Groundwork

Autobiographical Writings, 1979–2012

Paul Auster

An Updated Collection of Nonfiction, including the seminal work The Invention of Solitude, from Man Booker Prize Finalist Paul Auster

Paul Auster has spent his fifty-year writing career examining what it means to be truly alive. And now, for the first time ever, in this newly self-curated collection, Auster stitches together various autobiographical writings to lay bare the trajectory of both his personal life and sense of self.

From his breakout memoir, The Invention of Solitude, which solidified Auster’s reputation as a canonical voice in American letters, to excerpts from his later memoirs, Winter Journal and Report from the Interior, readers are ushered into the inner workings of Auster’s self-development. His sweeping recollection winds through the halls of Columbia University during the turbulent 1960s and into life as a young poet-turned-novelist, then dives headfirst into the realities that accompany aging today. Along the way, Auster continually challenges the notion of what autobiography can be, inverting the form through fragmentation and, ultimately, illustrating firsthand the brilliance behind “one of the great writers of our time” (San Francisco Chronicle).

PRAISE

Praise for Paul Auster:

“Auster has an enormous talent for creating worlds that are both fantastic and believable. . . . His novels are uniformly difficult to put down, a testament to his storytelling gifts.”

—Timothy Peters, San Francisco Chronicle

“The most distinguished American writer of [his] generation. . . . Indeed, its only author . . . with any claim to greatness.”

—The Spectator

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

Paul Auster is the bestselling author of 4 3 2 1, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, Winter Journal, Sunset Park, Invisible, The Book of Illusions, and The New York Trilogy, among many other works. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. His work has been translated into more than forty languages. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.
The Unpassing

A Novel

Chia-Chia Lin

A searing debut novel that explores community, identity, and the myth of the American dream through an immigrant family in Alaska

In Chia-Chia Lin’s debut novel, The Unpassing, we meet a Taiwanese immigrant family of five struggling to make ends meet in rural Alaska. The father, hardworking but beaten down, is employed as a plumber and repairman, while the mother, a loving, strong-willed, and unpredictably emotional matriarch, holds the house together. When eleven-year-old Gavin contracts meningitis at school, he falls into a deep, nearly fatal coma. He wakes up a week later to learn that his little sister Ruby was infected, too. She did not survive.

Routine takes over for the grieving family: The siblings care for each other as they befriend a neighboring family and explore the woods; distance grows between the parents as they deal with their loss separately. But things spiral when the father, increasingly guilt ridden after Ruby’s death, is sued for not properly installing a septic tank, which results in the death of a little girl. In the ensuing chaos, what really happened to Ruby finally emerges.

With flowing prose that evokes the terrifying beauty of the Alaskan wilderness, Lin explores the fallout after the loss of a child and the way in which a family is forced to grieve in a place that doesn’t yet feel like home. Emotionally raw and subtly suspenseful, The Unpassing is a deeply felt family saga that dismisses the American dream for a harsher, but ultimately more profound, reality.

PRAISE

"The Unpassing is a singularly vast and captivating novel, beautifully written in free-flowing prose that quietly disarms with its intermittent moments of poetic idiosyncrasy. But what makes Lin’s novel such an important book is the extent to which it probes America’s mythmaking about itself, which can just as easily unmake as it can uplift." --Brian Haman, The New York Times Book Review

Chia-Chia Lin is a graduate of Harvard College and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. Her stories have appeared in The Paris Review and other journals. She grew up in Pittsburgh and lives in San Francisco. The Unpassing is her first novel.
Behind the Scenes at the Museum (Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition)
A Novel

Kate Atkinson

Winner of the Whitbread Book of the Year

A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year

A twenty-fifth anniversary edition of award-winning, bestselling author Kate Atkinson's debut novel, a deeply moving and deeply funny family story of happiness and heartbreak.

Ruby Lennox begins narrating her own life at the moment of her conception and from there takes the reader on a whirlwind tour of the twentieth century as seen through the eyes of a girl determined to learn more about her family and the secrets it keeps. Kate Atkinson's dazzling first novel, named the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year in England, is a darkly comic, deeply moving story of family heartbreak and happiness.

PRAISE

"Breathtaking...Kate Atkinson's luminescent imagery is sure and sophisticated, poetic and darkly comic...Astonishing."—Amanda Heller, The Boston Globe

"Remarkable...A multigenerational tale of a spectacularly dysfunctional Yorkshire family and one of the funniest works of fiction to come out of Britain in years."—Ben Macintyre, The New York Times Book Review

"Delivers its jokes and tragedies as efficiently as Dickens once delivered his, though Atkinson has a game plan more sophisticated than Dickens's...Will dazzle readers for years to come."—Hilary Mantel, London Review of Books

"Scoundrels, malcontents, misfits, and cheats. Every family has th..."

KATE ATKINSON is the author of multiple award-winning and bestselling books, including Transcription, A God in Ruins, Life After Life, Case Histories, Human Croquet, and Emotionally Weird. Her debut novel, Behind the Scenes at the Museum, won the Whitbread (now Costa) Book of the Year prize in England. She lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.
In this spellbinding exploration of the varieties of love, the author of the worldwide bestseller *Call Me by Your Name* revisits its complex and beguiling characters decades after their first meet...

No novel in recent memory has spoken more movingly to contemporary readers about the nature of love than André Aciman’s haunting *Call Me by Your Name*. First published in 2007, it was hailed as “a love letter, an invocation . . . an exceptionally beautiful book” (Stacey D’Erasmo, *The New York Times Book Review*). Nearly three quarters of a million copies have been sold, and the book became a much-loved, Academy Award–winning film starring Timothée Chalamet as the young Elio and Armie Hammer as Oliver, the graduate student with whom he falls in love.

In *Find Me*, Aciman shows us Elio’s father, Samuel, on a trip from Florence to Rome to visit Elio, who has become a gifted classical pianist. A chance encounter on the train with a beautiful young woman upends Sami’s plans and changes his life forever.

Elio soon moves to Paris, where he, too, has a consequential affair, while Oliver, now a New England college professor with a family, suddenly finds himself contemplating a return trip across the Atlantic.

Aciman is a master of sensibility, of the intimate details and the emotional nuances that are the substance of passion. *Find Me* brings us back inside the magic circle of one of our greatest contemporary romances to ask if, in fact, true love ever dies.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Call Me by Your Name*

“Superb . . . The beauty of Aciman’s writing and the purity of his passions should place this extraordinary first novel within the canon of great romantic love stories for everyone.” —Charles Kaiser, *The Washington Post Book World*

“*[Call Me by Your Name]* is richly, sensuously detailed . . . Luminous . . . Aciman deftly charts a burgeoning relationship that both parties want and fear.” —Karen Campbell, *The Boston Globe*

**André Aciman** is the author of *Eight White Nights*, *Call Me by Your Name*, *Out of Egypt*, *False Papers*, *Alibis*, *Harvard Square*, and *Enigma Variations*, and is the editor of *The Proust Project* (all published by FSG). He teaches comparative literature at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.
In Dawson’s Fall, a novel based on the lives of Roxana Robinson’s great-grandparents, we see America at its most fragile, fraught, and malleable. Set in 1889, in Charleston, South Carolina, Robinson’s tale weaves her family’s journal entries and letters with a novelist’s narrative grace, and spans the life of her tragic hero, Frank Dawson, as he attempts to navigate the country’s new political, social, and moral landscape.

Dawson, a man of fierce opinions, came to this country as a young Englishman to fight for the Confederacy in a war he understood as a conflict over states’ rights. He later became the editor of the Charleston News and Courier, finding a platform of real influence in the editorial column and emerging as a voice of the New South. With his wife and two children, he tried to lead a life that adhered to his staunch principles: equal rights, rule of law, and nonviolence, unswayed by the caprices of popular opinion. But he couldn’t control the political whims of his readers. As he wrangled diligently in his columns with questions of citizenship, equality, justice, and slavery, his newspaper rapidly lost readership, and he was plagued by financial worries. Nor could Dawson control the whims of the heart: his Swiss governess became embroiled in a tense affair with a drunkard doctor, which threatened to stain his family’s reputation. In the end, Dawson—a man in many ways representative of the country at this time—was f...
An unprecedented history of the storied ship that Darwin said helped add a hemisphere to the civilized world

The Enlightenment was an age of endeavors, with Britain consumed by the impulse for grand projects undertaken at speed. Endeavour was also the name given to a collier bought by the Royal Navy in 1768. It was a commonplace coal-carrying vessel that no one could have guessed would go on to become the most significant ship in the chronicle of British exploration.

