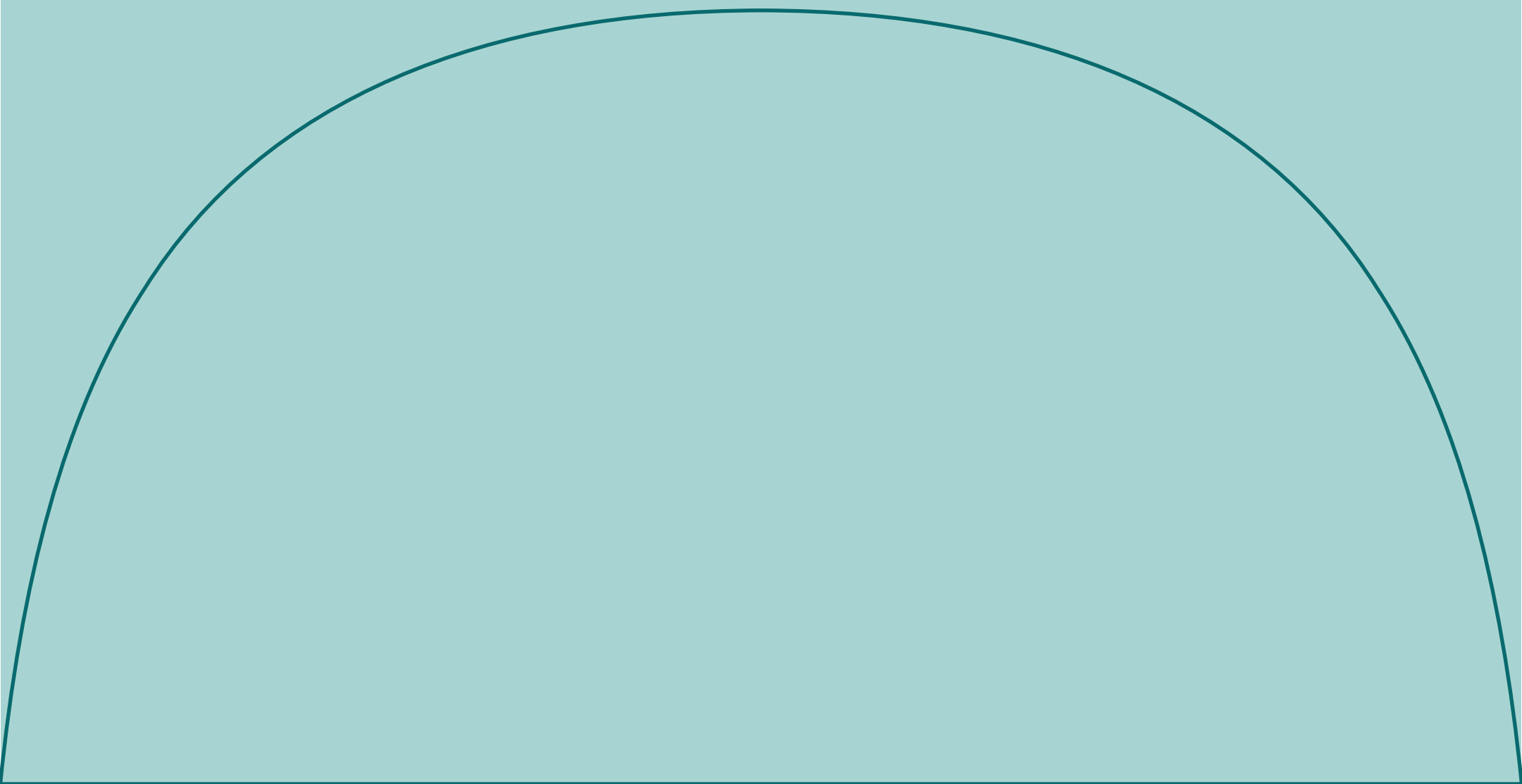




Farrar, Straus & Giroux International Rights Guide

London Book Fair
—2024



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AUWA Books

Announcing Questlove's New AUWA Books Imprint at MCD/FSG.

MCD, an imprint of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, announces the launch of AUWA Books, an imprint directed by Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, the celebrated Academy Award-winning filmmaker, musician, DJ, producer, director, culinary entrepreneur, and *New York Times* bestselling author.

As an artist and enthusiast, a historian and curator, Questlove has spent decades both contributing to culture and exploring its rich and complex history. AUWA Books seeks to connect the two. The imprint will publish both nonfiction and fiction on a wide range of topics. Questlove’s interests are rooted in music and its history, of course, but the tree’s branches expand outward from there to cover nearly every topic under the sun.

