Pelosi

Molly Ball

An intimate, fresh perspective on the most powerful woman in American political history, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, by award-winning political journalist Molly Ball

She’s the iconic leader who puts Donald Trump in his place, the woman with the toughness to take on a lawless president and defend American democracy. Ever since the Democrats took back the House in the 2018 midterm elections, Nancy Pelosi has led the opposition with strategic mastery and inimitable elan. It’s a remarkable comeback for the veteran politician who for years was demonized by the right and taken for granted by many in her own party—even though, as speaker under President Barack Obama, she deserves much of the credit for epochal liberal accomplishments from universal health care to gays in the military. How did a 79-year-old Italian grandmother in four-inch heels become the greatest legislator since LBJ—and how will she manage her greatest challenge yet, impeachment?

Ball’s nuanced, page-turning portrait takes readers inside the life and times of this historic and underappreciated figure. Based on exclusive interviews with the Speaker and deep background reporting, Ball shows Pelosi through a thoroughly modern lens to explain how this extraordinary woman has met her moment.

Molly Ball is TIME Magazine's national political correspondent and appears regularly as an analyst on NBC’s Meet the Press, CBS’s Face the Nation, PBS’s Washington Week, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and NPR. She formerly covered U.S. politics for The Atlantic and Politico. She is the winner of the Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize and the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting, among others, and lives in Washington, D.C.
The Book of V.

A Novel

Anna Solomon

For readers of The Hours and Fates and Furies, a bold, kaleidoscopic novel intertwining the lives of three women across three centuries

Lily is a mother and a daughter. And a second wife. And a writer, maybe? Or she was going to be, before she had children. Now, in her rented Brooklyn apartment she’s grappling with her sexual and intellectual desires, while also trying to manage her roles as a mother and a wife in 2016.

Vivian Barr seems to be the perfect political wife, dedicated to helping her charismatic and ambitious husband find success in Watergate-era Washington D.C. But one night he demands a humiliating favor, and her refusal to obey changes the course of her life—along with the lives of others.

Esther is a fiercely independent young woman in ancient Persia, where she and her uncle’s tribe live a tenuous existence outside the palace walls. When an innocent mistake results in devastating consequences for her people, she is offered up as a sacrifice to please the King, in the hopes that she will save them all.

In The Book of V, these three characters' riveting stories overlap and ultimately collide, illuminating how women’s lives have and have not changed over thousands of years.

PRAISE

"The Book of V is a marvel. It’s a testament to the enduring strength and flexibility of the novel form itself, and a testament to the wisdom, clarity, and boldness of Anna Solomon. She is a remarkable writer who has written an extraordinary book.”—Jane Hamilton, author of The Excellent Lombards

"Anna Solomon reaches across centuries to capture the timeliness and timelessness of being a strong, passionate woman in a world governed by men. How far we’ve come and yet how many of the battles look the same. I was riveted by this searingly inventive, humane, and honest page-turner of a novel.”—Mary Beth Keane, author of Ask Again, Yes

Anna Solomon is the author of Leaving Lucy Pear and The Little Bride and a two-time winner of the Pushcart Prize. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in publications including The New York Times Magazine, One Story, Ploughshares, Slate, and more. Coeditor with Eleanor Henderson of Labor Day: True Birth Stories by Today’s Best Women Writers, Solomon was born and raised in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.
Manifesto for a Moral Revolution
Practices to Build a Better World

Jacqueline Novogratz

An essential shortlist of leadership ideas for everyone who wants to do good in this world, from Jacqueline Novogratz, author of the New York Times bestseller The Blue Sweater and founder and CEO...

In 2001, when Jacqueline Novogratz founded Acumen, a global community of socially and environmentally responsible partners dedicated to changing the way the world tackles poverty, few had heard of impact investing—Acumen’s practice of “doing well by doing good.” Nineteen years later, there’s been a seismic shift in how corporate boards and other stakeholders evaluate businesses: impact investment is not only morally defensible but now also economically advantageous, even necessary. Still, it isn’t easy to reach a success that includes profits as well as mutually favorable relationships with workers and the communities in which they live. So how can today’s leaders, who often kick off their enterprises with high hopes and short timetables, navigate the challenges of poverty and war, of egos and impatience, which have stymied generations of investors who came before?

Drawing on inspiring stories from change-makers around the world and on memories of her own most difficult experiences, Jacqueline divulges the most common leadership mistakes and the mind-sets needed to rise above them. The culmination of thirty years of work developing sustainable solutions for the problems of the poor, Manifesto for a Moral Revolution offers the perspectives necessary for all those—whether ascending the corporate ladder or bringing solar light to rural villages—who seek to leave this world better off than they found it.

Jacqueline Novogratz is the founder and CEO of Acumen. She has been named one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy, one of the 25 Smartest People of the Decade by the Daily Beast, and one of the world’s 100 Greatest Living Business Minds by Forbes, which also honored her with the Forbes 400 Lifetime Achievement Award for Social Entrepreneurship. In addition to Acumen, she is a sought-after speaker and sits on a number of philanthropic boards. She lives in New York with her husband.
Killing Crazy Horse

The Merciless Indian Wars in America

Bill O'Reilly

The latest installment of the multimillion-selling Killing series is a gripping journey through the American West and the historic clashes between Native Americans and settlers.

The bloody Battle of Tippecanoe was only the beginning. It’s 1811 and President James Madison has ordered the destruction of Shawnee warrior chief Tecumseh’s alliance of tribes in the Great Lakes region. But while General William Henry Harrison would win this fight, the armed conflict between Native Americans and the newly formed United States would rage on for decades.

Bestselling authors Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard venture through the fraught history of our country’s founding on already occupied lands, from General Andrew Jackson’s brutal battles with the Creek Nation to President James Monroe’s epic “sea to shining sea” policy, to President Martin Van Buren’s cruel enforcement of a “treaty” that forced the Cherokee Nation out of their homelands along what would be called the Trail of Tears. O’Reilly and Dugard take readers behind the legends to reveal never-before-told historical moments in the fascinating creation story of America.

This fast-paced, wild ride through the American frontier will shock readers and impart unexpected lessons that reverberate to this day.

Bill O'Reilly is a trailblazing TV journalist who has experienced unprecedented success on cable news and in writing fifteen national bestselling nonfiction books. (There are currently more than seventeen million books in the Killing series in print.) Mr. O’Reilly does a daily podcast on BillOReilly.com, and his daily radio program, The O'Reilly Update, is heard on hundreds of stations across the country. He lives on Long Island.