The first history of its kind, Peter Moore’s Endeavour: The Ship That Changed the World is a revealing and comprehensive account of the storied ship’s role in shaping the Western world. The Endeavour famously carried James Cook on his first major voyage, charting for the first time New Zealand and the eastern coast of Australia. Yet she was a ship with many lives: During the battles for control of New York in 1776, she witnessed the bloody birth of the republic. As well as carrying botanists, a Polynesian priest, and the remains of the first kangaroo to arrive in Britain, she transported Newcastle coal and Hessian soldiers. NASA ultimately named a space shuttle in her honor. But to others she would be a toxic symbol of imperialism.

Through careful research, Moore tells the story of one of history’s most important sailing ships and, in turn, shines new light on the ambition and consequences of the Age of Enlightenment.

PRAISE


Peter Moore teaches creative writing at the University of London and the University of Oxford. He is the author of Damn His Blood and The Weather Experiment, which was named one of the New York Times Book Review’s 100 Notable Books of 2015 and adapted for a BBC4 documentary series. He lives in London.
Mr. Know-It-All

The Tarnished Wisdom of a Filth Elder

John Waters

The newest essay collection from the New York Times-bestselling John Waters, reflecting on how to overcome newfound respectability and rebel in the autumn of your years

No one knows more about everything—especially everything rude, clever, and offensively compelling—than John Waters. The man in the pencil-thin mustache, auteur of the transgressive movie classics Pink Flamingos, Polyester, Hairspray, Cry-Baby, and A Dirty Shame, is one of the world’s great sophisticates, and in Mr. Know-It-All he serves it up raw: how to fail upward in Hollywood; how to develop musical taste, from Nervous Norvus to Maria Callas; how to build a home so ugly and trendy that no one but you would dare live in it; more important, how to tell someone you love them without emotional risk; and yes, how to cheat death itself. Through it all, Waters swears by one undeniable truth: “Whatever you might have heard, there is absolutely no downside to being famous. None at all.”

Studded with cameos, from Divine and Mink Stole to Johnny Depp, Kathleen Turner, Patricia Hearst, and Tracey Ullman, and illustrated with unseen photos from the author’s personal collection, Mr. Know-It-All is Waters’ most hypnotically readable, upsetting, revelatory book—another instant Waters classic.

PRAISE

Praise for Mr. Know-It-All

“That John Waters is a national treasure is a surety. Period. Thank you and good night . . . [Mr. Know-It-All] shows a vulnerability and an honesty and an almost frantic desire to impart to us, before he can no longer, his manic mantras, his obsessive treatises and his biting and blisteringly honest bons mots that are actually really enlightening life lessons.” —Alan Cumming, The New York Times Book Review

“[Waters is] an indefatigable coiner of droll one-liners . . . Whether he likes it or not, [Waters] is a Great American Institution. Or maybe he belongs in an institution. Either way, we wouldn’t want to be without...

John Waters’ books Role Models (2010) and Carsick (2014) were national bestsellers, and his spoken-word shows This Filthy World and A John Waters Christmas continue to be performed around the world. Indecent Exposure, a retrospective exhibition of Waters’ acclaimed artwork, was recently shown at the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio. He is at work on a novel.
The Organs of Sense

A Novel

Adam Ehrlich Sachs

A lunatic tale about the search for truth—both cosmic and personal

In 1666, an astronomer makes a prediction shared by no one else in the world: at the stroke of noon on June 30 of that year, a solar eclipse will cast all of Europe into total darkness for four seconds. This astronomer is rumored to be using the largest telescope ever built, but he is also known to be blind—both of his eyes were plucked out under mysterious circumstances. Is he mad? Or does he, despite this impairment, have an insight denied the other scholars of his day?

These questions intrigue the young Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz—not yet the world-renowned polymath who will go on to discover calculus but a nineteen-year-old whose faith in reason is shaky at best. Leibniz sets off to investigate the astronomer’s claim, and in the three hours before the eclipse occurs—or fails to occur—the astronomer tells the scholar the story behind his strange prediction: a tale that encompasses kings and princes, family squabbles, insanity, art, loss, and the horrors of war.

PRAISE

"This book is only for people who like joy, absurdity, passion, genius, dry wit, youthful folly, amusing historical arcana, or telescopes.” —Rivka Galchen, author of Little Labors and American Innovations

Adam Ehrlich Sachs is the author of the collection Inherited Disorders: Stories, Parables, & Problems, which was a semifinalist for the Thurber Prize for American Humor and a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature. His work has appeared in The New Yorker, Harper’s Magazine, and n+1, among other publications, and he was named a 2018 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellow. He has a degree in the history of science from Harvard, where he was a member of The Harvard Lampoon...
Brown White Black

An American Family at the Intersection of Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Religion

Nishta J. Mehra

A beautiful and profound memoir about family, motherhood, race, and raising a black child in America today

In this moving collection of essays from a fresh new voice, Nishta J. Mehra takes us into her life—the daughter of Indian American immigrants, the wife of a white Christian woman from Texas, and the mother of an adopted black child, Shiv. Mehra's life is a series of intersecting boundaries—of race, gender, sexuality, and religion—and these essays examine the ways she navigates the various communities and ideologies that make up her family's life. This is a book about moving between boundaries and establishing a space for yourself and your children that doesn't conform to rigid notions of what it means to be a family. Mehra writes movingly of her love for Shiv, and her desire to protect her child at all costs, even as she also feels responsible for preparing her child for the harsh realities of being a black in America today.

PRAISE

"Nishta Mehra's luminous prose shines...A natural storyteller, she has an original voice, an ear for spoken language, and an eye for the sparkling detail...[Her] writing is at turns crisp and lyrical but always entertaining."—Cara Blue Adams, The Southern Review

NISHTA J. MEHRA was raised among a tight-knit network of Indian immigrants in Memphis, Tennessee. She is the proud graduate of St. Mary's Episcopal School and holds a B.A. in Religious Studies from Rice University and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona. Currently a middle school English teacher, she authors the popular food blog Blue Jean Gourmet and lives with her partner, Jill, and their child, Shiv, in a suburb of Houston, Texas.
Out of the Shadows

Reimagining Gay Men's Lives

Walt Odets

A moving exploration of how gay men construct their identities, fight to be themselves, and live authentically

Even today, it’s not easy to be gay in America. While many young gay men now come out more readily, even those from the most progressive of backgrounds often struggle with the legacy of early-life stigma and a deficit of self-acceptance, which can fuel self-doubt and, at worst, self-loathing. And this is to say nothing of the ongoing trauma wrought by HIV, which is all too often relegated to history. Drawing on his work as a clinical psychologist during and in the aftermath of the AIDS epidemic, Walt Odets reflects on what it means to survive and find a way to live in a new, uncompromising future, both for the men who endured the upheaval of those years and for the younger men who are now coming of age at a time when HIV is still deeply affecting gay communities, especially among the most marginalized.

Through moving, emotional stories—of friends and patients, and of his own—Odets considers how experiences early in life launch men on trajectories to futures that are not authentically theirs. He reimagines how we might reframe gay life by considering everything from the misleading and constraining idea of “the homosexual,” to the diversity and richness of gay relationships, to the historical roles of stigma and shame and the significance of youth and aging. Crawling out from under the destructive trauma of early-life experience and the epidemic and emerging into a century of shifting social values provides an opportunity to expl...

PRAISE

Praise for Out of the Shadows

“[A] road map for gay people hoping to live fully . . . [Odets's] writing is poignant and achingly beautiful—so much so, in fact, that I occasionally had to put the book down to avoid weeping on the subway . . . Odets and his close friends and lovers should serve as an inspiration to many gay men.” —Benoit Denizet-Lewis, The New York Times Book Review

Walt Odets is a clinical psychologist and writer. He is the author of In the Shadow of the Epidemic: Being HIV-Negative in the Age of AIDS, and has also contributed chapters to seven anthologies about the lives of gay men. He lives in Berkeley, where he has practiced psychology since 1987.
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PRAISE
"A meticulously researched and deeply felt corrective to the public narrative of who today’s migrants are . . . This Land Is Our Land reads like an impassioned survey course on migration, laying bare the origins of mass migration in searing clarity . . . well argued, cathartic and abundantly sourced." —Lauren Markham, The New York Times Book Review

"There are many mic-drop moments and eminently quotable lines . . . [This Land Is Our Land] is a blistering argument that earns its place in this emotional debate. In a news climate dominated by opponents of immigration, Mehta brings personal, postcolonial and global anguish to a broader American re...

Suketu Mehta is the author of Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found, which won the Kiriyama Prize and the Hutch Crossword Award, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, among others. His work has been published in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, National Geographic, Granta, Harper's Magazine, Time, and Newsweek, and has been featured on NPR’s Fresh Air and All Things Considered. He lives in New York City, where he is an associate professor of journalism at New York University.
The Electric Hotel

A Novel

Dominic Smith

The Electric Hotel is a "radiant" (The New York Times) work of historical fiction from the New York Times-bestselling author Dominic Smith, and a spellbinding story of art and love.

