I Will Send Rain

A Novel

Rae Meadows

A luminous, tenderly rendered novel of a woman fighting for her family's survival in the early years of the Dust Bowl; from the acclaimed and award-winning Rae Meadows.

Annie Bell can't escape the dust. It's in her hair, covering the windowsills, coating the animals in the barn, in the corners of her children's dry, cracked lips. It's 1934 and the Bell farm in Mulehead, Oklahoma is struggling as the earliest storms of The Dust Bowl descend. All around them the wheat harvests are drying out and people are packing up their belongings as storms lay waste to the Great Plains. As the Bells wait for the rains to come, Annie and each member of her family are pulled in different directions. Annie's fragile young son, Fred, suffers from dust pneumonia; her headstrong daughter, Birdie, flush with first love, is choosing a dangerous path out of Mulehead; and Samuel, her husband, is plagued by disturbing dreams of rain.

As Annie, desperate for an escape of her own, flirts with the affections of an unlikely admirer, she must choose who she is going to become. With her warm storytelling and beautiful prose, Rae Meadows brings to life an unforgettable family that faces hardship with rare grit and determination. Rich in detail and epic in scope, I Will Send Rain is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, filled with hope, morality, and love.

PRAISE

"I Will Send Rain is meticulously researched, deeply felt, and beautifully written, and I loved immersing myself in its harsh and elegant world."
—Curtis Sittenfeld

"As lush and powerful as the novel's Dust Bowl setting is dry and cracked
—Meadows paints the Bell family's desperation with compassion and warmth, and her precise language turns grit into gold."
—Emma Straub

"In I Will Send Rain you'll find compassion, heartbreak, and not a word out of place. Meadows shares with John Steinbeck not just a gigantic empathy but a gigantic storytelling gift... "
—Darin Strauss

Rae Meadows is the author of Calling Out, which received the 2006 Utah Book Award for fiction, No One Tells Everything, a Poets & Writers Notable Novel, and most recently the widely praised novel, Mercy Train. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Brooklyn, New York.
**Words on the Move**

*Why English Won't -- and Can't -- Sit Still (Like, Literally)*

John McWhorter

A bestselling linguist takes us on a lively tour of how the English language is evolving before our eyes -- and why we should embrace this transformation and not fight it

Language is always changing -- but we tend not to like it. We understand that new words must be created for new things, but the way English is spoken today rubs many of us the wrong way. Whether it’s the use of *literally* to mean “figuratively” rather than “by the letter,” or the way young people use *LOL* and *like*, or business jargon like *What’s the ask?* -- it often seems as if the language is deteriorating before our eyes.

But the truth is different and a lot less scary, as John McWhorter shows in this delightful and eye-opening exploration of how English has always been in motion and continues to evolve today. Drawing examples from everyday life and employing a generous helping of humor, he shows that these shifts are a natural process common to all languages, and that we should embrace and appreciate these changes, not condemn them.

*Words on the Move* opens our eyes to the surprising backstories to the words and expressions we use every day. Did you know that *silly* once meant “blessed”? Or that *ought* was the original past tense of *owe*? Or that the suffix *-ly* in adverbs is actually a remnant of the word *like*? And have you ever wondered why some people from New Orleans sound as if they come from Brooklyn?

McWhorter encourages us to marvel at the dynamism and resilience of the English language, and his book offers a lively journey through which we discover that words are ever on the move and our lives are all the richer for it.

It Takes a School

Jonathan Starr

A story of David and Goliath proportions, how an American hedge fund manager created a unique school in Somaliland which, against all odds, came to achieve success beyond anyone’s wildest dreams

Jonathan Starr, a cutthroat hedge fund manager, is not your traditional do-gooder, and in 2009, when he decided to found Abaarso, a secondary school in Somaliland, the choice came as a surprise, even to him. “Why,” he wondered, “would I turn down a life of relative luxury to relocate to an armed compound in the heart of the world’s #1 failed state?” But with sixty graduates, and hundreds to come, enrolled in American universities, from MIT to Harvard, the question has found its answer.

