A Clue to the Exit

A Novel

Edward St. Aubyn

A beautifully modulated novel that shows Edward St. Aubyn at his sparkling best

Charlie Fairburn, successful screenwriter, ex-husband and absent father, has been given six months to live. He resolves to stake half his fortune on a couple of turns of the roulette wheel and, to his agent's disgust, to write a novel—about death. In the casino he meets his muse. Charlie grows as addicted to writing fiction as she is to gambling.

His novel is set on a train and involves a group of characters (familiar to readers of St. Aubyn's earlier work) who are locked in a debate about the nature of consciousness. As this train gets stuck at Didcot, and Charlie gets more passionately entangled with the dangerous Angelique, A Clue to the Exit comes to its startling climax. Exquisitely crafted, witty, and thoughtful, Edward St. Aubyn's dazzling novel probes the very heart of being.

PRAISE

Praise for Edward St. Aubyn

"Perhaps the most brilliant English novelist of his generation."—Alan Hollinghurst

"One of the great comic writers of our time."—The New York Review of Books

"Gorgeous, golden prose...St. Aubyn is utterly fearless when faced with the task of unpacking and anatomizing the inner lives of characters. No emotion is so subtle and fleeting he can't convey it, or so terrifying or shameful that he can't face it."—Lev Grossman, Time

EDWARD ST. AUBYN was born in London in 1960. He is the author of On the Edge and The Patrick Melrose Novels: Never Mind, Bad News, Some Hope, and Mothers Milk. His final Patrick Melrose novel is the standalone At Last. Mother's Milk was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.
Black Man in a White Coat

A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine

Damon Tweedy, M.D.

One doctor's passionate and profound memoir of his experience grappling with racial identity, bias, and the unique health problems of black Americans

When Damon Tweedy first enters the halls of Duke University Medical School on a full scholarship, he envisions a bright future where his segregated, working class background will become largely irrelevant. Instead, he finds that he has joined a new world where race is front and center. When one of his first professors mistakes him for a maintenance worker, it is a moment that crystallizes the challenges he will face throughout his early career. Making matters worse, in lecture after lecture the common refrain for numerous diseases resounds, "More common in blacks than whites."

In riveting, honest prose, Black Man in a White Coat examines the complex ways in which both black doctors and patients must navigate the difficult and often contradictory terrain of race and medicine. As Tweedy transforms from student to practicing physician, he discovers how often race influences his encounters with patients. Through their stories, he illustrates the complex social, cultural, and economic factors at the root of most health problems in the black community. These elements take on greater meaning when Tweedy finds himself diagnosed with a chronic disease far more common among black people. In this powerful, moving, and compassionate book, Tweedy deftly explores the challenges confronting black doctors, and the disproportionate health burdens faced by black patients, ultimately seeking a way forward to better treatment and more compassionate...

PRAISE

"[An] eye-opening and compelling examination of medicine's continued discomfort with race. Damon Tweedy is unafraid to dissect the both the intriguing and disturbing elements of becoming a doctor. Required reading for anyone wishing to understand medicine in America today."—Danielle Ofri, M.D., Ph.D., author of What Doctors Feel: How Emotions Affect the Practice of Medicine

DAMON TWEEDY, M.D., is a graduate of Duke Medical School and Yale Law School. He is an assistant professor of psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center and staff physician at the Durham VA Medical Center. He has published articles in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the Annals of Internal Medicine, as well as in the Raleigh News and Observer and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He lives outside Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina.
A Poet of the Invisible World
A Novel

Michael Golding

In the tradition of The Alchemist by Paolo Coelho, this is a spiritual fable seven years in the writing about a boy who embarks on a remarkable journey through pain and loss to transcendence.

A Poet of the Invisible World is the story of a boy born in thirteenth-century Persia with four ears instead of two. Orphaned as an infant, he's taken into a Sufi order, where he meets an assortment of dervishes and is placed upon a path towards spiritual awakening. He studies the Koran and the principles of Sufism. He meets his first love, a handsome youth named Vishpar. When marauders attack the lodge, however, he's swept off to a series of grueling adventures and an assortment of shifting roles: tea boy in the court of a Spanish sultan, shepherd on a barren farm in the mountains, sybarite in a bustling city on the north coast of Africa.

As he stumbles from one painful experience to the next, he grows into manhood. And when fate leads him to a Sufi order perched high in the mountains, he's ready to begin the true work of spiritual development. Now the tests are more subtle: the animosity of a fellow Sufi who has dogged him since childhood, a love affair with an acolyte who's been brought under his wing. But each trial shatters another obstacle within—and leads him on toward transcendence.

A beautiful gift package, with French flaps and deckle edge
For readers of Herman Hesse's Siddhartha, Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things, and Paolo Coelho

PRAISE
"In this stunningly vivid novel, Michael Golding has created a world that's anything but invisible. With grace and magic reminiscent of One Thousand and One Nights (Arabian Nights), A POET OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD is an ecstatic, enlightened whirlwind of profound contemplation and resplendent beauty, grounded by the certainty of its richly saturated landscape, enthralling story and lyrical voice. I was utterly enchanted!" -Ruth Ozeki, New York Times bestselling author of A Tale for the Time Being

"This is a novel that we, as readers, yearn to find: The pages contain a journey, a fable, and a lifetime. It is a book that one feels one has previ...

MICHAEL GOLDFING is the author of Simple Prayers and Benjamin's Gift. He has also enjoyed success as an actor and screenwriter; his adaptation of the international bestseller Silk starred Keira Knightly and Alfred Molina. He lives in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas in Northern California.
No More Champagne
Churchill and His Money
David Lough

The fascinating story of Churchill's lifetime of tangled personal finances

Meticulously researched by a senior private banker now turned historian, No More Champagne reveals for the first time the full extent of the iconic British war leader's private struggle to maintain a way of life instilled by his upbringing and expected of his public position.

Lough uses Churchill's own most private records, many never researched before, to chronicle his family's chronic shortage of money, his own extravagance and his recurring losses from gambling or trading in shares and currencies. Churchill tried to keep himself afloat by borrowing to the hilt, putting off bills and writing 'all over the place'; when all else failed, he had to ask family or friends to come to the rescue. Yet within five years he had taken advantage of his worldwide celebrity to transform his private fortunes with the same ruthlessness as he waged war, reaching 1945 with today's equivalent of £3 million in the bank. His lucrative war memoirs were still to come.

Throughout the story, Lough highlights the threads of risk, energy, persuasion, and sheer willpower to survive that link Churchill's private and public lives. He shows how constant money pressures often tempted him to short-circuit the ethical standards expected of public figures in his day before usually pulling back to put duty first—except where the taxman was involved.

• For Churchill fanatics as well as readers of David Nasaw and Doris Kearns Goodwin

DAVID LOUGH won an open history scholarship to Oxford University where he won 1st class honours. He has worked extensively in financial markets, starting in Asia and investment banking, before founding a private banking business in 1988. A former member of the London Stock Exchange and Fellow of the Chartered Securities Institute, David Lough returned to history on his retirement, using his experience to research the untold story of Winston Churchill's tangled financial affairs.
Jesus' Son
Stories
Denis Johnson

"Reading these stories is like reading ticker tape from the subconscious" (The Nation).

Denis Johnson's now classic story collection chronicles a wild netherworld of addicts and lost souls, a violent and disordered landscape that encompasses every extreme of American culture. These are stories of transcendence and spiraling grief, of hallucinations and glories, of getting lost and found and lost again. The insights and careening energy in Jesus' Son have earned the book a place of its own among the classics of twentieth-century American literature.

• For more than twenty years, Picador has been producing beautifully packaged literary fiction and nonfiction books from Manhattan's Flatiron Building. Our Twentieth Anniversary Modern Classics line pairs iconic books with a design that's both small enough to fit in your pocket and unique enough to stand out on your bookshelf.

PRAISE

"A synthesizer of profoundly American voices: we can hear Twain in his biting irony, Whitman in his erotic excess, not a little of Dashiell Hammett too in the hard sentences he throws back at his gouged, wounded world. And behind all these you sense something else: a visionary angel." —Newsday

"[Johnson] consistently generates images of ferocious intensity.... No American novelist since William Burroughs has so flagrantly risked 'insensitivity' in an effort to depict the pathology of addiction." —The New York Times Book Review

DENIS JOHNSON is the author of six novels, three collections of poetry, and one book of reportage. His novel Tree of Smoke won the 2007 National Book Award. Train Dreams was a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize. His latest novel is The Laughing Monsters (FSG, 2014).
The Virgin Suicides

A Novel

Jeffrey Eugenides

"A piercing first novel...lyrical and portentous" (The New York Times) by the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of Middlesex and The Marriage Plot

Jeffrey Eugenides evokes the coming-of-age experience with haunting sensitivity and dark humor and creates a story unlike any of our time.

Juxtaposing the most common and the most gothic, the humorous and the tragic, Jeffrey Eugenides creates a vivid and compelling portrait of youth and lost innocence. He takes us back to the elm-lined streets of suburbia in the seventies, and introduces us to the men whose lives have been forever changed by their fierce, awkward obsession with five doomed sisters: brainy Therese, fastidious Mary, ascetic Bonnie, libertine Lux, and pale, saintly Cecilia, whose spectacular demise inaugurates "the year of the suicides." This is the debut novel that caused a sensation and won immediate acclaim from the critics—a tender, wickedly funny tale of love and terror, sex and suicide, memory and imagination.

