Talking to Strangers

Selected Essays, Prefaces, and Other Writings, 1967-2017

Paul Auster

A freshly-curated collection of prose, spanning fifty years of work and including famous as well as never-before-published early writings, from 2018 Man Booker-finalist Paul Auster

In this updated collection of literary essays, interviews, prefaces, personal notes, and occasional writings, including poignant and illuminating appreciations of other poets and novelists and of New York City life, Paul Auster offers not only samplings but insights into the first fifty years of his brilliant writing career.

Through critical readings of literary greats such as Hawthorne, Poe, Beckett and Kafka, as well as less well-appreciated poets from George Oppen to Laura Riding, Auster celebrates the achievements of his fellow authors while probing the constraints of language and considering the relationships between writers and the works they create. In addition, through an offering of highly personal notes, essays, and interviews dating back to his student days at Columbia in the 1960s, Auster turns the light on himself, exposing readers to the myriad of topics and inspirations that have shaped his work. From sitting in the bleachers at a Mets game to discussing the Dada art movement, from witnessing the death-defying performances of high-wire artist Philippe Petit to reflecting on the events of September 11th, Auster ushers readers into his thinking across fifty years and through a wide-reaching literary world.

Sprawling in scope and subject, local in outlook, Talking to Strangers paints a vivid and intimate portrait of the man behind the page who has long captivated readers around the world.

PRAISE

“Elegant and accessible . . . much of what is offered here displays Auster’s warmth, democratic instincts, and human concerns.” —Hilary Mantel on Collected Prose (2005)

“One of the great writers of our time.” —San Francisco Chronicle on Paul Auster

“Auster really does possess the wand of the enchanter.” —The New York Review of Books

“The most distinguished American writer of [his] generation . . . indeed its only author . . . with any claim to greatness.” —The Spectator (UK) on Paul Auster

“Paul Auster is definitely a genius.” —Haruki Murakami

The Bells of Old Tokyo
Meditations on Time and a City

Anna Sherman

In the tradition of Olivia Laing, a beautiful and profound exploration of the history and culture of Tokyo and its residents that is a mix of memoir, cultural history, and journalism.

The Bells of Old Tokyo is a remarkable literary debut by Anna Sherman that is an elegant and insightful tour of Tokyo and its residents, as well as a meditation on Japanese culture and society. The book is structured around Anna’s search for the eight lost bells that once surrounded the city. These bells marked the city’s neighborhoods and kept time for its inhabitants before the introduction of Western-style clocks. The bells are tangible vestiges of a much older Japan—one that believed in time as represented by animals and the zodiac, rather than minutes and hours, a circle rather than a forward line. Similarly, the book moves in and out of time as we are introduced to Tokyo residents past and present: An aristocrat who makes his way through Tokyo’s sea of ashes after WWII’s firebombs. A shrine priest who remembers Yukio Mishima praying before his infamous death. A scientist who has built the most accurate clock in the world, a clock that will not lose a second in five billion years. The head of the Tokugawa house, the family that used to rule Tokyo, reflecting on the destruction of his grandfathers’ city (“A lost thing is lost. To chase it leads to darkness”). And woven throughout is Anna’s deep friendship with the owner of a small, exquisite coffee shop who believes that if you make coffee just right, and allow people the time to enjoy it, they will return to their “true selves.”

A literary history and cultural appreciatio...

ANNA SHERMAN was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. She studied Greek and Latin at Wellesley College and Oxford before moving to Tokyo in 2001.
Our Kind of Cruelty

A Novel

Araminta Hall

A spellbinding psychological thriller for fans of Gillian Flynn and Ruth Ware, with a refreshing twist—an unreliable male narrator.

This is a love story. Mike’s love story.

Mike Hayes fought his way out of a brutal childhood and into a quiet, if lonely, life before he met Verity Metcalf. V taught him about love, and in return, Mike has dedicated his life to making her happy. He’s found the perfect home, the perfect job; he’s sculpted himself into the physical ideal V has always wanted. He knows they’ll be blissfully happy together.

It doesn’t matter that she hasn’t been returning his e-mails or phone calls. It doesn’t matter that she says she’s marrying Angus.

It’s all just part of the secret game they used to play. If Mike watches V closely, he’ll see the signs. If he keeps track of her every move, he’ll know just when to come to her rescue . . .

A riveting, darkly twisted novel about desire and obsession, Our Kind of Cruelty introduces Araminta Hall, a chilling new voice in psychological suspense.

PRAISE

One of Lit Hub’s Most Anticipated Thrillers of 2018

“This is simply one of the nastiest and most disturbing thrillers I’ve read in years. In short: I loved it, right down to the utterly chilling final line.” —Gillian Flynn, author of Gone Girl

"In Hall’s impressive novel . . . While the orchestration of suspense is masterly, Hall’s real agenda . . . [is] a feminist subtext: the way in which female desire is judged more harshly in modern society."—Barry Forshaw, Financial Times

"Here's a change—a psychological thriller in which a man is the crazy one . . . Which is worse—an emotionally disturbed murderer or a woman with a fierce libido? Hall . . ."

ARAMINTA HALL is the author of Everything and Nothing. She has an MA in creative writing and authorship from the University of Sussex, and teaches creative writing at New Writing South in Brighton, where she lives with her husband and three children. Our Kind of Cruelty is her first book published in the United States.
The Happiness Curve

Why Life Gets Better After 50

Jonathan Rauch

This book will change your life by showing you how life changes.

Why does happiness get harder in your 40s? Why do you feel in a slump when you’re successful? Where does this malaise come from? And, most importantly, will it ever end?

Drawing on cutting-edge research, award-winning journalist Jonathan Rauch answers all these questions. He shows that from our 20s into our 40s, happiness follows a U-shaped trajectory, a “happiness curve,” declining from the optimism of youth into what’s often a long, low slump in middle age, before starting to rise again in our 50s.

This isn’t a midlife crisis, though. Rauch reveals that this slump is instead a natural stage of life—and an essential one. By shifting priorities away from competition and toward compassion, it equips you with new tools for wisdom and gratitude to win the third period of life.

And Rauch can testify to this personally because it was his own slump, despite acclaim as a journalist and commentator that compelled him to investigate the happiness curve. His own story and the stories of many others from all walks of life—from a steelworker and a limo driver to a telecoms executive and a philanthropist—show how the ordeal of midlife malaise reboots our values and even our brains for a rebirth of gratitude.

Full of insights and data and featuring many ways to endure the slump and avoid its perils and traps, The Happiness Curve doesn’t just show you the dark forest of midlife, it helps you find a path through the trees. It also demonstra...

PRAISE

"In a youth-obsessed culture, it may be difficult to convince some that life gets better after 50. But by supplanting dated cliches with compelling scholarship, Rauch offers a fresh and reassuring vision of aging that supersedes superficial fixations." –The Washington Post

"This uplifting report offers hope and encouragement for aging readers doubting the longevity of bliss." –Kirkus

“Psychologists agree that the midlife crisis is a myth. But why are so many middle-aged people so dissatisfied with their lives? . . . Through happiness studies and . . . interviews and surveys, Rauch discovers a pattern... This thoughtful study is sure to find a...
Motherhood

A Novel

Sheila Heti

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

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

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

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

PRAISE

“Playful, funny, wretched, and absolutely true.” —The Paris Review on How Should a Person be?

“Boldly original...gorgeously rendered.” —NPR on How Should a Person Be?

"Brutally honest and stylistically inventive, cerebral and sexy." —San Francisco Chronicle on How Should a Person Be?

“A seriously strange but funny plunge into the quest for authenticity.” —Margaret Atwood, @MargaretAtwood on How Should a Person Be?

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

Sheila Heti is the author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, including How Should a Person Be? which was a New York Times Notable Book and was named a best book of the year by The New Yorker. She is co-editor of the New York Times bestseller Women in Clothes, and is the former Interviews Editor for The Believer magazine. Her work has been published in The New York Times, The London Review of Books, The Paris Review, McSweeney’s, Harper’s, and n+1.
Treeborne

In the tradition of Big Fish and Amanda Coplin's instant classic, The Orchardist, comes "an enthralling story about what binds people together and breaks them apart" (Booklist, starred review)

Caleb Johnson

Wedged between the bluffs and the river for which it's named, there’s a small and all-but-forgotten town. Janie Treeborne lives on an orchard at the edge of Elberta, Alabama, and in time, she has become its keeper. A place where conquistadors once walked, and where the peaches they left behind now grow, Elberta has seen fierce battles, violent storms, and frantic change—and when the town is once again threatened from without, Janie realizes it won’t withstand much more. So she tells the story of its people: of Hugh, her granddaddy, determined to preserve Elberta’s legacy through his art; of his wife Maybelle, who shook the town when she became its first female postmaster, then again when she died a sudden and mysterious death; of her lover Lee Malone, a black orchardist and musician harvesting from a land where he is less than welcome; of the local legend Ricky Birdsong, who scored touchdown after touchdown, only to run headlong into tragedy; of the time Janie herself kidnapped her own Hollywood-obsessed aunt and tore the wrong people apart.

As the world closes in on Elberta, Alabama—a fictional land equal parts Macon and Macondo—Caleb Johnson’s debut novel lifts the veil and offers one last glimpse. Treeborne is both a celebration and a reminder: of the difficulty of untangling the past from the future, and of how home is a story as much as a place.

