The Death of Democracy

Hitler's Rise to Power and the Downfall of the Weimar Republic

Benjamin Carter Hett

A riveting account of how the Nazi Party came to power and how the failures of the Weimar Republic and the shortsightedness of German politicians allowed it to happen

Why did democracy fall apart so quickly and completely in Germany in the 1930s? How did a democratic government allow Adolf Hitler to seize power? In The Death of Democracy, Benjamin Carter Hett answers these questions, and the story he tells has disturbing resonances for our own time.

To say that Hitler was elected is too simple. He would never have come to power if Germany’s leading politicians had not responded to a spate of populist insurgencies by trying to co-opt him, a strategy that backed them into a corner from which the only way out was to bring the Nazis in. Hett lays bare the misguided confidence of conservative politicians who believed that Hitler and his followers would willingly support them, not recognizing that their efforts to use the Nazis actually played into Hitler’s hands. They had willingly given him the tools to turn Germany into a vicious dictatorship.

Benjamin Carter Hett is a leading scholar of twentieth-century Germany and a gifted storyteller whose portraits of these feckless politicians show how fragile democracy can be when those in power do not respect it. He offers a powerful lesson for today, when democracy once again finds itself embattled and the siren song of strongmen sounds ever louder.

PRAISE

Praise for Burning the Reichstag

“[An] impressive piece of work that presents fresh evidence.” -- London Review of Books

“[This painstaking new examination . . . underscores deeper notions about nationalism, complicity and guilt.” -- Kirkus Reviews

"A profound reexamination. . . . Burning the Reichstag will be controversial but it certainly commands our serious reading and respect.” -- Charles S. Maier, Harvard University

Benjamin Carter Hett is the author of Burning the Reichstag, Crossing Hitler, and Death in the Tiergarten. He is a professor of history at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and holds a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University and a law degree from the University of Toronto. Born in Rochester, New York, he grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, and now lives in New York City.
If You’re in My Office, It’s Already Too Late
A Divorce Lawyer’s Guide to Staying Together

James J. Sexton

Hard-hitting divorce lawyer James Sexton shares his insights and wisdom from the frontlines of divorce to keep you out of his office and improve on your relationship.

If You’re in My Office, It’s Already Too Late. James Sexton knows this. After dealing with over 1000 clients whose marriages have dissolved over everything from an ill-advised threesome with the nanny to the uneven division of carpool duties, he also knows all of the what-not-to-dos for couples who want to build—and consistently work to preserve—a lasting, fulfilling relationship. Described by former clients as a “courtroom gunslinger” and “the sociopath you want on your side,” Sexton tells the unvarnished truth about relationships, diving straight into the most common marital problems. These usually derive from dishonest—or nonexistent—communication. Even when the alleged reason for separation is one spouse’s new “personal trainer,” there’s usually a communication problem that predates the fitness kick.

Ever feel like you’re holding back criticism of your spouse because you just can’t have that fight right now? Sexton will tell you to “Hit Send Now.” Maybe you aren’t as adventurous as you used to be, or need some you time, but for some reason, it seems weird or exhausting to change up the routine now. Sexton knows where that mentality leads and offers viable alternative paths to take. Though he deals constantly with the heartbreak of others, he still believes in romance and the transformative power of love. This book is his opportunity to use what he has learned to help couples that aren’t so far gone get back on track.

James J. Sexton is a trial lawyer with two decades of experience negotiating and litigating high-conflict divorces. He wakes up every day at 4a.m. to return emails and plot his next moves in the chess match of matrimonial law, while somehow still maintaining faith in humanity and love. In his limited free time, he trains and competes in mixed martial arts and Brazilian jiu-jitsu. He lives in Manhattan.
Minority Leader
How to Lead from the Outside and Make Real Change
Stacey Abrams

Minority Leader is a guide to harnessing the strengths of being an outsider--by Stacey Abrams, slated to become the first black female governor in the U.S.

Networking, persistence, and hard work are the crucial ingredients to advancing a career, but for people like Stacey Abrams, and many in the New American Majority, it takes more than that to get ahead. Stacey, who grew up in a working poor family in Gulfport, Mississippi, rose from humble roots to Yale Law School, and through a career in C-suite businesses, to become the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly and the first African American to lead in the House of Representatives. In Minority Leader, Stacey combines aspects of memoir with real-world advice for women and people of color, offering hard-won insights for navigating worlds that, until now, were largely the territory of white men alone.

