My Seven Black Fathers
A Young Activist's Memoir of Race, Family, and the Mentors Who Made Him Whole

Will Jawando

A call to action and a narrative that runs counter to every racist stereotype that thwarts the lives of men of color today.

My Seven Black Fathers is a memoir like few others—both the story of Yemi, a boy with an African name who feels awkward and alone as he is shunted from school to school, and a powerful consideration of the role of race, masculinity, education, and family in the lives of Black boys in the United States today. Inspired by Will Jawando’s experience as a civil rights and education policy attorney, as well as by his involvement in My Brother’s Keeper, President Barack Obama’s hugely effective mentorship program for young men of color, this book explores the bonds that developed between the author and the host of father figures who formed him: Mr. Williams, the math teacher who taught him how to tie his first tie; Joseph, the stepfather who altered his understanding of family; Jay Fletcher, the openly gay colleague of his mother’s who introduced him to the theater; Mr. Holmes, the high school chorus director who taught him to use his voice and saw him through a crushing disappointment; and Deen Sanwoola, who helped him bridge the gap between his American upbringing and his Nigerian heritage—eventually leading to a reconciliation with his biological father.

Written out of a deep appreciation of the Black male experience, My Seven Black Fathers is an essential and affirmative new take on the meaning of race and family in America.

Will Jawando is an attorney, an activist, a community leader, and a councilman in Montgomery County, Maryland. Described as “the progressive leader we need” by the revered late civil rights activist and congressman John Lewis, Jawando has worked with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Sherrod Brown, and President Barack Obama, who picked him as the associate director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. His writing has appeared in The Washington Post, The Root, and BET.com, and his work has been featured in The New York Times and New York and on NPR, NBC News, and MTV. He regularly appears on CNN’s Don Lemon Tonight, CNN International’s Amanpour, and MSNBC.

PRAISE

“Will Jawando's account of mentorship, service, and healing lays waste to the racist stereotype of the absent Black father. By arguing that Black fathers are not just found in individual families, but are indeed the treasure of entire...
Two Nights in Lisbon
A Novel

Chris Pavone

"Sensationally good—timely, important, layered with ticking suspense, driven by an ominous drumbeat that accelerates like a panicked heart. My thriller of the year so far." —Lee Child

“I absolutely loved this unputdownable thriller. A masterly, sleek, and sophisticated novel about love, marriage, and truth. Read it!" —Lisa Scottoline

You think you know a person . . .

Ariel Price wakes up in Lisbon, alone. Her husband is gone—no warning, no note, not answering his phone. Something is wrong.

She starts with hotel security, then the police, then the American embassy, at each confronting questions she can’t fully answer: What exactly is John doing in Lisbon? Why would he drag her along on his business trip? Who would want to harm him? And why does Ariel know so little about her new—much younger—husband?

The clock is ticking. Ariel is increasingly frustrated and desperate, running out of time, and the one person in the world who can help is the one person she least wants to ask.

Tautly wound and expertly crafted, Two Nights in Lisbon is a riveting thriller about a woman under pressure, and how far she will go when everything is on the line. With sparkling prose and razor-sharp insights, bestselling author Chris Pavone delivers a stunning and sophisticated international thriller that will linger long after the surprising final page.

Chris Pavone is the author of The Paris Diversion, The Travelers, The Accident, and The Expats. His novels have appeared on the bestseller lists of The New York Times, USA Today, and The Wall Street Journal; have won the Edgar and Anthony awards; are in development for film and television; and have been translated into two dozen languages. Pavone grew up in Brooklyn, graduated from Cornell University, and worked as a book editor for nearly two decades. He lives in New York City and on the North Fork of Long Island with his family.

PRAISE

“There’s no such thing as a book you can’t put down, but this one was close.”
—Stephen King

“I defy anyone to read the first twenty pages of this book and not immediately turn the page.” —Phil Gigante

Chris Pavone

Two Nights in Lisbon
A Novel

MCD | MAY 2022
The Adventures of Herbie Cohen
World's Greatest Negotiator

Rich Cohen


Meet Herbie. The World's Greatest Negotiator, deal maker, and chance taker, Brooklyn-born Jewish Buddha, adviser to presidents and corporations, arms and hostage negotiator, lesson giver and justice seeker, author of the how-to classic You Can Negotiate Anything, and, of course, Rich Cohen's father.

This book is the story of a singular man. It follows Herbie from his youth, running around Brooklyn with pals Sandy Koufax, Larry King, Who Ha, and Ben the Worrier (his Bensonhurst gang "the Warriors"), to his days in the army, coaching basketball across Europe, to the years he spent crossing the country giving lectures, doing deals, and teasing out every trick in the book for getting by and for finding meaning in this strange and funny life.

The Adventures of Herbie Cohen is an ode to a remarkable man from his son and a treasure trove of homegrown wisdom and unbelievable antics. It is bildungsroman, a collection of stories, and the unfolding of a life coiled around Herbie's great insight and guiding principle: The secret of life is to care, but not that much.


PRAISE

Praise for Pee Wees

"A joy to read . . . [Cohen is] funny, smart, and charming." —Rick Kogan, Chicago Tribune
Liarmouth: A Feel-Bad Romance
A Novel

John Waters

A hilariously filthy tale of sex, crime, and family dysfunction from the brilliantly twisted mind of John Waters, the legendary filmmaker and bestselling author of Mr. Know-It-All.

Marsha Sprinkle: Suitcase thief. Scammer. Master of disguise. Dogs and children hate her. Her own family wants her dead. She’s smart, she’s desperate, she’s disturbed, and she’s on the run with a big chip on her shoulder. They call her “Liarmouth”—until one insane man makes her tell the truth.

John Waters’s first novel, Liarmouth, is a perfectly perverted “feel-bad romance,” and the reader will thrill to hop aboard this delirious road trip of riotous revenge.

John Waters is a writer, a film director, an actor, and a visual artist best known for his films, including Hairspray, Pink Flamingos, and Serial Mom. He is the author of the national bestsellers Role Models and Carsick and, most recently, Mr. Know-It-All. His spoken-word shows This Filthy World and A John Waters Christmas continue to be performed around the world. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

PRAISE

Praise for Mr. Know-It-All

“That John Waters is a national treasure is a surety. Period. Thank you and good night.” —Alan Cumming, The New York Times Book Review
Liberalism and Its Discontents

Francis Fukuyama

An urgent, incisive examination of the challenges to liberalism, by the bestselling author of The Origins of Political Order.

Classical liberalism is in a state of crisis. Developed in the wake of Europe’s wars over religion and nationalism, liberalism is a system for governing diverse societies, which is grounded in fundamental principles of equality and the rule of law. It emphasizes the rights of individuals to pursue their own forms of happiness free from encroachment by government.

It’s no secret that liberalism didn’t always live up to its own ideals. In America, many people were denied equality before the law. Who counted as full human beings worthy of universal rights was contested for centuries, and only recently has this circle expanded to include women, African Americans, LGBTQ+ people, and others. Conservatives complain that liberalism empties the common life of meaning. As the renowned political philosopher Francis Fukuyama shows in Liberalism and Its Discontents, the principles of liberalism have also, in recent decades, been pushed to new extremes by both the right and the left: neoliberals made a cult of economic freedom, and progressives focused on identity over human universality as central to their political vision. The result, Fukuyama argues, has been a fracturing of our civil society and an increasing peril to our democracy.

In this short, clear account of our current political discontents, Fukuyama offers an essential defense of a revitalized liberalism for the twenty-first century.

Francis Fukuyama is the Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. He has previously taught at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and at the George Mason University School of Public Policy. Fukuyama was a researcher at the RAND Corporation and served as the deputy director for the State Department’s policy planning staff. He is the author of Identity, Political Order and Political Decay, The Origins of Political Order, The End of History and the Last Man, Trust, and America at the Crossroads: Democracy, Power, and the Neoconservative Legacy. He lives with his wife in California.

PRAISE

Praise for Identity

"Smart, crisp . . . We need more thinkers as wise as [Fukuyama]." —Anand Giridharadas, The New York Times Book Review
The Last Days of Roger Federer
And Other Endings

Geoff Dyer

An extended meditation on late style and last works from "one of our greatest living critics" (Kathryn Schulz, New York).

When artists and athletes age, what happens to their work? Does it ripen or rot? Achieve a new serenity or succumb to an escalating torment? As our bodies decay, how do we keep on? In this beguiling meditation, Geoff Dyer sets his own encounter with late middle age against the last days and last works of writers, painters, footballers, musicians, and tennis stars who’ve mattered to him throughout his life. With a playful charm and penetrating intelligence, he recounts Friedrich Nietzsche’s breakdown in Turin, Bob Dylan’s reinventions of old songs, J. M. W. Turner’s paintings of abstracted light, John Coltrane’s cosmic melodies, Bjorn Borg’s defeats, and Beethoven’s final quartets—and considers the intensifications and modifications of experience that come when an ending is within sight.

Throughout, he stresses the accomplishments of uncouth geniuses who defied convention, and went on doing so even when their beautiful youths were over.

Ranging from Burning Man and the Doors to the nineteenth-century Alps and back, Dyer’s book on last things is also a book about how to go on living with art and beauty—and on the entrancing effect and sudden illumination that an Art Pepper solo or Annie Dillard reflection can engender in even the most jaded and ironic sensibilities. Praised by Steve Martin for his “hilarious tics” and by Tom Bissell as “perhaps the most bafflingly great prose writer at work in the Englis...

Geoff Dyer is the award-winning author of many books, including Out of Sheer Rage, Yoga for People Who Can’t Be Bothered to Do It, Zona, See/Saw, and the essay collection Otherwise Known as the Human Condition (winner of a National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism). A fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Dyer lives in Los Angeles, where he is a writer in residence at the University of Southern California. His books have been translated into twenty-four languages.

PRAISE

Praise for Geoff Dyer

“Geoff Dyer is an idiosyncratic master of both the image and the word.”
—Harper’s Magazine
Ma and Me
A Memoir

Putsata Reang

The memoir of a woman caught between her identity as a gay woman and the love and life debt she owes her mother.

When Putsata Reang was eleven months old, her family fled war-torn Cambodia, spending twenty-three days on an overcrowded navy vessel before finding sanctuary at an American naval base in the Philippines. Holding what appeared to be a lifeless baby in her arms, Ma resisted the captain's orders to throw her bundle overboard. Instead, on landing, Ma rushed her baby into the arms of American military nurses and doctors, who saved the child's life. "I had hope, just a little, you were still alive," Ma would tell Put in an oft-repeated story that became family legend.

Over the years, Put lived to please Ma and make her proud, hustling to repay her life debt by becoming the consummate good Cambodian daughter, working steadfastly by Ma's side in the berry fields each summer and eventually building a successful career as an award-winning journalist. But Put's adoration and efforts are no match for Ma's expectations. When she comes out to Ma in her twenties, it's just a phase. When she fails to bring home a Khmer boyfriend, it's because she's not trying hard enough. When, at the age of forty, Put tells Ma she is finally getting married—to a woman—it breaks their bond in two.

In her startling memoir, Reang explores the long legacy of inherited trauma and the crushing weight of cultural and filial duty. With rare clarity and lyric wisdom, Ma and Me is a stunning, deeply moving memoir about love, debt, and duty.

Putsata Reang is an author and a journalist whose writings have appeared in The New York Times, Politico, The Guardian, Ms, and The Seattle Times, among other publications. Born in Cambodia and raised in rural Oregon, Reang has lived and worked in more than a dozen countries, including Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Thailand. She is an alum of residencies at Hedgebrook, Kimmel Harding Nelson, and Mineral School, and she has received fellowships from the Alicia Patterson Foundation and Jack Straw Writers Program. She teaches memoir writing at the University of Washington's School of Professional & Continuing Education.
A Lynching at Port Jervis
Race and Reckoning in the Gilded Age

Philip Dray

An account of a lynching that took place in New York in 1892, forcing the North to reckon with its own racism.

On June 2, 1892, in the small, idyllic village of Port Jervis, New York, a young Black man named Robert Lewis was lynched by a violent mob. The twenty-eight-year-old victim had been accused of sexually assaulting Lena McMahon, the daughter of one of the town’s well-liked Irish American families. The incident was infamous at once, for it was seen as a portent that lynching, a Southern scourge, surging uncontrollably below the Mason-Dixon Line, was about to extend its tendrils northward. What factors prompted such a spasm of racial violence in a relatively prosperous, industrious upstate New York town, attracting the scrutiny of the Black journalist Ida B. Wells, just then beginning her courageous anti-lynching crusade? What meaning did the country assign to it? And what did the incident portend?

Today, it’s a terrible truth that the assault on the lives of Black Americans is neither a regional nor a temporary feature, but a national crisis. There are regular reports of a Black person killed by police, and Jim Crow has found new purpose in describing the harsh conditions of life for the formerly incarcerated, as well as in large-scale efforts to make voting inaccessible to Black people and other minority citizens. The “mobocratic spirit” that drove the 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol—a phrase Abraham Lincoln used as early as 1838 to describe vigilantism’s corrosive effect on America—frightfully insinuates...

Philip Dray is the author of several books of American cultural and political history, including At the Hands of Persons Unknown: The Lynching of Black America, which won the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; There Is Power in a Union: The Epic Story of Labor in America; and Capitol Men: The Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen. He is an adjunct professor in the Journalism and Design Department at Eugene Lang College. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

PRAISE

Praise for At the Hands of Persons Unknown: The Lynching of Black America

"In this history of lynching in the post-Reconstruction South—the most comprehensive of its kind—the author has written what amounts to a Black Book of American race relations." —The New Yorker
In 1979, as violence erupts all over Ireland, two outsiders travel to a small island off the west coast in search of their own answers, despite what it may cost the islanders.

It is the summer of 1979. An English painter travels to a small island off the west coast of Ireland. Mr. Lloyd takes the last leg by curragh, though boats with engines are available and he doesn't much like the sea. But he wants the authentic experience, to be changed by this place, to let its quiet and light fill him, give him room to create.

He doesn't know that a Frenchman follows close behind. Masson has visited the island for many years, studying their language. He is fiercely protective of their isolation; it is essential to exploring his theories of language preservation and identity.