• For readers of Daniel Wallace, Jennifer Haigh, and Richard Russo

PRAISE

"If Daniel Wallace says he wishes he’d written it, then we want to read it."—Deep South magazine (Summer Reading List)

"A story about complicated legacies and the people who bring to life the places we call home."—Southern Living (Best New Books Coming Out This Summer)

"Richly rewarding...The entire novel brims with vibrant language that takes hold of readers and refuses to let go."—Chicago Review of Books

CALEB JOHNSON grew up in Arley, AL, studied journalism at The University of Alabama in
“How bittersweet these last, wonderful stories are, and how they intensify the loss of Howard Frank Mosher, one of our most beloved and sure-footed storytellers.” - Richard Russo

Upon his passing in January 2017, Howard Frank Mosher was recognized as one of America’s most acclaimed writers. His fiction set in the world of Vermont’s fabled Northeast Kingdom chronicles the intertwining family histories of the natives, wanderers, outcasts, and others who settled in this ethereal place. In its obituary, The New York Times wrote, “Mr. Mosher’s fictional Kingdom County, Vt., became his New England version of Faulkner’s Yoknapatawpha County.”

In Points North, completed just weeks before his death, Mosher presents a brilliant, lovingly evoked collection of stories that center around the Kinneson family, ranging over decades of their history in the Kingdom. From a loquacious itinerant preacher who beguiles the reticent farmers and shopkeepers of a small New England town, to a proposed dam that threatens the river that Kinneson men have fished for generations, the scandalous secret of a romance and its violent consequences, and a young man’s seemingly fruitless search for love—Points North is a full-hearted, gently comic, and beautifully written last gift to the readers who treasure Howard Frank Mosher.

"This book is a gift: Mosher saved the best for last." - Chris Bohjalian

"With elegant prose Mosher skillfully creates characters of depth and interest, filling his stories with gentle humor and emphasizing the ties that make and preserve family history . . . Recommended." - Library Journal

HOWARD FRANK MOSHER was the author of thirteen previous books of fiction and nonfiction, including God’s Kingdom. He received Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Literature Award, the New England Book Award, and the 2011 New England Independent Booksellers Association’s President’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts. In January 2017, Mosher passed away at the age of seventy-four in Vermont.
Something Wonderful

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution

Todd S. Purdum

A revelatory portrait of the creative partnership that transformed musical theater and provided the soundtrack to the American Century

They stand at the apex of the great age of songwriting, the creators of the classic Broadway musicals Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I, and The Sound of Music, whose songs have never lost their popularity or emotional power. Even before they joined forces, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II had written dozens of Broadway shows, but together they pioneered a new art form: the serious musical play. Their songs and dance numbers served to advance the drama and reveal character, a sharp break from the past and the template on which all future musicals would be built.

Though different in personality and often emotionally distant from each other, Rodgers and Hammerstein presented an unbroken front to the world and forged much more than a songwriting team; their partnership was also one of the most profitable and powerful entertainment businesses of their era. They were cultural powerhouses whose work came to define postwar America on stage, screen, television, and radio. But they also had their failures and flops, and more than once they feared they had lost their touch.

Todd S. Purdum’s portrait of these two men, their creative process, and their groundbreaking innovations will captivate lovers of musical theater, lovers of the classic American songbook, and lovers in general. He shows that what Rodgers and Hammerstein wrought was truly something wonderful.

PRAISE

"In giving us access to the world that gave birth to them, Purdum’s authoritative and ultimately moving book brings these masterpieces to life with bracing clarity."—The New York Times Book Review (Editor's Choice)

"Strips away the accretions of time and reputation to retrieve the craft and dynamism with which his subjects created a new kind of musical."—The Economist

“Scrupulously researched...infinitely fascinating...a fair-minded appreciation of these gods but acknowledges that they had feet of clay.” —Harold Prince

“A piece of American history you should devour, as nothing tells us about our times and ourselves quite like our songs.” —Alec B...

TODD S. PURDUM is the author of An Idea Whose Time Has Come and A Time of Our Choosing.
Lead from the Outside

How to Build Your Future and Make Real Change

Stacey Abrams

Breakout star Stacey Abrams has written the guide to harnessing the strengths of being an outsider and succeeding anyway.

Leadership is hard. Convincing others—and yourself—that you are capable of taking charge and achieving more requires insight and courage. Lead from the Outside is the handbook for outsiders, written with an eye toward the challenges that hinder women, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and millennials ready to make change. Stacey uses her hard-won insights to break down how ambition, fear, money, and failure function in leadership, and she includes practical exercises to help you realize your own ambition and hone your skills. Lead from the Outside discusses candidly what Stacey has learned over the course of her impressive career in politics, business and the nonprofit world: that differences in race, gender, and class provide vital strength, which we can employ to rise to the top and create real and lasting change.

• With a New Preface

PRAISE

PRAISE FOR LED FROM THE OUTSIDE (previously published as MINORITY LEADER)

"Abrams's own grit, coupled with her descriptions of much stumbling and self-doubt, will make Minority Leader touch you in a way few books by politicians can. In fact, the last one to manage it—biracial, the child of divorce, raised with little money by a single mother—became our 44th president."—The New York Times Book Review

"Stacey Abrams writes about her personal cocktail of grit and gumption."
—Glamour

“Stacey didn’t write Minority Leader simply to help people in the minority; she wrote it because she believes people in the minority can help us all.”—Teen Vogue

Stacey Abrams is an author, serial entrepreneur, nonprofit CEO and political leader. After eleven years in the Georgia House of Representatives, seven as Minority Leader, Abrams became the 2018 Democratic nominee for Governor of Georgia, where she won more votes than any other Democrat in the state’s history. She has founded multiple organizations devoted to voting rights, training and hiring young people of color, and tackling social issues at both the state and national levels; and she is a li...
God's Perfect Child

Living and Dying in the Christian Science Church

Caroline Fraser

The first unvarnished account of one of America's most controversial and little-understood religious movements, hailed by The New Yorker as "penetrating . . . a work of compelling skepticism and . . .

Founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879, Christian Science has affected the lives of millions of Americans. In this unflinching investigation, Caroline Fraser, herself raised in a Scientist household, traces the growth of the church from a small, eccentric sect into a politically powerful and socially respectable religion that has gained extraordinary legal and Congressional sanction for its practices. Fraser takes us into the closed world of Christian Scientists, who refuse to acknowledge the existence of illness and death even at the cost of their children's lives. And she offers a passionate exposé of the dangers and delusions of religious zealotry.

PRAISE

"Eye-opening . . . the most powerful and persuasive attack on Christian Science to have been written in this century."
—Martin Gardner, Los Angeles Times Book Review

"A work of impassioned rationality . . . important and profoundly disturbing."
—Susan Jacoby, Newsday

"New . . . Startling . . . Fraser has an eye and ear for the kind of detail that can help readers make up their own minds about an always-controversial American religious expression."
—Martin Marty, The Boston Globe

"Splendid."
—The New York Times

Chasing New Horizons

Inside the Epic First Mission to Pluto

Alan Stern and David Grinspoon

Alan Stern and David Grinspoon take us behind the scenes of the science, politics, egos and public expectations that fueled the greatest space mission of our time: New Horizons’ mission to Pluto.

On July 14, 2015, something amazing happened. More than 3 billion miles from Earth, a small NASA spacecraft called New Horizons screamed past Pluto at more than 32,000 miles per hour, focusing its instruments on the long mysterious icy worlds of the Pluto system, and then continued on its journey out into the beyond.

Nothing like this has occurred in a generation—a raw exploration of new worlds unparalleled since NASA’s Voyager missions—and nothing like it is planned to happen again. The photos that New Horizons sent back to Earth graced the front pages of newspapers on all 7 continents, and NASA’s website for the mission received more than 2 billion hits in the days surrounding the flyby. At a time when so many think our most historic achievements are in the past, the most distant planetary exploration ever attempted not only succeeded but made history and captured the world’s imagination.

How did this happen? Chasing New Horizons is the story of the men and women behind the mission: of their decades-long commitment; of the political fights within and outside of NASA; of the sheer human ingenuity it took to design, build, and fly the mission. Told from the insider’s perspective of Dr. Alan Stern, Chasing New Horizons is a riveting story of scientific discovery, and of how far humanity can go when we work together toward an incredible goal.

PRAISE

“When the New Horizons spacecraft flew from here to Pluto and beyond, the pictures and data forever changed the way we view our Solar System and our place within it. Stern and Grinspoon show us what NASA can do when the United States brings its best. New Horizons is still flying, and for us Plutophiles it’s the adventure of a lifetime.”

—BILL NYE, science educator, CEO the Planetary Society

“Here is the exciting, moment-by-moment account of how a dream becomes a successful mission to another planet. Chasing New Horizons is a cliff-hanger, a page-turner, a spine-tingler, and, ultimately, a reason to stand up and cheer. Readers are ‘Go!’ for Plut...”

DR. ALAN STERN is Principal Investigator of the New Horizons mission. A planetary scientist, space program executive, aerospace consultant and author he has participated in numerous...
The Middleman

A Novel

Olen Steinhauer

This stunning standalone from New York Times bestseller Steinhauer follows the people on all sides of a domestic terrorist group, from the group’s converts to the FBI agents investigating them.