A literary imprint devoted to finding inspiring new stories and connecting readers to lost voices, AUWA Books’ name is inspired by the bird-call noise that was popularized by Prince (you can hear it in songs such as “Baby I’m a Star” and “Eye No”). Questlove has always felt a deep kinship with Prince, not just musically but personally, and in that spirit the imprint seeks to strengthen the connection between creators and audience. AUWA is more than just a sound. It is the call going out and the call being answered, a community being identified and nourished. Every book must find its audience, but every publisher must help audiences find their way to books that matter to them.



AUWA Books

“I have been writing books for over a decade,” says Questlove, “so it seemed like a natural step to publish them too. I’m very excited about AUWA Books, from the books we have lined up to the books we haven’t discovered yet. Let’s take it to the page.”

AUWA Books published its first book on October 17, 2023: **THANK YOU (FALETTINME BE MICE ELF AGIN)** by the legendary Sly Stone. In addition to Stone’s memoir, other books to be published by AUWA Books in the coming years include Questlove’s own **HIP-HOP IS HISTORY** (2024; translation rights: FSG), a seminal new book about hip-hop’s first 50 years co-written with Ben Greenman; the fierce, inspiring first book from TikTok and podcasting superstar Drew Afualo (2024); Josh Luber’s **THE HYPE ECONOMY** (2025; translation rights: FSG), a work focused on the intersection of culture and commerce and the business of collecting from the co-founder of StockX and Fanatics Collectibles; and the urgent **HANDBOOK FOR THE REVOLUTION: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR WORKPLACE ORGANIZING** (2026; translation rights: FSG) by the Vice President and co-founder of the Amazon Labor Union, Derrick Palmer. **(Rights to Bolded titles handled by Auwa/FSG)**

AUWA Books, a division of AUWA Content, is led by Questlove as Publisher and Editor in Chief and Alexis Rosenzweig as SVP and Editorial Director, along with Executive Editors Malaika Adero and Ben Greenman. To sign up for future updates about the imprint, visit auwabooks.com.





Fiction

Farrar, Straus & Giroux
FSG Originals
MCD
MCD x FSG Originals

BACK TO THE DIRT (A Novel) —Frank Bill

A timeless—and timely—work: a gritty, wrenching novel from deep inside the traumas of the broken American male psyche.

 FSG Originals

May 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold
Donnybrook

BRITISH / Heinemann
DUTCH / Karakter
FRENCH / Gallimard / La Série Noire
NORWEGIAN / Aschehoug



BACK TO THE DIRT (A Novel) —Frank Bill

Miles is a Vietnam vet who's worried he's going to lose his job and his tenuous grasp on a stable life because of a fight he had with a coworker over some steroids. His PTSD and struggles to control his steroid-fueled violent tendencies complicate his life with his girlfriend Shelby, a stripper whose brother Wylie is currently on the run after being implicated in the deaths of two local Oxy dealers and has their family on his tail. When Wylie kidnaps his sister and holes up in Miles's country lair, it is, frankly, threatening to become a bit too much for steroid-addled Miles to keep together.

As Bill peels back the layers of Miles's history, accompanying him into his Vietnam War memories, the novel gets to the root of the traumas that have caused Miles—and his community—so much trouble. And this, truly, is the soul of the Frank Bill project: to speak of and for the forgotten struggles of the American heartland. He reaches deep for the core values—living close to the land, working with your hands—that have been obscured by generations of neglect, trauma, drug abuse, and desperation. This is a profound and important story that is only beginning to get its due attention, and Bill is its most visceral, essential chronicler.

FRANK BILL is the author of the novels *The Savage* and *Donnybrook*, which was turned into a film in 2018, and the story collection *Crimes in Southern Indiana*, one of GQ's favorite books of 2011 and a *Daily Beast* best debut of 2011. He lives and writes in Southern Indiana.

Praise for BACK TO THE DIRT

A Recommended Title, *CrimeReads*
Summer Reads 2023 Pick, *Publishers Weekly*
A Staff Pick, *LEO Weekly*
A Book of the Month, Vol. 1 *Brooklyn*

“

Provides the all-hell-broke-loose tumult one expects from Bill.

—*Kirkus*

“

Bill draws wrenching parallels between battle and family-abuse trauma through evocative hallucinations, survival-of-the-fittest settings, and disarming compassion...Bill's descriptions are both ugly and beautiful, often merging the hunt with Miles' Vietnam flashbacks, capturing the realities of those resigned to being left behind and the violence that offers short-lived power.

—*Booklist*, starred

“

Bill's feverish latest shines a light on an American heartland blighted by crushed dreams and debilitating addictions...With kinetic prose, Bill keeps up the pace and delivers a steady supply of grisly details...It makes for one hell of a ride.