Martin Dugard is the New York Times bestselling author of several b...
**F*ckface**

*And Other Stories*

Leah Hampton

A brassy, bighearted debut collection of twelve short stories about rurality, corpses, honeybee collapse, and illicit sex in post-coal Appalachia

The twelve stories in this knockout collection—some comedic, some tragic, many both at once—examine the interdependence between rural denizens and their environment. A young girl, desperate for a way out of her small town, finds support in an unlikely place. A ranger working along the Blue Ridge Parkway realizes that the dark side of the job, the all too frequent discovery of dead bodies, has taken its toll on her. Haunted by his past, and his future, a tech sergeant reluctantly spends a night with his estranged parents before being deployed to Afghanistan. Nearing fifty and facing new medical problems, a woman wonders if her short stint at the local chemical plant is to blame. A woman takes her husband’s research partner on a day trip to her favorite place on earth, Dollywood, and briefly imagines a different life.

In the vein of Bonnie Jo Campbell and Lee Smith, Hampton writes poignantly and honestly about a legendary place that’s rapidly changing. She takes us deep inside the lives of the women and men of Appalachia while navigating the realities of modern life with wit, bite, and heart.

Leah Hampton is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers and the winner of the University of Texas’s Keene Prize for Literature, as well as North Carolina’s James Hurst and Doris Betts prizes. Her work has appeared in *storySouth, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, Appalachian Heritage, North Carolina Literary Review*, the *Los Angeles Times, Ecotone, Electric Literature*, and elsewhere. A former college instructor, Hampton lives in and writes about the Blue Ridge Mountains.
The Folly and the Glory
America, Russia, and Political Warfare 1945–2020
Tim Weiner

From Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner Tim Weiner, a gripping, deeply contextual look at the development of political warfare between the US and Russia from the Stalin era to today

With vivid storytelling and access to insider accounts, Weiner sets out to trace the roots of Russian-American political warfare—conflict waged without weapons—over the last seven decades to understand how a president landed in the White House with the help of an expansive, covert Russian campaign. Russia’s modern revival of Soviet-era intelligence operations constitutes one of the most significant threats to democracy in the United States and around the world, and yet the US has not engaged its own political warfare methods in defense, even as our own justice department has concluded unequivocally that Russia influenced the 2016 election.

To get to the heart of what’s at stake and find potential solutions, Weiner examines long-running twentieth century CIA operations, political machinations by the Soviet KGB around the world, the erosion of American political warfare after the Cold War, and why twenty-first century Russia has returned to the practice while the US has not. Weiner takes us behind closed doors and into the deliberation rooms of past and present Russian and American intelligence operations that directly led to—and help illuminate—the current administration and the future of American democracy.

PRAISE

Praise for One Man Against the World:

“One Man Against the World is studded with gems. But perhaps its best part is the accounting of what Nixon has wrought in this country.” —Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“Rigorously damning.” —New York Magazine

Tim Weiner has won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for his reporting and writing on national security and intelligence. He covered the CIA, the war in Afghanistan, and crises and conflicts in fourteen nations for The New York Times. Weiner has taught history and writing at Princeton and Columbia. The Folly and the Glory is his sixth book.
HENRY HOLT AND CO.

A Star Is Bored

Byron Lane

The Devil Wears Prada meets Postcards From the Edge in a hilariously heartfelt novel about living life at full force, and discovering family when you least expect it, influenced in part by the au...

"A Star is Bored is an absolute knockout. Riotously funny and wickedly tender. The pitch-perfect absurdity and sharp heartbreak of this story come to life so vividly that the last page left me aching. Completely outrageous and positively lovely."
— Taylor Jenkins Reid, New York Times bestselling author of Daisy Jones and the Six

A hilariously heartfelt novel about living life at full force, and discovering family when you least expect it, influenced in part by the author’s time as Carrie Fisher’s beloved assistant.

Charlie Besson is about to have an insane job interview. His car is idling, like his life, outside the Hollywood mansion of Kathi Kannon. THE Kathi Kannon, star of stage and screen and People magazine’s worst dressed list. She needs an assistant. He needs a hero.

Kathi is an icon, bestselling author, and an award winning actress, most known for her role as Priestess Talara in the iconic blockbuster sci-fi film. She’s also known for another role: crazy Hollywood royalty. Admittedly so. Famously so. Fabulously so.

Charlie gets the job, and embarks on an odyssey filled with late night shopping sprees, last minute trips to see the aurora borealis, and an initiation to that most sacred of Hollywood tribes: the personal assistant. But Kathi becomes much more than a boss, and as their friendship grows, Charlie must make a choice. Will he always be on the sidelines of life, assisting the great forces that be, or can he step in...

Byron Lane is a playwright living in Los Angeles. Before becoming a writer, was the personal assistant to Carrie Fisher for three years. A Star Is Bored is his first novel.
Our Time Is Now
*Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America*

Stacey Abrams
Grappling with motherhood, economic anxiety, rage, and the limits of language, *Want* is a fiercely personal novel that vibrates with anger, insight, and love.

Elizabeth is tired. Years after coming to New York to try to build a life, she has found herself with two kids, a husband, two jobs, a PhD—and now they’re filing for bankruptcy. As she tries to balance her dream and the impossibility of striving toward it while her work and home lives feel poised to fall apart, she wakes at ungodly hours to run miles by the icy river, struggling to quiet her thoughts.

When she reaches out to Sasha, her long-lost childhood friend, it feels almost harmless—one of those innocuous ruptures that exist online, in texts. But her timing is uncanny. Sasha is facing a crisis, too, and perhaps after years apart, their shared moments of crux can bring them back into each other’s lives.

In *Want*, Strong explores the subtle violences enacted on a certain type of woman when she dares to want things—and all the various violences in which she implicates herself as she tries to survive.

**PRAISE**

“It’s not just the story of what it is to be a mother and wife, a daughter and friend, a citizen and employee; *Want* is a novel about what it is to be alive right now, one that truly captures the urgency of human thought and feeling.”—Rumaan Alam, author of *Rich and Pretty* and *That Kind of Mother*

“I felt a giddy sort of love for Lynn Steger Strong’s new novel *Want*. It’s not like anything else: caustic and despairing and sometimes, unexpectedly, laugh-out-loud funny. Sentence after sentence, this book took my breath away.”—Marcy Dermansky, author of *Very Nice* and *Bad Marie*

*Lynn Steger Strong*’s first novel, *Hold Still*, was released by Liveright/WW Norton in 2016. Her nonfiction has been published by *Guernica*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, Elle.com, Catapult, Lit Hub, and others. She teaches both fiction and non-fiction writing at Columbia University, Fairfield University, and the Pratt Institute.
The Nazi Menace
Hitler, Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin, and the Road to War

Benjamin Carter Hett

A panoramic narrative of the years leading up to the Second World War—a tale of democratic crisis, racial conflict, and a belated recognition of evil, with profound resonance for our own time.

