



GRAYWOLF
PRESS

HARDCOVER

She Would Be King

A Novel

Wayétu Moore

A novel of exhilarating range, magical realism, and history—a dazzling retelling of Liberia’s formation

Wayétu Moore’s powerful debut novel, *She Would Be King*, reimagines the dramatic story of Liberia’s early years through three unforgettable characters who share an uncommon bond. Gbessa, exiled from the West African village of Lai, is starved, bitten by a viper, and left for dead, but still she survives. June Dey, raised on a plantation in Virginia, hides his unusual strength until a confrontation with the overseer forces him to flee. Norman Aragon, the child of a white British colonizer and a Maroon slave from Jamaica, could fade from sight, at will, just as his mother could. When the three meet in the settlement of Monrovia, their gifts help them salvage the tense relationship between the African American settlers and the indigenous tribes, as a new nation forms around them.

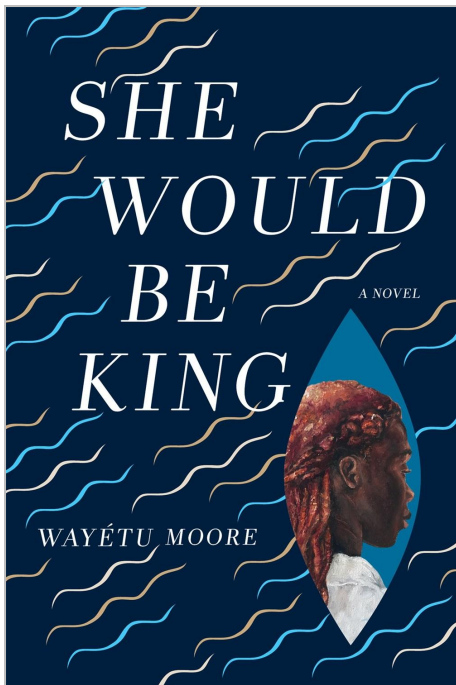
Moore’s intermingling of history and magical realism finds voice not just in these three characters but also in the fleeting spirit of the wind, who embodies an ancient wisdom. “If she was not a woman,” the wind says of Gbessa, “she would be king.” In this vibrant story of the African diaspora, Moore, a talented storyteller and a daring writer, illuminates with radiant and exacting prose the tumultuous roots of a country inextricably bound to the United States. *She Would Be King* is a novel of profound depth set against a vast canvas and a transcendent debut from a major new author.

PRAISE

"This magical retelling of Liberia's beginning is so original, so bold and poetic, Wayétu Moore is destined for comparisons to Yann Martel, Markus Zusak, and Paulo Coelho."—Susan Henderson, author of *The Flicker of Old Dreams*

"Wayétu Moore has written a powerful novel which sheds light on the struggles of a people to cast off the yoke of slavery and oppression, and shape their future. Her language is beautiful and her efforts a labor of love."—Vamba Sherif, author of *Land of My Fathers*

Wayétu Moore is the founder of One Moore Book and is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California. She teaches at the City University of New York’s John Jay College and lives in Brooklyn.



FICTION / LITERARY

Graywolf Press | 9/11/2018
 9781555978174 | \$26.00 / \$34.00 Can.
 Hardcover with dust jacket | 312 pages
 9 in H | 6 in W

Subrights: Brit., audio: Graywolf Press
 Trans., 1st ser., dram.: Writers House LLC

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Scribe

A Novel

Alyson Hagy

A haunting, evocative tale about the power of storytelling

A brutal civil war has ravaged the country, and contagious fevers have decimated the population. Abandoned farmhouses litter the isolated mountain valleys and shady hollows. The economy has been reduced to barter and trade.

In this craggy, unwelcoming world, the central character of *Scribe* ekes out a lonely living on the family farmstead where she was raised and where her sister met an untimely end. She lets a migrant group known as the Uninvited set up temporary camps on her land, and maintains an uneasy peace with her cagey neighbors and the local enforcer. She has learned how to make paper and ink, and she has become known for her letter-writing skills, which she exchanges for tobacco, firewood, and other scarce resources. An unusual request for a letter from a man with hidden motivations unleashes the ghosts of her troubled past and sets off a series of increasingly calamitous events that culminate in a harrowing journey to a crossroads.