For more than thirty years, Claude Ballard has been living at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel. A French pioneer of silent films who started out as a concession agent for the Lumière brothers, the inventors of cinema, Claude now spends his days foraging for mushrooms in the hills of Los Angeles and taking photographs of runaways and the striplings along Sunset Boulevard. But when a film history student comes to interview Claude about The Electric Hotel—the lost masterpiece that bankrupted him and ended the career of his muse, Sabine Montrose—the past comes surging back. In his run-down hotel suite, the ravages of the past are waiting to be excavated: celluloid fragments in desperate need of restoration, as well as Claude’s memories of the woman who inspired and beguiled him.

The Electric Hotel is a "radiant" (The New York Times) portrait of a man entranced by the magic of moviemaking, a luminous romance, and a whirlwind trip through early cinema. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.

PRAISE

Praise for The Electric Hotel

“A vital and highly entertaining work about the act of creation, and about what it means to pick up and move on after you’ve lost everything.” —The New York Times


—The Washington Post

Dominic Smith grew up in Sydney, Australia, and now lives in Seattle, Washington. He is the author of the novels The Last Painting of Sara de Vos, Bright and Distant Shores, The Beautiful Miscellaneous, and The Mercury Visions of Louis Daguerre. His writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, Texas Monthly, and The Australian. He has been a recipient of literature grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Australia Council for the Arts. He teaches writing in the Warre...
My Parents: An Introduction / This Does Not Belong to You

Aleksandar Hemon

Two books in one in a back-to-back format: the story of Aleksandar Hemon’s parents’ immigration from Sarajevo to Canada and a book of short memories of the author’s family, friends, and childhood...

In My Parents: An Introduction, Aleksandar Hemon tells the story of his parents’ immigration from Bosnia to Canada—of lives that were upended by the siege of Sarajevo and the new lives his parents were forced to build. Hemon portrays both the intimate details of his parents’ lives (his mother’s lonely upbringing; his father’s fanatical beekeeping) and a sweeping history of his native country. It is a story of many Hemons—his parents, sister, uncles, and cousins—and also of German occupying forces, Yugoslav partisans, royalist Serb collaborators, and a few befuddled Canadians.

My Parents is Hemon at his very best, grounded in stories lovingly polished in the retelling, made exhilarating and fresh in the writing, prompting unexpected laughs in the midst of heartbreaking narrative.

This Does Not Belong to You is a freewheeling, unabashedly personal companion to My Parents—a perfect dose of Hemon's most dazzling and spirited prose, a series of beautifully distilled memories and observations and poignant miniatures. Presented back-to-back with My Parents, it complements and completes a major work from a major writer.

In the words of Colum McCann, “Aleksandar Hemon is, quite frankly, the greatest writer of our generation.” And the moment has never been more ready for his voice—nor has the world ever been more in need of it.

PRAISE

This Does Not Belong to You is an exhilarating companion to My Parents—an impressionistic recollection of family, friends, and childhood in Sarajevo by the writer who "can’t write a boring sentence.” (Gary Shteyngart)

Aleksandar Hemon is the author of The Making of Zombie Wars; The Book of My Lives, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; The Lazarus Project, which was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award and a New York Times bestseller; and three books of short stories, including Nowhere Man, which was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Genius Grant from the Mac...
The History of Living Forever

A Novel

Jake Wolff

A chemistry student falls for his teacher and uncovers a centuries-old quest for the Elixir of Life

A globe-trotting, century-spanning adventure story, Jake Wolff’s The History of Living Forever follows two young men on separate quests for the Elixir of Life. It dives deep into the mysteries of life—from first love to first heartbreak, from the long pall of grief to the irreconcilable loneliness of depression to the possibility of medical miracles, from coming of age to coming out. Hilarious, haunting, heart-busting, life-affirming, it asks each of us one of life’s essential questions: How far would you go for someone you love?

PRAISE

"The mystical and the romantic combine for a love story that also confronts the meaning of life."
—Seija Rankin, Entertainment Weekly

"Ambitious and bountiful . . . The story is larger than life."
—Arianna Rebolini, Buzzfeed

"One of my favorite books of the month if not the entire summer.... I read this in a night and got just three hours of sleep. Worth it."
—Mehera Bonner, Cosmopolitan

"More than just a briskly plotted thriller, the book is a meditation on love and loss.... This beautifully written, carefully plotted, intelligent debut is a melancholy pleasure."
—Kirkus, starred review

"Intoxicating . . . [with] epic sweep and sly humor . . . [It] w...

Jake Wolff received an MFA in fiction from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a Ph.D. in creative writing from Florida State University. His stories and essays have appeared in journals such as Tin House, One Story, and American Short Fiction. He lives in Orlando, Florida, where he is an assistant professor of English at the University of Central Florida.
A Primer for Forgetting

Getting Past the Past

Lewis Hyde

The author of The Gift asks whether forgetting ourselves is really such a terrible thing

We live in a culture that prizes memory—how much we can store, the quality of what’s preserved, how we might better document and retain the moments of our life while fighting off the nightmare of losing all that we have experienced. But what if forgetfulness were seen not as something to fear—be it in the form of illness or simple absentmindedness—but rather as a blessing, a balm, a path to peace and forgiveness?

A Primer for Forgetting is a remarkable experiment in scholarship, autobiography, and social criticism. It forges a new “history of forgetfulness” by assembling fragments of art and writing from the ancient world to the modern, weighing the potential boons forgetfulness might offer the present moment as a philosophical and political force. It also turns inward, using the author’s own life and memory as a canvas upon which to extol the virtues of a concept too long taken as an evil. A Primer for Forgetting is a unique and remarkable synthesis that only Lewis Hyde could have produced.

PRAISE

"In A Primer for Forgetting, that bold yet gentle intellectual adventurer, Lewis Hyde, harrows the bottomless mysteries of memory and forgetting, trauma and recovery, amnesia and commemoration, reconciliation and forgiveness. If this deep, poignant, soulful, inquisitive, gently tragic and disarmingly erudite book were nine times longer, I would still have felt sad when I realized it was coming to an end."

—Michael Chabon, author of Moonglow and Bookends

Lewis Hyde is the author of Trickster Makes This World: Mischief, Myth, and Art and The Gift: Creativity and the Artist in the Modern World, as well as a book of poems, This Error Is the Sign of Love.
Mother Is a Verb

An Unconventional History

Sarah Knott

Blending history and memoir, a beautiful and innovative portrait of motherhood

In Mother Is a Verb, a highly original interpretation of mothering, the writer, feminist, and historian Sarah Knott weaves a tale that begins with her own story, as she grapples with whether to have a child, before expanding into maternity in other places and times. Knott structures the book to mirror the phases of pregnancy and early mothering, and covers everything from miscarriage to late-night feedings, from morning sickness to evolving terminologies. Though her own story is ever-present—we feel the baby on her hip, always at her side—Knott uses her present moment as a means of exploring the past, drawing on techniques from literary nonfiction and feminist maternal theory's embrace of anecdote. She builds a trellis of tiny scenes of mothering, using diaries, letters, reports, court records, conduct guides, clothing, and objects, as well as her own experiences. In so doing, Knott creates an unexpectedly moving and visceral depiction of mothering, past and present, as both a shared and an endlessly various human experience. Mothering, in her hands, is bodily and not merely biological.

PRAISE

"An exploration of mothering, a capacious, complex, and creative experience. Historian and mother of two, Knott grounds her illuminating investigation in her own experience of pregnancy...A fresh, lively narrative of personal and historical memory."—Kirkus Reviews

"This lyrical book—one-third memoir, two-thirds history—guides us through centuries of pregnancy, childbirth, and infant care. Sarah Knott stitches her personal story to vignettes from the past and shows us how everyday mothering differed in time and place. With stunning prose, she gives us the sensory shorn of the sentimental. A riveting read."—Joanne Meyerowitz, Yale University

SARAH KNOTT grew up in England. Educated at Oxford University, she is a professor of history at Indiana University and the mother of two small children. She is the author of Sensibility and the American Revolution and numerous articles on the histories of women, gender, and emotion. Knott has served as an editor of The American Historical Review and sits on the editorial board of Past and Present. She is a member of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.
Dream Sequence

A Novel

Adam Foulds

A bloodcurdling drama about psychological damage, stalking, and the perils of celebrity

Henry became famous starring in The Grange, a television drama beloved by mothers and wives, and whose fans speak about the characters as though they were real people . . . Yet Henry dreams of escaping the small screen. An audition for a movie directed by a highly respected Spanish auteur holds the promise of a way forward. Whether holed up in his apartment eating monkish meals of rice and steamed vegetables or snorting cocaine at desert parties in Doha, Henry’s awareness of his own image, of his relative place in the world, is acute and constant.

