Housekeeping (Fortieth Anniversary Edition)

A Novel

Afterword by C. E. Morgan

"So precise, so distilled, so beautiful that one doesn't want to miss any pleasure it might yield."

A modern classic, *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, their eccentric and remote aunt. The family house is in the small Far West town of Fingerbone set on a glacial lake, 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.

"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."

"I found myself reading slowly, than 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 the novel *Gilead* and three books of nonfiction, *Mother Country, The Death of Adam,* and *When I Was a Child I Read Books*. She teaches at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.
Permanent Record
Edward Snowden

Edward Snowden, the man who risked everything to expose the US government’s system of mass surveillance, reveals for the first time the story of his life, including how he helped to build that sy...

In 2013, twenty-nine-year-old Edward Snowden shocked the world when he broke with the American intelligence establishment and revealed that the United States government was secretly pursuing the means to collect every single phone call, text message, and email. The result would be an unprecedented system of mass surveillance with the ability to pry into the private lives of every person on earth. Six years later, Snowden reveals for the very first time how he helped to build this system and why he was moved to expose it.

Spanning the bucolic Beltway suburbs of his childhood and the clandestine CIA and NSA postings of his adulthood, *Permanent Record* is the extraordinary account of a bright young man who grew up online—a man who became a spy, a whistleblower, and, in exile, the Internet’s conscience. Written with wit, grace, passion, and an unflinching candor, *Permanent Record* is a crucial memoir of our digital age and destined to be a classic.

Edward Snowden was born in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and grew up in the shadow of Fort Meade. A systems engineer by training, he served as an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency, and worked as a contractor for the National Security Agency. He has received numerous awards for his public service, including the Right Livelihood Award, the German Whistleblower Prize, the Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling, and the Carl von Ossietzky Medal from the International League of Human Rights. Cu...
Desk 88
Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America

Sherrod Brown

The senior Ohio Senator’s incisive, entertaining history of the previous occupants of his Senate desk and what they did for America

Since his election to the U.S. Senate in 2006, Ohio’s Sherrod Brown has sat on the Senate floor at a mahogany desk with a proud history. In Desk 88, he tells the story of eight of the Senators who were there before him. Despite their flaws and frequent setbacks, each made a decisive contribution to the creation of a more just America. They range from Hugo Black, who helped to lift millions of American workers out of poverty, to Robert F. Kennedy, whose eyes were opened by an undernourished Mississippi child and who then spent the rest of his life afflicting the comfortable. Brown revives forgotten figures such as Idaho’s Glen Taylor, a singing cowboy who taught himself economics and stood up to segregationists, and offers new insights into George McGovern, who fought to feed the poor around the world even amid personal and political calamities.

Together, these eight portraits in political courage tell a story about the triumphs and failures of the Progressive idea over the past century. Today, these advances are in peril as employers shed their responsibilities to employees and communities, and a U.S. president gives cover to bigotry. But the Progressive idea is not dead. Recalling his own career, Brown dramatizes the hard work and high ideals required to renew the social contract and create a new era in which Americans of all backgrounds can know the “Dignity of Work.”

Sherrod Brown is the senior United States Senator from Ohio, elected to his seat in 2006. He was the U.S. Representative for Ohio’s 13th congressional district from 1993 to 2003 and the forty-seventh Secretary of State of Ohio from 1983 to 1991. A member of the Democratic Party, Senator Brown began his political career in 1975 upon election to the Ohio House of Representatives.
**Gun Island**

*A Novel*

Amitav Ghosh

From the award-winning author of the bestselling epic *Ibis* trilogy comes a globetrotting, folkloric adventure novel about family and heritage.

Bundook. Gun. A common word, but one that turns Deen Datta’s world upside down.

A dealer of rare books, Deen is used to a quiet life spent indoors, but as his once-solid beliefs begin to shift, he is forced to set out on an extraordinary journey; one that takes him from India to Los Angeles and Venice via a tangled route through the memories and experiences of those he meets along the way. There is Piya, a fellow Bengali-American who sets his journey in motion; Tipu, an entrepreneurial young man who opens Deen’s eyes to the realities of growing up in today’s world; Rafi, with his desperate attempt to help someone in need; and Cinta, an old friend who provides the missing link in the story they are all a part of. It is a journey that will upend everything he thought he knew about himself, about the Bengali legends of his childhood, and about the world around him.

"A novel for our times," (*The Washington Post*) Amitav Ghosh’s *Gun Island* is a beautifully realized novel that effortlessly spans space and time. It is the story of a world on the brink, of increasing displacement and unstoppable transition. But it is also a story of hope, of a man whose faith in the world and the future is restored by two remarkable women.

**PRAISE**

"*Gun Island* deals with two of the biggest issues of the current moment: climate change and human migration. The confidence with which he shapes a good, old-fashioned diversion around these particular poles is instructive. . . . That Ghosh is able to sustain the book’s momentum when its primary inquiry is so cerebral is no mean feat... *Gun Island* is a novel for our times." —Rumaan Alam, *The Washington Post*

Amitav Ghosh is the author of the acclaimed and bestselling Ibis trilogy, which includes *Sea of Poppies* (short-listed for the 2008 Man Booker Prize), *River of Smoke*, and *Flood of Fire*, all published by FSG. His other novels include *The Circle of Reason*, which won the Prix Médicis étranger, and *The Glass Palace*. He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government in 2007 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2009. He lives in India.
Ms. Hempel Chronicles

A Novel

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum

A "deeply affecting" (Los Angeles Times) novel of a devoted young teacher finding her way

Ms. Beatrice Hempel, teacher of seventh grade, is new—new to teaching, new to the school, newly engaged, and newly bereft of her idiosyncratic father. Grappling awkwardly with her newness, she struggles to figure out what is expected of her in life and at work. Is it acceptable to introduce swear words into the English curriculum, enlist students to write their own report cards, or bring up personal experiences while teaching a sex-education class?

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum finds characters at their most vulnerable, then explores those precarious moments in sharp, graceful prose. From this most innovative of young writers comes another journey down the rabbit hole to the wonderland of middle school, memory, daydreaming, and the extraordinary business of growing up.

PRAISE

"Beautifully written, distinctively voiced, deeply smart, and very funny... a complete, organic novel about a love like none I've ever read about before." —Jonathan Franzen on the Daily Beast

"A wonderful, practically magical writer... [Ms. Hemp] is hilarious, poignant, quirky [and] irresistible." —Curtis Sittenfeld, Salon

"Utterly charming... I fell in love." —The Washington Post

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum is the author of two novels, Ms. Hempel Chronicles, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, and Madeleine Is Sleeping, a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize. Her fiction has appeared in many magazines and anthologies, including the New Yorker, Ploughshares, Tin House, The Best American Short Stories, and the O. Henry Prize Stories. The recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award and an NEA Fellowship, she was named one of “20 Under 40...
Madeleine Is Sleeping

A Novel

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum

A National Book Award Finalist, Sarah Shun-lien Bynum's enchanting and inventive first novel is a groundbreaking, contemporary classic

When a girl falls into a mysterious, impenetrable sleep, the borders between her provincial French village and the peculiar, beguiling realm of her dreams begin to disappear: A fat woman sprouts delicate wings and takes flight; a failed photographer stumbles into the role of pornographer; a beautiful young wife grows to resemble her husband's viol. Madeleine, the dreamer, travels in their midst, trying to make sense of her own metamorphosis. She leaves home, joins a gypsy circus, and falls into an unexpected triangle of desire and love.

Embracing the earthy and the ethereal, the comical and the poignant, Madeleine Is Sleeping is part fairy tale, part coming-of-age story, and above all, an adventure in the discovery of art, sexuality, community, and the self.

PRAISE

National Book Award Finalist * Young Lions Fiction Award Finalist * Winner of the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize * Washington Post Best Book of 2004

"A wonderful combination of Virginia Woolf and Freud and Jung, and Bynum’s own gifts for imagery and wordplay." —NPR

"Masterful . . . sensuous and humorous, mellifluous and matter-of-fact."
—Washington Post

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum is the author of two novels, Ms. Hempel Chronicles, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, and Madeleine Is Sleeping, a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize. Her fiction has appeared in many magazines and anthologies, including the New Yorker, Ploughshares, Tin House, The Best American Short Stories, and the O. Henry Prize Stories. The recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award and an NEA Fellowship, she was named one of “20 Under 40...
City of Gold (Tenth Anniversary Edition)

Dubai and the Dream of Capitalism

Jim Krane

Tenth Anniversary edition, with a new afterword by the author

"City of Gold offers a vivid guide to how a Bedouin tribe turned a mud village on a scrap of desert into a glittering city state."—James Pressley, Bloomberg News

Just a dusty fishing village in the 1950s, Dubai has grown faster than any city in the world to become a glittering Mecca for investors and pleasure-seekers, the repository of vast foreign investments, and a bellwether for the entire economy. In this compelling new book, Jim Krane charts the history of Dubai from its earliest days, considers the influence of the family that has ruled since the early nineteenth century, and looks at the effect of the global economic downturn on a place that many tout as a blueprint for a more stable Middle East.

PRAISE

"Examine[s] this small emirate with admirable even-handedness and good humour...Krane also writes movingly of the conditions of the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers who have built Dubai."—Financial Times

"A fascinating study of a small nation that has taken the ideas of modernization and capitalism to their outer limits."—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

JIM KRANE was the Associated Press's Persian Gulf correspondent, responsible for coverage in all six Gulf Arab countries. He lives in Cambridge, England, with his wife and son.
The Undying

Pain, vulnerability, mortality, medicine, art, time, dreams, data, exhaustion, cancer, and care

Anne Boyer

A one-of-a-kind meditation on pain and economics

A week after her forty-first birthday, the acclaimed poet Anne Boyer was diagnosed with highly aggressive triple-negative breast cancer. For a single mother living paycheck to paycheck who had always been the caregiver rather than the one needing care, the catastrophic illness was both a crisis and an initiation into new ideas about mortality and the gendered politics of illness.

A twenty-first-century Illness as Metaphor, as well as a harrowing memoir of survival. The Undying explores the experience of illness as mediated by digital screens, weaving in ancient Roman dream diarists, cancer hoaxers and fetishists, cancer vloggers, corporate lies, John Donne, pro-pain “dolorists,” the ecological costs of chemotherapy, and the many little murders of capitalism. It excoriates the pharmaceutical industry and the bland hypocrisies of “pink ribbon culture” while also diving into the long literary line of women writing about their own illnesses and ongoing deaths: Audre Lorde, Kathy Acker, Susan Sontag, and others.