Berlin, November 1937. In a secret meeting with his top advisors, Adolf Hitler proclaims the urgent necessity for a war of aggression in Europe. Some conservatives are unnerved by this grandiose plan, but they are soon silenced, setting in motion events that will lead to the most calamitous war in history.

Benjamin Carter Hett, the author of The Death of Democracy, his acclaimed history of the fall of the Weimar Republic, takes us from Berlin to London, Moscow, and Washington to show how anti-Nazi forces inside and outside Germany came to understand Hitler’s true menace to European civilization and learned to oppose him. Drawing on original sources in German, English, French, and Russian, including newly released intelligence documents, he paints a sweeping portrait of governments under siege, populated by larger-than-life figures like Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Neville Chamberlain, Franklin Roosevelt, Joachim von Ribbentrop, and Vyacheslav Molotov.

The Nazi Menace evokes a time when the verities of life were subverted, a time marked by fake news, cultural unrest over refugees, and the challenges of national security in a consumerist democracy. To read Hett's book is to see the 1930s—and our world today—in a new and unnerving light.

PRAISE

Praise for The Death of Democracy:

“Could not be more timely. The Death of Democracy makes for chilling reading.”—Roger Lowenstein, The Washington Post

“Sensitively describes a moral crisis that preceded a moral catastrophe.”—Timothy Snyder, The New York Times Book Review (Editor’s Choice)

“With a wealth of telling detail, a keen eye for human character, and a talent for gripping narrative, Benjamin Hett . . . offers a chilling and warning tale, for he shows that Hitler’s victory was by no means inevitable.”—Margaret MacMillan, author of The War That Ended Peace

Benjamin Carter Hett is the author of The Death of Democracy, 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 PhD 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.
Standoff

Race, Policing, and a Deadly Assault That Captivated a Nation

Jamie Thompson

Award-winning journalist Jamie Thompson’s gripping account of the deadliest attack on law enforcement since 9/11, and the officers behind an audacious plan to stop it.

On the evening of July 7, 2016, protesters gathered in cities across the nation after police shot two black men, Philando Castile and Alton Sterling. As officers patrolled a march in Dallas, a young man stepped out of an SUV wearing a bulletproof vest and carrying a high-powered rifle. He killed five officers and wounded eleven others. It fell to a small group of cops to corner the shooter inside a community college, where a fierce gun battle was followed by a stalemate. Crisis negotiator Larry Gordon, a 21-year department veteran, spent hours bonding with the gunman—over childhood ghosts and death and racial injustice in America—while his colleagues devised an unprecedented plan to bring the night to its dramatic end.

Thompson’s minute-by-minute account includes intimate portrayals of the negotiator, a surgeon who operated on the fallen officers, a mother of four shot down in the street, and the SWAT officers tasked with stopping the gunman. Their stories go to the heart of the deeply pressing issue of race and policing in our country, and reflect America’s divide over how to view the men and woman assigned to protect us.

Jamie Thompson covered the Dallas police shooting for The Washington Post. Her later account of that night for The Dallas Morning News won an Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in writing. She has been a contributing editor for D Magazine and an associate professor of journalism at the University of Dallas. Her work also has appeared in Texas Monthly and the Tampa Bay Times.
The Death of the Artist
How Creators Are Struggling to Survive in the Age of Billionaires and Big Tech

William Deresiewicz

A lively and rigorous investigation into what it means to lead a creative life today—from the new opportunities to the great personal costs provided by technology.

Over the last twenty years, art has become more accessible than ever before. A painter can post their latest creation on Instagram and wait as the likes pile up; a budding filmmaker can shoot a clip on their iPhone, then upload it to YouTube for thousands to view. The digital landscape has fundamentally altered what it means to be creative, as well as how consumers interact with artistic production both economically and curatorially.

William Deresiewicz, a leading critic of contemporary culture in America, argues that we are in the midst of an epochal transformation within art. Whereas the nineteenth century considered artists to be craftsmen and the twentieth century treated them as professionals, artists today are uniquely dependent upon themselves. The internet, along with decreases in art funding and the growing prevalence of gig economies, has forced artists to become responsible for every aspect of their work, from conception to promotion, from sales to legacy.

In The Death of the Artist, Deresiewicz profiles those struggling to make a living through the arts, from the twenty-something college novelist with a multi-hyphenated job title to the midlife painter who must utilize social media to stay relevant. Deresiewicz shows what the birth of the “creative entrepreneur” signifies about our evolving society at large and what might be done to keep artists thriving, because we need them.

PRAISE

Praise for Excellent Sheep
“[Deresiewicz] is a striker, to put it in soccer terms. He’s a vivid writer, a literary critic whose headers tend to land in the back corner of the net.” —Dwight Garner, The New York Times

Praise for A Jane Austen Education
“[Deresiewicz] writes with wit, charm and candor, and the result is simply delightful.” —The Associated Press

William Deresiewicz is an award-winning essayist and critic, frequent college speaker, and former professor at Yale University. His writing has appeared in the Atlantic, the New York Times, Harper’s, The Nation, The New Republic, The American Scholar, and more. He is the recipient of a National Book Critics Circle award for excellence in reviewing and the New York Times bestselling author of Excellent Sheep and A Jane Austen Education.
The Eighth Detective

Alex Pavesi

A thrilling, wildly inventive nesting doll of a mystery, in which a young editor travels to a remote village in the Mediterranean in the hopes of convincing a reclusive writer to republish his co...

There are rules for murder mysteries. There must be a victim. A suspect. A detective. The rest is just shuffling the sequence. Expanding the permutations. Grant McAllister, a professor of mathematics, once sat down and worked them all out – calculating the different orders and possibilities of a mystery into seven perfect detective stories he quietly published. But that was thirty years ago. Now Grant lives in seclusion on a remote Mediterranean island, counting the rest of his days.

Until Julia Hart, a sharp, ambitious editor knocks on his door. Julia wishes to republish his book, and together they must revisit those old stories: an author hiding from his past, and an editor, keen to understand it. But there are things in the stories that don’t add up. Inconsistencies left by Grant that a sharp-eyed editor begins to suspect are more than mistakes. They may be clues, and Julia finds herself with a mystery of her own to solve.

The Eighth Detective is a cerebral, inventive novel with a modern twist, where nothing is what it seems, and proof that the best mysteries break all the rules.

