Luster
A Novel
Raven Leilani

Sharp, comic, disruptive, tender, Raven Leilani’s debut novel, Luster, sees a young black woman fall into art and someone else's open marriage

Edie is stumbling through her twenties—sharing a subpar apartment in Bushwick, clocking in and out of her admin job, making a series of inappropriate sexual choices. She's also, secretly, haltingly figuring her way into life as an artist. And then she meets Eric, a digital archivist with a family in New Jersey, including an autopsist wife who has agreed to an open marriage—with rules. As if navigating the constantly shifting landscapes of contemporary sexual manners and racial politics weren't hard enough, Edie finds herself unemployed and falling into Eric's family life, his home. She becomes a hesitant friend to his wife and a de facto role model to his adopted daughter. Edie is the only black woman young Akila may know.

Razor-sharp, darkly comic, sexually charged, and socially disruptive, Raven Leilani’s Luster is a portrait of a young woman trying to make sense of her life in a tumultuous era. It is also a haunting, aching description of how hard it is to believe in your own talent and the unexpected influences that bring us into ourselves along the way.

Raven Leilani’s work has been published in Granta, McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern, Narrative, Yale Review, Conjunctions, The Cut, and New England Review, among other publications. She won Narrative’s Ninth Annual Poetry Contest and the Matt Clark Editor’s Choice Prize, as well as short fiction prizes from Bat City Review and Blue Earth Review. Luster is her first novel.

PRAISE

Most Anticipated of 2020 at Buzzfeed and Electric Literature

“A taut, sharp, funny book about being young now. It's brutal—and brilliant.” —Zadie Smith, author of Grand Union

“A darkly funny, hilariously moving debut from a stunning new voice. Luster follows the unforgettable Edie, a hapless young woman suffocating under her own loneliness,...
Strange Hotel
A Novel

Eimear McBride

From Eimear McBride, author of the award-winning A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing, comes the beguiling travelogue of a woman in exile: from her past, her ghosts, and herself.

A nameless woman enters a hotel room. She’s been here once before. In the years since, the room hasn’t changed, but she has. Forever caught between check-in and check-out, she will go on to occupy other hotel rooms. From Avignon to Oslo, Auckland to Austin, each is as anonymous as the last but bound by rules of her choosing. There, amid the detritus of her travels, the matchbooks, cigarettes, keys and room-service wine, she negotiates with her memories, with the men she sometimes meets, with the clichés invented to aggravate middle-aged women, with those she has lost or left behind--and with what it might mean to return home.

Urgent and immersive, filled with black humour and desire, McBride’s Strange Hotel is a novel of enduring emotional force.

Eimear McBride is the author of the novels The Lesser Bohemians (winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize) and A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing (winner of the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction, the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award, the Goldsmiths Prize, and others). She was the inaugural creative fellow at the Beckett Research Centre, University of Reading, and occasionally writes for The Guardian, the Times Literary Supplement, New Statesman, and The Irish Times.

PRAISE

Praise for A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing

“Be prepared to be blown away by this raw, visceral, brutally intense neomodernist first novel . . . Readers can’t help but be pulled into the vortex of this devastating, ferociously original debut.”

—NPR
The Double X Economy
The Epic Potential of Women's Empowerment

Linda Scott

A leading thinker’s groundbreaking examination of women’s economic empowerment

For the past ten years, the scholar and activist Linda Scott has played a central role in the rise of the women’s economic empowerment movement. A coalition made up of activists, multinational corporations, global NGOs, and governments, it arose in the mid-2000s in response to new global data sets that revealed sobering, if not unexpected, conclusions about women in the economy, namely that gender inequality is a global problem, and that women’s economic subordination drags down national economies and fosters global crises, from severe poverty to human trafficking.

In *The Double X Economy: The Epic Potential of Women’s Empowerment*, Scott argues that women’s systematic exclusion from economic participation has created an alternate system that she calls “the Double X Economy”: having suffered from a consistent list of severe and worldwide economic exclusions applied throughout history, women have been shaped into an entirely different economic practice. Yet while the women’s economy, taken as a whole, is restricted and constantly under threat, when empowered it is more careful, cooperative, and focused on long-term outcomes than the economic order under which the world lives now.

Building on the momentum of the female empowerment movements currently mobilizing worldwide, *The Double X Economy* presents an entirely new conceptual schema for women’s rights based on economic liberty. Accessible and convinci...

Linda Scott is the Emeritus DP World Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Oxford and a Senior Consulting Fellow at the Royal Institute for International Affairs. She founded, and is now the senior adviser to, the Global Business Coalition for Women’s Economic Empowerment and was selected as one of the top 25 Global Thinkers by *Prospect* in 2015. Scott works with multinational corporations, international agencies, national governments, and global NGOs designing and testing programs to better include women in the world economy.
Pew
A Novel
Catherine Lacey

A figure with no discernible identity appears in a small, religious town, throwing its inhabitants into a frenzy

In a small unnamed town in the American South, a church congregation arrives to service and finds a figure asleep on a pew. The person is genderless, racially ambiguous and refuses to speak. One family takes the strange visitor in and nicknames them Pew.

As the town spend the week preparing for a mysterious Forgiveness Festival, Pew is shuttled from one household to the next. The earnest and seemingly well-meaning townspeople see conflicting identities in Pew, and many confess their fears and pasts to them in one-sided conversations. All the while Pew has brief flashes to what might be past experiences, or lives, but mostly spends their time listening, observing, and thinking. As days pass, the void around Pew’s presence begins to unnerve the community, whose generosity erodes into menace and suspicion. Yet by the time Pew’s story reaches a shattering and unsettling climax at the Forgiveness Festival, the secret of their true nature—as a devil or an angel or something else entirely—is dwarfed by even larger truths.

Pew, Catherine Lacey’s third novel, is a foreboding, provocative, and amorphous fable about the world today: its contradictions, its flimsy morality, and the limits of judging others based on their appearance. With precision and restraint, one of our most beloved and boundary-pushing writers holds up a mirror to her characters’ true selves, revealing something about forgiveness, perception, a...

Catherine Lacey is the author of the novels Nobody Is Ever Missing and The Answers, and the short story collection Certain American States. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Award, and a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship. She was a finalist for the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Fiction Award, and was named one of Granta’s Best of Young American Novelists. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in The New Yorker, Harper’s Magazine, The New York Times, The Believer, and elsewhere. Born in Mississippi, she is based in Chicago.

PRAISE

Praise for The Answers

"[Catherine Lacey's] the real thing, and in The Answers she takes full command of her powers . . . This is a novel of intellect and amplitude that deepens as it moves forward until you feel prickling awe at how much
Men on Horseback
The Power of Charisma in the Age of Revolution

David A. Bell

An immersive examination of why the age of democratic revolutions was also a time of hero worship and strongmen

The word charisma may trace its origins to ancient Greece, but its meaning has never been fixed in the solid schist of classical Athens. For Saint Paul, to possess charisma was to be filled with divine grace; for Max Weber, it demonstrated how authority could be wielded successfully in defiance of tradition. In Men on Horseback, the Princeton historian David A. Bell offers a dramatic new interpretation of charisma, arguing that its contemporary resonance is best understood by refracting it through the lives of five extraordinary revolutionaries.

From the Corsican Pasquale Paoli, a favorite subject of James Boswell, to George Washington; from Toussaint Louverture to his betrayer, Napoleon Bonaparte; and finally to Simón Bolívar, who witnessed the coronation of Napoleon and later sought refuge in newly independent Haiti: taking these five leaders as his subject, Bell weaves a spellbinding tale of power and its ability to mesmerize.

Ultimately, Bell tells the crucial and neglected story of how leadership was reinvented for a world without kings and queens. His subjects were men on horseback who sought to be men of the people; as he shows, modern democracy, militarism, and the cult of the strong man all emerged together. Charisma is democracy’s shadow self, and it cannot be dispelled; in the end, Bell offers a stirring injunction to reimagine charisma as an animating force for good.

David A. Bell is the Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor in the Era of North Atlantic Revolutions at Princeton University and the author of six previous books, among them The First Total War and Shadows of Revolution.

PRAISE

Praise for The First Total War

“A mesmerizing account that illuminates not just the Napoleonic wars but all of modern history . . . it reads like a novel.” —Lynn Hunt
Life Events
A Novel
Karolina Waclawiak

A woman at a crossroads learns the only way to reclaim her life is to help others die.

What if Evelyn’s whole life has been a mistake? At thirty-seven, she’s on the verge of divorce and anxiously awaiting everyone she loves dying on her. She combusts her existential crisis by avoiding her husband and wandering the freeways of California looking for an escape before discovering a collective of exit guides. Evelyn enrolls in training courses where she learns to provide companionship and a final exit for terminally ill patients looking for a conscious departure.

She meets Daphne, a dying woman still full of life; Lawrence, an aging porn king; and Daniel, who seems too young to die, and whom she can’t help but fall for. Each client allows her a chance to access her own grief and confront the self-destructive ways she suppresses her pain. When Evelyn travels through the Southwest to an afterlife convention, she must finally face her complicated relationship with her alcoholic father and reckon with her life choices.

Life Events is about planning your next phase when you see your past as a failure and your future as an impossible obligation. Sensitive observed and darkly funny, Karolina Waclawiak’s breakout novel follows a woman searching for answers and intimacy while facing profound questions about how we live and die today.

Karolina Waclawiak is the author of the novels How to Get into the Twin Palms and The Invaders. Formerly an editor at The Believer, she is the executive editor of culture at BuzzFeed News. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, The Virginia Quarterly Review, Hazlitt, and elsewhere.

PRAISE

"Life Events is a hypnotic novel that beautifully grapples with fundamental questions about how to die and how to live . . . Filled with compelling, provocative details about the work of "exit guides" for terminally ill people, Life Events is both a mid-life bildungsroman and a meditation on self-determination." --Lydia Kiesling, author o...
Scandinavian Noir
In Pursuit of a Mystery

Wendy Lesser

A deep dive into Scandinavian crime fiction and Scandinavian culture at large

For forty years, Wendy Lesser’s primary source of information for three Scandinavian countries—Sweden, Norway, and Denmark—was mystery and crime novels, and the murders committed and solved in their pages. Having never visited the region, Lesser constructed a fictional Scandinavia of her own making, something between a map, a portrait, and a cultural history of a place that both exists and does not exist. Lesser’s Scandinavia is disproportionately populated with police officers, but also with the stuff of everyday life, the likes of which are relayed in great detail in the novels she read: a fully realized world complete with its own traditions, customs, and, of course, people.

Over the course of many years, Lesser’s fictional Scandinavia grew more and more solidly visible to her, yet she never had a strong desire to visit the real countries that corresponded to the made-up ones. Until, she writes, “between one day and the next, that no longer seemed sufficient.” It was time to travel to Scandinavia.

With vivid storytelling and an astonishing command of the literature, Wendy Lesser’s Scandinavian Noir: In Pursuit of a Mystery illuminates the vast, peculiar world of Scandinavian noir—first as it appears on the page, then as it grows in her mind, and finally, in the summer of 2018, as it exists in reality. Guided by sharp criticism, evocative travel writing, and a whimsical need to discover “the differ...

Wendy Lesser is the founder and editor of The Threepenny Review. Her most recent book is You Say to Brick: The Life of Louis Kahn, which won both the 2018 Marfield Prize and the 2018 PEN America Los Angeles Literary Award in Research Nonfiction, was long-listed for the 2018 PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Prize for Biography, and was named a New York Times Notable Book of 2017. She has written for The New York Times Book Review, London Review of Books, The Times Literary Supplement, and other publications, and was named one of the first National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholars in 2015.

PRAISE

Praise for You Say to Brick: The Life of Louis Kahn

"Easily the most complete narrative of Kahn’s life and career, magnificently researched and gracefully written . . . Kahn died far from the light. With Lesser’s biography, the illumination is restored." —Inga Saffron, The New
Andrés Neuman's most ambitious novel to date, a story about how every society remembers and forgets its catastrophes

An earthquake unnerves Tokyo on March 11, 2011, triggering the Fukushima nuclear disaster—and a tectonic stirring of the collective past. Mr. Yoshie Watanabe, an aging executive at an electronics company and a survivor of the atomic bomb, feels as though he is a fugitive of his own memory. As the seams of his country threaten to come undone yet again, he braces himself to make the biggest decision of his life.

Meanwhile, four women narrate their own memories of Watanabe to an enigmatic Argentinian reporter investigating his life. Their stories, told in different languages and describing different loves, map a sociopolitical tour of Tokyo, Paris, New York, Buenos Aires, and Madrid, proving that nothing ever happens in one place, that every human event reverberates to the ends of the earth.

Andrés Neuman was born in 1977 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and grew up in Spain. He was selected as one of Granta's Best of Young Spanish-Language Novelists and was included in the Bogotá39 list. Traveler of the Century was the winner of the Alfaguara Prize and the National Critics Prize, Spain's two most prestigious literary awards, as well as a special commendation from the jury of the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. Neuman has taught Latin American literature at the University of Granada.

Praise for Andrés Neuman

"Neuman is one of the rare writers who can distill the most complex human emotions with apparent effortlessness. Bolaño's prophecy seems to have come true: Andrés Neuman has transcended the boundaries of geography, time, and language to become one of the most significant writers of the early twenty-first century."...
The Pink Line
Journeys Across the World's Queer Frontiers

Mark Gevisser

A groundbreaking look at how the issues of sexuality and gender identity divide and unite the world today

More than five years in the making, Mark Gevisser's The Pink Line: The World's Queer Frontiers is a globetrotting exploration of how the human rights frontier around sexual orientation and gender identity has come to divide—and describe—the world in an entirely new way over the first two decades of the twenty-first century. No social movement has brought change so quickly and with such dramatically mixed results. While same-sex marriage and gender transition is celebrated in some parts of the world, laws are being strengthened to criminalize homosexuality and gender nonconformity in others. A new Pink Line, Gevisser argues, has been drawn across the world, and he takes readers to its frontiers.

