The New York Times and The New England Journal of Medicine. He lives with his wife and their son and daughter on Long Island.

PRAISE

“Sandeep Jauhar’s Doctored is a passionate and necessary book that asks difficult questions about the future of medicine. The narrative is gripping, and the writing is marvelous. But it was the gravity of the problem—so movingly told—that grabbed and kept my attention throughout this remarkable work.” — Siddhartha Mukherjee
Berlin Now
The City After the Wall

Peter Schneider; Translated from the German by Sophie Schlondorff

A smartly guided romp, entertaining and enlightening, through Europe’s most charismatic and enigmatic city

It isn’t Europe’s most beautiful city, or its oldest. Its architecture is not more impressive than that of Rome or Paris; its museums do not hold more treasures than those in Barcelona or London. And yet, when citizens of “New York, Tel Aviv, or Rome ask me where I’m from and I mention the name Berlin,” writes Peter Schneider, “their eyes instantly light up.”

Berlin Now is a longtime Berliner’s bright, bold, and digressive exploration of the heterogeneous allure of this vibrant city. Delving beneath the obvious answers—Berlin’s club scene, bolstered by the lack of a mandatory closing time; the artistic communities that thrive due to the relatively low (for now) cost of living—Schneider takes us on an insider’s tour of this rapidly metamorphosing metropolis, where high-class soirees are held at construction sites and enterprising individuals often accomplish more without public funding—assembling a makeshift club on the banks of the Spree River—than Berlin’s officials do.

Schneider’s perceptive, witty investigations on everything from the insidious legacy of suspicion instilled by the East German secret police to the clashing attitudes toward work, food, and love held by former East and West Berliners have been sharply translated by Sophie Schlondorff. The result is a book so lively that readers will want to jump on a plane—just as soon as they’ve finished their adventures on the page.

Peter Schneider was born in Lübeck, Germany, and has lived in Berlin on and off since the 1960s. He has taught at many American universities—including Stanford, Princeton, and Harvard—and is the author of more than twenty books, including The Wall Jumper and Eduard’s Homecoming (FSG, 2001). He has also written for newspapers, including Der Spiegel, The New York Times, Le Monde, and La Repubblica. Sophie Schlondorff is a translator, editor, and writer. Originally from New York, she grew up bilingual in English and German, and is fluent in French and Italian. She is a graduate of Yale University and has been living abroad for more than a decade in Paris, Rome, and Berlin.

PRAISE

Praise for The German Comedy
Infidel Kings and Unholy Warriors
Faith, Power, and Violence in the Age of Crusade and Jihad
Brian A. Catlos

An in-depth portrait of the Crusades-era Mediterranean world, and a new understanding of the forces that shaped it

In *Infidel Kings and Unholy Warriors*, the award-winning scholar Brian A. Catlos puts us on the ground in the Mediterranean world of 1050–1200. We experience the sights and sounds of the region just as enlightened Islamic empires and primitive Christendom began to contest it. We learn about the siege tactics, theological disputes, and poetry of this enthralling time. And we see that people of different faiths coexisted far more frequently than we are commonly told.

Catlos’s meticulous reconstruction of the era allows him to stunningly overturn our most basic assumption about it: that it was defined by religious extremism. He brings to light many figures who were accepted as rulers by their ostensible foes. Samuel B. Naghrilla, a self-proclaimed Jewish messiah, became the force behind Muslim Granada. Bahram Pahlavuni, an Armenian Christian, wielded power in an Islamic caliphate. And Philip of Mahdia, a Muslim eunuch, rose to admiral in the service of Roger II, the Christian “King of Africa.”

What their lives reveal is that, then as now, politics were driven by a mix of self-interest, personality, and ideology. Catlos draws a similar lesson from his stirring chapters on the early Crusades, arguing that the notions of crusade and jihad were not causes of war but justifications. He imparts a crucial insight: the violence of the past cannot be blamed primarily on religion.

*Brian A. Catlos*, a professor of religious studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a research associate at the University of California, Santa Cruz, has received many prestigious fellowships and awards. He is the author of the prizewinning *The Victors and the Vanquished: Christians and Muslims of Catalonia and Aragon (1050–1300)* and *The Muslims of Medieval Latin Christendom ca. 1050–1615*, and is featured in the documentary *Cities of Light*. He has traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas, and has contributed to many travel guidebooks, including his *Rough Guide to Languedoc & Roussillon*. He and his family divide their time between Boulder and Barcelona.
Timeless
Love, Morgenthau, and Me

Lucinda Franks

An intimate look at one of New York’s most iconoclastic couples and the trials and successes of their marriage

In this beautifully rendered memoir, Lucinda Franks, a Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist, tells the intimate story of her marriage to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, one of the great men of our time. After Lucinda interviewed Bob for The New York Times in 1973, the two took a while to understand that they had fallen in love. Franks was a radical who marched with protesters and chained herself to fences. Morgenthau was a famous lawyer, a symbol of the establishment, who could have helped put her in jail. She was twenty-six. He was fifty-three. Now, thirty-six years into a marriage that was never supposed to happen, one between two people as deeply in love as they are different, they are living proof that opposites can forge an unbreakable life bond.

In Timeless, Franks offers a confidential tour of their unconventional years together, years that are both hilarious and interlaced with suspense. At the same time, she takes us behind the scenes to reveal the untold stories behind some of Morgenthau’s most famous cases, many of which she helped him brainstorm for.

A compelling memoir that calls to mind Ann Patchett’s This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage, with piercing insights into how a relationship grows and develops over a lifetime, Timeless grants us a window into one of New York’s most famous yet defiant and iconoclastic couples, and the trials and successes of their union.

Lucinda Franks is the author of a memoir, My Father’s Secret War. A former staff writer for The New York Times, she has also written for The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, and The Atlantic. She won a Pulitzer Prize for her reporting on the life and death of Diana Oughton, a member of the Weathermen. A graduate of Vassar College, Franks lives in New York City with her husband, the former longtime district attorney for New York County Robert M. Morgenthau.

PRAISE

"Franks’ chiseled prose demonstrates her chops as a veteran journalist . . . The boldface names give the book curb appeal, but this memoir’s hidden strength is its testimony to the beauty and difficulty of a long-term marriage.”

—Kirkus Reviews
Now I Know Who My Comrades Are
Voices from the Internet Underground

Emily Parker

An incisive look at the next major battlegrounds between dissidents and oppressive regimes

In China, a blogger is an Internet censor by day and a government critic by night. In Cuba, the authorities try to silence a critic by planting seeds of distrust in her marriage. In Siberia, a blogger is arrested after he uses his online fame to launch an international protest.

Ordinary citizens like these took down the governments of Egypt and Tunisia. Authoritarian governments try to isolate individuals from one another, but in the age of Twitter and Facebook, this is impossible—social media has helped people overcome feelings of powerlessness. New technologies have given rise to a new kind of citizen. As one blogger put it: “Now I know who my comrades are.”

In Now I Know Who My Comrades Are, Emily Parker, a State Department policymaker with years of on-the-ground experience, tells the stories of dissidents from each nation. Chinese surveillance is sleek and invisible, while a Cuban Internet dissident might find a security agent sitting at the next table in a café. The Russian Internet is largely uncensored, yet bloggers who cross the line risk beatings, even death.

