Test Gods

Virgin Galactic and the Making of a Modern Astronaut

Nicholas Schmidle

In the spirit of *The Right Stuff*, updated for the 21st century, *Test Gods* is an epic story about extreme bravery and sacrifice, about the thin line between lunacy and genius. But most of all is i...

Based on exclusive inside reporting, *New Yorker* writer Nicholas Schmidle tells the remarkable story of the test pilots, engineers, and visionaries behind Virgin Galactic’s campaign to build a space tourism company. Schmidle follows a handful of characters—Mark Stucky, Virgin’s lead test pilot; Richard Branson, the eccentric billionaire funding the venture; Mike Moses, the grounded, unflappable president; Mike Alsbury, the test pilot who lost his life; and others—through personal and professional dramas, in pursuit of their collective goal: to make space tourism a reality.

Along the way, Schmidle weaves his relationship with his father—a former fighter pilot and decorated war hero—into the tragedies and triumphs that Branson’s team encounters out in the Mojave Desert as they design, build, and test-fly their private rocketship. Gripping and novelistic, *Test Gods* leads us, through human drama, into a previously unseen world—and beyond.

Nicholas Schmidle is a writer at the *New Yorker*, and the author of *To Live or to Perish Forever: Two Tumultuous Years in Pakistan*. His work has also appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Atlantic*, *Slate*, the *Washington Post*, and many others. Schmidle has been a National Magazine Award finalist, a two-time Livingston Award finalist, and winner of a Kurt Schork Award. He is a former fellow at the Institute of Current World Affairs, the New America Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Center for I...
Chasing History

A Kid in the Newsroom

Carl Bernstein

The Pulitzer Prize-winning co-author of All the President’s Men—the chronicle of the investigative report about the Watergate break-in and resultant political scandal which led to President Richa...

“Carl Bernstein, Washington Star.”

With these words, the sixteen-year-old senior at Montgomery Blair High School set himself apart from the high school crowd and set himself on a track that would define his life. Carl Bernstein was far from the best student in his class—in fact, he was in danger of not graduating at all—but he had a talent for writing, a burning desire to know things that other people didn’t, and a flair for being in the right place at the right time. Those qualities got him inside the newsroom at the Washington Star, the afternoon paper in the nation’s capital, in the summer of 1960, a pivotal time for America, for Washington, D.C., and for a young man in a hurry on the cusp of adulthood.

Chasing History opens up the world of the early 1960s as Bernstein experienced it, chasing after grisly crimes with the paper’s police reporter, gathering colorful details at a John F. Kennedy campaign rally, running afoul of union rules, and confronting racial tensions as the civil rights movement gained strength. We learn alongside him as he comes to understand the life of a newspaperman, and we share his pride as he hunts down information, gets his first byline, and discovers that he has a talent for the job after all.

By turns exhilarating, funny, tense, and poignant, Chasing History shows us a country coming into its own maturity along with young Carl Bernstein, and when he strikes out on his own after five years at the St...

Carl Bernstein is the author or coauthor of five bestselling books, most notably All the President’s Men, written with Bob Woodward. He, Woodward, and the Washington Post were awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for breaking and investigating the Watergate story, which led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and set the standard for modern investigative reporting. He is also the author of biographies of Pope John Paul II and Hillary Clinton and a memoir of his family’s experi...
Checkmate in Berlin
The Cold War Showdown That Shaped the Modern World
Giles Milton

The lively, immersive story of the race to seize Berlin in the aftermath of World War II that fired the starting gun for the Cold War, by the internationally bestselling master of popular history...

Berlin’s fate was sealed at the 1945 Yalta Conference: the city, along with the rest of Germany, was to be carved up between the victorious powers—American, British, French, and Soviet. On paper, it seemed a pragmatic solution. In reality, now that the four powers were no longer united by the common purpose of defeating Germany, they wasted little time reverting to their pre-war hostility toward and suspicion of each other. The veneer of civility between Allies and Soviets was to break down in spectacular fashion. Rival systems, rival ideologies, and rival personalities ensured that Berlin became an explosive battleground.

The warring leaders who ran the zones that Berlin and Germany were divided into were charismatic, mercurial, larger-than-life men you’d sooner expect to find in a Quentin Tarantino movie than a history book, and Giles Milton brings them all to rich and thrilling life—resourced from their diaries, memoirs, and unpublished papers. We meet men like America’s explosive Frank “Howlin” Howley, a blunt sharp-tongued colonel with a relish for mischief who detested all Russians, and the Soviet Vassily Sokolovsky, who motored around Berlin in a luxury, American-made LaSalle sedan. Worldly and urbane, Sokolovsky sparkled with jokes, witty aphorisms, and folksy Russian proverbs and peppered his speech with quotes from the novels of Jane Austen.