New York Times bestselling author Olen Steinhauer's next sweeping espionage novel traces the rise and fall of a domestic left-wing terrorist group. Told from the individual perspectives of an FBI agent, an undercover agent within the group, a convert to the terrorist organization, and a writer on the edges of the whole affair, this tightly wound thriller is an intimate exploration of the people behind the politics, from a master of suspense.

PRAISE

Praise for The Middleman
“A thought-provoking political thriller, a dark story for dark times” – The Washington Post

“Steinhauer proves himself an equally adept chronicler of a world in which walls have come down and the most potent powers aren’t necessarily political. Another must-read from a modern master.” – Booklist (starred review)

“Steinhauer has written an unnerving and timely thriller with incredible pivots. From a perspective on activist/terrorist civilian organizations to an examination of Big Brother conspiracy plots, there’s something here for everyone to grip – with white knuckles” – Library Journal (starred review)

"One of the most...

OLEN STEINHAUER, the New York Times bestselling author of ten previous novels, including The Tourist and All the Old Knives, is a two-time Edgar Award finalist. He is also the creator of TV’s Berlin Station. Raised in Virginia, he lives with his family in New York and Budapest, Hungary.
From New York Times culture reporter Dave Itzkoff, the definitive biography of Robin Williams – a compelling portrait of one of America’s most beloved and misunderstood entertainers

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

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

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

A Novel

Lillian Li

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

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

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

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

PRAISE

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

—Lorrie Moore

Lillian Li received her BA from Princeton and her MFA from the University of Michigan. She is the recipient of a Hopwood Award in Short Fiction, as well as Glimmer Train’s New Writer Award. Her work has been featured in Guernica, Granta, and Jezebel. She is from the D.C. metro area and lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
Flash: The Making of Weegee the Famous

Christopher Bonanos

The first comprehensive biography of Weegee—photographer, “psychic”, ultimate New Yorker—from the author of Instant: The Story of Polaroid

Arthur Fellig’s ability to arrive at a crime scene just as the cops did was so uncanny that he became known as “Weegee,” claiming that he functioned as a human Ouija board. Weegee documented better than any other photographer the crime, grit, and complex humanity of midcentury New York City. In Flash, we get a portrait not only of the man (both flawed and deeply talented, with generous appetites for publicity, women, and hot pastrami) but also of the fascinating time and place that he occupied.

From self-taught immigrant kid to newshound to art-world darling to latter-day caricature—moving from the dangerous streets of New York City to the celebrity culture of Los Angeles and then to Europe for a quixotic late phase of experimental photography and filmmaking—Weegee lived a life just as vivid as the scenes he captured. Flash is an unprecedented and ultimately moving view of the man now regarded as an innovator and a pioneer, one whose photographs are among the most powerful images of urban existence ever made.

PRAISE

"Flash is a crackling portrait of a man and his era—as immediate and as alive as Weegee's pictures themselves. Chris Bonanos vivifies not only his subject, but the long lost New York that he lived in, and that made him."—Daniel Okrent, New York Times bestselling author of Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition

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

A Novel

Édouard Louis; Translated from the French by Lorin Stein

A gripping autobiographical novel—the best work yet from the most talked-about French writer of his generation

On Christmas Eve 2012, in Paris, the novelist Édouard Louis was raped and almost murdered by a man he had just met. This act of violence left Louis shattered; its aftermath made him a stranger to himself and sent him back to the village, the family, and the past he had sworn to leave behind.

A bestseller in France, History of Violence is a short nonfiction novel in the tradition of Truman Capote’s In Cold Blood, but with the victim as its subject. Moving seamlessly and hypnotically between past and present, between Louis’s voice and the voice of an imagined narrator, History of Violence has the exactness of a police report and the searching, unflinching curiosity of memoir at its best. It records not only the casual racism and homophobia of French society but also their subtle effects on lovers, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives. It represents a great step forward for a young writer whose acuity, skill, and depth are unmatched by any novelist of his generation, in French or English.

PRAISE

Praise for The End of Eddy

“A mesmerizing story about difference and adolescence, one that is far more realistic than most.” —Jennifer Senior, The New York Times

“Vivid and honest . . . Telling the truth about growing up gay among bigoted, bullying people requires bravery and brio; shaping that story into a memorable dramatic narrative takes not only nerve but intelligence, skill and a mysterious jolt of je ne sais quoi.” —Rick Whitaker, The Washington Post

Édouard Louis is the author of two international bestsellers, The End of Eddy and History of Violence, and the editor of a scholarly work on the social scientist Pierre Bourdieu. Compared to Jean Genet by The Paris Review, his work deals with sexuality, class, and violence. Louis was born Eddy Bellegeule in the working-class village of Hallencourt in northern France, and he attended the École Normale Supérieure and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.
The Shepherd's Hut

A Novel

Tim Winton

An exhilarating new adventure from Australia’s most acclaimed writer

Tim Winton is Australia’s most decorated and beloved novelist. Short-listed twice for the Booker Prize and the winner of a record four Miles Franklin Literary Awards for Best Australian Novel, he has a gift for language virtually unrivaled among writers in English. His work is both tough and tender, primordial and new—always revealing the raw, instinctual drives that lure us together and rend us apart.

In The Shepherd’s Hut, Winton crafts the story of Jaxie Clackton, a brutalized rural youth who flees from the scene of his father’s violent death and strikes out for the vast wilds of Western Australia. All he carries with him is a rifle and a waterjug. All he wants is peace and freedom. But surviving in the harsh saltlands alone is a savage business. And once he discovers he’s not alone out there, all Jaxie’s plans go awry. He meets a fellow exile, the ruined priest Fintan MacGillis, a man he’s never certain he can trust, but on whom his life will soon depend. The Shepherd’s Hut is a thrilling tale of unlikely friendship and yearning, at once brutal and lyrical, from one of our finest storytellers.

PRAISE

“A brilliant tour-de-force.” —Adam Woog, The Seattle Times on Eyrie

“Winton is a one-man band of genius.” —Carolyn See, Los Angeles Times on Cloudstreet

The preeminent Australian novelist of his generation, TIM WINTON is the author of the bestselling novels Cloudstreet, The Riders, and Dirt Music, among many other books. He has won the Miles Franklin Literary Award four times (for Shallows, Cloudstreet, Dirt Music, and Breath) and has twice been short-listed for the Booker Prize (for The Riders and Dirt Music). He lives in Western Australia.
Near-Death Experiences . . . and Others

Robert Gottlieb

A new collection of immersive essays from the most acclaimed editor of the second half of the twentieth century

This new collection from the legendary editor Robert Gottlieb features twenty or so pieces he’s written mostly for The New York Review of Books, ranging from reconsiderations of American writers such as Dorothy Parker, Thornton Wilder, Thomas Wolfe (“genius”), and James Jones, to Leonard Bernstein, Lorenz Hart, Lady Diana Cooper (“the most beautiful girl in the world”), the actor-assassin John Wilkes Booth, the scandalous movie star Mary Astor, and not-yet president Donald Trump.

The writings compiled here are as various as they are provocative: an extended probe into the world of post-death experiences; a sharp look at the biopics of transcendent figures such as Shakespeare, Molière, and Austen; a soap opera-ish movie account of an alleged affair between Chanel and Stravinsky; and a copious sampling of the dance reviews he’s been writing for The New York Observer for close to twenty years. A worthy successor to his expansive 2011 collection, Lives and Letters, and his admired 2016 memoir, Avid Reader, Near-Death Experiences displays the same insight and intellectual curiosity that have made Gottlieb, in the words of The New York Times’s Dwight Garner, “the most acclaimed editor of the second half of the twentieth century.”

PRAISE

“Gottlieb’s brilliance as an editor comes across in his seemingly unerring sense of what can and cannot be done.” —Christopher Benfey, The New York Review of Books on Avid Reader

“[A] splendid memoir . . . Avid Reader will be avidly read by anyone interested in the publishing world of the past 60 years. After all, not since Max Perkins worked with Hemingway and Fitzgerald has there been a more admired editor than Robert Gottlieb.” —Michael Dirda, The Washington Post

ROBERT GOTTLIEB has been the editor in chief of Simon and Schuster; the president, publisher, and editor in chief of Alfred A. Knopf; and the editor of The New Yorker. As a writer, he contributes frequently to The New York Review of Books and is the author of Great Expectations: The Sons and Daughters of Charles Dickens, George Balanchine: The Ballet Maker, Sarah: The Life of Sarah Bernhardt, and, most recently, Avid Reader: A Life. In 2015, Gottlieb was presented the Award for Distinguished Ser...
Upstate

A Novel

James Wood

The keenly observed story of a ruptured family trying to heal old wounds, from “the strongest . . . literary critic we have” —The New York Review of Books

In the years since his daughter Vanessa moved to America to become a professor of philosophy, Alan Querry has never been to visit. He has been too busy at home in northern England, holding together his business as a successful property developer. His older daughter, Helen—a music executive in London—hasn’t gone, either, and the two sisters, close but competitive, have never quite recovered from their parents’ bitter divorce and the early death of their mother. But when Vanessa’s new, much younger boyfriend sends word that she has fallen into a severe depression and that he’s worried for her safety, Alan and Helen fly to New York and take the train to Saratoga Springs.