This is the story of how an abstract vision became a transformative reality, as Starr set out to build a school in a place forgotten by the world. It is the story of a skeptical and clan-based society giving way to trust, as an entire country came to rally behind the success of its children. Along the way, it tells the stories of the nomadic boy who escaped a refugee camp, lived homeless, and went on to carry the school’s torch to MIT, the tribal chief’s son who became an All-American runner at Amherst, the inspiring girl who attended Abaarso via a hunger-strike, and more.

Despite dramatic existential risks, broken promises, and death threats, Abaarso is on track for American accreditation and leaves Somaliland with a clear message: its children can compete with anyone in the world. Now Starr’s initial question has a follow up: “If such a success can happen in an unrecognized breakaway region of Somalia, can it not happen anywhere?”

Jonathan Starr founded and led the private investment firm Flagg Street Capital, worked as an Analyst at SAB Capital and Blavin and Company, and as a Research Associate within the Taxable Bond Division at Fidelity Investments. Using a half million dollars from his personal finances, Starr created the Abaarso School in 2009. His work in Somaliland has been written about in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, CNN, and the Christian Science Monitor.
I'm Judging You

The Do-Better Manual

Luvvie Ajayi

Comedian, activist, and hugely popular culture blogger at AwesomelyLuvvie.com, Luvvie Ajayi, serves up necessary advice for the common senseless in this hilarious book of essays

With over 500,000 readers a month at her enormously popular blog, AwesomelyLuvvie.com, Luvvie Ajayi has become a go-to source for smart takes on pop culture. I'm Judging You is her debut book of humorous essays that dissect our cultural obsessions and calls out bad behavior in our increasingly digital, connected lives—from the cultural importance of the newest Shonda Rhimes television drama to serious discussions of race and media representation to what to do about your fool cousin sharing casket pictures from Grandma's wake on Facebook. With a lighthearted, rapier wit and a unique perspective, I'm Judging You is the handbook the world needs, doling out the hard truths and a road map for bringing some "act right" into our lives, social media, and popular culture.

Luvvie Ajayi is an award-winning writer, pop culture critic, and professional troublemaker who thrives at the intersection of comedy, technology and activism. She is the person who often says what you're thinking but dared not to because you have a filter and a job to protect. She is also a digital strategist, noted speaker and Executive Director of The Red Pump Project, a national HIV/AIDS organization.
Autumn 1944. World War II is nearly over in Europe but is escalating in the Pacific, where American soldiers face an opponent who will go to any length to avoid defeat. The Japanese army follows the samurai code of Bushido, stipulating that surrender is a form of dishonor. *Killing the Rising Sun* takes readers to the bloody tropical-island battlefields of Peleliu and Iwo Jima and to the embattled Philippines, where General Douglas MacArthur has made a triumphant return and is plotting a full-scale invasion of Japan.

Across the globe in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and his team of scientists are preparing to test the deadliest weapon known to mankind. In Washington, DC, FDR dies in office and Harry Truman ascends to the presidency, only to face the most important political decision in history: whether to use that weapon. And in Tokyo, Emperor Hirohito, who is considered a deity by his subjects, refuses to surrender, despite a massive and mounting death toll. Told in the same page-turning style of *Killing Lincoln*, *Killing Kennedy*, *Killing Jesus*, *Killing Patton*, and *Killing Reagan*, this epic saga details the final moments of World War II like never before.

**Bill O’Reilly** is the anchor of *The O’Reilly Factor*, the highest-rated cable news show in the country. He is the author of the number-one bestsellers *Killing Lincoln*, *Killing Kennedy*, *Killing Jesus*, *Killing Patton*, and *Killing Reagan*.

**Martin Dugard** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of several books of history. He and his wife live in Southern California with their three sons.
Evelyn Waugh

A Life Revisited

Philip Eade

On the fiftieth anniversary of Evelyn Waugh’s death, here is a completely fresh view of one of the most gifted—and fascinating—writers of our time

Graham Greene hailed Evelyn Waugh as “the greatest novelist of my generation,” and in recent years Waugh’s reputation has only grown. Now, half a century after Waugh’s death in 1966, Philip Eade has delivered a hugely entertaining biography that is both authoritative and full of new information, some of it sensational.