Checkmate in Berlin will recount the first battle of the Cold War as we’ve ne...

PRAISE

Praise for Soldier, Sailor, Frogman, Spy, Airman, Gangster, Kill or Die

“Earns its place in a crowded field by bringing a completely fresh, very human approach . . . It has a wonderful immediacy and vitality—living history in every sense.”
—Anthony Horowitz, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Alex Rider Adventure series, in the Wall Street Journal

Praise for Churchill’s Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

“Milton is a meticulous researcher and masterful storyteller. Churchill’s Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare, with its ghastly details and dollops of droll British humor, will reward readers who appreciate military history and good writ...
One Two Three

A Novel

Laurie Frankel

Laurie Frankel, author of the Reese’s Book Club x Hello Sunshine Book Pick This Is How It Always Is that has sold over 350,000 copies, comes a novel for readers of Barbara Kingsolver, Liane Moriarty...

From the New York Times bestselling author of This Is How It Always Is, a Reese's Book Club x Hello Sunshine Book Pick, comes a timely, topical novel about love and family that will make you laugh and cry...and laugh again.

How do you let go of the past when the past won't let go of you?

Everyone knows everyone in the tiny town of Bourne. But the Mitchell sisters are especially beloved, and not just because they’re teenage triplets. Mirabel is the smartest person anyone has ever met, and no one is fooled by her wheelchair or her Voice app into thinking otherwise. Monday is the town’s purveyor of books now that the library’s closed—tell her the book you think you want, and she’ll pull the one you actually do from the microwave or her underwear drawer. Mab’s job is hardest of all: get good grades, get into college, get out of Bourne.

For a few weeks seventeen years ago, Bourne was national news when its water turned green and was declared unfit for use, but it was too late for its residents. And just when it seems life might go on the same forever, the first moving truck anyone’s seen in years pulls up. Then a new student enrolls at Bourne Memorial High. He’s smart and handsome and exciting—and the Mitchell family’s sworn enemy. And soon, in a town where nothing ever changes, suddenly everything does.

PRAISE

“One Two Three is a compelling and heartwarming story of the power of friendship and sisterly love to both heal us and to change the world. This story is told in the alternating voices of three teenage sisters whose lives have been affected by the chemical poisoning that continues to devastate their town. As they learn more about the town’s history and the truth of what has happened to them, they begin to question whether their situation is something to adapt to and accept, or whether other futures are possible. I loved Laurie Frankel’s novel and can’t wait to share it with readers.”

—Karen Maeda Allman, Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA

“One...

Laurie Frankel is the New York Times bestselling, award-winning author of three previous novels, The Atlas of Love, Goodbye for Now, and the Reese’s Book Club x Hello Sunshine Book Pick This Is How It Always Is, which has sold over 350,000 copies. Frankel lives in Seattle with her husband,
Big Vape
The Incendiary Rise of Juul
Jamie Ducharme

For readers of Bad Blood and The Smartest Guys in the Room, an eye-opening work of narrative nonfiction chronicling the rise of Juul and the birth of a new addiction.

It began with a smoke break. James Monsees and Adam Bowen were two ambitious graduate students at Stanford, and in between puffs after class, they dreamed of a “safe cigarette.” Their solution was the Juul, a sleek, modern device similar to a thumb drive that could vaporize nicotine into a conveniently potent dose. The company they built around that device, Juul Labs, would go on to become a $38 billion company, selling sixteen million Juul devices in 2017 alone and addicting a whole new generation of underage tobacco users.

But as their sales skyrocketed, a health crisis broke out with vape users falling ill from a mysterious lung illnesses, and Juul Labs began to crumble internally due to infighting, backstabbing, and betrayal. Time magazine reporter Jamie Ducharme traces how the duo of Monsees and Bowen created Big Vape—along with the explosion of e-cigarette use in America—and how, in the process, they went from public health visionaries and Silicon Valley wunderkinds to two of the most reviled businessmen in the country.

With rigorous reporting and clear-eyed prose that reads like a nonfiction thriller, Big Vape uses the dramatic rise and fall of Juul to tell a larger story of big business, big tobacco, and the high cost of a product that was too good to be true.

