The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher and Other Stories

Hilary Mantel

One of Britain’s most accomplished, acclaimed, and garlanded writers, Hilary Mantel delivers a brilliant collection of contemporary short stories that demonstrate what modern England has become.

In The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher, Hilary Mantel’s trademark gifts of penetrating characterization, unsparing eye, and rascally intelligence are once again fully on display.

Her classic wicked humor in each story—which range from a ghost story to a vampire story to near-memoir to mini-sagas of family and social fracture—brilliantly unsettles the reader in that unmistakably Mantel way.

Mantel brutally and acutely writes about gender, marriage, class, family, and sex, cutting to the core of human experience. Unpredictable, diverse, and even shockingly unexpected, each story grabs you by the throat within a couple of sentences. The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher displays a magnificent writer at the peak of her powers.

PRAISE

Praise for Bring Up the Bodies
"One of the greatest achievements of modern literature."—Man Booker Committee

"Alive, silvery, alert, rapid with insight."—The New Yorker

"Astringent and purifying, stripping away the cobwebs and varnish of history"—The New York Times Book Review

"Sublime."—The New York Times

"Remarkable."—People

"Reaffirms Mantel's reputation as one of England's greatest living novelists."—NPR

Hilary Mantel is the two-time winner of the Man Booker Prize for her best-selling novels, Wolf Hall, and its sequel, Bring Up the Bodies—an unprecedented achievement. The Royal Shakespeare Company recently adapted Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies for the stage to colossal critical acclaim and a BBC/Masterpiece six-part adaption of the novels will broadcast in 2015.

The author of thirteen books, she is currently at work on the third installment of the Thomas Cromwell Trilogy.
Predator

The Secret Origins of the Drone Revolution

Richard Whittle

The untold story of the birth of the Predator drone, a wonder weapon that transformed the American military and redefined modern warfare

The creation of the first weapon in history that can stalk and kill an enemy on the other side of the globe was far more than clever engineering. As Richard Whittle shows in Predator, it was the most profound development in military and aerospace technology since the intercontinental ballistic missile.

Once considered fragile toys, drones were long thought to be of limited utility. The Predator itself was resisted at nearly every turn by the military establishment, but a few iconoclasts refused to see this new technology smothered at birth. The remarkable cast of characters responsible for developing the Predator includes a former Israeli inventor who turned his Los Angeles garage into a drone laboratory, two billionaire brothers marketing a futuristic weapon that would combat Communism, a pair of fighter pilots willing to buck their white-scarf fraternity, a cunning Pentagon operator nicknamed “Snake,” and a secretive Air Force organization known as Big Safari. When an Air Force team unleashed the first lethal drone strikes in 2001 for the CIA, the military’s view of drones changed nearly overnight.

Based on five years of research and hundreds of interviews, Predator is a groundbreaking, dramatic account of the creation of a revolutionary weapon that forever changed the way we wage war.

PRAISE

Praise for The Dream Machine:

“A wonderful combination of personal drama, technological detective story, military history, and ... a valuable and engrossing book that will be read for many years to come.” —James Fallows, The Atlantic

“What makes The Dream Machine interesting is the light it sheds on Washington's 'permanent government,' the lobbyists and consultants and bureaucrats and contractors. . . One of the lessons of Whittle's book is that no one misses a chance to swim in the giant pool of money and power that is the nation's capital, where the defense industry is the biggest fish of all.” —The Washington Post Book World

Richard Whittle is author of The Dream Machine: The Untold History of the Notorious V-22 Osprey. A Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center and a 2013-14 Verville Fellow at the National Air and Space Museum, Whittle has covered the military for three decades, including twenty-two years as Pentagon correspondent for The Dallas Morning News. He lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland.
untitled Chen Guangcheng Memoir

Chen Guangcheng

An electrifying memoir by the blind Chinese activist who inspired millions with the story of his fight for justice and his belief in the cause of freedom

It was like a scene out of a thriller: One night in April 2012, China’s most famous political activist—a blind, self-taught lawyer—climbed over the wall of his heavily guarded home and escaped. For days, his whereabouts remained unknown; after he turned up at the American embassy in Beijing, a furious round of high-level negotiations finally led to his release and a new life in the United States.