Over the course of six wintry days in upstate New York, the Querry family begins to struggle with the questions that animate this profound and searching novel: Why do some people find living so much harder than others? Is happiness a skill that might be learned or a cruel accident of birth? Is reflection conducive to happiness or an obstacle to it? If, as a favorite philosopher of Helen’s puts it, “the only serious enterprise is living,” how should we live? Rich in subtle human insight, full of poignant and often funny portraits, and vivid with a sense of place, James Wood’s Upstate is a powerful, intense, beautiful novel.

PRAISE


“Wood is among the very few contemporary writers of great consequence . . . His prose is at once buoyant and momentous, his judgment swift with imperial grace.” —Gideon Lewis-Kraus, Los Angeles Times on How Fiction Works

James Wood is a book critic at The New Yorker and the recipient of a National Magazine Award in criticism. He is the author of three essay collections, one previous novel (The Book Against God), and the study How Fiction Works. He is a professor of the practice of literary criticism at Harvard University.
RENDEZVOUS with OBLIVION
Reports from a Sinking Society
Thomas Frank

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The year’s most prescient political book.”

A timely exploration of the life and work of world-changing thinkers—from Adam Smith to John Maynard Keynes—and how their ideas would solve the great economic problems we face today.

Acclaimed economist and BBC broadcaster Linda Yueh profiles the great economic minds who focused on the big questions: growth, innovation, and the nature of markets. Most of them have won the Nobel Prize. All of them have had lasting impact on both the development of the discipline and how public policy has been and continues to be shaped. But Dr. Yueh goes a step further: In accessible and clear prose, she will explain the impact their respective research has on combating today's great economic problems.

For example, she will ask: Milton Friedman, are central banks doing too much? Friedrich Hayek, can financial crashes be prevented? Douglass North, why are so few countries rich?

After years of experience providing economic literacy to the public through podcasts, documentaries, lectures, and television programs, Dr. Yueh will bring that wealth of expertise to the page in her first trade book for a general reader. The Great Economists offers a concise history of modern economics, the trailblazing men and women who developed the field, and, more fundamentally, how their findings would solve everything from global inequality to what drives innovation.


"Are you looking to learn about the very greatest economists of all time? Linda Yueh’s book is the best place to start, a modern-day version of Robert Heilbroner’s classic The Worldly Philosophers.” --Tyler Cowen, the Holbert L. Harris Chair of economics, George Mason University, and author of The Complacent Class and The Great Stagnation

"An extremely engaging survey of the life times and ideas of the great thinkers of economic history. woven together with useful discussions of how their ideas still
If All the Seas Were Ink

A Memoir

Ilana Kurshan

A stunning, gorgeous memoir.

At the age of 27, alone in Jerusalem in the wake of a painful divorce, Ilana Kurshan joined the world’s largest book club, learning daf yomi, Hebrew for “daily page” of the Talmud, a book of rabbinic teachings spanning about 600 years and the basis for all codes of Jewish law. A runner, a reader and a romantic, Kurshan adapted to its pace, attuned her ear to its poetry, and discovered her passions in its pages. She brought the Talmud with her wherever she went, studying in airplanes, supermarket lines, and over a plate of pasta at home, careful not to drip tomato sauce upon discussions about the sprinkling of blood on the Temple altar. By the time she completed the Talmud after seven and a half years, Kurshan was remarried with three young children. With each pregnancy, her Talmud sat perched atop her growing belly.

This memoir is a tale of heartache and humor, of love and loss, of marriage and motherhood, and of learning to put one foot in front of the other by turning page after page. Kurshan takes us on a deeply accessible and personal guided tour of the Talmud, shedding new light on its stories and offering insights into its arguments—both for those already familiar with the text and for those who have never encountered it. For people of the book—both Jewish and non-Jewish—If All the Seas Were Ink is a celebration of learning—through literature—how to fall in love once again.

PRAISE

"There is humor and heartbreak in these pages." —The Wall Street Journal

"An elegant, engaging and daunting tale of the many paths of human passion...This delightful and deep story of life made me feel as if Kurshan and I had several leisurely dinners together, or had met regularly at a cafe." —Rochelle L. Millen, Hadassah Magazine

“[Kurshan] is a gorgeous writer, emotionally honest and perceptive...She has written a beautiful and inspiring book.” – Elaine Margolin, The Jerusalem Post

ILANA KURSHAN is a graduate of Harvard and Cambridge. She has worked in literary publishing both in New York and in Jerusalem, as a translator and foreign rights agent and as the books editor of Lilith magazine. Her writing has appeared in Tablet, Lilith, Hadassah, The Forward, Kveller, The World Jewish Digest, Nashim, and The Jewish Week. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and four children.
City of Devils

The Two Men Who Ruled the Underworld of Old Shanghai

Paul French

A rags-to-riches tale of two self-made men set against a backdrop of crime and vice in the sprawling badlands of 1930s Shanghai by the bestselling author of Midnight In Peking.

In a city of temptations unfolds an astonishing story of two men whose lives intertwine in both crime and a twisted friendship. The self-named Jack Riley with his acid-burnt fingertips finds a future in Shanghai as The Slots King, while Joe Farren, whose name was printed in neon across the Badlands, rises to fame and cashes in on Shanghai’s sins.

Eyewitness accounts from moles at the Shanghai Municipal Police, letters home, and contemporary newspaper articles furnish this meticulously researched story where French takes you deep into those Badlands, grips you by the throat and doesn’t let go. Through his carefully documented narrative, he brings to life extravagant music halls, bars, theatres, all this at a time of deep political unrest where Shanghai appears both intensely glamorous and depressingly seedy.

But of course, the bigger story is that of our two main protagonists, their ambition, dreams and ultimately, how they never quite got away with it.

• For readers of Erik Larson

PRAISE

"Fascinating and irresistible. I couldn't put it down." —John Berendt author of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil on Midnight in Peking

“Never less than fascinating... one of the best portraits of between-the-wars China that has yet been written.”—The Wall Street Journal on Midnight in Peking

“Midnight in Peking is both a detective story and a social history....[Paul French] is a wonderfully dexterous guide” —Jonathan Spence in The New York Review of Books

"City of Devils is an astonishing achievement, magically transporting the reader back to Old Shanghai, then sweeping us through its streets and its bars in a gripping, breakneck ultra-...

PAUL FRENCH was born in London, educated there and in Glasgow, and has lived and worked in Shanghai for many years. His book Midnight in Peking was a New York Times Bestseller, a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week, and will be made into an international mini-series by Kudos Film and Television, the UK creators of Broadchurch and Life on Mars.
Half Gods

Akil Kumarasamy

Three generations of a Sri Lankan family brave war and navigate the borders of nationality, religion, and love in this "wonderful, auspicious debut" (Publishers Weekly)

Passing through countries and generations, Akil Kumarasamy’s Half-Gods is a vibrant interlinked collection following the unspooling threads of nationality, religion, and love. Through two brothers named after demigods from the ancient epic the Mahabharata, we explore the messy lines of their fractured origins, a place where the mythic and the mundane intersect. In Calcutta, a baby girl is renamed after a Hindu goddess but is raised as a Muslim. During a summer trip to Lake George, a young Sikh boy begins to speak to his dead aunt who was killed in the 1984 massacres in Delhi, and a family of refugees in New Jersey mourns the bloody end of the Sri Lankan civil war. Diverging across time, each of these ten stories reveals with prescient clarity how the past reverberates in unexpected ways, with parents, children, and friends acting as unknowing mirrors, reflecting weaknesses, hopes, grief, the human, and the divine.

Written with inventiveness and unflinching compassion, Half-Gods brings together the exiled, the displaced, and the multiplicity of lives characters carry with them as they struggle to find understanding and forgiveness, ultimately carving a home within themselves.

PRAISE

"Like family members around a dinner table, the tales in [Half Gods] support, contradict, and argue with one another. They create a rich disorder. But the disjointedness of the portrait they form also speaks to trauma: how it can interrupt both chronology and one’s sense of self."—The New Yorker

"Each story connects with the others in subtle ways, offering a sense of unity between characters who often feel alone...[Kumarasamy] leaves us with a sense that a larger world, full of possibility, exists somewhere out there.”—The Village Voice

AKIL KUMARASAMY is a recent graduate of the Helen Zell Writers’ Program at the University of Michigan, where she received a Meijer postgraduate fellowship, the Henfield Prize, and the Frederick Busch Prize. She was a 2013–2014 Charles Pick South Asian fiction fellow at the University of East Anglia. Her fiction has appeared in Harper’s Magazine, Boston Review, Glimmer Train, and elsewhere. Half Gods is her first book.
Metamorphica

Fiction

Zachary Mason

A brilliant and daring novel that reimagines Ovid’s Metamorphoses

In the tradition of his bestselling debut novel The Lost Books of the Odyssey, Zachary Mason’s Metamorphica transforms Ovid’s epic poem of endless transformation. It reimagines the stories of Narcissus, Pygmalion and Galatea, Midas and Atalanta, and strings them together like the stars in constellations—even Ovid becomes a story. It’s as though the ancient mythologies had been rewritten by Borges or Calvino; Metamorphica is an archipelago in which to linger for a while; it reflects a little light from the morning of the world.