A genre-bending memoir in the tradition of The Argonauts, The Undying will break your heart, make you angry enough to spit, and show you contemporary America as a thing both desperately ill and occasionally, perversely glorious.

PRAISE

"Anne Boyer is an essential voice, and this is an essential book: one body's urgent attempt at finding a language to tell us what it knows.” —Jonathan Lethem

Anne Boyer is a poet and essayist. She was the inaugural winner of the 2018 Cy Twombly Award for Poetry from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts and winner of the 2018 Whiting Award in nonfiction/poetry. Her books include A Handbook of Disappointed Fate as well as several books of poetry, including the 2016 CLMP Firecracker Award–winning Garments Against Women. She was born and raised in Kansas, and was educated in its public schools and libraries. Since 2011, Boyer has been a professor at the ...
**Transaction Man**

*Traders, Disrupters, and the Dismantling of Middle-Class America*

Nicholas Lemann

How American thinkers, financiers, and politicians elevated disruption to sacred status and created a culture of inequality and polarization

Over the last generation, the United States has undergone seismic changes. Stable institutions have given way to frictionless transactions, which are celebrated no matter what collateral damage they generate. The concentration of great wealth has coincided with the fraying of social ties and the rise of inequality. How did all this come about?

In *Transaction Man*, Nicholas Lemann explains the United States’—and the world’s—great transformation by examining three remarkable individuals who epitomized and helped create their eras. Adolf Berle, Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s chief theorist of the economy, imagined a society dominated by large corporations, which a newly powerful federal government had forced to become benign and stable institutions, contributing to the public good by offering stable employment and generous pensions. By the 1970s, the corporations’ large stockholders grew restive under this regime, and their chief theoretician, Harvard Business School’s Michael Jensen, insisted that firms should maximize shareholder value, whatever the consequences. Today, Silicon Valley titans such as the LinkedIn cofounder and venture capitalist Reid Hoffman hope “networks” can reknit our social fabric.

Lemann interweaves these fresh and vivid profiles with a history of the Morgan Stanley investment bank from the 1930s through the financial crisis of 2008, while also tracking the rise and fall of a working-class Chicago neighborhood...

**PRAISE**

Praise for *The Big Test*:

"Let's hope that the men and women seeking local and national office take heed of this human, sensible, and instructive book." — A.O. Scott, *Newsday*

Praise for *Redemption*:

"Lemann has told this sad, heartbreaking story with passion and authority." — Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post*

Nicholas Lemann is Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor and dean emeritus at Columbia Journalism School and a staff writer for *The New Yorker*. His previous books include *The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy* and *The Promised Land: The Great...*
Lampedusa

A Novel

Steven Price

Like Colm Tóibín’s *The Master* or Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*, a novel about art and writing in the life of one of the greats

Set in a sun-drenched Sicily, among the decadent Italian aristocracy of the late 1950s, Steven Price’s *Lampedusa* explores the final years of Giuseppe Tomasi, the last prince of Lampedusa, as he struggles to complete his only novel, *The Leopard*.

In 1955, Tomasi was diagnosed with advanced emphysema; shortly after, he began work on a novel that would fail to be published before his death four years later. When *The Leopard* at last appeared, it won Italy’s Strega Prize and became the greatest Italian novel of the century.

Adhering intensely to the facts of Tomasi’s life but moving deep into the mind of the author, *Lampedusa* inhabits the complicated interior of a man facing down the end of his life and struggling to make something of lasting worth while there is still time.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *By Gaslight*

“*By Gaslight* can be seen as Arthur Conan Doyle by way of Dickens by way of Faulkner . . . Intense, London-centric, threaded through with a melancholy brilliance, it is an extravagant novel that takes inspiration from the classics and yet remains wholly itself.” —Jean Zimmerman, NPR

Steven Price is the author of *By Gaslight*. His first collection of poems, *Anatomy of Keys*, won Canada’s 2007 Gerald Lampert Award for Best First Collection, was short-listed for the BC Poetry Prize, and was named a *Globe and Mail* Book of the Year. His first novel, *Into That Darkness*, was short-listed for the 2012 BC Fiction Prize. His second collection of poems, *Omens in the Year of the Ox*, won the 2013 ReLit Award. He lives in Victoria, British Columbia, with his family.
On Division

A Novel

Goldie Goldbloom

A deeply affecting novel of one woman’s life at a moment of change, and a rare look into Brooklyn’s Chasidim

Through one woman’s life at a moment of surprising change, the award-winning author Goldie Goldbloom tells a deeply affecting, morally insightful story and offers a rare look inside Brooklyn’s Chasidic community.

In Williamsburg, Brooklyn, just a block or two up from the East River on Division Avenue, Surie Eckstein is soon to be a great-grandmother. Her ten children range in age from thirteen to thirty-nine. Her in-laws, postwar immigrants from Romania, live on the first floor of their house. Her daughter Tzila Ruchel lives on the second. She and Yidel, a scribe in such demand that he makes only a few Torah scrolls a year, live on the third. Wed when Surie was sixteen, they have a happy marriage and a full life, and, at the ages of fifty-seven and sixty-two, they are looking forward to some quiet time together.

Into this life of counted blessings comes a surprise. Surie is pregnant. Pregnant at fifty-seven. It is a shock. And at her age, at this stage, it is an aberration, a shift in the proper order of things, and a public display of private life. She feels exposed, ashamed. She is unable to share the news, even with her husband. And so for the first time in her life, she has a secret—a secret that slowly separates her from the community.

Goldie Goldbloom’s On Division is an excavation of one woman’s life, a story of awakening at middle age, and a thoughtful examination of the dynamics of self and collective identity. It is a s...

PRAISE

"Author Goldie Goldbloom, a Hasidic mother of eight, is not the first to expose the inner world of ultra-Orthodox Jews, but she does so with a rare sensitivity to nuance and a resistance to stereotype . . . Surie Eckstein surprises herself, but she also confounds our expectations of a character like her. The fact that she remains, throughout, a sympathetic and convincing heroine is a testament to Goldbloom’s masterful skill as a storyteller. This is a novel that moves and affects us on so many levels—as a witness to the unremitting pain of losing a child, as an exploration of the dance of intimacy and interiority in a marriage that is nearly ...

Goldie Goldbloom’s first novel, The Paperbark Shoe, won the AWP Prize, was named the Literary Novel of the Year by Forward magazine, and is an NEA Big Reads selection. She was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and has been the recipient of multiple grants and awards, including fellowships from Warren Wilson, Northwestern University, the Brown Foundation, the City of Chicago, and the Elizabeth George Foundation. She is Chasidic and the
Gilead

A Novel

Marilynne Robinson

The runaway bestseller of 2004 and Finalist for the National Books Critics Circle Award for Fiction

"At a moment in cultural history dominated by the shallow, the superficial, the quick fix, Maril...

Twenty-four years after her first novel, Housekeeping, Marilyn Robinson returns with an intimate tale of three generations from the Civil War to the 20th century: a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage at America's heart. Writing in the tradition of Dickinson and Whitman, Marilyrne Robinson's beautiful, spare, and spiritual prose allows "even the faithless reader to feel the possibility of transcendent order." (Slate) In the luminous and unforgettable voice of Congregationalist minister John Ames, Gilead, reveals the human condition and the often unbearable beauty of an ordinary life.

PRAISE

"Incandescent ...magnificent...(a) literary miracle."
--Lisa Schwarzbaum, Entertainment Weekly
"Rapturous...astonishing...Gilead is an inspired work from a writer whose sensibility seems steeped in holy fire."
--Lisa Shea, Elle
"Lyrical and meditative...potently contemplative."
--Michele Orecklin, Time
"Perfect."
--Jeremy Jackson, People****
"Major."
--Philip Connors, Newsday
"You must read this book....Altogether unlike any other work of fiction, it has sprung forth more than 20 years after Housekeeping with what I can only call amazing grace."
--Anne Hulbert, Slate
"So serenely beautiful and written in a prose so gravely measured and thoughtful, that..."

MARIYLNE ROBINSON is the author of the modern classic Housekeeping (FSG, 1981)--winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award--and two books of nonfiction, Mother Country (FSG, 1989) and The Death of Adam. She teaches at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.
Home

A Novel

Marilynne Robinson

One of America's most acclaimed living authors, Marilynne Robinson, revisits the characters from her Pulitzer Prize–winning Gilead, in this "impossibly rich and beautiful new novel" (San Francisc ...

A New York Times Bestseller

A Washington Post Best Book of the Year

A Los Angeles Times Best of Fiction of the Year

A San Francisco Chronicle Best book of the Year

Glory Boughton, aged thirty-eight, has returned to Gilead to care for her dying father, Reverend Robert Boughton. Soon her brother, Jack—the prodigal son of the family, gone for twenty years—comes home too, looking for refuge, and trying to make peace with his turbulent past. When he was a child he gained a reputation as artful and devious; as a young man he brought continual shame to the family; and now, an alcoholic who cannot hold a job, he is perpetually at odds with his surroundings and with his traditionalist father—though he remains Boughton's most beloved child. Jack forges an intense bond with Glory and engages painfully with Ames, his godfather and namesake, and the narrator of Robinson's previous novel Gilead. Home is a moving and healing book about families, family secrets, and the passing of the generations, about love and death and faith.

PRAISE

"Remarkable... an even stronger accomplishment than Gilead." —Claire Messud, The New York Review of Books

"An anguished pastoral, a tableau of decency and compassion that is also an angry and devastating indictment of moral cowardice and unrepentant, unacknowledged sin.... Beautiful." —A.O. Scott, The New York Times Book Review

"Rich and resonant... Gilead and Home fit with and around each other perfectly, each complete on its own, yet enriching and enlivening the other. But both are books of such beauty and power." —Emily Barton, Los Angeles Times

"Marilynne Robinson is so powerful a writer that she can reshape how we read." —Mark Athitakis, Ch...
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 fear, 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.
In Hoffa's Shadow

A Stepfather, a Disappearance in Detroit, and My Search for the Truth

Jack Goldsmith

PRAISE

Praise for The Terror Presidency

"One of the most interesting and most insightful books yet to come out of the Bush White House." — Geoffrey R. Stone

Jack Goldsmith is the Henry L. Shattuck Professor of Law at Harvard University. From October 2003 to June 2004 he was assistant attorney general, Office of Legal Counsel. He lives in Newton, Massachusetts.
An enchanting, comic love letter to sibling rivalry and the English language

From the author compared to Norah Ephron and Nancy Mitford, not to mention Jane Austen, comes a new novel celebrating the beauty, mischief, and occasional treachery of language.