But the people who live on this rock—three miles long and half a mile wide—have their own views on what is being recorded, what is being taken, and what ought to be given in return. Over the summer, each of them—from great-grandmother Bean Ui Fhloinn, to widowed Mairéad, to fifteen-year-old James, who is determined to avoid the life of a fisherman—will wrestle with their own values and desires. Meanwhile, all over Ireland, violence is erupting. And there is blame enough to go around.

An expertly woven portrait of character and place, a stirring investigation into yearning to find one's own way, and an unflinchingly political critique of the long, seething cost of imperialism, Audrey Magee’s *The Colony* is a novel that transports, that celebrates beauty and connection, and that reckons with the inevitable ruptures of...

**Audrey Magee** is the author of *The Undertaking*, a novel shortlisted for several prizes including the Women’s Prize for Fiction and France’s Prix du Premier Roman. She lives in Wicklow, Ireland.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *The Undertaking*

"Deeply impressive . . . Devastating but quite stunning." —Minneapolis Star-Tribune
This Body I Wore
A Memoir
Diana Goetsch

A captivating memoir of one woman's long journey to late transition, as the trans community emerges alongside her.

Long before Laverne Cox appeared on the cover of *Time*, in many places far removed from drag and ballroom culture, there were countless trans women living and dying as men, most of whom didn’t even know they were trans. Diana Goetsch’s *This Body I Wore* chronicles one woman’s long journey to coming out, a path that runs parallel to the emergence of the trans community over the past several decades.

“How can you spend your life face-to-face with an essential truth about yourself and still not see it?” This is a question often asked of trans people, and a question Goetsch addresses with the complexity of lived reality.

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“How can you spend your life face-to-face with an essential truth about yourself and still not see it?” This is a question often asked of trans people, and a question that Goetsch, an award-winning poet and essayist, addresses with the power and complexity of lived reality. She brings us into her childhood, her time as a dynamic and beloved teacher at Stuyvesant High School, and her plunge into the crossdressing s...

Diana Goetsch is an American poet and columnist. Her poems have appeared widely, in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Best American Poetry*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and in the collections *Nameless Boy*, *In America* and others. She also wrote the “Life in Transition” blog at *The American Scholar*. Her honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and The New School, where she served as the Grace Paley Teaching Fellow. For twenty-one years Goetsch was a New York City public school teacher, at Stuyvesant High School and at Passages Academy in the Bronx, where she ran a creative writing program for incarcerated teens.

PRAISE

“This Body I Wore is one of the most honest, unflappable, important books I’ve read in a long time. Diana Goetsch writes about her struggles and triumphs with family, love, and gender identity with lyricism and grace.”
The Shores of Bohemia
A Cape Cod Story, 1910-1960

John Taylor Williams

An intimate portrait of a legendary generation of artists, writers, activists, and dreamers who created a utopia on the shores of Cape Cod during the first half of the twentieth century.

Their names are iconic: Eugene O'Neill, Willem de Kooning, Josef and Annie Albers, Emma Goldman, Mary McCarthy, Edward Hopper, Walter Gropius—and the list goes on and on. Scoring the devastation that industrialization had wrought on the nation’s economy and culture in the early decades of the twentieth century, they gathered in the streets of Greenwich Village and on the beachfronts of Cape Cod. They began as progressives but soon turned to socialism, then communism. They founded theaters, periodicals, and art schools. They formed editorial boards that met in beach shacks and performed radical new plays in a shanty on the docks where they could see the ocean through cracks in the floor. They welcomed the tremendous wave of talent fleeing Europe in the 1930s. At the end of their era, as the postwar economy boomed, they took shelter in liberalism as the anti-capitalist movement fragmented into other causes in the 1960's.

John Taylor "Ike" Williams, who married into the Cape’s artistic world and has spent fifty years talking and walking its shores with these cultural and political revolutionaries, gives us the twisting lives and careers of a staggering generation of American thinkers and creators. The Shores of Bohemia records a great set of shifts in American culture, of ideas and arguments fueled by drink, infidelity, and competition that made for a fifty-year conversation among intellectual leaders and...

John Taylor "Ike" Williams is a founder of the literary agency Kneerim & Williams and a lawyer specializing in intellectual property and first amendment litigation. He is the coauthor of the widely used Perle, Williams & Fischer on Publishing Law. Williams has served as chair of the National Endowment for the Arts awards panel and as a Trustee of the Institute of Contemporary Art and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, among other positions. He lives in Cambridge and Wellfleet, Massachusetts.
The Letters of Thom Gunn
Thom Gunn; Selected and Edited by Michael Nott, August Kleinzahler, and Clive Wilmer

The first complete portrait of the private life, reflections, and relationships of a maverick figure in the history of British and American poetry.

"I write about love, I write about friendship," remarked Thom Gunn: "I find that they are absolutely intertwined." These core values permeate his correspondence with friends, family, lovers, and fellow poets, and shed new light on "one of the most singular and compelling poets in English during the past half-century" (The Times Literary Supplement).

The Letters of Thom Gunn, edited by August Kleinzahler, Michael Nott, and Clive Wilmer, reveals the evolution of Gunn's work and illuminates the fascinating life that informed his poems: his struggle to come to terms with his mother's suicide; his changing relationship with his life partner, Mike Kitay; the LSD trips that led to his celebrated collection Moly (1971); and the deaths of friends from AIDS that inspired the powerful, unsparing elegies of The Man with Night Sweats (1992).

Thom Gunn (1929–2004) was educated at Cambridge University and had his first collection of poems, Fighting Terms, published while he was still an undergraduate. He moved to Northern California in 1954 and taught in American universities until his death. His last collection was Boss Cupid (FSG, 2000).

August Kleinzahler is the author of fourteen books of poetry and three collections of essays. He lives in San Francisco and was a close friend and neighbor of Thom Gunn’s for more than twenty years.

Michael Nott is the author of Photopoetry, 1845–2015: A Critical History (2018). He was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, and a postdoctoral fellow at University College Cork.

Clive Wilmer, who first met Thom Gunn in 1964, is the...
Cult Classic
A Novel

Sloane Crosley

From a New York Times bestselling author and Thurber Prize finalist comes a twisted mystery on the metaphysics of modern love, memory, and mind control.

One night in Chinatown: Our heroine, Lola, is at a work reunion dinner with her former colleagues when she ducks out to buy cigarettes and runs into an ex-boyfriend. And then . . . another. And another. The city is suddenly awash with ghosts of heartbreaks past, and what would normally pass for a coincidence becomes something much stranger. The soon-to-be-married Lola must contend not only with the viability of her current relationship but with the fact that both her best friend and her former boss, a magazine editor turned guru, might have an unhealthy, ahem, investment in the outcome. Memories of the past swirl and converge in mystical ways both comic and eerie as Lola is forced to decide if she will buy into romance, and possibly into a weird startup-slash-cult.

Both suspenseful and delightfully funny, this new novel from Sloane Crosley combines the breathtaking twists and turns of a psychological thriller with the will-she-won't-she of romantic comedy. Cult Classic is an original: a masterfully crafted, surrealist meditation on love in an age when the past is ever at your fingertips and sanity is for sale.

Sloane Crosley is the author of the novel The Clasp and three essay collections, including Look Alive Out There and the New York Times bestsellers I Was Told There'd Be Cake (a Thurber Prize finalist) and How Did You Get This Number. A frequent contributor to The New York Times, she lives in Manhattan.

PRAISE

Praise for I Was Told There'd Be Cake

"[Crosley] is ironic, droll and self-pillorying and, like Sedaris, she manages to balance passages that are laugh-out-loud funny with others that are both touching and resonant. Above all Crosley manages, Midas-like, to take the minutiae of . . . all of our lives . . . and turn it into gold." —The Sea...
Fantastic Numbers and Where to Find Them
A Cosmic Quest from Zero to Infinity

Antonio Padilla

A fun, dazzling exploration of the strange numbers that illuminate the ultimate nature of reality.

For particularly brilliant theoretical physicists like James Clerk Maxwell, Paul Dirac, or Albert Einstein, the search for mathematical truths led to strange new understandings of the ultimate nature of reality. But what are these truths? What are the mysterious numbers that explain the universe?

In *Fantastic Numbers and Where to Find Them*, the leading theoretical physicist and YouTube star Tony Padilla takes us on an irreverent cosmic tour of nine of the most extraordinary numbers in physics, offering a startling picture of how the universe works. These strange numbers include Graham’s number, which is so large that if you thought about it in the wrong way, your head would collapse into a singularity; TREE(3), whose finite nature can never be definitively proved, because to do so would take so much time that the universe would experience a Poincaré Recurrence—resetting to precisely the state it currently holds, down to the arrangement of individual atoms; and $10^{-120}$, measuring the desperately unlikely balance of energy needed to allow the universe to exist for more than just a moment, to extend beyond the size of a single atom—in other words, the mystery of our unexpected universe.

Leading us down the rabbit hole to a deeper understanding of reality, Padilla explains how these unusual numbers are the key to understanding such mind-boggling phenomena as black holes, relativity, and the problem of the ...
The Facemaker
A Visionary Surgeon's Battle to Mend the Disfigured Soldiers of World War I

Lindsey Fitzharris

The author of The Butchering Art returns with a real-life wartime medical thriller.

Between 1914 and 1918, the First World War claimed the lives of millions of soldiers and left millions more wounded and disfigured. It was the worst conflict the world had ever seen, and its toxic legacy would determine the course of the twentieth century. Amid the brutality, however, some acted nobly and decently, striving to alleviate suffering even as the Allied and Central Powers continued to feed the war machine with human lives. Lindsey Fitzharris’s The Facemaker tells the extraordinary story of one such individual: the pioneering plastic surgeon Dr. Harold Gillies, who dedicated himself to restoring the broken and burned faces of the injured soldiers under his care.

Born in New Zealand, the preternaturally charming Gillies attended Oxford University, where he applied himself primarily to athletics, becoming one of Great Britain’s most celebrated golfers. Turning to medicine, he became a surgeon, and during the Great War he began to specialize in the nascent field of facial reconstruction. At a hospital outside Cambridge, he would oversee the treatment of thousands of soldiers whose damaged noses, cheeks, and jaws had left them outcasts in a society that was largely intolerant of physical difference. There, Gillies pioneered new techniques for grafting skin, building noses and lips, and reinventing his patients’ visible identities—techniques that would become the foundation of plastic surgery as i...

Lindsey Fitzharris is the author of The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister’s Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine, which won the PEN/E. O. Wilson Award for Literary Science Writing and has been translated into twenty languages. Her TV series The Curious Life and Death of... appeared on the Smithsonian Channel. She contributes regularly to The Wall Street Journal, Scientific American, and other publications, and holds a PhD in medical history from Oxford University. She lives in London.

PRAISE

Praise for The Butchering Art

“With gusto, Dr. Fitzharris takes us into the operating theaters of yore as Lister confronts the two nature of the killer that turned so many surgeons..."
Ways of Being
Animals, Plants, Machines: The Search for a Planetary Intelligence

James Bridle

A brilliant, searching exploration of different kinds of intelligence—plant, animal, human, artificial—and how they transform our understanding of humans’ place in the cosmos.

What does it mean to be intelligent? Is it something unique to humans, or shared with other beings—beings of flesh, wood, stone, and silicon? The last few years have seen rapid advances in "artificial" intelligence. But rather than being just a friend or helpmate, AI increasingly appears as something stranger than we ever imagined, an alien invention that threatens to decenter and supplant us. At the same time, we’re only just becoming aware of the other intelligences that have been with us all along, even if we’ve failed to recognize or acknowledge them. These others—the animals, plants, and natural systems that surround us—are slowly revealing their complexity, agency, and knowledge, just as the technologies we’ve built to sustain ourselves are threatening to cause their extinction, and ours. What can we learn from them, and how can we change ourselves, our technologies, our societies, and our politics, to live better and more equitably with one another and the nonhuman world?

The artist and radical thinker James Bridle draws on biology and physics, computation, literature, art, and philosophy to answer these unsettling questions. Startling and bold, Ways of Being explores the fascinating, strange, and multitudinous forms of knowing, doing, and being that are becoming evident in the present, and which are essential for our survival.

James Bridle is a writer and an artist. His writing on art, politics, culture, and technology has appeared in magazines and newspapers including The Guardian, The Observer, Wired, The Atlantic, the New Statesman, Frieze, Domus, and Icon. New Dark Age, his book about technology, knowledge, and the end of the future, was published in 2018 and is being translated into a dozen languages. In 2019, he wrote and presented New Ways of Seeing, a four-part series for BBC Radio 4. His artworks have been commissioned by galleries and institutions, including the V&A, Whitechapel, Barbican, Hayward, and Serpentine, and they have been exhibited worldwide and on the internet.
The Kingdom of Sand
A Novel

Andrew Holleran

Andrew Holleran’s unique literary voice is on full display in this poignant story of lust, dread, and desire—the first novel in thirteen years from one of the most acclaimed gay authors of our time.

The Kingdom of Sand features a nameless narrator who has survived the death of his friends to AIDS and the loss of his parents to old age and tragedy. Now he must witness the slow demise of a friend just a shade older than he is. Semi-anonymous sexual encounters, gallows humor, and classic films are his tools for staving off the dying of the light. In prose that's in turn mordantly funny and hauntingly elegiac, Andrew Holleran takes the reader from a video porn shop off Route 301 to the memory of parties in Washington, DC, filled with handsome young men, to the lonely facades of rural Florida.

Holleran’s groundbreaking first novel, Dancer from the Dance, is widely regarded as a classic work of gay literature. His following works have established him as one of the great writers of our time. The Kingdom of Sand is a book that will burnish his considerable reputation: a reverie to sex but also a stunningly honest exploration of loneliness and the endless need for human connection, especially as we count down our days.

Andrew Holleran’s first novel, Dancer from the Dance, was published in 1978 to great critical acclaim and is now regarded as a classic. He is also the author of Nights in Aruba; Ground Zero (reissued as Chronicles of a Plague); The Beauty of Men; In September, the Light Changes; and Grief.

PRAISE

Praise for Dancer from the Dance


“Beautifully written, evocative, and hilarious . . . Holleran has the uncanny ability to combine emotional abandon and high comedy.” —New Republic

“Superb . . . Erotic heat percolates through thes...
In the wake of Brexit, Ian Morris chronicles the eight-thousand-year history of Britain's relationship to Europe as it has changed in the context of a globalizing world.