Drawing on extensive unseen primary sources, Eade’s book sheds new light on many of the key phases and themes of Waugh’s life: his difficult relationship with his embarrassingly sentimental father; his formative homosexual affairs at Oxford; his unrequited love for various Bright Young Things; his disastrous first marriage; his momentous conversion to Roman Catholicism; his unconventional yet successful second marriage; his checkered wartime career; and his shattering nervous breakdown. Along the way, we come to understand not only Waugh’s complex relationship with the aristocracy, but also the astonishing power of his wit, and the love, fear, and loathing that he variously inspired in others.

Waugh was famously difficult, and Eade brilliantly captures the myriad facets of his character even as he casts new light on the novels that have dazzled generations of readers.

Philip Eade has worked as a criminal barrister, English teacher, and journalist. His first book, Sylvia, Queen of the Headhunters, was runner-up for the Biographers’ Club Prize; his second, Prince Philip, became a Sunday Times bestseller. He lives in London.
Golden Lane

A Novel

Benjamin Black

Bestselling author Benjamin Black turns his eye to sixteenth century Prague and a story of murder, magic and the dark art of wielding extraordinary power

Christian Stern, an ambitious young scholar and alchemist, arrives in Prague in the bitter winter of 1599, intent on making his fortune at the court of the Holy Roman Emperor, the eccentric Rudolf II. The night of his arrival, drunk and lost, Christian stumbles upon the body of a young woman in Golden Lane, an alley hard by Rudolf’s great castle. Dressed in a velvet gown, wearing a large gold medallion around her neck, the woman is clearly well-born—or was, for her throat has been slashed.

A lesser man would smell danger, but Christian is determined to follow his fortunes wherever they may lead. He quickly finds himself entangled in the machinations of several ruthless courtiers, and before long he comes to the attention of the Emperor himself. Rudolf, deciding that Christian is that rare thing—a person he can trust—sets him the task of solving the mystery of the woman’s murder. But Christian soon realizes that he has blundered into the midst of a power struggle that threatens to subvert the throne itself. And as he gets ever nearer to the truth of what happened that night in Golden Lane, he finally sees that his own life is in grave danger.

From the spectacularly inventive Benjamin Black, here is a historical crime novel that delivers both a mesmerizing portrait of a lost world and a riveting tale of intrigue and suspense.

Benjamin Black is the pen name of the Man Booker Prize-winning novelist John Banville. The author of the bestselling and critically acclaimed series of Quirke novels—as well as The Black-Eyed Blonde, a Philip Marlowe novel—he lives in Dublin.
Spirit Mission

A Novel

Ted Russ

An Army Lieutenant Colonel's final mission through ISIS territory in a stolen Chinook helicopter will end in capture, court martial, or worse, but he has to save the mentor who taught him about h...

Flying across Iraq in a stolen helicopter, Army Lieutenant Colonel Sam Avery knows that tonight will be his last mission. He and his crew will either be shot down by ISIS, or court martialed when they return. Sam doesn’t care. He can’t care. There is too much at stake.

As the chopper flies through the night towards their objective, Sam reflects on his time in the crucible of the United States Military Academy. West Point made Sam the man—and the leader—that he is. It taught him not only about Duty, Honor, and Country, but also about brotherhood, loyalty, and sacrifice.

These values motivate him and his team as they undertake their final and most audacious Spirit Mission.

PRAISE

“The account of cadet life at West Point is absolutely fascinating in every respect. One really learns properly how the place is run and why it has the reputation it does. The story of action taking place against all the rules is riveting also, and for a first novel he has managed superbly the technique of moving backwards and forwards over the years in this story of how cadets put themselves into action.”