Drawing on traditional folktales and the history and culture of Appalachia, Alyson Hagy has crafted a gripping, swiftly plotted novel that touches on pressing issues of our time—migration, pandemic disease, the rise of authoritarianism—and makes a compelling case for the power of stories to both show us the world and transform it.

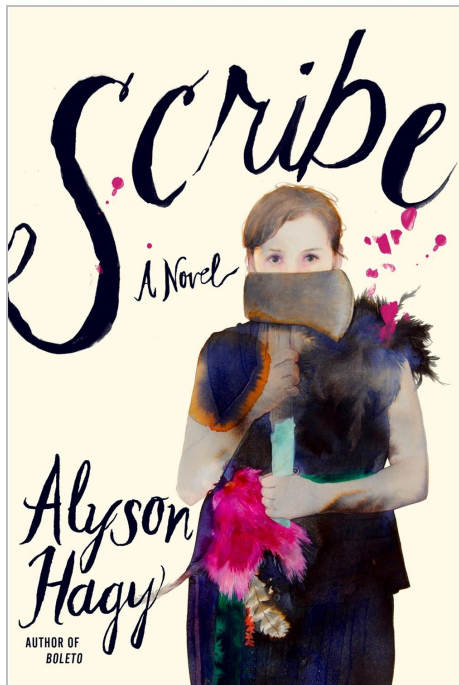
PRAISE

Praise for *Boleto*

"In her gift for the language of horses, as in the beauty of her prose, Hagy will inevitably recall Annie Proulx, Kent Haruf, and Cormac McCarthy. But she is writing as much about wealth and class, about work and dprivilege, as about horses and the Western landscape."—*The Washington Post*

"[The] reader who takes time to savor Hagy's abundant storytelling gifts will be rewarded." —*Chicago Tribune*

Alyson Hagy was raised on a farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She is the author of seven previous works of fiction, most recently *Boleto*. She lives in Laramie, Wyoming.



FICTION / LITERARY

Graywolf Press | 10/2/2018
9781555978181 | \$16.00 / \$21.00 Can.
Trade Paperback | 176 pages
8.3 in H | 5.5 in W

Subrights: Brit., trans., audio: Graywolf Press
1st ser., dram.: Brandt & Hochman Literary
Agents

SIMULTANEOUS HARDCOVER & TRADE PAPER

American Journal

Fifty Poems for Our Time

Tracy K. Smith

American Journal presents fifty contemporary poems that explore and celebrate our country and our lives. Poet Laureate of the United States and Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy K. Smith has gathered a remarkable chorus of voices that ring up and down the registers of American poetry. In the elegant arrangement of this anthology, we hear stories from rural communities and urban centers, laments of loss in war and in grief, experiences of immigrants, outcries at injustices, and poems that honor elders, evoke history, and praise our efforts to see and understand one another. Taking its title from a poem by Robert Hayden, the first African American appointed as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, *American Journal* investigates our time with curiosity, wonder, and compassion.

Among the fifty poets included are: Jericho Brown, Eduardo C. Corral, Natalie Diaz, Matthew Dickman, Mark Doty, Ross Gay, Aracelis Girmay, Joy Harjo, Terrance Hayes, Cathy Park Hong, Marie Howe, Major Jackson, Ilya Kaminsky, Robin Coste Lewis, Ada Limón, Layli Long Soldier, Erika L. Sánchez, Solmaz Sharif, Danez Smith, Susan Stewart, Mary Szybist, Natasha Trethewey, Brian Turner, Charles Wright, and Kevin Young.

PRAISE

“These fifty poems bear witness to what it means to come from and belong to this remarkably vast and varied nation. In these lines, I am reminded that no matter who we are, we have something urgent and life-changing to offer one another. *American Journal* is an invitation to listen and to feel.”—Tracy K. Smith

Tracy K. Smith is the author of four poetry collections, including *Wade in the Water* and *Life on Mars*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. In 2017, she was appointed Poet Laureate of the United States. She teaches at Princeton University.