When Britain voted to leave the European Union in 2016, the 48 percent who wanted to stay and the 52 percent who wanted to go each accused the other of stupidity, fraud, and treason. In reality, the Brexit debate merely reran a script written eight thousand years earlier, when the rising seas physically separated the British Isles from the European continent. Ever since, geography has been destiny—yet it is humans who get to decide what that destiny means.

Ian Morris, the critically acclaimed author of *Why the West Rules—for Now*, describes how technology and organization have steadily enlarged Britain's arena, and how its people have tried to turn this to their advantage. For the first seventy-five hundred years, the British were never more than bit players at the western edge of a European stage, struggling to find a role among bigger, richer, and more sophisticated continental rivals. By 1500 CE, however, new kinds of ships and governments had turned the European stage into an Atlantic one; with the English Channel now functioning as a barrier, England transformed the British Isles into a United Kingdom that created a worldwide empire. Since 1900, however, thanks to rapid globalization, Britain has been overshadowed by American, European, and—increasingly—Chinese actors. But in trying to find its place in a global economy, Britain has been looking in all the wrong places. The eight-thousand-year sto...

Ian Morris is the Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and Professor in History at Stanford University and the author of the critically acclaimed *Why the West Rules—for Now*. He has published many scholarly books and has directed excavations in Greece and Italy. He lives in the Santa Cruz Mountains in California.

Praise for *War! What Is It Good For?*

"With this volume and his previous *Why the West Rules—for Now*, Ian Morris has established himself as a leader in making big history interesting and understandable." —Jared Diamond, author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and *Collapse*
Degrade and Destroy
The Inside Story of the War Against the Islamic State, from Barack Obama to Donald Trump
Michael R. Gordon

An essential account of the struggle against ISIS—and of how Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden have waged war.

In 2014, President Obama overcame his long-standing aversion to large-scale military action in the Middle East and took the United States to war against the Islamic State. Assembling a coalition of regional and European allies, the US military began a massive bombing campaign and returned its advisers to Iraq. Today, ISIS remains gravely diminished. But is the war really over?

In Degrade and Destroy, Michael R. Gordon, the bestselling author and Wall Street Journal national security correspondent, reveals the debates, diplomacy, and military strategy that have shaped the struggle against the Islamic State. With extraordinary access to the White House, the intelligence community, and top generals, Gordon offers a riveting narrative like no other. We see Hillary Clinton plotting to arm the Syrian rebels over the president’s objections; her Pentagon colleagues attempting to plan a war even as Russia, Turkey, and Gulf allies complicate or frustrate every move; and Kurdish fighters battling house to house. Gordon also offers the most detailed narrative we have of how President Trump waged war—giving his generals greater freedom to make their own decisions while practicing diplomacy in a haphazard and sometimes self-sabotaging manner.

Degrade and Destroy is the definitive account of a major US military conflict that has not been recognized as such, and the tentative victory that was achieved. With the region...


PRAISE

Praise for The Endgame

“Likely to stand for decades as the definitive account of the Iraq war . . . [A] tour de force of contemporary history . . . The best tribute we can pay to the...
Girls They Write Songs About
A Novel

Carlene Bauer

*Girls They Write Songs About* is a thrumming, searching novel about the friendships that shape us more than any love affair.

We moved to New York to want, undisturbed and unchecked. And what did we want?

New York, 1997. As the city’s gritty edges are being smoothed into something safer and shinier, two girls meet at a music magazine. Rose—brash and self-possessed—is a staff writer. Charlotte—hesitant, bookish—is an editor. First wary, then slowly admiring, they recognize in each other an insatiable and previously unmatched ambition. Soon they’re inseparable, falling into the kind of friendship that makes you better, makes every day an adventure, and makes you believe that you will be extraordinary.

Together, Charlotte and Rose find love and lose it; they hit their strides and stumble; they make choices and live past them. But then the steady beats in their sisterhood fall out of sync. They have seen each other through so much—marriage, motherhood, divorce, career glories and catastrophes, a million small but necessary choices—what will it mean to give up their dreaming together? That the friendship that once made them sing out shuts them down? And even if they can reconcile themselves to the lives they’re living, can they survive the ones they didn’t?

As smart and comic as it is gloriously exuberant, Carlene Bauer’s *Girls They Write Songs About* takes a timeless story and turns it into a pulsing, wrecking, clear-eyed tale of two women reckoning with the lives they’ve chosen and the countless ways they—and all the women they’ve ...


PRAISE

“*Girls They Write Songs About* is the instant feminist classic our generation has been waiting for—a profound and perfect book about girls raised to believe they can be anything but who as women learn the truth: every choice requires sacrifice, and freedom isn’t free. Carlene Bauer—a Kate Chopin for the twenty-first century—brings a fierce...
Grand Hotel Europa
A Novel

Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer;
Translated from the Dutch by Michele Hutchison

A sweeping, atmospheric novel about European identity, centered on a hotel that encapsulates the continent's manifold contradictions.

The love of my life lives in my past. This, despite the alliteration, is a terrible sentence to write. I don't want to come to the conclusion that, as is the case for the hotel where I am staying and the continent after which it is named, the best is behind me and that I have little more to expect from the future.

A writer takes residence in the stately but decaying Grand Hotel Europa in order to contemplate where things went wrong with Cleo—an art historian and the love of his life. His moping takes him all the way back to when they first met in Genoa, his wanton visits to her in Venice, and their dulcet trips to Malta, Palmaria, Portovenere, and the Cinque Terre in their thrilling search for the last painting made by Caravaggio. Meanwhile, he becomes fascinated by the mysteries of the Grand Hotel Europa and the memorably eccentric characters who inhabit it, all of whom seem to come from a more elegant time. All the while, globalization is making its unmistakable claim on even this place, where a sense of lost glory hangs sulkily in the air.

Grand Hotel Europa is Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer’s masterly novel of the old continent, where there's so much history that there hardly seems space left for a future. Cinematic, lyrical, and brimming with humor, this is a novel about European identity, which like the staff and residents of the Grand Hotel Europa may have already seen its best days.

Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer is an award-winning Dutch writer who has more than forty titles to his name, including poetry, novels, short stories, plays, and essays. His novel La Superba won the Libris Literature Prize, which is awarded every five years by the Royal Academy of Belgium. The book was a bestseller and has been published in several countries, including the United States, Germany, and Italy. Pfeijffer studied classics at Leiden University, where he earned his PhD and worked as a researcher and teacher of Ancient Greek until 2004. In 2008, he moved to the northern Italian port city of Genoa, where he has lived and worked ever since.

Michele Hutchison is a literary translator from Dutch and French into English. In 2020, she won the Vondel Tra...
A Trail of Crab Tracks
A Novel

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

The award-winning author Patrice Nganang chronicles the fight for Cameroonian independence through the story of a father’s love for his family and his land and of the long-silenced secrets of his former life.

For the first time, Nithap flies across the world to visit his son, Tanou, in the United States. After countless staticky phone calls and transatlantic silences, he has agreed to leave Bangwa, in western Cameroon: the city where he has always lived, where he became a doctor and, despite himself, a rebel, where he fell in love, and where his children were born. When illness extends his stay, his son finds an opportunity to unravel the history of the mysterious man who raised him, following the trail of crab tracks to discover the truth of his father and his country.

At last, Nithap’s throat clears and his voice rises, and he drifts back in time to tell his son the story that is burned into his memory and into the land he left behind. He speaks about the civil war that tore Cameroon apart, the great men who lived and died, about his soldiers, his martyrs, and his great loves. As the tale unfolds, Tanou listens to his father tell the history of his family, and the prayer of the bloodsoaked land.

From New York to Bamileke country, voices mingle, the borders of time dissolve, and generations merge. In A Trail of Crab Tracks, the third part of Patrice Nganang’s magisterial trilogy, the award-winning author creates an epic of war, inheritance, and desire, and the relentless, essential struggle for freedom.

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) and When the Plums Are Ripe (FSG, 2019). He teaches comparative literature at Stony Brook University.

Amy B. Reid is an award-winning translator who has worked with Patrice Nganang on multiple projects. In addition to A Trail of Crab Tracks, she translated Nganang’s novels Dog Days, Mount Pleasant, and When the Plums Are Ripe. Her other translations include Queen Pokou and Far from My Father, both by Véronique Tadjo. She is a professor of French and Gender Studies at New College of Florida.
Other Names for Love
A Novel

Taymour Soomro

A charged, hypnotic debut novel about a boy’s life-changing summer in rural Pakistan: a story of fathers, sons, and the consequences of desire.

At age sixteen, Fahad hopes to spend the summer with his mother in London. His father, Rafik, has other plans: hauling his son to Abad, the family’s rural estate in upcountry, Pakistan. Rafik wants to toughen up his sensitive boy, to teach him about power, duty, family—to make him a man. He enlists Ali, a local teenager, in this project, hoping his presence will prove instructive.

Instead, over the course of one hot, indolent season, attraction blooms between the two boys, and Fahad finds himself seduced by the wildness of the land and its inhabitants: the people, who revere and revile his father in turn; cousin Mousey, who lives alone with a man he calls manager; and, most of all, Ali, who threatens to unearth all that is hidden.

Decades later, Fahad is living abroad when he receives a call from his mother summoning him home. His return will force him to face the past. Taymour Soomro’s *Other Names for Love* is a tale of masculinity, inheritance, and desire set against the backdrop of a country’s troubled history, told with uncommon urgency and beauty.

**Taymour Soomro** is a British Pakistani writer. He studied law at Cambridge University and Stanford Law School. He has worked as a corporate solicitor in London and Milan, a lecturer at a university in Karachi, an agricultural estate manager in rural Sindh and a publicist for a luxury fashion brand in London. His short fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The Southern Review*. He has published a textbook on law with Oxford University Press, has written extensively for the Pakistani news media, and is the co-editor, with Deepa Anappara, of a creative writing handbook on fiction, race and culture forthcoming in 2023.
Total
Stories

Rebecca Miller returns to short fiction for the first time since her collection of stories, *Personal Velocity*, with the arresting, darkly prescient *Total*.

But to get back to my subject. Of the little moment when I went the wrong way, from promising young woman to flotsam, to extraneousness—like the strands that rub off a ribbon and that you cut away.

Each of the seven stories in *Total* is a full world, painted with vivid strokes, one whose people and questions stay with the reader long after the story has ended and the book has been closed. Joad, one of the first characters we meet, finds onionskin pages crammed in a locked desk drawer while refurbishing a Hudson Valley farmhouse with her husband; the terrifying words on the fragile paper haunt Joad and their home, the woman who wrote them looming over them like a malevolent spirit. Innate in her words is the power of the act of creation and the ability of language to link people across time.

Rebecca Miller, the author of *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee* and *Jacob's Folly*, returns to short fiction for the first time since her beloved collection of stories, *Personal Velocity*. The author and award-winning filmmaker has “the soaring eye of the epicist and the sly instinct of the satirist” (*The New Yorker*), and her talents are on full display in *Total*. From Dublin to Martha's Vineyard, from the comforting mundanities of motherhood to a technologically infected near future that mirrors our present with dark prescience, each voice and life captured in this collection is utterly unforgettable.

Rebecca Miller is the author of the short-story collection *Personal Velocity*, her feature-film adaptation of which won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance; *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee* (FSG, 2008), which she also adapted for the screen; and, most recently, *Jacob's Folly* (FSG, 2013). Her other films include *Angela*, *The Ballad of Jack and Rose*, and *Maggie’s Plan*. She lives in New York and Ireland with her family.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Jacob's Folly*

The Pink Hotel
A Novel

Liska Jacobs

Confined to an opulent Beverly Hills hotel during a raging wildfire, a young couple is caught in the escalating tension between the wealthy guests and the staff.

Newlyweds Keith and Kit Collins can hardly believe their luck when the general manager of the iconic, opulent Pink Hotel invites them to come for a luxurious stay as a bid to hire Keith. Kit loves their small-town life, but Keith has always wanted more, and the glittering, lily-scented lobby makes him feel right at home.

Soon after their arrival, wildfires sweep through the surrounding mountains and Los Angeles becomes a pressure cooker, with riots breaking out across the city amid rolling blackouts. The Pink Hotel closes its doors to "outsiders," and Keith and Kit find themselves confined with an anxious, disgruntled staff and a growing roster of eccentric, ultra-wealthy, dangerously idle guests who flock to the hotel for sanctuary, company, and entertainment.

A blistering, dark social satire, The Pink Hotel exposes a tenuous class system within its walls, full of insurmountable expectations and unspoken resentments, which deteriorate as the city burns. In her barbed, provocative new novel, Liska Jacobs explores the corrosive nature of greed and interrogates the notion of true love, while hurling readers toward certain disaster.

Liska Jacobs is the author of the novels Catalina and The Worst Kind of Want. She holds an MFA from the University of California, Riverside, and lives in Los Angeles.

PRAISE

"Heady and dark and dangerous, The Pink Hotel is an intoxicating binge of a book. Liska Jacobs's stunning indictment of a society teetering toward apocalypse is one you won't easily forget." —Janelle Brown, author of Pretty Things
As she builds her own life anew, an Italian journalist embarks on an all-consuming search for the true story of the mysterious princess H. H. Amrit Kaur of Mandi—her disappearance from India, her persecution by the Nazis, and her pursuit of freedom at any cost.

On a sweltering summer day in 2007, having just lost her brother to illness, Livia Manera Sambuy finds herself standing before a 1924 photograph of a stunningly elegant Indian princess at a museum in Mumbai. What’s written in the caption will change her life forever. This gorgeous Punjabi princess, it’s said, sold her jewels in occupied Paris to save Jewish lives, only to be arrested by the Gestapo and sent to a concentration camp, where she died within a year.

Could it be true? And if so, how could such a sensational story have gone unnoticed? Instinctively, almost viscerally, Manera becomes entangled in the mystery, losing herself in the history of the British Raj, in the diamonds and sapphires of the twentieth-century aristocracy, in the Circus Balls and Jubilees, and in the lives of extraordinary figures such as the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala, the Jewish banker Albert Kahn, and the Russian explorer Nicholas Roerich—all in a decades-long pursuit of the elusive Amrit Kaur.

When she rendezvous with the princess’s eighty-year-old daughter, Manera’s search takes on a new dimension as she strives to reconnect an orphan with the mother who abandoned her in 1933, leaving behind her two children, her raja husband, and a legacy of activism in India’s women’s civil rights movement.