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PRAISE

"Mr. Eugenides is blessed with the storyteller's most magical gift, the ability to transform the mundane into the extraordinary."—The New York Times Book Review

"Arresting...evokes the wry voice of adolescence and a mixture of curiosity, lust, tenderness, morbidity, cynicism, and the naïveté surrounding these bizarre events."—The Wall Street Journal

"Deftly written and intricately imagined...sizzling."—Newsweek

JEFFREY EUGENIDES was born in Detroit and attended Brown and Stanford universities. The Virgin Suicides was published in 1993 and was adapted into a motion picture in 1999 by Sophia Coppola. His second novel, Middlesex, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2003. He joined the faculty of Princeton University in the fall of 2007. His most recent novel is The Marriage Plot.
With its blend of Eastern mysticism and Western culture, Hesse’s best-known and most autobiographical work is one of literature’s most poetic evocations of the soul’s journey to liberation.

Harry Haller is a sad and lonely figure, a reclusive intellectual for whom life holds no joy. He struggles to reconcile the wild primeval wolf and the rational man within himself without surrendering to the bourgeois values he despises. His life changes dramatically when he meets a woman who is his opposite, the carefree and elusive Hermine. The tale of the Steppenwolf culminates in the surreal Magic Theater—For Madmen Only!

Originally published in English in 1929, the novel’s wisdom continues to speak to our souls and marks it as a classic of modern literature.

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HERMANN HESSE was a born in Germany in 1877 and later became a citizen of Switzerland. As a Western man profoundly affected by the mysticism of Eastern thought, he wrote many novels, stories, and essays that bear a vital spiritual force that has captured the imagination and loyalty of many generations of readers. In 1946, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. He died in 1962.
Housekeeping
A Novel

Marilynne Robinson

Marilynne Robinson's brilliant, PEN/Hemingway Award–winning first novel of growing up and the shaky but profound bonds between family

Housekeeping is the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great-aunts, and finally of Sylvie, the eccentric and remote sister of their dead mother. The family house is in the small town of Fingerbone on a glacial lake in the Far West, the same lake where their grandfather died in a spectacular train wreck and their mother drove off a cliff to her death. It is a town "chastened by an outsized landscape and extravagant weather, and chastened again by an awareness that the whole of human history had occurred elsewhere." Ruth and Lucille's struggle toward adulthood beautifully illuminates the price of loss and survival, and the dangerous and deep undertow of transience.

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PRAISE

"So precise, so distilled, so beautiful that one doesn't want to miss any pleasure it might yield."—The New York Times Book Review

"Here's a first novel that sounds as if the author has been treasuring it up all her life...You can feel in the book a gathering voluptuous release of confidence, a delighted surprise at the unexpected capacities of language, a close, careful fondness for people that we thought only saints felt."—Anatole Broyard, The New York Times

"I found myself reading slowly, then more slowly—this is not a novel to be hurried through, for every sentence is a delight."—Doris Lessing

Marilynne Robinson is the author of Gilead, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and Home, winner of the Orange Prize and a finalist for the National Book Award. Housekeeping won the PEN/Hemingway Award. Her nonfiction includes Absence of Mind, The Death of Adam, Mother Country, nominated for a National Book Award, and When I Was a Child I Read Books. She teaches at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.
**Wolf in White Van**

*A Novel*

John Darnielle

**Now a New York Times bestseller and longlisted for the National Book Award—“One of the most compelling books of the year” (Blake Butler, *Vice*)**

Isolated by a disfiguring injury since the age of seventeen, Sean Phillips crafts imaginary worlds for strangers to explore. From his small apartment in southern California, he orchestrates fantastic adventures where possibilities, both dark and bright, open in the boundaries between the real and the imagined. As the creator of "Trace Italian"—a text-based, role-playing game that’s played through the mail—Sean guides subscribers through his intricately imagined terrain, turn by turn, as they search out sanctuary in a ravaged, savage future America. But when Lance and Carrie, two teenaged seekers of the Trace, take their play outside of the game, disaster strikes, and Sean is called on to account for it. In the process, he is pulled back through time, toward the beginning and the climax: the moment of his own self-inflicted departure from the world in which most people live.


An NPR Best Book of the Year

Named a Best Fiction Book of the Year by *The Boston Globe* (selected by John Freeman) and BuzzFeed, as well as a Favorite Book of the Year by *The Wall Street Journal* (selected by Daniel Handler)

**PRAISE**

"Brilliant book. Can't let it go."-@johngreen

"*Wolf in White Van* will back you onto your heels with its capacity for inventiveness in structure, story, and line-writing."-*GQ*

"In Darnielle's novel, as in his songs, the monstrously true and unbelievably beautiful press up against one another. Together, they begin to dance."-NPR

**JOHN DARNIELLE** is a writer, composer, guitarist, and vocalist for the band the Mountain Goats; he is widely considered one of the best lyricists of his generation. He lives in Durham, North Carolina, with his family.
The Emerald Light in the Air

Stories

Donald Antrim

A masterful story collection—heartbreaking and hilarious—from one of America’s greatest writers

Nothing is simple for the men and women in Donald Antrim’s stories. As they do the things we all do—bum a cigarette at a party, stroll with a girlfriend down Madison Avenue, take a kid to the zoo—they’re confronted with their own uncooperative selves. These artists, writers, lawyers, teachers, and actors make fools of themselves, spiral out of control, have delusions of grandeur, despair, and find it hard to imagine a future. They talk, they listen, they hope, they dream. They look for communion in a city, both beautiful and menacing, which can promise so much and yield so little. But they are hungry for life. They want to love and be loved.

These stories, all published in The New Yorker over the last fifteen years, make it clear that Antrim is one of America’s most important writers. His work has been praised by his significant contemporaries, including Jonathan Franzen, Thomas Pynchon, Jeffrey Eugenides, and George Saunders, who described The Verificationist as "one of the most pleasure-giving, funny, perverse, complicated, addictive novels of the last twenty years." And here is Antrim’s best book yet: the story collection that reveals him as a master of the form.

PRAISE

"Donald Antrim's stories are often lovely and drastic in the same breath, which becomes electrifying for the reader."—Richard Ford

"Exhilarating...[The Emerald Light in the Air] takes us in unexpected directions, moving from the outlandish to the intimate with the seamlessness of a single breath."—David L. Ulin, Los Angeles Times

"No one writes more eloquently about the male crack-up and the depths of loneliness than Donald Antrim; the stories in The Emerald Light in the Air, hopscotching between the surreal and ordinary, comic and heartbreaking, are dazzling."—Vanity Fair

DONALD ANTRIM is the author of the novels Elect Mr. Robinson for a Better World, The Hundred Brothers, and The Verificationist, as well as a memoir, The Afterlife. He is a regular contributor to The New Yorker and an associate professor in the writing program at Columbia University. He is a 2013 MacArthur Fellow.
The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher

Stories

Hilary Mantel

A New York Times bestselling collection of stories from the two-time Man Booker Prize winner Hilary Mantel delivers a "brusque and brutal world leavened with humor—humor that's available in one s...

In The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher, Hilary Mantel's trademark gifts of penetrating characterization, unsparing eye, and rascally intelligence are once again fully on display. Ranging from a ghost story to a vampire story, and from near-memoir to mini-sagas of family and social fracture, each wickedly brilliant story unsettles the reader in that unmistakably Mantel way.

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

• A New York Times bestseller
• With a new story

PRAISE

"An Event with a 'capital E.'"—NPR • "Exquisite."—Chicago Tribune • "A book of her short stories is like a little sweet treat."—USA Today (four stars) • "[Mantel is at] the top of her game."—Salon • "Scintillating...like the Olympic gymnast who nails her landing every time."—The New York Times Book Review • "Genius."—The Seattle Times • "An international literary star."—Elle

HILARY MANTEL is the author of fourteen books, including the bestselling novels Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies, each of which won the Man Booker Prize in 2009 and 2012. She counts the David Cohen Prize, the Costa Book of the Year, the Costa Novel Award, the Walter Scott Prize, and the National Book Critics Circle Award, among her honors. She lives on the coast of East Devon, England, with her husband and is at work on the third and final installment of the Thomas
Deep Down Dark

The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free

Héctor Tobar

Now a New York Times bestseller and the first-ever selection for NPR's Morning Edition book club, the story of the survival, faith, and family of Chile’s thirty-three trapped miners

When the San José mine collapsed outside of Copiapó, Chile, in August 2010, it trapped thirty-three miners beneath thousands of feet of rock for a record-breaking sixty-nine days. People everywhere witnessed the grueling and protracted rescue efforts as they took place above the ground, but the world has heard nothing of the miners' experiences below the earth's surface—or the lives that led them there—until now.

After the disaster, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Héctor Tobar received exclusive access to the miners and their tales, and in Deep Down Dark, he brings them to haunting, visceral life. For the first time, we learn what it was like to be imprisoned inside a mountain, understand the horror of being slowly consumed by hunger, and experience the awe of working in such a place, one filled with danger and that often felt alive. A masterwork of narrative journalism and a stirring testament to the power of the human spirit, Deep Down Dark captures the profound ways in which the lives of everyone involved in the disaster were forever changed.