A former bookseller for Waterstones, The Eighth Detective is Alex Pavesi’s first book. He holds a PhD in mathematics, and is currently a software engineer for Microsoft in London.
Inferno

A Memoir of Motherhood and Madness

Catherine Cho

The riveting story of a mother who is separated from her newborn son and husband when involuntarily committed to a psychiatric ward in New Jersey after a harrowing bout of postpartum psychosis

When Catherine and her husband set off from London to introduce her US family to their newborn son, she could not have imagined what lay in store. Before the trip’s end, she would find herself involuntarily committed to a psychiatric ward in New Jersey, diagnosed with postpartum psychosis. In this unwaveringly honest, insightful, and often shocking memoir Catherine reconstructs her sense of self, starting with her early childhood as the dutiful daughter of Korean immigrants, moving through a harrowing past relationship, and on through the early years of her courtship and marriage with her husband, James. She masterfully interweaves these pieces of her past with a vivid, immediate recounting of the days she spent in the hospital and the horror of being separated from her husband and newborn.

An intensely personal, singular story with themes that are nevertheless universal, Cho digs deep into what it means to rediscover yourself when your identity has been shattered. Written in sparse yet lyrical prose, her story is as inspiring as it is heartrending, and will appeal to readers of Susannah Cahalan’s Brain on Fire, Esmé Weijun Wang’s The Collected Schizophrenias, and even classics like Susanna Kaysen’s Girl, Interrupted.

Catherine Cho is an agent at Curtis Brown in the UK. Originally from the US, she’s lived in New York and Hong Kong, and she currently lives in London with her family. This is her first book.
Why Visit America
Stories
Matthew Baker

Equal parts speculative and satirical, the stories in Why Visit America form an exegesis of our current political predicament, while offering an eloquent plea for connection and hope.

The citizens of Plainfield, Texas, have had it with the broke-down United States. So they vote to secede, rename themselves America in memory of their former country, and happily set themselves up to receive tourists from their closest neighbor: America. Couldn’t happen? Well, it might, and so it goes in the thirteen stories in Matthew Baker’s brilliantly illuminating, incisive, and heartbreaking collection Why Visit America.

The book opens with a seemingly traditional story in which the speculative element is extremely minimal—the narrator has a job that doesn’t actually exist—a story that wouldn’t seem much out of place in a collection of literary realism. From there the stories get progressively stranger: a young man breaks the news to his family that he is going to transition—from an analog body to a digital existence. A young woman abducts a child—her own—from a government-run childcare facility. A man returns home after committing a great crime, his sentence being that his memory—his entire life—is wiped clean. As the book moves from universe to universe, the stories cross between different American genres: from bildungsroman to rom com, western to dystopian, including fantasy, horror, erotica, and a noir detective mystery. Read together, these parallel-universe stories create a composite portrait of the true nature of the United States and a Through the Looking-Glass reflection of who we are as a country.

PRAISE

"You hold in your hands the perfect object, a buried treasure. You have been looking for it all your life, maybe without realizing. Inside are all the mysteries of existence, delivered in story form, like a sermon. My God, you will think as you read it, at last finally I know. Plus, it's kinda funny."
—Noah Hawley

"How does he do it? Matthew Baker’s mind is an oyster producing pearl after pearl. Each story in Why Visit America offers an eerie and unsettling vision of our possible future while remaining emotionally truthful and, as always, incredibly damn fun."
—Kelly Luce, author of Pull Me Under

"Only Matthew Baker could create stories that are...

Matthew Baker is author of the story collection Hybrid Creatures and the Edgar Award–nominated middle grade novel If You Find This. His stories have appeared in American Short Fiction, New England Review, One Story, Electric Literature, Conjunctions, The Paris Review and more, and in
Nobody Ever Asked Me about the Girls

Women, Music, and Fame

Lisa Robinson

An intimate, critical look at the lives of female musicians by a famed music journalist, based on new interviews with Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Adele, Bette Midler, Sade and more

From the effects of fame on family and vice versa to motherhood and drugs, sex, and romance, Lisa Robinson has discussed every taboo topic with nearly every significant living female artist to pass through the pages of Rolling Stone and Vanity Fair. Here, her interviews with and observations of fabulous female pop and rock stars, from Tina Turner and Alanis Morissette to Rihanna, show how these powerhouse women, all with vastly different life experiences, fell in love with music, seized their ambitions, and changed pop culture.

Grouped by topic, ranging from hair and makeup to sexual and emotional abuse, Robinson’s interviews reveal each individual artist’s sense of humor, private hopes, and personal devastations—along with the grit and fire that brought each woman to the stage in the first place and empowered her to leave her mark on the world.

Prior to joining Vanity Fair in 1999, Lisa Robinson was a music columnist for the New York Post and the New York Times, the host of syndicated radio and TV shows, and editor of several rock magazines. From 2000–2006, she produced Vanity Fair’s music portfolios. Along with her “Hot Tracks” column, she has written cover stories on Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Kendrick Lamar, and Justin Bieber; profiles on Eminem, U2, and Serge Gainsbourg, and oral histories of Motown, disco and Laurel Canyon.
Paying the Land

Joe Sacco

From the “heir to R. Crumb and Art Spiegelman” (Economist), a masterful work of comics journalism about indigenous North America, resource extraction, and our debt to the natural world

The Dene have lived in the vast Mackenzie River Valley since time immemorial, by their account. To the Dene, the land owns them, not the other way around, and it is central to their livelihood and very way of being. But the subarctic Canadian Northwest Territories are home to valuable resources, including oil, gas, and diamonds. With mining came jobs and investment, but also road-building, pipelines, and toxic waste, which scarred the landscape, and alcohol, drugs, and debt, which deformed a way of life.

In Paying the Land, Joe Sacco travels the frozen North to reveal a people in conflict over the costs and benefits of development. The mining boom is only the latest assault on indigenous culture: Sacco recounts the shattering impact of a residential school system that aimed to “remove the Indian from the child”; the destructive process that drove the Dene from the bush into settlements and turned them into wage laborers; the government land claims stacked against the Dene Nation; and their uphill efforts to revive a wounded culture.

Against a vast and gorgeous landscape that dwarfs all human scale, Paying the Land lends an ear to trappers and chiefs, activists and priests, to tell a sweeping story about money, dependency, loss, and culture—recounted in stunning visual detail by one of the greatest cartoonists alive.