Stacey encourages her readers both to leverage otherness to their advantage and to recognize their own underlying feelings of unworthiness and legitimate fears. Sure, networking helps, but so do well-chosen mentors, thoughtful self-advocacy, and, above all, pinpointing one’s genuine passions. Stacey applies her lessons to the recent graduate taking her big idea to the startup level, the Latino city councilman eyeing the mayor’s office, and the young assistant navigating her way to a higher position. There is precious little such wisdom out there. Stacey is determined to change that.

PRAISE
PRAISE FOR STACEY ABRAMS

“Stacey Abrams is a deeply compassionate and thoughtful leader...Throughout her career, I have watched her work tirelessly to build coalitions to protect the poor and middle class, fight voter suppression, and register hundreds of thousands of people to vote. Stacey Abrams is the only leader in the race who has the experience and an ambitious vision to uplift all families in our state. Georgia must seize the opportunity to be a model for our nation by electing this transformative leader, who strives to empower the people she will serve.”
– Congressman John Lewis

Stacey Abrams has won national recognition for her work to register voters of color in Georgia and build Democratic power in the state, as well as her programs to recruit, train, and hire young people of color. Endorsed by EMILY’s List and civil rights legend Congressman John Lewis. Stacey Abrams is the 2012 recipient of the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, and has been hailed by The New York Times as one of its “14 Young Democrats to Watch.” Abrams also spoke at the 2016 DNC.
Motherhood

A Novel

Sheila Heti

From the author of How Should a Person Be? (“one of the most talked-about books of the year”—TIME magazine) and the NYT Bestseller Women in Clothes, a daring novel about whether to have children.

In Motherhood, Sheila Heti asks what is gained and what is lost when a woman becomes a mother, treating the most consequential decision of early adulthood with the candor, originality, and humor that have won Heti international acclaim and made How Should A Person Be? required reading for a generation.

In her late thirties, when her friends are asking when they will become mothers, the narrator of Heti’s intimate and urgent novel considers whether she will do so at all. In a narrative spanning several years, casting among the influence of her peers, partner, and her duties to her forbears, she struggles to make a wise and moral choice. After seeking guidance from philosophy, her body, mysticism, and chance, she discovers her answer much closer to home.

Motherhood is a courageous, keenly felt, and starkly original novel that will surely spark lively conversations about womanhood, parenthood, and about how—and for whom—to live.

PRAISE

Praise for How Should a Person Be?:

“Playful, funny, wretched, and absolutely true.” —The Paris Review

“Boldly original...gorgeously rendered.” —NPR

"Brutally honest and stylistically inventive, cerebral and sexy." —San Francisco Chronicle

“A seriously strange but funny plunge into the quest for authenticity.” —Margaret Atwood, @MargaretAtwood

"A vital and funny picture of the excitements and longueurs of trying to be a young creator in a free, late-capitalist Western city." —James Wood, The New Yorker

Sheila Heti is the author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, including How Should a Person Be? which was a New York Times Notable Book and was named a best book of the year by The New Yorker. She is co-editor of the New York Times bestseller Women in Clothes, and is the former Interviews Editor for The Believer magazine. Her work has been published in The New York Times, The London Review of Books, The Paris Review, McSweeney’s, Harper’s, and n+1.
From *New York Times* culture reporter Dave Itzkoff, the definitive biography of Robin Williams – a compelling portrait of one of America’s most beloved and misunderstood entertainers

From his rapid-fire stand-up comedy riffs to his breakout role in *Mork & Mindy* and his Academy Award-winning performance in *Good Will Hunting*, Robin Williams was a singularly innovative and beloved entertainer. He often came across as a man possessed, holding forth on culture and politics while mixing in personal revelations – all with mercurial, tongue-twisting intensity as he inhabited and shed one character after another with lightning speed.

But as Dave Itzkoff shows in this revelatory biography, Williams’s comic brilliance masked a deep well of conflicting emotions and self-doubt, which he drew upon in his comedy and in celebrated films like *Dead Poets Society; Good Morning, Vietnam; The Fisher King; Aladdin*; and *Mrs. Doubtfire*, where he showcased his limitless gift for improvisation to bring to life a wide range of characters. And in *Good Will Hunting* he gave an intense and controlled performance that revealed the true range of his talent.

Itzkoff also shows how Williams struggled mightily with addiction and depression – topics he discussed openly while performing and during interviews – and with a debilitating condition at the end of his life that affected him in ways his fans never knew. Drawing on more than a hundred original interviews with family, friends, and colleagues, as well as extensive archival research, *Robin* is a fresh and original look at a man whose work touched so many lives.

