Beast

A Novel

Paul Kingsnorth

The stunning new novel from the prizewinning author of The Wake

Beast plunges you into the world of Edward Buckmaster, a man alone on an empty moor in the west of England. What he has left behind we don’t yet know. What he faces is an existential battle with himself, the elements, and something he begins to see in the margins of his vision: some creature that is tracking him, the pursuit of which will become an obsession.

This short, shocking, and exhilarating novel is a vivid exploration of isolation, courage, and the search for truth that continues the story set one thousand years earlier in Paul Kingsnorth’s bravura debut novel, The Wake. It extends that book’s promise and confirms Kingsnorth as one of our most daring and rewarding contemporary writers.

PRAISE

“Slim, hypnotic, a swift descent into the solitary world of Edward Buckmaster.”
—New Statesman

“To read Beast is a joy . . . Kingsnorth’s gaze is so intense it forces a similar intensity from the reader . . . In the end, your gaze has become as minutely focused as his hermit’s. You feel alive.” —The Guardian

Paul Kingsnorth is the author of The Wake and Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist. He is cofounder of the Dark Mountain Project, a global network of writers, artists, and thinkers in search of new stories for a world on the brink.
Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist and Other Essays

Paul Kingsnorth

A provocative and urgent essay collection that asks how we can live with hope in “an age of ecocide”

Paul Kingsnorth was once an activist—an ardent environmentalist. He fought against rampant development and the depredations of a corporate world that seemed hell-bent on ignoring a looming climate crisis in its relentless pursuit of profit. But as the environmental movement began to focus on “sustainability” rather than the defense of wild places for their own sake and as global conditions worsened, he grew disenchanted with the movement that he once embraced. He gave up what he saw as the false hope that residents of the First World would ever make the kind of sacrifices that might avert the severe consequences of climate change.

Full of grief and fury as well as passionate, lyrical evocations of nature and the wild, Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist gathers the wave-making essays that have charted the change in Kingsnorth’s thinking. In them he articulates a new vision that he calls “dark ecology,” which stands firmly in opposition to the belief that technology can save us, and he argues for a renewed balance between the human and nonhuman worlds.

This iconoclastic, fearless, and ultimately hopeful book, which includes the much-discussed “Uncivilization” manifesto, asks hard questions about how we’ve lived and how we should live.

PRAISE

“[Kingsnorth’s] work is a fascinating interrogation of what it is to live in the twenty-first century . . . We are uniquely disconnected now from history, prehistory and the living world. [Kingsnorth] is exploring what it is to be disconnected and to try to reconnect. These are the fundamental questions of our age.” —George Monbiot

Paul Kingsnorth is the author of Beast and The Wake, which was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. He is cofounder of the Dark Mountain Project, a global network of writers, artists, and thinkers in search of new stories for a world on the brink.
A new high point for a master novelist, an emotionally charged reckoning with art, marriage, and the past

Kevin Pace is working on a painting that he won’t allow anyone to see: not his children; not his best friend, Richard; not even his wife, Linda. The painting is a canvas of twelve feet by twenty-one feet (and three inches) that is covered entirely in shades of blue. It may be his masterpiece or it may not; he doesn’t know or, more accurately, doesn’t care.

What Kevin does care about are the events of the past. Ten years ago he had an affair with a young watercolorist in Paris. Kevin relates this event with a dispassionate air, even a bit of puzzlement. It’s not clear to him why he had the affair, but he can’t let it go. In the more distant past of the late seventies, Kevin and Richard traveled to El Salvador on the verge of war to retrieve Richard’s drug-dealing brother, who had gone missing without explanation. As the events of the past intersect with the present, Kevin struggles to justify the sacrifices he’s made for his art and the secrets he’s kept from his wife.

So Much Blue features Percival Everett at his best, and his deadpan humor and insightful commentary about the artistic life culminate in a brilliantly readable new novel.

PRAISE

Praise for Percival Everett

“Everett is a master of his trade.” —Time Out Chicago

“A restless polymath with a knack for deconstructing genres, [Everett] has quietly built up one of the most eclectic and original bodies of work in American letters.” —Harper’s Magazine

“Everett is one of the most gifted and versatile of contemporary writers.” —Alan Cheuse, NPR

Percival Everett is the author of nearly thirty books, including Percival Everett by Virgil Russell, 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.
Broken River

A Novel

J. Robert Lennon

The most inventive and entertaining novel to date from “a master of the dark arts” (Kelly Link)

A modest house in upstate New York. One in the morning. Three people—a couple and their child—hurry out the door, but it’s too late for them. As the virtuosic and terrifying opening scene of Broken River unfolds, a spectral presence seems to be watching with cold and mysterious interest. Soon the house lies abandoned, and years later a new family moves in.

Karl, Eleanor, and their daughter, Irina, arrive from New York City in the wake of Karl’s infidelity to start anew. Karl tries to stabilize his flailing art career. Eleanor, a successful commercial novelist, eagerly pivots in a new creative direction. Meanwhile, twelve-year-old Irina becomes obsessed with the brutal murders that occurred in the house years earlier. And, secretly, so does her mother. As the ensemble cast grows to include Louis, a hapless salesman in a carpet warehouse who is haunted by his past, and Sam, a young woman newly reunited with her jailbird brother, the seemingly unrelated crime that opened the story becomes ominously relevant.