—New York Times bestselling author Jack Higgins

Ted Russ is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. He served as an officer and a helicopter pilot and eventually with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. After leaving the army in 2000, he received an MBA from Emory University and now lives in Atlanta with his wife, Anna, and their dog, Henry. Spirit Mission is his first novel.
The Pope of Physics

Enrico Fermi and the Birth of the Atomic Age

Gino Segrè and Bettina Hoerlin

The first full-scale biography of the Nobel Prize-winning physicist and one of the fathers of the atomic age, Enrico Fermi

Enrico Fermi is unquestionably the most famous scientist to come from Italy since Galileo, so revered that he’s known as The Pope of Physics. A modest, unassuming man, Fermi was nevertheless one of the most productive and creative scientists of the twentieth century, one of the fathers of the Atomic Bomb and a Nobel Prize winner whose contributions to physics and nuclear technology live on today, with the largest particle accelerator in the United States and the nation’s most significant science and technology award both bearing his name.

In this, the first major biography of Fermi in English, Gino Segre, professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania, brings this scientific visionary to life. An examination of the human dramas that touched Fermi’s life as well as a thrilling history of scientific innovation in the twentieth century—including the birth of one of its most controversial disciplines, nuclear physics--this is the comprehensive biography that Fermi deserves.

PRAISE

Praise for Faust in Copenhagen:

“A fascinating story, insightfully told and consistently engaging... Segre speaks to the reader with enthusiasm, at times unable to conceal his excitement about the fascinating story he’s sharing, yet his telling is deftly and dramatically structured, providing necessary historical and scientific context, clearly and concisely.”—San Francisco Chronicle

“Cracking good narrative history.”—TIME

Gino Segrè is a professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a visiting professor at M.I.T. and Oxford, chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and Director of Theoretical Physics at the National Science Foundation. He is the author of three books of scientific history, Ordinary Geniuses, Faust in Copenhagen, and A Matter of Degrees.

Bettina Hoerlin served as Health Commissioner of Philadelphia and taught at the Univers...
Homeward Bound

The Life of Paul Simon

Peter Ames Carlin

A revelatory account of the life of beloved American music icon, Paul Simon, by the bestselling rock biographer Peter Ames Carlin

To have been alive during the last sixty years is to have lived with the music of Paul Simon. The boy from Queens scored his first hit record in 1957, just months after Elvis Presley ignited the rock era. As the songwriting half of Simon & Garfunkel, his work helped define the youth movement of the '60s. On his own in the '70s, Simon made radio-dominating hits. He kicked off the '80s by reuniting with Garfunkel to perform for half a million New Yorkers in Central Park. Five years later, Simon’s album “Graceland” sold millions and spurred an international political controversy. And it doesn’t stop there.

The grandchild of Jewish immigrants from Hungary, the nearly 75-year-old singer-songwriter has not only sold more than 100 million records, won 15 Grammy awards and been installed into the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame twice, but has also animated the meaning—and flexibility—of personal and cultural identity in a rapidly shrinking world.

Simon has also lived one of the most vibrant lives of modern times; a story replete with tales of Carrie Fisher, Leonard Bernstein, Bob Dylan, Woody Allen, Shelley Duvall, Nelson Mandela, the Grateful Dead, drugs, depression, marriage, divorce, and more. A life story with the scope and power of an epic novel, Carlin’s Homeward Bound is the first major biography of one of the most influential popular artists in American history.

Peter Ames Carlin is a writer and the author of several books, including Bruce, a biography of Bruce Springsteen published in 2012. Carlin has also been a free-lance journalist, a senior writer at People, and a television columnist and feature writer at The Oregonian. A regular speaker on music, art, and popular culture, Carlin lives in Portland, Ore., with his wife and three children.
The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom

America and China, 1776 to the Present

John Pomfret

A narrative account of the relationship between the U.S. and China from the Revolutionary War to the present day

Our relationship with China remains one of the most complex and rapidly evolving, and is perhaps one of the most important to our nation's future. Here, John Pomfret, the author of the bestselling Chinese Lessons, takes us deep into these two countries' shared history, and illuminates in vibrant, stunning detail every major event, relationship, and ongoing development that has affected diplomacy between these two booming, influential nations. We meet early American missionaries and chart their influence in China, and follow a group of young Chinese students who enroll in American universities, eager to soak up Western traditions. We witness firsthand major and devastating events like the Boxer Rebellion, and the rise of Mao. We examine both nations' involvement in world events, such as World War I and II. Pomfret takes the myriad historical milestones of two of the world's most powerful nations and turns them into one fluid, fascinating story, leaving us with a nuanced understanding of where these two nations stand in relation to one another, and the rest of the world.