PRAISE
“Big Vape is more than just brilliantly reported and elegantly written. It is also a richly populated book—filled not just with human characters, but with matters of science, finance, invention, ambition, ethics, hubris and blazing ingenuity. Even the cunning little product at the center of the story—the Juul itself—becomes a sort of character in Jamie Ducharme’s hands. Ducharme brings the best skills of journalist and lyricist to tell an exceedingly important story—and to tell it irresistibly.”
—Jeffrey Kluger, bestselling co-author of Apollo 13 and author of Apollo 8

Jamie Ducharme is a journalist at Time magazine where she covers health, science, medicine, breaking news, politics, and business.
The Burning Blue
The Untold Story of Christa McAuliffe and NASA's Challenger Disaster
Kevin Cook

The untold story of a national trauma—NASA's Challenger explosion—and what really happened to America’s Teacher in Space, illuminating the tragic cost of humanity setting its sight on the stars

You’ve seen the pictures. You think you know what happened. You do not.

On the morning of January 28, 1986, NASA’s space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after blasting off from Cape Canaveral. Christa McAuliffe, America’s “Teacher in Space,” was instantly killed, along with the other six members of the mission. Right? Wrong.

Thirty-five years after NASA’s revitalization program literally went up in smoke, Kevin Cook uncovers the untold story of the disastrous order to launch on an ice-cold Florida day. For the first time, he takes readers inside the shuttle for those agonizing two minutes and forty-five seconds after the fire which, yes, some of the astronauts survived.

But this is more than a simple corrective to a now-dimming memory. Centering on McAuliffe, a charmingly ordinary civilian on the cusp of history, The Burning Blue animates the mission’s colorful cast of characters, which featured the second female astronaut (who was also the first Jewish astronaut), the second Black one, and the first Asian-American and Buddhist in space. Drawing intimate portraits of the people wearing the spacesuits and detailing how they earned the right to suit up, Cook makes readers temporarily forget the tragedy toward which the tale is hurting. Infused with drama, immediacy, and compelling characters, The Burning Blue reveals the human price paid for politics and capital-P Progress on that ill-fated, unforgettable morning.

Kevin Cook is the author of Tommy’s Honor, Ten Innings at Wrigley, Titanic Thompson, and Kitty Genovese. He has written for the New York Times, Men’s Journal, GQ, Smithsonian, and many other publications and appeared on CNN, NPR, and Fox News. An Indiana native, he now lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.
Dear Miss Metropolitan

A Novel

Carolyn Ferrell

Introducing an extraordinary and original writer whose first novel explores the intersections of grief and rage, personal strength and healing—and what we owe one another.

Fern seeks refuge from her mother’s pill-popping and boyfriends via Soul Train; Gwen finds salvation in the music of Prince much to her congregation’s dismay and Jesenia, miles ahead of her classmates at her gifted and talented high school, is a brainy and precocious enigma. None of this matters to Boss Man, the monster who abducts them and holds them captive in a dilapidated house in Queens.

On the night they are finally rescued, throngs line the block gawking and claiming ignorance. Among them is lifetime resident Miss Metropolitan, advice columnist for the local weekly, but how could anyone who fancies herself a “newspaperwoman” have missed a horror story unfolding right across the street? And why is it that only two of the three girls—now women—were found? The mystery haunts the two remaining “victim girls” who are subjected to the further trauma of becoming symbols as they continuously adapt to their present and their unrelenting past.

Like Emma Donoghue’s Room, Ferrell’s Dear Miss Metropolitan gives voice to characters surviving unimaginable tragedy. Inspired by real events, the story is inventively revealed before, during, and after the ordeal in this singular and urgent novel.

PRAISE

“Such a beautifully rendered and provocative novel. Ferrell has given me a world I could never have imagined filled with so many people I feel like I’ve always known. A stunner.”—Jacqueline Woodson, bestselling author of Red at the Bone, Another Brooklyn and National Book Award winner Brown Girl Dreaming

Carolyn Ferrell is the author of the short-story collection, Don’t Erase Me, which was awarded the Art Seidenbaum Award of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize program, the John C. Zacharis Award given by Ploughshares, and the Quality Paperback Book Prize for First Fiction. She has also received grants from the Fulbright Association, German Academic Exchange (DAAD), City University of New York MAGNET Program, and National Endowment for the Arts. Ferrell’s stories have been anthologized in Best Ameri...
Leaving Breezy Street

A Memoir

Brenda Myers-Powell with April Reynolds

The stunning account of Chicago’s Dreamcatcher Foundation founder Brenda Myers-Powell’s brutal, beautiful life, Leaving Breezy Street is a critical addition to the American canon, because this is...