In between sharp analytical chapters about culture wars, folklore, gender ideology, and geopolitics, Gevisser provides sensitive and sometimes startling profiles of the queer folk he’s encountered on the Pink Line’s front lines across nine countries. They include a trans Malawian refugee granted asylum in South Africa and a gay Ugandan refugee stuck in Nairobi; a lesbian couple who started a gay café in Cairo after the Arab Spring, a trans woman fighting for custody of her child in Moscow, and a community of kothis—"women's hearts in men's bodies"—who run a temple in an Indian fishing village.

Eye-opening, moving, and crafted with expert research, compelling narrative, and unprecedented scope, The Pink Line is a m...


PRAISE

"Masterful... Mark Gevisser achieves an almost shocking empathy. His accounts are riveting, brilliantly researched, liberal, and forthright... In intimate, often tender prose, he brings to life the complex movement for queer civil rights and the many people on whom it bears. Whether recounting suffering or triumph, Gevisser is a clea...
From Carlos Fonseca comes a dazzling, kaleidoscopic epic of art, politics, and hidden realities

Just before the dawn of the new millennium, a curator at a New Jersey museum of natural history receives an unusual invitation from a celebrated fashion designer. She shares the curator's fascination with the hidden forms of the animal kingdom—with camouflage and subterfuge—and she proposes that they collaborate on an exhibition, the form of which itself remains largely obscure, even as they enter into a strange relationship marked by evasion and elision.

Seven years later, after the death of the designer, the curator recovers the archive of their never-completed project. During a long night of insomnia, he finds within the archive a series of clues to the true story of the designer's family, a mind-bending puzzle that winds from Haifa, Israel, to bohemian 1970s New York to the Latin American jungle. On the way, he discovers a cast of characters whose own fixations interrogate the unstable frontiers between art, science, politics, and religion: an aging photographer, living nearly alone in an abandoned mining town where subterranean fires rage without end, who creates models of ruined cities; a former model turned conceptual artist—and a defendant in a trial over the very nature and purpose of art; a young indigenous boy who has received a vision of the end of the world. Reality is a curtain, as the curator realizes, and to draw it back is to reveal the theater of obsession.

Natural History is the portra...

Carlos Fonseca was born in San José, Costa Rica, and spent half of his childhood and adolescence in Puerto Rico. In 2016, he was named one of the twenty best Latin American writers born in the 1980s at the Guadalajara Book Fair, and in 2017 he was included in the Bogotá39 list of the best Latin American writers under forty. In 2018, he won the National Prize for Literature in Costa Rica, for his book of essays La Lucidez del Miope. He teaches at Trinity College, Cambridge, and lives in London.

Megan McDowell is a Spanish-language literary translator from Kentucky. Her work includes books by Alejandro Zambra, Samanta Schweblin, Mariana Enriquez, Gonzalo Torné, Lina Meruane, and Diego Zuñiga. Her translations have been published in The New Yorker.
Philosopher of the Heart
The Restless Life of Søren Kierkegaard
Clare Carlisle

A pathbreaking biography of Kierkegaard and a searching exploration of how to be a human being in the world

Søren Kierkegaard is one of the most passionate and challenging of all modern philosophers, and is often regarded as the founder of existentialism. In the 1840s and 1850s, writings poured from his pen pursuing the question of existence—how to be a human being in the world—while exploring the possibilities of Christianity and confronting the failures of its institutional manifestation around him. Much of his creativity sprang from his relationship with the young woman whom he promised to marry, then left to devote himself to writing, a relationship that remained decisive for the rest of his life. He deliberately lived in the swim of human life in Copenhagen, but alone, and died exhausted in 1855 at the age of forty-two, bequeathing his remarkable writings to his erstwhile fiancée.

Philosopher of the Heart, Clare Carlisle’s innovative and moving biography, relates Kierkegaard’s life as far as possible from his own perspective, to convey what it was like actually being this Socrates of Christendom—as he put it, living life forward yet only understanding it backwards.

Clare Carlisle is Reader in Philosophy and Theology at King’s College London. She is a regular contributor to the Times Literary Supplement and has written dozens of articles on philosophy for The Guardian. Her last book, On Habit, was named an Outstanding Academic Title of 2014 by Choice, and she has recently edited George Eliot’s translation of Spinoza’s Ethics. She grew up in Manchester, studied philosophy and theology at Cambridge, and now lives in Hackney.

PRAISE

"Engrossing . . . Carlisle has pulled off the feat of writing a truly Kierkegaardian biography of Kierkegaard."
—Julian Baggini, Financial Times

"[Carlisle’s] lucid and riveting new biography at once rescues Kierkegaard from the scholars and shows why he is such an intriguing and useful figure."
—Adam Phillips, The Guardian
Austen Years
A Memoir in Five Novels
Rachel Cohen

An astonishingly nuanced reading of Jane Austen that yields a rare understanding of how to live

“About seven years ago, not too long before our daughter was born, Jane Austen became my only author.”

When Rachel Cohen’s father died and shortly before she gave birth to her first child, she turned to Jane Austen to make sense of her new reality. For Cohen, simultaneously grief-stricken and buoyed by the birth of her daughter, reading Austen became her refuge and her ballast. She was able to reckon with difficult questions about mourning, memorializing, living in a household, paying attention to the world, reading, writing, and imagining through the novels.

*Austen Years* is a deeply felt and sensitive examination of Cohen’s relationship to Austen, and to her own family, winding together memoir, criticism, and biographical and historical material about Austen herself. And like the sequence of Austen’s novels, the scope of *Austen Years* widens successively, with each chapter following one of Austen’s novels. We begin with Cohen in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she raises her small children and contemplates her father’s last letter, a moment paired with the grief and social bonds of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Later, moving with her family to Chicago, Cohen grapples with her growing children, teaching, and her father’s legacy, all refracted through the denser, more complex *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*.

With unusual depth and fresh insight into Austen’s life and literature, and guided by Aus...

Rachel Cohen is the author of *A Chance Meeting: Intertwined Lives of American Writers and Artists*, which won the PEN/Jerard Fund Award and was a finalist for the Guardian First Book Award, and *Bernard Berenson: A Life in the Picture Trade*, which was long-listed for the JQ Wingate Literary Prize. Her essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, the *London Review of Books*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, MacDowell, and the New York Foundation for the Arts, and teaches in the creative writing program at the University of Chicago.

PRAISE

Praise for *A Chance Meeting: Intertwined Lives of American Writers and Artists*
The Last Great Road Bum
A Novel

Héctor Tobar

In *The Last Great Road Bum*, Héctor Tobar turns the peripatetic true story of a naive son of Urbana, Illinois, who died fighting with guerrillas in El Salvador into the great American novel for our times.

Joe Sanderson died in pursuit of a life worth writing about. He was, in his words, a “road bum,” an adventurer and a storyteller, belonging to no place, people, or set of ideas. He was born into a childhood of middle-class contentment in Urbana, Illinois and died fighting with guerillas in Central America. With these facts, acclaimed novelist and journalist Héctor Tobar set out to write what would become *The Last Great Road Bum*.

A decade ago, Tobar came into possession of the personal writings of the late Joe Sanderson, which chart Sanderson’s freewheeling course across the known world, from Illinois to Jamaica, to Vietnam, to Nigeria, to El Salvador—a life determinedly an adventure, ending in unlikely, anonymous heroism. In *The Last Great Road Bum*, Tobar inhabits Sanderson’s story with Sanderson chiming in from the footnotes, a persistent reminder of the source material for this sweeping story of youthful idealism, naive adventure, failed ambition, political awakening, and commitment to joyous action in the face of an often uncooperative world.

*The Last Great Road Bum* is the great American novel Joe Sanderson never could have written, but did truly live—a fascinating, timely hybrid of fiction and nonfiction that only a master of both like Héctor Tobar could pull off.

Héctor Tobar is a Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and novelist. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller *Deep Down Dark*, as well as *The Barbarian Nurseries*, *Translation Nation*, and *The Tattooed Soldier*. Héctor is also a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times* and an associate professor at the University of California, Irvine. He’s written for *The New Yorker*, the *Los Angeles Times* and other publications. His short fiction has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *Los Angeles Noir*, *Zyzzyva*, and *Slate*. The son of Guatemalan immigrants, he is a native of Los Angeles, where he lives with his family.

PRAISE

Praise for Héctor Tobar

“[Tobar] succeeds in bringing into focus both the civil turmoil that racks Guatemala and the inner turmoil that can consume people anywhere.”
—People, on *The Tattooed Soldier*
The Caiplie Caves
Poems
Karen Solie

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

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

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

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

PRAISE

Praise for Karen Solie

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

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

“Powerful, philosophical, inte...
Life of a Klansman
A Family History in White Supremacy

Edward Ball

A trenchant exploration of a family's legacy of white supremacy from National Book Award–winner Edward Ball.

Life of a Klansman tells the story of Constant Lecorgne, a carpenter in Louisiana who took up the cause of fanatical racism during the years after the Civil War. Edward Ball, Lecorgne’s descendant, paints a portrait of his family’s anti-black militant that is part history, part memoir rich in personal detail.

Sifting through family lore as well as public and private records, Ball reconstructs Lecorgne’s story. A white French Creole and father of five, he had a career in white terror of notable and bloody completeness: massacres, night riding, masked marches, street rampages—all part of a tireless effort that he and other Klansmen made to restore white power when it was threatened by the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. To offer a non-white view of the Ku-klux, Ball seeks out descendants of African Americans who were once victimized by “our Klansman” and his comrades, and shares their stories.

Demography suggests that fifty percent of whites in the United States have at least one ancestor who belonged to the Klan at some point in its history. In an era when racist ideology and violence are again loose in the public square, Life of a Klansman offers a personal origin story of white supremacy. Ball traces the vines that have grown from militant roots in the Old South into the bitter fruit of the present, when whiteness is again a cause that can veer into hate and domestic terror.

Edward Ball’s books include The Inventor and the Tycoon, about the birth of moving pictures in California, and Slaves in the Family, an account of his family’s history as slaveholders in South Carolina, which received the National Book Award for Nonfiction. He has taught at Yale University and has been awarded fellowships by the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard and the New York Public Library’s Cullman Center. He is also the recipient of a Public Scholar Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

PRAISE

Praise for Edward Ball:
Great Demon Kings
A Memoir of Poetry, Sex, Art, Death, and Enlightenment

John Giorno

A rollicking, sexy memoir by a young poet making his way in 1960s New York City

When he graduated from Columbia in 1958, John Giorno was handsome, charismatic, ambitious, and eager to soak up as much of Manhattan's art and culture as possible. Poetry didn't pay the bills, so he worked on Wall Street, spending his nights at the happenings, underground movie premieres, art shows, and poetry readings that brought the city to life. He began an intense romantic relationship with Andy Warhol, starring in his first movie, Sleep. Giorno then found himself involved with Robert Rauschenberg and later Jasper Johns, both relationships fueling his creativity. He quickly became a renowned poet in his own right, working at the intersection of literature and technology, freely crossing genres and mediums alongside the likes of William S. Burroughs and Brion Gysin.

Twenty-three years in the making, and completed shortly before Giorno's death in 2019, Great Demon Kings is the memoir of a singular cultural pioneer: an openly gay man at a time when many artists remained closeted and shunned gay subject matter, and a devout Buddhist whose faith served as a rudder during a life of tremendous animation. Studded with appearances by nearly every It-boy and It-girl of the downtown scene (including a moving portrait of a decades-long friendship with Burroughs), this book offers a joyous, life-affirming, and sensational look at New York City during its creative peak, narrated in the unforgettable voice of one...

John Giorno (1936-2019) was a New York–based poet and performance artist and the founder of Giorno Poetry Systems. A longtime member of the lower Manhattan art scene, Giorno was also an AIDS activist and Tibetan Buddhist whose work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, among other institutions.
I Hold a Wolf by the Ears
Stories
Laura van den Berg

An urgent and unsettling collection of women on the verge from Laura van den Berg, author of The Third Hotel

I Hold a Wolf by the Ears, Laura van den Berg’s first story collection since her acclaimed and prizewinning Isle of Youth, draws readers into a world of wholly original, sideways ghost stories that linger in the mouth and mind like rotten, fragrant fruit. Both timeless and urgent, these eleven stories confront misogyny, violence, and the impossible economics of America with van den Berg’s trademark spiky humor and surreal eye. Moving from the peculiarities of Florida to liminal spaces of travel in Mexico City, Sicily, and Spain, I Hold a Wolf by the Ears is uncannily attuned to our current moment, and to the thoughts we reveal to no one but ourselves.

In “Lizards,” a man mutes his wife’s anxieties by giving her a La Croix–like seltzer laced with sedatives. In the title story, a woman poses as her more successful sister during a botched Italian holiday, a choice that brings about strange and violent consequences, while in “Karolina,” a woman discovers her prickly ex-sister-in-law in the aftermath of an earthquake and is forced to face the truth about her violent brother.

I Hold a Wolf by the Ears presents a collection of women on the verge, trying to grasp what’s left of life: grieving, divorced, and hyperaware, searching, vulnerable, and unhinged, they exist in a world that deviates from our own only when you look too close. With remarkable control and transcendent talent, van den Berg dissolves, in ...