Soon to be a major motion picture, starring Antonio Banderas, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Juliette Binoche

A National Book Critic Circle Award Finalist


A New York Times Book Review Notable Book, an NPR Best Book of the Year, and one of Publishers Weekly's Top Ten Books of the Year

PRAISE

"Vivid, suspenseful, [and] electrifying."-People

"The equal, if the geographical inverse, of Into Thin Air."-NPR's Fresh Air

"Masterful...Taut with suspense and moments of tenderness and replete with a cast of unforgettable characters, Deep Down Dark ranks with the best of adventure literature."-Los Angeles Times

HÉCTOR TOBAR is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a novelist. He is the author of The Barbarian Nurseries, Translation Nation, and The Tattooed Soldier. The son of Guatemalan immigrants, he is a native of Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife and three children.
Strange Shores
An Inspector Erlendur Novel
Arnaldur Indridason

Inspector Erlendur takes center stage in this novel by internationally acclaimed author Arnaldur Indridason, praised by Harlan Coben for his "gripping, authentic, haunting, and lyrical" writing.

Arnaldur Indriðason, whom The Sunday Times calls "one of the most brilliant crime writers of his generation," has thrilled readers around the world with his series set in Reykjavík. Now, his beloved protagonist Inspector Erlendur is back in this thrilling and beautifully written mystery that begins when a young woman disappears from the frozen fjords of Iceland. In her wake she's left behind a tempest of lies, betrayal, and revenge. Decades later, somewhere in the same wilderness, Inspector Erlendur is on the hunt for the missing woman and his long-lost brother, whose disappearance in a snowstorm when they were children has colored his entire life. Slowly, the past begins to surrender its secrets. But as Erlendur uncovers a story about the limits of human endurance, he realizes that many people would prefer their crimes to stay buried. Indriðason knocks it out of the park once again with this chilling and utterly unputdownable story of missing people and unanswered questions.

PRAISE
"What's Icelandic for 'we have ourselves a winner?'"—Newsday

"Puts Iceland on the map as a major destination for enthusiasts of Nordic crime fiction."—Marilyn Stasio, The New York Times Book Review

"Keeps readers guessing until the very last pages."—The Washington Post Book World

"Indriðason and Stieg Larsson have produced two of the best crime novels of the year."—The Independent (UK)

"Every one of these writers is good [Håkan Nesser, Kjell Eriksson, Karin Fossum], but in my book, Arnaldur Indriðason is even better."—Joe Queenan, Los Angeles Times

ARNALDUR INDRIÐASON won the CWA Gold Dagger Award for Silence of the Grave and is the only author to win the Glass Key Award for Best Nordic Crime Novel two years in a row. The film of Jar City was Iceland's entry for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, and the film Silence of the Grave is in production with the same director. The film Contraband, starring Mark Wahlberg, was based on an Icelandic film written by Indriðason, who lives in Reykjavik, Iceland.
The Great Reformer
Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope
Austen Ivereigh

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

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

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

• With an updated and expanded epilogue

PRAISE

"In Austen Ivereigh's engaging work, we come to more fully learn and appreciate the circumstances and influences that shaped Jorge Bergoglio's journey: first as a young Jesuit leader, then as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, and now as shepherd of over one billion Catholics. The many fascinating events and challenges recounted in The Great Reformer demonstrate that the key to understanding Pope Francis and his vision for the Church begins above all by recognizing his unfailing faith in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ."—Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York and author of Praying in Rome

AUSTEN IVEREIGH is a British writer, journalist, and commentator on religious and political affairs who holds a PhD from Oxford University. His work appears regularly in the Jesuit magazine America and in many other periodicals. He is well known on British media, especially on the BBC, Sky, ITV, and Al-Jazeera, as a Catholic commentator.
De Potter's Grand Tour

A Novel

Joanna Scott

From the author of The Manikin, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, comes a gripping novel of a seemingly charmed marriage and a mysterious disappearance

In 1905, a tourist agent and amateur antiques collector named Armand de Potter mysteriously disappeared off the coast of Greece. His body is never recovered, and his wife, Aimée, is left to manage his affairs on her own. But as she starts to piece together his life, she realizes that everything was not as Armand had said. Infused with details from letters and diary entries, their story twists forward and backward through time, revealing a lost world of fake identities, underground antiques networks, and a husband who wasn't what he seemed.

Told with masterful agility, De Potter's Grand Tour is a tale as grand as the tour guide at its center. Drawing on real documents only recently discovered, Joanna Scott points delicately toward the story's historical basis and unfolds a detective tale of the highest order.

• A Chicago Tribune Best Suspense Novel of the Year
• For readers of Penelope Lively and Sarah Waters

PRAISE

"While Aimée grieves, she also slowly discovers secrets from her husband's past. By switching between the two characters' perspectives and building tension in every chapter, Scott crafts a tale full of mystery and suspense."—Real Simple

"Scott has crafted an understated, atmospheric historical novel as well as an artful mystery set in an era of steamer ships and steam trains, when tourism was new and world travel was a glamorous and sometimes-perilous adventure."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

"One of the most delightful books I've read in years."—Jaimy Gordon, author of Lord of Misrule

JOANNA SCOTT is the author of ten books, including The Manikin, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and Various Antidotes and Arrogance, which were both finalists for the PEN/Faulkner Award. She is a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Lannan Award.
The Fame Lunches

On Wounded Icons, Money, Sex, the Brontës, and the Importance of Handbags

Daphne Merkin

A wide-ranging collection of essays that are "brimming with insight" (The New York Times Book Review) by one of America's most perceptive critics of popular and literary culture

Daphne Merkin brings her signature combination of wit, candor, and penetrating intelligence to subjects that touch on every aspect of contemporary culture, from the high calling of the literary life to the poignant underside of celebrity and our collective fixation on fame.

Merkin's elegant, widely admired profiles go beneath the glossy facades to consider their vulnerabilities and demons, as well as their enduring hold on us. Here one will encounter a gallery of complex, unforgettable celebrities, from Marilyn Monroe to Mike Tyson, and from Courtney Love to Truman Capote. Merkin also offers reflections on writers as varied as Jean Rhys, W. G. Sebald, John Updike, and Alice Munro.

Most of all, though, Merkin is a writer who is not afraid to implicate herself as a participant in our consumerist and overstimulated culture. Merkin helps makes sense of our collective impulses. From a brazenly honest and deeply empathic observer, The Fame Lunches shines a light on truths we often prefer to keep veiled—and in doing so opens up the conversation for all of us.

PRAISE

"Unfailingly intelligent."—NPR

"Precise, pointed...These essays showcase a fearless intelligence....Merkin addresses more complicated issues, or at least ones calling for either honest self-examination or subtlety....These are stunning works, enough to hold us for at least another decade."—The Boston Globe

"Merkin seems to commune most deeply with writers like Jean Rhys, Anne Carson, W. G. Sebald, and John Updike. Here she shines brightest, offering flashbulb illuminations of the essence of their work as well as insight into the lives they led that, due to or despite which, they were able to write."—Minneapolis Star Tribune

DAPHNE MERKIN, a former staff writer for The New Yorker, is a regular contributor to ELLE. Her writing frequently appears in The New York Times, Bookforum, Departures, Travel + Leisure, W, and Vogue, among other publications. Merkin has taught writing at the 92nd Street Y, Marymount, and Hunter College. Her previous books include Enchantment, a novel, and Dreaming of Hitler, a collection of essays. She lives in New York City.
My Grandfather's Gallery

A Family Memoir of Art and War

Anne Sinclair; Translated from the French by Shaun Whiteside

A riveting family memoir of a singular man—betrayed by his country and sentenced to a life of exile—that is also "a detailed and important record of 20th century art" (The Boston Globe)

On September 20, 1940, one of the most famous European art dealers disembarked in New York, one of hundreds of Jewish refugees fleeing Vichy France. Leaving behind his beloved Paris gallery, Paul Rosenberg had managed to save his family, but his paintings—modern masterpieces by the likes of Cézanne, Monet, Sisley—were not so fortunate. As he fled, dozens of works were seized by Nazi forces, and the art dealer's own legacy was eradicated.

More than half a century later, Anne Sinclair uncovered a box filled with letters. "Curious in spite of myself," she writes, "I plunged into these archives, in search of the story of my family. To find out who my mother's father really was."

"Drawing on her grandfather's intimate correspondence with Picasso, Matisse, Braque, and others, Sinclair takes us on a personal journey through the life of a legendary member of the Parisian art scene. Rosenberg's story is emblematic of millions of Jews, rich and poor, whose lives were indelibly altered by World War II, and Sinclair's journey to reclaim it paints a picture that reframes the history of twentieth-century art.

For readers of The Hare with Amber Eyes

PRAISE

"In shifting back and forth from the Vichy years to the early '20s to the aftermath of the war, Ms. Sinclair offers revealing glimpses into what made the gallery such a prime target for the Nazis."—The Wall Street Journal

"Sinclair, a renowned journalist in France, pulls no punches...[An] absorbing account."—W

ANNE SINCLAIR is Paul Rosenberg's granddaughter and one of France's best-known journalists. For thirteen years she was the host of 7 sur 7, a weekly news and politics television show for which she interviewed world figures of the day, including Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Madonna. The editorial director of Le Huffington Post (France), Sinclair has written two bestselling books on politics.
The Ploughmen

A Novel

Kim Zupan

A young sheriff and a hardened killer form an uneasy friendship in this "remarkable" (NPR) debut novel set on the Montana plains

Steeped in the lonesome Montana country unyielding as it is beautiful, Kim Zupan's debut brings together two men—a killer awaiting trial, and a troubled young deputy—sitting across from each other in the dark, talking through the bars of a county jail cell: John Gload, so brutally adept at his craft that only now, at the age of seventy-seven, has he faced the prospect of long-term incarceration and Valentine Millimaki, low man in the Copper County sheriff's department, who draws the overnight shift after Gload's arrest. With a disintegrating marriage further collapsing under the strain of his night duty, Millimaki finds himself seeking counsel from a man he's sworn to keep behind bars, a man whose troubled past shares something essential with his own. As the two men find solace in their late-night conversations, their friendship takes a startling turn with a brazen act of violence that binds them to each other and to the secrets they share. Zupan, also a carpenter, "writes with the precision of his trade" (The New York Times Book Review) and delivers "one of the finest evocations of life in Western America in recent memory" (William Kittredge).