Fourteen-years-old, poor, mother dead, two babies to feed and clothe, and a grandmother who is, well, not full of motherly kindness, to put it mildly. What’s a girl to do?

When Brenda Myers hit the streets of the South Side of Chicago she was barely a teenager. But she was pretty as hell, and funny, and determined to make a living. For the next twenty or more years, she moved all around the country—to New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, L.A., even border towns in Canada—finding new pimps, parties, drugs, and endless, fresh heartache. And all the while, she would try to make her way back to her daughters. And she would also try to find a way forward—to a life of dignity, respect and self-respect, truth, and most of all, loving kindness. And she would find it.

What do we know about those we call sex workers, prostitutes, and a host of uglier names? We know what reporters and the showrunners of premium cable shows reveal. But until Leaving Breezy Street we have not heard from a woman who has lived—and survived—this life. What is like? How does it work? How do you get into it? And how can anyone climb out?

Leaving Breezy Street is an unforgettable memoir that belongs on that special shelf alongside Jeannette Walls’s The Glass Castle, Ishmael Beah’s A Long Way Gone, and James McBride’s The Color of Water. We have no say into which worlds we are born. But sometimes we can find a way out.

Includes color photographs.

Brenda Myers-Powell has been advocating for victims of sex trafficking since 1997. She is the co-founder and executive director of the Dreamcatcher Foundation, and has sat on the board of numerous organizations. In 2020, she was selected to serve on the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Brenda’s work with Dreamcatcher and victims was the focus of the Sundance Award–winning documentary Dreamcatcher.

April Reynolds teaches philosophy and creative writing at New York University. Her first...
Critical acclaim author and psychoanalyst Mikita Brottman offers literary true crime writing at its best, taking us into the life of a murderer after his conviction—when most stories end but ... 

On February 21, 1992, 22-year-old Brian Bechtold walked into a police station in Port St. Joe, Florida and confessed that he’d shot and killed his parents in their family home in Silver Spring, Maryland. He said he’d been possessed by the devil. He was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia and ruled “not criminally responsible” for the murders on grounds of insanity.

But after the trial, where do the "criminally insane" go? Brottman reveals Brian's inner life leading up to the murder, as well as his complicated afterlife in a maximum security psychiatric hospital, where he is neither imprisoned nor free. During his 27 years at the hospital, Brian has tried to escape and been shot by police, and has witnessed three patient-on-patient murders. He's experienced the drugging of patients beyond recognition, a sadistic system of rewards and punishments, and the short-lived reign of a crazed psychiatrist-turned-stalker.

In the tradition of One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, Couple Found Slain is an insider’s account of life in the underworld of forensic psych wards in America and the forgotten lives of those held there, often indefinitely.

PRAISE

Praise for An Unexplained Death

“This is a learned, lucid, and finally heartbreaking account of urban obsession. It’s David Fincher’s film Zodiac crossed with accounts of Judge Crater’s disappearance crossed with Ms. Brottman’s wild take on the unknowability of life and the necessity of staying obsessed. Ms. Brottman is a groove—and so is her book.”—James Ellroy

 “[A] page-turning look at the darker impulses of the human psyche.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Brottman meticulously follows any and all threads she can . . . but Brottman’s book is, sneakily, more than just a true crime narrative.”—NPR

Mikita Brottman, PhD, is an Oxford-educated scholar and psychoanalyst and the author of several previous books, including An Unexplained Death, The Great Grisby, and The Maximum Security Book Club. She is a professor of humanities at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore.
Yoga Pant Nation

A Novel

Laurie Gelman

The hilarious, irreverent Jen Dixon is class mom—again—for her son’s fifth grade year, and a class bully, spin-teacher training, and her irresistible granddaughter keep her on her toes and perpet...

The now beloved hero of Laurie Gelman’s Class Mom and You’ve Been Volunteered has a lot on her plate this year, from childcare duties for her daughter’s two-year-old to her determined mission to become a spin instructor. When her husband’s ex-wife shows up to her first ever class as a full-fledged teacher—and compliments her performance!—she can’t help but wonder what the catch is.

Throw in a mandate from the PTA president to raise $10,000 for the fifth graders’ new tablets and her granddaughter’s other grandmother (whom no one has ever met) visiting for Christmas, and Jen is going to need more than her regular spin class to get her through the year. But as ever, humor is her best stress relief. Her acerbic emails to the class parents and friendly spars with her daughter over how organic is organic-enough for baby food will have you laughing out loud and texting Jen’s best lines to your friends.