Laura van den Berg is the author of the story collections What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us and The Isle of Youth, and the novels Find Me and The Third Hotel, which was a finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award and an Indie Next pick, and was named a best book of 2017 by more than a dozen publications. She is the recipient of a Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Bard Fiction Prize, a PEN/O. Henry Award, and a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, and is a two-time finalist for the Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award. Born and raised in Florida, she lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her husband and dog.

PRAISE

Praise for The Third Hotel

"There’s Borges and Bolaño, Kafka and Cortázar, Modiano and Murakami, and now Laura van den Berg . . . With The Third Hotel she’s become fantastic—in every sense of the word.” —Randy Rosenthal, The Washington
A field scientist and conservationist tracks the elusive 
Blakiston's fish owl in the forbidding reaches of eastern Russia

I saw my first Blakiston’s fish owl in the Russian province of Primorye, a 
coastal talon of land hooking south into the belly of Northeast Asia . . . No 
scientist had seen a Blakiston’s fish owl so far south in a hundred years . . .

When he was just a fledgling birdwatcher, Jonathan C. Slaght had a chance encounter with one of the most mysterious birds on Earth. Bigger than any owl he knew, it looked like a small bear with decorative feathers. He snapped a quick photo and shared it with experts. Soon he was on a five-year journey, searching for this enormous, enigmatic creature in the lush, remote forests of eastern Russia. That first sighting set his calling as a scientist.

Despite a wingspan of six feet and a height of over two feet, the Blakiston’s fish owl is highly elusive. They are easiest to find in winter, when their tracks mark the snowy banks of the rivers where they feed. They are also endangered. And so, as Slaght and his devoted team set out to locate the owls, they aim to craft a conservation plan that helps ensure the species’ survival. This quest sends them on all-night monitoring missions in freezing tents, mad dashes across thawing rivers, and free-climbs up rotting trees to check nests for precious eggs. They use cutting-edge tracking technology and improvise ingenious traps. And all along, they must keep watch against a run-in with a bear or an Amur tiger. At the heart of Slaght’s ...

Jonathan C. Slaght is the Russia and Northeast Asia Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, where he manages research projects on endangered species and coordinates avian conservation activities along the East Asia–Australasian Flyway from the Arctic to the tropics. His annotated translation of Across the Ussuri Kray by Vladimir Arsenyev was published in 2016, and his writings, research, and photographs have been featured in The New York Times, The Guardian, the BBC World Service, NPR, Smithsonian Magazine, and Audubon Magazine, among others.

PRAISE

"From the very first pages, Slaght . . . grips readers with vivid language and tight storytelling . . . Part of the book's success lies in the author's ability to present the stakes and draw out the tension therein, making what could be a dry tale of bird-watching a compelling story of the necessity of conservation . . . Slaght lives up t..."
Imperfect Women
A Novel
Araminta Hall

An enthralling, irresistible novel of psychological suspense about three women and the destructive power of buried secrets

When Nancy Hennessy is murdered, she leaves behind two best friends, a loving husband and daughter, and a secret lover whose identity she took to the grave. Nancy was gorgeous and wealthy, with adoring friends and family—from the outside, her life was perfect. But as the investigation into her death flounders and her friends Eleanor and Mary wrestle with their grief, dark details surface that reveal how little they knew their friend, each other, maybe even themselves.

A gripping, immersive novel about impossible expectations and secrets that fester and become lethal, Imperfect Women unfolds through the perspectives of three fascinating women. Their enduring, complex friendship is the knot the reader must untangle to answer the question: who killed Nancy?

Imperfect Women explores guilt and retribution, love and betrayal, and the compromises we make that alter our lives irrevocably. With the wickedly sharp insights and finely tuned suspense that has drawn her comparisons to Patricia Highsmith and Paula Hawkins, Araminta Hall returns with another page-turning, thought-provoking tour de force.

Araminta Hall has an MA in creative writing and authorship from the University of Sussex and teaches creative writing at New Writing South in Brighton, where she lives with her husband and three children. She is the author of Our Kind of Cruelty, which was named a best book of 2018 by CrimeReads and Real Simple.

PRAISE

“A psychological thriller in the truest sense of the word: a thoughtful examination of the psyche of three credible women with baggage and flaws. So much will resonate: not least Hall’s exploration of gender politics and motherhood. At points I was folding pages repeatedly. Deeply unsettling.”
—Sarah Vaughan, author of Anatomy of a Scanda...
The Deviant's War
The Homosexual vs. the United States of America

Eric Cervini

From a young Harvard- and Cambridge-trained historian, the untold story of a revolution for gay rights that began a generation before Stonewall

In 1957, Frank Kameny, an astronomer working for the US Defense Department in Hawaii, received a summons to report immediately to Washington, D.C. The Pentagon had reason to believe he was a homosexual, and after a series of humiliating interviews, Kameny—like countless gay men and women for before him—was promptly dismissed from his government job. Unlike many others, though, he fought back.

Eric Cervini tells the story of what followed in this pathbreaking history of an early champion of gay liberation. Based on firsthand accounts, recently declassified FBI records, and forty thousand personal documents, The Deviant's War is a story of America (and Washington) at a cultural and sexual crossroads, of shocking, byzantine public battles with Congress, of FBI informants, murder, betrayal, sex, love—and ultimately victory.

"Eric Cervini’s work is an important contribution to making our nation’s history whole and truthful. Grounded in extensive research, it tells the history of Frank Kameny’s tenacious and courageous battle with the federal government to secure respect, dignity and equality for gays and lesbians. Kameny was a pioneer who helped carve a path to a new and better world for LGBTQ Americans and for our entire nation. The Deviant’s War is a compelling work which should be on the reading list for everyone who cares about the quest for full civil rights for all Americans." —US Senator Tammy Baldwin ...

Eric Cervini is an award-winning historian of LGBTQ+ history. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College and received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Cambridge, where he was a Gates Scholar. The Deviant’s War is his first book.
Parakeet
A Novel

Marie-Helene Bertino

A darkly funny and always warmhearted new novel from the acclaimed author of 2 A.M. at the Cat’s Pajamas

The week of her wedding, The Bride is visited by a bird she recognizes as her dead grandmother because of the cornflower blue line beneath her eyes, her dubious expression, and the way she asks: What is the Internet?

Her grandmother is a parakeet. She says not to get married. She says: Go and find your brother.

In the days that follow, The Bride’s march to the altar becomes a wild and increasingly fragmented, unstable journey that bends toward the surreal and forces her to confront matters long buried.

A novel that does justice to the hectic confusion of becoming a woman today, Parakeet asks and begins to answer the essential questions. How do our memories make, cage, and free us? How do we honor our experiences and still become our strongest, truest selves? Who are we responsible for, what do we owe them, and how do we allow them to change?

Urgent, strange, warm-hearted, and sly, Parakeet is ribboned with joy, fear, and an inextricable thread of real love. It is a startling, unforgettable, life-embracing exploration of self and connection.

Marie-Helene Bertino is the author of 2 A.M. at The Cat’s Pajamas and the story collection Safe as Houses. She was the 2017 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Fellow in Cork, Ireland. Her work has received the O. Henry Prize, the Pushcart Prize, the Iowa Short Fiction Award, the Mississippi Review Story Prize, and fellowships from MacDowell, Sewanee, and NYC’s Center for Fiction; and it has twice been featured on NPR’s Selected Shorts. Formerly the associate editor of One Story and Catapult, she now teaches at NYU, the New School, and the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. For more information, please visit: www.mariehelenebertino.com.

PRAISE

Highly Anticipated at The Millions, The Rumpus, and Lit Hub

"Brilliant, chaotic, and fantastically untethered from humdrum reality . . . Bertino playfully, precisely builds a big world in these pages, somehow making the case that there’s too much love, pain, and magic to ever fit in one story, and fitting it in all the same."

—Booklist
Henry Kissinger and American Power
A Political Biography

Thomas A. Schwartz

The definitive biography of Henry Kissinger—at least for those who neither revere nor revile him

Over the past six decades, Henry Kissinger has been America’s most consistently praised—and reviled—public figure. He was hailed as a “miracle worker” for his peacemaking in the Middle East and pursuit of détente with the Soviet Union. He was assailed from both the left and the right for his indifference to human rights, his complicity in the pointless sacrifice of American and Vietnamese lives, and his reliance on deception and intrigue. Was he a brilliant master strategist—the twentieth century’s greatest nineteenth century statesman—or a cold-blooded monster?

In this masterfully researched biography, the renowned diplomatic historian Thomas A. Schwartz offers an authoritative and fair-minded answer to this question. While other biographers have engaged in hagiography or demonology, Schwartz takes a measured view of his subject. Throughout, Schwartz stresses Kissinger’s artful invention of himself as a celebrity diplomat and his domination of the medium of television news. He also notes Kissinger’s sensitivity to domestic and partisan politics, complicating—and undermining—the image of the far-seeing statesman who stands above the squabbles of popular strife.

Rounded and textured, and rich with new insights into key dilemmas, Henry Kissinger and American Power stands as an essential guide to a man whose legacy is as complex as the last sixty years of U.S. history itself.

Thomas A. Schwartz is Distinguished Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, where he specializes in the foreign relations of the United States. He has served on the U.S. State Department’s Historical Advisory Committee and as president of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations. Henry Kissinger and American Power is his third book.
The Family Clause
A Novel

Jonas Hassen Khemiri;
Translated from the Swedish
by Alice Menzies

A tender, bruising novel of a family in crisis as a proud patriarch encounters the harsh realities he has inflicted on his children.

“The son did as he was told. All his bloody life, he has done as he has been told. Time to change that, he thinks, grabbing a pen. He doesn’t write that this will be the last time his father stays here. He doesn’t write that he wants to break the father clause. Instead, he writes: Welcome, Dad. Hope you had a good flight.”

A grandfather who lives abroad returns home to visit his adult children. The son is a failure. The daughter is having a baby with the wrong man. Only the grandfather is perfect—at least, according to himself.

But over the course of ten intense days, relationships unfold and painful memories resurface. The grandfather is confronted by his past. The daughter is faced with an impossible choice. The son tries to write himself free. Something has to give. Per a longstanding family agreement, the grandfather has maintained his Swedish residency by coming to stay with his son every six months. Can this clause be renegotiated, or will it chain the family to its past forever?

Through a series of quickly changing perspectives, in The Family Clause Jonas Hassen Khemiri evokes an intimate portrait of a chaotic and perfectly normal family, deeply wounded by the death of a child and the disappearance of a father.

Jonas Hassen Khemiri is the author of five novels, six plays, and a collection of plays, essays, and short stories. Among his many honors are the August Prize, the highest literary award for Swedish literature; the Enquist Literary Prize; the Borås Tidning Award for Best Literary Debut Novel; and an Obie Award. His novels have been translated into more than thirty languages, and his six plays have been performed by more than one hundred companies around the world. He lives in Stockholm, Sweden.

Alice Menzies holds a master of arts in Translation Theory and Practice from University College London, specializing in the Scandinavian languages. She has translated books by Fredrik Bachman and Katarina Bivald, among others. She lives in London.
Character
The History of a Cultural Obsession

Marjorie Garber

A spirited, engaging investigation into the concept of character, an enduring human obsession in literature, psychology, politics, and everyday life

What is “character”? How can it be measured, developed, or built? Are character traits fixed or changeable? Is character innate, or can it be taught?

Since Aristotle’s *Poetics*, philosophers, moralists, artists, and scientists have engaged with the enigma of human character. In its oldest usage, “character” derives from a word for engraving or stamping, yet over time, it has come to mean a moral idea, a type, a literary persona, and a physical or physiological manifestation, observable in works of art or in scientific experiments. It is an ingredient in drama and the focus of self-help books.

As Marjorie Garber explores in *The Character Issue*, character seems more relevant than ever—the term is omnipresent in discussions of politics, sexuality, ethics, morality, and the psyche. But it seems to carry an unusually wide range of meanings, some disconcertingly at odds with others.

Why are “character flaws” of such great interest today, whether in political campaigns, personal relationships, or the biographies (and autobiographies) of famous people, living and dead? What does “character,” in this moral or ethical sense, have to do with the concept of a character in a novel or a play? Are our notions about fictional characters in fact helping to produce our ideas about moral character?

The question of “character” arises in virtually every area of modern life. And in every case, there is the same fundamental ...

Marjorie Garber is the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. She is the author of several books on Shakespeare, including *Shakespeare’s Ghost Writers* and *Shakespeare After All*, as well as of books on cultural topics ranging from dogs and real estate to cross-dressing, bisexuality, the use and abuse of literature, and the place of the arts in academic life. A member of the American Philosophical Society, she was the recipient of a 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship.

PRAISE

Praise for *The Use and Abuse of Literature*
Fraternity
Stories

Benjamin Nugent

In a Massachusetts college town stands a dilapidated colonial: Delta Zeta Chi. Here, we meet Newton, the beloved chapter president; Oprah, the sensitive reader; Petey, the treasurer, loyal to a fault; Claire, the couch-surfing dropout who hopes to sell them drugs; and a girl known, for unexpected reasons, as God. Though the living room reeks of sweat and spilled beer, the brothers know that to be inside is everything.

*Fraternity* celebrates the debauched kinship of boys and girls straddling adolescence and adulthood: the drunken antics, solemn confessions, and romantic encounters that mark their first years away from home. Beneath each episode lies the dread of exclusion. The closeted Oprah’s hero worship gives way to real longing. A combat veteran offers advice on hazing. An alienated young woman searches for a sanctuary. And the shadow of assault hovers over every sexual encounter.