But Henry has also—unwittingly—become an important part of the life of the recently divorced Kristin. He appears repeatedly on the television in her beautiful, empty Philadelphia house, and her social media feeds bring news of his London home, his family. What Kristin wants is simply to get as close to him in real life as she has in her fandom.

Adam Foulds’s Dream Sequence offers us, through the meticulously observed lives of this contemporary Echo and Narcissus, a stunning and finally terrifying vision of what it is to live at this current moment, with the borders between our inner and outer lives made porous by a world full of flickering screens both large and small.

PRAISE

"Adam Foulds writes like an angel about devilish things . . . The supple, sensuous beauty of his prose is bewitching . . . The pace and tension of a political thriller . . . ." —Rebecca Abrams, Financial Times

Adam Foulds is a poet and novelist. He was named one of Granta’s Best of Young British Novelists in 2013 and the Poetry Book Society’s Next Generation Poets in 2014. He is the recipient of a number of literary awards, including the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year, the Costa Poetry Prize, the Somerset Maugham Award, the South Bank Show Annual Award for Literature, the Encore Award, and the European Union Prize for Literature. His novel The Quickening Maze was short-listed for the Man Booker...
The Sun on My Head
Stories

Geovani Martins; Translated from the Portuguese by Julia Sanches

A bestselling literary sensation in Brazil, a powerful debut short-story collection about favela life in Rio de Janeiro

In The Sun on My Head, Geovani Martins recounts the experiences of boys growing up in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro in the early years of the twenty-first century. Drawing on his childhood and adolescence, Martins uses the rhythms and slang of his neighborhood dialect to capture the texture of life in the slums, where every day is shadowed by a ubiquitous drug culture, the constant threat of the police, and the confines of poverty, violence, and racial oppression. And yet these are also stories of friendship, romance, and momentary relief, as in “Rolézim,” in which a group of teenagers head to the beach. Other stories, all uncompromising in their realism and yet diverse in narrative form, explore the changes that occur when militarized police occupy the favelas in the lead-up to the World Cup, the cycles of violence in the narcotics trade, and the feelings of invisibility that define the realities of so many in Rio’s underclass.

The Sun on My Head is a work of great talent and sensitivity, a daring evocation of life in the favelas by a rising star rooted in the community he portrays.

PRAISE
"[The stories are] uncompromising in their realism and yet diverse in narrative form . . . The Sun on My Head is a work of great talent and sensitivity, a daring evocation of life in the favelas by a rising star rooted in the community he portrays." —Paris Close, Paperback Paris

"With slang-laden, boldly voiced prose that grounds readers in a unique place, Martins transports readers to the streets and beaches of Rio. In much the way that Edward P. Jones’ writing breathes life into the Washington D.C. that lies beyond Pennsylvania Avenue, Martins’ stories animate and humanize the people of a city whose humanity is often obscured by its own repu...

Geovani Martins was born in 1991 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He grew up with his mother and grandmother in the Rio neighborhood of Rocinha. He supported his writing by working as a sandwich-board man and selling drinks on the beach, and was discovered during creative writing workshops at Flup, the literary festival of the Rio favelas. The Sun on My Head is his first book.

Brazilian by birth, Julia Sanches has lived in the United States, Mexico, Switzerland, Scotland, and Catalonia. She translates ...
This Is Not a T-Shirt

A Brand, a Culture, a Community--a Life in Streetwear

Bobby Hundreds

The story of The Hundreds and the precepts that made it an iconic streetwear brand by Bobby Hundreds himself

Streetwear exists in that rarefied space where genuine “cool” coexists with big business; where a star designer might work simultaneously with Nike, a tattoo artist, Louis Vuitton, and a skateboard company. It’s the ubiquitous style of dress comprising hoodies, sneakers, and T-shirts that is worn by everyone from rappers to models to book editors. In the beginning, a few brands defined this style; fewer still survived as streetwear went mainstream. They are the OGs, the “heritage brands.” The Hundreds is one of those companies, and Bobby Hundreds is at the center of it all.

Bobby Kim, a.k.a. Bobby Hundreds, is the cofounder of The Hundreds, one of the first streetwear brands to go global. The creative force behind the brand, he has emerged as one of streetwear’s most prominent faces and voices. But growing up as one of the only Asian American kids in a mostly white and Latino community, a year ahead of his peers, with artistic aspirations, he reminds us that The Hundreds was started by outsiders and that that is truly the story of streetwear culture.

In This Is Not a T-Shirt, Bobby Hundreds cements his spot as a champion of an industry he helped create, celebrating the inspirations that birthed The Hundreds—from his Southern California, punk-DIY-tinged youth to the brand’s explosive success. His story is both inspir...
Flash Count Diary

Menopause and the Vindication of Natural Life

Darcey Steinke

"[Darcey Steinke] has written a searingly intelligent, richly imagined, deeply moving memoir and exploration of menopause . . . I love this book. I admire this book. I want everyone to read this...

Menopause hit Darcey Steinke hard. First came hot flashes. Then insomnia. Then depression. As she struggled to express what was happening to her, she came up against a culture of silence. Throughout history, the natural physical transition of menopause has been viewed as something to deny, fear, and eradicate. Menstruation signals fertility and life, and childbirth is revered as the ultimate expression of womanhood. Menopause is seen as a harbinger of death. Some books Steinke found promoted hormone replacement therapy. Others encouraged acceptance. But Steinke longed to understand menopause in a more complex, spiritual, and intellectually engaged way.

In *Flash Count Diary*, Steinke writes frankly about aspects of Menopause that have rarely been written about before. She explores the changing gender landscape that comes with reduced hormone levels, and lays bare the transformation of female desire and the realities of prejudice against older women. Weaving together her personal story with philosophy, science, art, and literature, Steinke reveals that in the seventeenth century, women who had hot flashes in front of others could be accused of being witches; that the model for Duchamp's famous *Étant donnés* was a post-reproductive woman; and that killer whales—one of the only other species on earth to undergo menopause—live long post-reproductive lives.

*Flash Count Diary*, with its deep research, open play of ideas, and reverence fo...

**PRAISE**

Praise for Darcey Steinke

“Sentence by sentence, a brilliant piece of writing suffused with all Steinke’s characteristic wit, darkness, and profundity . . . I trust her deeply, will go wherever she wants to take me.” —Maggie Nelson, author of *The Argonauts*


Roughhouse Friday

A Memoir

Jaed Coffin

“Roughhouse Friday is as bare and intimate a rendering of masculinity, of young adulthood, of being human as I have ever read. This is a fearless and exquisite work of art.” —Lily King, author of...

While lifting weights in the gymnasium on a rainy autumn night, Jaed Coffin heard the distinctive whacking sound of sparring boxers down the hall. A year out of college, he had been biding his time as a tutor at a local high school in Sitka, Alaska, without any particular life plan. That evening, Coffin joined a ragtag boxing club. For the first time, he felt like he fit in.

Coffin washed up in Alaska after a forty-day solo kayaking journey. Born to an American father and a Thai mother who had met during the Vietnam War, Coffin never felt particularly comfortable growing up in his rural Vermont town. Following his parents’ prickly divorce and a childhood spent drifting between his father’s new white family and his mother’s Thai roots, Coffin didn’t know who he was, much less what path his life should follow. His father’s notions about what it meant to be a man—formed by King Arthur legends and calcified in the military—did nothing to help. After college, he took to the road, working odd jobs and sleeping in his car before heading north.

Despite his initial fear, Coffin learns to fight. His coach, Victor “the Savage,” invites him to participate in the monthly Roughhouse Friday competition, where men contend for the title of best boxer in southeast Alaska. With every successive match, Coffin realizes that he isn’t just fighting for the championship belt; he is also learning to confront the anger he feels about a past he never k...

PRAISE

“Roughhouse Friday is one of the most convincing memoirs I have read tracking the mysterious course of an obsession—in this case, an obsession with fighting (i.e., “boxing”) against all odds of success and in the face of much risk. It’s a touching document, candid, utterly convincing in its myriad details of American manhood and in the clarity with which the young, aspiring boxer assesses his life.” —Joyce Carol Oates

“Underneath an enjoyable, rough-and-tumble ‘boy’s search for meaning’ lies a memoir with hidden depths and subtleties. In Jaed Coffin’s quixotic journey to become heroic in his father’s gaze, his desire to be a formidable or ...