PRAISE

Praise for Laurie Gelman

“Much as Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle exposed the seedy underside of the meatpacking industry, Class Mom exposes the underside of room parenting. . . . But, unlike The Jungle, Gelman’s novel gives readers a lot to laugh about, including some very, very funny emails. . . . In the end, it's impossible not to root for Jen as a fellow foot soldier in the guerrilla war against so-called perfect mothers.”—The New York Times Book Review

“Irreverent and hilarious.” —The New York Post

Laurie Gelman was born and raised in the Great White North. She spent twenty-five years as a broadcaster in both Canada and the United States before trying her hand at writing novels. The author of Class Mom and You’ve Been Volunteered, Laurie has appeared on Live with Kelly and Ryan, Watch What Happens Live, and The Talk, among others. She lives in New York City with her husband, Michael Gelman, and two teenage daughters.
T: The Story of Testosterone, the Hormone that Dominates and Divides Us

The Story of the Hormone that Dominates, Divides, and Drives Us

Carole Hooven

Testosterone is the most mythologized and misunderstood hormone, but Harvard evolutionary biologist Carole Hooven offers riveting human stories and cutting-edge research to reveal the far-reaching effects of testosterone.

The biological source of virility and masculinity has inspired fascination, investigation, and controversy since antiquity. From the eunuchs in the royal courts of ancient China to the booming market for “elixirs” of youth in nineteenth-century Europe, humans have been obsessed with identifying and manipulating what we now know as testosterone. And the trends show no signs of slowing down—the modern market for testosterone supplements is booming. Thanks to this history and the methods of modern science, today we have a rich body of research about testosterone’s effects in both men and women.

The science is clear: testosterone is a major, invisible player in our relationships, sex lives, athletic abilities, childhood play, gender transitions, parenting roles, violent crime, and so much more. But there is still a lot of pushback to the idea that it does, in fact, cause sex differences and significantly influence behavior.

Hooven argues in T that acknowledging testosterone as a potent force in society doesn’t reinforce stifling gender norms or patriarchal values. Testosterone and evolution work together to produce a huge variety of human behavior, and that includes a multitude of ways to be masculine or feminine. Understanding the science sheds light on how we work and relate to one another, how we express anger and love, and how we can fight bias and problematic behavior to build a more fair society.

Carole Hooven, PhD, is lecturer and codirector of undergraduate studies in the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. She earned her PhD at Harvard, studying sex differences and testosterone, and has taught there ever since. Hooven has received numerous teaching awards, and her popular Hormones and Behavior class was named one of the Harvard Crimson’s “top ten tried and true.”
The thrilling, long awaited return of the #1 New York Times bestselling author of THE REVENANT

In 1866, the country barely recovered from the Civil War, new war breaks out on the western frontier—a clash of cultures between a young, ambitious nation intent on fulfilling what it perceives as its destiny and the Native tribes who have lived on the land for centuries. Colonel Henry Carrington arrives in Montana’s Powder River Valley to lead the U.S. Army in defending the opening of a new road for gold miners and settlers Carrington intends to build a fort in the middle of critical hunting grounds, the home of the Lakota. Red Cloud, one of the Lakota’s most respected chiefs, and Crazy Horse, a young but visionary warrior, understand full well the implications of this invasion. For the Lakota, the stakes are their home, their culture, their lives.

As fall bleeds into winter, Crazy Horse leads a small war party that confronts Colonel Carrington’s soldiers with near constant attacks. Red Cloud, meanwhile, seeks to build the tribal alliances that he knows will be necessary to defeat the soldiers. Colonel Carrington, intent on building his fort, seeks to hold together a U.S. Army beset with internal discord. Carrington’s officers, experienced veterans of the Civil War, are skeptical of their commander’s strategy, none more so than Lieutenant George Washington Grummond, who longs to fight a foe he dismisses as inferior in all ways. And the rank-and-file soldiers are still divided by the residue of civil war, and tempted to desert...

PRAISE

"Like The Revenant, Ridgeline tackles another huge legend of the west and sets it right. With a memorable cast of characters, Punke tells the story of the Fetterman massacre, one of the final and most significant Native American victories over the US Army. A highly compelling page turner; you won't be able to put it down.”
--Philipp Meyer, author of The Son and American Rust

"In his kaleidoscopic telling of a little-known battle on the sacred Lakota hunting grounds of Wyoming, Punke has created a modern classic and worthy successor to The Revenant. Brave, thrilling, and heartbreaking, Ridgeline brings the history of conquest in the American Wes...