Chen Guangcheng is a unique figure on the world stage, but his story is even more remarkable. The son of a poor farmer in rural China, blinded by illness when he was an infant, Chen was fortunate to survive a difficult childhood. But despite his disability, he was determined to educate himself and fight for the rights of his country’s poor, especially a legion of women who had endured forced sterilizations under the hated one-child policy. Repeatedly harassed, beaten, and imprisoned by Chinese authorities, Chen was ultimately placed under house arrest. After a year of fruitless protest and increasing danger, he evaded his captors and fled to freedom.

Both a riveting memoir and a revealing portrait of modern China, this passionate book tells the story of a man who has never accepted limits and always believed in the power of the human spirit to overcome any obstacle.

Chen Guangcheng, known to many of his countrymen as “the barefoot lawyer,” was born in the village of Dongshigu in 1972. Blind since infancy, illiterate until his late teens, he ultimately taught himself law and became a fiery advocate for countless Chinese who had no voice. His escape from his jailers in China made international headlines, and he remains uncompromising in his commitment to human rights. He now lives with his wife and two young children in New York City.
The Great Reformer

Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope

Austen Ivereigh

A biography of Pope Francis that will describe how this revolutionary thinker will use the power of his position to challenge and redirect one of the world's most formidable religions

An expansive and deeply contextual work, at its heart this book is about the intersection of faith and politics—the tension between the pope’s innovative vision for the Church and the obstacles he faces in an institution still strongly defined by its conservative past. Based on extensive interviews in Argentina and years of study of the Catholic Church, Ivereigh tells the story not only of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the remarkable man whose background and total commitment to the discernment of God’s will transformed him into Pope Francis—but the story of why the Catholic Church chose him as their leader.

With the Francis Revolution just beginning, this biography will provide never-before-explained context on how one man’s ambitious program began—and how it will likely end—through an investigation of Francis’s youth growing up in Buenos Aires and the dramatic events during the Perón era that shaped his beliefs; his ongoing conflicts and disillusionment with the ensuing doctrines of an authoritarian and militaristic government in the 1970s; how his Jesuit training in Argentina and Chile gave him a unique understanding and advocacy for a "Church of the Poor"; and his rise from Cardinal to the papacy.

Austen Ivereigh is a British writer, journalist, and commentator on religious and political affairs who holds a PhD from Oxford University. His work appears regularly in the Jesuit magazine America and in many other periodicals. He is well known on British media, especially on the BBC, Sky, ITV and Al-Jazeera, as a Catholic commentator.
The Ploughmen

A Novel

Kim Zupan

A young sheriff and a hardened killer form an uneasy and complicated bond in this mesmerizing first novel set on the plains of Montana

Steeped in a lonesome Montana landscape as unyielding and raw as it is beautiful, Kim Zupan's The Ploughmen is a new classic in the literature of the American West.

At the center of this searing, fever dream of a novel are two men—a killer awaiting trial, and a troubled young deputy—sitting across from each other in the dark, talking through the bars of a county jail cell: John Gload, so brutally adept at his craft that only now, at the age of 77, has he faced the prospect of long-term incarceration and Valentine Millimaki, low man in the Copper County sheriff’s department, who draws the overnight shift after Gload’s arrest. With a disintegrating marriage further collapsing under the strain of his night duty, Millimaki finds himself seeking counsel from a man whose troubled past shares something essential with his own. Their uneasy friendship takes a startling turn with a brazen act of violence that yokes together two haunted souls by the secrets they share, and by the rugged country that keeps them.