John Pomfret served as a correspondent for the Washington Post for many years, and is currently on a Fulbright Senior Scholar's grant, living in Beijing. He is the author of the acclaimed book, Chinese Lessons, and has won several awards for his coverage of Asia, including the Osborne Elliot Prize. He holds a BA and MA from Stanford University and was one of the first American students to go to China and study at Nanjing University, and attended Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies as a Fulbright Scholar.
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PRAISE
Praise for Chinese Lessons:

"Pomfret makes an engaging, expert guide to the changes that have transformed China in the last quarter century."—William Grimes, The New York Times

"Pomfret has produced a sobering work of authenticity and insight that will endure as a classic assessment of China's transformative recent decades."—Sheridan Prasso, The Los Angeles Times

Almost every page offers a new observation or insight, and thankfully, Pomfret's lucid style makes the book a pleasure to reread.—Chris Ulbrich, San Francisco Chronicle

A compelling account of China's evolution. The communist country's emergence from isolation and impoverishment has been told before, but rarely in such intimate, and occasionally heart-rending detail.—David J. Lynch, USA Today

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Superficial

More Adventures from the Andy Cohen Diaries

Andy Cohen

The star-studded and sidesplitting follow up to The Andy Cohen Diaries

The megapopular host of Watch What Happens: Live and executive producer of The Real Housewives franchise is back, better than ever, and telling stories that will keep his publicist up at night.

Since the publication of his last book, Andy has toured the country with his sidekick Anderson Cooper, hit the radio waves with his own Sirius station, Radio Andy, appeared on Real Time with Bill Maher despite his mother’s conviction he was not intellectually prepared, hosted NBC’s Primetime New Year’s Eve special, guest edited Entertainment Weekly, starred in Bravo’s Then & Now with Andy Cohen, offended celebrities with his ongoing case of foot-in-mouth disease, and welcomed home Teresa “Namaste” Giudice, from a brief stint in jail. Hopping from the Hamptons to the Manhattan dating world, the dog park to the red carpet, Cardinals superfan and mama’s boy Andy Cohen, with Wacha in tow, is the kind of star that fans are dying to be friends with. This book gives them that chance.

If The Andy Cohen Diaries was deemed “the literary equivalent of a Fresca and tequila” by Jimmy Fallon, Superficial is a double: dishier, juicier, and friskier. In this account of his escapades—personal, professional, and behind-the-scenes—Andy tells us not only what goes down, but exactly what he thinks of it.

Andy Cohen is the host and executive producer of Watch What Happens: Live. He is the executive producer of The Real Housewives franchise and hosts Bravo's highly rated reunion specials. He tours nationally with Anderson Cooper on AC2, hosts Then & Now with Andy Cohen on Bravo and Radio Andy on Sirius XM. He has won an Emmy and two Peabody Awards for his work. The author of two New York Times bestsellers, Most Talkative and The Andy Cohen Diaries, he lives in New York City with his dog, Wacha.
Mockingbird

A Portrait of Harper Lee: From Scout to Go Set a Watchman

Charles J. Shields

An extensively revised and updated edition of the bestselling biography of Harper Lee, reframed from the perspective of the recent publication of Lee's Go Set a Watchman

To Kill a Mockingbird—the twentieth century's most widely read American novel—has sold thirty million copies and still sells a million yearly. In this in-depth biography, first published in 2006, Charles J. Shields brings to life the woman who gave us two of American literature's most unforgettable characters, Atticus Finch and his daughter, Scout.

Now, ten years after its initial publication—with revisions throughout the book and a new epilogue—Shields finishes the story of Harper Lee's life, up to its end. There's her former agent getting her to transfer the copyright for To Kill a Mockingbird to him, the death of Lee's dear sister Alice, a fuller portrait of Lee's editor, Tay Hohoff, and—most vitally—the release of Lee's long-buried first novel and the ensuing public devouring of what has truly become the book of the year, if not the decade: Lee's Go Set a Watchman.