Voiced by an off-kilter chorus of the young and desperate to belong, Benjamin Nugent’s provocative collection pries the fraternity door off its hinges, daring us to peer inside with amusement, horror, and also love.


**PRAISE**

Advance Praise for *Fraternity*

“Reading Benjamin Nugent’s stories doesn’t resemble any other experience I can think of—the paragraphs of *Fraternity* pivot easily from mantra to gut punch to slapstick to heartbreak, sometimes swelling into tenderness so acute it makes me avert my eyes, it feels so private and human and true.”
—Leslie Jamison, ...
Sometimes I Never Suffered
Poems

Shane McCrae

Spanning religious, historical, and political themes, a new collection from the acclaimed poet

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

In Sometimes I Never Suffered, his seventh collection of poems, Shane McCrae remains “a shrewd composer of American stories” (Dan Chiasson, The New Yorker). Here, an angel, hastily thrown together by his fellow residents of Heaven, plummets to Earth in his first moments of consciousness. Jim Limber, the adopted mixed-race son of Jefferson Davis, wanders through the afterlife, reckoning with the nuances of America’s, as well as his own, racial history. Sometimes I Never Suffered is a search for purpose and atonement, freedom and forgiveness, imagining eternity not as an escape from the past or present, but as a reverberating record and as the culmination of time’s manifold potential to mend.

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

PRAISE

Praise for In the Language of My Captor


"[In the Language of My Captor is] powerful, unflinching, ingenious in plumbing the depths o...
The System
A Novel
Ryan Gattis

An electrifying, multivoiced thriller, from the writer Michael Connelly has called “one of our most gifted novelists”

On December 6, 1993, a drug dealer called Scrappy is shot and left for dead on the lawn outside her mother’s house in South Central Los Angeles. Augie, a heroin addict, witnesses the whole thing—before he steals all the drugs on her person, as well as the gun that was dropped at the scene. When Augie gets busted, he names local gang members Wizard and Dreamer the shooters.

But only one of them is guilty.

A search of Wizard and Dreamer’s premises uncovers the gun that was used in the shooting, and a warrant goes out for their arrest. They know it’s a frame-up, but the word from the gang is to keep their mouths shut and face the charges.

With these two off the streets and headed for jail, Dreamer’s friend Little, the unlikeliest of new gang members, is given one job: discover how the gun got moved, and why.

Played out in the streets, precincts, jails, and courtrooms of Los Angeles, Ryan Gattis’s The System is the harrowing story of a crime—from moments before the bullets are fired, to the verdict and its violent aftershocks—told through the vivid chorus of the guilty, the innocent, and everyone in between.

Ryan Gattis is the author of Kung Fu High School, All Involved, and Safe. His books have received the American Library Association’s Alex Award, the Lire Award for Noir of the Year in France, and the First Annual McIntyre’s Fine Books Mystery Prize. Gattis lives in Los Angeles, where he is a member of the street-art crew UGLARworks and a founding board member of 1888, a Southern California literary arts nonprofit.

PRAISE

Praise for Safe

“A complex mixture of heists, heartache, and loyalties . . . Safe is a brilliant, fuel-driven novel, masterfully plotted and, more than anything, full of depth and feeling.” —Sheryl Cotleur, Copperfield’s Books

Praise for All Involved
Niche
A Memoir in Pastiche
Momus

One somewhat obscure Scottish pop star...
Six decades...
217 narrators...

Nick Currie, aka Momus—named for the ancient Greek god of mockery, and described by The Guardian as “the David Bowie of the art-pop underground”—has recorded more than thirty albums for labels like 4AD and Creation, published half a dozen works of speculative fiction, and written articles for The New York Times, Wired, Artforum, Frieze, and The Wire. An unknown band called Pulp once asked him to produce their next album. (He said no.) An unknown band called Of Montreal once invited him to go on tour with them. (He said no.) He’s collaborated with Vampire Weekend and with the Magnetic Fields’ Stephin Merrit; one of his songs is regularly covered by Amanda Palmer in concert. He’s had an impression of his penis preserved by the notorious Cynthia Plaster Caster. Maybe you’ve heard of him. Probably you haven’t. This is his story. Or, rather, stories.

Because Niche isn’t any old showbiz memoir. Rather than one avuncular tale told in his own voice, Momus has structured the narrative of his life as a mockery of the rock-bio oral history. Instead of using living witnesses, Momus assumes the voices of 217 dead authors and artists and forces them to speak for and about him. From these dramatic monologues—sometimes unreliable, often comical,—there gradually emerges a picture of one eccentric star’s life across three continents and in his own, remarkable, niche.


PRAISE

Praise for Momus:

"Momus is the David Bowie of the art-pop underground." —Julian Gough, The Guardian

"That’s so cool!" —David Bowie, on Momus’s cover of "Where Are We Now?"
The follow-up to his classic-in-the-making debut *Early Work*, Andrew Martin’s *Cool for America* is a collection of overlapping stories that explores the dark zone between artistic ambition and its achievement.

*Cool for America* is bookended by the misadventures of Leslie, a young woman first introduced in *Early Work*, who moves from New York to Missoula, Montana, to try to draw herself out of a lingering depression and, over the course of the book, gains painful insight into herself through a series of intense friendships and relationships. Other stories follow young men and women, alone and in couples, pushing hard against, and often crashing into, the limits of their abilities as writers and partners. In one story, two New Jersey siblings with substance-abuse problems relapse together on Christmas Eve; in another, a young couple tries to make sense of an increasingly unhinged veterinarian who seems to be tapping, deliberately or otherwise, into the unspoken troubles between them.

In stories that follow characters as they age from punk shows and benders to book clubs and art museums, and the promise of community acts, at least temporarily as a stay against despair. Running throughout is the characters’ yearning for a transcendence through art: the hope that, maybe, the perfect, or even just the good-enough sentence, can finally make things right.


PRAISE

Praise for Andrew Martin

"Read it on a beach for the refreshment of a classic boy-meets-girl plot, or turn the pages more slowly to soak in some truly salty koans and morally insolvent characters . . . It’s an accomplished and delightful book, but there’s no hashtag for that." —Molly Young, *The New York Times*
The Great Indoors
The Surprising Science of How Buildings Shape Our Behavior, Health, and Happiness

Emily Anthes

A fascinating, thought-provoking, and at times alarming journey into our built environment

The benefits of nature are well documented. Regular forays into the natural world have been shown to have pronounced, positive effects on our physical and mental health. But how often do any of us get to take a weeklong camping trip?

The truth is, we spend the majority of our lives shuttling between homes and offices, schools and hospitals. While this may be an inescapable reality of the modern urban condition, it also begs the question: What effect do the environments we've built for ourselves have on our mental and physical well-being? In this wide-ranging, character-driven book, Emily Anthes takes us on a trip that starts with the microscopic (the surprising and rather horrifying array of microbes with which we share our homes) and ends with the big picture (what buildings on Mars would have to look like in order to sustain life). Along the way, she visits a fascinating array of scientists, architects, and other professionals working on the cutting edge of design.

Ranging from smart operating rooms that decrease human error to schools constructed to enhance learning, and from apartment buildings designed for neuroatypical residents to offices engineered for maximum comfort and efficiency, The Great Indoors is an argument for thoughtful interventions in the built environment and a celebration of the adaptive genius of human beings.

22 Minutes of Unconditional Love
A Novel
Daphne Merkin

A harrowing, compulsively readable novel about breaking free of sexual obsession

“No one found Howard Rose interesting, that is, but me.”

Judith is an ambitious book editor in her late twenties living and working in New York City. Inexperienced with romantic love, she works hard, sees a small group of friends, and visits Dr. Munch, her beloved therapist, on whom she is dependent. Three weeks after her therapist’s death, Judith reluctantly attends a cocktail party. Her life changes the instant she meets Howard Rose, a charismatic and commanding lawyer thirteen years her senior with whom she becomes sexually obsessed.

Swept off her feet, everything she does is now about Howard: He calls her at work, instructs her on what to wear to dinner, and takes control of her body and sexuality with complete ownership. Judith becomes dependent on the push-pull of their sexual entanglement and on Howard’s attention and approval, convinced she’s found the man of her dreams. Until, that is, she understands he’s the man of her nightmares: hostile, reckless, and manipulative, he seems intent on obliterating any sense of self and autonomy that Judith possesses. Escaping Howard’s grasp—and her own perverse enjoyment of being under his control—becomes her mission.

Narrated by a Howard-free Judith years later, Daphne Merkin’s 22 Minutes of Unconditional Love charts the persistent hold our pasts have on us. Stylistically varied and punctuated by provocative ruminations on love, family, sex, gender, and ...

Daphne Merkin is the author of several books, including the essay collection The Fame Lunches and the memoir This Close to Happy. She is a former staff writer for The New Yorker, and she is widely published in The New York Times, Bookforum, Travel + Leisure, W, Vogue, Elle, and other publications. She has taught writing at the 92nd Street Y, Marymount College, and Hunter College. She lives in New York City.

PRAISE

Praise for This Close to Happy

"[Merkin narrates] with insight, grace and excruciating clarity, in exquisite and ...
The Vapors
A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America's Forgotten Capital of Vice

David Hill

The incredible true story of America’s original—and forgotten—capital of vice

Back in the days before Las Vegas was big, when the Mob was at its peak and neon lights were but a glimmer on the horizon, a little Southern town styled itself as a premier destination for the American leisure class. Hot Springs, Arkansas, was home to healing waters, art deco splendor, and America’s original national park—as well as horse racing, nearly a dozen illegal casinos, countless back rooms and brothels, and some of the country’s most bald-faced criminals.

Gangsters, gamblers, and gamines once flocked to Hot Springs, a place where small-town hustlers and bigtime high rollers could make their fortunes and hide from the law. *The Vapors* is the extraordinary story of three individuals—spanning the golden decades, from the 1930s through the 1960s—and the lavish casino whose spectacular rise and fall would bring them together before blowing them apart.

In this riveting work of forgotten history, the native Arkansan David Hill plots the trajectory of everything from organized crime to America’s fraught racial past, examining how a town synonymous with white gangsters supported veterans hospitals and a burgeoning black middle class. Infused with the sights and sounds of America’s entertainment heyday—jazz orchestras and auctioneers, slot machines and comedians in suite—*The Vapors* is an arresting glimpse into a bygone era of American vice.

David Hill is a writer from Hot Springs, Arkansas. His work has appeared regularly in *Grantland*, and has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *GQ*, and *New York* magazine, as well as on *This American Life*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and three children, where he serves as the vice president of the National Writers Union.
Here is the Sweet Hand
Poems
francine j. harris

A new collection of poems from the author of *allegiance*.

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

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

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

**francine j. harris** is the author of *play dead*, winner of the Lambda Literary and Audre Lorde Awards and a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her first collection, *allegiance*, was a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery and PEN Open Book Awards. Originally from Detroit, she has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the MacDowell Colony, and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Houston.
Analogia
The Emergence of Technology Beyond Programmable Control

George Dyson

A startling exploration of the deep history of the digital revolution—and an unsettling vision of our future

In 1716, the philosopher and mathematician Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz spent eight days taking the cure with Peter the Great at Bad Pyrmont in Saxony, promoting a plan to build digital computers that would take over the world. In his classic books Darwin Among the Machines and Turing’s Cathedral, George Dyson chronicled the realization of Leibniz’s dream at the hands of a series of iconoclasts who brought his ideas to life. Now, in his pathbreaking new book, Analogia, Dyson offers a chronicle of people who fought for the other side—the Native American leader Geronimo and the physicist Leo Szilard among them—in a series of stories that will change our view not only of the past but also of the future.

Weaving together an astonishing excavation of our technological past and his own unusual personal story—set alternately in the rarified world of cutting-edge physics and computer science, in Princeton, and in the rain forest of the Northwest coast—Dyson offers a prophetic vision of an analog revolution that is already under way. We are, he reveals, on the cusp of a new moment in human history, driven by a generation of networked machines whose powers are beyond programmable control.

George Dyson, a dual citizen of the United States and Canada, is an independent historian of technology whose subjects have included the development (and redevelopment) of the Aleut kayak (Baidarka), the evolution of artificial intelligence (Darwin Among the Machines), a path not taken into space (Project Orion), and the transition from numbers that mean things to numbers that do things in the aftermath of World War II (Turing’s Cathedral).

PRAISE

Praise for Turing’s Cathedral

"The best book I’ve read on the origins of the computer . . . Not only learned, but brilliantly and surprisingly idiosyncratic and strange." —The Boston Globe

Work Mate Marry Love
How Machines Shape Our Human Destiny

Debora L. Spar

A crucial guide to life before—and after—Tinder, IVF, and robots

What will happen to our notions of marriage and parenthood as reproductive technologies increasingly allow for newfangled ways of creating babies? What will happen to our understanding of gender as medical advances enable individuals to transition from one set of sexual characteristics to another, or to remain happily perched in between? What will happen to love and sex and romance as our relationships migrate from the real world to the internet? Can people fall in love with robots? Will they? In short, what will happen to our most basic notions of humanity as we entangle our lives and emotions with the machines we have created?

In Work Mate Marry Love, Debora L. Spar offers an incisive and provocative account of how technology has transformed our intimate lives in the past, and how it will do so again in the future. Surveying the course of history, she shows how marriage as we understand it resulted from the rise of agriculture, and that the nuclear family emerged with the industrial revolution. In their day, the streetlight, the car, and later the pill all upended courtship and sex. As we enter an era of artificial intelligence and robots, how will our deepest feelings and attachments evolve?