**PRAISE**

**Praise for Mad As Hell**


"Absorbing and revealing." -- *USA Today*

"A compelling portrait." -- *Details*


**Dave Itzkoff** is the author of *Mad as Hell, Cocaine's Son*, and *Lads*. He is a culture reporter at *The New York Times*, where he writes regularly about film, television, theater, music, and popular culture. He previously worked at *Spin, Maxim*, and *Details*, and his work has appeared in *GQ, Vanity Fair, Wired*, and other publications. He lives in New York City.
Chosen Country

A Rebellion in the West

James Pogue

An extraordinary inside look at America’s militia movement that shows a country at the crossroads of class, culture, and insurrection.

In a remote corner of Oregon, James Pogue found himself at the heart of a rebellion. Granted unmatched access by Ammon Bundy to the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Pogue met ranchers ready to die fighting the federal government.

He witnessed the fallout of communities riven by politics and the danger (and allure) of unyielding belief. The occupation ended in the shooting death of one rancher, the imprisonment of dozens more, and a firestorm over the role of government that engulfed national headlines.

In a raw and restless narrative that roams the same wild terrain as his literary forebears Edward Abbey and Hunter S. Thompson, Pogue examines the underpinnings of this rural resistance and struggles to reconcile his sympathies with his reservations, tracing a cultural fault line that spans the nation.

James Pogue has written for the New Yorker, the London Review of Books, the New York Times Magazine, Granta, Oxford American, Guernica, and Vice, where he is a contributing editor. His work has been anthologized in n+1’s City by City. He lives in Los Angeles. This is his first book.
The Right Answer
How We Can Unify Our Divided Nation
John Delaney

The first declared candidate for president in 2020 delivers a passionate call for bipartisan action, entrepreneurial innovation, and a renewed commitment to the American idea.

The son of a union electrician and grandson of an immigrant, John Delaney grew up believing that anything was possible in America. Before he was fifty, he founded, built and then sold two companies worth billions of dollars. Driven by a deep desire to serve, in 2012 he stepped away from his businesses, ran for Congress, and won. Now he has a new mission: unifying our terribly divided nation and guiding it to a brighter future.

As a boy, Delaney learned the importance of working hard, telling the truth and embracing compromise. As an entrepreneur, he succeeded because he understood the need to ensure opportunity for all, focus on the future, and think creatively about problem-solving. In these pages, he illustrates the potency of these principles with vivid stories from his childhood, his career in business, his family, and his new life as a politician. He also writes candidly about the often frustrating experience of working on Capitol Hill, where many of his colleagues care more about scoring political points than improving the lives of their fellow Americans. With a clear eye and an open heart, he explains that only by seeing both sides of an argument and releasing our inner entrepreneur can we get back to constructive, enlightened governing.

Seventy years ago, John F. Kennedy appealed to our best instincts when he said, “Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer but the right answer.” In this inspiring b...

John K. Delaney, the United States Representative for Maryland's 6th congressional district, was one of America’s most innovative and successful entrepreneurs before he entered politics. The co-founder and CEO of two companies, Healthcare Financial and CapitalSource, both of which were ultimately sold for enormous sums, he is an active philanthropist. A Democrat who is now in his third term in Congress, he was recently named by Fortune magazine as one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders. He and h...
Flash: The Making of Weegee the Famous

The Making of Weegee the Famous

Christopher Bonanos

The first definitive biography of Weegee the Famous—photographer, psychic, fiend—from the author of Instant: The Story of Polaroid

Arthur Fellig’s ability to arrive at a crime scene mere moments after law enforcement was so uncanny that he became known as “Weegee,” after the Ouija board. Weegee documented better than any other photographer the crime, grit, and desperation of mid-century New York City. In Flash, we get a portrait not simply of the man (both deeply talented and flawed, whose masterful eye for capturing violence and sex intimated his own predilections) but also of the fascinating time and place that he occupied.

From self-taught immigrant kid to celebrity photographer to his late, hedonistic days—moving between the dark, dangerous streets of New York City, the glitzy and emptied out celebrity culture of Los Angeles, and the East Coast during the morally liberated days of the Sixties—Weegee lived a life just as worthy of documentation as the scenes he captured. Now, with Flash, we have the first definitive biography of the man known now as an innovator and a pioneer, an artist whose photographs still stand as some of the most masterful crime photos ever taken.