POETRY / ANTHOLOGIES

Graywolf Press | 9/4/2018
 9781555978150 | \$14.00 / \$18.50 Can.
 Trade Paperback | 104 pages
 8 in H | 5 in W

Other Available Formats:
 Hardcover ISBN: 9781555978389

SIMULTANEOUS HARDCOVER & TRADE PAPER

American Journal

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POETRY / ANTHOLOGIES

Graywolf Press | 9/4/2018
 9781555978389 | \$22.00 / \$29.00 Can.
 Hardcover with dust jacket | 104 pages
 7 in H | 4.5 in W

Other Available Formats:
 Trade Paperback ISBN: 9781555978150

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Children of God

A Novel

Lars Petter Sveen; Translated from the Norwegian by Guy Puzey

Daring and original stories set in New Testament times, from a rising young Norwegian author

Lars Petter Sveen's *Children of God* recounts the lives of people on the margins of the New Testament; thieves, Roman soldiers, prostitutes, lepers, healers, and the occasional disciple all get a chance to speak. With language free of judgment or moralizing, Sveen covers familiar ground in unusual ways. In the opening story, a group of soldiers are tasked with carrying out King Herod's edict to slaughter the young male children in Bethlehem but waver in their resolve. These interwoven stories harbor surprises at every turn, as the characters reappear. A group of thieves on the road to Jericho encounters no good Samaritan but themselves. A boy healed of his stutter will later regress. A woman searching for her lover from beyond the grave cannot find solace. At crucial moments an old blind man appears, urging the characters to give in to their darker impulses.

Children of God was a bestseller in Norway, where it won the Per Olov Enquist Literary Prize and gathered ecstatic reviews. Sveen's subtle elevation of the conflict between light and dark focuses on the varied struggles these often-ignored individuals face. Yet despite the dark tone, Sveen's stories retain a buoyancy, thanks to Guy Puzey's supple and fleet-footed translation. This deeply original and moving book, in Sveen's restrained and gritty telling, brings to light stories that reflect our own time, from a setting everyone knows.

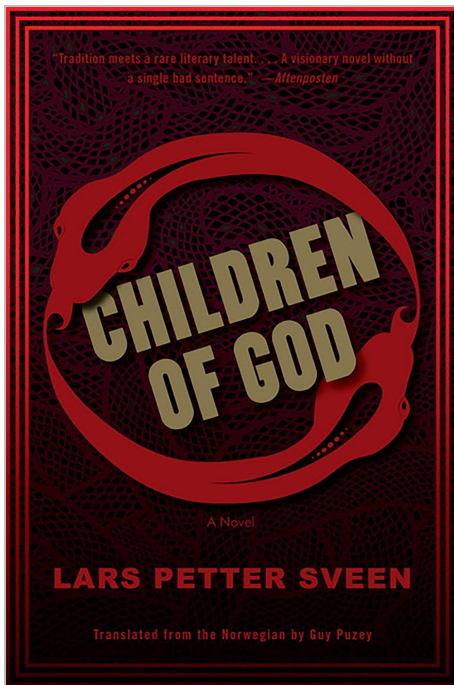
PRAISE

"A visionary novel without a single bad sentence." —*Aftenposten*

"A major literary achievement . . . Convincing and emotionally strong because it so strongly reflects our time." —*Dagsavisen*

"*Children of God* is in every way a well-deserved breakthrough for a young author whose work is mature, original and bold." —Per Olov Enquist Literary Prize citation

Lars Petter Sveen was named one of Norway's ten best authors under thirty-five by *Morgenbladet*, and has received Tarjei Vesaas' Debutant Prize and the Per Olov Enquist Literary Prize. *Children of God* is his first book to be translated into English.



FICTION / LITERARY

Graywolf Press | 10/16/2018
 9781555978204 | \$16.00 / \$21.00 Can.
 Trade Paperback | 256 pages
 8.3 in H | 5.5 in W

Subrights: Brit., 1st ser., audio: Graywolf Press
 Trans., dram.: H. Aschehoug & Co.