PRAISE

"Kim Zupan has captured the feel of Montana."—Larry McMurtry, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Lonesome Dove

"A stunning work from the first pages to the last.”—Claire Davis, author of Winter Range and Labors of the Heart

“One of finest evocations of life in Western America in recent memory, a book that stands alongside Richard Ford’s Rock Springs, Marilynne Robinson’s Housekeeping, James Welch’s Fools Crow…."—William Kittredge, author of Hole in the Sky

“Simply splendid; lyrical, surprising, authoritative and starkly honest in its rendering of the human soul.”—Mark Spragg, author of An Unfinished Life

Kim Zupan, a native Montanan, lives in Missoula and grew up in and around Great Falls, where much of the novel is set. For twenty-five years Zupan made a living as a carpenter while pursuing his writing. He has also worked as a smelterman, pro rodeo bareback rider, ranch hand, Alaska salmon fisherman and presently teaches carpentry at Missoula College. He holds an MFA from the University of Montana.
By the Book

Writers on Literature and the Literary Life from The New York Times Book Review

Edited and with an introduction by Pamela Paul; foreword by Scott Turow

Sixty-five of the world’s leading writers open up about the books and authors that have meant the most to them

Every Sunday, readers of The New York Times Book Review turn with anticipation to see which novelist, historian, short story writer, or artist will be the subject of the popular “By the Book” feature. These wide-ranging interviews are conducted by Pamela Paul, the editor of the Book Review, and here she brings together sixty-five of the most intriguing and fascinating exchanges, featuring personalities as varied as David Sedaris, Hilary Mantel, Michael Chabon, Khaled Hosseini, and James Patterson. These questions and answers admit us into the private worlds of these authors, as they reflect on their work habits, reading preferences, inspirations, pet peeves, and recommendations.

By the Book contains the full uncut interviews, longer than the versions that run in the newspaper, and they reflect a range of experiences and observations that deepens readers’ understanding of the literary sensibility and the writing process, forging a new appreciation for what goes into creating a work of the imagination. By the Book also features dozens of sidebars that reveal the commonalities and conflicts among the participants, underscoring those influences that are truly universal and those that remain matters of individual taste.

If you are a devoted reader, By the Book is a way to invite sixty-five of the most interesting guests into your world. It’s a book party not to be missed.

The Hundred-Year Marathon

China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower

Michael Pillsbury

One of the U.S. government’s leading Asia experts reveals the hidden Chinese strategy fueling that country’s rise—and why we continue to misunderstand China

For more than forty years, the United States has reached out to China, helping it develop a booming economy and take its place on the world stage, in the belief that there is little to fear—and everything to gain—from China’s rise. But what if the Chinese have had a different plan all along?

The Hundred-Year Marathon reveals China’s secret strategy to supplant the United States as the world’s dominant power, and to do so by 2049, the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic. Michael Pillsbury, who has served in senior national security positions in the U.S. government since the days of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, draws on Chinese documents, speeches, and books (many of them never translated into English) to reveal the roots of this strategy in traditional Chinese statecraft and track how the Chinese are putting it into practice today.

Pillsbury shows how American policymakers have been willfully blind to these developments for decades—and he includes himself in that critique, as he was once a leading voice in favor of aiding China. He also calls for the United States to design a new, more competitive strategy toward China as it really is, and not as we might wish it to be. The Hundred-Year Marathon is a wakeup call for all Americans concerned about how we have misread the greatest national security challenge of the twenty-first century.

Michael Pillsbury is a defense policy adviser who has served in presidential administrations from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama. Educated at Stanford and Columbia universities, he is a former analyst at the RAND Corporation and research fellow at Harvard and has served in senior positions in the Defense Department and on the staff of four U.S. Senate committees. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies and lives in Washington, D.C.
Brief Encounters

Conversations, Magic Moments, and Assorted Hijinks

Dick Cavett, foreword by Jimmy Fallon

Dick Cavett is back, sharing his reflections and reminiscences about Hollywood legends, American cultural icons, and the absurdities of everyday life

In Brief Encounters, the legendary talk show host Dick Cavett introduces us to the fascinating characters who have crossed his path, from James Gandolfini and John Lennon to Mel Brooks and Nora Ephron, enhancing our appreciation of their talent, their personalities, and their place in the pantheon. We tag along as Cavett spends an afternoon with Stan Laurel at his modest apartment in Los Angeles, spars with Muhammad Ali at his training camp, and comes to know a young Steve Jobs—who woos him to be Apple’s first celebrity pitchman. He also offers piquant commentary on contemporary politics, the indignities of travel, the nature of comedy writing, and the utter improbability of being alive at all.