PRAISE

"Flash is a crackling portrait of a man and his era—as immediate and as alive as Weegee's pictures themselves. Chris Bonanos vivifies not only his subject, but the long lost New York that he lived in, and that made him."

—Daniel Okrent, New York Times bestselling author of Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition

Christopher Bonanos is a senior editor at New York Magazine, where he covers arts and culture. He is the author previously of Instant: The Story of Polaroid. He lives in New York City.
**Number One Chinese Restaurant**

*A Novel*

Lillian Li

An exuberant and wise multigenerational debut novel about the complicated lives and loves of people working in everyone’s favorite Chinese restaurant.

The Beijing Duck House in Rockville, Maryland, is not only a beloved go-to setting for hunger pangs and celebrations; it is its own world, inhabited by waiters and kitchen staff who have been fighting, loving, and aging within its walls for decades. When disaster strikes, this working family’s controlled chaos is set loose, forcing each character to confront the conflicts that fast-paced restaurant life has kept at bay.

Owner Jimmy Han hopes to leave his late father’s homespun establishment for a fancier one. Jimmy’s older brother, Johnny, and Johnny’s daughter, Annie, ache to return to a time before a father’s absence and a teenager’s silence pushed them apart. Nan and Ah-Jack, longtime Duck House employees, are tempted to turn their thirty-year friendship into something else, even as Nan’s son, Pat, struggles to stay out of trouble. And when Pat and Annie, caught in a mix of youthful lust and boredom, find themselves in a dangerous game that implicates them in the Duck House tragedy, their families must decide how much they are willing to sacrifice to help their children.

Generous in spirit, unaffected in its intelligence, multi-voiced, poignant, and darkly funny, *Number One Chinese Restaurant* looks beyond red tablecloths and silkscreen murals to share an unforgettable story about youth and aging, parents and children, and all the ways that our families destroy us while also keeping us grounded and alive.

**PRAISE**

“Lillian Li is a brilliant young writer and someone to watch. Her work understands human secrets generally as well as secret places both in the world and in the mind; her narratives are complex, mysterious, moving, and surprising.”

—Lorrie Moore

Lillian Li received her BA from Princeton and her MFA from the University of Michigan. She is the recipient of a Hopwood Award in Short Fiction, as well as *Glimmer Train*’s New Writer Award. Her work has been featured in *Guernica*, *Granta*, and *Jezebel*. She is from the D.C. metro area and lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
HENRY HOLT AND CO.           JUNE 2018

Unbeaten
Rocky Marciano's Fight for Perfection in a Crooked World

Mike Stanton

From the bestselling author of The Prince of Providence, a revelatory biography of Rocky Marciano, the greatest heavyweight champion of all time

The son of poor Italian immigrants, with short arms and stubby legs, Rocky Marciano accomplished a feat that eluded legendary heavyweight champions like Joe Louis, Jack Dempsey, Muhammad Ali, and Mike Tyson: He never lost a professional fight. His record was a perfect 49-0.

Unbeaten is the story of this remarkable champion who overcame injury, doubt, and the schemes of corrupt promoters to win the title in a bloody and epic battle with Jersey Joe Walcott in 1952. Rocky packed a devastating punch with an innocent nickname, “Suzie Q,” against which there was no defense. As the champ, he came to know presidents and movie stars – and the organized crime figures who dominated the sport, much to his growing disgust. He may have “stood out in boxing like a rose in a garbage dump,” as one sportswriter said, but he also fought his own private demons.

In the hands of the award-winning journalist and biographer Mike Stanton, Unbeaten is more than just a boxing story. It’s a classic American tale of immigrant dreams, exceptional talent wedded to exceptional ambitions, compromises in the service of a greater good, astounding success, disillusionment, and a quest to discover what it all meant. Like Suzie Q, it will knock you off your feet.

PRAISE

Praise for The Prince of Providence

"Impressive ... A criminal enterprise of kickbacks, shakedowns and threats worthy of The Sopranos." -- The New York Times Book Review

“An astounding, well-researched account of systemic government impropriety.” -- Entertainment Weekly

Mike Stanton is the author of The Prince of Providence: The Rise and Fall of Buddy Cianci, America’s Most Notorious Mayor, which was a New York Times bestseller. He is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Connecticut, having previously headed the investigative team at the Providence Journal, where he shared a Pulitzer Prize. He lives in Rhode Island with his wife and two children.
Suicide Club

A Novel

Rachel Heng

In this debut set in near future NYC—where lives last 300 years and the pursuit of immortality is all-consuming—Lea must choose between her estranged father and her chance to live forever.