The Grammarians are Laurel and Daphne Wolfe, identical, inseparable redhead twins who share an obsession with words. They speak a secret “twin” tongue of their own as toddlers; as adults making their way in 1980s Manhattan, their verbal infatuation continues, but this love, which has always bound them together, begins instead to push them apart. Daphne, copy editor and grammar columnist, devotes herself to preserving the dignity and elegance of Standard English. Laurel, who gives up teaching kindergarten to write poetry, is drawn, instead, to the polymorphous, chameleon nature of the written and spoken word. Their fraying twinship finally shreds completely when the sisters go to war, absurdly but passionately, over custody of their most prized family heirloom: Merriam Webster’s New International Dictionary, Second Edition.

Cathleen Schine has written a playful and joyful celebration of the interplay of language and life. A dazzling comedy of sisterly and linguistic manners, a revelation of the delights and stresses of intimacy, The Grammarians is the work of one of our great comic novelists at her very best.

PRAISE

"Schine’s warmth and wisdom about how families work and don't work are as reliable as her wry humor, and we often get both together . . . This impossibly endearing and clever novel sets off a depth charge of emotion and meaning."
—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Cathleen Schine is the author of They May Not Mean to, But They Do; The Three Weissmanns of Westport; and The Love Letter, among other novels. She has contributed to The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, and The New York Times Book Review. She lives in Los Angeles.
This century has seen the costliest hurricanes in U.S. history—but who bears the brunt of these monster storms?

Consider this: Five of the most expensive hurricanes in history have made landfall since 2005: Katrina ($160 billion), Ike ($40 billion), Sandy ($72 billion), Harvey ($125 billion), and Maria ($90 billion). With more property than ever in harm’s way, and the planet and oceans warming dangerously, it won’t be long before we see a $250 billion hurricane. Why? Because Americans have built $3 trillion worth of property in some of the riskiest places on earth: barrier islands and coastal floodplains. And they have been encouraged to do so by what Gilbert M. Gaul reveals in *The Geography of Risk* to be a confounding array of federal subsidies, tax breaks, low-interest loans, grants, and government flood insurance that shift the risk of life at the beach from private investors to public taxpayers, radically distorting common notions of risk.

These federal incentives, Gaul argues, have resulted in one of the worst planning failures in American history, and the costs to taxpayers are reaching unsustainable levels. We have become responsible for a shocking array of coastal amenities: new roads, bridges, buildings, streetlights, tennis courts, marinas, gazebos, and even spoiled food after hurricanes. *The Geography of Risk* will forever change the way you think about the coasts, from the clash between economic interests and nature, to the heated politics of regulators and developers.

**PRAISE**


Gilbert M. Gaul twice won the Pulitzer Prize and has been short-listed for the Pulitzer four other times. For more than thirty-five years, he worked as an investigative journalist for *The Washington Post*, *the Philadelphia Inquirer*, and other newspapers. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and a Ferris Fellow at Princeton University. The author of three previous books of investigative reporting, Gaul lives in New Jersey.
Hunter's Moon

A Novel in Stories

Philip Caputo

From the author of A Rumor of War, The Longest Road, and Some Rise By Sin, a captivating mosaic of stories set in a small town where no act is private and the past is never really past.

Hunter's Moon is set in Michigan’s wild, starkly beautiful Upper Peninsula, where a cast of recurring characters move into and out of each other’s lives, building friendships, facing loss, confronting violence, trying to bury the past or seeking to unearth it. Once-a-year lovers, old high-school buddies on a hunting trip, a college professor and his wayward son, a middle-aged man and his grief-stricken father, come together, break apart, and, if they’re fortunate, find a way forward. Hunter’s Moon offers an engaging, insightful look at everyday lives as well as a fresh perspective on the way men navigate today’s world.

PRAISE

Praise for Philip Caputo

“A new book from the Pulitzer Prize-winning Caputo . . . is always an event.” —Booklist (starred review)

“Rather than merely depicting the glorious violence of wars . . . Caputo has chosen to plumb his conscience and examine the conflicts within.” —The New York Times

“Caputo’s troubled, searching meditations . . . are among the most eloquent I have read in modern literature.” —William Styron, The New York Review of Books

Philip Caputo is an award-winning journalist—the co-winner of a Pulitzer Prize—and the author of many works of fiction and nonfiction, including A Rumor of War, one of the most highly praised books of the twentieth century. His book, The Longest Road, was a New York Times bestseller. His novels include Acts of Faith, The Voyage, Horn of Africa, Crossers, and Some Rise by Sin. He and his wife, Leslie Ware, divide their time between Norwalk, Connecticut, and Patagonia, Arizona.
The Enigma of Clarence Thomas

Corey Robin

A groundbreaking revisionist take on Clarence Thomas, the Supreme Court justice everyone knows about but no one knows.

Most people can tell you two things about Clarence Thomas: Anita Hill accused him of sexual harassment, and he almost never speaks from the bench. Here are some things they don’t know: Thomas is a black nationalist. In college he memorized the speeches of Malcolm X. He believes white people are incurably racist.

In the first analysis of its kind, Corey Robin—one of the foremost analysts of the right—delves deeply into both Thomas’s biography and his jurisprudence, masterfully reading his Supreme Court opinions against the backdrop of his autobiographical and political writings and speeches. The hidden source of Thomas’s conservative views, Robin argues, is a profound skepticism that racism can be overcome. Thomas is convinced that any government action on behalf of African-Americans will be tainted by this racism, and that the most African-Americans can hope for is that white people will get out of their way.

There’s a reason, Robin concludes, why liberals often complain that Thomas doesn’t speak but seldom pay attention when he does. Were they to listen, they’d hear a racial pessimism that sounds shockingly similar to their own. Cutting across the ideological spectrum, this unacknowledged consensus about the impossibility of progress is key to understanding today’s political stalemate.

PRAISE

Praise for The Reactionary Mind

“The book that predicted Trump.”—The New Yorker

“One of the more influential political works of the last decade... Robin is a synthesizer and a brilliant and ruthless diviner of the hidden wellsprings of absolutely everything.”—The Washington Monthly

“Robin is an engaging writer, and just the kind of broad-ranging public intellectual all too often missing in academic political science... Robin’s arguments deserve widespread attention.”—The New Republic

“A groundbreaking book.”—Rolling Stone

Corey Robin is the author of The Reactionary Mind: Conservatism from Edmund Burke to Sarah Palin and Fear: The History of a Political Idea. He teaches political science at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center. Robin’s writing has appeared in The New York Times, Harper’s, the London Review of Books, and The Nation, among other publications, and has been translated into
Lives Reclaimed

A Story of Rescue and Resistance in Nazi Germany

Mark Roseman

From the celebrated historian of Nazi Germany, the story of a remarkable but completely unsung group that risked everything to help the most vulnerable

In the early 1920s amidst the upheaval of Weimar Germany, a small group of peaceable idealists began to meet, practicing a quiet, communal life focused on self-improvement. For the most part, they had come to know each other while attending adult education classes in the city of Essen. But “the Bund,” as they called their group, had lofty aspirations—under the direction of their leader Artur Jacobs, its members hoped to forge an ideal community that would serve as a model for society at large. But with the ascent of the Nazis, the Bund was forced to reevaluate its mission, focusing instead on offering assistance to the persecuted, despite the great risk. Their activities ranged from visiting devastated Jewish families after Kristallnacht, to sending illicit letters and parcels of food and clothes to deportees in concentration camps, to sheltering political dissidents and Jews on the run.

What became of this group? And how should its deeds—often small, seemingly insignificant acts of kindness and assistance—be evaluated in the broader history of life under the Nazis? Drawing on a striking set of previously unpublished letters, diaries, Gestapo reports, other documents, and his own interviews with survivors, historian Mark Roseman shows how and why the Bund undertook its dangerous work. It is an extraordinary story in its own right, but Roseman takes us deeper, encouraging us to rethink the concepts of resistance and rescue under...

PRAISE

Praise for A Past in Hiding

“An act of great generosity, unbridled curiosity, relentless research and abiding respect for the persistent individuality of a human life, mind and memory.”
—Los Angeles Times Book Review

“Exceptionally admirable . . . Roseman creates a detailed picture of life among assimilated German Jews who tried to carry on a normal existence while poised at the edge of an abyss.”
—Newsday

“Wonderfully rich, detailed, and vivid, with an extraordinary and gripping narrative.”
—Richard Evans
PICADOR

PAPERBACK

The Topeka School

A Novel

Ben Lerner

From the award-winning author of 10:04 and Leaving the Atocha Station, a tender and expansive family drama set in the American Midwest at the turn of the century: a tale of adolescence, transgres...

Adam Gordon is a senior at Topeka High School, class of ’97. His mother, Jane, is a famous feminist author; his father, Jonathan, is an expert at getting “lost boys” to open up. They both work at a psychiatric clinic that has attracted staff and patients from around the world. Adam is a renowned debater, expected to win a national championship before he heads to college. He is one of the cool kids, ready to fight or, better, freestyle about fighting if it keeps his peers from thinking of him as weak. Adam is also one of the seniors who bring the loner Darren Eberheart—who is, unbeknownst to Adam, his father’s patient—into the social scene, to disastrous effect.

Deftly shifting perspectives and time periods, The Topeka School is the story of a family, its struggles and its strengths: Jane’s reckoning with the legacy of an abusive father, Jonathan’s marital transgressions, the challenge of raising a good son in a culture of toxic masculinity. It is also a riveting prehistory of the present: the collapse of public speech, the trolls and tyrants of the New Right, and the ongoing crisis of identity among white men.