Michael Punke is the author of the novel The Revenant, #1 New York Times Bestseller and basis for the Academy Award winning film. In his diverse professional career, Punke has served as the US Ambassador to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, history correspondent for Montana Quarterly, and an adjunct professor at the University of Montana. As a high school and college student he worked summers as a "living history interpreter" at Fort Laramie National Historic Site.
The Council of Animals

Nick McDonell

Roald Dahl meets Animal Farm in national bestselling author Nick McDonell’s The Council of Animals, a uniquely witty and waggish fable—with illustrations by Steven Tabbutt—in which a cat, a dog, ...

First came the pandemic, then came The Calamity. The few remaining humans are huddled in impoverished villages. The animals, meanwhile, have convened a gathering, each group sending a representative to debate and vote on whether to help the last human stragglers . . . or to kill and eat them.

As each animal makes its case, the fate of humanity depends on whether each species will act in its own self-interest, or if they will follow the lead of the kindly bear who believes that humans can be rehabilitated. The impending decision forces each animal to confront their past traumas at the hands of the humans while also putting them in the position to reign over the other subspecies—rodents and insects—if they so choose. The desire for power, deeply ingrained prejudices, and glimmers of righteousness guide the members of the council as they work to establish a new world order.

Nick McDonell, born in 1984, is a writer of novels, journalism, and political theory. He studied literature at Harvard and international relations at St. Anthony’s College, Oxford. His fiction has been published in twenty-two languages and appeared on bestseller lists around the world. A film adaptation of his first novel, Twelve, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2010. His academic work on nomadism—The Civilization of Perpetual Movement—was published in 2016 by Hurst & Co. and distribu...
Valedictorians at the Gate

Standing Out, Getting In, and Staying Sane While Applying to College

Becky Munsterer Sabky

A former Ivy League admissions officer shares her stories from the frontlines of the admissions wars and offers advice on how to stand out, get in, and most importantly, stay true to yourself as ...

When Becky Munsterer Sabky was a college senior she was rejected by her dream school, Dartmouth. She had done everything right. Checked every box. Played on every team. And yet still she received, “the thin envelope.” A decade later she was the one helping to make the admissions decisions for the Ivy League university. Drawing back the curtain, Valedictorians at the Gate is a behind-the-scenes look at how best to prepare for the admissions process, from the first day of high school to welcome weekend on campus, with the needed perspective to stay true to yourself, and discover your passions as you battle the other valedictorians at the gate.

Written with actionable advice (do take the SATs multiple times; don’t write your college essay about Hermione Granger), Valedictorians at the Gate answers the questions of just who to ask for a college recommendation (a note from a janitor will turn more heads than a form letter from the chair of the math department), just what to do on campus visits (have the student ask the questions, not their mom and dad), and what curriculum to take (if you like art, go for it over AP physics). This is the book every student and parent wishes to have by their side as they navigate the immensely competitive, and confusing, process of selecting a college.

Perfect for both prospective students, and (hopefully-not-helicoptering) parents, Sabky infuses her wisdom gleaned from years making the tough admission...
Smahtguy

*The Life and Times of Barney Frank*

Eric Orner

Eric Orner, the acclaimed cartoonist of the country’s earliest and longest-running gay comic strip, *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Greene*, presents his debut graphic novel—a dazzling,...

What are the odds that a disheveled, zaftig, closeted kid with the thickest of Jersey accents might wind up running Boston on behalf of a storied Irish Catholic political machine, drafting the nation’s first gay rights laws, reforming Wall Street after the Great Recession, and finding love, after a lifetime assuming that he couldn't and wouldn’t?

In *Smahtguy: The Life and Times of Barney Frank*, America’s first out member of Congress and gay and civil rights crusader for an era is confirmed as a hero of our age. But more than a biography of an indispensable LGBTQ pioneer, this funny, beautifully rendered, warts-and-all graphic account reveals the down-and-dirty inner workings of Boston and DC politics.

As Frank’s longtime staff counsel and press secretary, Eric Orner lends his first-hand perspective to this extraordinary work of history, paying tribute to the mighty striving of committed liberals to defend ordinary Americans from an assault on their shared society.

**PRAISE**

“Fresh and gripping, from an artist working at the height of his powers.”
—Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home*

Eric Orner is a former Congressional aide to Barney Frank and the acclaimed author of *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Greene*, the country’s first and longest-running gay comic strip. A feature film of the same title appeared in 2005, the same year that Orner retired the comic strip. Orner has also published comic strips and illustrations in the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *New Republic*. His cartoon story “Weekends Abroad” was included in Houg...
The purpose of U.S. foreign policy has, at least theoretically, been to keep Americans safe. Yet as we confront a radically changed world, it has become indisputably clear that the terms of that policy have failed. Washington’s insistence that a market economy is compatible with the common good, its faith in the idea of the “West” and its “special relationships,” its conviction that global military primacy is the key to a stable and sustainable world order—these have brought endless wars and a succession of moral and material disasters.