In all three countries, growing communities expose injustices, threatening governments that use fear as a tool of repression. These regimes now have a choice: become more open and accountable or fall victim to turmoil and instability. Now I Know Who My Comrades Are is a testament to the power of community in uncertain times.

Emily Parker is the digital diplomacy adviser and a senior fellow at the New America Foundation, where she is writing a book about the Internet and democracy. Previously, she was a member of Secretary Clinton’s Policy Planning staff at the State Department, where Parker covered twenty-first-century statecraft, innovation, and technology. Before joining the State Department, she was an op-ed editor at The New York Times and an editorial writer and op-ed editor at The Wall Street Journal. She has written more than 120 editorials and op-eds for the Journal, and her work has appeared in The New York Times, The New Republic, and Project Syndicate.
The Eight Limbs of Yoga
A Handbook for Living Yoga Philosophy

Stuart Ray Sarbacker and Kevin Kimple; Foreword by Christopher Key Chapple

A clear, concise guidebook to the essentials of yogic thought and practice

Many people think yoga simply means postures and breathing. Not true. The intention of this short guide is practical and straightforward: to say what yoga really is and to apply its principles to everyday life. It leads us through the eight-limbed system, a coherent framework that has been handed down and elaborated upon for thousands of years and consists of five "outer limbs," which pertain to our experience of the social world and the operation of our senses, and three "inner limbs," which focus on the mind. Stuart Ray Sarbacker and Kevin Kimple present the eight-limbed system as something that can be turned to again and again to deepen and expand understanding and practice. As an introduction and overview to the essence of yoga, The Eight Limbs of Yoga is unparalleled for clarity, usefulness, and concision.

Stuart Ray Sarbacker is an assistant professor of philosophy at Oregon State University and specializes in South Asian religion and philosophy. Kevin Kimple teaches at the Eugene School of Yoga and is an authorized Ashtanga instructor.
HEALTH & FITNESS

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MARKETING

Targeted Promotion to Academic Markets and Yoga Schools

Yogavatāraṇam: The Translation of Yoga
A New Approach to Sanskrit, Integrating Traditional and Academic Methods and Based on Classic Yoga Texts, for University Courses, Yoga Programs, and Self Study

Zoë Slatoff-Ponté; Artwork by Ben Ponté

A new approach to learning Sanskrit that synthesizes Eastern traditional and Western academic methods

Sanskrit has been taught in two ways: the age-old Indian technique involves learning language through the central, sacred texts; the formal Western methodology teaches the alphabet, declensions, grammar, and vocabulary building. The burgeoning interest in Sanskrit among yoga practitioners and changes in the academic discipline indicate that a new approach is in order.

Zoë Slatoff-Ponté’s Yogavatāraṇam integrates traditional and academic methods of learning and allows students to read texts as soon as possible. The first section of the book teaches reading and basic grammar. The second covers more extensive grammar, and by the third section the student begins to look at and understand more complex texts such as the Upaniṣads.

Yogavatāraṇam is appropriate to many levels of study, from those who are new to Sanskrit to students who already have some experience in reading devanāgarī script, pronunciation, meaning, and grammar.

Zoë Slatoff-Ponté has a master’s degree in South Asian language and culture from Columbia University. Her thesis was a translation and exploration of a Sanskrit text on yoga and Ayurveda. She has practiced yoga since the age of fifteen; has traveled to Mysore almost annually to study at the Ashtanga Yoga Research Institute with Sri K. Pattabhi Jois, R. Sarath, and Saraswathi; and has been teaching for more than sixteen years. Her school, Ashtanga Yoga Upper West Side, is located in New York City.
The Weather Experiment
The Pioneers Who Sought to See the Future

Peter Moore

A history of weather forecasting, and an animated portrait of the nineteenth-century pioneers who made it possible

By the 1800s, a century of feverish discovery had launched the major branches of science. Physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and astronomy made the natural world explicable through experiment, observation, and categorization. And yet one scientific field remained in its infancy. Despite millennia of observation, mankind still had no understanding of the forces behind the weather. A century after the death of Newton, the laws that governed the heavens were entirely unknown, and weather forecasting was the stuff of folklore and superstition.

Peter Moore’s The Weather Experiment is the account of a group of naturalists, engineers, and artists who conquered the elements. It describes their travels and experiments, their breakthroughs and bankruptcies, with picaresque vigor. It takes readers from Irish bogs to a thunderstorm in Guanabara Bay to the basket of a hydrogen balloon 8,500 feet over Paris. And it captures the particular bent of mind—combining the Romantic love of Nature and the Enlightenment love of Reason—that allowed humanity to finally decipher the skies.

Peter Moore was born in Staffordshire in 1983. He is the author of Damn His Blood: A True and Detailed History of the Most Barbarous and Inhumane Murder at Oddingley and the Quick and Awful Retribution. He is a visiting lecturer at City University, where he teaches nonfiction writing, and was recently the writer in residence at Gladstone’s Library in Hawarden, Wales.

PRAISE

Praise for Damn His Blood

“The book (Moore’s first) is vivid, intense and often frightening . . . There is much in this brilliant, startling debut that will linger long in the memory, images that may even, for the unwary reader, make sleep temporarily difficult.” —Jonathan Barnes, The Times Literary Review
FICTION

The Way Things Were
A Novel
Aatish Taseer

An absorbing family saga set amid the commotion of the last forty years of Indian history

The Way Things Were opens with the death of Toby, the Maharaja of Kalasuryaketu, a Sanskritist who has not set foot in India for two decades. Moving back and forth across three sections, between today’s Delhi and the 1970s, ’80s, and ’90s in turn, the novel tells the story of a family held at the mercy of the times.

A masterful interrogation of the relationships between past and present and among individual lives, events, and culture, Aatish Taseer’s The Way Things Were takes its title from the Sanskrit word for history, itihasa, whose literal translation is “the way things indeed were.” Told in prose that is at once intimate and panoramic, and threaded through with Sanskrit as central metaphor and chorus, this is a hugely ambitious and important book, alive to all the commotion of the last forty years but never losing its brilliant grasp on the current moment.

Aatish Taseer is the author of the novels The Temple-Goers and Noon, as well as the memoir Stranger to History: A Son’s Journey Through Islamic Lands and Manto: Selected Stories, a translation from Sanskrit. He has worked as a reporter for Time magazine, and has written for The Sunday Times, the Financial Times, and Esquire. His work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. He lives in London and Delhi.

PRAISE

Praise for Noon

“Combining a heady cocktail of theft, blackmail and dysfunctional family relations with a touch of the Kafkaesque, this is a powerfully written and deeply thoughtful work.” —Anna Scott, The Guardian

MARKETING

National Advertising

ALSO AVAILABLE

Stranger to History: A Son’s Journey through Islamic Lands
11/2012 | 9781555976286
Trade Paperback | $16.00 / $18.50 Can.

Noon: A Novel
10/2012 | 9780865478756
Trade Paperback | $15.00 / $17.00 Can.
Watching Them Be
Star Presence on the Screen
from Garbo to Balthazar

James Harvey

An intimate, thought-provoking exploration of the mysteries of “star presence” in cinema

“One does not go to see them act,' wrote James Baldwin about the great iconic movie stars Wayne and Davis and Bogart, ‘one goes to watch them be’. . . Of course. It seems obvious . . . Where else besides the movies do you get to see other persons so intimately, so pressingly, so largely even? Where else such intense and close, such sustained and searching looks as you have of these strangers on the screen, whoever they really are? In life you try not to stare; but at the movies that's exactly what you get to do, two hours or more—safely, raptly, even blissfully.”