MARKETING

• One of The New York Times' "10 best books of 2019"
• Indie Next Pick in Hardcover
• National Public Radio Campaign
• Select Author Events
• Digital Marketing: Online Advertising and Social Media Campaign
• Targeted Outreach to Literary Websites
• Online Reading Group Guide and Reading Group Gold Feature
• Academic Marketing Campaign
• Backlist Promotion

PRAISE

Praise for The Topeka School

"The Topeka School is a novel of exhilarating intellectual inquiry, penetrating social insight, and deep psychological sensitivity. At every turn, its beautifully realized characters are shaped, even in the privacy of their inner lives, by the pressures of history and culture—this is a book not only about how things really feel, but what things really mean. To the extent that we can speak of a future at present, I think the future of the novel is here.”
—Sally Rooney, author of Normal People

“Ben Lerner is a brilliant novelist, and one unwilling to make of the novel something truly new... He is one of my favorite...

Ben Lerner was born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1979. He has received fellowships from the Fulbright, Guggenheim, and MacArthur Foundations, and is the author of two internationally acclaimed novels, Leaving the Atocha Station and 10:04, and of a book-length essay, The Hatred of Poetry. He has published three poetry collections: The Lichtenberg Figures, Angle of Yaw, and Mean Free Path. Lerner is a professor of English at Brooklyn College.
From the iconic musicians Tegan and Sara comes a memoir about high school, detailing their first loves and first songs in a compelling look back at their humble beginnings.

*High School* is the revelatory and unique coming-of-age story of Sara and Tegan Quin, identical twins from Calgary, Alberta, who grew up at the height of grunge and rave culture in the nineties, well before they became the celebrated musicians and global LGBTQ icons we know today. While grappling with their identity and sexuality, often alone, they also faced academic meltdown, their parents’ divorce, and the looming pressure of what might come after high school. Written in alternating chapters from both Tegan’s and Sara’s points of view, the book is a raw account of the drugs, alcohol, love, music, and friendship they explored in their formative years. A transcendent story of first loves and first songs, *High School* captures the tangle of discordant and parallel memories of two sisters who grew up in distinct ways even as they lived just down the hall from each other. This is the origin story of Tegan and Sara.

During the course of their twenty-year career, Tegan Quin and Sara Quin have sold well over one million records and released eight studio albums. They have received three Juno Awards, a Grammy nomination, a Governor General’s Performing Arts Award, and the 2018 New York Civil Liberties Union Award. They have performed on some of the world’s biggest stages, from Coachella to the Academy Awards. Outspoken advocates for equality, in 2016 Tegan and Sara created the Tegan and Sara Foundation, which f...
Unfollow

A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church

Megan Phelps-Roper

The activist and TED speaker Megan Phelps-Roper reveals her life growing up in the most hated family in America

At the age of five, Megan Phelps-Roper carried signs protesting homosexuality and other alleged vices alongside fellow members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. As she grew, she watched the church—an enterprise consisting almost entirely of her immediate relatives—become notorious for picketing soldiers’ funerals and celebrating death and tragedy, causing the BBC to label the Phelpses “the most hated family in America.” For Megan, however, Westboro was a source of comfort and inspiration. She admired the congregation’s familial warmth and religious zeal. And as the church’s Twitter spokesperson, she mastered its messaging—skillfully expounding upon pop culture, current events, and all the reasons “God Hates Your Feelings.” Her grandfather, the church’s founding minister, regarded her as a “jewel.”

But Megan’s Twitter evangelizing triggered a remarkable transformation. As she jousted with online critics, observed church members mistreating one another, and tried to make sense of her own evolving beliefs and desires, she started to question her mission. Soon, she was exchanging messages with a man who would help change her life.

A gripping memoir of escaping extremism and falling in love, Unfollow relates Megan’s painful departure from Westboro and how she replaced the dogmas she had absorbed with a new community. The tale of her moral awakening is rich with suspense and thoughtful reflection, exposing the danger...

Megan Phelps-Roper is a writer and activist. She left the Westboro Baptist Church in November 2012 and is now an educator on topics related to extremism and communication across ideological lines. She lives in South Dakota.
Saving America's Cities

Ed Logue and the Struggle to Renew Urban America in the Suburban Age

Lizabeth Cohen

The story of the crisis of the postwar American city as refracted through the dramatic life and career of the urban planner Edward J. Logue

In twenty-first-century America, some cities are flourishing and others are struggling, but they all must contend with deteriorating infrastructure, economic inequality, and unaffordable housing. Cities have limited tools to address these problems, and many must rely on the private market to support the public good.

It wasn’t always this way. For almost three decades after World War II, even as national policies promoted suburban sprawl, the federal government underwrote renewal efforts for cities that had suffered during the Great Depression and the war and were now bleeding residents into the suburbs. In Saving America’s Cities, the prizewinning historian Lizabeth Cohen follows the career of Edward J. Logue, whose shifting approach to the urban crisis tracked the changing balance between government-funded public programs and private interests that would culminate in the neoliberal rush to privatize efforts to solve entrenched social problems. A Yale-trained lawyer, rival of Robert Moses, and sometime critic of Jane Jacobs, Logue saw renewing cities as an extension of the liberal New Deal. He worked to revive a declining New Haven, became the architect of the “New Boston” of the 1960s, and, later, led New York State’s Urban Development Corporation, which built entire new towns, including Roosevelt Island in New York City.

Logue’s era of urban renewal has a complicated legacy: Neighborhoods were demolished and residents disloc...

PRAISE

Praise for Making a New Deal

“At every step the argument is developed in a sophisticated way . . . A major achievement.” —Julia Greene, Journal of American History

Praise for A Consumer’s Republic


Lizabeth Cohen is the Howard Mumford Jones Professor of American Studies at Harvard University and the former dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She is the author of Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919–1939, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and
The Vertical Farm (Tenth Anniversary Edition)

Feeding the World in the 21st Century

Dr. Dickson Despommier, with a Foreword by Majora Carter

"A world-changing innovation whose time has come. This visionary book provides a blueprint for securing the world's food supply and at the same time solving one of the greatest environmental crises...

Imagine a world where every city has its own local food source grown in the safest way possible, where no drop of water or particle of light is wasted, and where a simple elevator ride can transport you to nature's grocery store—imagine the world of the vertical farm. When Columbia professor Dickson Despommier set out to solve America's food, water, and energy crises, he didn't just think big—he thought up. In this groundbreaking book, he explains how the vertical farm will have an incredible impact on changing the face of this planet for generations.

PRAISE

"Despommier has quickly become the central figure in what could be a worldwide revolution."—Scientific American

"A book you will read, and then, you will read it again. It is a book that could begin a revolution. Let's hope it does."—Bonnie Jeane Adams, Chicago Examiner

"Nobody has ever dreamed as big as Dr. Dickson Despommier."—New York Magazine

Dr. Dickson Despommier spent thirty-eight years as a professor of microbiology and public health in environmental health sciences at Columbia. He lives in Fort Lee, New Jersey.
PAPERBACK

Touched by the Sun

My Friendship with Jackie

Carly Simon

The story of an extraordinary friendship and a national media sensation

A chance encounter at a summer party on Martha’s Vineyard blossomed into an improbable but enduring friendship. Carly Simon and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis made an unlikely pair—Carly, a free and artistic spirit still reeling from her recent divorce, searching for meaning, new love, and an anchor; and Jackie, one of the most celebrated, meticulous, unknowable women in American history. Nonetheless, over the next decade their lives merged in inextricable and complex ways, and they forged a connection deeper than either could ever have foreseen. The time they spent together—lingering lunches and creative collaborations, nights out on the town and movie dates—brought a welcome lightness and comfort to their days, but their conversations often veered into more profound territory as they helped each other navigate the shifting waters of life lived, publicly, in the wake of great love and great loss.

An intimate, vulnerable, and insightful portrait of the bond that grew between two iconic and starkly different American women, Carly Simon’s Touched by the Sun is a chronicle, in loving detail, of the friendship she and Jackie shared. It is a meditation on the ways someone can unexpectedly enter our lives and change its course, as well as a celebration of kinship in all its many forms.

Carly Simon is a songwriter and singer of songs. Her children are Ben Taylor and Sally Taylor Bragonier. She has one grandchild: Bodhi Taylor Bragonier. She lives on Martha's Vineyard and is the author of Boys in the Trees.
Erosion

Essays of Undoing

Terry Tempest Williams

Fierce, timely, and unsettling essays from an important and beloved conservationist

Terry Tempest Williams is one of our most impassioned defenders of public lands. A naturalist, fervent activist, and stirring writer, she has spoken to us and for us in books like The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks and Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place. In these new essays, Williams explores the concept of erosion: of the land, of the self, of belief, of fear. She wrangles with the paradox of desert lands and the truth of erosion: What is weathered, worn, and whittled away through wind, water, and time is as powerful as what remains. Our undoing is also our becoming.

She looks at the current state of American politics: the dire social and environmental implications of recent choices to gut Bears Ears National Monument, sacred lands to Native People of the American Southwest, and undermine the Endangered Species Act. She testifies that climate change is not an abstraction, citing the drought outside her door and at times, within herself. Images of extraction and contamination haunt her: “oil rigs lighting up the horizon; trucks hauling nuclear waste on dirt roads now crisscrossing the desert like an exposed nervous system.” But beautiful moments of relief and refuge, solace and spirituality come—in her conversations with Navajo elders, art, and, always, in the land itself. She asks, urgently: “Is Earth not enough? Can the desert be a prayer?”

PRAISE

“These essays are a joy to read. Terry Tempest Williams is a wise and fierce defender of the wild Earth.”

—Leslie Marmon Silko, author of The Turquoise Ledge

“Terry Tempest Williams’s voice in the clamor is like a hot desert wind blowing away the litter in a crowded room and leaving behind only what has weight, what is essential. These are essays about the courage to face what is most brutal and monstrous, by finding what is most beautiful and merciful.”

—Rebecca Solnit, author of Call Them by Their True Names

“Luminous, fearless, brutally honest. But with this latest book, Williams takes her spiritual love of the American West—along with her gr...

Terry Tempest Williams is the award-winning author of The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks; Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place; Finding Beauty in a Broken World; and When Women Were Birds, among other books. Her work is widely taught and anthologized around the world. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she is currently the Writer-in-Residence at the Harvard Divinity School. She and her husband Brooke...
The Beatles from A to Zed

An Alphabetical Mystery Tour

Peter Asher

A legendary record producer and performer takes readers on an alphabetical journey of insights into the music of the Beatles and individual reminiscences of John, Paul, George, and Ringo.