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

We Begin in Gladness

How Poets Progress

Craig Morgan Teicher

One of our most perceptive critics on the ways that poets develop poems, a career, and a life

Though it seems, at first, like an art of speaking, poetry is an art of listening. The poet trains to hear clearly and, as much as possible, without interruption, the voice of the mind, the voice that gathers, packs with meaning, and unpacks the language the poet knows. It can take a long time to learn to let this voice speak without getting in its way. This slow learning, the growth of this habit of inner attentiveness, is poetic development, and it is the substance of the poet's art. Of course, this growth is rarely steady, never linear, and is sometimes not actually growth but diminishment—that's all part of the compelling story of a poet's way forward.

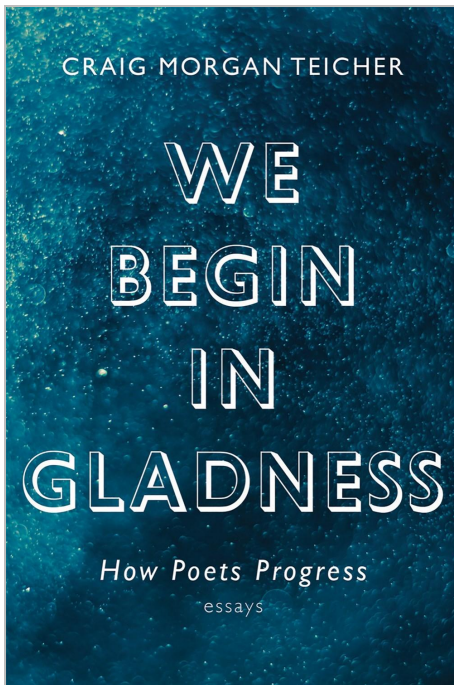
—from the Introduction

"The staggering thing about a life's work is it takes a lifetime to complete," Craig Morgan Teicher writes in these luminous essays. *We Begin in Gladness* considers how poets start out, how they learn to hear themselves, and how some offer us that rare, glittering thing: lasting work. Teicher traces the poetic development of the works of Sylvia Plath, John Ashbery, Louise Glück, and Francine J. Harris, among others, to illuminate the paths they forged—by dramatic breakthroughs or by slow increments, and always by perseverance. *We Begin in Gladness* is indispensable for readers curious about the artistic life and for writers wondering how they might light out—or even scale the peak of the mountain.

PRAISE

"Horace asked poets to delight and instruct, and this collection of thoughtful, readable essays by a very attentive poet and critic does both. . . . Teicher does the right thing for poets (like Brenda Hillman and Lucille Clifton) not rodinarily read together, and that skill makes him an exemplary guide. . . . *We Begin in Gladness* is very inviting and sometimes very wise."—Stephanie Burt

Craig Morgan Teicher is an acclaimed poet and critic. He is the author of three books of poetry, including *The Trembling Answers*, and regularly writes reviews for the *Los Angeles Times*, NPR, and *The New York Times Book Review*. He lives in New Jersey.



LITERARY CRITICISM / POETRY

Graywolf Press | 11/6/2018
 9781555978211 | \$16.00 / \$21.00 Can.
 Trade Paperback | 176 pages
 8.3 in H | 5.5 in W

Subrights: Brit., trans., audio, dram.: Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Human Hours

Poems

Catherine Barnett

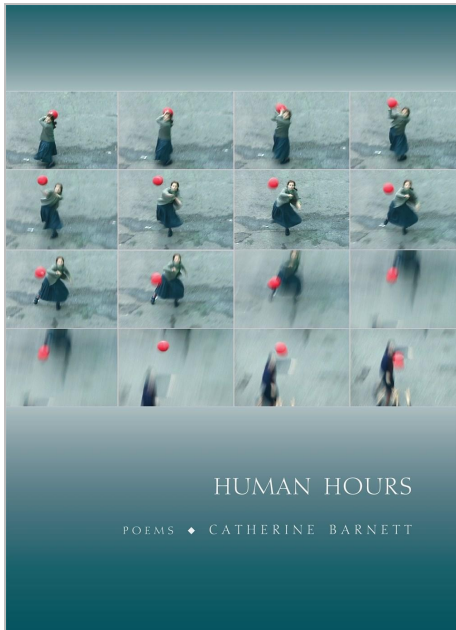
The triumphant follow-up collection to *The Game of Boxes*, winner of the James Laughlin Award