PRAISE

Praise for Mockingbird:
“Harper Lee caught the beauty of America with To Kill a Mockingbird, but has remained something of a mystery ever since. Charles J. Shields's portrait of her, Mockingbird, shows us a quietly reclusive, down-to-earth woman with an enormous gift and documents her struggle to live with that gift for the rest of her life. Shields evocation of both the woman and her beautiful, sleepy, and smoldering South are pitch perfect.” – Anne River Siddons, author of Sweetwater Creek and other books

Being a Beast

Adventures Across the Species Divide

Charles Foster

A passionate naturalist explores what it's really like to be an animal—by living like them

How can we ever be sure that we really know the other? To test the limits of our ability to inhabit lives that are not our own, Charles Foster set out to know the ultimate other: the non-humans, the beasts. And to do that, he tried to be like them, choosing a badger, an otter, a fox, a deer, and a swift. He lived alongside badgers for weeks, sleeping in a sett in a Welsh hillside and eating earthworms, learning to sense the landscape through his nose rather than his eyes. He caught fish in his teeth while swimming like an otter; rooted through London garbage cans as an urban fox; was hunted by bloodhounds as a red deer, nearly dying in the snow. And he followed the swifts on their migration route over the Strait of Gibraltar, discovering himself to be strangely connected to the birds.

A lyrical, intimate, and completely radical look at the life of animals—human and other—Being a Beast mingles neuroscience and psychology, nature writing and memoir to cross the boundaries separating the species. It is an extraordinary journey full of thrills and surprises, humor and joy. And, ultimately, it is an inquiry into the human experience in our world, carried out by exploring the full range of the life around us.

Charles Foster is a Fellow of Green Templeton College at the University of Oxford. He is a qualified veterinarian, teaches medical law and ethics, and is a practicing barrister. Much of his life has been spent on expeditions: he has run a 150-mile race in the Sahara, skied to the North Pole, and suffered injuries in many desolate and beautiful landscapes. He has written on travel, evolutionary biology, natural history, anthropology, and philosophy.
The Arab of the Future 2

A Childhood in the Middle East, 1984-1985: A Graphic Memoir

Riad Sattouf

The highly anticipated continuation of Riad Sattouf’s internationally acclaimed, #1 French bestseller, which was hailed by The New York Times as “a disquieting yet essential read”

In The Arab of the Future: Volume 1, cartoonist Riad Sattouf tells of the first years of his childhood as his family shuttles back and forth between France and the Middle East. In Libya and Syria, young Riad is exposed to the dismal reality of a life where food is scarce, children kill dogs for sport, and his cousins, virulently anti-Semitic and convinced he is Jewish because of his blond hair, lurk around every corner waiting to beat him up.

In Volume 2, Riad, now settled in his father’s hometown of Homs, gets to go to school, where he dedicates himself to becoming a true Syrian in the country of the dictator Hafez Al-Assad. Told simply yet with devastating effect, Riad’s story takes in the sweep of politics, religion, and poverty, but is steered by acutely observed small moments: the daily sadism of his schoolteacher, the lure of the black market, with its menu of shame and subsistence, and the obsequiousness of his father in the company of those close to the regime. As his family strains to fit in, one chilling, barbaric act drives the Sattoufs to make the most dramatic of changes.

Darkly funny and piercingly direct, The Arab of the Future, Volume 2 once again reveals the inner workings of a tormented country and a tormented family, delivered through Riad Sattouf’s dazzlingly original talent.

PRAISE

Praise for The Arab of the Future: Volume 1

“Exquisitely illustrated, and filled with experiences of misfortune bordering on the farcical, Mr. Sattouf’s book is a disquieting yet essential read.”
—Carmela Ciuraru, The New York Times

“The Arab of the Future has become that rare thing in France’s polarized intellectual climate: an object of consensual rapture, hailed as a masterpiece in the leading journals of both the left and the right. . . . It has, in effect, made Sattouf the Arab of the present in France.”
—Adam Shatz, The New Yorker

Riad Sattouf is a best-selling cartoonist and filmmaker who grew up in Syria and Libya and now lives in Paris. The author of four comics series in France and a former contributor to the satirical publication Charlie Hebdo, Sattouf is now a weekly columnist for l’Obs. He also directed the films The French Kissers and Jacky in the Women’s Kingdom.
In the Darkroom

Susan Faludi

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author of Backlash, an astonishing confrontation with the enigma of her father and the larger riddle of identity consuming our age.