In Search of Amrit Kaur is an engrossing detective story, a kaleidoscopic history lesson, and a moving portrait of wo...

Livia Manera Sambuy is an Italian literary journalist and a staff writer at the leading Italian daily newspaper Corriere della Sera. She is the writer of two documentary films on Philip Roth and the author of Non scrivere di me. She lives between Paris and Tuscany.

Todd Portnowitz is the translator of The Greatest Invention; Long Live Latin; and Go Tell It to the Emperor: The Selected Poems of Pierluigi Cappello, for which he was
Barrett Brown went to prison for four years for leaking intelligence documents. He was released to Trump’s America. This is his story.

After a series of escapades both online and off that brought him in and out of 4chan forums, the halls of power, heroin, and federal prison, Barrett Brown is a free man. Brown was arrested for his part in an attempt to catalog, interpret, and disseminate top-secret documents exposed in a security lapse by the intelligence contractor Stratfor in 2011. An influential journalist and active in the hacktivist collective Anonymous, Brown recounts exploits from a life shaped by an often self-destructive drive to speak truth to power. With inimitable wit and style, palpable anger and conviction, Brown exposes the incompetence and injustices that plague media and politics, reflects on the successes and failures of the transparency movement, and shows the way forward in harnessing digital communication tools for collective action.

But My Glorious Defeats is more than just the tale of the clever and hilarious Brown; it’s also a rigorously researched dissection of our decaying institutions, and of human nature itself. As Brown makes clear, institutions are made of people—people with personal ambitions and personal vices—and it is people, just like him, just like us, who hold power. As optimistic as it is heartbreaking, My Glorious Defeats is an entertaining and illuminating manual for insurgency in the information age.

Bold and combative, irreverent and erudite, My Glorious Defeats is both memoir and manifesto—a roa...

Barrett Brown is an award-winning journalist who has written for Vanity Fair, The Huffington Post, The Daily Beast, The Guardian, VICE, New York, The A.V. Club, and The Intercept. In 2016 he won the National Magazine Award for Columns and Commentary. He was released from federal prison in November 2016 after serving four years. He lives in Dallas, Texas, with his PlayStation 4, vapor nicotine inhaler, and other ultramodern luxury goods.
Reward System
Stories

Jem Calder

Audacious fictions for a generation wondering: What now?

Julia has landed a fresh start at an up-and-coming city restaurant. "Imagine that," says her mother. "I'm imagining."

Her ex-boyfriend Nick is flirting with sobriety and nobody else. Did you know that adults his age are more likely to live with their parents than with a romantic partner?

Life should have started to take shape by now—but instead we're trying on new versions of ourselves, swiping left and right, searching for a good answer to the question "What do you do?"

Jem Calder's Reward System is a set of ultra-contemporary and electrifyingly fresh fictions about a generation on the cusp, enmeshed in Zooms and lockdowns, loneliness and love.

Jem Calder was born in Cambridge, and lives and works in London. His first two completed stories were published in The Stinging Fly and Granta.
Where Dogs Bark with Their Tails
A Novel
Estelle-Sarah Bulle; Translated from the French by Julia Grawemeyer

The tales of one family and their larger-than-many-lives sister, Antoine, weaves together the vibrant, epic story of Guadaloupe and its diaspora.

A young woman born in the suburbs of Paris—whose skin color and memories of occasional childhood visits alone connect her to her father’s native Guadeloupe—yearns to understand her lineage and her métis identity. Upon her request, her old aunt Antoine, the eccentric and indomitable family matriarch, unveils the history of the Ezechiel clan, and with it, that of the island over the course of the twentieth century.

In a spirited account, punctuated by interludes from other family members, Antoine tells her life story: a childhood spent deep in the countryside; an ill-fated romance between her upper-class mother and farmer father; the splendors and slums of the capital city, Pointe-à-Pitre; the eruption of modernity; the rifts in a deeply hierarchical society under colonial rule—and the reasons she left it all behind.

Through the unforgettable story of the Ezechiel clan, a richly textured account of the Guadeloupean diaspora emerges, spanning decades and crossing the Atlantic. With lush language and vivid storytelling, Estelle-Sarah Bulle’s Where Dogs Bark with Their Tails examines the legacies of capitalism and colonialism, the loss of a beloved mother, what it means to be caught between worlds, and how we might reconcile past, present, and future.

Estelle-Sarah Bulle was born in Créteil, France, in 1974 to a West Indian father and a Belgian mother. She studied in Paris and Lyon, after which she worked for consulting firms and several cultural institutions. She now resides in Val-d’Oise, France.

Julia Grawemeyer is a literary translator whose previous work includes Save the Planet by Corine Sombrun and Almir Narayamoga Suruis. She has taught French and creative writing at the university level and currently teaches French at a middle school in Memphis, Tennessee.
The Tablet of Destinies

Roberto Calasso; Translated from the Italian by Tim Parks

Roberto Calasso, "a literary institution of one" (The Paris Review), tells the story of the eternal life of Utnapishtim, the savior of man, in the eleventh part of his great literary project.

In that far-off time the gods had grown tired of humans, who were making too much noise, disturbing their sleep, and they decided to send a Flood to wipe them out. But one of them, Ea, a god of fresh underground water, didn’t agree and advised one of his favorites, Utnapishtim, to build a quadrangular boat to house humans and animals. So Utnapishtim saved living creatures from the Flood.

The lord of the gods, Enlil, rather than punishing Utnapishtim for his disobedience, granted him endless life on the island of Dilmun. The name Utnapishtim means “he has found life.”

Around three thousand years later, Sindbad the Sailor is shipwrecked and arrives on the island of Dilmun. Utnapishtim welcomes him into his tent and the two begin to talk. What Utnapishtim tells him is the subject matter of this book, the eleventh part of Roberto Calasso’s work in progress that began in 1983 with The Ruin of Kasch. Unlike the previous ten installments, The Tablet of the Destinies features no sources or references at all, but is a narrative, from beginning to end.

Roberto Calasso (1941–2021) was born in Florence and lived in Milan. Begun in 1983 with The Ruin of Kasch, his landmark series now comprises The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony, Ka, K., Tiepolo Pink, La Folie Baudelaire, Ardor, The Celestial Hunter, The Unnamable Present, and The Book of All Books. Calasso also wrote the novel The Impure Fool and eight books of essays, the first three of which have been published in English: The Art of the Publisher, The Forty-Nine Steps, Literature and the Gods, The Madness That Comes from the Nymphs, One Hundred Letters to an Unknown Reader, The Hieroglyphs of Sir Thomas Browne, The Rule of the Good Neighbor, or, How to Find an Order for Your Books, and American Allucinations. He was the publisher of Adelphi Ed.

PRAISE

Praise for The Celestial Hunter

"Calasso is elliptical, allusive and dazzlingly eclectic ... The Celestial Hunter is ‘an initiation through the book’, speculative but capable of changing how you see things." —Dominic Green, The Spectator
A Divine Language
Learning Algebra, Geometry, and Calculus at the Edge of Old Age

Alec Wilkinson

A spirited, metaphysical exploration into math's deepest mysteries and conundrums at the crux of middle age.

Decades after struggling to understand math as a boy, Alec Wilkinson decides to embark on a journey to learn it as a middle-aged man. What begins as a personal challenge—and it's challenging—soon transforms into something greater than a belabored effort to learn math. Despite his incompetence, Wilkinson encounters a universe of unexpected mysteries in his pursuit of mathematical knowledge and quickly becomes fascinated; soon, his exercise in personal growth (and torture) morphs into an intellectually expansive exploration.

In A Divine Language, Wilkinson, a contributor to The New Yorker for over forty years, journeys into the heart of the divine aspect of mathematics—its mysteries, challenges, and revelations—since antiquity. As he submits himself to the lure of deep mathematics, he takes the reader through his investigations into the subject's big questions—number theory and the creation of numbers, the debate over math's human or otherworldly origins, problems and equations that remain unsolved after centuries, the conundrum of prime numbers. Writing with warm humor and sharp observation as he traverses practical math’s endless frustrations and rewards, Wilkinson provides an awe-inspiring account of an adventure from a land of strange sights. Part memoir, part metaphysical travel book, and part journey in self-improvement, A Divine Language is one man’s second attempt at understanding the numbers in f...

Alec Wilkinson is the author of many books, including The Ice Balloon, The Protest Singer, My Mentor, Mr. Apology, and The Happiest Man in the World. A contributor to The New Yorker since 1980, he is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, and a Lyndhurst Prize. He lives in New York City.

PRAISE

Praise for Alec Wilkinson

“Alec Wilkinson is a spare, clear, and lucid writer who works in stylistic simplicity with material that is not simple at all.” —Peter Matthiessen, author of Shadow Country
Pictures
A Memoir
Janet Malcolm; With an introduction by Ian Frazier

A poignant, revealing memoir by the legendary, award-winning New Yorker staff writer Janet Malcolm—featuring never-before-published material about her extraordinary life.

For decades, Janet Malcolm’s books and dispatches for The New Yorker and The New York Review of Books poked and prodded at reportorial and biographical convention, gesturing toward the artifice that underpins both public and private selves. In Pictures, she turned her gimlet eye on her own life—a task demanding a writer just as peerlessly skillful as she was widely known to be.

Pictures, then, is not the story of a life but is an event on its own terms, an encounter with identity and family photographs as poignant and original as anything since Roland Barthes’s Camera Lucida. Malcolm looked beyond the content of the image and the easy seductions of self-recognition, constructing a memoir from memories that pose questions of their own. Pictures begins with the image of a morose young girl on a train, leaving Prague at the age of five in 1939. From there we follow her to the Czech enclave of Yorkville in Manhattan, where her father, a psychiatrist and neurologist, and her mother, an attorney from a bourgeois family, traded their bohemian, Dada-inflected lives for the ambitions of middle-class America. From her early, fitful loves, to evenings at the old Metropolitan Opera House, to her fascination with what it might mean to be a “bad girl,” Malcolm assembles a composite portrait of a New York childhood, one that never escaped the tug of Europe and the mysteries of fate and family. Later, Pictures delves i...

Janet Malcolm (1934–2021) was the author of many books, including In the Freud Archives; The Journalist and the Murderer; Two Lives: Alice and Gertrude, which won the 2008 PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography; and Forty-One False Starts, which was a finalist for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. She was a frequent contributor to The New Yorker and The New York Review of Books. In 2017, Malcolm received the Gold Medal for Belles Lettres and Criticism from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

PRAISE

Praise for Janet Malcolm

"America’s finest nonfiction writer." —Alex Clark, The Guardian

"There are few writers who command the respect of their fellows more than..."
Meet Us by the Roaring Sea
A Novel

Akil Kumarasamy


In the near future, a young computer programmer finds her mother’s body sprawled on the kitchen floor in Queens. Her unusual journey through grief begins when she decides to translate an old Tamil manuscript about a group of female medical students, surviving a drought at the edge of war, as they endeavor to save their town—and the world—through a vision of radical compassion. In the process, her story and the manuscript start to become entangled.

Living in a world powered by artificially intelligent systems—autonomous cars, carbon-footprint monitoring—where entertainment has merged with the military in the form of a popular reality TV show, she must question her own moral compass and ideas about goodness when she’s faced with the arrival of a houseless veteran, a strange AI project at work, and the return of a childhood friend she hasn’t spoken to in almost a decade. How involved are we in the suffering of others? What does real compassion look like? How do you make a better world?

Written in vivid and pulsating prose, alternating between the protagonist’s present life and passages of the manuscript in translation, Akil Kumarasamy’s The Island is a remarkable, genre-bending exploration of memory, war, technology, friendship, love, consciousness, and the challenges of caring for others in an age where we are so often lost in our own minds.

Akil Kumarasamy is the author of the story collection Half Gods, which was named a New York Times Editors’ Choice, was awarded the Bard Fiction Prize and the Story Prize Spotlight Award, and was a finalist for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction. Her work has appeared in Harper’s Magazine, American Short Fiction, Boston Review, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from the University of East Anglia, the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, Yaddo, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. She is an assistant professor at the Rutgers-Newark MFA program.

PRAISE

Praise for Half Gods

“This is the best thing ever in the world of books.” —M.I.A.

“The prose itself is a marvel . . . Intimate gestures arrive like shafts of light.
The story of the model, actress, and American icon Edie Sedgwick is told by her sister with empathy, insight, and firsthand observations of her meteoric life.

As It Turns Out is a family story. Alice Wohl is writing to her brother Bobby, who died in a motorcycle accident in 1965, just before their sister Edie Sedgwick met Andy Warhol. After suddenly seeing Edie’s image in a clip from Andy's extraordinary film *Outer and Inner Space*, Wohl was moved to put her inner dialogue with Bobby on the page in an attempt to reconstruct Edie’s life and figure out what made Edie and Andy such iconic figures in American culture and in our collective imagination. What was it about him that enabled him to anticipate so much of contemporary culture? What was it about her that drew attention wherever she went? Who exactly was she, that she fascinated Warhol and captured the imagination of a generation?

Wohl tells the story as only a sister could, from their childhood on a California ranch and the beginnings of Edie’s lifelong troubles in the world of their parents to her life and relationship with Andy within the silver walls of the Factory, in the fashionable arenas of New York, and as projected in the various critically acclaimed films he made with her. As Wohl seeks to understand the conjunction of Edie and Andy, she writes with a keen critical eye and careful reflection about their enduring impact.

As It Turns Out is a meditation addressed to her brother about their sister, about the girl behind the magnetic image, and about the culture that she and Warhol introduced.

Alice Sedgwick Wohl is a scholar and translator. Her translations include *The Life of Michelangelo* by Ascanio Condivi, *The Lives of the Modern Painters, Sculptors and Architects* by Giovan Pietro Bellori, and *On Antique Painting* by Francisco de Hollanda.

"As It Turns Out is a revelation. Alice Wohl reveals herself to be a remarkably talented writer who, with finely turned sentences and lyric passages, paints an unforgettable picture of the strange and singular childhood that produced both herself and her sister Edie Sedgwick . . . Wohl shrewdly analyses the unlikely but perfect partnershi..."
From the award-winning author Alan Heathcock comes an American myth of the future: a vision of civil war, spectacle, and disaster of biblical proportions.