PRAISE

“Stunning and hypnotic . . . This is a book that not only addresses the themes of Homer’s classic . . . but also poses new questions to the reader about art and originality and the nature of storytelling.” —Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times on The Lost Books of the Odyssey

“[Zach Mason] writes with a mathematical precision that often crystallizes into lines of clean, poetic beauty.” —Sam Sacks, The Wall Street Journal on Void Star

“Elegant . . . Written with the syntactic precision you might expect from a linguist, a computer scientist, a mathematician. Or a person who is all three.” —Charley Locke, Wired on Void Star

“Zachary Mason c...”

ZACHARY MASON is a computer scientist and the author of The Lost Books of the Odyssey and Void Star. He lives in California.
EARLY WORK
A Novel
ANDREW MARTIN

A wry, supersmart, seriocomic first novel from a prodigious talent—a *Sentimental Education* for our time

For young writers of a certain temperament—if they haven’t had such notions beaten out of them by MFA programs and the Internet—the delusion persists that great writing must be sought in what W. B. Yeats once called the “foul rag and bone shop of the heart.” That’s where Peter Cunningham has been looking for inspiration for his novel—that is, when he isn’t teaching at the local women’s prison, walking his dog, getting high, and wondering whether it’s time to tie the knot with his college girlfriend, a medical student whose night shifts have become a standing rebuke to his own lack of direction. When Peter meets Leslie, a sexual adventurer taking a break from her fiancé, he gets a glimpse of what he wishes and imagines himself to be: a writer of talent and nerve. Her rag-and-bone shop may be as squalid as his own, but at least she knows her way around the shelves. Over the course of a Virginia summer, their charged, increasingly intimate friendship opens the door to difficult questions about love and literary ambition.

With a keen irony reminiscent of Sam Lipsyte or Lorrie Moore, and a romantic streak as wide as Roberto Bolaño’s, Andrew Martin’s *Early Work* marks the debut of a writer as funny and attentive as any novelist of his generation.

**PRAISE**

"The people in Andrew Martin’s *Early Work* have it all—youth, intelligence, ready wit, readier irony, terminally knowing tastes in books and music, affordable rents, abundant abusable substances, prolific sexual lives, even endearing dogs—and it’s perversely exhilarating to watch them, despite their fits of goodheartedness, turn a bucolic bohemia into a hipster hellscape. This is one smart, funny, scary novel."

—David Gates, author of *Jernigan* and *The Wonders of the Invisible World*

"Beautifully executed and very funny, *Early Work* is a sharp-eyed, sharp-voiced debut that I didn’t want to put down."

—Julia Pierpont, author of *Among the Ten Thous*...

The Mere Wife

A Novel

Maria Dahvana Headley

Two mothers—a suburban housewife and a battle-hardened veteran—struggle to protect those they love in this modern retelling of Beowulf

From the perspective of those who live in Herot Hall, the suburb is a paradise. Picket fences divide buildings—high and gabled—and the community is entirely self-sustaining. Each house has its own fireplace, each fireplace is fitted with a container of lighter fluid, and outside—in lawns and on playgrounds—wildflowers seed themselves in neat rows. But for those who live surreptitiously along Herot Hall’s periphery, the subdivision is a fortress guarded by an intense network of gates, surveillance cameras, and motion-activated lights.

For Willa, the wife of Roger Herot (heir of Herot Hall), life moves at a charmingly slow pace. She flits between mommy groups, playdates, cocktail hour, and dinner parties, always with her son, Dylan, in tow. Meanwhile, in a cave in the mountains just beyond the limits of Herot Hall lives Gren, short for Grendel, as well as his mother, Dana, a former soldier who gave birth as if by chance. Dana didn’t want Gren, didn’t plan Gren, and doesn’t know how she got Gren, but when she returned from war, there he was. When Gren, unaware of the borders erected to keep him at bay, ventures into Herot Hall and runs off with Dylan, Dana’s and Willa’s worlds collide.

A retelling of Beowulf set in the suburbs, Maria Dahvana Headley’s The Mere Wife turns the epic on its head, recasting the classic tale of monstrosity and loss from the perspective of those presumed to be on the attack.

PRAISE

“Maria Dahvana Headley is a firecracker: she’s whip-smart with a heart, and she writes like a dream.” —Neil Gaiman

MARIA DAHVANA HEADLY is a #1 New York Times-bestselling author & editor, most recently of the novels Magonia, Aerie, Queen of Kings, and the memoir The Year of Yes. With Kat Howard she is the author of The End of the Sentence, and with Neil Gaiman, she is co-editor of Unnatural Creatures. Her short stories have been shortlisted for the Shirley Jackson, Nebula, and World Fantasy Awards, and her work has been supported by the MacDowell Colony and by Arte Studio Ginestrelle, where the first draft ...
From the author of Imperium, comes a tale of international conspiracy, cinematic intrigue, memory, mysticism, murder, and the Nazi’s rise to power

In The Dead, the follow-up to his acclaimed novel Imperium (a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year), Christian Kracht mines the feverish early years of the Nazis' rise to power for a Gothic tale of global conspiracy, personal loss, and historical entanglements large and small.

In Berlin, Germany, in the early 1930s, the acclaimed Swiss film director Emil Nägeli receives the assignment of a lifetime: travel to Japan and make a film to establish the dominance of Adolf Hitler’s Nazi empire once and for all. But his handlers are unaware that Nägeli has colluded with the Jewish film critics to pursue an alternative objective—to create a monumental, modernist, allegorical spectacle to warn the world of the horror to come.

Meanwhile, in Japan, the film minister Masahiko Amakasu intends to counter Hollywood’s growing influence and usher in a new golden age of Japanese cinema by exploiting his Swiss visitor. The arrival of Nägeli’s film-star fiancée and a strangely thuggish, pistol-packing Charlie Chaplin—as well as the first stirrings of the winds of war—soon complicates both Amakasu’s and Nägeli’s plans, forcing them to face their demons . . . and their doom.

PRAISE

"The Dead is the beautiful, brilliant, and utterly mad novel that Thomas Mann would have written had he known the East like Yukio Mishima and loved his adopted Hollywood with the gusto of Nathanael West." —Joshua Cohen

"I read The Dead twice in a row, first for the story and then for the beauty of the prose." —Sjón

“A great Faustian fable, and a literary endeavor of historical ingenuity that we now may start to characterize as Krachtian.” —Karl Ove Knausgaard

CHRISTIAN KRACHT is a Swiss novelist whose books have been translated into thirty languages. His latest novel The Dead was the recipient of the Hermann Hesse literature prize and the Swiss Book Prize.

DANIEL BOWLES teaches German studies at Boston College. His previous translations include novels by Thomas Meinecke and short texts by Alexander Kluge and Rainald Goetz.
Interior

A Novel

Thomas Clerc; Translated from the French by Jeffrey Zuckerman

“Show me where you live and I’ll tell you who you are”: this sly commentary on materialism finds drama in the domestic and dark humor in every doomed attempt to express ourselves through what we ...

A comic experiment in sociology and self-absorption, the award-winning author Thomas Clerc’s autobiographical Interior is a unique invitation into a professor’s preoccupations and possessions within the rooms of a small Parisian apartment.

Composed of bite-size vignettes, remembrances, and digressions, and filled with lighthearted transitions from pure description to quirky reminiscence and back, this meticulous tour through the rooms of Clerc’s home reveals fascinating insights into the author’s obsessions, desires, and frustrations. Each space is described in painstaking detail, sometimes down to the centimeter, and the history of every object and appliance is fully excavated with self-deprecating wit. From the ideal varieties of bathroom reading material to the color of his dish rack to the chaos of his sock drawer, Clerc happily and shamelessly guides us through the most intimate crannies of his home, as well as through all the strata of his existence as a bourgeois city dweller approaching middle age.

Playful and irreverent, as well as a sly commentary on materialism, Interior finds drama in the domestic and dark humor in every doomed attempt to express individuality through the things that we own.

PRAISE

“Leading us through [Interior’s] impeccable paragraphs is a maniacal, slightly pretentious narrator...and yet his over-the-top enthusiasm for everything from lemon squeezer to toilet paper reminds us of the literary game being played...Halfway between literature and contemporary art, we emerge [from Interior] with the sense of having made a new and close friend.”—Elle

"Full of humor and brainy mischief...[A] mélange of acuity and silliness, of pseudo-sociology and OTT TMI.”—Kirkus Reviews

THOMAS CLERC was born in 1965 and is the author of several books, including The Man Who Killed Roland Barthes, a collection of short stories for which he received the Grand Prix de la Nouvelle of the Académie Française. Clerc teaches at Université Paris Nanterre, where he specializes in contemporary French literature.

JEFFREY ZUCKERMAN is an award-winning translator of numerous French authors, from Marie Darrieussecq and Ananda Devi to Antoine Volodine and Hervé Guibert.
My German Brother

A Novel

Chico Buarque; Translated from the Portuguese by Alison Entrekin

An uproarious novel about a man’s often sordid, lifelong search for his possibly imaginary half brother

My German Brother is the renowned Brazilian musician and author Chico Buarque’s attempt to reconstruct through fiction his obsessive lifelong search for a lost sibling.