PRAISE

“Staggering . . . a triumph of reporting and honesty and that blessed commodity, good faith. As an artistic matter, it’s a tour de force on every page.”
—Philadelphia Inquirer on Footnotes in Gaza

“There is virtually no precedent for what he does . . . Sacco is legitimately unique.”
—David Hajdu, New York Review of Books

“Sacco's brilliant, excruciating books of war reportage are potent territory. . . . He shows how much that is crucial to our lives a book can hold.”

Joe Sacco is the author of Footnotes in Gaza, for which he received an Eisner Award and the Ridenhour Book Prize, as well as Palestine, Journalism, Safe Area Goražde (also an Eisner winner), and other books. His works have been translated into fourteen languages and his comics reporting has appeared in Details, The New York Times Magazine, Time, and Harpers. He lives in Portland, Oregon.
The People, No

A Brief History of Anti-Populism

Thomas Frank

From the prophetic author of the best-selling What’s the Matter with Kansas? and Listen, Liberal, comes a mind-changing reclamation of the true American tradition of populism—and an essential cri...

In this latest demystification of American political life, Thomas Frank shows that populism, far from being the problem of our time, is the cure for what ails us. Tracing the history of this mass democratic movement through the titanic social struggles of the last century, he reveals a force for enlightenment and liberation—indeed, the foundation of American democracy itself, of its promise of a decent life for all.

No less important, Frank dissects the purpose of the elite groups that have opposed populism over the decades—the ones who say “the people, no.” Following the arc of anti-populism from the frantic days of the 1890s to just last week, Frank describes how its proponents have repeatedly cast hopeful democratic movements in the same harsh light, demonizing them with the same fears, defaming them with the same insults. In a claim that is sure to be controversial, Frank shows how anti-populism has actually changed sides, shifting from a doctrine of conservative wealth in the 1890s to the faith of the liberal elite today.

Rarely does a work of history contain startling implications for the present, but in The People, No Frank pulls off that explosive effect by showing us that everything we think we know about populism is wrong. The People, No sounds a cautionary note for our time, a warning against the pundits who tell us to fear the plain people, to keep to the path of centrist complacency, to let the experts handle our l...

PRAISE

Praise for Thomas Frank’s Listen, Liberal:

The “Most Prescient” Book of the Year
—The Washington Post

“A serious political critique and thoroughly entertaining.”
—The New York Times Book Review (front page)

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.
Science Fictions
How Fraud, Bias, Incompetence, and Hype Undermine the Search for Truth

Stuart Ritchie

An insider’s view of science reveals why many scientific results are illusory—and how the field can be reformed

Science is how we understand the world. Yet critical flaws in peer review, statistical methods, and publication procedures have rendered a shocking number of scientific studies useless—or worse, badly misleading. Drawing on surprising new data from “meta-science” (the science of how science works), Science Fictions documents the errors that have distorted our knowledge on issues as varied as cancer biology, nutrition, genetics, immigration, education, and extraterrestrial life.

Stuart Ritchie’s own work challenging an infamous psychology experiment helped spark what’s now widely known as the “replication crisis,” the realization that many supposed scientific truths cannot be relied upon. Now, he reveals the very human biases, mistakes, and deceptions that undermine the scientific endeavor: from contamination in science labs to the secret vaults of failed studies that nobody gets to see; from outright cheating with fake data to the more common but still ruinous temptation to exaggerate mediocre results for a shot at scientific fame.

Yet Science Fictions is far from a counsel of despair. Rather, it’s a defense of the scientific method against the pressures and perverse incentives that lead scientists to bend the rules. By illustrating the ways that science goes wrong, Ritchie gives us the knowledge we need to spot dubious research, and points the way to reforms that might save science from itself.

PRAISE

Praise for Stuart Ritchie’s Intelligence

“The best available short introduction to intelligence, and word for word the most effective.”
—James Thompson, University College London

“A wonderful, readable summary of what we know about intelligence.”
—Dylan Wiliam, UCL Institute of Education

Stuart Ritchie is a lecturer in the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre at King’s College London. His main research focus is human intelligence: how it relates to the brain, how much it’s affected by genetics, and how much it can be improved by factors such as education. He is a noted supporter of the Open Science movement, and has worked on tools to reform scientific practice and help scientists become more transparent when reporting their results.
**Somewhere in the Unknown World**

*A Collective Refugee Memoir*

Kao Kalia Yang

A themed collection of stories of refugees from around the world who have converged on Minneapolis, collected and told by the award-winning author of *The Latehomecomer* and *The Song Poet*.

Back in the 1980s, Minnesota's University Avenue was barely clinging to life. Lined with church thrift stores, boarded windows, and prostitutes leaning against streetlights, the sidewalks were thick with bloody, discarded needles. Today, University Avenue is a bustling commercial center, a hub of Halal butchers, Mexican carnicerias, grocery stores selling delicacies to new arrivals from Ethiopia and Bosnia, Iraq and China. A dying strip of America has been revived by the stateless.

As the country's doors are closing and nativism is on the rise, Kao Kalia Yang—herself a refugee from Laos—set out to tell the stories of the refugees to whom University Avenue is now home. Here are people who have summoned the energy and determination to make a new life even as they carry an extraordinary burden of hardship, loss, and emotional damage: Irina, an ex-Soviet, who still hoards magical American fruit—bananas!—under her bed; the Thai brothers of Vinai and their business selling purified water to gullible immigrants; the Kareni boys, who have brought Minnesota to basketball glory.

In Yang's exquisite, poetic, and necessary telling, the voices of refugees from all over the world restore humanity to America's strangers and redeem its long history of welcome.

**PRAISE**

“A remarkable book . . . *The Song Poet* reaffirms Yang’s status as an exceptional storyteller, one whose work reminds us that big, timeless truths reveal themselves when we pay attention to small, specific details.”—*Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

“ Inventive and touching . . . An elegantly written, moving testament to so many aspects of the human experience.”—*Pioneer Press* (St. Paul)

Kao Kalia Yang is the author of *The Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father*, which received the 2017 Minnesota Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Chautauqua Prize, and the PEN USA Literary Award. Her previous book, *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, also received the Minnesota Book Award. Yang, a regular contributor to NPR's *On Belief*, lives in Minneapolis.
Hotbox

Inside Catering, the Food World’s Riskiest Business

Matt and Ted Lee

Now in paperback: the beloved Lee Brothers take on the wild, competitive world of high-end catering, exposing secrets of the food business that no home cook or restaurant chef has experienced.