On his talk show, Cavett welcomed the leading figures from film, music, theater, literature, comedy, sports, and politics, and engaged them in conversation that made viewers feel that the discussion was taking place in their own living rooms. Jimmy Fallon, the new host of The Tonight Show, has called him “a legend and an inspiration” and has written a foreword that makes clear the debt that today’s talk show hosts owe to Dick Cavett. Brief Encounters opens the door on how Cavett’s mind works and what it is like to live in his world.

To spend a few minutes, or an hour, or even a whole evening with Dick Cavett is an experience not to be missed, and now there’s no reason to deny yourself. Settle in, and enjoy the conversation!

PRAISE

Praise for Talk Show:

“There’s never been a talk show to equal Dick Cavett’s. His guest list was miraculous, the conversations dazzling, and it’s a pleasure to relive much of it in this wonderful book.” – Woody Allen

“Entertaining and entirely fit for prime time.” – The New Yorker

“A treasure trove of memories.” – Los Angeles Times

Dick Cavett was the host of The Dick Cavett Show on ABC and PBS, and he also hosted talk shows on the USA, HBO, and CNBC cable networks. He appears frequently on Imus in the Morning, HuffPostLive, and other interview programs, and he was nominated for his most recent Emmy Award in 2012. He is the author of Talk Show and the coauthor of Cavett and Eye on Cavett, and he writes an online opinion column for The New York Times. He lives in New York City.
**Texts from Jane Eyre**

Mallory Ortberg

**Hilariously imagined text conversations—the passive aggressive, the clever, and the strange—from classic and modern literary figures, from Scarlett O’Hara to Jessica Wakefield**

Mallory Ortberg, the co-creator of the cult-favorite website *The Toast*, presents this whimsical collection of hysterical text conversations from your favorite literary characters. Everyone knows that if Scarlett O’Hara had an unlimited text-and-data plan, she’d constantly try to tempt Ashley away from Melanie with suggestive messages. If Mr. Rochester could text Jane Eyre, his ardent missives would obviously be in all-caps. And Daisy Buchanan would not only text while driving, she’d text you to pick her up after she totaled her car. Based on the popular web-feature, *Texts from Jane Eyre* is a witty, irreverent mashup that brings the characters from your favorite books into the twenty-first century.

**PRAISE**

"Mallory Ortberg is regularly my favorite thing on the Internet."—Rainbow Rowell, author of *Eleanor and Park* and *Fangirl*

"The editorial voice of The Toast [is] a melting pot of feminist discourse, literature, pop culture, and humor...Needless to say, the site is pretty excellent."—Geekosystem.com

Mallory Ortberg is the co-creator of *The Toast*, a general-interest website geared toward women. She has written for *Gawker, New York Magazine, The Hairpin*, and *The Atlantic*. She lives in the Bay Area with her laptop and her cat.
Animal Weapons

The Evolution of Battle

Douglas J. Emlen; Illustrated by David Tuss

The story behind the stunning, extreme weapons we see in the animal world—teeth and horns and claws—and what they can tell us about the way humans develop and use arms and other weapons

In Animal Weapons, Doug Emlen takes us outside the lab and deep into the forests and jungles where he’s been studying animal weapons in nature for years, to explain the processes behind the most intriguing and curious examples of extreme animal weapons—fish with mouths larger than their bodies and bugs whose heads are so packed with muscle they don’t have room for eyes. As singular and strange as some of the weapons we encounter on these pages are, we learn that similar factors set their evolution in motion. Emlen uses these patterns to draw parallels to the way we humans develop and employ our own weapons, and have since battle began. He looks at everything from our armor and camouflage to the evolution of the rifle and the structures human populations have built across different regions and eras to protect their homes and communities. With stunning black and white drawings and gorgeous color illustrations of these concepts at work, Animal Weapons brings us the complete story of how weapons reach their most outsized, dramatic potential, and what the results we witness in the animal world can tell us about our own relationship with weapons of all kinds.