Steering clear of both techno-euphoria and alarmism, Spar offers a bold and inclusive vision of how our lives might be changed for the better.

Debora L. Spar is a Baker Foundation Professor at Harvard Business School and the former president of Barnard College and Lincoln Center. Her previous books include Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection.

PRAISE

Praise for Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection

"Debora L. Spar has done the impossible: written a fresh, thoughtful, and engaging book on the role of women in today’s society. In telling her own story she tells us where we’ve come from and where we must go next."
—Tina Brown
Inventory
A Memoir

Darran Anderson

Darran Anderson traces his country, family, and self in Inventory, an intimate blend of Irish history and memoir

A smuggler and a deserter, Darran Anderson’s grandfather skirted the Second World War on the fringes of legality. Anderson’s father survived the height of the political violence in Northern Ireland, and Anderson came of age during the final years of the Troubles. As a young man fighting for direction in a country upended by years of civil war, Anderson found himself lost in the midst of hedonism, division, and isolation. To find a way to exist in the world, he felt compelled to leave his home town of Derry, Ireland.

But the mysterious disappearance of Anderson’s cousin forces him back to his city, and, in turn, its history. Searching, in the present day, for his cousin’s body along the Foyle River, Anderson examines how his grandparents lost their lives in the same river. As he continues to search, his father and uncle by his side, Anderson uncovers tales and mythologies in the surroundings, forgotten writings, anecdotes, and accounts, piecing together these lives as he moves down the river. Through a private microcosm, the fate of an entire city (and a larger story about Ireland) is sensitively and cinematically told. Exploring a landscape that changes with the river from nautical to urban to rural, and replete with stories of heartache, revolution, and redemption, Inventory is a gripping and moving affirmation of how we can emerge from tragedy with renewed hope and a deeper awareness of who we are.

Darran Anderson is the author of Imaginary Cities, chosen as a best book of 2015 by the Financial Times, The Guardian, the A.V. Club, and other publications. He has coedited the journals The Honest Ulsterman, 3:AM Magazine, Dogmatika, and White Noise. His writing has appeared in The Atlantic, frieze magazine, and Magnum, and he has given talks at the V&A, the London School of Economics, the Robin Boyd Foundation, and the Venice Biennale.

PRAISE

"Inventory by the Derry writer Darran Anderson . . . [is] a family memoir and a portrait of a city and many other things, and it will cause a stir. A fabulous piece of work." —Kevin Barry, author of City of Bohane
Selected Poems, 1968-1996

Joseph Brodsky; Edited by Ann Kjellberg

To mark the eightieth anniversary of the birth of the Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky, FSG is publishing a new paperback, Selected Poems, 1968-1996, edited and introduced by the poet's literary executor, Ann Kjellberg. This edition includes poems translated by Derek Walcott, Richard Wilbur, and Anthony Hecht, as well as poems written in English or translated by the author himself. Selected Poems, 1968-1996 allows the reader to survey Brodsky's tumultuous life and illustrious career and revisit his most notable and poignant work as a poet.

Vernon Subutex 2
A Novel

Virginie Despentes; Translated from the French by Frank Wynne

The great post-punk, post-morality, post-civilization epic continues

In the second installment of Virginie Despentes's Vernon Subutex trilogy, rock star Alex Bleach might be dead, but he has a secret. It's a secret that concerns several people, but the only person who can unlock it is Vernon Subutex, a former record shop proprietor turned homeless messiah and guru, last seen hallucinating and feverish on a bench. He has tapes of Alex that will shake the world. The hunt is on, and the wolves are closing in.

Meanwhile, the cast of lovers and killers in Vernon's orbit is in violent disarray. Aïcha wants to know the truth behind the death of her mother, the porn star Vodka Satana. And if she finds the bastards responsible, she wants to make them pay, whatever Céleste thinks of her plan. Céleste wants Aïcha to get a grip and stop hanging around with Subutex's gang of disciples. The Hyena wants to find the Bleach tapes. She wants to untangle her complicated feelings about Anaïs, her boss's assistant. And speaking of her boss, she does not want the big-shot producer Laurent Dopalet to discover how badly she has double-crossed him.

Meanwhile, Dopalet wants the Hyena to find and destroy the Bleach tapes. He wants to forget he ever knew Vodka Satana. He wants people to stop graffitiing his apartment with ludicrous allegations. Above all, he wants people to understand: NONE OF THIS IS HIS FAULT.

Virginie Despentes is a writer and filmmaker. She worked in an independent record store in the early '90s, was a sex worker, and published her first novel, Baise Moi, when she was twenty-three. She adapted the novel for the screen in 2000, codirecting with the porn star Coralie Trinh Thi. Upon release, it became the first film to be banned in France in twenty-eight years. Despentes is the author of more than fifteen other works, including Apocalypse Baby, Bye Bye Blondie, Pretty Things, and the essay collection King Kong Theory.

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

Joni Murphy

An Animal Farm for the Anthropocene

Parrots own cafés and lemurs run the espresso machines. Badgers tend bar, raccoons write for The Post, and a racehorse is mayor. There are dogs on Wall Street and cats on Broadway. Sea creatures are viewed with fear and disgust. Maybe a big wall should be built to keep them out. It’s New York City, now-ish. No big deal.

Alfonzo is an alpaca. His hip friend Mitchell is a llama. They both work at City Hall and are trying to navigate the great furry city collapsing around them. Partly to meet girls, and partly out of a sense that the world might be ending, these lowly city employees embark on an unlikely mission to take down the corrupt system selling the city out from beneath its real inhabitants. Their journey soon leads them to the Sea Front, a clandestine group that could as easily be a hive of dangerous radicals as an inspirational liberation movement.

This world without humans teems with creatures stuck in frustrating jobs and surrounded by crumbling infrastructure and worsening environmental catastrophes. Joni Murphy’s Talking Animals is Animal Farm by way of Annie Hall by way of The Sixth Extinction. At once delicate and urgent, it is a contemporary allegory about community and capitalism, art and protest, the physical and emotional devastation of global warming, and the elemental struggle to change one’s life.

Joni Murphy is a writer from New Mexico who lives in New York. Her debut novel, Double Teenage, was named one of The Globe and Mail’s 100 Best Books of 2016.

PRAISE

Praise for Double Teenage

"Double Teenage is a stunning first novel, moving with stealth and intelligence against the North American landscape.” —Chris Kraus, author of I Love Dick
The Unreality of Memory
And Other Essays

Elisa Gabbert

A literary guide to digital anxiety

We stare at our phones. We keep multiple tabs open. Our chats and conversations are full of the phrase “Did you see?” The feeling that we’re living in the worst of times seems to be intensifying, alongside a desire to know precisely how bad things have gotten—and each new catastrophe distracts us from the last.

The Unreality of Memory collects provocative, searching essays on disaster culture, climate anxiety, and our mounting collective sense of doom. In this new collection, acclaimed poet and essayist Elisa Gabbert explores our obsessions with disasters past and future, from the sinking of the Titanic to Chernobyl, from witch hunts to the plague. These deeply researched, prophetic meditations question how the world will end—if indeed it will—and why we can’t stop fantasizing about it.

Can we avoid repeating history? Can we understand our moment from inside the moment? With The Unreality of Memory, Gabbert offers a hauntingly perceptive analysis of our new ways of being and a means of reconciling ourselves to this unreal new world.


PRAISE

Praise for The Word Pretty

"There aren’t enough books like these. They offer the pleasure of personal essays that are more inquisitive and obsessive than self-centered . . . . A mixture of depth and diversion, it makes you wish that, like a reliable band, Gabbert might publish a similar slender volume every year or two.” —Jon Williams, The N...
Beowulf: A New Translation
A New Translation

Maria Dahvana Headley

A new, feminist translation of the Old English epic by the author of The Mere Wife, the novel celebrated as "a tough, modern flip on Beowulf" (Margaret Atwood)

Nearly twenty years after Seamus Heaney’s translation of Beowulf—and fifty years after the translation that continues to torment high school students around the world—there is a radical new verse translation of the epic poem by Maria Dahvana Headley, which brings to light elements that have never before been translated into English, recontextualizing the binary narrative of monsters and heroes into a tale in which the two categories often entwine, justice is rarely served, and dragons live among us.

A man seeks to prove himself as a hero. A monster seeks silence in his territory. A warrior seeks to avenge her murdered son. A dragon ends it all. The familiar elements of the epic poem are seen with a novelist’s eye toward gender, genre, and history—Beowulf has always been a tale of entitlement and encroachment, powerful men seeking to become more powerful and one woman seeking justice for her child, but this version brings new context to an old story. While crafting her contemporary adaptation of Beowulf, Headley unearthed significant shifts lost over centuries of translation. This is a translation for the twenty-first century.

Maria Dahvana Headley is a #1 New York Times–bestselling author and editor. Her books include the novels The Mere Wife, Magonia, Aerie, and Queen of Kings, and the memoir The Year of Yes. With Kat Howard, she is the author of The End of the Sentence, and with Neil Gaiman, she is the coeditor of Unnatural Creatures. Her stories have been short-listed for the Shirley Jackson, Nebula, and World Fantasy Awards, and her work has been supported by the MacDowell Colony and by Arte Studio Ginestrelle. She was raised with a wolf and a pack of sled dogs in the high desert of rural Idaho and now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

PRAISE

Praise for The Mere Wife

“The most surprising novel I’ve read this year. It’s a bloody parody of suburban sanctimony and a feminist revision of macho heroism. In this brash appropriation of the Anglo-Saxon epic, Headley swoops from comedy to tragedy, from the drama of brunch to the horrors of war.” —Ron Charles, The Washington Post

“Spiky, ...
In this brief, intense, gemlike book, equal parts extended autobiographical essay and prose poem, Joseph Brodsky turns his eye to the seductive and enigmatic city of Venice. A mosaic of forty-eight short chapters—each recalling a specific episode from one of his many visits there (Brodsky spent his winters in Venice for nearly twenty years)—*Watermark* associatively and brilliantly evokes one city's architectural and atmospheric character.

Brodsky writes in *Watermark* that water "stores our reflections for when we are long gone." This reissued edition of one of Brodsky's most important titles, on the occasion of the late Nobel laureate’s eightieth birthday, allows the reader to visit the canals of Brodsky's Venice and rediscover the reflection of the writer himself.


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"Brodsky's description of his 'version of Paradise' has all the vividness and associative brilliance of a lyric poem . . . *Watermark* is a gracefully idiosyncratic work, one that obliquely mingle[s] the author's own self-portrait with that of 'this Penelope of a city, weaving her patterns by day and undoing them by night, with no Ulysses in ..."
This collection of essays thrusts Joseph Brodsky—previously known more for his poetry and translations—into the forefront of the “Third Wave” of Russian émigré writers. Originally published the year before Brodsky received the Nobel Prize in Literature, Less Than One includes intimate literary essays and autobiographical pieces that evoke the daily discomfort of living under tyranny. His insights into the works of Dostoevsky, Mandelstam, and Platonov, as well as the non-Russian poets Auden, Cavafy, and Montale, are brilliant; Seamus Heaney said of Brodsky’s treatment of one of Auden’s most famous poems, “There will be no greater paean to poetry as the breath and finer spirit of all human knowledge than Brodsky’s line-by-line commentary on ‘September 1, 1939.’”

Less Than One, which won a National Book Critics Circle Award, was Brodsky’s first published work of prose, and “if there’s an essential essay collection . . . it’s this one” (The Guardian). This edition, reissued to mark Brodsky’s eightieth birthday, allows the reader to delve into the Nobel laureate’s mastery of language, through both his analysis of great works and his own brand of descriptive dissent, at a pivotal point in his career.


“Evinces a supple, witty mastery of the English language . . . Provides deeply illuminating insights into the Russian literary tradition, political climate, and modern poetry and poetics.” —Library Journal
On Grief and Reason
Essays

Joseph Brodsky

On Grief and Reason collects the essays that Joseph Brodsky wrote between his reception of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1987 and his death in January 1996. The volume includes Brodsky's Nobel lecture; essays on the condition of exile, the nature of history, the art of reading, and the notion of the poet as an inveterate Don Giovanni; his “Immodest Proposal” for the future of poetry, written when he was serving as Poet Laureate of the United States; a consideration of the poetry of Robert Frost; his searching estimations of Hardy, Horace, and Rilke; an affecting memoir of Stephen Spender; and a moving meditation on the figure of Marcus Aurelius. The essays, composed in Brodsky's distinctive, idiomatic English, are inventive and alive.

The Nobel laureate, himself branded a “pseudo-poet in velveteen trousers” by Soviet authorities and expelled from his home country in 1972, writes boldly of the poet’s place in society: “By failing to read or listen to poets, a society dooms itself to inferior modes of articulation—of the politician, or the salesman, or the charlatan—in short, to its own. It forfeits . . . its own evolutionary potential.” This edition, reissued on the occasion of the late author's eightieth birthday, prompts the reader to consider Brodsky's words with renewed contemplation of the current state of literature and the society in which we read it.


PRAISE

“Brodsky's spectrum on life and art at the end of the century is as wide and varied as his talent for writing. To read these masterful essays is to experience the English language at its finest.” —Raul Nino, Booklist
Seamus Heaney had the idea to form a personal selection of poems from across the entire arc of his writing life, small yet comprehensive enough to serve as an introduction for all comers. He never managed to do this himself, and no other edition exists that has such a broad range, drawing from the first to the last of his prizewinning collections. But now, finally, the project has been returned to, resulting in an intimate gathering of poems chosen and introduced by the Heaney family. In 100 Poems, readers will enjoy the most loved and celebrated poems, and will discover new favorites. It is a singular and welcoming anthology, reaching far and wide, for now and for years to come.