Hovering over all this activity looms a gradually awakening narrative consciousness that watches these characters lie to themselves and each other, unleashing forces that none of them could have anticipated and that put them in mortal danger. Broken River is a cinematic, darkly comic, and sui generis psychological thriller that could only have been written by J. Robert Lennon.

PRAISE

Praise for J. Robert Lennon

“[In] Lennon’s tales . . . you will find a suburban dystopia peppered with lyricism and wonder, touched with moments of transformation and grace.” —Julia Elliott, The New York Times Book Review

“The fun of reading Lennon is in his outright refusal to conform to expectations.” —The Daily Beast

The Art of Death
Writing the Final Story

Edwidge Danticat

A moving reflection on a subject that touches us all, by the bestselling author of Claire of the Sea Light

Edwidge Danticat’s The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story is at once a personal account of her mother dying from cancer and a deeply considered reckoning with the ways that other writers have approached death in their own work. “Writing has been the primary way I have tried to make sense of my losses,” Danticat notes in her introduction. “I have been writing about death for as long as I have been writing.” The book moves outward from the shock of her mother’s diagnosis and sifts through Danticat’s writing life and personal history, all the while shifting fluidly from examples that range from Gabriel García Márquez’s One Hundred Years of Solitude to Toni Morrison’s Sula. The narrative, which continually circles the many incarnations of death from individual to large-scale catastrophes, culminates in a beautiful, heartrending prayer in the voice of Danticat’s mother. A moving tribute and a work of astute criticism, The Art of Death is a book that will profoundly alter all who encounter it.

PRAISE
Praise for Claire of the Sea Light

“Fiercely beautiful . . . Brims with enchantments and surprises.” —Héctor Tobar, Los Angeles Times

“Luminous . . . Danticat is a beautiful storyteller . . . [Her] determination to face both light and dark brings the story to life.” —Amy Driscoll, The Miami Herald

“On these pages, the human heart is laid open and the secret contents of its chambers revealed in all their beauty and agony.” —Tayari Jones, O, The Oprah Magazine

Edwidge Danticat is the author of many books, most recently Claire of the Sea Light and Brother, I’m Dying. She is a two-time finalist for the National Book Award, and has received the National Book Critics Circle Award and other honors.
Fen
Stories
Daisy Johnson
A singular debut that “marks the emergence of a great, stomping, wall-knocking talent” (Kevin Barry)

Daisy Johnson’s Fen, set in the fenlands of England, transmutes the flat, uncanny landscape into a rich, brooding atmosphere. From that territory grow stories that blend folklore and restless invention to turn out something entirely new. Amid the marshy paths of the fens, a teenager might starve herself into the shape of an eel. A house might fall in love with a girl and grow jealous of her friend. A boy might return from the dead in the guise of a fox. Out beyond the confines of realism, the familiar instincts of sex and hunger blend with the shifting, unpredictable wild as the line between human and animal is effaced by myth and metamorphosis. With a fresh and utterly contemporary voice, Johnson lays bare these stories of women testing the limits of their power to create a startling work of fiction.

PRAISE

“Within these magical, ingenious stories lies all the angst, horror, and beauty of adolescence. A brilliant achievement.” —Evie Wyld

“Johnson’s heady broth of folklore, female sexuality and fenland landscape reads like a mix of Graham Swift and Angela Carter . . . For atmosphere, originality and plain chutzpah, this is an impressive first collection.” —The Guardian

Daisy Johnson was born in 1990. Her short fiction has appeared in the Boston Review and The Warwick Review, among other publications. She was the recipient of the 2014 A.M. Heath Prize, and currently lives in Oxford, England.
A Doll for Throwing

Poems

Mary Jo Bang

The exquisite new collection by the award-winning poet Mary Jo Bang, author of The Last Two Seconds and Elegy

We were ridiculous—me, with my high jinks and hat. Him, with his boredom and drink. I look back now and see buildings so thick that the life I thought I was making then is nothing but interlocking angles and above them, that blot of gray sky I sometimes saw. Underneath is the edge of what wasn’t known then. When I would go. When I would come back. What I would be when.

—from “One Glass Negative”

A Doll for Throwing takes its title from the Bauhaus artist Alma Siedhoff-Buscher’s Wurfpuppe, a flexible and durable woven doll that, if thrown, would land with grace. A ventriloquist is also said to “throw” her voice into a doll that rests on the knee. Mary Jo Bang’s prose poems in this fascinating book create a speaker who had been a part of the Bauhaus school in Germany a century ago and who had also seen the school’s collapse when it was shut by the Nazis in 1933. Since this speaker is not a person but only a construct, she is also equally alive in the present and gives voice to the conditions of both time periods: nostalgia, xenophobia, and political extremism. The life of the Bauhaus photographer Lucia Moholy echoes across these poems—the end of her marriage, the loss of her negatives, and her effort to continue to make work and be known for having made it.