In a future America ravaged by natural disaster, pandemic, and political unrest, a fundamentalist religious faction emerges. As the Chosen gain power, enticing civilians with bread and circuses, a civil war breaks out between its members and the US government.

But Mazzy Goodwin, a young soldier, only wants to find her little sister, Ava Lynn. One day, she wakes in a bomb crater to find wings sprouting from her back. Has she died? Been gifted wings by God? Undergone a military experiment? The world sees a miracle. But Mazzy is coaxed into seeing it as an opportunity: to become the angel-like figurehead of the revolution, in return for being reunited with her sister. Her journey leads her to New Los Angeles, where the Chosen have set up the headquarters for their propaganda machine—right in the ruins of Hollywood. Aided by friends old and new, she must navigate a web of deceit while staying true to herself.

Told in sharp, haunting prose, as cinematic as it is precise, Alan Heathcock’s 40 is a dizzyingly fantastical novel about the dangers of blind faith, the temptation of spectacle, and the love of family. In a tale by turns mythic and tragic, one heroine must come to terms with the consequences of her decisions—and face the challenges of building a new world.


PRAISE

Praise for Volt

“Alan Heathcock doesn’t so much write stories as fire them like bullets—they speed into the reader’s consciousness and zip toward an impact that feels both stunning and irreversible. These are stories that arrive fast, hit hard, and linger.” —Keith Lee Morris, author of The Dart League King
Democracy's Data
The Hidden Stories in the U.S. Census and How to Read Them
Dan Bouk

A lesson in reading between the lines of the U.S. census to uncover the stories behind the data.

The census isn’t just a data-collection process; it’s a ritual, and a tool, of American democracy. Behind every neat grid of numbers is a collage of messy, human stories—you just have to know how to read them.

In Democracy’s Data, the data historian Dan Bouk examines the 1940 U.S. census, uncovering what those numbers both condense and cleverly abstract: a universe of meaning and uncertainty, of cultural negotiation and political struggle. He introduces us to the men and women employed as census takers, bringing us with them as they go door to door, recording the lives of their neighbors. He takes us into the makeshift halls of the Census Bureau, where hundreds of civil servants, not to mention machines, labored with pencil and paper to divide and conquer the nation’s data. And he uses these little points to paint bigger pictures, such as of the ruling hand of white supremacy, the place of queer people in straight systems, and the struggle of ordinary people to be seen by the state as they see themselves.

The 1940 census is a crucial entry in American history, a controversial dataset that enabled the creation of New Deal-era social programs, but that also, with the advent of World War Two, would be weaponized against many of the citizens whom it was supposed to serve. In our age of quantification, Democracy’s Data not only teaches us how to read between the lines but gives us a new perspective on the re...

Dan Bouk researches the history of bureaucracies, quantification, and other modern things shrouded in cloaks of boringness. He studied computational mathematics as an undergraduate, before earning a PhD in history from Princeton University. His work investigates the ways that corporations and states have used, abused, and remade the categories that structure our daily experiences of being human. His first book, How Our Days Became Numbered, explored the life insurance industry's methods for quantifying people, discriminating by race, and thinking statistically. He teaches history at Colgate University.

PRAISE

Praise for How Our Days Became Numbered

"It is hard to write engagingly about insurance and the history of statistics. Bouk has succeeded in this feat. Vivid, sometimes poetic prose, surprising..."
Yoga
A Novel
Emmanuel Carrère; Translated from the French by John Lambert

A raucous and brilliant anatomy of a breakdown by Emmanuel Carrère, one of our brightest and most surprising international writers.

Emmanuel Carrère is a renowned writer. Following the success of his latest novel, he goes on a rigorous ten-day Buddhist meditation retreat in search of clarity. But he’s also in search of material for his next book, which he thinks will be a subtle, upbeat introduction to yoga. When he’s asked to leave the secluded retreat early and return to Paris, breaking the community’s cardinal rule, his life begins to unravel, along with his novel in progress. His marriage grinds to a halt, as does his episodic relationship with another woman. The catastrophic depression that follows will push him to the edge of sanity, leading him to a psychiatric hospital, where treatment includes ketamine and electroshock therapy. He escapes to Greece, taking solace in teaching young refugees to write—but still, he’s stalked by existential dread and the hollow sense that something has gone horribly wrong in the world, if not just in his own mind.

A moving, wise, and funny account of madness, meditation, and mayhem, Yoga is a major new novel from “France’s greatest writer of nonfiction” (The New York Times Magazine). It’s a breakthrough work that shuns apathy and awakens us to ourselves, by a literary luminary.

Emmanuel Carrère, born in Paris in 1957, is a novelist, journalist, screenwriter, and film producer. He is the award-winning, internationally renowned author of 97,196 Words, The Kingdom, Limonov, The Mustache, Class Trip, The Adversary (a New York Times Notable Book), My Life as a Russian Novelist, and Lives Other Than My Own, which was awarded the Globe de Cristal for Best Novel in 2010. For Limonov, Carrère received the Prix Renaudot, the Prix des Prix, and the Europese Literaturprijs.

John Lambert has translated Monsieur, Reticence, and Self-Portrait Abroad by Jean-Philippe Toussaint, as well as Emmanuel Carrère’s Limonov, The Kingdom, and 97,196 Words. He lives in South Korea.

PRAISE

“[Yoga] is a tour de force.” —Sarah Richmond, The Times Literary Supplement
Shy
The Alarmingly Outspoken Memoirs of Mary Rodgers
Mary Rodgers and Jesse Green

The memoirs of Mary Rodgers—writer, composer, Broadway royalty, and “a woman who tried everything.”

“What am I, bologna?” Mary Rodgers (1931–2014) often said. She was referring to being stuck in the middle: the daughter of one composer and the mother of another. And not just any composers. Her father was Richard Rodgers, perhaps the greatest American melodist; her son Adam Guettel, a worthy successor. What that leaves out is Mary herself, also a composer, whose musical Once Upon a Mattress remains one of the rare revivable Broadway hits written by a woman.

Shy is the story of how it all happened: how Mary grew from an angry child, constrained by privilege and a parent’s overwhelming talent, to become not just a theater star but also a renowned author of books for young people (including the classic Freaky Friday) and, in a final grand turn, a doyenne of philanthropy and the chairman of the Juilliard School.

But in telling these stories—with copious annotations, contradictions, and interruptions from her coauthor, Jesse Green, the chief theater critic of The New York Times—Shy also tells another, about a woman liberating herself from disapproving parents and pervasive sexism to find art and romance on her own terms.

Both an eyewitness report from the Golden Age of American musical theater and a tale of a woman striving for a meaningful life, Shy is, above all, a chance to sit at the feet of the kind of woman they don’t make anymore—and never did. They make themselves.

Mary Rodgers (1931–2014) was an accomplished composer, author, and screenwriter. She was the author of the novel Freaky Friday, as well as the 1976 screenplay, and of several other novels. Rodgers also wrote the music for Once Upon a Mattress, which was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Musical. She lived in New York City until her death.

Jesse Green is the chief theater critic for The New York Times. From 2013 to 2017 he was the theater critic for New York magazine, where he had also been a contributing editor, writing long-form features, since 2008. Before that, he wrote about theater and other cultural topics for the Arts & Leisure section of The New York Times while covering broader subjects for The New York Times Magazine. He is the author...
A Woman's Battles and Transformations
A Novel

Édouard Louis; Translated from the French by Tash Aw

A portrait of the author’s mother by the acclaimed writer of the international bestsellers The End of Eddy and History of Violence.

Late one night, Édouard Louis got a call from his forty-five-year-old mother: “I did it. I left your father.” Suddenly, she was free.

This is the searing and sympathetic story of one woman’s liberation: of mothers and sons, of history and heartbreak, of politics and power. It reckons with the cruel systems that govern our lives—and with the possibility of escape. Sharp, short, and fine as a needle, it is a necessary addition to the work of Édouard Louis, “one of France’s most widely read and internationally successful novelists” (The New York Times Magazine).

Édouard Louis is the author of the international bestsellers The End of Eddy and History of Violence as well as the nonfiction book Who Killed My Father. 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.

PRAISE

Praise for The End of Eddy

“The Hillbilly Elegy of France . . . The End of Eddy, however, is not just a remarkable ethnography. It is also a mesmerizing story about difference and adolescence, one that is far more realistic than most.” —Jennifer Senior, The New York Times

“Louis’s account of growing up gay and poor in a working-class villag...
No One Prayed Over Their Graves
A Novel
Khaled Khalifa; Translated from the Arabic by Leri Price

From National Book Award finalist Khaled Khalifa, the story of two close friends whose lives are irrevocably changed when they survive a 1907 flood that devastates their village near Aleppo.

On a terrible December morning in 1907, two close friends, Hanna and Zakariya, return to their village near Aleppo after a night of drunken carousing in the city, only to discover that there has been a massive flood. Their neighbors, their families, their children—nearly all of them are dead. Their homes, shops, and places of worship are leveled. Their lives will never be the same.

Hanna was once a wealthy libertine landowner who had built a famed citadel devoted to the pursuit of pleasure and excess. But with the loss of his home, his wife, and his community, he transforms, becoming an ascetic mystic obsessed with the meaning of life. In No One Prayed Over Their Graves, we follow Hanna’s life before and after the flood, tracing friendships, loves and lusts, his family and business, until he is just one thread in the rich tapestry of Aleppo.

Khaled Khalifa weaves a sweeping tale of life and death in the hubbub of Aleppine society at the turn of the twentieth century. It is a portrait of a people on the verge of great change: from the provincial village to the burgeoning modernity of the city, where Christians, Muslims, and Jews live and work together, united in their love for Aleppo and their dreams for the future.

Khaled Khalifa was born in 1964 near Aleppo, Syria, the fifth of thirteen siblings. He studied law at Aleppo University and participated in the foundation of Aleph. A few months later, the magazine was closed down by Syrian censorship. Active in the arts scene in Damascus, where he lives, Khalifa is now a renowned writer of screenplays and novels. His novel No Knives in This City’s Kitchens was awarded the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature and was a finalist for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction. His novel Death Is Hard Work was a finalist for the National Book Award.

PRAISE

Praise for Death Is Hard Work

* * *
Memoirs

Robert Lowell; Edited and with a preface by Steven Gould Axelrod and Grzegorz Kosc

A complete collection of Robert Lowell’s autobiographical prose, from unpublished writings about his youth to reflections on the triumphs and confusions of his adult life.

Robert Lowell’s Memoirs is the renowned poet’s most personal writing. Steven Gould Axelrod and Grzegorz Kosc have unearthed the manuscript of Lowell’s autobiographical study of his childhood that he wrote in the 1950s. Unpublished until now, it is a precursor to his groundbreaking book of poems Life Studies, which signaled a radically new, prose-inflected direction in his work and indeed in American poetry.

Memoirs also includes intense depictions of Lowell’s mental illness and his efforts to recover. It concludes with reminiscences of other writers, such as T. S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Ezra Pound, John Berryman, Anne Sexton, Hannah Arendt, and Sylvia Plath. Memoirs demonstrates Lowell’s expansive gifts as a prose stylist and his powers of introspection and observation. It provides more evidence of the range and brilliance of Lowell’s achievement.

Robert Lowell (1917–1977) was the renowned and pathbreaking author of many books of poetry, including Life Studies (FSG, 1959), For the Union Dead (FSG, 1964), and Day by Day (FSG, 1977).


Grzegorz Kosc is the author of Robert Lowell: Uncomfortable Epigone of the Grands Maîtres and Robert Frost’s Political Body. His writing has been published in Wallace Stevens Journal and Partial Ans...

PRAISE

Praise for The Dolphin Letters

“Neither [Lowell nor Hardwick] can put a foot wrong in writing a sentence; each has the instinctive cadence of a born writer, the sophistication of an adult who has seen and felt almost too much, the directness and candor of an intimate acquaintance, and the steady capacity for irony even in sadness.”

—Helen ...
Eliot After "The Waste Land"

Robert Crawford

The second volume of Robert Crawford’s definitive biography records the untold story of T. S. Eliot’s adult life, from his relationship with Emily Hale to his momentous later works.

After being kept from the public for more than fifty years at Princeton University, the letters between T. S. Eliot and his longtime love and muse Emily Hale were unsealed in 2020. Drawing on these intimate exchanges, countless interviews, archives, and personal papers, as well as Eliot’s own poetry and prose, the award-winning biographer Robert Crawford has completed his definitive biography of Eliot. This long-awaited second volume, Eliot After "The Waste Land," tells the story of the adult Eliot, his years as a world-renowned writer and intellectual, and his complex interior life.

The first volume traced Eliot’s life from St. Louis to the publication of his revolutionary poem The Waste Land and closed at an inflection point in the Nobel laureate’s career. Crawford picks up where he left off, tackling the poet’s conversion to Anglo-Catholicism, his separation from Vivien Haigh-Wood and happy second marriage to Valerie Fletcher, his Nobel Prize, his editorship at Faber and Faber, and his great work Four Quartets.


Robert Crawford is the author of Young Eliot: From St. Louis to "The Waste Land.” He is also the author of Scotland’s Books and the coeditor of The Penguin Book of Scottish Verse. A fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the British Academy, he is a professor of modern Scottish literature at the University of St Andrews. The Bard, his biography of Robert Burns, was named the Saltire Society Scottish Book of the Year in 2009. Crawford’s seven poetry collections include Testament and Full Volume, which was short-listed for the T. S. Eliot Prize. He lives in Scotland.

PRAISE

Praise for Young Eliot: From St. Louis to "The Waste Land"

"Young Eliot marks both a milestone and a turning point . . . [It] is judicious, sympathetic, meticulous . . . The story it tells of a great poet’s early life is enthralling. —Robert McCrum, The Observer"
"Reading Valleyesque feels like entering a new dimension, a southwestern twilight zone where slacker outcasts and political gangsters rub elbows with hallucinatory muralists. But the genius of Flores’ work is precisely that this is our world—a reality seeped in humor and chaos with an undercurrent of divine order. We are lucky to have a writer so deeply unique, so ecstatically original as Fernando A. Flores.” —Kali Fajardo-Anstine, author of Sabrina & Corina

Psychedelic, dazzling stories set in the cracks of the Texas-Mexico borderland, from an iconoclastic storyteller and the author of Tears of the Trufflepig.