In 1960s São Paulo, the teenage car thief and budding lothario Ciccio comes home each day to a house stuffed with books. His father, a journalist and scholar, has spent his life acquiring them; his mother, by necessity, has spent her life organizing this library. Ciccio feels like an afterthought in his own family, largely left to his own criminal devices. Forbidden to touch any of these books, Ciccio sneaks off with The Golden Bough one day to discover a decades-old letter hidden inside. The letter reveals an illicit affair his father carried on while posted in Nazi-era Berlin, an affair that resulted in the birth of a baby boy. Ciccio soon develops a fascination for his mysterious German brother: a fixation that becomes a mission pursued over decades, through dead ends and embarrassments and cases of mistaken identity.

PRAISE

“Chico Buarque, Brazilian pop legend and one of the founders of Tropicalismo, has developed into an intriguing and inventive novelist as well...The language of My German Brother is musical and serpentine, as he unravels a tale that is part historical mystery, part intellectual and sexual coming-of-age.”—Vanity Fair

"There’s more than a whiff of Sebald to this potent, meandering mixture of text and image, fact and fiction."—The Telegraph

CHICO BUARQUE was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1944. He is a legendary singer and songwriter, as well as the author of novels, plays, and screenplays.

ALISON ENTREKIN is an Australian literary translator working from Portuguese. Among her numerous translations are Clarice Lispector’s Near to the Wild Heart and Chico Buarque’s Budapest.
The Poisoned City
Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy

Anna Clark

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

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

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

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

**PRAISE**

Praise for *A Detroit Anthology*:

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

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

Anna Clark is a journalist living in Detroit. Her writing has appeared in ELLE Magazine, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Politico*, the Columbia Journalism Review, Next City, and other publications. Anna edited *A Detroit Anthology*, a Michigan Notable Book, and she had been a writer-in-residence in Detroit public schools as part of the InsideOut Literary Arts program. She has
**Certain American States**

**Stories**

Catherine Lacey

From one of *Granta’s* Best of Young American Novelists comes *Certain American States*, whose insightful and lonely stories beg you to discover the emotional universes hiding at their cores

The winner of a Whiting Award, Catherine Lacey brings her narrative mastery to *Certain American States*, her first collection of short stories. As with her acclaimed novels *Nobody Is Ever Missing* and *The Answers*, she gives life to a group of subtly complex, instantly memorable characters whose searches for love, struggles with grief, and tentative journeys into the minutiae of the human condition are simultaneously gripping and devastating.

The characters in *Certain American States* are continually coming to terms with their place in the world, and how to adapt to that place, before change inevitably returns. A woman leaves her dead husband’s clothing on the street, only for it to reappear on the body of a stranger; a man reads his ex-wife’s short story and neurotically contemplates whether it is about him; a young woman whose Texan mother insists on moving to New York City with her has her daily attempts to get over a family tragedy interrupted by a mute stranger showing her incoherent messages on his phone. These are stories of breakups, abandonment, and strained family ties; dead brothers and distant surrogate fathers; loneliness, happenstance, starting over, and learning to let go. Lacey’s elegiac and inspired prose is at its full power in this collection, further establishing her as one of the singular literary voices of her generation.

**PRAISE**

"[Lacey's prose is] complex, enigmatic, endlessly compelling...within these stories of loneliness and despair, grief, and searching, are threads of something more hopeful, an idea that as lost as we might feel, there is the possibility of finding ourselves, we just need to learn how to let go. So let's go." —Kristin Iversen Nylon

"[A] collection of stories rife with sentences whose length and detached style work hand in hand to evoke emotions and encourage thinking and reflection." —Julia Vitale, Vanity Fair

"[Lacey] is playful and smart, one of a generation of American women who seem entirely unafraid." —Anne Enright, The Guardian

CATHERINE LACEY is the author of *Nobody Is Ever Missing*, winner of a 2016 Whiting Award and a finalist for the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Fiction Award, and *The Answers*. In 2017, she was named one of *Granta’s* Best of Young American Novelists. Her essays and fiction have been published widely and translated into Italian, French, Dutch, Spanish, and German. She
Amity and Prosperity
One Family and the Fracturing of America

Eliza Griswold

A literary page-turner about the costs of fracking—and one woman’s quest to protect her family

In Amity and Prosperity, the prizewinning poet and journalist Eliza Griswold exposes the tattered edges of the social fabric in rural America. In a work rich with narrative suspense, she explores the volatile personalities and politics of a small Allegheny town that has an abundance of natural gas but no municipal water supply. The result is a definitive guide to the fracking debate, and to the larger social and environmental hazards that are upending rural America.

Stacey Haney, a lifelong resident of Amity, Pennsylvania, is struggling to support her children when the fracking boom comes to town. Like most of her neighbors, she sees the energy companies’ payments as a windfall. Soon trucks are rumbling down her unpaved road and a fenced-off fracking site rises on adjacent land. But her annoyance gives way to concern and then to fear as domestic animals and pets begin dying and mysterious illnesses strike her family—despite the companies’ insistence that nothing is wrong.

Griswold masterfully chronicles Haney’s transformation into an unlikely whistle-blower as she launches her own investigation into corporate wrongdoing. As she takes her case to court, Haney inadvertently reveals the complex rifts in her community and begins to reshape its attitudes toward outsiders, corporations, and the federal government. Amity and Prosperity uses her gripping and moving tale to show the true costs of our energy infrastructure and to illumin...

PRAISE

"Amity and Prosperity is at heart a David and Goliath story fit for the movies. It has everything but a happy ending . . . [a] valuable, discomforting book"—JoAnn Wypijewski, The New York Times

"Her sensitive and judicious new book . . . is neither an outraged sermon delivered from a populist soapbox nor a pinched, professorial lecture. Griswold . . . paid close attention to a community in southwestern Pennsylvania over the course of seven years to convey its confounding experience with hydraulic fracturing . . . Parts of Amity and Prosperity read as intimately as a novel, though its insidious, slow-motion ordeal is all too real." —Jennifer Sz...

ELIZA GRISWOLD, a Guggenheim fellow, is the author of a collection of poems, Wideawake Field (FSG, 2007), and a nonfiction book, The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam (FSG, 2010), a New York Times bestseller that was awarded the J. Anthony Lukas Prize. She is the translator of I Am the Beggar of the World: Landays from Contemporary Afghanistan (FSG, 2015).
Blood Papa

Rwanda's New Generation

Jean Hatzfeld; Translated from the French by Joshua David Jordan

The continuation of a groundbreaking study of the Rwandan genocide, and the story of the survivor generation

In Rwanda from April to June 1994, 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered by their Hutu neighbors in the largest and swiftest genocide since World War II. In his previous books, Jean Hatzfeld has documented the lives of the killers and victims, but after twenty years he has found that the enormity of understanding doesn’t stop with one generation. Now he returns to the hills and marshes of Nyamata to ask what has become of the children—those who never saw the machetes yet have grown up in the shadow of tragedy.

The young Rwandans in Blood Papa see each other in the neighborhood—they dance and gossip, frequent the same cafés, and, like teenagers everywhere, love sports, music, and fashion; they surf the Web and dream of marriage. Yet Hutu and Tutsi children rarely speak of the ghosts that haunt their lives. Here their moving first-person accounts combined with Hatzfeld’s arresting chronicles of everyday life form a testament to survival in a country devastated by the terrible crimes and trauma of the past.

PRAISE

“Hatzfeld's work is of great importance to understanding the Rwandan tragedy—and to the study of genocide generally.”—Kirkus Reviews

JEAN HATZFELD, an international reporter for Libération since 1973, is the author of many books, including Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak (FSG, 2005) and The Antelope's Strategy (FSG, 2010). He lives in Paris.

JOSHUA JORDAN is a lecturer of French language and literature at Fordham and Columbia University and received the French Voices Award in 2016 for his translation of Aberrant Movements: The Philosophy of Gilles Deleuze by David Lapoujade.
The Third Hotel

A Novel

Laura van den Berg

A magical, disconcerting novel set in Havana about a woman reckoning with the death of her husband

In Laura van den Berg’s surreal, mystifying, and deeply felt second novel, Clare, recently widowed, arrives in Havana, Cuba, to attend the 36th annual Festival of New Latin American Cinema, which her horror-loving film-professor husband, Richard, had purchased tickets for. The day after the screening of the movie Richard wanted most to see, Clare finds him standing outside the Museum of the Revolution. He’s wearing a white linen suit she’s never seen before, and he’s supposed to be dead.

Meticulously constructed and brimming with layered, poetic imagery, The Third Hotel follows Clare through her time in Havana as the distinction between reality and fantasy becomes increasingly blurred. In van den Berg’s Havana, animals escape from zoos and trains fly off the tracks while Clare follows her once-dead husband and charts her less-than-perfect marriage. As her search for clarity becomes increasingly opaque, the reader is forced to consider not only what is real and what is not, but what truths are lingering behind Clare’s own involvement in her husband’s disappearance and reemergence.

Filled with subtle but striking meditations on grief, marriage, art, misogyny, and the loneliness of travel, The Third Hotel is a singular, propulsive, brilliantly shape-shifting novel from an inventive author at the height of her narrative powers.