Catherine Barnett's tragicomic third collection, *Human Hours*, shuttles between a Whitmanian embrace of others and a kind of rapacious solitude. Barnett speaks from the middle of hope and confusion, carrying philosophy into the everyday. Watching a son become a young man, a father become a restless beloved shell, and a country betray its democratic ideals, the speakers try to make sense of such departures. Four lyric essays investigate the essential urge and appeal of questions that are "accursed," that are limited—and unanswered—by answers. What are we to do with the endangered human hours that remain to us? Across the leaps and swerves of this collection, the fevered mind tries to slow—or at least measure—time with quiet bravura: by counting a lover's breaths; by remembering a father's space-age watch; by envisioning the apocalyptic future while bedding down on a hard, cold floor, head resting on a dictionary. *Human Hours* pulses with the absurd, with humor that accompanies the precariousness of the human condition.

PRAISE

"*Human Hours*, in its restless questioning, performs the drama of desire inside a world where hours accumulate towards loss. . . . What remains is a brilliant (at times very funny) phenomenological exploration of that which marks our capacious possibilities."—Claudia Rankine

Catherine Barnett is the author of *Into Perfect Spheres Such Holes Are Pierced* and *The Game of Boxes*. She has received a Whiting Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She lives in New York City.



POETRY / AMERICAN

Graywolf Press | 9/4/2018

9781555978143 | \$16.00 / \$21.00 Can.

Trade Paperback | 80 pages

9 in H | 6.5 in W

Subrights: Brit., trans., audio, dram.: Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Hey, Marfa

Poems

Jeffrey Yang, Paintings and Drawings by Rackstraw Downes

An extraordinary lyric and visual meditation on place, nature, and art rippling out from Marfa, Texas

Situated in the outreaches of southwest Texas, the town of Marfa has long been an oasis for artists, immigrants looking for work, and ranchers, while the ghosts of the indigenous and the borders between languages and nations are apparent everywhere. The poet and translator Jeffrey Yang experienced the vastness of desert, township, sky, and time itself as a profound clash of dislocation and familiarity. What does it mean to survive in a physical and metaphorical desert? How does a habitat long associated with wilderness and death become a center for nourishment and art?

Yang has fashioned a fascinating, multifaceted work—an anti-travel guide, an anti-Western, a book of last words—that is a lyrical, anthropological investigation into history, culture, and extremity of place. Paintings and drawings of Marfa's landscapes and substations by the artist Rackstraw Downes intertwine with Yang's texts as mutual nodes and lines of energy. *Hey, Marfa* is a desert diary scaled to music that aspires to emit particles of light.

PRaise

Praise for Hey, Marfa

"Jeffrey Yang's collaboration with Rackstraw Downes (painter here of substations—substations transform voltage) is a commonplace book, memoir, and hybrid obituary for things. . . . *Hey, Marfa* transmits voltage or vtialized matter as words reach to words."—Susan Howe