Peter Asher met the Beatles in the spring of 1963, the start of a lifelong association with the band and its members. He had a front-row seat as they elevated pop music into an art form, and he was present at the creation of some of the most iconic music of our times.

Asher is also a talented musician in his own right, with a great ear for what is new and fresh. Once, when Paul McCartney wrote a song that John Lennon didn’t think was right for the Beatles, Asher asked if he could record it. “A World Without Love” became a global number-one hit for his duo, Peter & Gordon. A few years later Asher was asked by Paul McCartney to help start Apple Records; the first artist Asher discovered and signed up was a young American singer-songwriter named James Taylor. Before long he would be not only managing and producing Taylor but also (having left Apple and moved to Los Angeles) working with Linda Ronstadt, Neil Diamond, Robin Williams, Joni Mitchell, and Cher, among others.

The Beatles from A to Zed grows out of his popular radio program “From Me to You” on SiriusXM’s The Beatles Channel, where he shares memories and insights about the Fab Four and their music. Here he weaves his reflections into a whimsical alphabetical journey that focuses not only on songs whose titles start with each letter, but also on recurrent themes in the Beatles’ music, the instruments they played, the innovations they pioneered, the artists who influenced them...

PRAISE

“Who better than Peter to tell us these stories? Who else can offer a loving, smart and funny, firsthand look at the defining cultural event of our time? He was there. With his eyes and ears open, an indelible feature of the landscape—musically, professionally, and personally. Enjoy the book.” —James Taylor

“Peter Asher’s fascinating insights, passion, charm, command of the English language, and musical expertise make his Beatles shows on SiriusXM the best. It is a pleasure to read this book and feel the same way.” —Jerry Seinfeld

“At last, I finally understand the alphabet! I also love this book: secret Beatles knowledge from one of the closes...
From the “master of historical narrative” (Financial Times), a dazzling, richly detailed, panoramic work—the first to document the genesis of a continent-wide European culture.

The nineteenth century in Europe was the first age of cultural globalization—an epoch when mass communications and high-speed rail travel brought Europe together, overcoming national barriers and creating a truly pan-European canon of artistic, musical, and literary works. By 1900, people across the continent were reading the same books, looking at the same art, and attending the same opera performances.

Acclaimed historian Orlando Figes moves from Parisian salons to German spa towns to Russian country houses, exploring the interplay of money and art that made this unification possible. At the book's center is an intimate love triangle: the Russian writer Ivan Turgenev; the Spanish prima donna Pauline Viardot; and her husband Louis Viardot, a connoisseur and political activist. Their passionate, ambitious lives caught up an astonishing array of artists and princes, poets, composers, and impresarios—Delacroix, Chopin, the Schumanns, Hugo, Flaubert, Dickens, and Dostoyevsky, among them.

As Figes observes, nearly all of civilization’s great advances have come when people, ideas, and artistic creations circulate freely between nations. Surprising, beautifully written, spanning a continent and a century, The Europeans offers the first international history of European culture—and a compelling argument for the benefits of cosmopolitanism.

PRAISE

Praise for Natasha’s Dance
“Stunning and ambitious.”—The Atlantic
“A masterly work.”—The New York Review of Books
“Sharp and original...beautifully wrought.”—The Boston Globe
“Scintillating...an exceptional history of Russian culture.”—San Francisco Chronicle
“Magnificent.”—The Guardian

Orlando Figes is the author of nine books, including A People's Tragedy, Natasha's Dance, The Whisperers, and The Crimean War. He is a professor of history at Birkbeck, University of London, and a frequent contributor to the New York Review of Books. His books have won major prizes and been translated into over thirty languages. He lives in London and Umbria, Italy.
Artificial Intelligence

A Guide for Thinking Humans

Melanie Mitchell

Melanie Mitchell separates science fact from science fiction in this sweeping examination of the current state of AI and how it is remaking our world

No recent scientific enterprise has proved as alluring, terrifying, and filled with extravagant promise and frustrating setbacks as artificial intelligence. The award-winning author Melanie Mitchell, a leading computer scientist, now reveals its turbulent history and the recent surge of apparent successes, grand hopes, and emerging fears that surround AI.

In Artificial Intelligence, Mitchell turns to the most urgent questions concerning AI today: How intelligent—really—are the best AI programs? How do they work? What can they actually do, and when do they fail? How humanlike do we expect them to become, and how soon do we need to worry about them surpassing us? Along the way, she introduces the dominant methods of modern AI and machine learning, describing cutting-edge AI programs, their human inventors, and the historical lines of thought that led to recent achievements. She meets with fellow experts like Douglas Hofstadter, the cognitive scientist and Pulitzer Prize–winning author of the modern classic Gödel, Escher, Bach, who explains why he is “terrified” about the future of AI. She explores the profound disconnect between the hype and the actual achievements in AI, providing a clear sense of what the field has accomplished and how much farther it has to go. Finally, she assesses the chances that AI will succeed in replicating consciousness, and what that would mean for the future of humankind.

Interweaving stories about t...

PRAISE

Praise for Complexity: A Guided Tour

“The best popular science books are those that give the reader the sense of looking over the shoulder of a leading researcher doing cutting-edge work at the frontier of scientific inquiry. Walter Isaacson’s recent biography of Einstein belongs in this category. So too does Melanie Mitchell’s Complexity: A Guided Tour, a comprehensive new book chronicling the latest advances in the sciences of complexity.” —The Oregonian

“Well written and engaging, laced with candid humor. Experts and nonspecialists alike will have a hard time putting it down.” —Physics Today

Melanie Mitchell has a PhD in computer science from the University of Michigan, where she studied with the cognitive scientist and writer Douglas Hofstadter; together, they created the
Still Here

The Madcap, Nervy, Singular Life of Elaine Stritch

Alexandra Jacobs

The ebullient, troubled life of a Broadway legend who became a heroine to a younger generation

Still Here is the first full telling of Elaine Stritch’s life. Rollicking but intimate, it tracks one of Broadway’s great personalities from her upbringing in Detroit during the Great Depression to her fateful move to New York City, where she studied alongside Marlon Brando, Bea Arthur, and Harry Belafonte. We accompany Elaine through her jagged rise to fame, to Hollywood and London, and across her later years, when she enjoyed a stunning renaissance, punctuated by a turn on the popular television show 30 Rock. We explore the influential—and often fraught—collaborations she developed with Noël Coward, Tennessee Williams, and above all Stephen Sondheim, as well as her courageous yet flawed attempts to control a serious drinking problem. And we see the entertainer triumphing over personal turmoil with the development of her Tony Award–winning one-woman show, Elaine Stritch at Liberty, which established her as an emblem of spiky independence and Manhattan life for an entirely new generation of admirers.

In Still Here, Alexandra Jacobs conveys the full force of Stritch’s sardonic wit and brassy charm while acknowledging her many dark complexities. Following years of meticulous research and interviews, this is a portrait of a powerful, vulnerable, honest, and humorous figure who continues to reverberate in the public consciousness.

Alexandra Jacobs is a longtime features writer, cultural critic, and editor who has worked at The New York Times since 2010. She has contributed to many other publications, including The New Yorker, The New York Observer, and Entertainment Weekly.
**Girl**

*A Novel*

Edna O'Brien

*Girl*, Edna O'Brien’s hotly anticipated new novel, envisages the lives of the Boko Haram girls in a masterpiece of violence and tenderness

*I was a girl once, but not anymore.*

So begins *Girl*, Edna O’Brien’s harrowing portrayal of the young women abducted by Boko Haram. Set in the deep countryside of northeast Nigeria, this is a brutal story of incarceration, horror, and hunger; a hair-raising escape into the manifold terrors of the forest; and a descent into the labyrinthine bureaucracy and hostility awaiting a victim who returns home with a child blighted by enemy blood. From one of the century’s greatest living authors, *Girl* is an unforgettable story of one victim’s astonishing survival, and her unflinching faith in the redemption of the human heart.

**PRAISE**

Praise for Edna O’Brien

“The most gifted woman now writing in English.” —Philip Roth

“There’s no writer alive who sounds quite like Edna O’Brien. Her prose has a unique mixture of darkness and light . . . Like Flannery O’Connor, O’Brien can’t help laughing even as she stares into the heart of darkness.” —Jonathan Yardley,

*The Washington Post Book World*

Edna O’Brien has written more than twenty works of fiction, most recently *The Little Red Chairs*. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature, the Irish PEN Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Arts Club Medal of Honor, and the Ulysses Medal. Born and raised in the west of Ireland, she has lived in London for many years.
In the Forest

A Novel

Edna O'Brien

"O'Brien brings together the earthy and delicately poetic: she has the sound of Molly Bloom and the skills of Virginia Woolf." —Newsweek

O'Brien takes her reader into the mind of Michen O'Kane, a murderer who terrorizes the countryside of western Ireland, and traces his transformation from a neglected child to a twisted killer. In the Forest is based on a true story of local horror, and O'Brien provides fragments of O'Kane's story while leaving her reader to try and make sense of his psyche.

PRAISE

"O'Brien's sentient, sonorous prose makes both O'Kane's inner world and his environment nearly palpable." —Publisher's Weekly

Since her debut novel, The Country Girls, EDNA O'BRIEN has written more than twenty works of fiction. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Irish PEN Lifetime Achievement Award, the American National Arts Gold Medal, and the Frank O'Connor Prize. Born and raised in the west of Ireland, she has lived in London for many years.
The Light of Evening

A Novel

Edna O'Brien

"O'Brien brings together the earthy and delicately poetic: she has the sound of Molly Bloom and the skills of Virginia Woolf." — Newsweek

In The Light of Evening, Edna O'Brien's twentieth work of fiction, an elderly widow on her deathbed in rural Ireland tells the story of her life—a story of love, family, estrangement, and motherhood.

PRAISE

"The award-winning O'Brien evokes the cruelty of estrangement while allowing her characters to remain sympathetic and giving them real voice." — Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)

Since her debut novel, The Country Girls, EDNA O'BRIEN has written more than twenty works of fiction. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Irish PEN Lifetime Achievement Award, the American National Arts Gold Medal, and the Frank O'Connor Prize. Born and raised in the west of Ireland, she has lived in London for many years.
Wild Decembers

A Novel

Edna O'Brien

"O'Brien brings together the earthy and delicately poetic: she has the sound of Molly Bloom and the skills of Virginia Woolf." — Newsweek

In Wild Decembers, O'Brien taps into the mystery and myth of rural Ireland to tell a suspenseful story of love, violence, and land feud. O'Brien's lyrical prose animates Shakespearean feuds and family drama, all set against the backdrop of the fields of Western Ireland.