Seamus Heaney (1939–2013) received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995. His books of poems, plays, translations, and essays include Opened Ground, Electric Light, Beowulf, The Spirit Level, District and Circle, and Finders Keepers. Robert Lowell praised Heaney as the “most important Irish poet since Yeats.”
Mosses and Lichens
Poems
Devin Johnston

A new collection from the author of Traveler

Not days of anger
but days of mild congestion,
infants of inconstant sorrow,
days of foam in gutters,
blossoms and snow
mingling where they fall,
a spring of cold profusion.

If a rolling stone gathers no moss, the poems in Devin Johnston’s Mosses and Lichens attend to what accretes over time, as well as to what erodes. They often take place in the middle of life’s journey, at the edge of the woods, at the boundary of human community and wild spaces. Following Ovid, they are poems of subtle transformation and transfer. They draw on early blues and rivers, on ironies and uncertainties, guided by enigmatic signals: “an orange blaze that marks no trail.” From image to image, they render fleeting experiences with etched precision. As Ange Mlinko has observed, “Each poem holds in balance a lapidary concision and utter lushness of vowel-work,” forming a distinctive music.

Born in 1970, Devin Johnston spent his childhood in North Carolina. He is the author of five previous books of poetry and two books of prose, including Creaturely and Other Essays. He works for Flood Editions, an independent publishing house, and teaches at Saint Louis University in Missouri.

PRAISE

Praise for Far-Fetched

“Johnston’s fifth collection is a triumph of refined technique, but more than that, it’s a demonstration of restraint’s emotional resonance. A delicately marvelous book.” —David Orr, The New York Times Book Review
One Lark, One Horse
Poems

Michael Hofmann

A new collection of poems by Michael Hofmann—his first in twenty years

Michael Hofmann is renowned as one of our most brilliant critics and translators; that he is also regarded as among our most respected poets—“one of the definitive bodies of work of the last half-century” (Times Literary Supplement)—is all the more impressive for his relatively concentrated output. One Lark, One Horse is his fifth collection of poems since his debut in 1983, and his first since Approximately Nowhere in 1999. But it is also one of the most anticipated gatherings of new work in years. In style, it is as unmistakable as ever—sometimes funny, sometimes caustic; world-facing and yet intimate—and it shows a bright mind burning fiercely over the European and American imagination. Approaching his sixtieth birthday, the poet explores where he finds himself, geographically and in life, treating with wit and compassion such universal themes as aging and memory, place, and the difficulty for the individual to exist at all in an ever bigger and more bestial world.

One Lark, One Horse is a remarkable assembly of work that will delight loyal readers and enchant new ones with its approachable, companionable voice.

Michael Hofmann is an acclaimed poet, translator, and critic. He has previously published six books of poetry and has translated more than sixty books from the German, including Gottfried Benn’s Impromptus: Selected Poems and Some Prose, as well as works by Ernst Jünger, Franz Kafka, and Joseph Roth. His criticism appears regularly in the London Review of Books, The New York Review of Books, and Poetry. He teaches poetry and translation at the University of Florida.

PRAISE

Praise for One Lark, One Horse

“Michael Hofmann’s prodigious new collection, One Lark, One Horse, . . . heralds the return of one of British poetry’s most brilliant talents . . . Hofmann here attains a higher level of formal inventiveness and variety than in his previous volumes. Its cosmopolitan breadth is instantly infectious.” —André N...
The Dragons, the Giant, the Women
A Memoir

Wayétu Moore

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

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

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

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

PRAISE

Praise for Wayétu Moore

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

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

“[Moore is] a remarkable novelist and storyteller.” —Edwidge Danticat
Telephone
A Novel

Percival Everett

An astonishing new novel of loss and grief from “one of our culture’s preeminent novelists” (Los Angeles Times)

Zach Wells is a perpetually dissatisfied geologist-slash-paleobiologist. Expert in a very narrow area—the geological history of a cave forty-four meters above the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon—he is a laconic man who plays chess with his daughter, trades puns with his wife while she does yoga, and dodges committee work at the college where he teaches.

After a field trip to the desert yields nothing more than a colleague with a tenure problem and a student with an unwelcome crush on him, Wells returns home to find his world crumbling. His daughter has lost her edge at chess, she has developed mysterious eye problems, and her memory has lost its grasp. Powerless in the face of his daughter’s slow deterioration, he finds a mysterious note asking for help tucked into the pocket of a jacket he’s ordered off eBay. Desperate for someone to save, he sets off to New Mexico in secret on a quixotic rescue mission.

A deeply affecting story about the lengths to which loss and grief will drive us, Telephone is a Percival Everett novel we should have seen coming all along, one that will shake you to the core as it asks questions about the power of narrative to save.

Percival Everett is the author of thirty books, including So Much Blue, Assumption, Erasure, and I Am Not Sidney Poitier. He has received the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and the PEN Center USA Award for Fiction. He lives in Los Angeles.

PRAISE

Praise for Percival Everett

"[Everett] has quietly built up one of the most eclectic and original bodies of work in American letters." —Harper’s Magazine

"[Everett] entrap[s] us, and when we call foul play they remind us that the world in which the trap is possible is really what’s rigged." —Los Angeles Review of Books
To the Lake
A Balkan Journey of War and Peace

Kapka Kassabova

The celebrated author of Border explores a mysterious, ancient, and little-understood corner of Europe

Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa. Two ancient lakes joined by underground rivers. Two lakes that seem to hold both the turbulent memories of the region’s past—the site of conflict and struggle going back to the reign of Alexander the Great—and the secret of its enduring allure. Two lakes that have played a central role in Kapka Kassabova’s maternal family.

As she journeys to her grandmother’s place of origin in To the Lake, Kassabova encounters a civilizational crossroads. The lakes are set within the mountainous borderlands of North Macedonia, Albania, and Greece, and crowned by the ancient Via Egnatia, which once connected Rome to Constantinople. A former trading and spiritual nexus of the southern Balkans, this lake region remains one of Eurasia’s oldest surviving religious melting pots. Meanwhile, with their remote rock churches, changeable currents, and large population of migratory birds, the lakes live in their own time.

By exploring on water and land the stories of poets, fishermen, and caretakers, misfits, rulers, and inheritors of war and exile, Kassabova uncovers the human history shaped by the lakes. Setting out to resolve her own ancestral legacy, Kassabova locates a deeper inquiry into how geography and politics imprint themselves upon families and nations, one that confronts her with questions about human suffering and the capacity for change.

Kapka Kassabova grew up in Sofia, Bulgaria, and now lives in the Scottish Highlands. Her most recent book is Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

PRAISE

Praise for Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe

"[Kassabova possesses . . . an ability to zero in on characters who illuminate the condition of a place and time.]—The New York Times Book Review"

"Kassabova is a modern Scheherazade—a dazzling writer who tells stories as if her life depended on it." —Scottish Review of Books
Guillotine
Poems

Eduardo C. Corral

The astonishing second collection by the author of Slow Lightning, winner of the Yale Younger Poets Prize

Guillotine traverses desert landscapes cut through by migrants, the grief of loss, betrayal's lingering scars, the border itself—great distances in which violence and yearning find roots. Through the voices of undocumented immigrants, border patrol agents, and scorned lovers, the award-winning poet Eduardo C. Corral writes dramatic portraits of contradiction, survival, and a deeply human, relentless interiority. With extraordinary lyric imagination, these poems wonder about being unwanted or renounced. What do we do with unrequited love? Is it with or without it that we would waste away?

In the sequence "Testaments Scratched into Water Station Barrels," with Corral’s seamless integration of Spanish and English, poems curve around the surfaces upon which they are written, overlapping like graffiti left by those who may or may not have survived crossing the border. A harrowing second collection, Guillotine solidifies Corral’s place in the expanding ecosystem of American poetry.

Eduardo C. Corral is the author of Slow Lightning, winner of the Yale Younger Poets Prize, and a recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award and the Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University. He teaches at North Carolina State University.

PRAISE

Praise for Slow Lightning

"Corral’s voice, his vision—they’re . . . inevitable, it seems to me; as if I’d been waiting all this time to find and be found by them.” —Carl Phillips, from the introduction

"Corral has already woven himself into the fabric of the American Canon.” —Columbia Poetry Review
Tropic of Violence
A Novel

Nathacha Appanah; Translated from the French by Geoffrey Strachan

A potent novel about lost youth and migration by the author of The Last Brother and Waiting for Tomorrow

Marie, a nurse in Mayotte, a far-flung, tropical department of France in the Indian Ocean, adopts a baby abandoned at birth by his mother, a refugee from Comoros. She names him Moïse and raises him as her own—and she avoids his increasing questions about his origins as he grows up. When Marie suddenly dies, thirteen-year-old Moïse is left completely alone, plunged into uncertainty and turmoil. In a state of panic, he runs away from home, and sets himself on a collision course with the gangs of Gaza, the largest and most infamous slum on the island.

Nathacha Appanah has deftly assembled a small chorus of voices who narrate the heartbreak, violence, and injustice of life in Mayotte. To Marie’s and Moïse’s perspectives she adds those of Bruce, a terrifying gang leader; Olivier, a police officer fighting a losing battle; and Stéphane, the naïve aid worker whose efforts to help Moïse only make him more vulnerable.

Tropic of Violence shines a powerful light on the particular deprivation and isolation in this forgotten and neglected part of France. At the same time, it is a moving portrayal of the desperation and inequality that are driving refugee crises across the world, and of the innocent children whose lives are being torn apart in their wake. This is a remarkable, unsettling new novel from one of the most exciting voices in world literature.

Nathacha Appanah was born in Mahébourg, Mauritius. She is the award-winning author of Waiting for Tomorrow and The Last Brother. She works as a journalist and translator, and lives in France.

PRAISE

Praise for Nathacha Appanah

“Appanah frequently, and skillfully, contrasts weight and lightness—the sorrow of loss versus the joy of love, the horrors of war versus the beauty of friendship, the harshness of nature on some days and its caress on others. . . A beautiful new voice.” —The New York Times Book Review
Catrachos
Poems
Roy G. Guzmán

The breathtaking debut collection from one of America’s most inventive new poets

A name for the people of Honduras, *Catrachos* is a term of solidarity and resilience. In these unflinching, riveting poems, Roy G. Guzmán reaches across borders—between life and death and between countries—invoking the voices of the lost. Part immigration narrative, part elegy, and part queer coming-of-age story, *Catrachos* finds its own religion in fantastic figures such as the X-Men, pop singers, and the “Queerodactyl,” which is imagined in a series of poems as a dinosaur sashaying in the shadow of an oncoming comet, insistent on surviving extinction. With exceptional energy, humor, and inventiveness, Guzmán’s debut is a devastating display of lyrical and moral complexity—an introduction to an immediately captivating, urgently needed voice.

Roy G. Guzmán received a 2019 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a 2017 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship. Raised in Miami, Guzmán lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PRAISE

Praise for Roy G. Guzmán

"Guzmán’s [poetry is] an almost instant eulogy, and deeply affecting—Exhibit A of the power of the new lyric ‘I’ to anchor a broad public response in the crosscurrents of complex, marginalized identities . . . This is poetry that firmly believes it is necessary." —The Atlantic
The Fallen
A Novel
Carlos Manuel Álvarez

A vibrant and meticulously constructed debut novel about familial and cultural breakdown

A powerful, unsettling portrait of family life in Cuba, Carlos Manuel Álvarez’s first novel is a masterful portrayal of a society in free fall. Diego, the son, is disillusioned and bitter about the limited freedoms his country offers him as he endures compulsory military service. Mariana, the mother, is unwell, prone to mysterious seizures, and forced to relinquish control over the household to her daughter, Maria, who has left school and is working as a chambermaid in a state-owned tourist hotel. The father, Armando, is a committed revolutionary, a die-hard Fidelista who is sickened by the corruption he perceives all around him. As each member of the family narrates seemingly quotidian and overlapping events, they grow increasingly at odds for reasons that remain elusive to them—each of them holding and concealing their own secrets.

In meticulously charting the disintegration of a single family, The Fallen offers a poignant reflection on contemporary Cuba and the clash of the ardent idealism of the old guard with the jaded pragmatism of the young. This is a startling and incisive debut by a radiant new voice in Latin American literature.

Carlos Manuel Álvarez has contributed to The New York Times, El País, BBC World, and The Washington Post. In 2017 he was included in the Bogotá39 list of the best Latin American writers under forty. He divides his time between Havana and Mexico City.

PRAISE

"A beautiful and painful novel that demonstrates the power of fiction to pursue the unutterable.” —Alejandro Zambra

"The best in Latin American literature is here. . . Carlos Manuel Álvarez vividly portrays the only identity that really matters: not national, but human.” —Emiliano Monge
Cinderbiter
Celtic Poems
Versions by Martin Shaw and Tony Hoagland

Dramatic new retellings of Celtic poetry’s great lyrics and legends

_Cinderbiter_ collects tales and poems originally composed and performed centuries ago in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, when notions of history and authorship were indistinguishable from the oral traditions of myth and storytelling. In the spirit of recasting these legends and voices for new audiences, the celebrated mythologist and storyteller Martin Shaw and the award-winning poet Tony Hoagland have created extraordinary new versions of these bardic lyrics, folkloric sagas, and heroes’ journeys, as they have never been rendered before.