Jaed Coffin is the author of the memoir A Chant to Soothe Wild Elephants and teaches in the University of New Hampshire’s MFA creative writing program. He lives in Brunswick, Maine.
Stay and Fight

A Novel

Madeline ffitch

A wildly original, piercingly timely addition to the story of the American family

"The story is told in the alternating voices of Helen, Karen, Lily, and Perley, and Ffitch navigates their personalities beautifully, creating complex, brilliantly realized characters. As the stakes rise, for both the family and the preservation of the region, the novel skewers stereotypes and offers only a messy, real depiction of people who fully embody the imperative of the novel’s title. This is a stellar novel."

—Publishers Weekly, starred review

Set in a region known for its independent spirit, Stay and Fight shakes up what it means to be a family, to live well, to make peace with nature and make deals with the system. It is a protest novel that challenges our notions of effective action. It is a family novel that refuses to limit the term. And it is a marvel of storytelling that both breaks with tradition and celebrates it. Best of all, it is full of flawed, cantankerous, flesh-and-blood characters who remind us that conflict isn't the end of love, but the real beginning.

Absorbingly spun, perfectly voiced, and disruptively political, Madeline ffitch's Stay and Fight forces us to reimagine an Appalachia—and an America—we think we know. And it takes us, laughing and fighting, into a new understanding of what it means to love and to be free.

PRAISE

"ffitch's powerful debut beautifully illustrates how the bonds forged during hardship can become the rope that saves you."

—BookPage

"A motley, makeshift family . . . must figure out how to preserve the things they love . . . and determine what's worth fighting against and for."

—Nylon, "One of 35 Great Books to Read This Summer"

"A cleareyed, largehearted take on the social protest novel."

—Kirkus

“The fiercest, wisest book about parenting that I’ve read in a very long time.”

—Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, author of Ms. Hempel Chronicles

“If Carolyn Chute and Larry Brown and Carson McCullers had a love child, it might be Madeline ffitch’s brutal and bri...
Among Flowers

A Walk in the Himalaya

Jamaica Kincaid

A master novelist travels to the Himalaya in search of seeds in this classic travel memoir

If you could go anywhere in the world and do one thing you love, what would you choose? When given that opportunity, the acclaimed writer Jamaica Kincaid decided to trek through Nepal collecting seeds to plant in her garden at home in Vermont. Among Flowers is the story of that journey through the Himalayan landscape, as Kincaid and her companions navigate not only the perilous physical terrain but also Maoist guerrillas and fields of leeches that stand in their way. The vertiginous peaks and exotic plants come alive in Kincaid’s masterful prose. She also ruminates on the wonders of the natural world that can only be discovered when one leaves the comfort of home for the disorienting thrill of the unknown, and self-reflects on the limitations of the body and the privileges that come with chartering a trip through the Himalaya. Rich in detail and engrossingly told, Among Flowers is a classic travel memoir.

PRAISE

Praise for Among Flowers

“This is no botanist’s treatise but travel writing at its best . . . [Kincaid] writes always with a gentle sensitivity and sometimes fierce emotion. Her bravery is all the more remarkable because of her very natural fear.” —Ruth Rendell, The Times (London)

“Count on magic when you read Jamaica Kincaid . . . Reading this intriguing meditation is like gazing at the disparate stars of Kincaid's night sky itself, searching the heavens for a sense of who and what we are.” —Robert Braille, The Boston Globe

Jamaica Kincaid was born in St. John's, Antigua. Her books include At the Bottom of the River, Annie John, Lucy, The Autobiography of My Mother, My Brother, and Mr. Potter, all published by FSG. She lives with her family in Vermont.
Jacob's Ladder

A Novel

Ludmila Ulitskaya; Translated from the Russian by Polly Gannon

The modern Tolstoy presents a family saga spanning a century of Russian history.

One of Russia’s most renowned literary figures and a Man Booker International Prize nominee, Ludmila Ulitskaya presents what may be her final novel. Jacob’s Ladder is a family saga spanning a century of recent Russian history—and represents the summation of the author’s career, which has been devoted to sharing the absurd and tragic tales of twentieth-century life in her nation.

Spanning the seeming promise of the prerevolutionary years, to the dark Stalinist era, to the corruption and confusion of the present day, Jacob’s Ladder is a pageant of romance, betrayal, and memory. With a scale worthy of Tolstoy, it asks how much control any of us have over our lives—and how much is in fact determined by history, by chance, or indeed by the genes passed down by the generations that have preceded us into the world.

PRAISE

"A sweeping, ambitious story reminiscent at times of Pasternak in its grasp of both history and tragedy." —Kirkus Review

Ludmila Ulitskaya is one of Russia’s most popular and renowned literary figures. A former scientist and the director of Moscow’s Hebrew Repertory Theater, she is the author of more than a dozen works of fiction, including The Big Green Tent; several tales for children; and multiple plays that have been staged by a number of theaters in Russia and Germany. She has won Russia’s Man Booker Prize and twice won its Big Book Prize, and has been nominated for the Man Booker International Prize.

Polly Ga...
Coventry

Essays

Rachel Cusk

From Rachel Cusk, her first collection of essays about motherhood, marriage, feminism, and art

Rachel Cusk redrew the boundaries of fiction with the Outline Trilogy, three “literary masterpieces” (The Washington Post) whose narrator, Faye, perceives the world with a glinting, unsparing intelligence while remaining opaque to the reader. Lauded for the precision of her prose and the quality of her insight, Cusk is a writer of uncommon brilliance. Now, in Coventry, she gathers a selection of her nonfiction writings that both offers new insights on the themes at the heart of her fiction and forges a startling critical voice on some of our most personal, social, and artistic questions.

Coventry encompasses memoir, cultural criticism, and writing about literature, with pieces on family life, gender, and politics, and on D. H. Lawrence, Françoise Sagan, and Elena Ferrante. Named for an essay in Granta (“Every so often, for offences actual or hypothetical, my mother and father stop speaking to me. There’s a funny phrase for this phenomenon in England: it’s called being sent to Coventry”), this collection is pure Cusk and essential reading for our age: fearless, unrepentantly erudite, and dazzling to behold.

PRAISE

"Readers of the author's first-person fiction will be pleased with the acutely observant narrative voice that characterizes these introspective meditations on family, motherhood, marriage, and community . . . An eloquent and engrossing selection of nonfiction writing that will enhance Cusk’s stature in contemporary literature." —Kirkus (starred review)

"Impressive and wonderful. Rachel Cusk sees the truth where the rest of us can only make out shadows. Coventry is Cusk's theory of forms." —Lauren Elkin, author of Flâneuse

Rachel Cusk is the author of a trilogy of novels, Outline, Transit, and Kudos; the memoirs A Life’s Work, The Last Supper, and Aftermath; and several other novels: Saving Agnes, winner of the Whitbread Award; The Temporary; The Country Life, which won the Somerset Maugham Award; The Lucky Ones; In the Fold; Arlington Park; and The Bradshaw Variations. She was chosen as one of Granta’s 2003 Best of Young British Novelists. She lives in London.

Kudos: A Novel
4/2019 | 9781250207395
Trade Paperback | $17.00

Transit: A Novel
12/2017 | 9781250151797
Trade Paperback | $17.00

Outline: A Novel
2/2016 | 9781250081544
Trade Paperback | $17.00
Some people reject the fact, overwhelmingly supported by scientists, that our planet is warming due to human activities. But do those of us who accept the reality of human-caused climate change truly believe in it? If we did, surely we would be roused to act, to make sacrifices now to prevent calamity in the future. How are we, ordinary civilians, supposed to do anything about a crisis for which we can barely sustain concern, of which our understanding is so incomplete, and from which we cannot imagine an escape? Will future generations distinguish between those who didn’t believe in the science of climate change and those who said they accepted the science but didn't act?

In *We Are the Weather*, Jonathan Safran Foer explores the central dilemma of our time in a surprising, creative, and urgent new way. We have, he reveals, turned our planet into a farm for growing meat, and the consequences are catastrophic. With the future of our home at stake, the time has come to consider how our descendants will judge our actions at this crucial moment. Collective action is needed. We might be able to pull it off—and it all starts with what we eat, and don’t eat, for breakfast and lunch.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Here I Am*

“Mr. Foer’s best and most caustic novel, filled with so much pain and regret that your heart sometimes struggles to hold it all . . . *Here I Am* has more teeming life in it than several hundred well-meaning and well-reviewed books of midlist fiction put together.” —Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

“Dazzling . . . A profound novel about the claims of identity, history, family, and the burdens of a broken world.” —Maureen Corrigan, *Fresh Air*

Praise for *Eating Animals*

“Stirring . . . Compelling, earnest . . . Foer brings an invigorating moral clarity to the topic.” —*Entertainment Weekly*

Jonathan Safran Foer is the author of the novels *Everything Is Illuminated, Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, and *Here I Am*, and of the nonfiction book *Eating Animals*. His work has received numerous awards and has been translated into thirty-six languages. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.
The Treasure of the Sierra Madre

A Novel

B. Traven

A cult masterpiece--the adventure novel that inspired John Huston's classic film, by the elusive author who inspired books one and five of 2666

Little is known for certain about B. Traven. Evidence suggests that he was born Otto Feige in Schleswig-Holstein and that he escaped a death sentence for his involvement with the anarchist underground in Bavaria. Traven spent most of his adult life in Mexico, where, under various names, he wrote several bestsellers and was an outspoken defender of the rights of Mexico's indigenous people.