- An NPR Best Book of Year
- For readers of Smith Henderson's *Fourth of July Creek* and Philipp Meyer

PRAISE

"Almost hard to believe that it's a debut...it's absolutely beautiful, from its tragic opening scene to its tough, necessary end. Zupan is an unsparing writer, but also a generous, deeply compassionate one."—Michael Schaub, NPR.org

"Passionately arresting...His sentences are unleashed in a furious splendor...bleak and brilliant—the best kind of book."—Michele Filgate, Minneapolis Star Tribune

"Riffing on the rhythms of Cormac McCarthy...a dark and imaginative debut."—Alyson Hagy, The New York Times Book Review

KIM ZUPAN, a native Montanan, lives in Missoula and grew up in and around Great Falls, where much of the novel is set. For twenty-five years, Zupan made a living as a carpenter while pursuing his writing. He has also worked as a smelterman, pro rodeo bareback rider, ranch hand, Alaska salmon fisherman and presently teaches carpentry at Missoula College. He holds an MFA from the University of Montana.
"Fascinating...[Predator] is a soup-to-nuts—or ground-to-air—history of the world's most potent unmanned aerial vehicle" (The Wall Street Journal).

The creation of the first weapon in history whose operators can stalk and kill an enemy on the other side of the globe was far more than clever engineering. As Richard Whittle shows in Predator, it was one of the most profound developments in the history of military and aerospace technology.

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

Based on five years of research and hundreds of interviews, Predator reveals the dramatic inside story of the creation of a revolutionary weapon that forever changed the way we wage war and opened the door to a new age in aviation.

PRAISE

"Fresh and authoritative...[Whittle] delivers action-packed details about how the CIA and the Pentagon used armed Predators to hunt for al-Qaeda leaders immediately after 9/11."—The Washington Post

"Predator...tells a dramatic story while impressively detailing the long and often-threatened creation of the armed drone that would revolutionize modern warfare."—New York Daily News

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

A Novel

Lauren Francis-Sharma

A glorious and moving multigenerational, multicultural saga set during the 1940s through the 1960s in Trinidad and the United States.

"As universally touching as it is original."—The New York Times' "Sunday Book Review"

In a seaside village in the north of Trinidad, young Marcia Garcia, a gifted and smart-mouthed sixteen-year-old seamstress, lives alone, raising two small boys and guarding a family secret. When she meets Farouk Karam, an ambitious young policeman (so taken with Marcia that he elicits help from a tea-brewing obeah woman to guarantee her ardor), the rewards and risks in Marcia's life amplify forever.

'Til the Well Runs Dry sees Marcia and Farouk from their sassy and passionate courtship through personal and historical events that threaten Marcia's secret, entangle the couple and their children in a tumultuous scandal, and put the future in doubt for all of them.

With this deeply human novel, Lauren Francis-Sharma gives us an unforgettable story about a woman's love for a man, a mother's love for her children, and a people's love for an island rich with calypso and Carnival, cricket and salty air, sweet fruits and spicy stews—a story of grit, imperfection, steadfast love and of Trinidad that has never been told before.

• For readers of Khaled Hosseini, Lisa See, and Zora Neale Hurston

PRAISE

"Remarkably accomplished...[A] spellbinding, intimately detailed, psychologically lush, and suspenseful tale."—Booklist (starred review)

"Francis-Sharma is a true story-teller....This narrative is surprising, winding and always gratifying."—Tiphanie Yanique, author of Land of Love and Drowning

"A story that feels like a song...revealing a culture as vibrant and enriching as it is overlooked by those on the mainland."—Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

"A saga ripe with heartbreak and joy...Rich and satisfying."—Kirkus Reviews

LAUREN FRANCIS-SHARMA, a child of Trinidadian immigrants, was born in New York City and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She holds a bachelor's degree in English literature with a minor in African American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from the University of
Monday, Monday

A Novel

Elizabeth Crook

A tragedy in Texas alters the course of three lives in this "complex tale about overcoming fear, and the risks and power of love" (BookPage).

On an oppressively hot Monday in August of 1966, a student and former marine named Charles Whitman hauled a footlocker of guns to the top of the University of Texas tower and began firing on pedestrians below. Monday, Monday follows three students caught up in the massacre: Shelly, who leaves class and walks directly into the path of the bullets, and two cousins, Wyatt and Jack, who heroically rush from their classrooms to help the victims.

This searing day marks the beginning of a relationship that will entangle these three young people in a forbidden love affair, an illicit pregnancy, and a vow of silence that will span forty years. Reunited decades after the tragedy, Shelly, Wyatt, and Jack will be thrown back once more to the event that changed their lives, and confronted with the lingering power of a secret none of them are ready to reveal. With Monday, Monday, "Elizabeth Crook has written an extraordinary novel—an eloquent love story born from an act of random violence, a tale of destruction and redemption" (Sarah Bird).

• A Kirkus Reviews Best Fiction Book of the Year as well as a Favorite Book of the Year by The Wall Street Journal (selected by Stephen Harrigan)
• For readers of Ann Patchett's Bel Canto

PRAISE

"Crook's exploration of Whitman's massacre and its lingering effects will have relevance for years to come."—The Dallas Morning News

"Framing a story in the context of calamity—in this instance, mass murder—invites both sensationalism and sentimentality; there have been few memorable successes, Jonathan Safran Foer's Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close and Wally Lamb's The Hour I First Believed among them. Add Crook's latest to the plus side of the list... [Monday, Monday] is just right: confident and lyrical as it smartly engages terror and its aftermath."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

ELIZABETH CROOK is the author of three novels, The Raven's Bride, Promised Lands, and The Night Journal. She has written for anthologies and periodicals, including Texas Monthly and the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, and has served on the council of the Texas Institute of Letters. Currently, she is a member of the board of directors of the Texas Book Festival. She lives in Austin with her husband and two children.
High as the Horses' Bridles

A Novel

Scott Cheshire

How far back must one man journey to heal a broken bond between father and son?

In 1980, at a crowded amphitheater in Queens, New York, a nervous Josiah Laudermilk, age twelve, steps to the stage to deliver his first sermon to thousands of waiting believers. A prodigy, they called him, the next in a long line of faithful men. But decades later, after a failed marriage and years away from the church, Josiah (now Josie) finally returns to Queens to check on his father who, day by day, seems to be losing his grip on reality. Barreling through the old neighborhood, memories of the past—of his childhood friend Issy, of his first love, of the mother he has yet to properly mourn—overwhelm him at every turn. When he finally arrives at his family's old house, he's completely unprepared for what he finds.

Told in three distinct and masterful movements—reaching from 1980 Queens to the sunny present-day California and to a tent revival in nineteenth century rural Kentucky—High as the Horses Bridles is shot through with the love that binds generation; a heartbreaking debut from a bold new American voice.


PRAISE

"Daring and brilliant...Cheshire captures the anguish that has always driven people of faith...something of a miracle."—Ron Charles, The Washington Post

"A convincing ventriloquist with an ear for all variety of language, from biblical cadence to ethnic dialect and slang."—San Francisco Chronicle

"Deeply imagined...Mr. Cheshire skillfully writes about the burdens and silver linings offered by faith and other inheritances."—The New York Times

SCOTT CHERSHIRE work has appeared in AGNI, Guernica, Harper's, One Story, and the Picador Book of Men. He lives in Los Angeles.
Lila

A Novel

Marilynne Robinson

A new American classic from the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of Gilead and Housekeeping

Marilynne Robinson, one of the greatest novelists of our time, returns to the town of Gilead in an unforgettable story of a girlhood lived on the fringes of society in awe, and wonder.

Lila, homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, steps inside a small-town Iowa church—the only available shelter from the rain—and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life. She becomes the wife of a minister, John Ames, and begins a new existence while trying to make sense of the days of suffering that preceded her newfound security.

Revisiting the beloved characters and setting of Robinson's Pulitzer Prize–winning Gilead and Home, a National Book Award finalist, Lila is a moving expression of the mysteries of existence that is destined to become an American classic.

- Finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award

PRAISE

"Writing in lovely, angular prose that has the high loneliness of an old bluegrass tune...[Lila] is powerful and deeply affecting...Ms. Robinson renders [her] tale with the stark poetry of Edward Hopper or Andrew Wyeth."—The New York Times

"Lila is a book whose grandeur is found in its humility. That's what makes Gilead among the most memorable settings in American fiction."—The Wall Street Journal

"[Lila] is the highest fictional magic: a character who seems so real, it's hard to remember that she exists only in the page of this book."—Chicago Tribune

MARILYNNE ROBINSON is the author of the novels Home, Gilead (winner of the Pulitzer Prize), and Housekeeping, and four books of nonfiction, When I Was a Child I Read Books, Mother Country, The Death of Adam, and Absence of Mind. She teaches at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.
Virtually Human

The Promise—and the Peril—of Digital Immortality

Martine Rothblatt, Ph.D.; Foreword by Ray Kurzweil; Illustrated by Ralph Steadman

"Martine Rothblatt has a knack for expanding our minds as well as our comfort zones beyond customary boundaries, be they of gender or substrate" (Ray Kurzweil).