“In the summer of 2004 I set out to investigate someone I scarcely knew, my father. The project began with a grievance, the grievance of a daughter whose parent had absconded from her life. I was in pursuit of a scofflaw, an artful dodger who had skipped out on so many things—obligation, affection, culpability, contrition. I was preparing an indictment, amassing discovery for a trial. But somewhere along the line, the prosecutor became a witness.”

So begins Susan Faludi’s extraordinary inquiry into the meaning of identity in the modern world and in her own haunted family saga. When the feminist writer learned that her 76-year-old father—long estranged and living in Hungary—had undergone sex reassignment surgery, that investigation would turn personal and urgent. How was this new parent who claimed to be “a complete woman now” connected to the silent, explosive, and ultimately violent father she had known, the photographer who’d built his career on the alteration of images?

Faludi chases that mystery into the recesses of her suburban childhood and her father’s many previous incarnations: American dad, Alpine mountaineer, swashbuckling adventurer in the Amazon outback, Jewish fugitive in Holocaust Budapest. When the author travels to Hungary to reunite with her father, she drops into a labyrinth of dark histories and dangerous politics in a country hell-bent on repressing its past and constructing a fanciful—and virulent—nation...

PRAISE

Praise for Susan Faludi's The Terror Dream:

"Feminism, like a trampoline, has made possible this splendid provocation of a book, levitating to keep company with Hunter Thompson's fear and loathing, Leslie Fiedler's love and death, and Edmund Wilson's patriotic gore."

"This is a book that had to be written, and only Susan Faludi could do it so brilliantly and engrossingly."
—Barbara Ehrenreich

Susan Faludi is a Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and the author of The Terror Dream, Stiffed, and Backlash, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction. A former reporter for The Wall Street Journal, she has written for The New Yorker, The New York Times, Harper’s, and The Baffler, among other publications.
Bridge of Words

Esperanto and the Dream of a Universal Language

Esther Schor

A rich and passionate biography of a language and the dream of world harmony it sought to realize

In 1887, Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof, a Polish Jew, had the idea of putting an end to tribalism by creating a universal language, one that would be equally accessible to everyone in the world. The result was Esperanto, a utopian scheme full of the brilliance, craziness, and grandiosity that characterize all such messianic visions.

In this first full history of a constructed language, poet and scholar Esther Schor traces the life of Esperanto. She follows the path from its invention by Zamenhof, through its turn-of-the-century golden age as the great hope of embattled cosmopolites, to its suppression by nationalist regimes and its resurgence as a bridge across the Cold War. She plunges into the mechanics of creating a language from scratch, one based on rational systems that would be easy to learn, politically neutral, and allow all to speak to all. Rooted in the dark soil of Europe, Esperanto failed to stem the continent's bloodletting, of course, but as Schor shows, the ideal continues draw a following of modern universalists dedicated to its visionary goal.

Rich and subtle, Bridge of Words is at once a biography of an idea, an original history of Europe, and a spirited exploration of the only language charged with saving the world from itself.

PRAISE

Praise for Esther Schor's Emma Lazarus:

"Lively and deftly argued." —New York Review of Books


"Evocative... Sweeps Lazarus down from the schoolroom pedestal, giving us a delicious and vivid, frequently wry and touchingly sympathetic record."
—Commentary

"It is a rare book that so skillfully melds biography, literary analysis, and cultural history. Schor's prose is as lyrical and rich in images as the poetry she describes in this intimate, often touching volume." —Andrew Solomon, author of The Noonday Demon

Esther Schor is the author of Emma Lazarus, which received a 2006 National Jewish Book Award, and the editor of the Cambridge Companion to Mary Shelley. Her essays and reviews
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