No one captures the border—its history and imagination, its danger, contradiction, and redemption—like Fernando A. Flores, whose stories reimagine and reinterpret the region’s existence with peerless style. In his immersive, uncanny borderland, things are never what they seem: a world where the sun is both rising and setting, and where conniving possums efficiently take over an entire town and rewrite its history.

The stories in Valleyesque dance between the fantastical and the hyperreal with dexterous, often hilarious flair. A dying Frédéric Chopin stumbles through Ciudad Juárez in the aftermath of his mother’s death, attempting to recover his beloved piano that was seized at the border, while a muralist is taken on a psychedelic journey by an airbrushed Emiliano Zapata T-shirt. A woman is engulfed by a used-clothing warehouse with a life of its own, and a grieving mother breathlessly chronicles the demise of a town decimated by violence. In two separate stories, queso dip and musical rhythms are bottled up and sold for mass consumption. And in the final tale, Flores pieces together the adventures of a young Lee Harvey Oswald as he starts a music career in Texas.

Swinging between satire and surrealism, grief and joy, Valleyesque is a boundary- and border-pushing collection from a one-of-a-kind stylist and voice. With the visceral imagination that made his debut novel, Tears of the Trufflepig, a cult ...

Fernando A. Flores was born in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and grew up in South Texas. He is the author of the collection Death to the Bullshit Artists of South Texas and the novel Tears of the Trufflepig, which was long-listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and named a best book of 2019 by Tor.com. His fiction has appeared in the Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly, Ploughshares, Frieze, Porter House...
Everything I Need I Get from You
How Fangirls Created the Internet as We Know It

Kaitlyn Tiffany

A thrilling and riotous dive into the world of superfandom and the fangirls who shaped the social internet.

In 2014, on the side of a Los Angeles freeway, a One Direction fan erected a shrine in the spot where, a few hours earlier, Harry Styles had vomited. “It’s interesting for sure,” Styles said later, adding, “a little niche, maybe.” But what seemed niche to Styles was actually an irreverent signpost for an unfathomably large, hyper-connected alternative universe: stan culture.

In Everything I Need I Get from You, Kaitlyn Tiffany, a staff writer at The Atlantic and a superfan herself, guides us through the online world of fans, stans, and boybands. Along the way we meet girls who damage their lungs from screaming too loud, fans rallying together to manipulate chart numbers using complex digital subversion, and an underworld of inside jokes and shared memories surrounding band members’ allergies, internet typos, and hairstyles. In the process, Tiffany makes a convincing, and often moving, argument that fangirls, in their ingenuity and collaboration, created the social internet we know today, effectively making One Direction the first internet boyband. “Before most people were using the internet for anything,” Tiffany writes, “fans were using it for everything.”

With humor, empathy, and an expert’s eye, Everything I Need I Get from You reclaims internet history for young women, establishing fandom not as the territory of hysterical girls but as an incubator for digital innovation, art, and community. From a...

Kaitlyn Tiffany is a staff writer at The Atlantic, where she covers technology and culture. She was previously on the same beat at Vox’s consumer vertical The Goods, after starting her career writing about pop culture, fandom, and online community at The Verge. Formerly the host of the popular podcast Why’d You Push That Button, which considered the tiny technology decisions that have an outsized effect on our modern social lives, she lives in Brooklyn, New York.
Nevada
A Novel
Imogen Binnie; With a new afterword by the author

"Nevada is a book that changed my life: it shaped both my worldview and personhood, making me the writer I am. And it did so by the oldest of methods, by telling a wise, hilarious, and gripping story." —Torrey Peters, author of Detransition, Baby

A beloved and blistering cult classic finally back in print, Nevada follows a disaffected trans woman as she embarks on a cross-country road trip.

Maria Griffiths is almost thirty and works at a used bookstore in New York City while trying to stay true to her punk values. She’s in love with her bike but not with her girlfriend, Steph. She takes random pills and drinks more than is good for her, but doesn’t inject anything except, when she remembers, estrogen, because she’s trans. Everything is mostly fine until Maria and Steph break up, sending Maria into a tailspin, and then on a cross-country trek in the car she steals from Steph. She ends up in the backwater town of Star City, Nevada, where she meets James, who is probably but not certainly trans, and who reminds Maria of her younger self. As Maria finds herself in the awkward position of trans role model, she realizes that she could become James’s savior—or his downfall.

One of the most beloved cult novels of our time and a landmark of trans literature, Imogen Binnie’s Nevada is a blistering, heartfelt, and evergreen coming-of-age story, and a punk-smeared excavation of marginalized life under capitalism. Guided by an instantly memorable, terminally self-aware protagonist—and back in print for the novel’s tenth anniversary, featuring a new afterword by the author—Nevada is the great American road novel flipped on its head for a new generation.

Imogen Binnie is the author of the novel Nevada, which won the Betty Berzon Emerging Writer Award and was a finalist for the 2014 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Fiction. A writer for several television shows and a former columnist for Maximum Rocknroll, she lives in Vermont with her family.

PRAISE

"Imogen Binnie’s gimlet-eyed prose is raw, funny, and then devastating. I can’t get Maria Griffiths out of my head: she’s an edgy heroine, a new archetype—the quintessential late 20s punk rock trans girl blowing up her life and making friends on the road (or in the parking lot).” —Andrea Lawlor,
Everyday Mojo Songs of Earth
New and Selected Poems, 2001-2021

Yusef Komunyakaa

New and selected poems from the great Pulitzer Prize–winning poet.

These songs run along dirt roads
& highways, crisscross lonely seas
& scale mountains, traverse skies
& underworlds of neon honkytonk,
Wherever blues dare to travel.

Everyday Mojo Songs of Earth brings together selected poems from the past twenty years of Yusef Komunyakaa’s work, as well as new poems from the Pulitzer Prize winner. His masterful, concise verse conjures arresting images of peace and war, the natural power of the earth and of love, his childhood in the American South and his service in Vietnam, the ugly violence of racism in America, and the meaning of power and morality.

The new poems in this collection add a new refrain to the jazz-inflected rhythms of one of our “most significant and individual voices” (David Wojahn, Poetry). Komunyakaa writes of a young man fashioning a slingshot, workers who “honor the Earth by opening shine / inside the soil,” and the sounds of a saxophone filling a dim lounge in New Jersey. As April Bernard wrote in The New York Times Book Review, “He refuses to be trivial; and he even dares beauty.”

Yusef Komunyakaa’s books of poetry include The Emperor of Water Clocks, Testimony: A Tribute to Charlie Parker, The Chameleon Couch, Warhorses, Taboo, Talking Dirty to the Gods, and Neon Vernacular, for which he received the Pulitzer Prize. His plays, performance art, and librettos have been performed internationally and include Wakonda’s Dream, Saturnalia, Testimony, and Gilgamesh: A Verse Play. He teaches at New York University.

PRAISE

Praise for Yusef Komunyakaa

“Probably my favorite living poet. No one else taught me more about how important it was to think about how words make people feel. It’s not enough for people to know something is true. They have to feel it’s true.” —Ta-Nehisi Coates, The New York Times Style Magazine
More Anon
Selected Poems

Maureen N. McLane

*More Anon* gathers a selection of poems from Maureen N. McLane’s critically acclaimed first five books of poetry.

McLane, whose 2014 collection *This Blue* was a finalist for the National Book Award, is a poet of wit and play, of romanticism and intellect, of song and polemic. *More Anon* presents her work anew. The poems spark with life, and the concentrated selection showcases her energy and style.

As Parul Sehgal wrote in *Bookforum*, "To read McLane is to be reminded that the brain may be an organ, but the mind is a muscle. Hers is a roving, amphibious intelligence; she’s at home in the essay and the fragment, the polemic and the elegy." In *More Anon*, McLane—a poet, scholar, and prizewinning critic—displays the full range of her vertiginous mind and daring experimentation.

Maureen N. McLane is the author of five previous books of poetry, including *Some Say; Mz N: the serial: A Poem-in-Episodes*; and the 2014 National Book Award finalist *This Blue*. Her book *My Poets*, a hybrid of memoir and criticism, was a finalist for the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography.
Terraform
Watch/Worlds/Burn

Edited by Brian Merchant and Claire L. Evans

An anthology of near-future science fiction from VICE's acclaimed Terraform.

Assembling a remarkable roster of writers, Terraform has established itself by publishing short fiction seemingly ripped from tomorrow’s headlines, speculative fiction about the very near future. Over the last six years, as science fiction itself has achieved a new kind of mainstream credibility and the media landscape has transformed entirely, Terraform has blazed an unexpected path that has seen short stories go viral and given fiction an unparalleled urgency and relevance.

Drawing from established luminaries like Bruce Sterling and Cory Doctorow, rising stars, and surprising newcomers, Terraform stories are marked by their convincing engagement with the world that we just might live in, putting our most existential issues into startling dramatic context. Edited by Brian Merchant and Claire L. Evans, and divided here into three categories—WATCH/WORLDS/BURN—these stories take on surveillance (Watch), artificial intelligence (Worlds), and climate collapse (Burn).

Brian Merchant is the senior editor of Motherboard, VICE’s science and technology outlet, and a founding editor of Terraform. His work has appeared in The Guardian, Slate, VICE, Salon, Fast Company, Discover, GOOD, Paste, Grist, and elsewhere.

Claire L. Evans is a writer and musician. She is a founding editor of Terraform, the former futures editor of Motherboard, and a contributor to The Guardian, WIRED, and Aeon; previously, she was a contributor to Grantland and wrote National Geographic’s popular culture and science blog Universe. She is an adviser to design students at the Art Center College of Design and a member of the cyberfeminist collective Deep Lab. She lives in Los Angeles.
Animal Joy
A Book of Laughter and Resuscitation

Nuar Alsadir

An invigorating, continuously surprising book about the serious nature of laughter.

Laughter shakes us out of our deadness. An outburst of spontaneous laughter is an eruption from the unconscious that, like political resistance, poetry, or self-revelation, expresses a provocative, impish drive to burst free from external constraints. Taking laughter’s revelatory capacity as a starting point, and rooted in Nuar Alsadir’s experience as a poet and psychoanalyst, Animal Joy seeks to recover the sensation of being present and embodied.

Writing in a poetic, associative style, blending the personal with the theoretical, Alsadir ranges from her experience in clown school, Anna Karenina’s morphine addiction, Freud’s un-Freudian behaviors, marriage brokers and war brokers, to “Not Jokes,” Abu Ghraib, Frantz’s negrophobia, smut, the Brett Kavanaugh hearings, laugh tracks, the problem with adjectives, and how poetry can wake us up. At the center of the book, however, is the author’s relationship with her daughters, who erupt into the text like sudden, unexpected laughter. These interventions—frank, tender, and always a challenge to the writer and her thinking—are like tiny revolutions, pointedly showing the dangers of being severed from one’s true self and hinting at ways one might be called back to it.

A bold and insatiably curious prose debut, Animal Joy is an ode to spontaneity and feeling alive.

Nuar Alsadir is a psychoanalyst and the author of the poetry collections Fourth Person Singular, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Forward Prize, and More Shadow Than Bird. She lives in New York City.

PRAISE

Praise for Fourth Person Singular

“This slim volume defends and explodes lyric form.” —Walton Muyumba, National Book Critics Circle, "30 Books in 30 Days, 2018"

“Alsadir is an alchemist of the mundane. She finds metaphors in everything from 404 Error codes on the internet to highbrow art films and philosophy.” —Gregory Pardlo, BookPage
Mother Country
A Novel

Jacinda Townsend

A transnational feminist novel about human trafficking and motherhood from an award-winning author.

Saddled with student loans, medical debt, and the sudden news of her infertility after a major car accident, Shannon, an African American woman, follows her boyfriend to Morocco in search of relief. There, in the cobblestoned medina of Marrakech, she finds a toddler in a pink jacket whose face mirrors her own. With the help of her boyfriend and a bribed official, Shannon makes the fateful decision to adopt and raise the girl in Louisville, Kentucky. But the girl already has a mother: Souria, an undocumented Mauritanian woman who was trafficked as a teen, and who managed to escape to Morocco to build another life.

In rendering Souria’s separation from her family across vast stretches of desert and Shannon’s alienation from her mother under the same roof, Jacinda Townsend brilliantly stages cycles of intergenerational trauma and healing. Linked by the girl who has been a daughter to them both, these unforgettable protagonists move toward their inevitable reckoning. Mother Country is a bone-deep and unsparing portrayal of the ethical and emotional claims we make upon one another in the name of survival, in the name of love.

Jacinda Townsend is the author of Saint Monkey, which won the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize and the James Fenimore Cooper Prize. She is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and teaches in the MFA program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

PRAISE

Praise for Saint Monkey


“An absolute marvel of a book. Jacinda Townsend is dazzling as she transports the reader to a different time and place.” —Roxane Gay
Winner of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize, a lyric essay on transmasculinity and the oceanic world.

Lars Horn’s *Voice of the Fish*, the latest Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize winner, is an interwoven essay collection that explores the trans experience through themes of water, fish, and mythology, set against the backdrop of travels in Russia and a debilitating back injury that left Horn temporarily unable to speak. In Horn’s adept hands, the collection takes shape as a unified book: short vignettes about fish, reliquaries, and antiquities serve as interludes between longer essays, knitting together a sinuous, wave-like form that flows across the book.

Horn swims through a range of subjects, roving across marine history, theology, questions of the body and gender, sexuality, transmasculinity, and illness. From Horn’s upbringing with a mother who used them as a model in photos and art installations—memorably in a photography session in an ice bath with dead squid—to Horn’s travels before they were out as trans, these essays are linked by a desire to interrogate liminal physicalities. Horn reexamines the oft-presumed uniformity of bodily experience, breaking down the implied singularity of “the body” as cultural and scientific object. The essays instead privilege ways of seeing and being that resist binaries, ways that falter, fracture, mutate. A sui generis work of nonfiction, *Voice of the Fish* blends the aquatic, mystical, and physical to reach a place beyond them all.

**Lars Horn** holds MAs from the University of Edinburgh, the École normale supérieure, Paris, and Concordia University, Montreal. Their work has appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *Write Across Canada*, and *New Writing Scotland*. They live in Miami, Florida.