Virtually Human explores how cyberconsciousness will manifest in our lives, and what we need to consider when a new, high-tech population of mindclones awakens to the rights, privileges, and obligations humans take for granted. Rothblatt conveys a profound understanding of how close we are to achieving a full simulation of the human brain via software and computer technology in clear, positive language, and raises numerous ethical and moral questions we absolutely need to address now, before the technology becomes commercially viable and accessible to all of us. She gives us the philosophical and technological tools to understand the far-reaching implications of artificial intelligence. Martine Rothblatt has been at the forefront of AI research, and is a clearheaded—and optimistic—thinker when it comes to understanding the ethical concerns that will play a significant role as we move towards living side by side with our mindclones. Virtually Human will be the essential companion book to the future of mankind.

• A New York Times Book Review front-page review
• For readers of Ray Kurzweil's bestsellers

PRAISE

"Ingenious...A thoughtful philosophical exploration of the role of virtual humans in our future."—Kirkus Reviews on Virtually Human

"Maybe the most fascinating woman on the planet."—Jezebel on Martine Rothblatt

"The former Sirius Satellite Radio chief executive and current chief executive at United Therapeutics [Martine] offers a provocative look at mindclones, which are essentially digital clones of ourselves."—Washingtonpost.com on Virtually Human

MARTINE ROTHBLATT, PH.D., MBA, J.D., is a lawyer, entrepreneur, and medical ethicist. In 1990 she founded and served as Chairman and CEO of Sirius Satellite Radio (now Sirius XM). When her daughter was diagnosed with a rare disease, Martine left Sirius to search for a cure. She founded United Therapeutics in 1996 and has since served as Chairman and CEO. Martine is also a leading legal advocate for human rights and has led the IBA in presenting the UN with a draft treaty on the genome.
Limonov: The Outrageous Adventures of the Radical Soviet Poet Who Became a Bum in New York, a Sensation in France, and a Political Antihero in Russia

Emmanuel Carrère; Translated from the French by John Lambert

A thrilling page-turner that also happens to be the biography of one of Russia’s most controversial figures

Limonov tells the story of one of the most controversial and difficult figures on the international political scene: Eduard Limonov, writer, political dissident, and enfant terrible of the highest order. In this unconventional biography, chameleonic journalist, novelist, filmmaker Emmanuel Carrère details Limonov's chaotic and astonishing life from his grim childhood to his desperate, comical, ultimately successful attempts to gain the respect of Russia's literary intellectual elite; to his emigration to New York, then to Paris; to his return to the motherland. Limonov could be read as a charming picaresque. But it could also be read as a troubling counter-narrative of the second half of the twentieth century, one that reveals a violence, anarchy, a brutality that the stories we tell ourselves about progress tend to conceal.

PRAISE

"[Emmanuel Carrère] is probably the most important French writer you've never heard of."—Robert McCrum, The Observer (London)

"Emmanuel Carrère, one of the best known and most inventive French writers, has found a perfect subject in Edward Limonov...Mr. Carrère focuses his distinctive blend of reportage, memoir and fiction, and his affinity for the big questions, on this uncategoryable Russian."—The New York Times

"[Limonov's has] been a spectacular roller coaster life, and Emmanuel Carrère has turned it into an equally spectacular book."—Michael Dirda, The Washington Post

Writer, scriptwriter, and film producer EMMANUEL CARRERE was born in Paris in 1957. He is the author of The Adversary (a New York Times Notable Book), My Life as a Russian Novel, Class Trip, The Mustache, and Lives Other Than My Own. Limonov was awarded the Prix Renaudot in 2011 as well as the Prix Européen de Littérature and the Prix des Prix. Carrère lives in Paris. A native of Vancouver, JOHN LAMBERT studied philosophy in Paris before moving to Berlin, where he lives with his wife and two chi...
The Laughing Monsters

A Novel

Denis Johnson

A post-9/11 literary spy thriller from the National Book Award–winning author of Tree of Smoke

Roland Nair calls himself Scandinavian but travels on a U.S. passport. After ten years' absence, he returns to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to reunite with his friend Michael Adriko. They once made a lot of money here during the country's civil war, and, curious to see whether good luck will strike twice in the same place, Nair allows himself to be drawn back to a region he considers hopeless.

Adriko is an African who styles himself a soldier of fortune and who claims to have served, at various times, the Ghanaian army, the Kuwaiti Emiri Guard, and the American Green Berets. He's probably broke now, but he remains, at thirty-six, as stirred by his own doubtful schemes as he was a decade ago.

Although Nair believes some kind of money-making plan lies at the back of it all, Adriko’s stated reason for inviting his friend to Freetown is for Nair to meet Adriko's fiancée, a college girl named Davidia from Colorado. Together the three set out to visit Adriko's clan in the Uganda-Congo borderland—but each of these travelers is keeping secrets from the others. Their journey through a land abandoned by the future leads Adriko, Nair, and Davidia to meet themselves not in a new light, but rather in a new darkness.

A high-suspense tale of kaleidoscoping loyalties in the post-9/11 world, Denis Johnson's The Laughing Monsters shows one of our great novelists at the top of his game.

PRAISE

"Johnson's tenth novel is a stunner: the story of Roland Nair, a rogue intelligence agent looking to make a big score in Sierra Leone amid the detritus and chaos of the post-war-on-terrorism world. Johnson's sentences are always brilliant, but it is in the interstices, the gray areas of the story, that he really excels."—Los Angeles Times

"And for his next trick, Johnson delivers a taut Conrad-by-way-of-Chandler tale about a spy who gets too close to the man he's shadowing in Africa....[An] intriguing metaphor for [post-9/11 lawlessness]."—Kirkus Reviews

DENIS JOHNSON is the author of six novels, three collections of poetry, and one book of reportage. His novel Tree of Smoke won the 2007 National Book Award. Train Dreams was a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize.
The Boy Who Drew Monsters

A Novel

Keith Donohue

From the national bestselling author of The Stolen Child, an "ingenious" literary horror novel (New York Times Book Review) about a young boy trapped in his own terrifying world

Ever since he nearly drowned in the ocean three years earlier, ten-year-old Jack Peter Keenan has been deathly afraid to venture outdoors. Refusing to leave his home in a small coastal town in Maine, Jack Peter spends his time drawing monsters. When those drawings take on a life of their own, no one is safe from the terror they inspire. His mother, Holly, begins to hear strange sounds in the night coming from the ocean, and she seeks answers from the local Catholic priest and his Japanese housekeeper who fill her head with stories of shipwrecks and ghosts. His father, Tim, wanders the beach, frantically searching for a strange apparition running wild in the dunes. And the boy's only friend, Nick, becomes helplessly entangled in the eerie power of the drawings. While those around Jack Peter are haunted by what they think they see, only he knows the truth behind the frightful occurrences as the outside world encroaches upon them all.

• For readers of Neil Gaiman, Jason Mott, and Audrey Niffenegger

PRAISE

"We are in the territory of the wholehearted, up-for-anything gothic, which...operates with the volume cranked and the plot on greased wheels. As a writer, Donohue always seems to know exactly what he is doing."—Peter Straub, The Washington Post

"Donohue unspools his simple story patiently, delivering jolts when necessary....It's a modest novel, elegantly worked, with a nice chilly twist at the end."—Terrence Rafferty, The New York Times Book Review

"A masterfully controlled example of the literary horror genre."—Doug Childers, Richmond Times-Dispatch

KEITH DONOHUE is the national bestselling author of the novels The Stolen Child, The Angels of Destruction, and Centuries of June. His work has been translated into two dozen languages, and his articles have appeared in The New York Times and The Washington Post, among other publications. A graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Donohue also holds a Ph.D. in English from The Catholic University of America. He lives in Maryland.
Bad Paper

Inside the Secret World of Debt Collectors

Jake Halpern

A "completely fascinating" (Bloomberg View) tour of the underworld of debt collection, where bankers team up with ex-cons and few rules apply

The Federal Trade Commission receives more complaints about rogue debt collecting than about any activity besides identity theft. In Bad Paper, journalist Jake Halpern reveals why. He tells the story of Aaron Siegel, a former banking executive, and Brandon Wilson, a former armed robber, who become partners and go in quest of "paper"—the uncollected debts that are sold off by banks for pennies on the dollar. As Aaron and Brandon learn, the world of consumer debt collection is an unregulated shadowland, where operators often make unwarranted threats and even collect debts that are not theirs.

Introducing an unforgettable cast of strivers and rogues, Halpern chronicles Aaron and Brandon's lives as they manage high-pressure call centers, hunt for paper in Las Vegas casinos, and meet in parked cars to sell the social security numbers and account information of unsuspecting consumers. The result is a vital exposé on the cost of a system that compounds the troubles of hardworking Americans and a bravura feat of storytelling.