PRAISE

"[This] beautiful and lush novel .... encapsulates the afflictions of a culture within the afflictions of a particular doomed family." — The New York Times Book Review

Since her debut novel, The Country Girls, EDNA O'BRIEN has written more than twenty works of fiction. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Irish PEN Lifetime Achievement Award, the American National Arts Gold Medal, and the Frank O'Connor Prize. Born and raised in the west of Ireland, she has lived in London for many years.
Conversations with RBG
Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law

Jeffrey Rosen

An intimate look at the life and career of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in her own words, through an extraordinary series of conversations

This remarkable book presents a unique portrait of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, drawing on more than twenty years of conversations with Jeffrey Rosen, starting in the 1990s and continuing through the Trump era. Rosen, a veteran legal journalist, scholar, and president of the National Constitution Center, shares with us the justice’s observations on a variety of topics, and her intellect, compassion, sense of humor, and humanity shine through. The affection they have for each other as friends is evident in their banter and in their shared love for the Constitution—and for opera.

· With a new afterword by the author

In Conversations with RBG, Justice Ginsburg discusses the future of Roe v. Wade, her favorite dissents, the cases she would most like to see overruled, the #MeToo movement, how to be a good listener, and how to lead a productive, compassionate life, and of course the future of the Supreme Court itself. These frank exchanges illuminate the steely determination, self-mastery, and wit that have inspired Americans of all ages to embrace the woman known to all as “Notorious RBG.”

Justice Ginsburg always has something interesting—and often surprising—to say. And while few of us will ever have the opportunity to chat with her face-to-face, Jeffrey Rosen brings us by her side as never before. Conversations with RBG is a deeply felt portrait of an American hero.

PRAISE

Praise for Louis D. Brandeis:

“A concise and sympathetic exploration of Brandeis’s main intellectual causes. . . . Mr. Rosen persuasively makes his case that recognizing Brandeis as an ‘American prophet’ . . . seems more important today than ever.”—The New York Times

Praise for William Howard Taft:

“This slim, well-researched and well-written biography substantially beefs up Taft’s reputation. . . . Rosen argues persuasively that Taft’s approach to the presidency was diametrically opposed to [Theodore] Roosevelt’s.”—Steve Forbes, Forbes Magazine
Wounded Shepherd
Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church

Austen Ivereigh

Following his critically acclaimed The Great Reformer, Ivereigh’s colorful, clear-eyed portrait of Pope Francis takes us inside the Vatican’s urgent debate over the future of the church.

This deeply contextual biography centers on the tensions generated by the pope’s attempt to turn the Church away from power and tradition and outwards to engage humanity with God’s mercy. Through battles with corrupt bankers and worldly cardinals, in turbulent meetings and on global trips, history’s first Latin-American pope has attempted to reshape the Church to evangelize the contemporary age. At the same time, he has stirred other leaders’ deep-seated fear that the Church is capitulating to modernity—leaders who have challenged his bid to create a more welcoming, attentive institution.

Facing rebellions over his allowing sacraments for the divorced and his attempt to create a more "ecological" Catholicism, as well as a firestorm of criticism for the Church’s record on sexual abuse, Francis emerges as a leader of remarkable vision and skill with a relentless spiritual focus—a leader who is at peace in the turmoil surrounding him.

With entertaining anecdotes, insider accounts, and expert analysis, Ivereigh’s journey through the key episodes of Francis’s reform in Rome and the wider Church brings into sharp focus the frustrations and fury, as well as the joys and successes, of one of the most remarkable pontificates of the contemporary age.

PRAISE

Praise for The Great Reformer:

“[A] gracefully written and meticulously researched account of Francis's life. . .The best English-language biography of the pope to date.”—The New York Times Book Review

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 as a Catholic commentator for the BBC, Sky, ITV, and Al-Jazeera.
**Annie John**

*A Novel*

Jamaica Kincaid
**Chance Acquaintances**

*A Novel*

Colette; Translated from the French by Patrick Leigh Fermor

Often overshadowed by the popular and sentimental *Gigi*, *Chance Acquaintances* is the mordant tale, narrated with ironic distance by Colette herself, of three "human barnacles" who come to fascinate and then repel her: an invalid wife, her philandering husband, and a music-hall dancer of Colette's previous acquaintance. When these four individuals meet by chance at a French health spa, the lusts, disappointments, and minor tragedies that arise all serve to convince the narrator in her suspicion that one is better off with a cat than a lover. Hilariously well-observed, this is Colette at her witty, pitiless best.

**PRAISE**

"Delightful and quivering with life . . . Imbued with the most characteristic elements of the personality we have come to call simply Colette." —Robert Phelps, *The New York Times*
A Sport and a Pastime

A Novel

James Salter

Now reissued with a new introduction, a modern classic—a bitter love story set in the French countryside—by a writer who helped define American prose style for a generation of writers and readers

"A feast of love is beginning. Everything that has gone before is only a sort of introduction. Now they are lovers. The first, wild courses are ended. They have found their domain . . . "

A Sport and a Pastime is the story of a love affair—between Dean, a disaffected young American, eking out an expatriate's rootless existence in France, and Anne-Marie, an even younger working-class Frenchwoman, who longs for a conventional connection but nonetheless is a willing partner in the erotic dance that overtakes and then removes them both—however temporarily—from the rest of the world. It is a story marked by intense feeling and by diamond-hard observations—some real, some imagined—from the narrator, a somewhat older friend of Dean's who foresees the path the affair must follow but still is obsessed, even jealous, of the power that lust at its most deeply felt can generate. It is indeed "a tour de force of erotic realism, a romantic cliff-hanger, [and] an opaline vision of Americans in France" (The New York Times Book Review).

For backlist titles by this author, see page TK.
Mother's Milk

Book Four of the Patrick Melrose Novels

Edward St. Aubyn
Essays One
Lydia Davis

A selection of essays on writing and reading by the master short-fiction writer Lydia Davis

Lydia Davis is a writer whose originality, influence, and wit are beyond compare. Jonathan Franzen has called her “a magician of self-consciousness,” while Rick Moody hails her as "the best prose stylist in America." And for Claire Messud, “Davis's signal gift is to make us feel alive.” Best known for her masterful short stories and translations, Davis’s gifts extend equally to her nonfiction. In Essays I, Davis has, for the first time, gathered a selection of essays, commentaries, and lectures composed over the past five decades. In this first of two volumes, her subjects range from her earliest influences to her favorite short stories, from John Ashbery’s translation of Rimbaud to Alan Cote’s painting, and from the Shepherd’s Psalm to early tourist photographs. On display is the development and range of one of the sharpest, most capacious minds writing today.

PRAISE

Praise for Lydia Davis

“Davis dances right up to and around that final mystery that can’t, won’t, and must be borne, that most inexplicable magic trick, life’s vanishing act.” —Parul Sehgal, NPR

“Davis is official literary dynamite . . . Everything she writes looks effortless.” —San Francisco Chronicle

Lydia Davis is the author of one novel and five story collections, including Varieties of Disturbance, a finalist for the 2007 National Book Award and most recently, Can’t and Won’t. She is also the acclaimed translator of Swann’s Way and Madame Bovary, both of which were awarded the French-American Foundation Translation Prize. The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis was described by James Wood in The New Yorker as a “grand cumulative achievement.” She is the winner of the 2013 Man Booker Internat...
The Russian Job

The Forgotten Story of How America Saved the Soviet Union from Ruin

Douglas Smith

An award-winning historian reveals the harrowing, little-known story of an American effort to save the newly formed Soviet Union from disaster

After decades of the Cold War and renewed tensions, in the wake of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, cooperation between the United States and Russia seems impossible to imagine—and yet, as Douglas Smith reveals, it has a forgotten but astonishing historical precedent.

In 1921, facing one of the worst famines in history, the new Soviet government under Vladimir Lenin invited the American Relief Administration, Herbert Hoover’s brainchild, to save communist Russia from ruin. For two years, a small, daring band of Americans fed more than ten million men, women, and children across a million square miles of territory. It was the largest humanitarian operation in history—preventing the loss of countless lives, social unrest on a massive scale, and, quite possibly, the collapse of the communist state.

Now, almost a hundred years later, few in either America or Russia have heard of the ARA. The Soviet government quickly began to erase the memory of American charity. In America, fanatical anti-communism would eclipse this historic cooperation with the Soviet Union. Smith resurrects the American relief mission from obscurity, taking the reader on an unforgettable journey from the heights of human altruism to the depths of human depravity. The story of the ARA is filled with political intrigue, espionage, the clash of ideologies, violence, adventure, and romance, and features some of the great historical figures of the twentieth...

PRAISE

Praise for Rasputin

“[The] definitive biography of this most mysterious and controversial figure . . . Under Smith’s probing eye, archives yield up impressive detail and previously unknown accounts that place Rasputin’s life in a new, more realistic context.”
—Greg King, The Washington Post

“[Smith’s] scrupulous, insightful and thorough study will surely be the definitive account of one of the most controversial personalities of Russian (and European) history . . . Rasputin is sharply drawn and unmistakable.” —Edward Lucas, The Wall Street Journal
Busted in New York and Other Essays

Darryl Pinckney; Foreword by Zadie Smith

A collection of essays that blend the personal and the social, from the celebrated literary critic and novelist

In these twenty-five essays, Darryl Pinckney has given us a view of our recent racial history that blends the social and the personal and wonders how we arrived at our current moment. Pinckney reminds us that “white supremacy isn’t back; it never went away.” It is this impulse to see historically that is at the core of Busted in New York and Other Essays, which traces the lineage of black intellectual history from Booker T. Washington through the Harlem Renaissance, to the Black Panther Party and the turbulent sixties, to today’s Afro-pessimists, and celebrated and neglected thinkers in between.

These are capacious essays whose topics range from the grassroots of protest in Ferguson, Missouri, to the eighteenth-century Guadeloupian composer Joseph Bologne, from an unsparing portrait of Louis Farrakhan to the enduring legacy of James Baldwin, the unexpected story of black people experiencing Russia, Barry Jenkins’s Moonlight, and the painter Kara Walker. The essays themselves are a kind of record, many of them written in real-time, as Pinckney witnesses the Million Man March, feels and experiences the highs and lows of Obama’s first presidential campaign, explores the literary black diaspora, and reflects on the surprising and severe lesson he learned firsthand about the changing urban fabric of New York.

