



Graywolf Press

NEW TITLES &
SELECTED BACKLIST

Winter / Spring 2015





Our work is made possible by the book buyer, and by the generous support of individuals, corporations, foundations, and governmental agencies, to whom we offer heartfelt thanks. We encourage you to support Graywolf's publishing efforts. For information, check our web site (listed above) or call us at (651) 641-0077.

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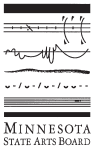
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GRANT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Additional support has been provided by Amazon.com, the Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation, the Carolyn Foundation, the College of Saint Benedict, the General Mills Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation, and Target.



Cover design: Kyle G. Hunter
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The Pinch
A Novel, A History
STEVE STERN

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

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

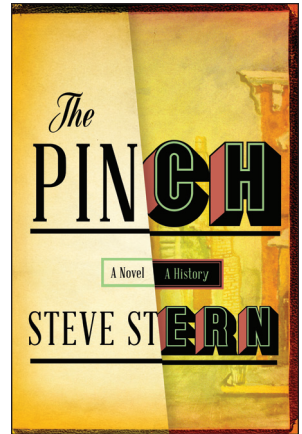
Praise for *The Book of Mischief*

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

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

Praise for *The Frozen Rabbi*

"[A] wonderfully entertaining, inventive new novel. . . . Laugh-out-loud funny, the sort of humor that takes you by surprise." —*National Public Radio*



Fiction, 368 pages, 6 x 9

Hardcover, \$26.00

June

978-1-55597-715-3

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., 1st ser., audio:
Graywolf Press

Dram.: Darhansoff, Verrill, Feldman

ALSO AVAILABLE

The Book of Mischief, Fiction,
Hardcover (978-1-55597-621-7),
\$26.00

The Wedding Jester, Fiction,
Paperback (978-1-55597-290-5),
\$14.00

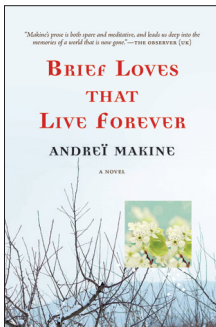
STEVE STERN, winner of the National Jewish Book Award, is the author of several previous novels and story collections, including *The Book of Mischief* and *The Frozen Rabbi*. He teaches at Skidmore College in upstate New York.

An Excerpt from *A Woman Loved*

Oleg wanted to know everything about Catherine: how she spent her time (she worked fifteen hours a day), how she dressed (very simply), her restrained tastes in food, her fads (the snuff she took, her intensely strong coffee). He knew her political views, what she read, the personal likes of the people she corresponded with, her carnal cravings (the “uterine rage” derided by so many biographers), her custom of rubbing her face with ice every morning, her passion for the theater, her preference for riding astride a horse rather than sidesaddle . . .

Yes, everything about Catherine. Except that often this “everything” seemed strangely incomplete.

Perhaps the key to the enigma could be found in the naïve observation that this ultra-cerebral woman from time to time let slip: “The real problem in my life is that my heart cannot survive for a single moment without love . . .”



Fiction, 180 pages

5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

August

978-1-55597-712-2

Ebook Available

Brit.: MacLehose Press

Trans., audio, dram.:

Editions du Seuil

1st ser.: Graywolf Press

Brief Loves That Live Forever

A Novel

ANDREÏ MAKINE

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY GEOFFREY STRACHAN

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

In Soviet Russia the desire for freedom is also a desire for the freedom to love.

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

A Woman Loved

A Novel

ANDREÏ MAKINE

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY GEOFFREY STRACHAN

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

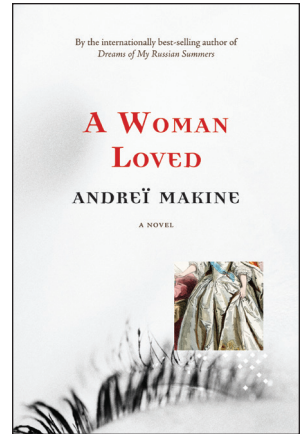
Catherine the Great's life seems to have been made for the cinema—her rise to power, her reportedly countless love affairs and wild sexual escapades, the episodes of betrayal, revenge, and even murder—there's no shortage of historical drama. But Oleg Erdmann, a young Russian filmmaker, seeks to discover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

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

Praise for Andreï Makine

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

—*Daily Telegraph*



Fiction, 352 pages, 5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

August

978-1-55597-711-5

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.: Editions
du Seuil

1st ser.: Graywolf Press

ALSO AVAILABLE

The Life of an Unknown Man, Fiction,
Paperback (978-1-55597-614-9),
\$15.00

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

Leaving Orbit

Notes from the Last Days of American Spaceflight

MARGARET DEAN

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

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

Praise for *The Time It Takes to Fall*

"[A] closely observed and carefully constructed novel. . . . Terrific."

—*The Boston Globe*

"One of the nicest written coming-of-age stories that I've read in a long time."