In a bold reconception of America’s place in the world, informed by thinking from across the political spectrum, Andrew Bacevich—founder and president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a bipartisan Washington think tank dedicated to foreign policy—lays down a new approach—one that is based on moral pragmatism, mutual coexistence, and war as a last resort. Confronting the threats of the future—accelerating climate change, a shift in the international balance of power, and the ascendance of information technology over brute weapons of war—his vision calls for nothing less than a profound overhaul of our understanding of national security.

Crucial and provocative, After the Apocalypse sets out new principles to guide the once-but-no-longer sole superpower as it navigates a transformed world.
Public health expert Leana Wen gives an insider’s account of public health and its crucial role—from opioid addiction to global pandemic—and tells an inspiring story of her journey from homeless ...

“Public health saved your life today—you just don’t know it,” is a phrase that Leana Wen likes to use. You don’t know it because good public health is invisible. It becomes visible only in its absence, when it is underfunded and ignored, a bitter truth laid bare as never before by the carnage of Covid-19.

From the frontlines of public health crises, Leana Wen—emergency doctor, former Baltimore health commissioner, CNN medical analyst, and Washington Post columnist—has led the fight against the opioid epidemic, outbreaks of infectious disease, maternal and infant mortality, and Covid-19 disinformation. Here in vivid detail, drawing on her deep experience, Wen unveils the invisible hand of public health, showing how it uniquely encompasses science, advocacy, medicine, and politics; how innovative programs can treat gun violence as a contagious disease and racism as a health issue; how public health plays a key role in protecting the vulnerable and keeping communities safe. It is public health, she insists, that ensures that citizens are not robbed of decades of life, and that where children live does not determine whether they live.

Leana Wen’s own story is a uniquely American one, of an immigrant from China whose parents relied on food stamps and were at times homeless. That child went on to attend college at thirteen, graduate from medical school, work in the ER, and turn to public health as the way to make a difference in the...

PRAISE

*Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People, 2019
*Modern Healthcare’s 50 Most Influential Physician Executives
*A World Economic Forum Young Global Leader
*Governing’s Public Official of the Year

“Leana Wen is the fierce visionary I want fighting on behalf of all of us.” —Cynthia Nixon, citation for the 2019 Time 100

“Interacting with Wen is a bit like swallowing a lit firecracker. Except instead of killing you, her force makes you feel smarter and healthier.” —The Atlantic

“One of the most aggressive and innovative public health officials in the nation.” —USA Today

Leana Wen is the former health commissioner for the city of Baltimore and author of the book When Doctors Don’t Listen. An emergency physician and public health professor at George...
Accidental Gods

On Men Unwittingly Turned Divine

Anna Della Subin

A provocative history of men who were worshipped as gods that illuminates the connection between power and religion and the role of divinity in a secular age

Ever since 1492, when Christopher Columbus made landfall in the New World and was hailed as a heavenly being, the accidental god has haunted the modern age. From Haile Selassie, acclaimed as the Living God in Jamaica, to Britain’s Prince Philip, who became the unlikely center of a new religion on a South Pacific island, men made divine—always men—have appeared on every continent. And because these deifications always emerge at moments of turbulence—civil wars, imperial conquest, revolutions—they have much to teach us.

In a revelatory history spanning five centuries, a cast of surprising deities helps to shed light on the thorny questions of how our modern concept of “religion” was invented; why religion and politics are perpetually entangled in our supposedly secular age; and how the power to call someone divine has been used and abused by both oppressors and the oppressed. Moving from Guatemala to Korea to India, historian Anna Della Subin explores how such cults arise and shows how deification has served colonized peoples as a means of defiance. Conversely, we see how Columbus, Cortés, and other white explorers amplified stories of their godhood to justify their dominion over native peoples, setting into motion the currents of racism and exclusion that have plagued the New World ever since they touched its shores.

At once deeply learned and delightfully antic, Accidental Gods offers an unusual keyhole through which to observe...

Being a Human

Adventures in Forty Thousand Years of Consciousness

Charles Foster

A radically immersive exploration of three pivotal moments in the evolution of human consciousness, asking what kinds of creatures humans were, are, and might yet be

How did humans come to be who we are? In his marvelous, eccentric, and widely lauded book Being a Beast, legal scholar, veterinary surgeon, and naturalist extraordinaire Charles Foster set out to understand the consciousness of animal species by living as a badger, otter, fox, deer, and swift. Now, he inhabits three crucial periods of human development to understand the consciousness of perhaps the strangest animal of all—the human being.