PRAISE

“The Third Hotel is another of her beguiling little masterpieces. One that, with ruminative grace and sublime wit, answers . . . the question of what it means to be human.”—Miriam Toews, author of All My Puny Sorrows

“After finishing The Third Hotel I found myself reeling for days . . . A gorgeous, intelligent excavation of marriage, loss, art, flânerie . . . Berg’s elegant, muscular sentences has made me a better writer.”—Kristen Iskandrian, author of Motherest

“The Third Hotel is a devastating excavation of the unconscionable demands we place on those we love, and a profound portrait of the . . . creature that is a marriage . . . Berg is . . .

LAURA VAN DEN BERG was raised in Florida. Her first collection of stories, What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection and a finalist for the Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award. Her second, The Isle of Youth, won the Rosenthal Award for Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her first novel Find Me was longlisted for the 2016 International Dylan Thomas Prize. She lives...
Automating Inequality
How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor

Virginia Eubanks

A powerful investigative look at data-based discrimination—and how technology affects civil and human rights and economic equity.

The State of Indiana denies one million applications for healthcare, foodstamps and cash benefits in three years—because a new computer system interprets any mistake as “failure to cooperate.” In Los Angeles, an algorithm calculates the comparative vulnerability of tens of thousands of homeless people in order to prioritize them for an inadequate pool of housing resources. In Pittsburgh, a child welfare agency uses a statistical model to try to predict which children might be future victims of abuse or neglect.

Since the dawn of the digital age, decision-making in finance, employment, politics, health and human services has undergone revolutionary change. Today, automated systems—rather than humans—control which neighborhoods get policed, which families attain needed resources, and who is investigated for fraud. While we all live under this new regime of data, the most invasive and punitive systems are aimed at the poor.

In Automating Inequality, Virginia Eubanks systematically investigates the impacts of data mining, policy algorithms, and predictive risk models on poor and working-class people in America. The book is full of heart-wrenching and eye-opening stories, from a woman in Indiana whose benefits are literally cut off as she lays dying to a family in Pennsylvania in daily fear of losing their daughter because they fit a certain statistical profile.

The U.S. has always used its most cutting-edge science and technology to...

PRAISE

"Eubanks proposes a Hippocratic oath for data scientists, whereby they would vow to respect all people and to not compound patterns of discrimination." —The New York Review of Books


“Eubanks ably demonstrates why everyone should be very worried about the present and future of poverty management.” —NY Daily News

"Eubanks argues that automated systems separate people from resources, classify and criminalize people, and invade privacy—and that these problems will affect everyone eventually, not just the poor." —Booklist (starred review)
The Shadow Killer

A Thriller

Arnaldur Indridason

The Shadow Killer is the extraordinary second book in the compelling new series from award-winning Icelandic author Arnaldur Indridason, following The Shadow District.

"Indridason is an international literary phenom." –Harlan Coben


"One of the most brilliant crime writers of his generation." –The London Sunday Times

"No wonder Arnaldur Indridason won so many awards. He's a great storyteller, and American readers will overwhelmingly agree." –C.J. Box

A man is found murdered in a small apartment in Reykjavík, shot in the head with a pistol. The police’s attention is immediately drawn to the foreign soldiers who are on every street corner in the summer of 1941. So begins officers Flóvent and Thorson’s investigation, which will lead them down a path darker than either of them expected, and force them to reckon with their own demons.

PRAISE

"Iceland's Indridason is a master of the hard-edged realist psychological thriller, anchoring his stories in the dark side of contemporary Icelandic life." –Men’s Journal

"Classic mystery fiction, both compassionate and thrilling. Indridason is one of the brightest stars in the genre's dark skies." –John Connolly

"Fan[s] of mystery in general and Henning Mankell and Karin Fossum can only exult." –Library Journal

ARNALDUR INDRIDASON has won many international prizes, including the CWA Gold Dagger Award for Silence of the Grave. He is the only author to win the Glass Key Award for Best Nordic Crime Novel two years in a row, for Jar City and Silence of the Grave. He is an internationally bestselling author whose books have been translated into more than forty languages, and have sold over 12 million copies. He lives with his family in Reykjavík.
Severance

A Novel

Ling Ma

An offbeat office novel turns apocalyptic satire as a young woman transforms from orphan to worker bee to survivor

Candace Chen, a millennial drone self-sequestered in a Manhattan office tower, is devoted to routine. With the recent passing of her Chinese immigrant parents, she’s had her fill of uncertainty. She’s content just to carry on: She goes to work, troubleshoots the teen-targeted Gemstone Bible, watches movies in a Greenpoint basement with her boyfriend.

So Candace barely notices when a plague of biblical proportions sweeps New York. Then Shen Fever spreads. Families flee. Companies halt operations. The subways squeak to a halt. Her bosses enlist her as part of a dwindling skeleton crew with a big end-date payoff. Soon entirely alone, still unfevered, she photographs the eerie, abandoned city as the anonymous blogger NY Ghost.

Candace won’t be able to make it on her own forever, though. Enter a group of survivors, led by the power-hungry IT tech Bob. They’re traveling to a place called the Facility, where, Bob promises, they will have everything they need to start society anew. But Candace is carrying a secret she knows Bob will exploit. Should she escape from her rescuers?

A send-up and takedown of the rituals, routines, and missed opportunities of contemporary life, Ling Ma’s Severance is a moving family story, a quirky coming-of-adulthood tale, and a hilarious, deadpan satire. Most important, it’s a heartfelt tribute to the connections that drive us to do more than survive.

LING MA received her MFA from Cornell University. Prior to graduate school she worked as a journalist and editor. Her writing has appeared in Granta, Vice, Playboy, Chicago Reader, Ninth Letter and elsewhere. A chapter of Severance received the 2015 Graywolf SLS Prize. She lives in Chicago.
In the Garden of the Fugitives

A Novel

Ceridwen Dovey

Celebrated by The New York Times as “a gifted prose stylist,” Ceridwen Dovey returns with a startling tale of obsession, control, and identity

In the Garden of the Fugitives takes the form of an exchange of letters between Vita, a South African woman now living in Australia, and Royce, an older man who was responsible many years earlier for awarding Vita a fellowship to study in the United States. Their dynamic, as the letters unfurl, is completely unexpected.

A tale of obsessive love, control, identity, and ideas, which moves from Mudgee in Australia to the United States via pre- and post-apartheid Cape Town and new and ancient Pompeii, Ceridwen Dovey’s In the Garden of the Fugitives is remarkable and unique.

PRAISE

“Dovey is a gifted prose stylist.” —Megan Mayhew Bergman, The New York Times

Book Review on Ceridwen Dovey

CERIDWEN DOVEY’s debut novel, Blood Kin, was published in fifteen countries, short-listed for the Dylan Thomas Award, and selected for the National Book Foundation’s prestigious 5 Under 35 honors list. The Wall Street Journal named her one of their “artists to watch.” Her short-story collection, Only the Animals, was published by FSG in 2015. She studied social anthropology at Harvard and New York University, and now lives with her husband and son in Sydney, Australia.

MARKETING

• Select Author Events
• Digital Marketing: Online Advertising and Social Media Campaign
• Targeted Outreach to Literary and History Sites
• Reading Group Guide and Reading Group Gold Feature
• Author Website: cerwidendovey.com
• Backlist Promotion

ALSO AVAILABLE

Only the Animals: Stories
1/2017 | 9781250097149
Trade Paperback | $19.00 / $25.00 Can.
Wait, Blink
A Perfect Picture of Inner Life: A Novel

Gunnhild Øyehaug; Translated from the Norwegian by Kari Dickson

*Wait, Blink* is the award-winning Norwegian author Gunnhild Øyehaug’s startlingly inventive novel of interwoven lives, following a group of artistic women pursuing dreams, love, and self-discovery.

Sigrid is a young literature student trying to find her voice as a writer when she falls in love with an older, established author, whose lifestyle soon overwhelms her values and once-clear artistic vision. Trine has reluctantly become a mother and struggles to create as a performance artist. The aspiring movie director Linnea scouts locations in Copenhagen for a film she will never make. As these characters’ stories collide and intersect, they find that dealing with the pressures of their lives also means coming to grips with a world both frightening and joyously ridiculous.

*Wait, Blink* combines wild associations, quotations, coincidences, and other peculiar details into a unique brew that is both humorous and profound. Full of the playfulness that drew acclaim for her story collection *Knots*, Gunnhild Øyehaug’s *Wait, Blink*—her first novel to be translated into English—is a jolt of desire and fantasy, romance and regret: a fable about what it means to own up to the weirdness inside us all.

**PRAISE**

"Expansive, intimate, and filled to the brim with delight, Gunnhild Oyehaug's first novel is devoted to the unexpected connections between lonesome individuals, mundane rituals, jellyfish, death, oversized men's shirts, and a thousand other things too astonishing to spoil in this sentence. I truly loved this wide-eyed, all-embracing wonder of a book." —Alexandra Kleeman, author of *You Too Can Have a Body Like Mine* and *Intimations on Wait, Blink*

“From my first reading of *Knots* in the original Nynorsk, I have been captivated by Gunnhild Øyehaug’s wit, imagination, ironic social commentary, and fearless embrace of any and every form of storytell...