Douglas J. Emlen is the recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering from the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House, multiple research awards from the National Science Foundation, including their five-year CAREER award, and a Young Investigator Prize and the E. O. Wilson Naturalist Award from the American Society of Naturalists. His research has been featured in outlets including the New York Times and National Public Radio’s Fresh Air.
The Mighty Dead
Why Homer Matters
Adam Nicolson

In this passionate, deeply personal book, Adam Nicolson explains why Homer matters—to him, to you, to the world—in a text full of twists, turns and surprises.

In a spectacular journey through mythical and modern landscapes, Adam Nicholson explores the places forever haunted by their Homeric heroes. From Sicily, awash with wildflowers shadowed by Italy's largest oil refinery, to Ithaca, southern Spain, and the mountains on the edges of Andalusia and Extremadura, to the desolated, irradiated steppes of Chernobyl, where Homeric warriors still lie under the tumuli, unexcavated. This is a world of springs and drought, seas and cities, with not a tourist in sight. And all sewn together by the poems themselves and their great metaphors of life and suffering.

Showing us the real roots of Homeric consciousness, the physical environment that fills the gaps between the words of the poems themselves, Nicholson’s is itself a Homeric journey. A wandering meditation on lost worlds, our interconnectedness with our ancestors, and the surroundings we share. This is the original meeting of place and mind, our empathy with the past, our landscape as our drama.

Following the acclaimed Gentry, which established him as one of the great landscape writers working today, Nicholson takes Homer’s poems back to their source: beneath the distant, god-inhabited mountains, on the Trojan plains above the graves of the heroic dead, we find afresh the foundation level of human experience on earth.

PRAISE

Praise for God's Secretaries
"Humanely erudite, elegantly written, passionately felt...[Nicolson] is a skilled storyteller." –The New Yorker

"Adam Nicolson's re-creation of this context is beyond praise." –Christopher Hitchens, New York Times Book Review

"Engaging and moving." –The Economist

"Nicolson has written a thrilling and constantly absorbing book." –Spectator

Adam Nicolson writes a celebrated column for The Sunday Telegraph. His books include Sissinghurst, God’s Secretaries, When God Spoke English, Wetland, Life in the Somerset Levels, Perch Hill, Restoration, and the acclaimed Gentry. He is winner of the Somerset Maugham Award and the British Topography Prize and lives on a farm in Sussex.
A Royal Experiment
The Private Life of King George III
Janice Hadlow

The surprising, deliciously dramatic, & ultimately heartbreaking story of King George III’s radical pursuit of happiness in his private life with Queen Charlotte and their 15 children

In the U.S., Britain's George III, the protagonist of A Royal Experiment, is known as the king from whom Americans won their independence and as "the mad king," but in Janice Hadlow’s groundbreaking and entertaining new biography, he is another character altogether—compelling and relatable.

He was the first of Britain’s three Hanoverian kings to be born in England, the first to identify as native of the nation he ruled. But this was far from the only difference between him and his predecessors. Neither of the previous Georges was faithful to his wife, nor to his mistresses. Both hated their own sons. And, overall, their children were angry, jealous, and disaffected schemers, whose palace shenanigans kick off Hadlow's juicy narrative and also made their lives unhappy ones.

Pained by his childhood amid this cruel and feuding family, George came to the throne aspiring to be a new kind of king—a force for moral good. And to be that new kind of king, he had to be a new kind of man. Against his irresistibly awful family background—of brutal royal intrigue, infidelity, and betrayal—George fervently pursued a radical domestic dream: he would have a faithful marriage and raise loving, educated, and resilient children.

The struggle of King George—along with his wife, Queen Charlotte, and their 15 children—to pursue a passion for family will surprise history buffs and delight a broad swath of biography readers and royal watchers.

Janice Hadlow has been responsible for the direction of BBC Two since 2008. She was educated at comprehensive school in Swanley, in north Kent, and graduated with a BA in History from King's College London in 1978. This is her first book. She currently lives in Watlington, Oxfordshire.
Being Mortal

Medicine and What Matters in the End

Atul Gawande

In *Being Mortal*, bestselling author Atul Gawande tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending.