**PRAISE**

“*Voice of the Fish* enthralls with its oceanic admixture of fish and flesh. Lars Horn’s inventive approach to language and form transcends the limitations of the body.”—Nonfiction Prize Statement
Sleeping Alone
Stories
Ru Freeman

Wide-ranging, vibrant stories from the acclaimed author of On Sal Mal Lane.

In this collection of rich and textured stories about crossing borders, both real and imagined, Sleeping Alone asks one of the fundamental questions of our times: What is the toll of feeling foreign in one’s land, to others, or even to oneself? A cast of misfits, young and old, single and coupled, even entire family units, confront startling changes wrought by difficult circumstances or harrowing choices.

These stories span the world, moving from Maine to Sri Lanka, from Dublin to Philadelphia, paying exquisite attention to the dance between the intimate details of our lives and our public selves.

Whether Ru Freeman, author of the novel On Sal Mal Lane, is capturing secrets kept by siblings in Sri Lanka, or the life of itinerants in New York City, she renders the nuances of her characters’ lives with real sensitivity, and imbues them with surprising dignity and grace.

Ru Freeman is the author of A Disobedient Girl and On Sal Mal Lane, and the editor of Extraordinary Rendition: American Writers on Palestine and Indivisible: Global Leaders on Shared Security. She directs the Artist Network at Narrative 4.

PRAISE

Praise for On Sal Mal Lane

“Freeman’s second novel is an achingly gorgeous heartbreaker.” —The Boston Globe

“I don’t know that I’ve seen children more opulently depicted in fiction since Dickens.” —The New York Times Book Review

“A lyrical meditation on childhood and family, on fear and innocence, loyalty and fate.” —The Miami Herald
A dizzying portrait of contemporary Cuba as it has rarely been seen, by an up-and-coming Cuban novelist.

Teeming with life and compulsively readable, the pieces gathered in The Tribe aggregate into an extraordinary mosaic of Cuba today. Carlos Manuel Álvarez, one of the most exciting young writers in Latin America, employs the crónica form—a genre unique to Latin American writing that blends reportage, narrative nonfiction, and novelistic techniques—to illuminate a particularly turbulent period in Cuban history, from the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the United States, to the death of Fidel Castro, to the convulsions of the San Isidro Movement.

Unique, edgy, and stylishly written, The Tribe shows a society in flux, featuring athletes in exile, artists, nurses, underground musicians and household names, dissident poets, the hidden underclass at a landfill, migrants attempting to make their way across Central America, fugitives escaping the FBI, and dealers in the black market, as well as revelers and policememen in the noisy Havana night. It is a major work of reportage by one of Granta’s Best of Young Spanish-Language Novelists.

Carlos Manuel Álvarez is the author of The Fallen. He has been included in Granta’s Best of Young Spanish-Language Novelists as well as Bogotá39’s best Latin American writers under forty. He divides his time between Havana and Mexico City.

Frank Wynne has translated works by authors including Michel Houellebecq, Patrick Modiano, and Virginie Despentes. His work has earned many awards, including the IMPAC Prize, the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, and the Premio Valle Inclán.

Rahul Bery translates works from Spanish and Portuguese. His full-length translations include Kokoschka’s Doll by Afonso Cruz and Rolling Fields by David Trueba.

PRAISE

“There is magic in these pages . . . [T]his book tells the actual story of Cuba as it exists today.” —Jon Lee Anderson

“Álvarez does not try to instruct or speculate. He does not write on whether the Revolution succeeded or failed . . . His book is not an explanation: it is . . .
Turn Up the Ocean
Poems

Tony Hoagland

The final book of poems by Tony Hoagland, “one of the most distinctive voices of our time” (Carl Dennis).

Over the course of his celebrated career, Tony Hoagland ventured fearlessly into the unlit alleys of emotion and experience. The poems in Turn Up the Ocean examine with an unflinching eye and mordant humor the reality of living and dying in a time and culture that conspire to erase our inner lives. Hoagland’s signature wit and unparalleled observations take in long-standing injustices, the atrocities of American empire and consumerism, and our ongoing habit of looking away. In these poems, perseverance depends on a gymnastics of skepticism and comedy, a dogged quest for authentic connection, and the consolations of the natural world. Turn Up the Ocean is a remarkable and moving collection, a fitting testament to Hoagland’s devotion to the capaciousness and art of poetry.

Tony Hoagland (1953–2018) was the award-winning author of seven books of poetry, including Priest Turned Therapist Treats Fear of God and What Narcissism Means to Me, and four books about poetry, including Twenty Poems That Could Save America.

PRAISE

Praise for Tony Hoagland

“It’s hard to imagine any aspect of contemporary American life that couldn’t make its way into the writing of Tony Hoagland . . . The framework of his writing is immense, almost as large as the tarnished nation he wandered into under the star of poetry.” —Jackson Poetry Prize citation
Wonderlands
Essays on the Life of Literature
Charles Baxter

Searching and erudite new essays on writing from the author of Burning Down the House.

Charles Baxter’s new collection of essays, Wonderlands, joins his other works of nonfiction, Burning Down the House and The Art of Subtext. In the mold of those books, Baxter shares years of wisdom and reflection on what makes fiction work, including essays that were first given as craft talks at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference.

The essays here range from brilliant thinking on the nature of wonderlands in the fiction of Haruki Murakami and other fabulist writers, to how request moments function in a story. Baxter is equally at home tackling a thorny matter such as charisma (which intersects with political figures like the disastrous forty-fifth US president) as he is bringing new interest to subjects such as list-making in fiction.

Amid these craft essays, an interlude of two personal essays—the story of a horrifying car crash and an introspective “letter to a young poet”—add to the intimate nature of the book. The final essay reflects on a lifetime of writing, and closes with a memorable image of Baxter as a boy, waiting at the window for a parent who never arrives and filling that absence with stories. Wonderlands will stand alongside his prior work as an insightful and lasting work of criticism.

Charles Baxter is the author of fourteen books, most recently the novel The Sun Collective. His stories have appeared in The Best American Short Stories, The Pushcart Prize Anthology, and The O. Henry Prize Story Anthology. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PRAISE

Praise for Charles Baxter

“[Baxter’s] terrific, dog-eared books on writing . . . might intimidate a lesser reviewer into feeling as if he’d been asked to assess the light-saber technique of a Jedi master.” —The New York Times
Civil Service
Poems
Claire Schwartz

A study in complicity with crushing state violence and an invitation to a chilling, remarkable debut.

While the spectacle of state violence fleetingly commands a collective gaze, Civil Service turns to the quotidian where political regimes are diffuse—where empire is the province of not a few bad actors, but of all who occupy and operate the state. In these poems populated by characters named for their occupations and mutable positions of power—the Accountant, the Intern, the Board Chair—catastrophic events recede as the demands and rewards of daily life take precedence. As a result, banal authorizations and personal compromises are exposed as the ordinary mechanisms inherent to extraordinary atrocity. Interwoven with bureaucratic encounters are rigorous studies of how knowledge is produced and contested. One sequence imagines an interrogation room in which a captive, Amira, refuses the terms of the state’s questioning. The dominant meanings of that space preclude Amira’s full presence, but those conditions are not fixed. In a series of lectures, traces of that fugitive voice emerge as fragmentary declarations, charging the reader to dwell beside it and transform meaning such that Amira might be addressed.

In this astonishing debut, Claire Schwartz stages the impossibility of articulating freedom in a nation of prisons. Civil Service probes the razor-thin borders between ally and accomplice, surveillance and witness, carcerality and care—the lines we draw to believe ourselves good.


PRAISE

Praise for Claire Schwartz

“What sets Claire Schwartz’s poems apart is their monumental compassion dealing with subjects—homelands, genealogies, taxonomies, and the violent histories and presents inherent to each—which, in their infinite complexity, defy all but the most earnest and searching poets.” —Kaveh Akbar
Line and Light
Poems
Jeffrey Yang

A multifaceted collection by Jeffrey Yang, whose poetry is “flexible, expansive, sonorously clever” (The Millions).

In Jeffrey Yang’s vision for this brilliant new collection, the essence of poetry can be broken down into line and light. Dispersed across these poems are luminous centers, points of a constellation tracing lines of energy through art, myth, and history. These interconnections create vast and dynamic reverberations. As Yang asks in one poem, “What vitality binds a universe?”

One long series explores through shadow and play the ancient Malay kingdom of Langkasuka, a legendary nexus of creativity, commerce, and spiritual life, threatened over time by violence, climate, and environmental degradation. The title poem is a study of time, night turning to dawn, revealing the lines and lights of an art installation on an island in the Hudson River, flowing into another poem about Grand Central Terminal’s atrium of stars, flowing upriver into a poem that describes a cemetery for a state prison. Another extended sequence is a collaboration investigating memory and loss, composed of Yang’s poems, Japanese translations by Hiroaki Sato, and drawings made with ink derived from tea leaves by the artist Kazumi Tanaka. The collection ends with moving elegies for poets, translators, and artists whose works have informed this one. Altogether, Line and Light illuminates the ways that ancestry holds and makes possible the act of making art.

Jeffrey Yang is the author of four poetry collections, including Hey, Marfa, winner of the Southwest Book Award, and An Aquarium, winner of the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award. He is the translator of Liu Xiaobo’s June Fourth Elegies.

PRAISE

Praise for Hey, Marfa


A perceptive, moving novel about life and death in the Basque Country, from the author of *Nevada Days*.

Bernardo Atxaga's *Water over Stones* follows a group of interconnected people in a small village in the Basque Country. It opens with the story of a young boy who has returned from his French boarding school to his uncle's bakery, where his family hopes he will speak again. He's been silent since an incident in which he threw a stone at a teacher for reasons unknown. With the assistance of twin brothers who take him to a river in the forest, he'll recover his speech. As the years pass, those twins, now adults, will be part of a mining strike in the Ugarte region, and so take up the mantle of the narrative, just as others will after them.

*Water over Stones* is similar in nature to Atxaga's earlier books *Obabakoak* and *The Accordionist's Son*, as it weaves in themes of friendship, nature, and death. Yet in capturing a span of time from the early 1970s, when the shadow of the Franco dictatorship still loomed, to 2017, when these boys must learn to leave their old beliefs behind and move on, Atxaga finds new richness and depth in familiar subjects. As threads of water run over stones in the river, so these lives run together, and, over time, technology and industry bring new changes as the wheel of life turns.

Bernardo Atxaga is a prizewinning author whose books, including *Nevada Days*, *Seven Houses in France*, and *The Accordionist's Son*, have won international critical acclaim. His works have been translated into thirty-two languages. He lives in the Basque Country.

Margaret Jull Costa is the award-winning translator of José Saramago, Javier Marías, Eça de Queiroz, and Fernando Pessoa. She is the translator of Bernardo Atxaga's *The Accordionist's Son*, *Nevada Days*, *Obabakoak*, and *Seven Houses in France*.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *Nevada Days*

“The sublime meets the surreal in this hypnotic blend of memoir and fiction by the great Basque writer.” —Oprah.com

“Atxaga’s grand curiosity never dulls or wavers. . . . Part of the thrill of *Nevada Days* is to marvel at a family’s ceaseless desire to explore America at a crossroads.” —*The Millions*
Such Color
New and Selected Poems

Tracy K. Smith

“Tracy K. Smith’s poetry is an awakening itself.” —Vogue

Celebrated for its extraordinary intelligence and exhilarating range, the poetry of Tracy K. Smith opens up vast questions. *Such Color: New and Selected Poems*, her first career-spanning volume, traces an increasingly audacious commitment to exploring the unknowable, the immense mysteries of existence. Each of Smith’s four collections moves farther outward: when one seems to reach the limits of desire and the body, the next investigates the very sweep of history; when one encounters death and the outer reaches of space, the next bears witness to violence against language and people from across time and delves into the rescuing possibilities of the everlasting.

Smith’s signature voice, whether in elegy or praise or outrage, insists upon vibrancy and hope, even—and especially—in moments of inconceivable travesty and grief.

*Such Color* collects the best poems from Smith’s award-winning books and culminates in thirty pages of brilliant, excoriating new poems. These new works confront America’s historical and contemporary racism and injustices, while they also rise toward the registers of the ecstatic, the rapturous, and the sacred—urging us toward love as a resistance to everything that impedes it. This magnificent retrospective affirms Smith’s place as one of the twenty-first century’s most treasured poets.

Tracy K. Smith is the author of four books of poetry, including *Life on Mars*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and *Wade in the Water*, winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. From 2017 to 2019, she served as the poet laureate of the United States.

PRAISE

Praise for Tracy K. Smith

“Smith is a storyteller who loves to explore how the body can respond to a lover, to family, and to history.” —Hilton Als, *The New Yorker*

“Smith’s poems dance the boundaries between private and public, give voice to the voiceless, and shine with a resolute spiritual vision.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*
The Third Person

Emma Grove

A boldly drawn, unforgettable memoir about trauma and the barriers to gender-affirming health care.

In the winter of 2004, a shy woman named Emma sits in Toby’s office. She wants to share this wonderful new book she’s reading, but Toby, her therapist, is concerned with other things. Emma is transgender, and has sought out Toby for approval for hormone replacement therapy. Emma has shown up at the therapy sessions as an outgoing, confident young woman named Katina, and a depressed, submissive workaholic named Ed. She has little or no memory of her actions when presenting as these other two people. And then Toby asks about her childhood . . .

As the story unfolds, we discover clues to Emma’s troubled past and how and why these other two people may have come into existence. As Toby juggles treating three separate people, each with their own unique personalities and memories, he begins to wonder if Emma is merely acting out to get attention, or if she actually has Dissociative Identity Disorder. Is she just a troubled woman in need of help? And is “the third person” in her brain protecting her, or derailing her chances of ever finding peace?

The Third Person is a riveting memoir from newcomer Emma Grove. Drawn in thick, emotive lines, with the refined style of a comics vet, Grove has created a singular, gripping depiction of the intersection of identities and trauma. The Third Person is a testament to the importance of having the space to heal and live authentically.

Emma Grove could draw before she could write, but first and foremost, she has always been a storyteller. Finding safety and solace in the magic of Disney as a kid, Emma studied storytelling and animation from a young age, which quickly bloomed into a life-long ambition. A classically trained animator, she is a staunch traditionalist who favours pencils, pens, brushes, and bristol board to anything else. When the animation industry shifted from analog to digital, Emma shifted toward writing and making comics. She currently lives in New England with her cat, Little Mischief.