**GUNNHILD OYEHUAG** is an award-winning Norwegian poet, essayist, and fiction writer. Her story collection *Knots* was published by FSG in 2017, and *Wait, Blink* has been made into the acclaimed film *Women in Oversized Men’s Shirts*. She has also worked as a coeditor of the literary journals *Vagant* and *Kraftsentrum*. Øyehaug lives in Bergen, where she teaches creative writing.

**KARI DICKSON** was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and grew up bilingual. She has a BA in Scandinavian studies and an MA in translato...
From the New York Times bestselling author Tatjana Soli, an expansive and transfixing new novel set on the American frontier

Spanning the years of the first great settlement of the West, The Removes tells the intertwining stories of fifteen-year-old Anne Cummins, frontierswoman Libbie Custer, and Libbie’s husband, the Civil War hero George Armstrong Custer. When Anne survives a surprise attack on her family’s homestead, she is thrust into a difficult life she never anticipated—living among the Cheyenne as both a captive and, eventually, a member of the tribe. Libbie, too, is thrown into a brutal, unexpected life when she marries Custer. They move to the territories with the U.S. Army, where Libbie is challenged daily and her worldview expanded: the pampered daughter of a small-town judge, she transforms into a daring camp follower. But when what Anne and Libbie have come to know—self-reliance, freedom, danger—is suddenly altered through tragedy and loss, they realize how indelibly shaped they are by life on the treacherous, extraordinary American plains.

PRAISE

"Manifest Destiny meets our feminist moment as Soli conjures the layered lives of two woman.”—O Magazine

"This is a western, but a modern one—beautifully detailed and carefully researched, completely free of the questionable mythologies that sometimes characterize the genre. A vivid, sometimes harrowing, but always riveting read.”

—Karen Joy Fowler

TATJANA SOLI is the bestselling author of The Lotus Eaters, The Forgetting Tree, and The Last Good Paradise. Her work has been awarded the UK’s James Tait Black Prize and been a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award. Her books have also been twice listed as a New York Times Notable Book. She lives on the Monterey Peninsula of California.
Mysterium

A Novel

Susan Froderberg

A young woman who lost her mother to a climbing accident is resolved to summit India’s highest peak in this daring and lyrical novel

Mysterium, known as Mount Sarasvati, looms over the Indian Himalayas as the range’s tallest peak in the dazzling fictional world Susan Froderberg has created.

Sarasvati “Sara” Troy is determined to reach the peak for which she was christened, and to climb it in honor of her mother, who perished in a mountaineering accident when Sara was just a child. She asks her father, a celebrated mountaineer and philosophy professor, to organize and lead the expedition. The six climbers he recruits are an uneasy mix. They include his longtime friend Dr. Andrew Reddy, a recent widower, and Reddy’s headstrong son; Wilder Carson, the acclaimed climber who is tormented by the death of his brother; Wilder’s wife, Vida, a former lover of Dr. Reddy; and a distinguished scholar and his wife.

The party’s journey is harrowing, taking them from the mountain’s gorge, into its sanctuary, and finally onto the summit, a path that evokes the hell, purgatory, and heaven of Dante’s Inferno. As the air thins and this unforgettable journey unfolds, Sara emerges as a Beatrice-like figure, buoying her companions up the mountain through the sheer strength and beauty of her being.

PRAISE

“Froderberg has a firm grasp on the technical aspects of climbing, as well as its many dangers . . . The book offers the unusual combination of an intellectual challenge coupled with a brutal but ecstatic story.”—Publishers Weekly

SUSAN FRODERBERG is the author of Old Border Road, hailed by the Los Angeles Times as a “remarkable debut novel.” Her fiction has appeared in Alaska Quarterly Review, The Antioch Review, Conjunctions, and other publications. She worked for several years as a critical-care nurse in Seattle, Washington, before moving east to study medical ethics and philosophy at Columbia University, where she received her PhD in philosophy. Froderberg and her husband split their time between Seattle and New York ...
Grange House

A Novel

Sarah Blake

A "seamless pastiche of favorite 19th century genres and themes....An enchanting tale by a consummate storyteller"--San Francisco Chronicle

Maisie Thomas spends every summer at Grange House, a hotel on the coast of Maine ruled by the elegant Miss Grange. In 1896, when Maisie turns 17, her visit marks a turning point. On the morning after her arrival, local fishermen make a gruesome discovery: drowned lovers, found clasped in each other's arms. It's only the first in a series of events that casts a shadow over Maisie's summer. As she considers the attentions of two very different young men, Maisie also falls under the gaze of Miss Grange, who begins to tell her disturbing stories of her past. Rich with the details, customs, and language of the era, Grange House is a wonderfully atmospheric, page-turning novel of literary suspense and romance.

PRAISE

"Rich meticulous detail and a poet's refined yet sensuous ear for language....Manages to partake of all the conventions of Victorian sensibility while maintaining a contemporary intelligence and subtle wit."--Chicago Tribune
"Pulses with mystery, ghostly melancholy and young passion...Captivating."--Boston Herald

Sarah Blake is a graduate of Yale University and New York University, where she received her Ph.D. in Victorian literature. She lives in Evanston, Illinois.
For Rouenna

A Novel

Sigrid Nunez

"For Rouenna is about everything: war and remembrance, how we invent our 'selves' and why; why we kill ourselves--or live. I was dazzled by this book."

--The Washington Post Book World

"After my first book was published," the narrator of this haunting novel tells us, "I received some letters." Among them is one from a Rouenna Zycinski, asking to meet. Though fascinated by the stories Rouenna tells about her life as a combat nurse in Vietnam, the narrator flatly declines her request that they collaborate on a memoir. Later, however, in the aftermath of Rouenna's shocking death, she is compelled to write about her friend--and her friend's war. An unforgettable novel about truth, memory, and unexpected heroism.

PRAISE

"Writing a nearly transparent prose, reminiscent of Richard Yates, Nunez takes us breathlessly through the slow unraveling of Rouenna's life and, like the events in Yates' stories, the details are harrowing."--LA Times Book Review

"Beautifully written ... mesmerizing ... enthralling."--O Magazine

"Resonant and provocative.... Revelations emerge about how the traumas of violence and love shape us--a theme that great storytellers like Nunez continue to find extraordinary ways of expressing."--Vogue

"Combines skillful prose and effortlessly graceful storytelling...A stellar addition to--and keen twist on--a genre that up until now has been dominat..."

Sigrid Nunez is the author of the acclaimed novels A Feather on the Breath of God and Naked Sleeper. She has won the Whiting Writer's Award, the Critic's Choice Award from the San Francisco Review of Books, and has twice been the recipient of the Pushcart Prize.
A Feather on the Breath of God

A Novel

Sigrid Nunez


Sigrid Nunez's early novel is the beautifully wrought story of one woman living precariously between cultures. Christa comes of age in the 1960s housing projects of New York. The daughter of a Panamanian-Chinese father and a German mother, her tale is one of haunting un-assimilation. Desperate to escape from her stifling and conflicted home, Christa throws herself into the world of dance, and as she matures, into the world of language and translation. It's only when she begins a passionate affair with one of her Russian students that she realizes how she is still bound to the world of her youth.

PRAISE

"A Feather on the Breath of God brilliantly succeeds in describing a life on the fringe, outside the conventional categories of cultural and personal identity....A remarkable book, full of strange brilliance, trembling with fury and tenderness."--Philadelphia Inquirer

"A remarkable, often disturbing portrait....Nunez's language throughout is spare, utterly lacking in sentimentality."--Los Angeles Times Book Review

"An intelligent and poignant examination of social and erotic displacement, and written with such extraordinary and seemingly unstudied conviction that one accepts every word of it as truth."--Atlantic Monthly

SIGRID NUNEZ is also the author of the novels Naked Sleeper and For Rouenna. She's the recipient of two Pushcart Prizes, two awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Whiting Writers' Award. She currently lives in New York City.
The Last of Her Kind
A Novel

Sigrid Nunez

"A brilliant, dazzling, daring novel. Sigrid Nunez has taken the American dream and stood it on its head."
--The Boston Globe

"Nunez teaches an honors-level survey course in the sexual, political, and cultural movements that shaped the thinking (and rocked the world) of so many boomer women. Nunez's voice is unflinching and intimate, her novelistic structure as invitingly informal as jottings in a journal."
--Entertainment Weekly

"An unflinching examination of justice, race, and political idealism that brings to mind Philip Roth's American Pastoral and the tenacious intelligence of Nadine Gordimer."
--The New York Times

"Provocative and sublimely confident . . . Nunez takes apart the story of life in the 1960s like a still-live mine."
--Newsday

PRAISE

"A compelling account of the 1960s and their aftermath, a carefully written and discerning narrative with closely drawn portraits of two prototypical women trying to construct a friendship across an unbridgeable class divide."
--The New York Times Book Review

"A remarkable and disconcerting vision of a troubled time in American history."
--The New Yorker

"[A] powerful and acute social novel, perhaps the finest yet written about that peculiar generation of young Americans who believed their destiny was to shape history . . . Don't miss it."
--Salon.com

SIGRID NUNEZ is the author of four novels including A Feather on the Breath of God and For Rouen. She has received a Whiting Writers' Award, the Rome Prize in Literature, and a Berlin Prize Fellowship. She lives in New York City.
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