Lea Kirino is a “Lifer,” which means that a roll of the genetic dice has given her the potential to live forever—if she does everything right. And Lea is an overachiever. She’s a successful trader on the New York exchange—where instead of stocks, human organs are now bought and sold—she has a beautiful apartment, and a fiancé who rivals her in genetic perfection. And with the right balance of HealthTech™, rigorous juicing, and low-impact exercise, she might never die.

But Lea’s perfect life is turned upside down when she spots her estranged father on a crowded sidewalk. His return marks the beginning of her downfall as she is drawn into his mysterious world of the Suicide Club, a network of powerful individuals and rebels who reject society’s pursuit of immortality, and instead chose to live—and die—on their own terms. In this future world, death is not only taboo; it’s also highly illegal. Soon Lea is forced to choose between a sanitized immortal existence and a short, bittersweet time with a man she has never really known, but who is the only family she has left in the world.

Rachel Heng’s fiction has received a Pushcart Prize Special Mention and Prairie Schooner’s Jane Geske Award. An extract from Suicide Club was included in The Huffington Post’s “15 Stellar Short Stories You Can Read Online” list. Rachel graduated from Columbia University with a BA in Comparative Literature & Society and Economics and is currently a James A. Michener Fellow at the Michener Center for Writers, UT Austin, where she is pursuing her MFA in Fiction and Screenwriting. She is also curren...
Tonight I'm Someone Else

Essays

Chelsea Hodson

A highly anticipated collection, from the writer Maggie Nelson has called, “bracingly good…refreshing and welcome,” that explores the myriad ways in which desire and commodification intersect.

From graffiti gangs and Grand Theft Auto to sugar daddies, Schopenhauer, and a deadly game of Russian roulette, in these essays, Chelsea Hodson probes her own desires to examine where the physical and the proprietary collide. She asks what our privacy, our intimacy, and our own bodies are worth in the increasingly digital world of liking, linking, and sharing.

Starting with Hodson’s own work experience, which ranges from the mundane to the bizarre—including modeling and working on a NASA Mars mission—Hodson expands outward, looking at the ways in which the human will submits, whether in the marketplace or in a relationship. Both tender and jarring, this collection is relevant to anyone who’s ever searched for what the self is worth.

Hodson’s accumulation within each piece is purposeful, and her prose vivid, clear, and sometimes even shocking, as she explores the wonderful and strange forms of desire. This is a fresh, poetic debut from an exciting emerging voice, in which Hodson asks, “How much can a body endure?” And the resounding answer: "Almost everything."

PRAISE

"There is dark humor, recklessness, exhilaration. . . .I felt I was reading a writer who would tell harder truths than many other writers, and she turns this nerve against herself to good effect.” —Amy Hempel

Praise for Pity the Animal (a chapbook):

“Wild and chiseled, both. . . .Pity The Animal has its own youthful, American verve, as well as its own dedication to parataxis and precision.” —Maggie Nelson

“Wonderful—small and sharp as a dagger.” —Molly Crabapple

Chelsea Hodson earned her MFA at Bennington College and was a PEN Center USA Emerging Voices Fellow. Her work has been published in Black Warrior Review, Hobart, The Lifted Brow, The Scofield, The Austin Review, Vol. 1 Brooklyn, and more. She has worked as a performance facilitator for Marina Abramovic and now works as an instructor at Catapult. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.
Rendezvous with Oblivion

Essays

Thomas Frank

From the acclaimed author of *Listen, Liberal* and *What’s the Matter with Kansas*, a scathing collection of his incisive commentary on our cruel times—perfect for this political moment

What does a middle-class democracy look like when it comes apart? When, after forty years of economic triumph, America’s winners persuade themselves that they owe nothing to the rest of the country?

With his sharp eye for detail, Thomas Frank takes us on a wide-ranging tour through present-day America, showing us a society in the late stages of disintegration and describing the worlds of both the winners and the losers—the sprawling mansion districts as well as the lives of fast-food workers.

*Rendezvous with Oblivion* is a collection of interlocking essays examining how inequality has manifested itself in our cities, in our jobs, in the way we travel—and of course in our politics, where in 2016, millions of anxious ordinary people rallied to the presidential campaign of a billionaire who meant them no good.

These accounts of folly and exploitation are here brought together in a single volume unified by Frank’s distinctive voice, sardonic wit, and anti-orthodox perspective. They capture a society where every status signifier is hollow, where the allure of mobility is just another con game, and where rebellion too often yields nothing.