Hotbox reveals the real-life drama that takes place behind cavernous event spaces and soaring white tents, where cooking conditions have more in common with a mobile army hospital than a restaurant (think *M*A*S*H* instead of *Top Chef*) and clients tend to be highly emotional and demanding (think mother-of-the-bride). The Lee brothers, known for their hip take on Southern cooking, steeped themselves in the culture of catering for four years, getting to know the business from the inside out. It’s a realm where you find eccentric characters, working in extreme conditions under insane stress, who must produce magical events and instantly adapt when, for instance, the host’s toast runs for a full hour or a hail storm suddenly erupts.

Working undercover at a catering firm, the Lee brothers take you from black-tie galas to celebrity-filled Hamptons cookouts, investigating the outer reaches of the industries that make the galas happen, such as an industrial park in New Jersey, where a party rental company’s warehouse flashes to life every day at three a.m. with the arrival of the silverware crew. They also introduce you to the incredible DeSoto brothers, who pioneered hotbox cooking, and trace the history of catering back to when crepe parties were all the rage. You’ll never attend a party—or entertain on your own—in the same way after reading this book.

PRAISE

“Hotbox is the *Kitchen Confidential* of the big-ticket catering world.”
—The New York Times

“Lively . . . [with] just the right combination of sophistication and self-deprecation [to] show us what really goes on behind the scenes.”
—The Wall Street Journal

The Lee Bros. are the authors of several bestselling cookbooks: *Charleston Kitchen*, *Southern Cookbook*, and *Simple Fresh Southern*. They have written for the *New York Times*, *Food & Wine*, *Travel + Leisure*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Gourmet*, *Saveur*, and other publications, and have appeared on many TV shows, including Anthony Bourdain’s *No Reservations* and *The Today Show*. They have won six James Beard and IACP Awards.
The British Are Coming

The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777

Rick Atkinson

The paperback edition of the New York Times bestseller that the Wall Street Journal said was “chock full of momentous events and larger-than-life characters.”

Rick Atkinson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning An Army at Dawn and two other superb books about World War II, has long been admired for his ability to write deeply researched, stunningly vivid narrative history. Now he turns his attention to a new war, and in the first volume of the Revolution Trilogy he tells the story of the first twenty-one months of America’s violent effort to forge a new nation. From the battles at Lexington and Concord in spring 1775 to those at Trenton and Princeton in winter 1776-77, American militiamen and then the ragged Continental Army take on the world’s most formidable fighting force and struggle to avoid annihilation. It is a gripping saga alive with astonishing characters: Henry Knox, the former bookseller with an uncanny understanding of artillery; Nathanael Greene, the blue-eyed bumpkin who becomes one of America’s greatest battle captains; Benjamin Franklin, the self-made man who proves himself the nation’s wiliest diplomat; George Washington, the commander in chief who learns the difficult art of leadership when the war seems all but lost. The story is also told from the British perspective, which makes the mortal conflict between the redcoats and the rebels all the more compelling.

Full of riveting details and untold stories, The British Are Coming gives stirring new life to the first act of our country’s creation drama.

PRAISE

“To say that Atkinson can tell a story is like saying Sinatra can sing. . . . It is as if Ken Burns somehow gained access to a time machine, traveled back to the Revolutionary era, then captured historical scenes on film as they were happening.” —Joseph J. Ellis, The New York Times Book Review (front page)

“[Atkinson has a] felicity for turning history into literature. . . . The more that Americans are reminded by Atkinson and other supreme practitioners of the historians’ craft that their nation was not made by flimsy people, the less likely it is to be flimsy.” —George F. Will, The Washington Post

Rick Atkinson is the bestselling author of the Liberation Trilogy—An Army at Dawn, The Day of Battle, and The Guns at Last Light—as well as The Long Gray Line and other books. His many awards include Pulitzer Prizes for history and journalism. A former staff writer and senior editor at The Washington Post, he lives in Washington, D.C.
Trust Exercise

A Novel

Susan Choi

Pulitzer finalist Susan Choi’s multi-part, narrative-upending novel, in which "the long reverberations of adolescent experience, the complexities of consent and coercion, and the inherent unrelia...

In an American suburb in the early 1980s, students at a highly competitive performing arts high school struggle and thrive in a rarified bubble, ambitiously pursuing music, movement, Shakespeare, and, particularly, their acting classes. When within this striving “Brotherhood of the Arts,” two freshmen, David and Sarah, fall headlong into love, their passion does not go unnoticed—or untold with—by anyone, especially not by their charismatic acting teacher, Mr. Kingsley.

The outside world of family life and economic status, of academic pressure and of their future adult lives, fails to penetrate this school’s walls—until it does, in a shocking spiral of events that catapults the action forward in time and flips the premise upside down. What the reader believes to have happened to David and Sarah and their friends is not entirely true—though it’s not false, either. It takes until the book’s stunning coda for the final piece of the puzzle to fall into place—revealing truths that will resonate long after the final sentence.

As captivating and tender as it is surprising, Susan Choi’s Trust Exercise will incite heated conversations about fiction and truth and about friendships and loyalties, leaving readers with wiser understandings of the true capacities of adolescents and of the powers and responsibilities of adults.

PRAISE

“Enlists your heart as well as your mind. . . . It is packed with wild moments of grace and fear and abandon.”

— The New York Times

“Perhaps the best [novel] this year. . . . Read it once for pleasure, and then again to turn up all the brilliant Easter eggs.”

— New York Magazine

“Intelligent and layered. . . . Dramatic and memorable.”

— The New Yorker

Susan Choi is the author of the novels My Education, American Woman, A Person of Interest, and The Foreign Student. Her work has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award and winner of the PEN/W.G. Sebald Award and the Asian-American Literary Award for fiction. With David Remnick, she co-edited Wonderful Town: New York Stories from The New Yorker.
The Last Book Party

Karen Dukess

A propulsive tale of ambition and romance, set in the publishing world of 1980’s New York and the timeless beaches of Cape Cod.

In the summer of 1987, 25-year-old Eve Rosen is an aspiring writer languishing in a low-level assistant job, unable to shake the shadow of growing up with her brilliant brother. With her professional ambitions floundering, Eve jumps at the chance to attend an early summer gathering at the Cape Cod home of famed New Yorker writer Henry Grey and his poet wife, Tillie. Dazzled by the guests and her burgeoning crush on the hosts’ artistic son, Eve lands a new job as Henry Grey’s research assistant and an invitation to Henry and Tillie’s exclusive and famed "Book Party"— where attendees dress as literary characters. But by the night of the party, Eve discovers uncomfortable truths about her summer entanglements and understands that the literary world she so desperately wanted to be a part of is not at all what it seems.