As Zadie Smith writes in her introduction to the book: “How lucky we are to have Darryl Pinckney who, without rancor, without..."

PRAISE

Praise for High Cotton

“An extraordinary achievement... This tender, often droll portrait of one young life is also an arrestingly mature, original account of the condition of being black through several generations... [High Cotton] is also beautifully written, exhilaratingly intelligent, and a joy to read.” —Susan Sontag

Darryl Pinckney is the author of two novels, Black Deutschland and High Cotton, and two works of nonfiction, Blackballed: The Black Vote and US Democracy and Out There: Mavericks of Black Literature.
Carrie Fisher: A Life on the Edge

Sheila Weller

A remarkably candid biography of the remarkably candid—and brilliant—Carrie Fisher

In her 2008 bestseller, *Girls Like Us*, Sheila Weller—with heart and a profound feel for the times—gave us a surprisingly intimate portrait of three icons: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, and Carly Simon. Now she turns her focus to one of the most loved, brilliant, and iconoclastic women of the modern age: the actress, writer, daughter, and mother Carrie Fisher.

She traces Fisher’s life from her Hollywood royalty roots to her untimely and shattering death just days before Christmas 2016. Her mother was the seemingly idyllic Debbie Reynolds; her father, the famously ne’er-do-well Eddie Fisher (who runs off with Elizabeth Taylor). Weller exposes us to the demons that haunted Fisher all her life, particularly bipolar disorder and a drug addiction from which she could never quite free herself. We follow her career from her debut in *Shampoo* to the fame-making *Star Wars*; dive into her serious relationships with Paul Simon and the talent agent Bryan Lourd; witness her metamorphosis from actress to bestselling author; and watch her turn into a casual spokesperson for mental illness.

Sourced by friends, colleagues, and witnesses to all stages of Fisher’s life, *Carrie Fisher* is an affectionate and even-handed portrayal of a woman whose unsurpassed honesty is a reminder of how things should be. This is a big book about a small woman with a larger-than-life spirit and impact.

Sheila Weller is the author of the acclaimed family memoir *Dancing at Ciro’s*, the New York Times bestseller *Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon—and the Journey of a Generation*; and *The News Sorority: Diane Sawyer, Katie Couric, Christiane Amanpour—and the Triumph of Women in TV News*. Her investigative, human interest, and cultural history journalism has won multiple major magazine awards. She has contributed to *Vanity Fair*, was a senior contributing editor of *Glamour* and a con...
Retreat from Moscow

A New History of Germany's Winter Campaign, 1941-1942

David Stahel

A gripping and authoritative revisionist account of the Soviet Winter Offensive of 1941–1942

Germany's winter campaign of 1941–1942 has commonly been seen as its "first defeat." In Retreat from Moscow, David Stahel argues that, in fact, it may have been one of its first true successes. Far from a self-evident triumph, the Soviet counteroffensive was a Pyrrhic victory. Though the Red Army managed to push the Wermacht back from Moscow, the Germans lost fewer men, frustrated their enemy's strategic plan, and emerged in the spring unbroken and poised to recapture the initiative.

By the beginning of December 1941, conditions at the front were desperate. Ground mattered far less than resources, which neither regime seemed to grasp. Obsessed with prestige, blinded by ideology, and enabled by uncritical high commands, Hitler and Stalin would order positions to be seized or defended "at any cost." As Stahel reveals, Hitler's famed "halt order," far from being the critical solution that hardened the Germans and prevented wild retreat, was a military disaster that bred resentment and undermined command structures. Likewise, the Red Army's initial success may have been their downfall. Lacking the professionalism, training, and experience of the Wermacht, the Red Army mounted an offensive that quickly proved disastrous.

Through journals, memoirs, and wartime correspondence, Stahel takes us into the Wolf's Lair and reveals a German command at war with itself, as generals on the ground battle to maintain order and save their tro...

PRAISE

Praise for The Battle for Moscow

"Stahel offers a fresh, definitive look at a major turning point of World War II, illustrating again why he is one of the world's foremost experts on Hitler's attack on Soviet Russia. His writing is taut, insights provocative, and research exhaustive. A masterful achievement!" —Craig W. H. Luther, author of Barbarossa Unleashed

David Stahel was born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1975. He completed an honors degree in history at Monash University in Melbourne, an MA in war studies at King's College London, and a PhD at the Humboldt University in Berlin. His research has centered primarily on German military history and particularly the Wehrmacht's war against the Soviet Union. Stahel is Senior Lecturer in European history at the University of New South Wales in Canberra. His previous titles include The Battle for Mosco...
User Friendly

How the Hidden Rules of Design Are Changing the Way We Live, Work, and Play

Cliff Kuang with Robert Fabricant

The first book to tell the story of the ways in which design is reshaping life in the twenty-first century

User Friendly opens with two very different stories. In 1979, a series of failures leads to the catastrophic accident at Three Mile Island; one of the most critical of these failures is a design flaw—a key indicator in the plant’s control room is hidden from the operator’s sight line. In 2018, a giant, futuristic Apple campus is built on the back of sales of the iPhone, the most “user-friendly” device ever made. The two stories are part of one larger narrative—the story of the surprisingly recent innovation of putting users at the center of design.

In User Friendly, Cliff Kuang and Robert Fabricant unpack the ways in which the world has been—and continues to be—remade according to the principles of a relatively obscure discipline: user experience design. Its spread is intertwined with the sweeping changes of the last century, from women’s rights to the Great Depression and World War II and the rise of the digital era. Its ideals have shaped the world around us, from washing machines to self-driving cars to social media.

Combining the expertise and insight of a leading journalist and a pioneering designer, User Friendly provides a definitive, thoughtful, and practical perspective on a topic that has rapidly gone from arcane to urgent to inescapable. In User Friendly, Kuang and Fabricant tell the whole story for the first time—and you’ll never interact with technology the same way again.

Cliff Kuang is the former director of product innovation at Fast Company, founding editor of Co.Design, and a longtime design editor at Wired.

Robert Fabricant is the award-winning cofounder and partner at Dalberg Design and was a longtime vice president of creative at frog, one of the leading industrial-design studios of the last fifty years.

Both are in-demand speakers and writers on the topics of design and technology, and User Friendly is the first book for both of them.
All Hell Breaking Loose

The Pentagon's Perspective on Climate Change

Michael T. Klare

An eye-opening examination of climate change from the perspective of the U.S. military.

The Pentagon, unsentimental and politically conservative, might not seem likely to be worried about climate change—still linked, for many people, with polar bears and coral reefs. Yet of all the major institutions in American society, none take climate change as seriously as the U.S. military. Both as participants in climate-triggered conflicts abroad, and as first responders to hurricanes and other disasters on American soil, the armed services are already confronting the impacts of global warming. The military now regards climate change as one of the top threats to American national security—and is busy developing strategies to cope with it.

Drawing on previously obscure reports and government documents, renowned security expert Michael Klare shows that the U.S. military sees the climate threat as imperiling the country on several fronts at once. Droughts and food shortages are stoking conflicts in ethnically divided nations, with “climate refugees” producing worldwide havoc. Pandemics and other humanitarian disasters will increasingly require extensive military involvement. The melting Arctic is creating new seaways to defend. And rising seas threaten American cities and military bases themselves.

While others still debate the causes of global warming, the Pentagon is intensely focused on its effects. Its response makes it clear that where it counts, the immense impact of climate change is not in doubt.

PRAISE

Praise for The Race for What's Left:

“Pulls no punches in describing what's dead ahead... Whether you're a hard-line climate-denying billionaire capitalist or a liberal-leaning environmentalist, you need to read Michael Klare's new Race For What's Left.”—MarketWatch

“A first-rate, well-researched wake-up call... Klare has identified the problem in vivid detail.”—The Christian Science Monitor

“An outstanding book—exhaustively researched, beautifully written, and convincingly argued.”—History News Network

Michael T. Klare is the author of fifteen books, including Resource Wars and Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet. A contributor to Current History, Foreign Affairs, and the Los Angeles Times, he is the defense correspondent for The Nation and the director of the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts.
Dead Astronauts

A Novel

Jeff VanderMeer

A messianic blue fox who slips through warrens of time and space on a mysterious mission. A homeless woman haunted by a demon who finds the key to all things in a strange journal. A giant leviathan of a fish, centuries old, who hides a secret, remembering a past that may not be its own. Three ragtag rebels waging an endless war for the fate of the world against an all-powerful corporation. A raving madman who wanders the desert lost in the past, haunted by his own creation: an invisible monster whose name he has forgotten and whose purpose remains hidden.

Jeff VanderMeer's Dead Astronauts presents a City with no name of its own where, in the shadow of the all-powerful Company, lives human and otherwise converge in terrifying and miraculous ways. At stake: the fate of the future, the fate of Earth—all the Earths.

Jeff VanderMeer’s New York Times–bestselling Southern Reach trilogy has been translated into more than thirty-five languages. The first novel, Annihilation, won the Nebula Award and the Shirley Jackson Award, was short-listed for a half dozen more, and has been made into a movie. His novel Borne was the first release from Farrar, Straus and Giroux’s new MCD imprint and has received wide critical acclaim, including a rare trifecta of rave reviews from The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, an...
97,196 Words

Essays

Emmanuel Carrère; Translated from the French by John Lambert

A selection of the best short work by France's greatest living nonfiction writer

Over the course of his career, Emmanuel Carrère has reinvented nonfiction writing. In a search for truth in all its guises, he dispenses with the rules of genre. For him, no form is out of reach: Theology, historiography, reportage, and memoir—among many others—are fused under the pressure of an inimitable combination of passion, curiosity, and intellect that has made Carrère one of our most distinctive and important literary voices today.

97,196 Words introduces Carrère's shorter work to an English-language audience. Featuring more than thirty extraordinary texts written over an illustrious twenty-five-year period of Carrère's creative life, the book shows a remarkable mind at work. Spanning continents, histories, and personal relationships, 97,196 Words considers the divides between truth, reality, and our shared humanity, exploring remarkable events and eccentric lives, including Carrère's own.