It's this sort of amplified, heightened, sometimes transcendent “seeing” that James Harvey explores in Watching Them Be. Marvelously vivid and perceptive, and impressively erudite, this is his take on how aura is communicated in movies. Beginning where Roland Barthes left off with the face of Greta Garbo and ending with Robert Bresson’s Au hasard Balthazar, Harvey moves nimbly and expertly through film history, celebrating actors and directors who have particularly conveyed a feeling of transcendence.

From Marlene Dietrich to John Wayne to Robert De Niro, from Nashville to Jackie Brown to Masculine Feminine and the implicitly or explicitly religious films of Roberto Rossellini and Carl Theodor Dreyer, this is one man's personal, deeply felt account of the films that have changed his life. They will also, Harvey suggests, change yours.

James Harvey is a playwright, essayist, and critic, and the author of several books on the movies, including Movie Love in the Fifties and Romantic Comedy in Hollywood. His most recent work has appeared in The New York Review of Books and The Threepenny Review. He is a professor emeritus at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he teaches literature and film, and he has previously taught film at the University of California at Berkeley, the New School, and Sarah Lawrence College. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

PRAISE

A rare and special piece of serious film criticism . . . [Harvey] is unusually literate for a film scholar and has a killer turn of phrase . . . [A] marvelous book.” —Christopher Bray, The Wall Street Journal

“Harvey, in astute observations and rich descriptions, attempts to put words
City by City
Dispatches from the American Metropolis

Edited by Keith Gessen and Stephen Squibb

A collection of essays—historical and personal—about the present and future of American cities

Edited by Keith Gessen and Stephen Squibb, City by City is a collection of essays—historical, personal, and somewhere in between—about the present and future of American cities. It sweeps from Gold Rush, Alaska, to Miami, Florida, encompassing cities large and small, growing and failing. These essays look closely at the forces—gentrification, underemployment, politics, culture, and crime—that shape urban life. They also tell the stories of citizens whose fortunes have risen or fallen with those of the cities they call home.

A cross between Hunter S. Thompson, Studs Terkel, and the Great Depression-era WPA guides to each state in the Union, City by City carries this project of American storytelling up to the days of our own Great Recession.

Keith Gessen is a founding editor of n+1 and the author of All the Sad Young Literary Men, as well as the editor of Diary of a Very Bad Year: Confessions of an Anonymous Hedge Fund Manager and Kirill Medvedev's It's No Good: Poems, Essays, Manifestoes. Stephen Squibb is a graduate student in English at Harvard University. His writing has appeared in Artforum and e-flux journal.

PRAISE

Praise for n+1

“So many good writers have come tumbling out of that small journal in the past few years that it’s begun to resemble an intellectual clown car.” —Dwight Garner, The New York Times Book Review

“Just when you’re thinking you’re intellectually alone in the world, something like n+1 falls into your hands.” —Jonathan Franzen
Infinitesimal: How a Dangerous Mathematical Theory Shaped the Modern World

Amir Alexander


On August 10, 1632, five leaders of the Society of Jesus convened in a somber Roman palazzo to pass judgment on a simple idea: that a continuous line is composed of distinct and limitlessly tiny parts. The doctrine would become the foundation of calculus, but on that fateful day the judges ruled that it was forbidden. With the stroke of a pen they set off a war for the soul of the modern world.

Amir Alexander’s *Infinitesimal* is the story of the struggle that pitted Europe’s entrenched powers against voices for tolerance and change. It takes us from the bloody religious strife of the sixteenth century to the battlefields of the English civil war and the fierce confrontations between leading thinkers like Galileo and Hobbes. We see how a small mathematical disagreement became a contest over the nature of the heavens and the earth: Was the world entirely known and ruled by a divinely sanctioned rationality and hierarchy? Or was it a vast and mysterious place, ripe for exploration? The legitimacy of popes and kings, as well as our modern beliefs in human liberty and progressive science, hung in the balance; the answer hinged on the infinitesimal.

Pulsing with drama and excitement, *Infinitesimal* will forever change the way you look at a simple line—and celebrates the spirit of discovery, innovation, and intellectual achievement.

Amir Alexander teaches history at UCLA. He is the author of *Geometrical Landscapes* and *Duel at Dawn*. His work has been featured in *Nature*, *The Guardian*, and other publications. He lives in Los Angeles, California.

PRAISE

"Alexander pulls off the impressive feat of putting a subtle mathematical concept centre stage in a ripping historical narrative . . . This is a complex story told with skill and verve." —The Times Higher Education
The Great Barrier Reef is the most spectacular marine environment on Earth, a true wonder of the world. Yet the history of our encounters with it has long been elusive. In The Reef, the acclaimed historian and explorer Iain McCalman recounts in full the dramatic story of the reef and the people who have been captivated by it for two centuries.

The Reef is a narrative told through the lives of twenty intrepid souls, from Captain James Cook and his voyage across a mysterious coral maze to the world’s leading reef scientist, John “Charlie” Veron, whose personal mission is to rescue the reef from catastrophe. The extraordinary individuals in the book—not only explorers and scientists but also beachcombers, photographers, divers, and indigenous peoples and the castaways they adopted—were drawn to the reef for different reasons, but all shared one thing: a passion for this vast coral country.

As McCalman explores how the reef has been seen variously as a labyrinth of terror, a nurturing heartland, a scientific challenge, and a fragile global wonder, he argues that it is only by combining science and art that we will truly appreciate how this great gift of nature has shaped us and why it demands our attention. A classic work of romantic history, blending cutting-edge science with personal reflection and gorgeous images, The Reef is a beautiful book that will speak to broad audiences for years to come.

Iain McCalman is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a historian, a social scientist, and an explorer. He is the author of Darwin’s Armada, The Seven Ordeals of Count Cagliostro, and Radical Underworld, and is a professor of history at the University of Sydney.

Do Fathers Matter?
What Science Is Telling Us About the Parent We've Overlooked

Paul Raeburn

A groundbreaking exploration of fatherhood from the frontiers of psychology, genetics, and neuroscience

Whether they are portrayed as incompetent or simply inconsequential, fathers have long been overlooked.

In *Do Fathers Matter?* the award-winning journalist Paul Raeburn collects the latest research to show that fathers have a profound impact on their children’s lives—from conception to adulthood. He explains how fathers’ roles are distinctly different from those of mothers, as well as how fathers’ play helps to prepare children for the outside world. And he reveals how the connection between children and fathers goes both ways: children influence fathers’ stress, hormones, and relationships with their partners.

Raeburn discards the myths of fatherhood as he searches for what we really know about nontraditional families, new fathers, and fathers of adult children, and introduces us to groundbreaking research that will change the way we think about parenting. Weaving in fascinating findings from genetics, brain research, animal behavior, and his own experience of parenthood, Raeburn delivers an incredibly rich and eye-opening look at the impact fathers can have on their children.