First published in 1935, THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE is Traven's most famous and enduring work, the dark, savagely ironic, and riveting story of three down-and-out Americans hunting for gold in Sonora.

PRAISE

"Traven's philosophical anarchism, his disengagement, his scorn for regimentation and material goods and his love of individual liberty and the primitive past could, conceivably, command as much reverence from the new generation as does Henry David Thoreau."—William Weber Johnson, Los Angeles Times

"He tells his story better than the best storytellers; delves deeper into characters than most so-called psychological writers. All the virility, terseness and tension that Hemingway worked so hard for . . . seem to be Traven's by birthright."—John Anthony West, Books and Bookmen

B. Traven (1882 - 1969) was a pen name of the most enigmatic writer of the twentieth century. His other aliases include Hal Croves, Traven Torsvan and Ret Marut. Born in Germany or Chicago, Traven spent much of his adult life in Mexico. He once wrote "I shall always and at all times prefer to be pissed on by dogs than reveal who I am." He is a model for Archimboldi, the hero of Roberto Bolano's 2666.
Hannah's perceptions of her Orthodox German Jewish heritage—her five brothers and sisters, the complicated power of families, the madness of money, the obsessive workings of memory itself—are as disquieting in their sharpness as they are lucid in their irony.

The world, she finds, is a treacherous place where love is closely knit with pain, but even the limitations of her own point of view are not lost on Hannah. She is all too aware that her perspective is fixed in the vise of her childhood: “My mother,” she says, “is the source of my unease in the world and thus the only person who can make me feel at home in the world.”

**PRAISE**

"A lively, evocative, often amusing work. Through Hannah's voice, Merkin deftly captures the concentration on self-definition—as well as the doubt and frustration—of dawning womanhood . . . A pioneering novel."—Janet Hadda, Los Angeles Times

“Much of the power of Enchantment comes from its directness—almost, at times, its brazenness—and from its determination to hold nothing back . . . A story that draws the reader on unremitting.”—The New York Times

Daphne Merkin is the author of several books, including the essay collection The Fame Lunches and the memoir This Close to Happy. She is a former staff writer for The New Yorker; and her writing frequently appears in The New York Times, Bookforum, Travel + Leisure, W, Vogue, Tablet Magazine, and other publications. She has taught writing at the 92nd Street Y, Marymount College, and Hunter College. She lives in New York City.
The Weil Conjectures
On Math and the Pursuit of the Unknown
Karen Olsson

An eloquent blend of memoir and biography exploring the Weil siblings, math, and creative inspiration

Karen Olsson always had an aptitude for math but wasn’t exactly a prodigy. And yet when she entered Harvard as an undergraduate she was drawn to it, forcing herself into a discipline that had always felt just beyond her reach. As a math student then and as a writer now, she was and is chasing a feeling—the brink of breakthrough, the flash of insight. For Olsson, and for her newest obsession, the Weil siblings, creative thought rests on the making of unlikely connections. Thus The Weil Conjectures—a beguiling blend of biography and memoir and a meditation on the creative life.

In The Weil Conjectures, Olsson narrates the story of the Weil siblings—Simone, the famous French philosopher, mystic, and social activist, and her brother, André, the influential yet often overlooked mathematician—as well as the lore of math and Olsson’s own experience of it. During her research, Olsson got hold of the 1940 letters between Simone and André. The letters forced her to revisit her college years and to reassess her present-day life in the hopes of understanding the place of math, and unattainable knowledge, in her own world.

Personal and revealing, and avoiding theorems and numbers, Olsson eloquently explores math as it relates to intellectual history, and shows how sometimes, the most inexplicable of passions turn out to be the most rewarding.

PRAISE

Karen Olsson is the author of the novels Waterloo, which was a runner-up for the 2006 PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction, and All the Houses. She has written for The New York Times Magazine, Slate, Bookforum, and Texas Monthly, among other publications, and she is also a former editor of The Texas Observer. She graduated from Harvard University with a degree in mathematics and lives in Austin, Texas, with her family.
Christ Stopped at Eboli
The Story of a Year

Carlo Levi; Translated by Frances Frenaye

Part autobiography, part sociological study, part travel memoir—a reissue of Carlo Levi’s classic book on life in a small, desolate Italian town during the 1930s.

"There should be a history of this Italy, a history outside the framework of time, confining itself to that which is changeless and eternal, in other words, a mythology. This Italy has gone its way in darkness and silence, like the earth, in a sequence of recurrent seasons and recurrent misadventures. Every outside influence has broken over it like a wave, without leaving a trace."

So wrote Carlo Levi—doctor, painter, philosopher, and man of conscience—in describing the land and the people of Lucania, where he was banished in 1935, at the start of the Ethiopian war, because of his opposition to Fascism. In the south of Italy, Lucania was a barren land—a harsh white landscape largely stripped of trees—inhabited by peasants who lived the same lives their ancestors had, grimly coaxing a subsistence existence from the stony land and constantly fearing black magic and the near presence of death. In describing their lives and history, and in exploring their surroundings, Carlo Levi offered a starkly beautiful and deeply moving account of a place beyond hope and a people abandoned by history.

PRAISE

"Carlo Levi’s memoir Christ Stopped at Eboli was a literary sensation in post-Fascist Italy. First published in 1945, the book is Levi’s memorable account of life among impoverished Italian villagers in the 1930s." —J. Hoberman, New York Times

Carlo Levi (1902-1975) was trained as a doctor but is best known as a writer. Among his other books are Words Are Stone, The Watch, and travel books on Russia, Germany, and Italy.
A State at Any Cost
The Life of David Ben-Gurion

Tom Segev; Translated from the Hebrew by Haim Watzman

The definitive and newsworthy biography of Israel’s founder and longest-serving prime minister

When Tom Segev’s biography of David Ben-Gurion was published in Israel in early 2018, it was a major event, making headlines and earning worldwide coverage in The New York Times and elsewhere. The culmination of a lifetime’s work, A State at Any Cost casts the history of Israel and its founder in a bracing new light. Using large amounts of previously unrevealed archival material, Segev demonstrates Ben-Gurion’s power, skills, and achievements, as well as his limitations, weaknesses, and failures. Segev’s probing account reveals for the first time Ben-Gurion’s secret negotiations with the British on the eve of Israel’s independence, his willingness to countenance the forced transfer of Arab neighbors, his relative indifference to the status of Jerusalem and Israel’s nuclear program, and his occasional “nutty moments”—from UFO sightings to a plan for Israel to acquire territory in South America. Segev also shows that Ben-Gurion first heard about the Holocaust from a Palestinian Arab acquaintance, and reveals Ben-Gurion’s tempestuous private life, including the testimony of four longtime lovers.

Many admired Ben-Gurion in his day, and many now miss his vision and inspiration, his boldness and integrity. Others have vilified him as an aggressive, divisive, dour, and often capricious politician. But only a few have really grasped the most intimate and guarded aspects of his complex character, the man behind the myth. As in his seven...

Tom Segev is among Israel’s leading journalists and historians. His works include The Seventh Million; 1967: Israel, the War, and the Year That Transformed the Middle East; Simon Wiesenthal; and One Palestine, Complete (chosen one of ten best books of 2000 by The New York Times).

Haim Watzman is a Jerusalem-based writer, journalist, and translator. He is the author, most recently, of Necessary Stories, a collection of short fiction. His previous books are Company C: An American’s Life as a Citizen...
The Catholic School

A Novel

Edoardo Albinati; Translated from the Italian by Antony Shugaar

A semiautobiographical coming-of-age story, framed by the harrowing 1975 Circeo massacre

The winner of Italy’s most prestigious award, the Strega Prize, The Catholic School is one of the most arresting and haunting works of European literature to have appeared in the twenty-first century.

In 1975, three well-off young men—former students at Rome’s prestigious all-boys Catholic high school San Leone Magno—brutally tortured and raped two young women, killing one of them. The crime, known as the Circeo massacre, shocked and obsessed all of Italy, exposing the violence and dark underbelly of the upper-middle class at a moment when the traditional structures of family and religion were seen as under threat.