PRAISE

"Emma Grove has written a beautiful, vulnerable, exquisite book that offers an uncommonly clear look at a mind learning to know itself."
The Peanutbutter Sisters and Other American Stories

Rumi Hara

An immigrant weaves a new, surreal Americana, complete with bubblegum fights and bomb queens.

Rarely does a new talent arrive in the medium as unmistakably distinct as Rumi Hara. With immersive art and a clear-eyed storytelling rhythm, her uncategorizable debut, *Nori*, put her playful cartooning on display. Her new collection, *The Peanutbutter Sisters and Other American Stories*, delights with equal mischievousness.

*The Peanutbutter Sisters* is a glorious balance of contradictions, at once escapism and realism, science fiction and slice of life. Two students explore the urban landscape while following Newton Creek, the polluted Queens-Brooklyn border. As they do, they plan a traditional Japanese play with contemporary pop culture. Another story features an intergalactic race of all living things set in the year 2099 and is a dazzling treatise on the environment and journalism. Yet sometimes the fantastical collides with the quotidian in the same story. A man struggling with vertigo during quarantine encounters a world of sexual revelry whenever he has a dizzy spell. The Peanut Butter sisters ride a hurricane into New York City and yet aren’t able to hitch a ride back with a whale due to a heavily polluted ocean.

Hara’s magical realist tendencies and diverse cast of characters all contort the tropes of the American comics canon. Yet above all else, her innate control of the comics language—her ability to weave the absurd with the real on such a charming and commanding level—is refreshingly unrivaled.

*Rumi Hara* was born in Kyoto, Japan, and started printing her comics on a tiny home printer while working as a translator in Tokyo in 2010. After receiving an MFA in illustration from Savannah College of Art and Design, Hara moved to New York in 2014, where she now lives and works as an illustrator and comics artist. Her comics series *Nori* was first self-published as minicomics and was nominated for an Ignatz Award in 2018.

**PRAISE**

“Dreamy and intoxicating.” —*Buzzfeed Books*

“Magically illustrated, the collection combines Japanese traditions with modern life through the eyes of the curious and adorable Nori.” —*Ms. Magazine*
Talk to My Back
Murasaki Yamada; Translated from the Japanese by Ryan Holmberg

A celebrated masterwork shimmering with vulnerability from one of alt-manga's seminal female artists.

"Now that we've woken from the dream, what are we going to do?" Chiharu thinks to herself, rubbing her husband's head affectionately.

Set in an apartment complex on the outskirts of Tokyo, Murasaki Yamada's Talk to My Back (1981–84) explores the fraying of Japan's suburban middle-class dreams through a woman's relationship with her two daughters as they mature and assert their independence, and with her husband, who works late and sees his wife as little more than a domestic servant.

While engaging frankly with the compromises of marriage and motherhood, Yamada remains generous with the characters who fetter her protagonist. When her husband has an affair, Chiharu feels that she, too, has broken the marital contract by straying from the template of the happy housewife. Yamada saves her harshest criticisms for society at large, particularly its false promises of eternal satisfaction within the nuclear family—as fears of having been "thrown away inside that empty vessel called the household" gnaw at Chiharu's soul.

Yamada was the first cartoonist in Japan to use the expressive freedoms of alt-manga to address domesticity and womanhood in a realistic, critical, and sustained way. A watershed work of literary manga, Talk to My Back was serialized in the influential magazine Garo in the early 1980s, and is translated by Eisner-nominated Ryan Holmberg.

Yamada Murasaki (1948–2009) debuted as a cartoonist in 1969. Informed by her upbringing—she was raised by her mother and grandmother—and her background in fashion design and poetry, Yamada's early work was unique in form and content, with realistic portraits of young women negotiating their mothers. Later, after having a family of her own, her work shifted to young mothers negotiating children, husbands, and the balance between social responsibilities as a housewife and self-respect as a woman. Considered one of the Three Daughters of Garo, Yamada published manga in practically every issue of Garo from 1978–1986, and is considered the first cartoonist to use the modes of alternative manga to explore womanhood and domesticity with an unromantic e...
World Record Holders

Guy Delisle; Translated from the French by Helge Dascher

A funny and insightful retrospective collection from a celebrated cartoonist.

Universally beloved cartoonist Guy Delisle showcases a career-spanning collection of his work with a sly sense of humor and warm characterization. Before Delisle became an international superstar with his globe-hopping travelogues, he was an animator experimenting with the comics form. Always aware of the elasticity of the human form and honing his keen observer’s eye, young Delisle created hilarious set pieces.

*World Record Holders* ranges from wistful childhood nostalgia to chagrined post-fame encounters, touching on formally ambitious visual puns and gut-busting what-ifs. Delisle again and again shows how life is both exhilarating and embarrassing. Delisle visits an exhibition of his work in another country and is confronted by an angry spouse who blames him for destroying her marriage. A juvenile game of Bows and Arrows turns menacing as arrows shot straight up in the air turn into barely visible missiles of death. A coded message from space creates different reactions from different people—debates, dance festivals, gallery shows. Translated by Helge Dascher.

Born in Québec City, Canada, in 1966, Guy Delisle now lives in the south of France with his wife and two children. Delisle spent ten years working in animation, which allowed him to learn about movement and drawing. He is best known for his travelogues about life in faraway countries: *Burma Chronicles, Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City, Pyongyang, and Shenzhen.* He has since expanded his oeuvre by telling a Doctors Without Borders acquaintance’s story as a nail-biting thriller (*Hostage*) and revisiting his teen years and first summer job (*Factory Summers*). In 2012, Delisle was awarded the Prize for Best Album for the French edition of *Jerusalem* at the Angoulême International Comics Festival.

PRAISE

Praise for Guy Delisle

“One of the greatest modern cartoonists.” —*The Guardian*

“Guy Delisle is the real thing: a skilled and wryly funny cartoonist [with an] acute sense of timing.” —NPR

“Delisle, a former animator, has a knack for visual shorthand . . . and for drawing environments.” —*The New York Times*
A deeply emotional visual representation of a teenager’s confusion.

Still reeling from the death by suicide of his drug-addicted father, Travis moves in with his grandmother to become her caretaker as she battles cancer. Meanwhile, he tries to live a typical teen life of pulling pranks, occasional shoplifting, dating, and endless drives through the twisting backroads of Central Massachusetts with Nirvana’s *Nevermind* as the soundtrack. When the police intervene after a prank backfires, the boys realize that their time as children is rapidly disappearing and they may never fully understand each other as they move apart.

After his Lynd Ward Prize–winning graphic novel, *King of King Court*, explored the power that parents hold over their children’s emotional lives, Travis Dandro employs his signature dream imagery and crass humor to tell the story of teenage independence and resilience as he prepares to head off to art school.

*Hummingbird Heart* is a detailed and stylish account of a time of great uncertainty. Dandro’s densely crafted pages create a deeply emotional experience as his story swings from character confrontation to finely wrought domestic detail—a slapstick cafeteria-destroying brawl gives way to the beautifully rendered flight of the impossible hummingbird.

**Travis Dandro** was born in 1974, in Leicester, Massachusetts. He started publishing his first comic strip, *Twerp*, in the local newspaper when he was thirteen years old, earning $15 a week. After graduating from Montserrat College of Art in 1996, Dandro continued drawing comics, his work appearing in dozens of college newspapers across the United States and Canada. He also self-published *Journal*, which was a notable comic in the 2010 and 2012 editions of *The Best American Comics*. His first book was *King of King Court*. Dandro lives in Maine with his wife and three sons.

**PRAISE**

Praise for *King of King Court*

“Dandro has a gift for the cinematic.” —*Times Literary Supplement*

“This is a powerful debut, skilfully drawn, cleverly told and as raw as a wasp sting.” —*The Guardian*

“Inventive . . . A visually engaging and human story of early trauma and how art and the imagination persist through the toughest of times.” —Lib...
Take flight to this postapocalyptic utopia filled with birds.

Long after the demise of humankind, birds roam freely around a new earth complete with fruitful trees, sophisticated fungal networks, and an enviable socialist order. The universal worm feeds all, there are no weekends, and economics is as fantastical a study as unicorn psychology. No concept of money or wealth plagues the thoughts of these free-minded birds. Instead, there are angsty teens who form bands to show off their best bird song and other youngsters who yearn to become clothing designers even though clothes are only necessary during war. (The truly honorable professions for most birds are historian or librarian.) These birds are free to crush on hot pelicans and live their best lives until a crash-landed human from the moon threatens to change everything.

Michael DeForge’s post-apocalyptic reality brings together the author’s quintessential deadpan humor, surrealistic imagination, and undeniable sociopolitical insight. Appearing originally as a webcomic, *Birds of Maine* follows DeForge’s prolific trajectory of astounding graphic novels that reimagine and question the world as we know it. His latest comic captures the optimistic glow of utopian imagination with a late-capitalism sting of irony.

*Michael DeForge* is a cartoonist, an illustrator, and a community organizer who lives Toronto, Ontario.

PRAISE

Praise for *Michael DeForge*

“Frequently funny, sometimes harrowing, and always deeply strange.” — *Slate*

“DeForge examines both how we build our own sense of self and how others take on the roles we create for them.” —*The Guardian*

“Another DeForge classic—tender, depressing, and overflowing with his mind-melting, uber-satisfying surrealist styl...
Acting Class
Nick Drnaso

A brilliant and suspenseful follow-up to the Booker-nominated graphic novel Sabrina.

"Every single person has something unique to them which is impossible to re-create, without exception." —John Smith, acting coach

From the acclaimed author of Sabrina, Nick Drnaso's Acting Class creates a tapestry of disconnect, distrust, and manipulation. Ten strangers are brought together under the tutelage of John Smith, a mysterious and morally questionable leader. The group of social misfits and restless searchers have one thing in common: they are out of step with their surroundings and desperate for change.

A husband and wife, four years into their marriage and simmering in boredom. A single mother, her young son showing disturbing signs of mental instability. A peculiar woman with few if any friends and only her menial job keeping her grounded. A figure model, comfortable in his body and ready for a creative challenge. A worried grandmother and her adult granddaughter; a hulking laborer and gym nut; a physical therapist; an ex-con.

With thrumming unease, the class sinks deeper into their lessons as the process demands increasing devotion. When the line between real life and imagination begins to blur, the group’s deepest fears and desires are laid bare. Exploring the tension between who we are and how we present, Drnaso cracks open his characters’ masks and takes us through an unsettling American journey.

Nick Drnaso was born in 1989 in Palos Hills, Illinois. His debut, Beverly, received the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Best Graphic Novel. His followup, the graphic novel Sabrina, was a New York Times Notable Book of 2018 and received nominations for the Booker Prize, the Eisner Award, the LD and LaVerne Harrell Clark Fiction Prize, the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, and the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Award. Sabrina has been published in fifteen countries. Drnaso lives in Chicago with his wife and their two cats.

PRAISE

Praise for Sabrina

"Sabrina is the intimate story of one man’s suffering, but it also captures the political nihilism of the social-media era." —DT Max, The New Yorker

My Perfect Life

Lynda Barry

Collected from the strip Ernie Pook’s Comeek, which was serialized in alternative weeklies across the continent, My Perfect Life captures the moment when Lynda Barry finds the perfect balance in longer-form storytelling between the bellyaching laughs and the brutal reality checks. Along with the 2022 release Come Over Come Over, this collection continues to spotlight the life of teenager Maybonne Mullen. She suffers through the utterly relatable insults of junior high and the excruciating embarrassment caused by her little sister, Marlys. Hovering in the background, however, is a broken home, parents struggling with addiction, a grandmother who takes her granddaughters from the diverse big city to a bewilderingly bland small town.

Yet fitting into the new school and surroundings is, of course, paramount to a young teenager. Maybonne begins September full of life and excitement. As the school year progresses, she experiences bullying, her first boyfriend, family drama, drinking, and more. The book ends with Maybonne withdrawn and jaded as the reality of her world outweighs the magic.

Lynda Barry has worked as a painter, cartoonist, writer, illustrator, playwright, editor, commentator, and teacher and found that they are very much alike. She lives in Wisconsin, where she is a professor of Interdisciplinary Creativity at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

PRAISE

“May Perfect Life is [Barry’s] finest, funniest, most affecting graphic novel to date, partly because she’s perfected her draughtsmanship, but also because it observes the Aristotelian dramatic unities, sort of.” —Entertainment Weekly

“Barry’s carefully chosen words and scribbly drawings capture the melodramatic fantasies...
The Con Artists

Luke Healy

A quintessentially millennial tale about friendship and the quest for self-actualization

This is going to be Frank’s year. He’s going to do it all: find love, become a famous comedian, and responsibly parent his plants. But then, Giorgio gets hit by a bus.

Self-assured and utterly entitled, Giorgio has always seemed like “Frank, but better.” Moving in with and caring for his estranged childhood friend quickly starts to chip away at Frank’s sense of self, as well as Giorgio’s carefully curated online persona. Is Giorgio’s penchant for overindulgence truly aspirational? Or is it ultimately a red flag? The further Frank is pulled into Giorgio’s orbit, the quicker his existential dread blooms. Expectation and reality soon collide in a singular tale about trust and confidence.

Luke Healy’s playful, hilarious third graphic novel uses crisp lines and physical comedy to portray an uneasy friendship between two young men on the cusp of adulting. Snippets from Frank’s middling stand-up routines are punctuated by the subtle farce of Healy’s mise-en-scène and the lively, at times scathingly pointed, banter of old friends. The Con Artists is a stylish character study that asks the question of who fools who once everyone is off-camera.

Luke Healy was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, where he also received a BA in Journalism. He has an MFA from the Centre for Cartoon Studies in Vermont, USA. He has published three graphic novels: Americana (And the Act of Getting Over It), How to Survive in the North, and Permanent Press. Healy’s work has been exhibited in the Museum of Comics and Cartoon Art in Manhattan and his clients include The New Yorker, BBC, Vice, and Narratively.

PRAISE

“Smart, funny, restrained and beautifully drawn.”—The Irish Times

“Healy’s pilgrimage through America is also a journey into his own mind, soundtracked by blistered footsteps and breathless huffs, and told with winning honesty.”—The Guardian, Best Comics and Graphic Novels of 2019