For those who despair of the future of our country and of reason itself, *Rendezvous with Oblivion* is a booster shot of energy, reality, and moral outrage.

**PRAISE**

“A serious political critique [and] thoroughly entertaining.”
—*The New York Times Book Review* (front page) on *Listen, Liberal*

“The year’s most prescient political book.”

**Thomas Frank** is the author of *Listen, Liberal, Pity the Billionaire, The Wrecking Crew,* and *What’s the Matter with Kansas?* A former columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and Harper’s, Frank is the founding editor of *The Baffler* and writes regularly for *The Guardian*. He lives outside Washington, D.C.
The Poisoned City

Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy

Anna Clark

The first full account of the Flint, Michigan, water scandal, an American tragedy, with new details, from an award-winning Michigan journalist who has covered the story from its beginnings

When the people of Flint, Michigan, turned on their faucets in April 2014, the water pouring out was poisoned with lead and other toxins. Through a series of disastrous decisions, the state government had switched the city’s water to a source that corroded Flint’s aging lead pipes. Complaints about the foul-smelling water were dismissed: the residents of Flint—a largely poor African American city of about 100,000 people—were not seen as credible, even in matters of their own lives.

It took 18 months of activism and a band of dogged outsiders to force the state to admit that the water was poisonous. But this was only after 12 people died and Flint's children suffered irreparable harm. The long battle for accountability and a humane response to this man-made disaster have only just begun.

In the first full-length account of this epic failure, The Poisoned City recounts the gripping story of Flint’s poisoned water through the people who caused it, suffered from it, and exposed it. It is a chronicle of one town, but could also be about any American city, all made precarious by the neglect of infrastructure and the erosion of democratic decision-making. Cities like Flint are set up to fail—and for the people who live and work in them, the consequences may be mortal.

PRAISE

Praise for A Detroit Anthology:

“In the case of Detroit, there is one writer I turn to for understanding again and again—a woman who is so prolific, your heart beats with her words as you read and you miss Detroit as if the city is a long-lost lover.” —Longreads

“There is no cheap nostalgia or breathless boosterism. … the book is a thrilling success. It gives voice to people who now live or once lived in this fascinating, tortured place, the survivors, good people who know what pain is, people who understand that the city exerts an undying pull on them.” —The Millions

Anna Clark is a journalist who lives in Detroit. Her writing has appeared in ELLE, The New York Times, the New Republic, Grantland, the Columbia Journalism Review, Next City, Best American Sports Writing, and other publications. She is a regular contributor to the Detroit Free Press. Editor of A Detroit Anthology, a Michigan Notable Book, Clark is a Knight-Wallace journalism fellow at the University of Michigan. A former Fulbright fellow in Nairobi, Kenya, Clark has also been a writer-in-residen...
The Arab of the Future 3

The Circumcision Years: A Childhood in the Middle East, 1985-1987

Riad Sattouf

In the third installment of the acclaimed series, the Sattouf family begins to implode under the pressure of Hafez al-Assad’s regime and the suffocation of their rural Syrian village.

The Arab of the Future is the widely acclaimed, internationally bestselling graphic memoir that tells the story of Riad Sattouf’s peripatetic childhood in the Middle East. In the first volume, which covers the years 1978–1984, his family moves between rural France, Libya, and Syria, where they eventually settle in his father’s native village of Ter Maaleh, near Homs. The second volume recounts young Riad’s first year attending school in Syria (1984–1985), where he dedicates himself to becoming a true Syrian in the country of Hafez al-Assad. In this third volume, (1985–1987), Riad’s mother, fed up with the grinding reality of daily life in the village, decides she cannot take it any longer. When she resolves to move back France, young Riad sees his father torn between his wife’s aspirations and the weight of family traditions.

PRAISE

Praise for The Arab of the Future 2

“Sattouf is a master of visual storytelling, capable of compressing a great deal of human emotion and contradictions within a few panels ... a searing depiction of growing up poor in a country ruled by corruption and religious zealotry.”
—Publishers Weekly

“Nothing escapes Sattouf’s curious and vigilant eyes. ... Using the magic of his visual storytelling, Sattouf becomes a darkly humorous, poignant, and vivid guide into the mind of Syrians.”
—Christian Science Monitor

“Darkly ironic ... like its predecessor, this installment is deceptively simple in tone and style.”
—NPR

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.
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