Paul Raeburn is the chief media critic for the Knight Science Journalism Tracker site at MIT. He has appeared on MSNBC and is a regular guest on NPR. Raeburn’s work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Discover, Scientific American, USA Today, and Psychology Today, among many other publications. He is the author of *Acquainted with the Night* and is a former science editor at *BusinessWeek* and the Associated Press. A past president of the National Association of Science Writers, he lives in New York City with his wife and children.

PRAISE

Battle Lines
A Graphic History of the Civil War

Jonathan Fetter-Vorm and Ari Kelman

The Civil War as we've never seen it before

Featuring breathtaking panoramas and haunting images, *Battle Lines* is an utterly original graphic history of a nation transformed by the Civil War. A collaboration between the award-winning historian Ari Kelman and the acclaimed graphic novelist Jonathan Fetter-Vorm, *Battle Lines* begins each chapter with an object, and each object tells its own story. A tattered flag, lowered in defeat at Fort Sumter. A set of chains, locked to the ankles of a slave as he scrambles toward freedom. A bullet, launched from the bore of a terrifying new rifle. A brick, hurled from a crowd of ration-starved rioters. These objects, both iconic and commonplace, join with a cast of soldiers, farmers, slaves, and well-known figures to trace an ambitious narrative that extends from the early rumblings of secession to the dark years of Reconstruction. Employing a bold graphic form to illuminate the complex history of this period, Kelman and Fetter-Vorm take the reader from the malaria-filled gut of a mosquito to the faded ink of a soldier’s pen, and from the barren farms of the home front to the front lines of an infantry charge. A daring presentation of the war that nearly tore America apart, *Battle Lines* is a monumental achievement.

Jonathan Fetter-Vorm is an author and illustrator. His book *Trinity: A Graphic History of the Atomic Bomb* was selected by the American Library Association as a Best Graphic Novel for Teens in 2013. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. Ari Kelman is the McCabe Greer Professor of the Civil War Era at Penn State University and the author of *A River and Its City* and *A Misplaced Massacre*, winner of the 2014 Bancroft Prize, the Avery O. Craven Award, and the Tom Watson Brown Book Award. He lives in State College, Pennsylvania, with his wife and two sons.

PRAISE

“*Battle Lines* brings us the Civil War as we’ve never seen it before. An inspired blend of images and words, this fresh, vivid history is the perfect primer for students and devotees of America’s greatest conflict.” —Tony Horwitz, author of *Confederates in the Attic* and *Midnight Rising*
Broadcast Hysteria
Orson Welles's War of the Worlds and the Art of Fake News

A. Brad Schwartz

The enthralling and never-told story of the War of the Worlds radio drama and its true aftermath

On October 30, 1938, families across the country were gathered around their radios when their regular programming was interrupted by an announcer delivering news of a meteor strike in New Jersey. With increasing intensity, the announcer read bulletins describing terrifying war machines moving toward New York City. As the invading force approached, some listeners sat transfixed before their radios, while others ran to alert neighbors or call the police. Some even fled their homes in panic. But the broadcast was not breaking news—it was Orson Welles’s adaptation of the H. G. Wells classic The War of the Worlds.

In Broadcast Hysteria, A. Brad Schwartz examines the history behind the infamous radio play. Did it really spawn a wave of mass hysteria? Schwartz is the first to examine the hundreds of letters sent directly to Welles after the broadcast. He draws upon them, and hundreds more sent to the FCC, to recapture the roiling emotions of a bygone era, and his findings challenge conventional wisdom. Relatively few listeners believed an actual attack was under way. But even so, Schwartz shows that Welles’s broadcast prompted a different kind of “mass panic” as Americans debated the bewitching power of the radio and the country’s vulnerability in a time of crisis. Schwartz’s original research, gifted storytelling, and thoughtful analysis make Broadcast Hysteria a groundbreaking work of media history.

A. Brad Schwartz co-wrote an episode of the award-winning PBS series American Experience on the War of the Worlds broadcast, based in part on research for his senior thesis at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He lives in Ann Arbor.
Today, Earl Warren is recalled as the chief justice of a Supreme Court that introduced school desegregation and other dramatic changes to American society. In retirement, however, Warren argued that his court’s greatest accomplishment was establishing the principle of “one person, one vote” in state legislative and congressional redistricting. Malapportionment, Warren recognized, subverted the will of the majority, privileging rural voters, and often business interests and whites, over others. In declaring nearly all state legislatures unconstitutional, the court oversaw a revolution that transformed the exercise of political power in the United States.

*On Democracy’s Doorstep* tells the story of this crucial—and neglected—episode. J. Douglas Smith follows lawyers, activists, and Justice Department officials as they approach the court. We see Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy pushing for radical change and idealistic lawyers in Alabama bravely defying their peers. We then watch as the justices edge toward their momentous decision. *The Washington Post* called the result a step “toward establishing democracy in the United States.” But not everyone agreed; Smith shows that business lobbies and their political allies attempted to overturn the court by calling the first Constitutional Convention since the 1780s. Thirty-three states ratified their petition—just one short of the two-thirds required.

J. Douglas Smith is the author of *Managing White Supremacy: Race, Politics, and Citizenship in Jim Crow Virginia*, which received the 2003 Library of Virginia Literary Award in Nonfiction. He is the executive director of the Los Angeles Service Academy, a program that teaches students how the political, social, and environmental infrastructure of metropolitan Los Angeles works. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two children.

**PRAISE**

“Smith’s impressive research recaptures an otherwise unremembered chapter in U.S. history . . . *On Democracy’s Doorstep* recounts a triumphant story of constitutional reform that dramatically advanced the promise of democracy.” —

**“[On Democracy’s Doorstep] is invaluable for anyone who wishes to understand the court.” —Kirkus Reviews**
“What do we mean by the Revolution?” John Adams asked Thomas Jefferson in 1815. “The war? That was no part of the Revolution. It was only an effect and consequence of it.” As the distinguished historian Thomas P. Slaughter shows in this landmark history, the roots of the Revolution went back even further than Adams may have realized.

In Slaughter’s account, colonists in British North America starting in the early seventeenth century chafed under imperial rule. Though successive British kings called them lawless, they insisted on their moral courage and political principles, and regarded their independence as a great virtue. Their struggles to define this independence took many forms: from New England and Nova Scotia to New York and Pennsylvania and south to the Carolinas, colonists resisted unsympathetic royal governors, smuggled to evade British duties, and organized for armed uprisings.

In the eighteenth century—especially after victories over France—the British were eager to crush these rebellions, but American opposition only intensified. In Independence, Slaughter resets and clarifies the terms of this remarkable development, showing how and why a critical mass of colonists determined that they could not be both independent and subject to the British Crown. By 1775–76, they had become revolutionaries—willing to go to war to defend their independence, not simply to gain it.

Thomas P. Slaughter is the author of The Beautiful Soul of John Woolman, Apostle of Abolition (Hill and Wang, 2008), and four other books. He is the Arthur R. Miller Professor at the University of Rochester and the editor of Reviews in American History.

“Slaughter’s book provides a wealth of research that is fastened together into a coherent, brisk narrative. Anyone interested in learning about the roots of conflict that help explain the American Revolution should make sure to read this book.” —Kasey S. Pipes, The Dallas Morning News
The Argonauts

Maggie Nelson

An intrepid voyage out to the frontiers of the latest thinking about love, language, and family

Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts* is a genre-bending memoir, a work of “autotheory” offering fresh, fierce, and timely thinking about desire, identity, and the limitations and possibilities of love and language. At its center is a romance: the story of the author’s relationship with the artist Harry Dodge. This story, which includes Nelson’s account of falling in love with Dodge, who is fluidly gendered, as well as her journey to and through a pregnancy, offers a firsthand account of the complexities and joys of (queer) family-making.