- A New York Times Bestseller
- For readers of Michael Lewis, Bethany McLean, and Peter Elkind's The Smartest Guys in the Room

PRAISE

"Halpern's proposed remedies are reasonable...[and] he entertains us with his colorful cast."—Roger Lowenstein, The Wall Street Journal

"The book teems with eccentric characters and scenes that made my skin crawl...Explained simply, read easily, Bad Paper defies expectations. It should also raise quite a few alarms."—Colin Dwyer, NPR

"[A] wonderful inquiry into the seamy, multilayered world of consumer debt collection...Bad Paper turns out to be both an entertaining sociology of the debt-collecting fraternity and a picaresque romp through the industry's most unsavory byways."—Julia M. Klein, The Boston Globe

JAKE HALPERN is a frequent contributor to The New Yorker and The New York Times Magazine, and is the author of previous works of journalism and a young adult novel. His New Yorker story on consumer debt collection is being developed into a dramatic series by Brad Pitt's production company, Plan B. Jake is a fellow of Morse College at Yale University. His hour-long radio story "Switched at Birth" is one of the NPR program This American Life's seven most popular shows.
Berlin

Portrait of a City Through the Centuries

Rory MacLean

A bold and imaginative history of one of the world's great cities spanning five centuries—told through the biographies of the Berliners who conceived and created the new capital of Europe

Berlin tells the volatile history of Europe's capital through a series of intimate portraits of two dozen key residents: the medieval balladeer whose suffering explains the Nazi's rise to power, the genius Jewish chemist who invented poison gas for First World War battlefields and then the death camps, the iconic mythmakers like Christopher Isherwood, Leni Riefenstahl and David Bowie whose heated visions are now as real as the city's bricks and mortar. Alongside them are portrayed some of the countless ordinary Berliners whose lives can only be imagined: the Scottish mercenary who fought in the Thirty Years War, the ambitious prostitute who refashioned herself as a baroness, and the American spy from the Midwest whose patriotism may have turned the course of the Cold War.

Berlin is a history book like no other, with an originality that reflects the nature of the city itself. No other city has so often surrendered itself to its own seductive myths. No other city has been so shaped and defined by individual imaginations. Berlin captures, portrays and propagates the remarkable story of those myths and their makers.

PRAISE

"Berlin is the most extraordinary work of history I've ever read.... It's a work of imagination, reflection, reverence, perplexity and criticism. The book's most profound feature, however, is its stunningly beautiful writing — phrases of transcendent rhythm force the reader to reverse and read again." —The Washington Post

"Brilliant."—National Geographic Traveler

RORY MACLEAN has known three Berlins: West Berlin, where he made movies with David Bowie and Marlene Dietrich; East Berlin, where he researched Stalin's Nose; and the unified capital where he lives today. He is the author of nine books and has won awards from the Canada Council and Arts Council of England as well as a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellowship. He was an International IMPAC Dublin Literary prize nominee and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.
The Revenant
A Novel of Revenge

Michael Punke

An unforgettable novel of revenge, soon to be a major motion picture, starring Leonardo DiCaprio

The year is 1823, and the trappers of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company live a brutal frontier life. Trapping beaver, they contend daily with the threat of Indian tribes turned warlike over the white men’s encroachment on their land, and other prairie foes—like the unforgiving landscape and its creatures. Hugh Glass is among the Company’s finest men, an experienced frontiersman and an expert tracker. But when a scouting mission puts him face to face with a grizzly bear, he is viciously mauled and not expected to survive. The Company’s captain dispatches two of his men to stay behind and tend to Glass before he dies, and to give him the respect of a proper burial. When the two men abandon him instead, taking his only means of protecting himself—including his precious gun and hatchet—with them, Glass is driven to survive by one desire: revenge. With shocking grit and determination, Glass sets out crawling inch by inch across more than 3,000 miles of uncharted American frontier, negotiating predators both human and not, the threat of starvation, and the agony of his horrific wounds. In Michael Punke’s hauntingly spare and gripping prose, The Revenant is a remarkable tale of obsession, the human will stretched to its limits, and the lengths that one man will go to for retribution.

PRAISE

"A superb revenge story...Punke has added considerably to our understanding of human endurance and of the men who pushed west in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark—a significant feat."—The Washington Post Book World

"A captivating tale of a singular individual...Authenticity is exactly what The Revenant provides, in abundance."—The Denver Post

"One of the great tales of the nineteenth-century West."—The Salt Lake Tribune

MICHAEL PUNKE serves as the U.S. Ambassador to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. He has also served on the White House National Security Council staff and on Capitol Hill. Formerly the history correspondent for Montana Quarterly and an adjunct professor at the University of Montana, he is the author of Fire and Brimstone and Last Stand. His family home is in Montana.
The Unspeakable

And Other Subjects of Discussion

Meghan Daum

A master of the personal essay candidly explores love, death, and the counterfeit rituals of American life in this "brave, funny compendium" (Slate).

In her celebrated 2001 collection, My Misspent Youth, Meghan Daum offered a bold, witty, defining account of the artistic ambitions, financial anxieties, and mixed emotions of her generation. The Unspeakable is an equally bold and witty, but also a sadder and wiser, report from early middle age.

In My Misspent Youth Daum reveals the absurdities of the marriage-industrial complex, of the New Age dating market, and of the peculiar habits of the young and digital with perfect precision. Elsewhere, she writes searchingly about cultural nostalgia, Joni Mitchell, and the alternating heartbreak and liberation of choosing not to have children.

Combining the piercing insight of Joan Didion with a warm humor reminiscent of Nora Ephron, Daum dissects our culture's most dangerous illusions, blind spots, and sentimentalities while retaining her own joy and compassion.

• Picador will be reissuing Daum's cult classic collection, My Misspent Youth, to coincide with The Unspeakable's paperback publication.

PRAISE

"Thrillingly good... Daum's powers as one of the most emotionally exacting, mercilessly candid, deeply funny and intellectually rigorous writers of our time are on glorious display."—Cheryl Strayed, The New York Times Book Review

"She's among the best personal essayists of a searching, cynical generation that's lucky to have her."—John Williams, The New York Times


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"She's among the best personal essayists of a searching, cynical generation that's lucky to have her."—John Williams, The New York Times

My Misspent Youth

Essays

Meghan Daum

An incisive essay collection that became a cult classic, from the author of Unspeakable

Meghan Daum is one of the most celebrated nonfiction writers of her generation, widely recognized for her fresh, provocative approach with which she unearths the hidden fault lines in the American landscape. From her well remembered New Yorker essays about the financial demands of big-city ambition and the ethereal, strangely old-fashioned allure of cyber-relationships to her dazzlingly hilarious riff in Harper's about musical passions that give way to middle-brow paraphernalia, Daum delves into the center of things while closely examining the detritus that spills out along the way. With precision and well-balanced irony, Daum implicates herself as readily as she does the targets that fascinate and horrify her.

- With a new introduction
- One of Flavorwire's 25 Greatest Essay Collections of All Time

PRAISE

"Daum approaches the first lesson of adulthood—that the prosaic will intrude on the fantastic every time—without ever dissolving into cynicism."—The New York Times Book Review

"Meghan Daum's essay 'Variations on Grief' is one of the most stunningly honest things I've ever read. And throughout this book, there are a surprising number of moments when your jaw just drops in amazement at what she's saying. Even when she's being funny, her writing has a clarity and intensity that just makes you feel awake."—Ira Glass, host of This American Life

"These essays, written not in breath-taking, but in authentic, breath-giving prose, probe experiences to w...

How About Never--Is Never Good for You?

My Life in Cartoons

Bob Mankoff

A memoir in cartoons by the longtime cartoon editor of The New Yorker

People tell Bob Mankoff that as the cartoon editor of The New Yorker he has the best job in the world. Never one to beat around the bush, he explains to us, in the opening of this singular, delightfully eccentric book, that because he is also a cartoonist at the magazine he actually has two of the best jobs in the world. With the help of myriad images and his funniest, most beloved cartoons, he traces his love of the craft all the way back to his childhood, when he started doing funny drawings at the age of eight. After meeting his mother, we follow his unlikely stints as a high school basketball star, draft dodger, and sociology grad student.

Though Mankoff abandoned the study of psychology in the seventies to become a cartoonist, he recently realized that the field he abandoned could help him better understand the field he was in, and here he takes up the psychology of cartooning, analyzing why some cartoons make us laugh and others don't. He allows us into the hallowed halls of The New Yorker to show us the soup-to-nuts process of cartoon creation, giving us a detailed look not only at his own work but that of the other talented cartoonists who keep us laughing week after week. For desert, he reveals the secrets to winning the magazine's caption contest. Throughout, we see his commitment to the motto "Anything worth saying is worth saying funny."

• A New York Times bestseller
• Perfect for holiday gift-giving

PRAISE

"Lucid, illuminating, and encouraging...How About Never—Is Never Good for You? is not just a charming memoir but also a charming grab bag of cartoon history, cartoon theory (nothing too woolly), and shoptalk."—The New York Times Book Review

"Mankoff's deep understanding of humor, both its power and its practice, is the live wire that crackles through his new book."—The Washington Post

BOB MANKOFF is the cartoon editor for The New Yorker. Before he succeeded Lee Lorenz as editor, Mankoff was a cartoonist for the magazine for twenty years. He founded the online Cartoon Bank, which has every cartoon since the magazine's founding. He is the author of the book The Naked Cartoonist: A New Way to Enhance Your Creativity.
By the Book

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

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

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

"A captivating hodgepodge of literary musings."—Publishers Weekly

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

By the Book contains the full uncut interviews, offering a range of experiences and observations that deepens readers' understanding of the literary sensibility and the writing process. It also features dozens of sidebars that reveal the commonalities and conflicts among the participants, underscoring those influences that are truly universal and those that remain matters of individual taste.