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

Gawande, a practicing surgeon addresses his profession’s ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person’s last weeks or months may be rich and dignified.

Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *The Checklist Manifesto*

“It has been years since I read a book so powerful and so thought-provoking. Gawande is a gorgeous writer and storyteller.”
—Malcolm Gladwell, author of *Outliers*

“Packed with vivid writing, heart-stopping anecdotes, and statistical surprises . . . a compelling argument.”
—Los Angeles Times

“Thoughtfully written and soundly defended, this book calls for medical professionals to improve patient care by adopting a basic, common-sense approach.”
—The Washington Post

Atul Gawande is the author of *The Checklist Manifesto*, *Better*, and *Complications*. He is also a MacArthur Fellow, a general surgeon at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health. He lives with his wife and three children in Newton, Massachusetts.
In *Dark Mirror*, Sara Lipton offers a fascinating examination of the emergence of anti-Semitic iconography in the Middle Ages

The straggly beard, the hooked nose, the bag of coins, and gaudy apparel—the religious artists of medieval Christendom had no shortage of virulent symbols for identifying Jews. Yet, hateful as these depictions were, the story they tell is not as simple as it first appears.

Drawing on a wide range of primary sources, Lipton argues that these visual stereotypes were neither an inevitable outgrowth of Christian theology nor a simple reflection of medieval prejudices. Instead, she maps out the complex relationship between medieval Christians’ religious ideas, social experience, and developing artistic practices that drove their depiction of Jews from benign, if exoticized, figures connoting ancient wisdom to increasingly vicious portrayals inspired by (and designed to provoke) fear and hostility.

At the heart of this lushly illustrated and meticulously researched work are questions that have occupied scholars for ages—why did Jews become such powerful and poisonous symbols in medieval art? Why were Jews associated with certain objects, symbols, actions, and deficiencies? And what were the effects of such portrayals—not only in medieval society, but throughout Western history? What we find is that the image of the Jew in medieval art was not a portrait of actual neighbors or even imagined others, but a cloudy glass into which Christendom gazed to find a distorted, phantasmagoric rendering of itself.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Images of Intolerance*:

"Subtle, persuasive, and frequently brilliant."
—William C. Jordan, author of *The Great Famine*

Sara Lipton is an Associate Professor of History at SUNY Stony Brook and the author of *Images of Intolerance: The Representation of Jews and Judaism in the Bible moralisée*, which won the Medieval Academy of America’s John Nicholas Brown prize. The recipient of fellowships from the New York Public Library’s Cullman Center and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Huffington Post*. 
The Future We Want

Radical Ideas for the New Century

Edited by Sarah Leonard and Bhaskar Sunkara

A stirring blueprint for American equality, from the “breakout stars” (The New York Times) of the young new left

The Occupy movement gave us energy and language, but its critics were quick to ask “What are the ideas?” The Future We Want is the answer. In a sharp, rousing collective manifesto, nineteen cultural and political critics under the age of thirty dismantle the usual liberal solutions to America’s ills and propose something else.

What would finance look like without Wall Street? Or the workplace with responsibility shared by all the workforce? From a campaign to limit work hours, to a program for full employment, to proposals for a new feminism, The Future We Want has the courage to think of alternatives that are both utopian and possible.

Brilliantly clear and provocative, The Future We Want—edited by Jacobin magazine founder Bhaskar Sunkara and The New Inquiry’s Sarah Leonard, both in their twenties—harnesses the energy and creativity of an angry generation and announces the arrival of a new political left that not only protests but plans.