Writing in the spirit of public intellectuals such as Susan Sontag and Roland Barthes, Nelson binds her personal experience to a rigorous exploration of what iconic theorists have said about sexuality, gender, and the vexed institutions of marriage and child-rearing. Nelson’s insistence on radical individual freedom and the value of caretaking becomes the rallying cry of this thoughtful, unabashed, uncompromising book.

Maggie Nelson is a poet, critic, and nonfiction author of books such as *The Art of Cruelty: A Reckoning*, *Bluets*, and *Jane: A Murder*. She teaches in the School of Critical Studies at CalArts and lives in Los Angeles, California.

PRAISE

“Maggie Nelson cuts through our culture's prefabricated structures of thought and feeling with an intelligence whose ferocity is ultimately in the service of love. No piety is safe, no orthodoxy, no easy irony. The scare quotes burn off like fog.” —Ben Lerner

Praise for *The Art of Cruelty*

“An important and frequently surprising book . . . [...
The Pinch
A Novel

Steve Stern

A dazzling, spellbinding novel set in a mythical Jewish community by the acclaimed author of the New York Times Notable Book The Book of Mischief

It's the late 1960s. The Pinch, once a thriving Jewish community centered on North Main Street in Memphis, has been reduced to a single tenant. Lenny Sklarew awaits the draft by peddling drugs and shelving books—until he learns he is a character in a book about the rise and fall of this very Pinch. Muni Pinsker, who authored the book in an enchanted day containing years, arrived in the neighborhood at its height and was smitten by an alluring tightrope walker. Muni's own story is dovetailed by that of his uncle Pinchas Pin, whose epic journey to North Main Street forms the book's spine. Steve Stern interweaves these tales with an ingenious structure that merges past with present, and his wildly inventive fabulism surpasses everything he's done before. Together, these intersecting stories transform the real-world experience of Lenny, whose fate determines the future of the Pinch, in this brilliant, unforgettable novel.

Steve Stern, winner of the National Jewish Book Award, is the author of several previous novels and story collections, including The Book of Mischief and The Frozen Rabbi. He teaches at Skidmore College in upstate New York.

PRAISE

Praise for The Book of Mischief

"Stern’s stories are suffused with nostalgia for this lost world . . . Nothing goes unobserved." —The New York Times Book Review

"Filled with pathos and humor . . . At its most poignant, Stern’s writing . . . peels away at the membranes that divide the present from the past." —The New Republic

Praise for The F...
Leaving Orbit
Notes from the Last Days of American Spaceflight

Margaret Lazarus Dean

Winner of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize, a breathtaking elegy to the waning days of human spaceflight as we have known it

In the 1960s, humans took their first steps away from Earth, and for a time our possibilities in space seemed endless. But in a time of austerity and in the wake of high-profile disasters like Challenger, that dream has ended. In early 2011, Margaret Lazarus Dean traveled to Cape Canaveral for NASA’s last three space shuttle launches in order to bear witness to the end of an era. With Dean as our guide to Florida’s Space Coast and to the history of NASA, Leaving Orbit takes the measure of what American spaceflight has achieved while reckoning with its earlier witnesses, such as Norman Mailer, Tom Wolfe, and Oriana Fallaci. Along the way, Dean meets NASA workers, astronauts, and space fans, gathering possible answers to the question: What does it mean that a spacefaring nation won’t be going to space anymore?

Margaret Lazarus Dean is the author of The Time It Takes to Fall. She is a recipient of fellowships from the NEA and the Tennessee Arts Commission and is an associate professor of English at the University of Tennessee. She lives in Knoxville.

PRAISE

Praise for The Time It Takes to Fall

“[A] closely observed and carefully constructed novel . . . Terrific.” —The Boston Globe

“One of the nicest written coming-of-age stories that I’ve read in a long time.” —Nancy Pearl, NPR

“Those who were children—and adults—during the time of the Challenger disaster will find in The Time It Takes to Fall..."
A Woman Loved
A Novel

Andreï Makine; Translated from the French by Geoffrey Strachan

The fascinating story of a young Russian filmmaker’s attempts to portray Catherine the Great, before and after the collapse of the Soviet Union

Catherine the Great’s life seems to have been made for the cinema—her rise to power; her reportedly countless love affairs and wild sexual escapades; the episodes of betrayal, revenge, and even murder—there’s no shortage of historical drama. But Oleg Erdmann, a young Russian filmmaker, seeks to discover and portray Catherine’s essential, emotional truth, her real life beyond the rumors and façade. His first screenplay just barely makes it past the Soviet film board and is assigned to a talented director, but the resulting film fails to avoid the usual clichés. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, as he struggles to find a place for himself in the new order, Oleg agrees to work with an old friend on a television series that becomes a quick success—as well as increasingly lurid, a far cry from his original vision. He continues to seek the real Catherine elsewhere.

With A Woman Loved, Andreï Makine delivers a sweeping novel about the uses of art, the absurdity of history, and the overriding power of human love, if only it can be uncovered and allowed to flourish.

Andreï Makine was born in 1957 in Siberia and has lived in France for more than twenty years. His previous novels include Dreams of My Russian Summers and The Life of an Unknown Man.

PRAISE

Praise for Andreï Makine

“Makine has special gifts.” —The New York Times

“Justly acclaimed.” —The Washington Post

“Makine belongs on the shelf of world literature—between Lermontov and Nabokov, a few volumes down from Proust.” —The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

“[Dreams of My Russian Summers] reminds us how, through a precise use of languag...
Brief Loves That Live Forever
A Novel

Andreï Makine; Translated from the French by Geoffrey Strachan

A beautifully observed and moving account of love and the human spirit in the Soviet era

In Soviet Russia the desire for freedom is also a desire for the freedom to love. Lovers live as outlaws, traitors to the collective spirit, and love is more intense when it feels like an act of resistance. Now entering middle age, an orphan recalls the fleeting moments that have never left him—a scorching day in a blossoming orchard with a woman who loves another; a furtive, desperate affair in a Black Sea resort; the bunch of snowdrops a crippled childhood friend gave him to give to his lover. As the dreary Brezhnev era gives way to perestroika and the fall of Communism, the orphan uncovers the truth behind the life of Dmitri Ress, whose tragic fate embodies the unbreakable bond between love and freedom.

“Makine has been compared to Stendhal, Tolstoy and Proust; our best historians of the Soviet era queue up to pronounce him one of the finest living writers on the period; and he is regularly tipped to be among the contenders for the next Nobel in literature.” —The Daily Telegraph

Andreï Makine was born in 1957 in Siberia and has lived in France for more than twenty years. His previous novels include Dreams of My Russian Summers and The Life of an Unknown Man.