To experience the Upper Paleolithic era—a turning point when humans became behaviorally modern, painting caves and telling stories, Foster learns what it feels like to be a Cro-Magnon hunter-gatherer by living in makeshift shelters without amenities in the rural woods of England. He tests his five impoverished senses to forage for berries and roadkill and he undertakes shamanic journeys to explore the connection of wakeful dreaming to religion. For the Neolithic period, when humans stayed in one place and domesticated plants and animals, forever altering our connection to the natural world, he moves to a reconstructed Neolithic settlement. Finally, to explore the Enlightenment—the age of reason and the end of the soul—Foster inspects Oxford colleges, dissecting rooms, cafes, and art galleries. He finds his world and himself bizarre and disembodied, and he rues the atrophy of our senses, the cause for much of what ails us.

Drawing on psychology, neuroscience, natural history, agriculture, medi...
Sexual Justice

Supporting Victims, Ensuring Due Process, and Resisting the Conservative Backlash

Alexandra Brodsky

A pathbreaking work for the #MeToo era, laying out a better response to sexual harms that includes due process for the accused

In the past few years, an astonishing number of sexual harassment victims have come forward with their stories, demanding consequences for their assailants and broad societal change. Each prominent allegation, however, has also set off a wave of questions—some posed in good faith, some distinctly not—about the rights of the accused. As a result, the national conversation about the rights of victims and alleged abusers has grown unduly polarized, inflamed by a public narrative that wrongly presents feminism and fair process as warring interests.

Sexual Justice is an intervention, pointing the way to common ground. As civil rights attorney Alexandra Brodsky makes clear, smart procedures for addressing allegations can let schools and workplaces promote both equality and fairness for all. But, she warns us, we should be wary of the anti-feminist backlash, which hijacks the rhetoric of due process to obscure its true goals: protecting abusers and rolling back progress on sexual harassment.

Drawing on popular culture, notorious cases from the news, and the personal experiences of sexual assault survivors and advocates, Sexual Justice shows that fair process can—indeed, must—be a core part of the Me Too movement. Introducing the legal theories and forgotten histories that explain our current predicament, it illuminates the way to a more just world.

PRAISE

Praise for The Feminist Utopia Project

“This book shows a state-of-the-art feminism where human experience meshes with institutional policy and public life.”
—Chris Kraus, author of I Love Dick

“The collection’s diverse visions and the applause-worthy, rallying intro prove that we might not have to wait for these dreams to become real.”
—Bust

Alexandra Brodsky is a civil rights lawyer with deep ties to the student movement to end campus gender violence. She holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and clerked for the Honorable Marsha S. Berzon on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Brodsky has written about sexual assault for the New York Times, the Guardian, the Washington Post, and the Atlantic, among many other publications. She lives in New York.
Persist

Elizabeth Warren

The charismatic senator and bestselling author mixes vivid personal stories with a passionate plea for political transformation.

In 2012, running for the Senate in Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren was new to politics. In early 2020, after ending her campaign for president, she was new to losing. But that hasn’t stopped her from believing that real change is possible and continuing her fight to improve the lives of all Americans. And it hasn’t stopped her from doing what she does best: persisting.

Warren didn’t get into politics until she was in her early sixties. Yet she brought with her a lifetime of experience, and in Persist she writes about six perspectives that have influenced her life and advocacy. She’s a mother who understands why child care is essential for women who hold down paying jobs. She’s a teacher who knows the value of an education and its sometimes crushing cost. She’s a planner who instantly saw that the best way to beat COVID-19 was with science and meticulous plans. She’s a fighter who sees corruption in government and wants to tear it out by the roots. She’s a learner who thinks and listens and works to fight racism in America. And she’s a woman who knows how hard it can be to convince some people that women are just as capable as men.

Candid and provocative, Persist is both a deeply personal book and a powerful call to action. Elizabeth Warren—one of the country’s most visionary leaders—will inspire everyone to believe that if we’re willing to fight for it, profound change is within our reach.

Elizabeth Warren, the widely admired former presidential candidate, is the senior senator from Massachusetts. She is the author of eleven previous books, including A Fighting Chance and This Fight Is Our Fight, both of which were national bestsellers. The mother of two and grandmother of three, she lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her husband, Bruce Mann, and their beloved dog, Bailey.
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