PRAISE

“The New Inquiry is forcing new thinking into the public debate. It is not print’s replacement, but very possibly its salvation.”—Douglas Rushkoff, author of Program or Be Programmed

“Young visionary Bhaskar Sunkara is an intellectual and political impressario I describe as the Philip Rahv of our age.”—Corey Robin, author of The Reactionary Mind

“The New Inquiry is a precursor, native to the Internet, native to the city dweller. The writers are not trapped within an old paradigm but making it their own.”—Jonathan Lethem

Sarah Leonard is the youngest editor to work at Dissent. She is also the editor of the online journal The New Inquiry and of Occupy!: Scenes from Occupied America. Leonard, who lives in New York, has written for n+1, Bookforum, and Dissent. Bhaskar Sunkara is a staff writer at In These Times and the founder of Jacobin, a political quarterly. Sunkara and Jacobin have been featured on MSNBC and in Rolling Stone, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and Slate. He lives in New York.
There Was and There Was Not
Turkey, the Armenians, and the Story of a Never-Ending History

Meline Toumani

A young Armenian-American goes to Turkey in a “love thine enemy” experiment that becomes a transformative reflection on how we use—and abuse—our personal histories

Melanie Toumani grew up in a close-knit Armenian community in New Jersey where Turkish restaurants were shunned and products made in Turkey boycotted. The source of this enmity was the Armenian genocide of 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government, and Turkey’s refusal to acknowledge it. A century onward, Armenian and Turkish lobbies spend hundreds of millions of dollars to convince governments, courts, and scholars of their clashing versions of history.

Frustrated by her community’s all-consuming campaigns for genocide recognition, Toumani leaves a promising job at the New York Times and moves to Istanbul. Instead of demonizing Turks she sets out to understand them, and in a series of extraordinary encounters over the course of four years she tries to talk about the Armenian issue, finding her way into conversations that are taboo and sometimes illegal. Along the way, we get a snapshot of Turkish society in the throes of change, and an intimate portrait of a writer coming to terms with the issues that drove her halfway across the world.

In this far-reaching quest, told with eloquence and power, Toumani probes universal questions: how to belong to a community without conforming to it, how to acknowledge a tragedy without exploiting it, and most importantly how to remember a genocide without perpetuating the kind of hatred that gave rise to it in the first place.

Meline Toumani has written extensively for The New York Times on Turkey and Armenia as well as on music, dance, and film. Her work has also appeared in n+1, The Nation, Salon, and The Boston Globe. A journalism fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Austria, she was also the coordinator of the Russian-American Journalism Institute in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. Born in Iran and ethnically Armenian, she grew up in New Jersey and California and now lives in Brooklyn, New York.
In Men, Kipnis dissects her own fascination and identification with the bizarre and confounding male personalities she’s encountered during her lifelong study of the gender.

It’s no secret that men often behave in mystifying ways, but in recent years we’ve witnessed so many spectacular public displays of male excess—indecent politicians, sleazy academics, philandering sports stars—that we’re left to wonder whether something has come unwired in the collective male psyche.

In the essays collected here, Kipnis revisits the archetypes of wayward masculinity that have captured her imagination over the years: the scumbag, the con man, the critic, the obsessive, cheaters, and many others.

Examining men who have figured in her own life alongside the more notorious public examples, she draws out the masculine angst and sexual contradictions implicit in the erratic conduct of each. Far from the reactions of condescension and scorn that habitually greet such characters, Kipnis finds that they provoke in her complicated forms of sympathy and identification. Pushing past the usual clichés about differences between the sexes, Kipnis mixes intellectual rigor and careful analysis to give us compelling survey of the affinities, jealousies, longings, and erotics that structure the male-female bond.

PRAISE

Praise for How to Become a Scandal:

"Scandal has never had it so good... In How to Become a Scandal, Laura Kipnis delivers consumers of high and low culture that rare twofer, taking material that self-respecting people are supposed to resist and treating it with such smarts that the reader feels nothing short of enlightened." —The New York Times Book Review

"In How to Become a Scandal Laura Kipnis investigates the dirty habits of the heart and illuminates the secret places of the psyche, speculating brilliantly and amusingly about the trouble to which people will go to get themselves exposed." —Christopher Hitchens, author of Hitch-22

Laura Kipnis is the author of How to Become a Scandal, Against Love, and The Female Thing. A professor in the Department of Radio/TV/Film at Northwestern University, she has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the NEA. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times, Harper’s, Slate, and Bookforum, among others. She lives in New York and Chicago.
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