It is this environment—the halls of San Leone Magno and the homes of the families who sent their sons there in the late 1960s and the 1970s—that Edoardo Albinati takes as his subject in The Catholic School. His experiences in school as well as his reflections on his adolescence and on the forces that produced the toxic culture of contemporary Italy add up to a remarkable blend of memoir, coming-of-age novel, and true-crime story. Along with indelible portraits of his teachers and fellow classmates—the charming Arbus, the literature teacher Cosmo, and his one Fascist friend, Max—Albinati gives us nuanced ruminations on the legacy of abuse, the Italian bourgeoisie, and the relationship of masculinity, sex, and violence.

Following the book’s publication in Italy, La Repubblica said, “[In] The Catholic School a thousand doors open on a thousand different themes . . . A powerful, multifaceted, acute, extreme book.” —La Repubblica

“A powerful river of a book . . . And above all a profound meditation on evil.”
—Filippo La Porta, Il Messaggero
Valerie

or, The Faculty of Dreams: A Novel

Sara Stridsberg; Translated from the Swedish by Deborah Bragan-Turner

A fever dream of a novel—strangely funny, entirely unconventional—Valerie conjures the life, mind, and art of American firebrand Valerie Solanas

In April 1988, Valerie Solanas—the writer, radical feminist, author of the SCUM Manifesto and would-be assassin of Andy Warhol—was discovered dead at fifty-two in her hotel room, in a grimy corner of San Francisco, alone, penniless, and surrounded by the typed pages of her last writings.

In Valerie, a nameless narrator revisits the room where Solanas died, the courtroom where she was tried and convicted of attempting to murder Andy Warhol, the Georgia wastelands where she spent her childhood and was repeatedly raped by her father and beaten by her alcoholic grandfather, and the mental hospitals where she was shut away.

A leading feminist in Sweden and one of the most acclaimed writers in Scandinavia, Sara Stridsberg here blurs the boundaries between history and fiction, self-making and storytelling, madness and art, love and tragedy. Through imagined conversations and monologues, reminiscences and rantings, she reconstructs this most intriguing and enigmatic of women, reaching back in time to amplify her voice and bring her powerful, heartbreaking story into new light.

"Inventive and stimulating . . . As each new piece of Stridsberg’s portrait of Valerie is added, it alters the big picture, provocatively. The novel is as much about how little one can understand other people as it is about Valerie’s life. Stridsberg entertainingly casts new light on both Solanas and on how society views pop culture." —Publishers Weekly

"This is a brilliant re-imagining of the life and times of one of America’s great cultural icons. If Solanas was alive I’m sure she’d be amazed (and perhaps even gratified) to see what poetic feeling her remarkable destiny has aroused.” —Vivian Gornick, author of The Odd Woman and the City

"In t...
The Bells of Old Tokyo

Meditations on Time and a City

Anna Sherman

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

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, 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.”

The Bells of Old Tokyo marks the arrival of a dazzling new...

PRAISE

"A completely extraordinary book, unlike anything I have read before. At once modest in tone and vast in scale and ambition, The Bells of Old Tokyo extends in all directions, delicately wrought, precise, unflinching, lucid and strange as a dream. I haven’t felt so excited about an investigation into place since I first read Rings of Saturn. Like Sebald, Sherman is concerned with war, brutality, nostalgia and loss, but her search for the meaning of time is also radiant and absolutely humane."—Olivia Laing, author of Crudo and The Lonely City

“The Bells of Old Tokyo is part personal memoir, part cultural history, but wholly unique. The fragile,...

ANNA SHERMAN was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. She studied Greek and Latin at Wellesley College and Oxford before moving to Tokyo in 2001. The Bells of Old Tokyo is her first book.
Learning from the Germans

Race and the Memory of Evil

Susan Neiman

As an increasingly polarized America fights over the legacy of racism, Susan Neiman, author of the contemporary philosophical classic Evil in Modern Thought, asks what we can learn from the Germans...

In the wake of white nationalist attacks, the ongoing debate over reparations, and the controversy surrounding Confederate monuments and the contested memories they evoke, Susan Neiman’s Learning from the Germans delivers an urgently needed perspective on how a country can come to terms with its historical wrongdoings. Neiman is a white woman who came of age in the civil rights-era South and a Jewish woman who has spent much of her adult life in Berlin. Working from this unique perspective, she combines philosophical reflection, personal stories, and interviews with both Americans and Germans who are grappling with the evils of their own national histories.

Through discussions with Germans, including Jan Philipp Reemtsma, who created the breakthrough Crimes of the Wehrmacht exhibit, and Friedrich Schorlemmer, the East German dissident preacher, Neiman tells the story of the long and difficult path Germans faced in their effort to atone for the crimes of the Holocaust. In the United States, she interviews James Meredith about his battle for equality in Mississippi and Bryan Stevenson about his monument to the victims of lynching, as well as lesser-known social justice activists in the South, to provide a compelling picture of the work contemporary Americans are doing to confront our violent history. In clear and gripping prose, Neiman urges us to consider the nuanced forms that evil can assume, so that we can recognize and avoid...

PRAISE

Praise for Learning from the Germans

"[Learning from the Germans] presents an insightful comparative analysis of post-WWII German sentiments about Nazi atrocities alongside southern American attitudes about the Civil War and slavery, suggesting how Americans might better come to terms with their country’s history... [Neiman's] commentary is thoughtful and perceptive, her comparison timely. This exceptional piece of historical and political philosophy provides a meaningful way of looking at the Civil War’s legacy." —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"A pointed demonstration of how Germany offers lessons for attending to polarizing issues of..."
Equality

An American Dilemma, 1866-1896

Charles Postel

An in-depth study of American social movements after the Civil War and their lessons for today by a prizewinning historian

The Civil War unleashed a torrent of claims for equality—in the chaotic years following the war, former slaves, women’s rights activists, farmhands, and factory workers all engaged in the pursuit of the meaning of equality in America. This contest resulted in experiments in collective action, as millions joined leagues and unions. In Equality: An American Dilemma, 1866–1886, Charles Postel demonstrates how taking stock of these movements forces us to rethink some of the central myths of American history.

Despite a nationwide push for equality, egalitarian impulses oftentimes clashed with one another. These dynamics get to the heart of the great paradox of the fifty years following the Civil War and of American history at large: Waves of agricultural, labor, and women’s rights movements were accompanied by the deepening of racial discrimination and oppression. Herculean efforts to overcome the economic inequality of the first Gilded Age and the sexual inequality of the late-Victorian social order emerged alongside Native American dispossession, Chinese exclusion, Jim Crow segregation, and lynch law.

Now, as Postel argues, the twenty-first century has ushered in a second Gilded Age of savage socioeconomic inequalities. Convincing and learned, Equality explores the roots of these social fissures and speaks urgently to the need for expansive strides toward equality to meet our contemporary crisis.

PRAISE

"Americans today are torn by the fierce politics of inequality, but not for the first time in our history. Charles Postel's urgent yet subtle account of the first American Gilded Age ought to be required reading for understanding the nation's long egalitarian tradition, with lessons for confronting our second Gilded Age."

—Sean Wilentz, author of The Rise of American Democracy

Charles Postel is the author of The Populist Vision, which received the 2008 Bancroft Prize and the 2008 Frederick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians. He is a professor of history at San Francisco State University and was elected to the Society of American Historians in 2018.
And How Are You, Dr. Sacks?
A Biographical Memoir of Oliver Sacks
Lawrence Weschler

The untold story of Dr. Oliver Sacks, his own most singular patient

The author Lawrence Weschler began spending time with Oliver Sacks in the early 1980s, when he set out to profile the neurologist for his own new employer, The New Yorker. Almost a decade earlier, Dr. Sacks had published his masterpiece Awakenings—the account of his long-dormant patients’ miraculous but troubling return to life in a Bronx hospital ward. But the book had hardly been an immediate success, and the rumpled clinician was still largely unknown. Over the ensuing four years, the two men worked closely together until, for wracking personal reasons, Sacks asked Weschler to abandon the profile, a request to which Weschler acceded. The two remained close friends, however, across the next thirty years and then, just as Sacks was dying, he urged Weschler to take up the project once again. This book is the result of that entreaty.

Weschler sets Sacks’s brilliant table talk and extravagant personality in vivid relief, casting himself as a beanpole Sancho to Sacks’s capacious Quixote. We see Sacks rowing and ranting and caring deeply; composing the essays that would form The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat; recalling his turbulent drug-fueled younger days; helping his patients and exhausting his friends; and waging intellectual war against a medical and scientific establishment that failed to address his greatest concern: the spontaneous specificity of the i...