PRAISE

Praise for Emmanuel Carrère

“Carrère has managed to renovate the idea of what nonfiction writing can be . . . If Michel Houellebecq is routinely advanced as France’s greatest living writer of fiction, Carrère, whose prose is no less remarkable for its purity and whose vision is no less broad, is widely understood as France’s greatest writer of nonfiction.”


Emmanuel Carrère, born in Paris in 1957, is a writer, scriptwriter, and film producer. He is the award-winning, internationally renowned author of The Kingdom, Limonov, The Mustache, Class Trip, The Adversary (a New York Times Notable Book), My Life as a Russian Novel, and Lives Other Than My Own, which was awarded the Globe de Cristal for Best Novel in 2010. For Limonov, Carrère received the Prix Renaudot and the Prix des Prix in 2011 and the Europese Literatuurprijs in 2013.

John Lambert has tr...
Serotonin

A Novel

Michel Houellebecq; Translated from the French by Shaun Whiteside

A scathing, visionary novel by the great provocateur, taking aim at a moribund European Union and the "vanquished white male"

Michel Houellebecq's *Serotonin* is a scathing, frightening, hilarious, raunchy, offensive, politically incorrect novel about the current state of Europe, Western civilization, and mankind in general.

Deeply depressed by his romantic and professional failures, the aging hedonist and agricultural engineer Florent-Claude Labrouste feels he is "dying of sadness." His young girlfriend hates him, his career is pretty much over, and he has to keep himself highly medicated to cope with day-to-day city life.

Struggling with "sex, male angst, solitude, consumerism, globalisation, urban planning, and more sex" (*The Economist*), Labrouste decides to head for the hills, returning to Normandy, where he once worked promoting regional cheeses, and where, too, he had once been in love, and even—it now seems—happy.

There he finds a countryside devastated by globalization and European agricultural policies, and local farmers longing, like Labrouste himself, for an impossible return to what they remember as a golden age: the smaller world of the premodern era.

As the farmers prepare for what might be an armed insurrection, it becomes clear that the health of one miserable body and a suffering body politic are not so different, in the end, and that all concerned may be rushing toward a catastrophe a whole drugstore's worth of antidepressants won't be enough to make bearable.

PRAISE

"A scathing critique of the European Union [that imagines] farmers blocking roadways and taking up arms against the state . . . The work’s themes include the effects of antidepressants on the male libido, the difficulty of sustaining meaningful relationships, and the impossibility of finding happiness, let alone spiritual satisfaction, in a consumer society. Consider it as *The Magic Mountain* for the post-Brexit era." —Rachel Donadio, *The Atlantic*

Michel Houellebecq is a French novelist, poet, and literary critic. His novels include the international bestsellers *Submission*, *The Elementary Particles*, and *The Map and the Territory*, which won the 2010 Prix Goncourt. He lives in France.
Long Live Latin

The Pleasures of a Useless Language

Nicola Gardini; Translated from the Italian by Todd Portnowitz

A lively exploration of the joys of a not-so-dead language

From the acclaimed novelist and Oxford professor Nicola Gardini, a personal and passionate look at the Latin language: its history, its authors, its essential role in education, and its enduring impact on modern life—whether we call it “dead” or not.

What use is Latin? It’s a question we’re often asked by those who see the language of Cicero as no more than a cumbersome heap of ruins, something to remove from the curriculum. In this sustained meditation, Gardini gives us his sincere and brilliant reply: Latin is, quite simply, the means of expression that made us—and continues to make us—who we are. In Latin, the rigorous and inventive thinker Lucretius examined the nature of our world; the poet Propertius told of love and emotion in a dizzying variety of registers; Caesar affirmed man’s capacity to shape reality through reason; Virgil composed the Aeneid, without which we’d see all of Western history in a different light.

In Long Live Latin, Gardini shares his deep love for the language—enriched by his tireless intellectual curiosity—and warmly encourages us to engage with a civilization that has never ceased to exist, because it’s here with us now, whether we know it or not. Thanks to his careful guidance, even without a single lick of Latin grammar readers can discover how this language is still capable of restoring our sense of identity, with a power that only useless things can miraculously express.

Nicola Gardini teaches Italian and comparative literature at Oxford University. He has translated works by Catullus and Marcus Aurelius into Italian, and his most recent novel, Lost Words, was awarded the Viareggio Literary Award and the Zerilli-Marimò/City of Rome Prize.

Todd Portnowitz is the translator of Midnight in Spoleto by Paolo Valesio and a recipient of the Raiziss/de Palchi Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets. He lives and works in New York.
Family Papers

A Sephardic Journey Through the Twentieth Century

Sarah Abrevaya Stein

An award-winning historian shares the true story of a frayed and diasporic Sephardic Jewish family preserved in thousands of letters

For centuries, the bustling port city of Salonica was home to the sprawling Levy family. As leading publishers and editors, they helped chronicle modernity as it was experienced by Sephardic Jews across the Ottoman Empire. The wars of the twentieth century, however, redrew the borders around them, in the process transforming the Levys from Ottomans to Greeks. Family members soon moved across boundaries and hemispheres, stretching the familial diaspora from Greece to Western Europe, Israel, Brazil, and India. In time, the Holocaust nearly eviscerated the clan, eradicating whole branches of the family tree.

In Family Papers, the prizewinning Sephardic historian Sarah Abrevaya Stein uses the family’s correspondence to tell the story of their journey across the arc of a century and the breadth of the globe. They wrote to share grief and to reveal secrets, to propose marriage and to plan for divorce, to maintain connection. They wrote because they were family. And years after they frayed, Stein discovers, what remains solid is the fragile tissue that once held them together: neither blood nor belief, but papers.

With meticulous research and care, Stein uses the Levys’ letters to tell not only their history, but the history of Sephardic Jews in the twentieth century.

PRAISE

Praise for Extraterritorial Dreams

“Stein tells stories that illuminate the intertwined nature of minority histories and global politics through the turbulence of the modern era.” — Jewish Book Council

Sarah Abrevaya Stein is the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director of the Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, as well as Professor of History and the Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies at UCLA. She is the author or editor of nine books, including Extraterritorial Dreams: European Citizenship, Sephardi Jews, and the Ottoman Twentieth Century and Plumes: Ostrich Feathers, Jews, and a Lost World of Global Commerce. The recipient of the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, two National Endowment...
Joni

The Anthology

Edited by Barney Hoskyns

Joni Mitchell is considered one of the greatest songwriters of her generation. This singular collection charts every major period of her iconic career, as they happened, with interviews, album re...

Nine Grammys. More than ten million albums sold. Named one of the greatest singers and songwriters of all time by Rolling Stone. Joni: The Anthology is an essential collection of writings on Joni Mitchell that charts every major moment of the famed troubadour's extraordinary career, as it happened.

From album reviews, incisive commentary, and candid conversations, Joni: The Anthology includes, among other things, a review of Mitchell's first-ever show at LA's Troubadour in June of 1968, a 1978 interview by musician Ben Sidran on jazz great Charles Mingus, a personal reminiscence by Ellen Sander, a confidant of the Los Angeles singer-songwriter community, and a long "director's cut" version of editor Barney Hoskyns' 1994 MOJO interview. A time capsule of an icon, the anthology spans the entirety of Joni's career between 1967-2007, as well as thoughtful commentary on her early years.

In collecting materials long unavailable, rare, or otherwise difficult to find, Joni: The Anthology illuminates the evolution of modern rock journalism while providing an invaluable and accessible guide to appreciating the highs?and the lows?of a twentieth century legend.

Barney Hoskyns is the cofounder and editorial director of the online rock-journalism library Rock's Backpages, and author of several books including Hotel California: the True-Life Adventures of Crosby, Stills, Nash, Young, Mitchell, Taylor, Browne, Ronstadt, Geffen, the Eagles, and their Many Friends (2005), Lowside of the Road: A Life of Tom Waits (2009), Small Town Talk: Bob Dylan, The Band, Van Morrison, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and friends in the Wild Years of Woodstock (2016), and Never ...
Life isn't everything

Mike Nichols, as remembered by 150 of his closest friends.

Mike Nichols, as remembered by 150 of his closest friends.

Ash Carter and Sam Kashner

An up close and personal portrait of a legendary filmmaker, theater director, and comedian, drawing on candid conversations with his closest friends in show business and the arts—from Dustin Hoff...

The work of Mike Nichols pervades American cultural consciousness—from The Graduate and Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? to Angels in America, The Birdcage, Working Girl, and Primary Colors, not to mention his string of hit plays, including Barefoot in the Park and The Odd Couple. If that weren’t enough, he was also one half of the timelessly funny duo Nichols & May, as well as a founding member of the original improv troupe. Over a career that spanned half a century, Mike Nichols changed Hollywood, Broadway, and comedy forever.

Most fans, however, know very little of the person behind it all. Since he never wrote his memoirs, and seldom appeared on television, they have very little sense of his searching intellect or his devastating wit. They don't know that Nichols, the great American director, was born Mikail Igor Peschkowsky, in Berlin, and came to this country, speaking no English, to escape the Nazis. They don't know that Nichols was at one time a solitary psychology student, or that a childhood illness caused permanent, life-altering side effects. They don't know that he withdrew into a debilitating depression before he "finally got it right," in his words, by marrying Diane Sawyer.

Here, for the first time, Ash Carter and Sam Kashner offer an intimate look behind the scenes of Nichols' life, as told by the stars, moguls, playwrights, producers, comics and crewmembers who stayed loyal to Nichols for years. A mosaic po...

Ash Carter, an editor at Esquire, was previously an editor and staff writer at Town & Country.

Sam Kashner has been a contributing editor at Vanity Fair since 2008 and is the author of the novel Sinatraland (a “notable book” of both the Washington Post and the L.A. Times); the acclaimed memoir, When I Was Cool: My Life At the Jack Kerouac School; and co-author of the recent New York Times bestseller The Fabulous Bouvier Sisters: The Tragic and Glamorous Lives of Jackie and Lee, and Furious Love:...
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<td>Unfollow: A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church</td>
<td>Megan Phelps-Roper</td>
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<td>Vertical Farm (Tenth Anniversary Edition), The: Feeding the World in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Dr. Dickson Despommier</td>
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<td>Erosion: Essays of Undoing</td>
<td>Terry Tempest</td>
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<td>Wounded Shepherd: Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church</td>
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