A page-turning, coming-of-age story, written with a lyrical sense of place and a profound appreciation for the sustaining power of books, THE LAST BOOK PARTY shows what happens when youth and experience collide and what it takes to find your own voice.

With a background in newspaper and magazine journalism, Karen Dukess spent the last eight years as a speechwriter on gender equality at the United Nations Development Programme. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and lives in Pelham, New York.
Ten Innings at Wrigley

The Wildest Ballgame Ever, with Baseball on the Brink

Kevin Cook

The dramatic story of a legendary 1979 slugfest between the Chicago Cubs and the Philadelphia Phillies, full of runs, hits, and subplots, on the cusp of a new era in baseball history

It was a Thursday at Chicago’s Wrigley Field, mostly sunny with the wind blowing out. Nobody expected an afternoon game between the Philadelphia Phillies and Chicago Cubs on May 17, 1979, to be much more than a lazy early-season contest matching two teams heading in opposite directions—the first-place Phillies and the Cubs, those lovable losers—until they combined for thirteen runs in the first inning. “The craziest game ever,” one player called it. “And then the second inning started.”

Ten Innings at Wrigley is Kevin Cook’s vivid account of a game that could only have happened at this ballpark, in this era, with this colorful cast of heroes and heels: Hall of Famers Mike Schmidt and Bruce Sutter, surly slugger Dave Kingman, hustler Pete Rose, unlucky Bill Buckner, scarred Vietnam vet Garry Maddox, troubled relief pitcher Donnie Moore, clubhouse jester Tug McGraw, and two managers pulling out what was left of their hair.

It was the highest-scoring ballgame in a century, and much more than that. Cook reveals the human stories behind a contest the New York Times called “the wildest in modern history” and shows how money, muscles, and modern statistics were about to change baseball forever.

PRAISE

“A wonderful book . . . It is funny, it is personal, it is expertly researched. I learned something on every page.” —Tim Kurkjian, senior writer and analyst, ESPN, and author of I’m Fascinated by Sacrifice Flies

“Every year there is a new crop of baseball books of varying quality, with one or two of them rising above the pack. Ten Innings at Wrigley will be among the 2019 releases that will be read for years.” —Booklist (starred review)

“This book is a must-read for every baseball fan!” —Ryne Sandberg, longtime Chicago Cubs second baseman and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame

Kevin Cook is the author of Electric October and five other books on sports and the people who play them, including Tommy’s Honor and The Dad Report. He is a former senior editor at Sports Illustrated who has written for the New York Times, Men’s Journal, GQ, Playboy, Smithsonian, and many other publications. He has appeared on CNN, ESPN, and Fox TV. An Indiana native, he now lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.
The Lazarus Files

A Cold Case Investigation

Matthew McGough

A deeply-reported, riveting account of a cold case murder in Los Angeles, unsolved until DNA evidence implicated a shocking suspect—a female detective within the LAPD’s own ranks

On February 24, 1986, twenty-nine-year-old newlywed Sherri Rasmussen was murdered in the home she shared with her husband, John. The crime scene suggested a ferocious struggle, and police initially assumed it was a burglary gone awry. Before her death, Sherri had confided to her parents that an ex-girlfriend of John’s, a Los Angeles police officer, had threatened her. The Rasmussens urged the LAPD to investigate the ex-girlfriend, but the original detectives only pursued burglary suspects, and the case went cold.

DNA analysis did not exist when Sherri was murdered. Decades later, a swab from a bite mark on Sherri’s arm revealed her killer was in fact female, not male. A DNA match led to the arrest and conviction of veteran LAPD Detective Stephanie Lazarus, John’s onetime girlfriend.

The Lazarus Files delivers the visceral experience of being inside a real-life murder mystery. McGough reconstructs the lives of Sherri, John, and Stephanie; the love triangle that led to Sherri’s murder; and the homicide investigation that followed. Was Stephanie protected by her fellow officers? What did the LAPD know, and when did they know it? Are there other LAPD cold cases with a police connection that remain unsolved?

PRAISE

“The Lazarus Files is crime writing at its finest. Matthew McGough’s deep dive into one of the most controversial cases in Los Angeles history is expertly researched and recreated in exacting and haunting detail. I was riveted.”—Michael Connelly

“[An] engrossing true crime account . . . This memorable and powerful work deserves a wide readership.”—Publishers Weekly

Matthew McGough has written for the Atlantic, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and more. His acclaimed memoir Bat Boy: Coming of Age with the New York Yankees was the basis of Clubhouse, a primetime TV series on CBS, and his story about his first day with the Yankees was selected to lead the pilot episode of The Moth Radio Hour. Formerly a legal consultant and writer for NBC’s Law & Order, he lives in LA with his wife and children.
Archaeology from Space

How the Future Shapes Our Past

Sarah Parcak

"A crash course in the amazing new science of space archaeology t...

Dr. Sarah Parcak pioneers the young field of satellite archaeology, using futuristic tools to unlock secrets from the past and transform how discoveries are made. As an archaeologist, she has worked on remote sensing projects across twelve countries and four continents, using multispectral and high-resolution satellite imagery analysis to identify thousands of potential archaeological sites. These include previously unknown settlements, roads, fortresses, palaces, tombs, and even potential pyramids. She presently directs major crowdsourcing efforts to map ancient civilizations across Peru and India.

In Archaeology from Space, Sarah describes the field’s evolution, major discoveries, and future potential. From surprise advancements after the declassification of spy photography, to a new map of the mythical Egyptian city of Tanis, she shares her field’s biggest discoveries, revealing why space archaeology is not only exciting but also essential to the preservation of the world’s ancient treasures for future generations.

Sarah’s stories take readers back in time and across borders, into the day-to-day lives of ancient humans who displayed grit, ingenuity, and brilliance across the millennia. We share those same traits, and those same underlying genes. If we heed the lessons of the past, we can shape a vibrant future.

PRAISE

“Parcak’s book provides a revelatory look at an exciting new field.” —Publishers Weekly

“Full of evocative anecdotes and personal insights gleaned from years of experience in dusty trenches as well as behind the computer screen, poring over satellite images . . . Parcak’s love for her work and the people she studies is evident, and her enthusiasm is contagious. From Vikings in Iceland and Canada to amphitheaters in Italy and back to her first love, pharaonic Egypt, she brings both the present and the past to life.” —Science Magazine

Sarah Parcak is a professor of anthropology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, CEO of GlobalXplorer, and director of the Joint Mission to Lisht (Egypt). Her remote sensing work has been featured on National Geographic, BBC, Discovery Channel, The Today Show, and CNN. She lives in Birmingham, Alabama, with her husband and five children.
The Long Accomplishment
A Memoir of Hope and Struggle in Matrimony

Rick Moody

Rick Moody, the award-winning author of The Ice Storm, shares the harrowing true story of the first year of his second marriage in this eventful, month-by-month account.