In long, shaggy tales of the unlikely ascensions of previously unknown heroes such as Cinderbiter, in the shrouded origin stories of figures such as Arthur and Merlin, and in anonymous flickering lyrics of elegy, praise, and heartbreak, these poems retain at once the rapturous, supernatural imagination of the deep past layered with an austere, devout allegiance to the Christian faith. Shaw and Hoagland’s collaboration summons the power within this storehouse of the Celtic mind to arrive at this rare book—distinctive, audacious, and tuned to our time and condition with a convincing resonance.

**Martin Shaw** is a mythologist, a storyteller, an author, and a designer of mythic life and oral tradition courses at Stanford University.

**Tony Hoagland** (1953–2018) was the author of _Priest Turned Therapist Treats Fear of God_ and six other books of poetry.

**PRAISE**

Praise for Martin Shaw

“Shaw is a one-off, his work is urgent and necessary.” —Paul Kingsnorth

Praise for Tony Hoagland

The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Cartoonist

Adrian Tomine

A comedic memoir about fandom, fame, and other embarrassments from the life of a New York Times bestseller

What happens when a childhood hobby grows into a lifelong career? The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Cartoonist, Adrian Tomine's funniest and most revealing foray into autobiography, offers an array of unexpected answers. When a sudden medical incident lands Tomine in the emergency room, he begins to question if it was really all worthwhile: despite the accolades and opportunities of a seemingly charmed career, it's the gaffes, humiliations, slights, and insults he's experienced (or caused) within the industry that loom largest in his memory.

Tomine illustrates the amusing absurdities of how we choose to spend our time, all the while mining his conflicted relationship with comics and comics culture. But in between chaotic book tours, disastrous interviews, and cringe-inducing interactions with other artists, life happens: he fumbles his way into marriage, parenthood, and an indisputably fulfilling existence. A richer emotional story emerges as his memories are delineated in excruciatingly hilarious detail.

In a bold stylistic departure from his award-winning Killing and Dying, he distills his art to the loose, lively essentials of cartooning, each pen stroke economically imbued with human depth. Designed as a sketchbook complete with placeholder ribbon and an elastic band, The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Cartoonist shows an acclaimed artist at the peak of his career.

Adrian Tomine was born in 1974 in Sacramento, California. He began self-publishing his comic book series Optic Nerve when he was sixteen, and in 1994 he received an offer to publish from Drawn & Quarterly. His comics have been anthologized in McSweeney's, Best American Comics, and Best American Nonrequired Reading, and his graphic novel Shortcomings was a New York Times Notable Book. His most recent book, Killing and Dying, appeared on numerous best-of lists and was a New York Times graphic bestseller. Since 1999, Tomine has been a regular contributor to The New Yorker. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and daughters.

PRAISE

"In this heartfelt and beautifully crafted work, Adrian Tomine presents the most honest and insightful portrait you will ever see of an industry that I can no longer bear to be associated with."—Alan Moore, author of Jerusalem
Constitution Illustrated

R. Sikoryak

The master of the visual mash-up returns with his signature idiosyncratic take on the Constitution

R. Sikoryak is the master of the pop culture pastiche. In *Masterpiece Comics*, he interpreted classic literature with defining twentieth-century comics. With *Terms and Conditions*, he made the unreadable contract that everyone signs, and no one reads, readable. He employs his magic yet again to investigate the very framework of the country with *Constitution Illustrated*. By visually interpreting the complete text of the supreme law of the land with more than a century of American pop culture icons, Sikoryak distills the very essence of the government legalese from the abstract to the tangible, the historical to the contemporary.

Among Sikoryak’s spot-on unions of government articles and amendments with famous comic-book characters: the Eighteenth Amendment that instituted prohibition is articulated with Homer Simpson running from Chief Wiggum; the Fourteenth Amendment that solidifies citizenship to all people born and naturalized in the United States is personified by Ms. Marvel; and, of course, the Nineteenth Amendment offering women the right to vote is a glorious depiction of Wonder Woman breaking free from her chains. American artists from George Herriman (*Krazy Kat*) and Charles Schulz (*Peanuts*) to Raina Telgemeier (*Sisters*) and Alison Bechdel (*Dykes to Watch Out For*) are homaged, with their characters reimagined in historical costumes and situations.

We the People has never been more apt.

R. Sikoryak is the cartoonist of *Masterpiece Comics*, *Terms and Conditions*, and *The Unquotable Trump*. His comics and illustrations have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Nation*, *The Onion*, and *MAD*, as well as on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Sikoryak teaches in the illustration department at Parsons School of Design and previously at the Center for Cartoon Studies. Since 1997, he has presented his live cartoon slide show series, *Carousel*, around the United States and Canada. He lives in New York City with his wife, Kriota Willberg.

PRAISE

“Interesting and subversive.” —*Forbes*

“The best part is seeing Sikoryak style every page into a different comics homage.” —*GQ*

“Proof, if it were needed, that comics make everything better.” —*Wired*
I Know You Rider

Leslie Stein

A candid and philosophical memoir tackling abortion and the complex decision to reproduce

I Know You Rider is Leslie Stein’s rumination on the many complex questions surrounding the decision to reproduce. Opening in an abortion clinic, the book accompanies Stein through a year of her life, steeped in emotions she was not quite expecting while also looking far beyond her own experiences. She visits with a childhood friend who’s just had twins and is trying to raise them as environmentally as possible, chats with another who’s had a vasectomy to spare his wife a lifetime of birth control, and spends Christmas with her own mother, who aches for a grandchild.

Through these melodically rendered conversations with loved ones and strangers, Stein weaves one continuing conversation with herself. She presents a sometimes sweet, sometimes funny, and always powerfully empathetic account, asking what makes a life meaningful and where we find joy, amid other questions—most of which have no solid answers, much like real life.

Instead of focusing on trauma, I Know You Rider is a story about unpredictability, change, and adaptability, adding a much-needed new perspective to a topic often avoided or discussed through a black-and-white lens. People are ever changing, contradicting themselves, and having to deal with unforeseen circumstances: Stein holds this human condition with grace and humor, as she embraces the cosmic choreography and keeps walking, open to what life blows her way.

Leslie Stein is the creator of the books Bright-Eyed at Midnight and Present, as well as the Eye of the Majestic Creature series. Her diary comics have been featured in The New Yorker, Vice, and the Best American Comics anthology. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

PRAISE

"Effervescent. Her squiggly forms and watercolor washes are irresistible." —The Paris Review

"Frank, charming, insightful meditations on daily life." —BuzzFeed, Best Books of 2017

"Immersive, like experiencing the inside of someone else’s head... Modest, compassionate epiphanies." —Globe and Mail
The existential dread of making (or not making) art takes center stage in this trenchant satire of MFA culture

Wendy is an aspiring contemporary artist whose adventures have taken her to galleries, art openings, and parties in Los Angeles, Tokyo, and Toronto. In *Wendy, Master of Art*, Walter Scott’s sly wit and social commentary zero in on MFA culture as our hero hunkers down to complete a master of fine arts at the University of Hell in small-town Ontario.

Finally Wendy has space to refine her artistic practice, but in this calm, all of her unresolved insecurities and fears explode at full volume—usually while hungover. What is the post-Jungian object as symbol? Will she ever understand her course reading—or herself? What if she’s just not smart enough? As she develops as an artist and a person, Wendy also finds herself in a teaching position, mentoring a perpetually sobbing grade-grubbing undergrad.

Scott’s incisively funny take on art school pretensions isn’t the only focus. *Wendy, Master of Art* explores the politics of open relationships and polyamory, performative activism, the precariousness of a life in the arts, as well as the complexities of gender identity, sex work, drug use, and more. At its heart, this is a book about the give and take of community—about learning to navigate empathy and boundaries, and to respect herself. It is deeply funny and endlessly relatable as it shows Wendy growing from millennial art party girl to successful artist, friend, teacher—and Master of Art.

**Walter Scott** is an interdisciplinary artist working in comics, drawing, video, performance, and sculpture. His comic series *Wendy* chronicles the continuing misadventures of a young artist in a satirical imagining of the contemporary art world. *Wendy* has been published in two volumes by Koyama Press and was featured in *Canadian Art, and Art in America*, and on the *New Yorker* website, and was selected for the 2016 edition of *Best American Comics*. Scott completed an MFA at the University of Guelph in 2018. *Wendy, Master of Art* is, as far as you know, very loosely based on this experience.

**PRAISE**

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

"The funniest, most touching, most relatable comic I have read in a really long time."—*VICE*

"A comedy of manners about a particular scene; a dead-on representation of being young in any scene; an immediate representation of how disgusting it
Nori

Rumi Hara

A dulcet debut capturing a touching relationship between the spirited Nori and her grandma

Ignatz nominated and MoCCA Arts Festival Award-winning cartoonist Rumi Hara invites you to visit her magical world. Nori (short for Noriko) is a spirited three-year-old girl who lives with her parents and grandmother in the suburbs of Osaka during the 1980s. While both parents work full-time, her grandmother is Nori’s caregiver and companion—forever following after Nori as the three year old dashes off on fantastical adventures.

One day Nori runs off to be met by an army of bats—the symbol of happiness. Soon after, she is at school chasing a missing rabbit while performing as a moon in the school play, touching on the myth of the Moon Rabbit. A ditch by the side of the road opens a world of kids, crawfish, and beetles, not to mention the golden frog and albino salamander. That night, her grandma takes to the Bon Odori festival to dance with her ancestors. When Nori wins a trip to Hawaii, she finds herself swimming with a sea turtle, though she doesn’t know how to swim.

In mesmerizing short stories of black and white artwork with alternating spot color, Hara draws on East Asian folklore and Japanese culture to create an enchanting milieu that Nori tries to make sense of, wrestling between the reality of what she sees and the legends her grandma shares with her.

Rumi Hara was born in Kyoto, Japan, and started printing her comics on a tiny home printer while working as a translator in Tokyo in 2010. After receiving an MFA in illustration from Savannah College of Art and Design, Rumi moved to New York in 2014, where she now lives and works as an illustrator and comics artist. Her comics series Nori was first self-published as minicomics and was nominated for an Ignatz Award in 2018.

PRAISE

Winner of the silver MoCCA Arts Festival Award of Excellence (2018); nominee for the 2018 Ignatz Awards for Outstanding Series and Promising New Talent.
The Sky is Blue with a Single Cloud

Kuniko Tsurita

The work of a visionary and iconoclastic feminist cartoonist—available in English for the first time

The Sky is Blue with a Single Cloud collects the best short stories from Kuniko Tsurita’s remarkable career. While the works of her male peers in literary manga are widely reprinted, this formally ambitious and poetic female voice is like none other currently available to an English readership. A master of the comics form, expert pacing and compositions combined with bold characters are signature qualities of Tsurita’s work.

Tsurita’s early stories “Nonsense” and “Anti” provide a unique, intimate perspective on the bohemian culture and political heat of late 1960s and early ’70s Tokyo. Her work gradually became darker and more surreal under the influence of modern French literature and her own prematurely failing health. As in works like “The Sky is Blue with a Single Cloud” and “Max,” the gender of many of Tsurita’s strong and sensual protagonists is ambiguous, marking an early exploration of gender fluidity. Late stories like “Arctic Cold” and “Flight” show the artist experimenting with more conventional narrative modes, though with dystopian themes that extend the philosophical interests of her early work.

An exciting and essential gekiga collection, The Sky is Blue with a Single Cloud is translated by the comics scholar Ryan Holmberg and includes an afterword cowritten by Holmberg and manga editor Mitsuhiro Asakawa delineating Tsurita’s importance and historical relevance.

Kuniko Tsurita was born in 1947 in Japan. In 1965, at age eighteen, while still in high school, she debuted in the legendary alt-manga monthly Garo, where she was the magazine’s first and only regular female contributor until the late 1970s. Tsurita’s early work reflects her interest in bohemian youth culture, while her later work became more surreal and dystopian, with influences ranging from modern French literature to the manga of her peers in Garo, including Yoshiharu Tsuge, Seiichi Hayashi, and Shigeru Mizuki, for whom she worked as an assistant for a short time in the late ’60s. In 1973, Tsurita was diagnosed with lupus, at which point specters of death began to heavily shadow her work. She died in 1985 at age thirty-seven.
Little Lulu: The Fuzzythingus Poopi

John Stanley

One of the best comic books of all time, featuring an introduction from Eileen Myles!

Lulu Moppet is back with even more outlandish adventures and misadventures, as the cartoonist John Stanley settles into kooky and entertaining suburban storylines starring Lulu, Tubby, Alvin, and the rest of the gang.

Lulu is a strong, assertive young girl who is both entertaining and empowering to girls and women of all ages—even if she sometimes finds herself in hot water. In Little Lulu: The Fuzzythingus Poopi, she outsmarts criminals who mistake her for a wealthy young girl, gets into high jinks during a day at the beach, and plays hooky—but only by accident! Over the course of these stories, Stanley excels at visual gags, from Lulu using a pencil sharpener on lipstick to a disgruntled Alvin being flocked by girls after trying his mother’s perfume.

This is the second installment in Drawn & Quarterly’s landmark reprint series of the classic John Stanley comic strip that was first published by Dell Comics in the 1940s and ’50s. Little Lulu: The Fuzzythingus Poopi will delight longtime fans of the series and new readers alike. Now with an introduction by poet and writer Eileen Myles (Chelsea Girls), we learn just how much a little girl’s bravery, silliness, and free will can inspire us all.