PRAISE

Praise for Andreï Makine

“Makine’s prose is both spare and meditative, and leads us deep into the memories of a world that is now gone.” —The Observer

“A poignant, poetically charged picture of a repressive society, leavened only by the freedom and possibilities of love.” —The Mail on Sunday

“I would rather read Andreï Makine than any other ...
My Feelings
Poems

Nick Flynn

A daring and intimate new book by the poet and memoirist Nick Flynn, “a champion of contemporary American poetry” (Newpages)

. . . the take from his bank jobs, all of it

will come to me, if I can just get him to draw me
a map, if I can find the tree, if I can find

the shovel. And the house, the mansion he
grew up in, soon a lawyer will pass

a key across a walnut desk, but even this
lawyer will not be able to tell me where this

mansion is.

—from "Kafka"

In My Feelings, Nick Flynn makes no claims on anyone else’s. These poems inhabit a continually shifting sense of selfhood, in the attempt to contain quicksilver realms of emotional energy—from grief and panic to gratitude and understanding.

Nick Flynn is the award-winning author of three previous books of poetry, including Some Ether, and three memoirs, including Another Bullshit Night in Suck City. He teaches at the University of Houston, and divides his time between Houston and Brooklyn, New York.

PRAISE

Praise for Nick Flynn

“Each word is a lit match, a thrown stone, a howling blast, a choking torrent. Flynn has forged daringly intimate and clarion poems of conscience.” — Booklist

“[Flynn’s] books of poetry—Some Ether, Blind Huber, The Captain Asks for a Show of Hands—all ask difficult questions and leave us with a beautiful acceptance that...
Selfish
Poems
Albert Goldbarth

“If Goldbarth belongs to a school, he is surely its sole member. He’s simply . . . one of our most generous working poets.” — Rumpus

And you

perhaps don't like this poem: its free verse
or its narrative or the way it uses
gender or the heavy-handed
word-play of its title.

Like I care.

I wrote this for me.

—from “Try the Selfish”

In his latest collection, the incomparable Albert Goldbarth explores all things “self-ish”: the origins of identity, the search for ancestry, the neurology of self-awareness, and the line between “self” and “other.” Whether one line long or ten pages, whether uproariously comic or steeped in gravitas, these are poems that address our human essence.

Albert Goldbarth is the author of more than twenty-five books of poetry, including Everyday People and The Kitchen Sink. He has twice won the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry. He lives in Wichita, Kansas.

PRAISE

Praise for Albert Goldbarth

“Albert Goldbarth has amassed a body of work as substantial and intelligent as that of anyone in his generation.” — Harvard Review

“Albert Goldbarth just may be the American poet of his generation for the ages.” — The Georgia Review
Black Cat Bone
Poems

John Burnside

Winner of both the T. S. Eliot Prize and the Forward Prize, Black Cat Bone is the first American publication of the poetry of John Burnside

Before the songs I sang there were the songs
they came from, patent shreds
of Babel, and the secret
Nineveh of back rooms in the dark.

Hour after hour
the night trains blundered through
from towns so far away and innocent
that everything I knew seemed fictional:

—from “Death Room Blues”

John Burnside’s Black Cat Bone is full of poems of thwarted love and disappointment, raw desire, the stalking beast. One sequence tells of an obsessive lover coming to grief in echoes of the old murder ballads, and another longer poem describes a hunter losing himself in the woods while pursuing an unknown and possibly unknowable quarry. Black Cat Bone introduces American readers to one of the best poets writing across the Atlantic.

John Burnside is a poet, fiction writer, and memoirist. His poetry has received the T. S. Eliot Prize, the Forward Prize, the Whitbread Poetry Award, and the Petrarcha Preis. He lives in Fife, Scotland.

PRAISE

Praise for John Burnside

“If genius is operating anywhere in English poetry at present, I feel it is here, in Burnside’s singular music.” —Adam Thorpe, The Observer

“[Burnside’s] radiant meditations have been perhaps the most quietly and pervasively influential voice to have emerged in British poetry in the last twenty years.” —Don Paterson...
Turning into Dwelling
Poems

Christopher Gilbert
Introduction by Terrance Hayes

A milestone publication of the late Christopher Gilbert’s poetry, with an introduction by the National Book Award winner Terrance Hayes

Lord, the anguish of my Black block rises up in me
like a grief. My only chance to go beyond being breach—
to resist being quelled as a bit of inner city entropy—
is to speak up for the public which has birthed me.
To build this language house. To make this case. Create.
This loving which lives outside time. Lord, this is time.

—from “Turning into Dwelling”

Christopher Gilbert’s award-winning Across the Mutual Landscape has become an underground classic of contemporary American poetry. Now reissued and presented with Gilbert’s never-before-published last manuscript written before his death in 2007, Turning into Dwelling offers new readers the original music and vision of one of our most inventive poets.

Christopher Gilbert is the author of Across the Mutual Landscape, winner of the 1983 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets. He died in 2007.

PRAISE

Praise for Across the Mutual Landscape

“These poems turn on the convictions and values of the musicians Thelonious Monk and Charlie ‘Bird’ Parker, and the poets Robert Hayden and Muriel Rukeyser, who heal and instruct . . . They are full of verbal play and the animal and godly qualities of existence.” —Michael S. Harper

“[Gilbert] has the …
SuperMutant Magic Academy

Jillian Tamaki

Unrequited love, underage drinking, and teen angst rule at a high school for mutants and witches

The New York Times and New Yorker illustrator Jillian Tamaki is best known for co-creating the award-winning young adult graphic novels Skim and This One Summer—moody and atmospheric bestsellers. SuperMutant Magic Academy, which she has been serializing online for the past four years, paints a teenaged world filled with just as much ennui and uncertainty, but also with a sharp dose of humor and irreverence. Tamaki deftly plays superhero and high-school Hollywood tropes against what adolescence is really like: The SuperMutant Magic Academy is a prep school for mutants and witches, but their paranormal abilities take a backseat to everyday teen concerns.

Science experiments go awry, bake sales are upstaged, and the new kid at school is a cat who will determine the course of human destiny. In one strip, lizard-headed Trixie frets about her nonexistent modeling career; in another, the immortal Everlasting Boy tries to escape this mortal coil to no avail. Throughout it all, closeted Marsha obsesses about her unrequited crush, the cat-eared Wendy. Whether the magic is mundane or miraculous, Tamaki’s jokes are precise and devastating.

SuperMutant Magic Academy has won two Ignatz Awards. This volume combines the most popular content from the webcomic with a selection of all-new, never-before-seen strips that conclude Tamaki’s account of life at the academy.

Jillian Tamaki is a Canadian illustrator and cartoonist living in Brooklyn, New York. Her illustrations have won gold medals from the Society of Illustrators and the Society of Publication Designers. Tamaki is the co-creator of the graphic novel Skim, which was listed as a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of 2008 and was nominated for four Eisner Awards and a Governor General’s Literary Award. This One Summer, her second co-authored work with Mariko Tamaki, was published in mid-2014 and spent more than a month on the New York Times bestseller list. Her two books of personal work are Gilded Lilies and Indoor Voice.

PRAISE

"SuperMutant Magic Academy is . . . not just weird, it’s oftentimes so completely bonkers and out-there that it leaves you a little shell-shocked. And believe me, that is a huge, huge compliment." —Autostraddle

"SuperMutant Magic Academy captures all of the teen angst you’ll find at a school for magical mutants—or any school at all." —io9
Melody

Sylvie Rancourt; Translated from the French by Helge Dascher; Introduction by Chris Ware

A long-lost memoir about being a stripper, with an introduction by Chris Ware

In 1980, Sylvie Rancourt and her boyfriend moved to Montreal from rural Northern Quebec. With limited formal education or training, they had a hard time finding employment, so Rancourt began dancing in strip clubs. These experiences formed the backbone of the first Canadian autobiographical comic book, Melody, which Rancourt wrote, drew, and distributed, starting in 1985. Later, she collaborated with the artist Jacques Boivin, who translated and drew a new series of Melody comics for the American market—the comics were an instant cult classic.