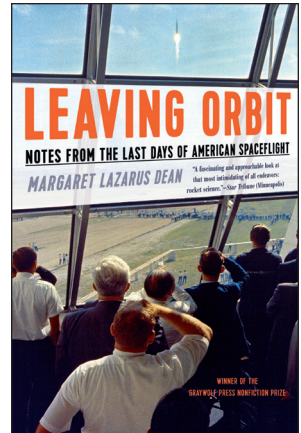
—Nancy Pearl, National Public Radio

"Those who were children—and adults—during the time of the *Challenger* disaster will find in *The Time It Takes to Fall* a truthful and thought-provoking novel about how we face tragedies big and small."

—*Chicago Tribune*

"A fascinating and approachable look at that most intimidating of all endeavors: rocket science."

—*Star Tribune (Minneapolis)*



Nonfiction, 240 pages, 5½ × 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

May

978-1-55597-709-2

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., 1st ser., audio, dram.:
Barer Literary

The Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize is funded in part by endowed gifts from the Arsham Ohanessian Charitable Remainder Unitrust and the Ruth Easton Fund of the Edelstein Family Foundation.

MARGARET LAZARUS

DEAN is the author of *The*

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

An Excerpt from *The Argonauts*

Not long ago, a friend came over to our house and pulled down a mug for coffee, a mug that was a gift from my mother. It's one of those mugs you can purchase online from Snapfish, with the photo of your choice emblazoned on it. I was horrified when I received it, but it's the biggest mug we own, so we keep it around, in case someone's in the mood for a trough of warm milk or something.

Wow, my friend said, filling it up. *I've never seen anything so heteronormative in all my life.*

The photo on the mug depicts Harry, Lenny, and me, all dressed up to go to the *Nutcracker* at Christmastime—a ritual that was important to my mother when I was a little girl, and that we have revived now that there are children in my life. In the photo I'm seven months pregnant with what will become Iggy, wearing a high ponytail and leopard print dress; Harry and Lenny are wearing matching dark suits, looking dashing. We're standing in front of the mantel at my mother's house, which has monogrammed stockings hanging from it. We look happy.

But what about it is the essence of heteronormativity? That my mother made a mug on a boojie service like Snapfish? That we're clearly participating, or acquiescing into participating, in a long tradition of families being photographed at holiday time in their holiday best? That my mother made me the mug, in part to indicate that she recognizes and accepts my tribe as family? What about my pregnancy—is that inherently heteronormative? Or is the presumed opposition of queerness and procreation (or, to put a finer edge on it, maternity) more a reactionary embrace of how things have shaken down for queers than the mark of some ontological truth? As more queers have kids, will the presumed opposition simply wither away? Will you miss it?

Is there something inherently queer about pregnancy itself, insofar as it profoundly alters one's "normal" state, and occasions a radical intimacy with—and radical alienation from—one's body? How can an experience so profoundly strange and wild and transformative also symbolize or enact the ultimate conformity? Or is this just another disqualification of anything tied too closely to the female animal from the privileged term (in this case, nonconformity, or radicality)? What about the fact that Harry is neither male nor female? *I'm a special—a two for one*, his character Valentine explains in *By Hook or By Crook*.

The Argonauts

MAGGIE NELSON

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

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

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

Praise for *The Argonauts*

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

—Ben Lerner

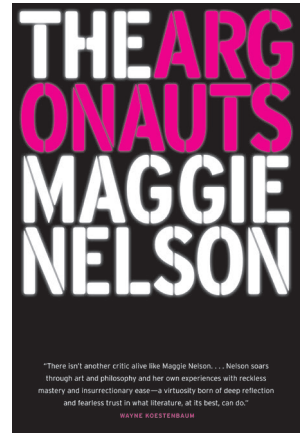
Praise for *The Art of Cruelty*

"An important and frequently surprising book . . . [Nelson] is such a graceful writer that I . . . just sat back and enjoyed the show."

—Laura Kipnis, *The New York Times Book Review*

"This is criticism at its best: evocative, plainspoken, with an unwavering point of view."

—Carolyn Kellogg, *Los Angeles Times*



Nonfiction, 160 pages, 5½ × 8¼

Hardcover, \$24.00

May

978-1-55597-707-8

Ebook Available

Brit., audio: Graywolf Press

Trans., 1st ser., dram.: Janklow & Nesbit

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

My Feelings

Poems

NICK FLYNN

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

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

**. . . the take from his bank jobs, all of it
will come to me, if I can just get him to draw me
a map, if I can find the tree, if I can find
the shovel. And the house, the mansion he
grew up in, soon a lawyer will pass
a key across a walnut desk, but even this
lawyer will not be able to tell me where this
mansion is.**

—from “Kafka”

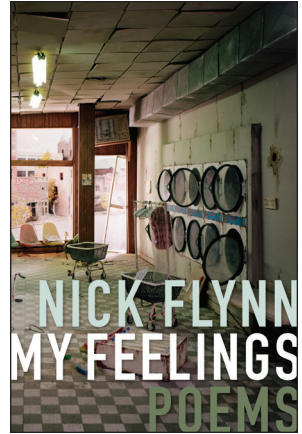
Praise for Nick Flynn

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

— *Booklist*

“[Flynn’s] books of poetry . . . all ask difficult questions and leave us with a beautiful acceptance that there is often no answer at all, that our memories arrange things in ways that may or may not offer closure. There is something about his work that allows us to exhale, to sit in our own messes and be okay.”