At this story’s start, Moody, a recovering alcoholic and sexual compulsive with a history of depression, is also the divorced father of a beloved little girl and a man in love; his answer to the question “Would you like to be in a committed relationship?” is, fully and for the first time in his life, “Yes.”

And so his second marriage begins as he emerges, humbly and with tender hopes, from the wreckage of his past, only to be battered by a stormy sea of external troubles—miscarriages, the deaths of friends, and robberies, just for starters. As Moody has put it, “This is a story in which a lot of bad luck is the daily fare of the protagonists, but in which they are also in love.” To Moody’s astonishment, matrimony turns out to be the site of strength in hard times, a vessel infinitely tougher and more durable than any boat these two participants would have traveled by alone. Love buoys the couple, lifting them above their hardships, and the reader is buoyed along with them.

PRAISE

“[The Long Accomplishment feels like] a person pouring out his heart and soul to you from across a table. . . . [A] moving, funny, hauntingly brilliant memoir about marriage. . . . What is more full of grace than that?”
—The San Francisco Chronicle

—Publishers Weekly

“A raw and candid account of the power of committed love to combat life’s sorrows.”
—The Millions

Rick Moody is the author of the award-winning memoir The Black Veil, the novels Hotels of North America, The Four Fingers of Death, The Diviners, Purple America, The Ice Storm, Garden State, and multiple collections of short fiction. Moody is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and his work has been anthologized in Best American Stories, Best American Essays, and the Pushcart Prize anthology. He lives in Rhode Island.
Thin Blue Lie
The Failure of High-Tech Policing

Matt Stroud


American law enforcement is a system in crisis. After explosive protests responding to police brutality and discrimination in Baltimore, Ferguson, and across the country, debate over ways to reform the police continues to rage. For all the disagreement, though, people on both the left and right mostly take for granted that innovative technologies can only help.

As Matt Stroud’s deeply reported book demonstrates, however, tools such as Tasers and body cameras are overhyped and often ineffective. Instead of wrestling with fundamental questions about their work, police leaders have looked to technology as a silver bullet, and allowed corporate interests to insinuate themselves ever deeper into the public institution of law enforcement. Vividly tracing the development and deployment of these technologies, from the infamous Rodney King beating to the present, Thin Blue Lie is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand how policing became what it is today.

PRAISE

“A rousing condemnation of ‘technological solutionism’ in police departments . . . Meticulous and fascinating.”
—Publishers Weekly

“Clearly and compellingly, Stroud show that technological devices may make policing more convenient but do not lead to better outcomes. . . . Wisely, he never loses sight of an overriding reality: that technology is never a substitute for compassionate policing based on trust between cops and the citizens they are paid to serve. . . . A useful book.”
—Kirkus Reviews

Matt Stroud is an investigative reporter with a focus on companies that do business with police departments and prisons. Formerly on staff at the Associated Press, Bloomberg News, and the Verge, he has also written for publications such as the Atlantic, Politico, Buzzfeed, and the Intercept. He lives in Pittsburgh.
Republic of Lies

American Conspiracy Theorists and Their Surprising Rise to Power

Anna Merlan

A riveting tour through the landscape and meaning of modern conspiracy theories, exploring the causes and tenacity of this American malady, from Birthers to Pizzagate and beyond

American society has always been fertile ground for conspiracy theories, but with the election of Donald Trump, previously outlandish ideas suddenly attained legitimacy. Trump himself is a conspiracy enthusiast: from his claim that global warming is a Chinese hoax to the accusations of “fake news,” he has fanned the flames of suspicion.

But it was not by the power of one man alone that these ideas gained new power. Republic of Lies looks beyond the caricatures of conspiracy theorists to explain their tenacity. Without lending the theories validity, Anna Merlan gives a nuanced, sympathetic account of the people behind them, across the political spectrum, and the circumstances that helped them take hold. The lack of a social safety net, inadequate education, bitter culture wars, and years of economic insecurity have created large groups of people who feel forgotten by their government and even besieged by it. Our contemporary conditions are a perfect petri dish for conspiracy movements: a durable, permanent, elastic climate of alienation and resentment. All the while, an army of politicians and conspiracy-peddlers has fanned the flames of suspicion to serve their own ends.

Bringing together penetrating historical analysis and gripping on-the-ground reporting, Republic of Lies transforms our understanding of American paranoia.

Anna Merlan is a journalist specializing in politics, crime, religion, subcultures, and women’s lives. She is a reporter at the Special Projects Desk, the investigative division of Gizmodo Media Group. She was previously a senior reporter at Jezebel and staff writer at the Village Voice and the Dallas Observer. She lives in New York.
What is democracy really? What do we mean when we use the term? And can it ever truly exist? Astra Taylor, hailed as a “New Civil Rights Leader” (LA Times), provides surprising answers.

There is no shortage of democracy, at least in name, and yet it is in crisis everywhere we look. From a cabal of thieving plutocrats in the White House to campaign finance and gerrymandering, it is clear that democracy—specifically the principle of government by and for the people—is not living up to its promise.

In *Democracy Might Not Exist*, Astra Taylor shows that real democracy—fully inclusive and completely egalitarian—has in fact never existed. In a tone that is both philosophical and anecdotal, weaving together history, theory, the stories of individuals, and interviews with such leading thinkers as Cornel West, Danielle Allen, and Slavoj Zizek, Taylor invites us to reexamine the term. Is democracy a means or an end, a process or a set of desired outcomes? What if those outcomes, whatever they may be—peace, prosperity, equality, liberty, an engaged citizenry—can be achieved by non-democratic means? Or if an election leads to a terrible outcome? If democracy means rule by the people, what does it mean to rule and who counts as the people?

The inherent paradoxes are unnamed and unrecognized. By teasing them, *Democracy Might Not Exist* offers a better understanding of what is possible, what we want, and why democracy is so hard to realize.

**PRAISE**


“Taylor clearly communicates her vision of democracy: always in flux, never certain, more an ideal than a realized system, but always something to strive for. This unusual and challenging work is worth the effort.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A collage of people, voices, eras, and emotions . . . optimistic.” —*Vogue*

Astra Taylor is the author of *The People’s Platform* (winner of the American Book Award) and made two documentary films, *Zizek!* and *Examined Life*. Taylor’s writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *n+1*, and *The Baffler*, where she is a contributing editor. She lives in New York City.
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