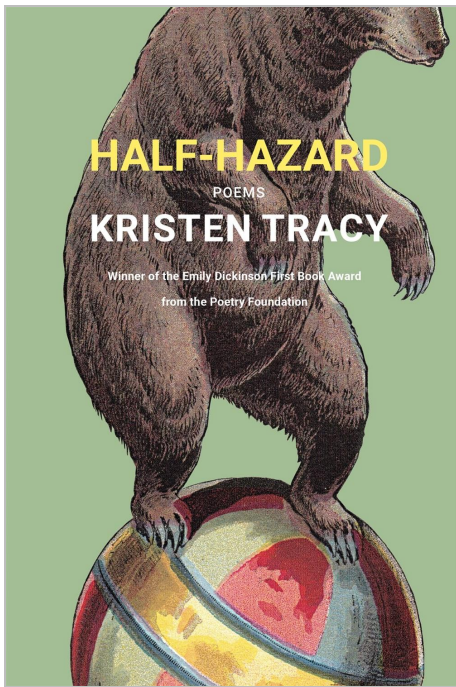
Jeffrey Yang is the author of two previous poetry books, *Vanishing-Line* and *An Aquarium*, winner of the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award. He is the translator of the Nobel Peace Prize recipient Liu Xiaobo's *June Fourth Elegies*. Yang lives in Beacon, New York.

POETRY / AMERICAN / ASIAN AMERICAN

Graywolf Press | 10/2/2018
9781555978198 | \$20.00 / \$26.00 Can.
Trade Paperback | 184 pages
9 in H | 7 in W

Subrights: Brit., trans., audio, dram.: Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

**POETRY / AMERICAN**

Graywolf Press | 11/6/2018
 9781555978228 | \$16.00 / \$21.00 Can.
 Trade Paperback | 72 pages
 9 in H | 6 in W

Subrights: Brit., trans., audio, dram.: Graywolf Press
 1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Half-Hazard*Poems*

Kristen Tracy

Half-Hazard is a book of near misses, would-be tragedies, and luck. As Kristen Tracy writes in the title poem, “Dangers here. Perils there. It’ll go how it goes.” The collection follows her wide curiosity, from growing up in a small Mormon farming community to her exodus into the forbidden world, where she finds snakes, car accidents, adulterers, meteors, and death-marked mice. These wry, observant narratives are accompanied by a ringing lyricism, and Tracy’s knack for noticing what’s so funny about trouble and her natural impulse to want to put all the broken things back together. Full of wrong turns, false loves, quashed beliefs, and a menagerie of animals, *Half-Hazard* introduces a vibrant new voice in American poetry, one of resilience, faith, and joy.

PRAISE

"What animal grace in these poems of the human stumble and dance on the road to becoming human. . . . This first collection of poetry by Kristen Tracy is a keeper."—Joy Harjo

"Kristen Tracy's dazzling *Half-Hazard* . . . poem after authentic poem [is] as thrilling a read as I've had in a long time. Here is an unmistakable talent."
—Stephen Dunn

Kristen Tracy is a poet and the acclaimed author of more than a dozen novels for young readers. Her poems have been published in *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *The Threepenny Review*, among other magazines. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and son.

NOW IN PAPERBACK!

Bunk

The Rise of Hoaxes, Humbug, Plagiarists, Phonies, Post-Facts, and Fake News

Kevin Young

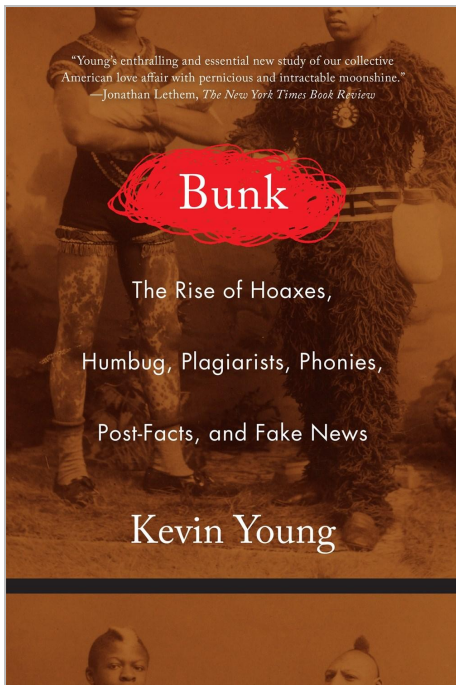
Has the hoax now moved from the sideshow to take the center stage of American culture?