PRAISE

Praise for The Last Two Seconds


“An American masterpiece.” —Elizabeth Hoover, Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Mary Jo Bang has published seven poetry collections, including The Last Two Seconds; Elegy, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award; and an acclaimed translation of Dante’s Inferno. She teaches at Washington University in Saint Louis.
**Lessons on Expulsion**

*Poems*

Erika L. Sánchez

An award-winning and hard-hitting new voice in contemporary American poetry

The first time I ever came the light was weak and carnivorous.

I covered my eyes and the night cleared its dumb throat.

I heard my mother wringing her hands the next morning.

Of course I put my underwear on backwards, of course the elastic didn't work.

What I wanted most at that moment was a sandwich.

But I just nursed on this leather whip.

I just splattered my sheets with my sadness.

—from “Poem of My Humiliations”

“What is life but a cross / over rotten water?” Poet, novelist, and essayist Erika L. Sánchez’s powerful debut poetry collection explores what it means to live on both sides of the border—the border between countries, languages, despair and possibility, and the living and the dead. Sánchez tells her own story as the daughter of undocumented Mexican immigrants and as part of a family steeped in faith, work, grief, and expectations. The poems confront sex, shame, race, and an America roiling with xenophobia, violence, and laws of suspicion and suppression. With candor and urgency, and with the unblinking eyes of a journalist, Sánchez roves from the individual life into the lives of sex workers, narco-traffickers, factory laborers, artists, and lovers. What emerges is a powerful, multifaceted portrait of survival. *Lessons on Expulsion* is the first book by a vibrant, essential new writer now breaking into the national literary landscape.

**PRAISE**

“Erika L. Sánchez writes with persistent care . . . Reading Sánchez’s poems is like watching the world from a train, the exquisite rhythmic blend of the known and the unknown. The world remains always more than we can understand, yet suddenly, thanks to her great poetry, we are pierced by what we know.” —Eileen Myles

Erika L. Sánchez has won a “Discovery”/Boston Review Poetry Prize and a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. Her debut novel is forthcoming from Knopf Books for Young Readers. She lives in Chicago.
someone in Benghazi with a hose in one hand
uses his free one to wipe down the corpse
water flows over the body and down
a tilted steel tray toward the drain
what washes off washes off
—“Below the Fold”

In this important and formally inventive new poetry collection, Fred Marchant brings us into realms of the intractable and the unacceptable, those places where words seem to fail us and yet are all we have. In the process he affirms lyric poetry’s central role in the contemporary moral imagination. As the National Book Award winner David Ferry writes, “The poems in this beautiful new book by Fred Marchant are autobiographical, but, as is always the case with his poems, autobiographical of how he has witnessed, with faithfully exact and pitying observation, the sufferings in the lives of other people, for example the heartbreaking series of poems about the fatal mental suffering of his sister, and the poems about other peoples, in Vietnam, in the Middle East, written about with the noble generosity of feeling that has always characterized his work, here more impressively even than before.”

Said Not Said is a poet’s taking stock of conscience, his country’s and his own, and of poetry’s capacity to speak to what matters most.

PRAISE

“Just when we think the rocks cannot be made to tremble, there comes a book that takes the dangers of war alongside a fishbone caught in the throat to show us how the variable silences of love and fear take us to the interior of hope. Said Not Said is the sage’s elegance, a direct pointing to the truth.” —Afaa Michael Weaver

Fred Marchant is the author of four previous poetry collections, including The Looking House and Full Moon Boat, and he recently edited Another World Instead: The Early Poems of William Stafford. He lives in the Boston area.
The Half-Finished Heaven

Selected Poems

Tomas Tranströmer; Selected and Translated from the Swedish by Robert Bly

An expanded edition by the Nobel laureate Tomas Tranströmer, translated by the award-winning poet Robert Bly

Every person is a half-open door leading to a room for everyone.

The endless field under us.

Water glitters between the trees.

The lake is a window into the earth.

—from “The Half-Finished Heaven”

Tomas Tranströmer’s celebrated career earned him a place among the twentieth century’s essential global voices. Translated into more than fifty languages, his poetry draws readers to its power and resonance, its shaping of landscapes both outer and interior, stark and yet alive to the luminous. In 2011, Tranströmer was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature “because, through his condensed, translucent images, he gives us fresh access to reality.”

The National Book Award–winning poet and renowned translator Robert Bly first introduced American readers to Tranströmer’s poetry in his seminal English translations, all of which are collected here for the first time in this expanded edition. With an updated introduction and fourteen additional poems, The Half-Finished Heaven presents the best of Tranströmer’s poetry in one indispensable volume.

PRAISE

“Tranströmer, who was awarded [the] Nobel Prize in Literature, has for years now been one of my ports of refuge . . . My favorite book of the poems is The Half-Finished Heaven, a selection translated by Robert Bly. Bly’s language is so clean and direct it seems to bypass language itself.” —Teju Cole, The New Yorker

Tomas Tranströmer (1931–2015) received the 2011 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Robert Bly received the 1968 National Book Award in Poetry. Their friendship is celebrated in Airmail: The Letters of Robert Bly and Tomas Tranströmer.
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