Lawrence Weschler, a longtime veteran of The New Yorker and a regular contributor to NPR, is the director emeritus of the New York Institute of the Humanities at NYU, and the author of nearly twenty books, including Seeing Is Forgetting the Name of the Thing One Sees, Mr. Wilson’s Cabinet of Wonder, Everything That Rises, and Vermeer in Bosnia.
When the Plums Are Ripe

A Novel

Patrice Nganang; Translated from the French by Amy B. Reid

The second volume in a magisterial trilogy, the story of Cameroon caught between empires during World War II

Three years after the publication of his acclaimed novel Mount Pleasant, Patrice Nganang returns to his native country in When the Plums Are Ripe, the second volume in a magisterial trilogy about the birth of modern Cameroon.

In Cameroon, plum season is a highly anticipated time of year. But for the narrator of When the Plums Are Ripe, the season brings to mind “the time when our country discovered, if not the crux of its own violence, then that of the world; when it sent off along the road through the desert its many sons . . . just like the fruit sellers toss away each evening the plums they hadn’t been able to grill.”

In this novel of radiant lyricism, Nganang recounts the history of Cameroon’s forced entry into the Second World War, and in the process complicates our own understanding of that globe-spanning conflict. After the fall of France in 1940, Cameroon found itself caught between Vichy and the Free French at a time when growing nationalism advised allegiance to neither regime, but it was ultimately dragged into fighting throughout North Africa on behalf of the Allies.

In moving from the story of two dissimilar cousins—the poet Pouka, committed to starting a poetry circle in his village of Edéa, and the boxer Hebga—to accounts of the campaigns of the French general Leclerc and the battles of Kufra and Murzuk, Nganang questions the colonial record and recenters African perspectives at the heart of Cameroon’s national...

PRAISE

“Patrice Nganang’s dazzling novel [stands] in a league of its own, so different from the great majority of novels by African writers in the past fifty or sixty years.”
—Charles L. Larson, CounterPunch

Patrice Nganang was born in Cameroon and is a novelist, a poet, and an essayist. His novel Dog Days received the Prix Marguerite Yourcenar and the Grand Prix littéraire d’Afrique noire. He is also the author of Mount Pleasant (FSG, 2016). He teaches comparative literature at Stony Brook University.

Amy B. Reid is a professor of French language and literature at New College of Florida. In 2016,
gods with a little g

A Novel

Tupelo Hassman

From the acclaimed author of Girlchild, this gritty, irreverent novel sees a young misfit grow into hope

Unsinkable and wrecked by grief, motherless and aimless and looking for connection, Helen Dedleder is a girl with a gift she doesn't want to use and a pack of friends who are all just helping each other get by.

The tire yard, sex, and beer help pass the days until these misfits turn eighteen and leave their conservative, locked-down town. Helen’s best friends, Win and Rainbolene, are particularly keen to depart—Rain because she’ll finally be able to get the hormones she needs to fully become herself. Watching over them is Aunt Bev, an outcast like the kids, who runs the barely tolerated Psychic Encounter Shoppe and tries to keep Helen connected to her own psychic talents—a gift passed down from her mother. Tensions are building, though, in every way. Threats against the Psychic Encounter Shoppe become serious actions. One of the kids gets in trouble, and then another. Helen can see some things before they happen, but somehow can’t see the most important things happening right in front of her.

Tupelo Hassman’s gods with a little g bursts and splinters with flawed, lovable characters whose haphazard investigations into each other's hearts will reshape your understanding of trust, how to build a family, and how to make a future you can see.

PRAISE

"[A] melancholy, triumphant, slightly magical coming-of-age tale . . . Weird and uncomfortable and glorious—just like adolescence."
—Kirkus, starred review

“Hilarious and wise, smart and angry, tart and devastating, gods with a little g is a dark charm, full of dangerous magic. No other writer can limn the boundaries of female becoming like Hassman.”
—Heidi Julavits, author of The Folded Clock: A Diary

“I couldn’t put gods with a little g down. A brilliant coming-of-age story.”
—Willy Vlautin, author of Lean on Pete

“A sacrament for girls growing up. A wild ride of a novel set in a California everyone should know.”
—Susan Straight, author of Betwee...

Tupelo Hassman’s debut novel, Girlchild, was the recipient of the American Library Association’s
4 3 2 1

A Novel

Paul Auster

A sweeping story of birthright and possibility, of love and the fullness of life itself.

On March 3, 1947, in the maternity ward of Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, New Jersey, Archibald Isaac Ferguson, the one and only child of Rose and Stanley Ferguson, is born. From that single beginning, Ferguson's life will take four simultaneous and independent fictional paths. Four Fergusons made of the same genetic material, four boys who are the same boy, will go on to lead four different and parallel lives. Family fortunes diverge. Loves and friendships and intellectual passions contrast. Chapter by chapter, the rotating narratives evolve into an elaborate dance of inner worlds enfolded within the outer forces of history as, one by one, the intimate plot of each Ferguson's story rushes on across the tumultuous and fractured terrain of mid-twentieth-century America. A boy grows up—again and again and again.

As inventive and dexterously constructed as anything Paul Auster has ever written, 4 3 2 1 is an unforgettable tour de force, the crowning work of this masterful writer's extraordinary career.

• New York Times Bestseller
• National Bestseller

PRAISE

"An epic bildungsroman . . . . Original and complex . . . . It’s impossible not to be impressed — and even a little awed — by what Auster has accomplished . . . . A work of outsized ambition and remarkable craft, a monumental assemblage of competing and complementary fictions, a novel that contains multitudes."—Tom Perrotta, The New York Times Book Review

“Ambitious and sprawling . . . . Immersive . . . . Auster has a startling ability to report the world in novel ways.”—USA Today

“A stunningly ambitious novel, and a pleasure to read. Auster’s writing is joyful even in the book’s darkest moments, and never ponderous or showy. . . . An incredibly m..."

PAUL AUSTER is the bestselling author of Sunset Park, Invisible, The Book of Illusions, and The New York Trilogy, among many other works. He has been awarded the Prince of Asturias Prize for Literature, the Prix Médicis étranger, the Independent Spirit Award, and the Premio Napoli. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. His work has been translated into more than forty languages. He lives in Brooklyn.
Home
A Novel

Marilynne Robinson

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

A New York Times Bestseller
A Washington Post Best Book of the Year
A Los Angeles Times Best of Fiction of the Year
A San Francisco Chronicle Best book of the Year

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

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

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

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

"Marilynne Robinson is so powerful a writer that she can reshape how we read." —Mark Athitakis, Ch...
Lila

A Novel

Marilynne Robinson

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

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

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

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

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

PRAISE

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

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

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

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

Marilynne Robinson

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

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

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

PRAISE

"Incandescent ...magnificent...(a) literary miracle."
--Lisa Schwarzbaum, Entertainment Weekly

"Rapturous...astonishing...Gilead is an inspired work from a writer whose sensibility seems steeped in holy fire."
--Lisa Shea, Elle

"Lyrical and meditative...potently contemplative."
--Michele Orecklin, Time

"Perfect."
--Jeremy Jackson, People**

"Major."
--Philip Connors, Newsday

"You must read this book....Altogether unlike any other work of fiction, it has sprung forth more than 20 years after Housekeeping with what I can only call amazing grace."
--Anne Hulbert, Slate

"So serenely beautiful and written in a prose so gravely measured and thoughtful, that...

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

Marilynne Robinson

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

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

PRAISE

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

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

MARILYNNE ROBINSON is the author of the novel Gilead and three books of nonfiction, Mother Country, The Death of Adam, and When I Was a Child I Read Books. She teaches at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.
For all the advances in healthcare in recent decades, we are entering an age in which new pathogens are threatening humanity at an unprecedented rate. Over the past fifty years, more than three hundred infectious diseases have either emerged or reemerged, appearing in places where they’ve never before been seen.

The outbreak we find ourselves confronting today should hardly come as a surprise: years before the sudden arrival of COVID-19, 90 percent of epidemiologists endorsed the view that one of these pathogens would cause a deadly pandemic sometime in the next two generations. It might be Ebola, avian flu, a drug-resistant superbug, or something completely new, like the novel virus currently plaguing our world. While it was impossible to predict the emergence of SARS-CoV-2—and it remains impossible to predict which pathogen will cause the next global outbreak—by unraveling the stories of pandemics past we can begin to better understand our own future, and to prepare for what it holds in store.

In Pandemic, Sonia Shah interweaves history, original reportage, and personal narrative to explore the origins of epidemics, drawing parallels between cholera—one of history’s most deadly and disruptive pandemic-causing pathogens—and the new diseases that stalk humankind today. She tracks each stage of cholera’s dramatic journey, from its emergence in the South Asian hinterlands as a harmless microbe to its rapid dispersal across the ni...
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