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

PRAISE

"I read most of these [By the Book] columns as they appeared, because they have become my favorite part of The New York Times Book Review. I relish the company of other writers....A fine writer's reading passions are often a window into his or her mind." — from the foreword by Scott Turow

"The effect is like being at a very well-attended cocktail party, or peeking onto the nightstand of a favorite author....At times delightful and always entertaining, this book can be taken in large gulps, or small sips. Reading it will surely result in a monstrous and fascinating reading list."—Library Journal (starred review)

There Was and There Was Not
A Journey Through Hate and Possibility in Turkey, Armenia, and Beyond

Meline Toumani

"Sensitive, inquiring . . . unsparingly honest . . . Toumani risks the ire of both sides by ‘tampering,’ as she puts it, ‘with the story we had all agreed to tell.’ Although it cost her some peac...

Meline Toumani grew up in a close-knit Armenian community in New Jersey where Turkish restaurants were shunned and anything made in Turkey boycotted. Diaspora life revolved around commemorating the 1915 genocide of Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government, a history Turkey still works hard to cover up and minimize.

Frustrated by the all-consuming nature of her community's quest for genocide recognition, Toumani decided to do the unthinkable: pick up and move to Istanbul. Instead of demonizing Turks she set out to understand them, finding her way over four years into a series of extraordinary conversations that were taboo and sometimes illegal.

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

• A National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist

PRAISE

"Audacious . . . Compelling . . . Ms Toumani's stirring memoir lends hope that reconciliation, imperfect though it may be, can at last be achieved." —The Economist

"Terrifically smart . . . Fresh, lucid, and psychologically incisive, the book is also absorbing and beautifully written." —Adelle Waldman, The Wall Street Journal

"Sometimes personal histories retain a potent electromagnetic force. Armenian-American journalist Meline Toumani's extraordinary There Was and There Was Not tackles the legacy of the 1915 Armenian genocide, opening provocative lines of inquiry into the identities we inherit, and transform." —Vogue

MELINE TOUMANI has written extensively for The New York Times on Turkey and Armenia as well as on music, dance, and film. Her work has also appeared in n+1, The Nation, Salon, and The Boston Globe. A journalism fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Austria, she was also the coordinator of the Russian-American Journalism Institute in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. Born in Iran and ethnically Armenian, she grew up in New Jersey and California and now lives in New York City.
The Marriage Recital

A Novel

Katharine Grant

"A wicked sense of humor...Subversive and thrilling...It will keep you up all night." (The New York Times Book Review).

An irresistibly seductive, deliciously twisted historical tale of piano playing, passions, and female power.

The setting: London, 1794.

The problem: Four nouveau riche fathers with five marriageable daughters.

The plan: The young women will learn to play the piano, give a concert for young Englishmen who have titles but no fortunes, and will marry very well indeed.

The complications: The lascivious (and French) piano teacher; the piano maker's jealous (and musically gifted) daughter; the one of these marriageable daughters with a mating plan of her own.

While it might be a truth universally acknowledged that a man in possession of a title and no money must be in want of a fortune, what does a sexually awakened young woman want? In her wickedly alluring romp through late-Georgian London, Italian piano making, and tightly fitted polonaise gowns, Katharine Grant has written a startling and provocative debut.

PRAISE

"A tease of a novel...Extremely impressive...A wonderful read from a born storyteller."—Chris Cleave, New York Times bestselling author of Little Bee

"Grant at times writes like Jane Austen on crack cocaine....A triumph of wit and brio."—The Scotsman

"As dark and deceitful as it is gloriously bawdy, the beautiful bastard child of Choderlos de Laclos's Les liaisons dangereuses and Sarah Waters's Fingersmith."—The Observer

"A fast-paced, sexy, historical read...Grant's girls are funny, witty, melancholy, rowdy, elegant, and kick ass."—Marie Claire (UK)

KATHARINE GRANT is (as K. M. Grant) a children's book author, best known in the UK for her prize-winning DeGranville Trilogy. The Marriage Recital (previously published as Sedition) is her debut novel for adults. She was brought up in Lancashire, England, amid the ghosts of her ancestors, one of whom was the last person in the UK to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. She lives in Scotland with her husband and three children.
A Royal Experiment

The Private Life of King George III

Janice Hadlow

"A masterpiece. Beautifully written, impeccably researched, this heartbreaking narrative...is an absolute page-turner" (Amanda Foreman, author of Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire).

A magnificent and wonderfully readable biography that marks the stunning debut of an important new history writer.

To Americans, George III has long been doubly famous—as the "tyrant" from whom colonial revolutionaries wrested a nation's liberty and, owing to his late-life illness, as "the mad king." In A Royal Experiment, he is also a man with a poignant agenda. He comes to the throne in 1760, at age twenty-two, determined to be a new kind of king, one whose power will be rooted in the affection and approval of his people. He is equally resolute about being a new kind of man, a husband able to escape the extraordinary family dysfunction of his Hanoverian predecessors and maintain domestic harmony.

For a long time, it seems as if, against the odds, George's great experiment might succeed. His wife, Queen Charlotte, shares his sense of moral purpose, and together they do everything they can to raise their tribe of thirteen sons and daughters in a climate of loving attention. But in a rapidly more populous and prosperous England, throughout years of revolution in America and in France, the struggle to achieve a new balance between politics and privacy places increasing stress on George, Charlotte, and their children. The story that roils across the long arc of George's life and reign is high drama—tragic and riveting.

PRAISE

"Fascinating...Hadlow paints subtle psychological portraits."—The New York Times Book Review

"In this densely detailed yet fast-paced book, as drama follows drama, the interest never flags. Each story is a revelation."—Jenny Uglow, The Guardian

"Enthralling...Gripping and moving...A timeless reflection on the human condition."—Simon Schama, author of The Embarrassment of Riches

JANICE HADLOW has worked at the BBC for over two decades. During the last ten years she ran BBC Two and BBC Four, two of the broadcaster's major television channels. She was educated at Swanley School in Kent, and graduated with a first class degree in history from King's College, London. She currently lives in Bath. A Royal Experiment is her first book.
Why Homer Matters
Adam Nicolson

In this moving personal musing on Homer, Adam Nicolson is at his "eloquent and rapturous best" (Nathaniel Philbrick)

Why Homer Matters is a magical journey of discovery across wide stretches of the past, sewn together by the poems themselves and their metaphors of life and trouble. Homer's poems occupy, as Adam Nicolson writes, "a third space" in the way we relate to the past: not as memory nor as the objective accounts of history, but as epic, poetry which aims "to bind the wounds that time inflicts."

Adam Nicolson sees the Iliad and the Odyssey as the foundation myths of Greek consciousness, which ask the eternal questions about the individual and the community, honor and service, love and war, collapse the passage of 4,000 years making the distant past of the Mediterranean world as immediate to us as the events of our own time.

• Named One of the Best Books of the Year: The Economist, Kirkus Reviews, The New Statesman (UK), The Telegraph (UK), and a #1 Sunday Times Bestseller (UK)

PRAISE

"Highly accessible...Nicolson's amateurism (in the best, etymological, sense of the word: from the Latin amare, "to love") and globe-trotting passion for his subject is contagious."—The New York Times Book Review

"Complex, personal, and profound...a brash and brave piece of writing...filled with the swords and spears that inflict the carnage of the 'Iliad,' can change the way we see ours."—The Wall Street Journal

"Stirring...Nicolson eloquently sums up what we still look for in Homer."—The Washington Post

"If I have a serious complaint about this book, it's that it threatens to be better than Homer."—National Review

ADAM NICOLSON's books include God's Secretaries, Sea Room, Sissinghurst, and Restoration. He has written for The Sunday Times, The Sunday Telegraph, and The Daily Telegraph. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the Society of Antiquaries of London, and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, he counts the Somerset Maugham Award, the W. H. Heinemann Prize, and the British Topography Prize among his honors. He lives on a farm in Sussex with his wife and their five grown children.
Sea Room
An Island Life in the Hebrides

Adam Nicolson

"Uninhabited islands for sale. Outer Hebrides, 600 acres...Puffins and seals. Apply..."—The Daily Telegraph, 1937

In 1937, Adam Nicolson's father answered a newspaper ad for a small cluster of three islands—The Shiants (Gaelic meaning "holy" or "enchanted")—which lie east of the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. Sheer black cliffs drop five hundred feet into the cold, dark, rip currents of the Minch, lounging seals crowd at their feet, and thousands upon thousands of sea birds swarm overhead in the sky. Nicolson inherited the islands when he was twenty-one and in this spellbinding and luminous book, he recalls his keenly deep connection to the wild, windswept, and yet enchantingly beautiful property. Not merely a haven of solitude, the islands, with a centuries-old past haunted by restless ghosts and tales of ancient treasure, came to be for Nicolson his heartland and a "sea room"—a sailing term he uses to mean "the sense of enlargement that island life can give you."

In passionate, prismatic prose, Sea Room celebrates this extraordinary landscape, exploring Nicolson's complicated relationship to the paradoxes of island life and the wonder of revelatory engagement with our natural world.