Award-winning poet and critic Kevin Young traces the history of the hoax as a peculiarly American phenomenon—the legacy of P. T. Barnum’s “humbug” culminating with the currency of Donald J. Trump’s “fake news.” Young then turns to the hoaxing of history and the ways that forgers, plagiarists, and frauds invent backstories and falsehoods to sell us lies about themselves and about the world in our own time, from pretend Native Americans Grey Owl and Nasdijj to the deadly imposture of Clark Rockefeller, from the made-up memoirs of James Frey to the identity theft of Rachel Dolezal. Disturbingly, Young finds that fakery is woven from stereotype and suspicion, with race being the most insidious American hoax of all. Brilliant and timely, *Bunk* asks what it means to live in a post-factual world of “truthiness” where everything is up for interpretation and everyone is subject to a contagious cynicism that damages our ideas of reality, fact, and art.

PRAISE

“There Kevin Young goes again, giving us books we greatly need, cleverly disguised as books we merely want. Unexpectedly essential.”—Marlon James

Kevin Young is the author of a previous book of nonfiction, *The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness*, which won the PEN Open Book Award, was recognized as a *New York Times* Notable Book, and was named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism. He is also the author of eleven books of poetry, including *Brown; Blue Laws: Selected & Uncollected Poems 1995-2015*; and *Jelly Roll: A Blues*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. He is the director of the Schomburg...



HISTORY / UNITED STATES / 20TH CENTURY

Graywolf Press | 9/4/2018
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 9 in H | 6 in W

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 Audio: Recorded Books

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 Ebook ISBN: 9781555979829

PAPERBACK REISSUE

Notes from No Man's Land

American Essays

Eula Biss

A reissue of Eula Biss's groundbreaking essay collection, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award

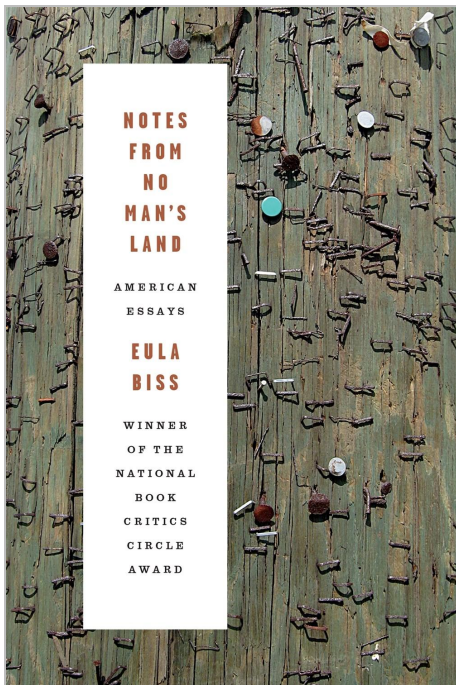
Acclaimed for its frank and fascinating investigation of racial identity, and reissued on its ten-year anniversary, *Notes from No Man's Land* begins with a series of lynchings, ends with a list of apologies, and in an unsettling new coda revisits a litany of murders that no one seems capable of solving. Eula Biss explores race in America through the experiences chronicled in these essays—teaching in a Harlem school on the morning of 9/11, reporting from an African American newspaper in San Diego, watching the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina from a college town in Iowa, and rereading Laura Ingalls Wilder in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. What she reveals is how families, schools, communities, and our country participate in preserving white privilege. *Notes from No Man's Land* is an essential portrait of America that established Biss as one of the most distinctive and inventive essayists of our time.

PRAISE

“Biss is telling us the story of our country—one we never saw coming.” —*Chicago Tribune*

“*Notes from No Man's Land* is a beautiful exercise in consciousness; in bringing both intelligence and experience to bear on a subject that has implications for the way one behaves in the world.” —*Los Angeles Times*

Eula Biss is the author of *On Immunity: An Inoculation*, selected as one of the Ten Best Books of 2014 by *The New York Times Book Review*. Her essays have appeared in the *Believer*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. She lives in the Chicago area.



LITERARY COLLECTIONS / ESSAYS

Graywolf Press | 11/6/2018
 9781555978235 | \$16.00 / \$21.00 Can.
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