Until now, the Rancourt drawn-and-written comics have never been published in English. These stories are compelling without ever being voyeuristic or self-pitying, and her drawings are formally innovative while maintaining a refreshingly frank and engaging clarity. Whether she’s divulging her first experiences dancing for an audience or sharing moments from her life at home, her storytelling is straightforward and never sensationalized. With a knowing wink at the reader, Rancourt shares a world that, in someone else’s hands, might be scandalous or seedy, but in hers is fully realized, real, and often funny.

The Drawn & Quarterly edition of Melody, featuring an introduction by Chris Ware (Building Stories), places this masterpiece of early autobiographical comics in its rightful place at the heart of the comics canon.

Sylvie Rancourt is a cartoonist and painter who was born in Northern Quebec and moved to Montreal in the early 1980s. The English translation of Melody became an instant cult classic, selling more than 200,000 copies, and the 2013 French Melody collection was nominated for a prize at the Angoulême Festival. Rancourt lives with her husband and five children in Abitibi, Canada, where she spends much of her time painting.

PRAISE

"[Rancourt] is one of the pioneers of autobiographical comics . . . . The republishing of this long-out-of-print and difficult-to-find saga . . . plunges the reader straight into a profoundly sensitive work that no moral judgment could taint." —Le Monde
Drawn & Quarterly
Twenty-five Years of Contemorary Cartooning, Comics, and Graphic Novels

Edited by Tom Devlin

"The most elegant comics publisher in North America." — Time

Drawn & Quarterly: Twenty-five Years of Contemporary Cartooning, Comics, and Graphic Novels celebrates the storied transformation of the Montreal publisher whose veneration of the medium’s best cartoonists has never wavered. In 1989, when the term "graphic novel" was not commonly heard in the comic shop or bookstore, Chris Oliveros created a comics magazine that took the industry by storm with issues that featured Peter Bagge, Julie Doucet, Carol Tyler, Jacques Tardi, and Seth. Armed with an editorial aesthetic, design sense, and passion for its artists, D+Q grew from a one-man operation into a wildly influential boutique publisher. D+Q is renowned for an author-friendly ethos of high production standards, creative freedom, and fair business practices, with a roster that includes Lynda Barry, Kate Beaton, Chester Brown, Daniel Clowes, Tove Jansson, Shigeru Mizuki, Art Spiegelman, Adrian Tomine, Chris Ware, and others from around the globe.

Drawn & Quarterly: Twenty-five Years is a celebration of the brilliant cartoonists whose talent and loyalty is the core of D+Q’s success as an independent publisher. The book digs into the archives and features comics, biographies, personal reminiscences, and photographs; new work by Michael DeForge, Guy Delisle, Miriam Katin, R. Sikoryak, and Jillian Tamaki; essays by Margaret Atwood, Jonathan Lethem, Sheila Heti, and Deb Olin Unferth; and interviews by Jeet Hee...

Tom Devlin is Drawn & Quarterly’s creative director.

PRAISE

"For [more than twenty-five] years, the literary-minded publisher has produced high-quality comics and graphic novels, elevating comic books into art objects and its authors into icons." — Quill & Quire

"One of the world’s leading publishers of graphic novels." — Financial Times

"[A] comics powerhouse . . . Lavish production values." — Maclean...
Showa 1953-1989
A History of Japan

Shigeru Mizuki; Translated from the Japanese by Zack Davisson

The final volume in the Eisner-nominated history of Japan

Showa 1953–1989: A History of Japan concludes Shigeru Mizuki’s dazzling autobiographical and historical account of Showa-period Japan, a portrait both intimate and ranging of a defining epoch. The final volume picks up in the wake of Japan’s utter defeat in World War II, as a country reduced to rubble struggles to rise again. The Korean War brings new opportunities to a nation searching for an identity.

A former enemy becomes their greatest ally as the United States funnels money, jobs, and opportunity into Japan, hoping to establish the country as a bulwark against Soviet Communist expansion. Japan reinvents itself, emerging as an economic powerhouse. Events like the Tokyo Olympiad and the World’s Fair introduce a friendlier Japan to the world, but this period of peace and plenty conceals a populace still struggling to come to terms with the devastation of World War II.

During this period of recovery and reconciliation, Mizuki’s struggles mirror those of the nation. He fights his way back from poverty, becoming a celebrity who is beloved by millions of manga-reading children. However, prosperity cannot bring the happiness Mizuki craves, as he struggles to find meaning in the sacrifices made during the war.

The original Japanese edition of the Showa: A History of Japan series won Mizuki the prestigious Kodansha Manga Award; the English translation has been nominated for an Eisner Award.

Shigeru Mizuki, born on March 8, 1922, in Sakaiminato, Tottori, is a specialist in stories of yōkai and is considered a master of the genre. In Japan, the life of Mizuki and his wife has been made into an extremely popular daily television drama. Mizuki is the recipient of many awards, including the Best Album Award for NonNonBā at the Angoulême International Comics Festival, the Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize Special Award, a Kyokujitsu Shō Decoration, a Minister of Education Award, a Shiju Hōshō Decoration, and the Kodansha Manga Award. His works have been published in Japan, South Korea, France, and Spain.

PRAISE

"Showa 1926–1939 . . . is a beautifully rendered overview . . . of Japan’s strife-filled Showa period . . . through the goofy eyes of a growing boy with insatiable..."
Stroppy
Marc Bell

The first full-length graphic novel from the author of Shrimpy and Paul: Who will win the All-Star Schnauzer Band song contest?

Enter the strange and wordplay-loving world of the cartoonist and fine artist Marc Bell (Shrimpy and Paul, Hot Potatoe), where the All-Star Schnauzer Band runs things and tiny beings hold signs saying "It's under control."

Our hapless hero, Stroppy, is minding his business, working a menial job in one of Monsieur Moustache's factories, when a muscular fellah named Sean blocks up the assembly line. Sean's there to promote an All-Star Schnauzer Band–organized songwriting contest, which he does enthusiastically and at the expense of Stroppy's livelihood, home, and face. Hoping for a cash prize, Stroppy submits a work by his friend Clancy the Poet. Mishaps and hilarity ensue, and Stroppy is forced to go deep into the heart of Schnauzer territory to rescue his poet friend.

Stroppy is Bell's triumphant return to comics; it's also his first full-length graphic novella, one that thrums with jokes, hashtags, and made-up song lyrics. Densely detailed not-so-secret underground societies, little robots, and heavyweight humdingers leap off the page in full color. With Stroppy, Bell continues to explode the divide between fine art, doodling, and comics.

Marc Bell was born in London, Ontario, and has befuddled and bemused his readers for almost twenty years. He is the author of Hot Potatoe, Pure Pajamas, and Shrimpy and Paul and Friends. His comics have appeared in many Canadian weeklies, Vice, and L.A. Weekly. He is a twin.