• With a new introduction

PRAISE

"Nicolson's chronicle is a fine book...Readers will be duly awed by his delicately layered story."—The New York Times Book Review

"Extraordinarily outward-looking...intensely written and memorable."—The Sunday Telegraph

"[Nicolson] conjures the numinous spirit of the place in long, lyric stretches and weaves a vivid tapestry of people and events."—Evening Standard

"An adventure story with Hemingway highs and is also unselfconscious, wonderfully idiosyncratic, and, above all, beautifully written."—Literary Review

ADAM NICOLSON's books include God's Secretaries, Sea Room, Sissinghurst, and Restoration. He has written for The Sunday Times, The Sunday Telegraph, and The Daily Telegraph. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the Society of Antiquaries of London, and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, he counts the Somerset Maugham Award, the W. H. Heinemann Prize, and the British Topography Prize among his honors. He lives on a farm in Sussex with his wife and their five grown children.
From the acclaimed author of Vita, comes a moving but unsentimental examination of one woman’s life as she navigates life after war

It's Christmas Eve and twenty-seven-year-old Manuela Paris is returning home to a seaside town outside Rome. Years ago, she left to become a soldier—a platoon commander in the Afghan desert—fleeing an unhappy, rebellious adolescence. Now, she's fleeing something else entirely: the memory of a bloody attack that left her seriously injured.

Numb and adrift, she is startled to life by an encounter with a mysterious stranger, a man without a past who is, like her, suspended in his own private limbo of expectation and hope. Their relationship, at once confusing and invigorating, forces her to confront her past and the secrets she is hiding.

In chapters that toggle between Manuela at home and in Afghanistan, Melania G. Mazzucco limns a story of love and loss, death and resistance. Limbo asks its readers, no less than its protagonist, what it means to be a daughter, a sister, a woman, a citizen, a soldier—or, more simply, a human.

• For readers of Kevin Powers and Paolo Giordano

PRAISE

"Mazzucco dazzles in her latest novel, treating readers to a wonderfully paced love story set against a backdrop of modern warfare."—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"A sensitive, absorbing story of life and love after war...[Mazzucco] gives us a wholly human protagonist who must and does prove herself, whose heroism is of a quiet and stern variety. For those reasons, we must agree with Manuela's younger brother that this heroine 'is better than Lara Croft.'"—Shelf Awareness (starred review)

"Manuela Paris springs off the page....With exceptional writing and a masterly grasp of storytelling, Mazzucco offers such a realistic portrayal of the w..."
Animal Weapons
The Evolution of Battle
Douglas J. Emlen; Illustrated by David J. Tuss

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

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

PRAISE
"In this original study, Emlen tours offensive and defensive anatomy and behavior across aeons and taxa, from Tyrannosaurus rex's fearsome teeth to ibex horns and amphibian poisons. He sharpens the discussion by interweaving parallels with humanity's own evolving arsenal."—Nature

"Through personal stories, historical narrative and detailed sketches, biologist Emlen charts the evolution of animal weapons so bizarre and gargantuan, it's amazing they even exist."—Discover

DOUGLAS J. EMLEN is the recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering from the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House, multiple research awards from the National Science Foundation, including their five-year Career Award, and a Young Investigator Prize and the E. O. Wilson Naturalist Award from the American Society of Naturalists. His research has been featured in outlets including the New York Times and National Public Radio's Fresh Air.
Three Light-Years

A Novel

Andrea Canobbio; Translated from the Italian by Anne Milano Appel

A quietly devastating novel about the pain of hidden secrets and the cost of surrendered love

Cecilia and Claudio are doctors at the same hospital. They eat lunch together, sharing conversation and confidences. Each is recovering from a relationship that has ended but is not yet over: she is a vulnerable young woman with a complicated family situation and two small children; he continues to live in the same building with his senile mother and his ex-wife and her new family. Though they are drawn together magnetically, life has taught them to treat that attraction with suspicion.

But a chance encounter with Cecilia's sister, Silvia, shifts the precarious balance of the relationship between the two doctors. Claudio begins to see the difficulties inherent in his approach toward life—his weary "Why not?," rather than indicating a hunger for life and experiences, is simply a default setting; saying no would require an energy and focus he lacks. And just when Cecilia comes to the realization that she loves Claudio and is ready to commit to a genuine relationship, fate steps in once again.

In lucid, melancholy prose, elegantly rendered into English by Anne Milano Appel, Andrea Canobbio sketches a fable of love poisoned by indecision and ambivalence in Three Light-Years, laying bare the dangers of playing it safe when it comes to matters of the heart.

• For readers of Elena Ferrante and Anthony Doerr

PRAISE

"Andrea Canobbio's remarkable novel Three Light-Years...avoids the obvious pitfalls, largely as a result of [Canobbio's] acuity and inventiveness, the specificity and density of his detail, the elegance of his style, and the depth of his psychological insight....Even if Chekhov's name weren't invoked, we might think of him when we read Canobbio." — Francine Prose, The New York Review of Books

"An intimate and perceptive portrait....[An] eminently wise and satisfying book."—Mark Fried, Toronto Star

ANDREA CANOBBO was born in Turin, Italy, where he currently lives. An editor at the publishing house Einaudi, where he has headed the foreign fiction department since 1995, he is the author of The Natural Disorder of Things (FSG, 2006). Three Light Years won Italy's prestigious Mondello Prize in 2013. ANNE MILANO APPEL, PHD, a former library director and language teacher, has been translating professionally for more than fifteen years.
All the Old Knives

A Novel

Olen Steinhauer

**New York Times** bestselling espionage master Olen Steinhauer delivers an intimate, taut thriller about two ex-coworkers-ex-spies and ex-lovers-reuniting one last time.

Six years ago in Vienna, terrorists took over a hundred hostages, and the rescue attempt went terribly wrong. The CIA's Vienna station was witness to this tragedy, gathering intel from its sources during those tense hours, assimilating facts from the ground and from an agent on the inside. So when it all went wrong, the question had to be asked: Had their agent been compromised, and how?

Two of the CIA's case officers in Vienna, Henry Pelham and Celia Harrison, were lovers at the time, and on the night of the hostage crisis Celia decided she'd had enough. She left the agency, married and had children, and is now living an ordinary life in the idyllic town of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Henry is still a case officer in Vienna, and has traveled to California to see her one more time, to relive the past, maybe, or to put it behind him once and for all.

But neither of them can forget that long-ago question: Had their agent been compromised? If so, how? Each also wonders what role tonight's dinner companion might have played in the way the tragedy unfolded six years ago.

*All the Old Knives* is *New York Times* bestseller Olen Steinhauer's most intimate, most cerebral, and most shocking novel to date.

**PRAISE**

"[A] sneaky little gem...a heart-racing espionage plot...Mr. Steinhauer specializes in tough showdowns. And the more innocently they begin, the more devastatingly they end." - *The New York Times Book Review*

"There's great narrative energy in the thrust and counterthrust of the dinner conversation...Steinhauer is a very fine writer and an excellent observer of human nature, shrewd about the pleasures and perils of spying." - *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

OLEN STEINHAUER, the *New York Times* bestselling author of nine previous novels, is a Dashiell Hammett Award winner, a two-time Edgar award finalist, and has also been shortlisted for the Anthony, the Macavity, the Ellis Peters Historical Dagger, the Ian Fleming Steel Dagger, and the Barry awards. Raised in Virginia, he lives in New York and Budapest, Hungary. Visit OlenSteinhauer.com

**ALSO AVAILABLE**

The Cairo Affair
1/2015 | 9781250036155
Trade Paperback | $16.00 / $18.50 Can.
10:04: A Novel
Ben Lerner

A stunning, urgent, and original novel about making art, love, and children during the twilight of an empire, from "a courageous, immensely intelligent artist" (Jeffrey Eugenides)

"10:04 is a mind-blowing book; to use Lerner's own description, it's a book that's written "on the very edge of fiction.""—Maureen Corrigan, NPR

Within the span of a single year, the narrator of 10:04 has enjoyed unlikely literary success, has been diagnosed with a potentially fatal medical condition, and has been asked by his best friend to help her conceive a child. Now, in a New York of increasingly frequent superstorms and social unrest, he must reckon with his own mortality and the prospect of fatherhood in a city that might soon be underwater.

A writer whose work Jonathan Franzen has called "hilarious . . . cracklingly intelligent . . . and original in every sentence" (The Guardian), Ben Lerner captures what it's like to be alive now, during the twilight of an empire, when the difficulty of imagining a future is changing our relationship to both the present and the past.


PRAISE

"Mr. Lerner is among the most interesting young American novelists at present....akin to a young Brooklynite version of the Norwegian novelist Karl Ove Knausgaard. That is, in his books, little happens, yet everything happens. Small moments come steeped in vertiginous magic."—Dwight Garner, The New York Times "This is only Lerner's second novel (and he is only thirty-five), and yet to talk about mere 'promise,' as is customary with the young, seems insufficient. Even if he writes nothing else for the rest of his life, this is a book that belongs to the future."—Giles Harvey, New York Review of Books

Ben Lerner has been a Fulbright Fellow, a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry, a Howard Foundation Fellow, and a Guggenheim Fellow. His first novel, Leaving the Atocha Station, won the 2012 Believer Book Award, and he is also the author of three poetry collections: The Lichtenberg Figures, Angle of Yaw, and Mean Free Path. Lerner is a professor of English at Brooklyn College.
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