—*The Rumpus*



Poetry, 96 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback, \$16.00

June

978-1-55597-710-8

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., 1st ser., audio, dram.:
William Morris Endeavor
Entertainment

ALSO AVAILABLE

The Captain Asks for a Show of Hands,
Poetry, Paperback

(978-1-55597-633-0), \$15.00

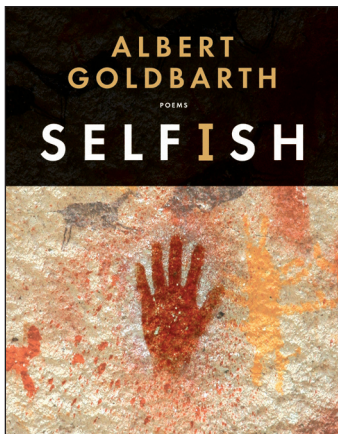
Blind Huber, Poetry, Paperback

(978-1-55597-373-5), \$15.00

Some Ether, Poetry, Paperback

(978-1-55597-303-2), \$16.00

NICK FLYNN is the award-winning author of three previous books of poetry, including *Some Ether*, and three memoirs, including *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*. He teaches at the University of Houston, and lives between Houston and Brooklyn, New York.



Poetry, 184 pages, 7 x 9

Paperback, \$18.00

May

978-1-55597-708-5

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.:

Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

ALSO AVAILABLE

Everyday People, Poetry, Paperback
(978-1-55597-603-3), \$18.00

To Be Read in 500 Years, Poetry,
Paperback (978-1-55597-525-8),
\$16.00

The Kitchen Sink, Poetry, Paperback
(978-1-55597-526-5), \$18.00

*Budget Travel through Space and
Time*, Poetry, Paperback
(978-1-55597-416-9), \$15.00

ALBERT GOLDBARTH

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

Selfish

Poems

ALBERT GOLDBARTH

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

—*The Rumpus*

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

And you

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

Like I care.

I wrote this for me.

—from “Try the selfish,”

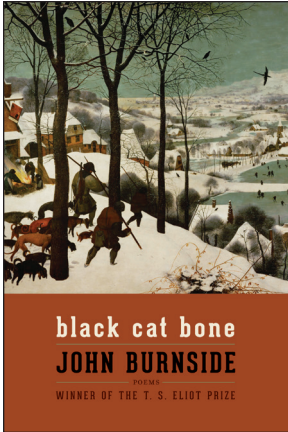
Praise for Albert Goldbarth

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

—*Harvard Review*

“Albert Goldbarth just may be the American poet of his generation for the ages.”

—*The Georgia Review*



Poetry, 80 pages, 5¼ x 7¾

Paperback, \$16.00

July

978-1-55597-714-6

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., 1st ser., audio, dram.:
Random House Group Ltd

ALSO AVAILABLE

A Lie About My Father, Memoir,
Paperback (978-1-55597-467-1),
\$15.00

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

Black Cat Bone

Poems

JOHN BURNSIDE

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

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

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

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

—from “Death Room Blues”

Praise for John Burnside

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

“[Burnside’s] radiant meditations have been perhaps the most quietly and pervasively influential voice to have emerged in British poetry in the last twenty years.” —Don Paterson, *New British Poetry*

Turning into Dwelling

Poems

CHRISTOPHER GILBERT

*A milestone publication of the late
Christopher Gilbert's poetry, introduced by
National Book Award winner Terrance Hayes*

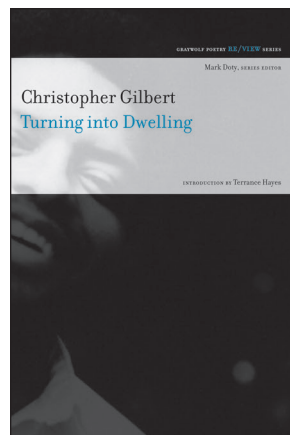
Christopher Gilbert's award-winning *Across the Mutual Landscape* has become an underground classic of contemporary American poetry. Now reissued and presented with Gilbert's never-before-published last manuscript written before his death in 2007, *Turning into Dwelling* offers new readers the original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

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

Praise for *Across the Mutual Landscape*

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

"[Gilbert] has the artistry, the energy, and the staying power to make [his career] a richly significant one." —Denise Levertov



Poetry, 176 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback, \$16.00

July

978-1-55597-713-9

Ebook Available

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

1st ser.: Estate of Christopher
Gilbert c/o Graywolf Press

Graywolf Poetry Re/View Series
Edited by Mark Doty

CHRISTOPHER GILBERT

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