PRAISE

"[Bell] charges full speed ahead toward a strange land of hallucinations and absurdity. [Readers] will howl at his relentlessly ingenious words and images."
—The Miami Herald

"There’s a fuzzy line between comics and fine art, and Marc Bell is determined to doodle all around it... [with] his absurdist tableaux."
—The Globe and Mail
Moomin Book Ten
The Complete Lars Jansson Comic Strip

Lars Jansson

"Moomin is about freedom, tolerance, and optimism amid frustration, loss, and fear." —*Modern Painters*

*Moomin: The Complete Lars Jansson Comic Strip, Volume Ten* welcomes readers back to the beloved world of Moominvalley, where pancakes and jam are a perfectly acceptable supper and wealthy aunts can be altogether too fierce to handle. The tenth volume of Tove and Lars Jansson’s classic comic strip features the macabre and hilarious "Moomin and the Vampire" and "The Underdeveloped Moomins." Together, the four stories in this collection display the poignancy, whimsy, and philosophical bent that constitute the Moomins’ enduring appeal.

*Lars Jansson* (1926–2000) was a published author at age sixteen before he taught himself to be a cartoonist in order to replace his sister, Tove, on the *Moomin* strip.

**PRAISE**

"[The Moomin stories are] simple enough to be enjoyed by kids, yet with enough philosophical depth to keep adults interested as well." —*PopMatters*

"Whimsical and charming, Moomin’s (mis)adventures suggest an *Alice in Wonderland* dream world with odd beings, unexplained connections, and events that freewheel out of control." —*Library Journal*

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Anna and Froga: Fore!

Anouk Ricard; Translated from the French by Helge Dascher

Hilarious capers and mischief with Anna’s animal friends

It’s time for another round of fun and games—okay, practical jokes and pranks—with Bubu, Ron, Christopher, Anna, and Froga. In Anna and Froga: Fore!, Christopher has a crush on someone in his piano class, Bubu sets out to prove himself an ace golfer, and Ron has a close encounter with a lifeguard.

Anouk Ricard’s bright and colorful illustrations make the world of Anna and Froga inviting and fun for kids, but adults also love the series for Ricard’s charming character design and visual puns.

Anouk Ricard is an author, artist, and stop-motion animator. She was born in the south of France, and she began the Anna and Froga series after moving to Strasbourg in 2004. Initially published in Capsule Comique magazine, the collections of strips were reprinted by Éditions Sarbacane to widespread acclaim.

PRAISE

"Charming and weird, this book should attract a small, fierce following." — Paste

"The various character designs are all quite striking . . . [as is] Ricard’s use of bright, bold color . . . It’s Ricard’s artwork that’s most likely to grab the reader’s eye, whatever her age, and linger in his mind." — School Library Journal

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Moomin and the Martians

Tove Jansson

A flying saucer crash-lands in Moominvalley and high jinks ensue

Another classic Moomin story reworked in full color, with a kid-proof but kid-friendly size, price, and format.

Moominmamma wakes up one morning and finds that a flying saucer has crash-landed in her cabbage patch. There’s a strange machine dangling out of it that seems like it could be used to fix their broken radio, but when Moominpappa starts fiddling with it, he turns himself and Moomin invisible! Each knob on the machine causes strange and unlikely events to transpire, until the Martian finally recovers possession of its property. Tove Jansson’s Moomin and the Martians is a lighthearted romp that reaffirms the importance of family.


PRAISE

"Here is where Jansson’s weird but true world begins; where fear, loneliness and insecurity are banished by love and the force of imagination." —Time

"[Jansson’s] work soars with lightness and speed, and her drawings only echo her writing: delicate but precise, observant yet suggestive." —Los Angeles Times Book Review

JUVENILE FICTION

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National Publicity

ALSO AVAILABLE

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Poetry Is Useless
Anders Nilsen

New and formally inventive work from a New York Times Notable author

In Poetry is Useless, Anders Nilsen redefines the sketchbook format, intermingling elegant, densely detailed renderings of mythical animals, short comics drawn in ink, meditations on religion, and abstract shapes and patterns. Page after page gives way under Nilsen's deft hatching and perfectly placed pen strokes, revealing his intellectual curiosity and wry outlook on life's many surprises.

Stick people debate the dubious merits of economics. Immaculately stippled circles become looser and looser, as craters appear on their surface. A series of portraits capture the backs of friends' heads. For ten or twenty pages at a time, Poetry is Useless becomes a travel diary, in which Nilsen shares anecdotes about his voyages in Europe and North America. A trip to Colombia for a comics festival is recounted in carefully drawn city streets and sketches made in cafes. Poetry is Useless reveals seven years of Nilsen's life and musings: beginning in 2007, it covers a substantial period of his comics career to date, and includes visual reference to his books, such as Dogs & Water, Rage of Poseidon, and the New York Times Notable Book Big Questions. This expansive sketchbook-as-graphic-novel is exquisitely packaged with appendices and a foreword from Anders Nilsen himself.

Anders Nilsen is an award-winning cartoonist and visual artist. He is the author of several books, including Don't Go Where I Can't Follow and the magnum opus Big Questions, for which he was awarded the 2012 Lynd Ward Graphic Novel Prize by the Pennsylvania Center for the Book and the Ignatz Award, and was nominated for the top prize at the Angoulême International Comics Festival. Nilsen's works have been translated into a number of languages, and he has exhibited his drawing and painting internationally. He lives and works in Minneapolis.

PRAISE

"[Big Questions] is filled with verdant deep-space landscapes—rendered in a lush stipple and hatching inking technique—and with sparsely rendered characters that misapply mystical significance to their circumstances." — Publishers Weekly

Palookaville #22

Seth

A collection of wry, meditative comics from the cartoonist and Lemony Snicket illustrator

Palookaville #22 is a new collection of work from It's a Good Life, If You Don't Weaken's Seth. This installment of Seth's critically acclaimed one-man anthology features an autobiographical comic about his childhood, part four of his long-running Clyde Fans serial, a photo essay about a barbershop he designed, and a comic strip about the art of barbering.

“Nothing Lasts” revisits Seth’s childhood in 1960s Ontario, with a special focus on the salvation that he found in library books and drugstore comic books. Drawn in the sketchbook style Seth popularized in Wimbledon Green and The Great Northern Brotherhood of Canadian Cartoonists, “Nothing Lasts” offers a glimpse at the agonies of adolescence for a shy, often alienated, small-town teen. The Clyde Fans chapter included here shows the conclusion of brothers Abe and Simon Matchcard’s first lengthy conversation, and Abe’s pensive, self-questioning mood as he drives back to Dominion to meet up with his old flame, Alice.

Rounding out the collection is a photo essay on Seth’s wife’s barbershop, the Crown Barbershop, and a short story in comics form about barbering. Palookaville #22 displays the range of Seth’s cartooning and design career, and is a thing of beauty from cover to cover.

Seth has been producing comic art for twenty years. His books include It's a Good Life, If You Don't Weaken; Wimbledon Green; and George Sprott. Apart from comics, he is the illustrator for the Lemony Snicket All the Wrong Questions series. He is also the designer behind the Complete Peanuts series. From his home in Guelph, Ontario, he does illustrations for numerous magazines, including The New Yorker.

PRAISE

“Seth is one of our premiere artists of isolation in any medium.” —National Post

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