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

PRAISE

“For decades, Little Lulu’s presence on the comics page meant that millions habitually read the adventures of a young girl who consistently bested —outsmarted, outplayed and outmaneuvered—boys.” —NPR

“John Stanley is one of the funniest and quirkiest creators.” —The New York Times

“Easily one of the great comics runs of all time.” —Comics Be...
Moms
Yeong-shin Ma

An outrageously funny book about middle-aged women that reexamines romance, lust, and gender norms

Lee Soyeon, Myeong-ok, and Yeonjeong are all mothers in their mid-fifties. And they’ve had it. They can no longer bear the dead weight of their partners or the endless grind of menial jobs where their bosses control everything, down to how much water they can drink. Although Lee Soyeon divorced her husband years ago after his gambling drove their family into bankruptcy, she finds herself in another tired and dishonest decade-long relationship with Jongseok, a slimy waiter at a nightclub. Meanwhile, Myeong-ok is having an illicit affair with a younger man, and Yeonjeong, whose husband suffers from erectile dysfunction, has her eye on an acquaintance from the gym. Bored with conventional romantic dalliances, these women embrace outrageous sexual adventures and mishaps, ending up in nightclubs, motels, and even the occasional back-alley brawl.

With this boisterous and darkly funny manhwa, Yeong-shin Ma defies the norms of the traditional Korean family narrative, offering instead the refreshingly honest and unfiltered story of a group of middle-aged moms who yearn for something more than what the mediocre men in their lives can provide. Despite their less-than-desirable jobs, salaries, husbands, and boyfriends, these women brazenly bulldoze their way through life with the sexual vulnerability and lust typically attributed to twenty-somethings.

Yeong-shin Ma was born in Seoul, South Korea, in 1982. At twenty-five years old, after completing his military service, he started drawing comics as part of an indie group. Ma began publishing webtoons in 2015. Moms is his first book to be published in English.
Sweet Time
Weng Pixin

Vibrant swatches of paint build resonant portraits of heartache, childhood memories, and loneliness

*Sweet Time* is an intimate rumination on love, empathy, and confidence. Singaporean cartoonist Weng Pixin delicately explores strained relationships with a kind of hopefulness while acknowledging their inevitable collapse. Her stories are like a series of snapshots in a photo album or the brightest highlights from an Instagram profile.

Gorgeous image follows gorgeous image in a delicate quest to find connection. A night out turns into a chance encounter that is at first ecstatic and then quickly descends into awkwardness. A round of "he loves me, he loves me not" becomes a way of reading every action taken by a distant love interest. A couple find themselves in an artificially beautiful landscape, but the relationship can’t survive their difference of opinion on the illusion of its beauty. In *Sweet Time*, thick and bold strokes of color mingle with delicate lines. Weng combines the colorful realism of Maira Kalman with a gentle wit and introspection all her own, crafting infinitely relatable stories of everyday life and love now.

Weng Pixin (Pix for short) was born in 1983 and grew up in sunny Singapore. She loves nighttime rainfalls, reading non-fiction books, and eavesdropping on sing-song conversations among the toads who live right below her apartment.

Pixin grew up listening to stories by her father, who was curious about nature, humans, and the relationship between the two. In turn, when it came to her art, Pixin loves to create semi-autobiographical comics and stories that reflect and express her curious nature too.

*Sweet Time* is Pixin’s first comic published by Drawn & Quarterly. It is composed of a selection of stories, comics, and visual vignettes made between 2008 - 2017, capturing themes of loneliness, disconnection, and connectedness.

**PRAISE**

“Pixin [creates] stories that deal with loveless relationships, surreal dreams and family tragedy with skilful tenderness...producing beautifully scrappy, frenetic images that leap from the page with their colourful energy.” — *It’s Nice That*
The Discomfort of Evening
A Novel

Marieke Lucas Rijneveld

A stark and gripping tale of childhood grief from one of the most exciting new voices in Dutch literature

Ten-year-old Jas lives with her strictly religious parents and her siblings on a dairy farm where waste and frivolity are akin to sin. Despite the dreary routine of their days, Jas has a unique way of experiencing her world: her face soft like cheese under her mother’s hands; the texture of green warts, like capers, on migrating toads in the village; the sound of “blush words” that aren’t in the Bible.

One icy morning, the disciplined rhythm of her family’s life is ruptured by a tragic accident, and Jas is convinced she is to blame. As her parents’ suffering makes them increasingly distant, Jas and her siblings develop a curiosity about death that leads them into disturbing rituals and fantasies. Cocooned in her red winter coat, Jas dreams of “the other side” and of salvation, not knowing where this dreaming will finally lead her.

A bestseller in the Netherlands, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld’s radical debut novel The Discomfort of Evening offers readers a rare vision of rural and religious life in the Netherlands. In it, they ask: In the absence of comfort and care, what can the mind of a child invent to protect itself? And what happens when that is not enough? With stunning psychological acuity and images of haunting, violent beauty, Rijneveld has created a captivating world of language unlike any other.

Marieke Lucas Rijneveld grew up in a Reformed farming family in North Brabant before moving to Utrecht. They are also the author of two poetry collections. In addition to writing, Rijneveld works on a dairy farm.

PRAISE

“Rijneveld is not becoming a great writer. She is one already.” —Humo (Belgium)

“The deluge of images that Rijneveld unleashes on us is original, witty, somber, and necessary. This is how the story must be told, and in no other way. . . [The ending] hit me in the chest like a straight left. It goes on reverberating there.” —Trouw (The Net...
## Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 Poems; Seamus Heaney</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Minutes of Unconditional Love: A Novel; Daphne Merkin</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Álvarez, Carlos Manuel; The Fallen; A Novel.</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analogy: The Emergence of Technology Beyond Programmable Control; George Dyson</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Darran; Inventory: A Memoir.</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthes, Emily; The Great Indoors: The Surprising Science of How Buildings Shape Our Behavior, Health, and Happiness</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appanah, Nathacha; Tropic of Violence: A Novel.</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austen Years: A Memoir in Five Novels; Rachel Cohen</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball, Edward; Life of a Klansman: A Family History in White Supremacy</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, David A.; Men on Horseback: The Power of Charisma in the Age of Revolution</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beowulf: A New Translation: A New Translation; Maria Dahvana Headley</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bertino, Marie-Helene; Parakeet: A Novel.</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodsky, Joseph; Less Than One: Selected Essays.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodsky, Joseph; On Grief and Reason: Essays.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodsky, Joseph; Selected Poems, 1968-1996.</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodsky, Joseph; Watermark.</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caipie Caves, The: Poems; Karen Solie.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle, Clare; Philosopher of the Heart: The Restless Life of Søren Kierkegaard</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catrachos: Poems; Roy G. Guzmán</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervini, Eric; The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs. the United States of America</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character: The History of a Cultural Obsession; Marjorie Garber.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinderbiter: Celtic Poems; Martin Shaw.</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen, Rachel; Austen Years: A Memoir in Five Novels.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution Illustrated: R. Sikoryak.</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cool for America: Stories; Andrew Martin.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corral, Eduardo C.; Guillotine: Poems</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Despentes, Virginie; Vernon Subutex 2: A Novel.</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deviant's War, The: The Homosexual vs. the United States of America; Eric Cervini</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discomfort of Evening, The: A Novel; Mariele Lucas Rijeved.</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double X Economy, The: The Epic Potential of Women's Empowerment; Linda Scott</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragons, the Giant, the Women, The: A Memoir; Wayétu Moore.</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyson, George: Analagoses: The Emergence of Technology Beyond Programmable Control</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett, Percival; Telephone: A Novel.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallen, The: A Novel; Carlos Manuel Álvarez.</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Clause, The: A Novel; Jonas Hassen Khemiri.</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fonseca, Carlos; Natural History: A Novel.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture: A Novel; Andrés Neuman.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternity: Stories; Benjamin Nugent.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabbert, Elisa; The Unreality of Memory; And Other Essays.</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garber, Marjorie; Character: The History of a Cultural Obsession.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gattis, Ryan; The System: A Novel.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gevisser, Mark; The Pink Line: Journeys Across the World's Queer Frontiers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giorno, John; Great Demon Kings: A Memoir of Poetry, Sex, Art, Death, and Enlightenment.</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Demon Kings: A Memoir of Poetry, Sex, Art, Death, and Enlightenment; John Giorno</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilleliton: Poems; Eduardo C. Corral.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guzmán, Roy G.; Catrachos: Poems.</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, Araminta; Imperfect Women: A Novel.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hara, Rumi; Nori.</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, Francine J.; Here is the Sweet Hand: Poems.</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headley, Maria Dahvana; Beowulf: A New Translation: A New Translation.</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heaney, Seamus; 100 Poems.</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Kissinger and American Power: A Political Biography; Thomas A. Schwartz</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here is the Sweet Hand: Poems; Francine J. Harris.</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill, David; The Vapors: A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America's Forgotten Capital of Vice.</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hofmann, Michael; One Lark, One Horse: Poems.</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Hold a Wolf by the Ears: Stories; Laura van den Berg.</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Know You Rider; Leslie Stein.</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperfect Women: A Novel; Araminta Hall.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory: A Memoir; Darran Anderson.</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston, Devon; Mosses and Lichens: Poems.</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kassabova, Kapka; To the Lake: A Balkan Journey of War and Peace.</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khemiri, Jonas Hassen; The Family Clause: A Novel.</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacey, Catherine; Pew: A Novel.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Great Road Bum, The: A Novel; Héctor Tobar.</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leilani, Raven; Luster: A Novel.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Than One: Selected Essays; Joseph Brodsky.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser, Wendy; Scandinavian Noir: In Pursuit of a Mystery.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Events: A Novel; Karolina Waclawiak.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of a Klansman: A Family History in White Supremacy; Edward Ball</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Lulu: The Fuzzytngus Poopie; John Stanley.</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loneliness of the Long-Distance Cartoonist, The; Adrian Tomine.</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luster: A Novel; Raven Leilani.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma, Yeong-shin; Moms.</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin, Andrew; Cool for America: Stories.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McBride, Eimear; Strange Hotel: A Novel.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCrae, Shane; Sometimes I Never Suffered: Poems.</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men on Horseback: The Power of Charisma in the Age of Revolution; David A. Bell</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merkin, Daphne; 22 Minutes of Unconditional Love: A Novel.</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moms; Yeong-shin Ma.</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moms; Niche: A Memoir in Pastiche.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, Wayétu; The Dragons, the Giant, the Women: A Memoir.</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses and Lichens: Poems; Devin Johnston.</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy, Joni; Talking Animals: A Novel.</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural History: A Novel; Carlos Fonseca.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuman, Andrés; Fracture: A Novel.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niche: A Memoir in Pastiche; Momus.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nori; Rumi Hara.</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nugent, Benjamin; Fraternity: Stories.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Grief and Reason: Essays; Joseph Brodsky.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Lark, One Horse: Poems; Michael Hofmann.</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl; Jonathan C. Slaght</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parakeet: A Novel; Marie-Helene Bertino.</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pew: A Novel; Catherine Lacey.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Philosopher of the Heart: The Restless Life of Søren Kierkegaard; Clare Carlisle .......................... 12
Pink Line, The: Journeys Across the World's Queer Frontiers; Mark Gevisser .................................. 10
Pixin, Weng; Sweet Time .............................................. 65
Rijneveld, Marieke Lucas; The Discomfort of Evening: A Novel ............................................. 66
Scandinavian Noir: In Pursuit of a Mystery; Wendy Lesser ................................................................. 8
Schwartz, Thomas A.; Henry Kissinger and American Power: A Political Biography ......................... 23
Scott, Linda; The Double X Economy: The Epic Potential of Women's Empowerment .................... 4
Scott, Walter; Wendy, Master of Art .................................................. 60
Selected Poems, 1968-1996; Joseph Brodsky .................. 38
Shaw, Martin; Cinderbiter: Celtic Poems ............................................. 56
Sikoryak, R.; Constitution Illustrated .................................................. 58
Sky is Blue with a Single Cloud, The; Kuniko Tsurita .... 62
Slaght, Jonathan C.; Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl .... 19
Solie, Karen; The Caiplie Caves: Poems ............................................. 15
Sometimes I Never Suffered: Poems; Shane McCrae ........ 27
Spar, Debora L.; Work Mate Marry Love: How Machines Shape Our Human Destiny ...................... 36
Stanley, John; Little Lulu: The Fuzzythingus Poopi .......... 63
Stein, Leslie; I Know You Rider ................................................. 59
Strange Hotel: A Novel; Eimear McBride ........................................... 3
Sweet Time; Weng Pixin ......................................................... 65
System, The: A Novel; Ryan Gattis .......................... 28
Talking Animals: A Novel; Joni Murphy .......................... 40
Telephone: A Novel; Percival Everett ............................................. 50
To the Lake: A Balkan Journey of War and Peace; Kapka Kassabova ...................................................... 51
Tobar, Héctor; The Last Great Road Bum: A Novel .......... 14
Tomine, Adrian; The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Cartoonist .................................................. 57
Tropic of Violence: A Novel; Nathacha Appanah .......... 53
Tsurita, Kuniko; The Sky is Blue with a Single Cloud .... 62
Unreality of Memory, The: And Other Essays; Elisa Gabbert ....................................................... 41
van den Berg, Laura; I Hold a Wolf by the Ears: Stories ...... 18
Vapors, The: A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America's Forgotten Capital of Vice; David Hill .................................................. 33
Vernon Subutex 2: A Novel; Virginie Despentes ............ 39
Waclawiak, Karolina; Life Events: A Novel ..................... 7
Watermark; Joseph Brodsky ................................................. 43
Wendy, Master of Art; Walter Scott ............................................. 60
Work Mate Marry Love: How Machines Shape Our Human Destiny; Debora L. Spar ....................... 36