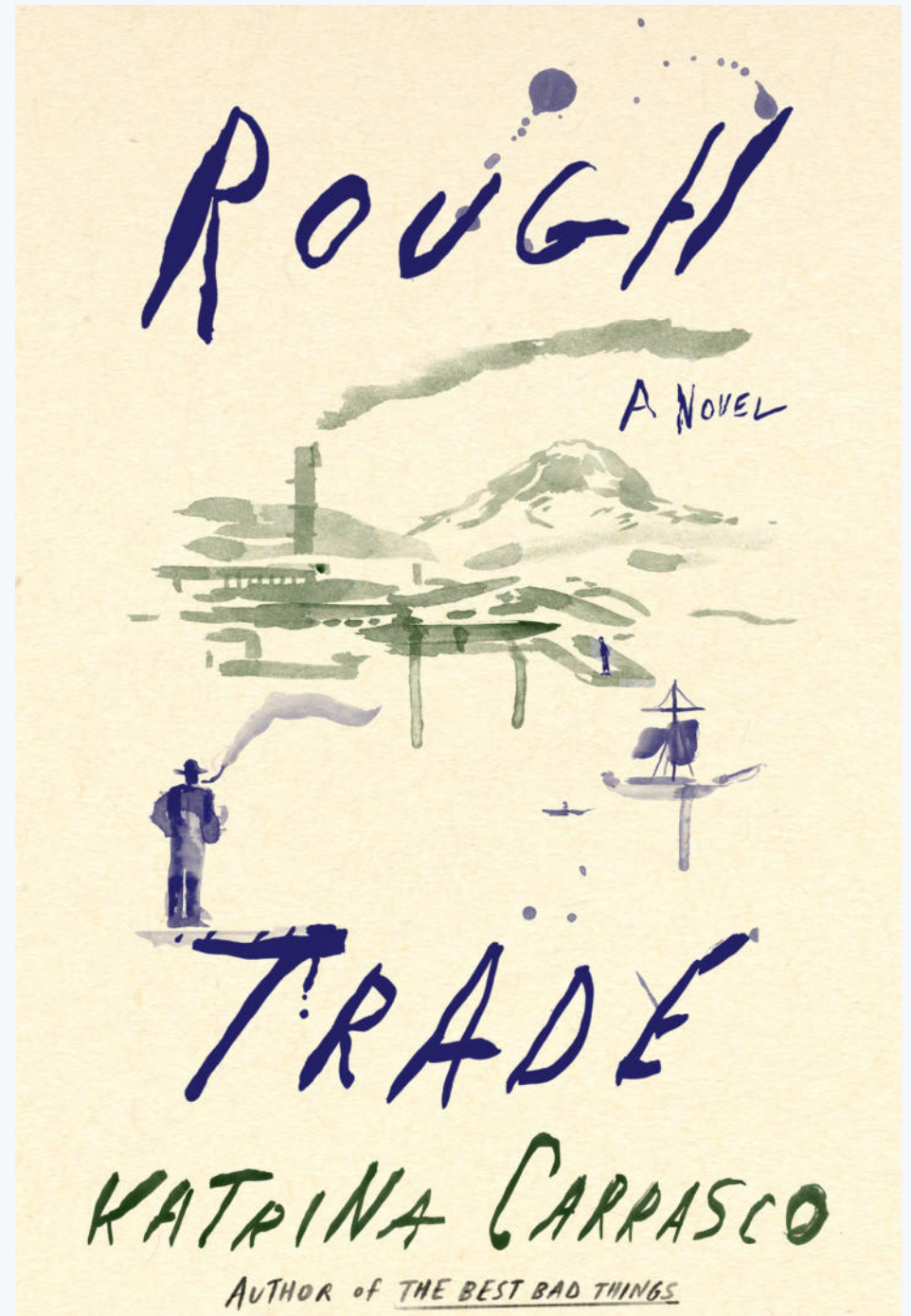
—*Publishers Weekly*

ROUGH TRADE (A Novel) —Katrina Carrasco

Alma Rosales is back and trouble is hot on her heels in this sexy queer historical thriller from the critically acclaimed author of *The Best Bad Things*.

MCD

April 2024 (finished books available)



ROUGH TRADE (A Novel) —Katrina Carrasco

Washington Territory, 1888. With contacts on the docks and in the railroad, and with a buyers' market funneling product their way, Alma Rosales and her opium-smuggling crew are making a fortune. They spend their days moving product and their nights at the Monte Carlo, the center of Tacoma's queer scene, where skirts and trousers don't signify and everyone's free to suit themselves.

Then two local men end up dead, with all signs pointing to the opium trade, and a botched effort to disappear the bodies draws lawmen to town. Alma scrambles to keep them away from her operation but is distracted by the surprise appearance of Bess Spencer—an ex-Pinkerton's agent and Alma's first love—after years of silence. A handsome young stranger comes to town, too, and falls into an affair with one of Alma's crewmen. When he starts asking questions about opium, Alma begins to suspect she's welcomed a spy into her inner circle, and is forced to consider how far she'll go to protect her trade.

Katrina Carrasco plunges readers into the vivid, rough-and-tumble world of the late-1800s Pacific Northwest in this genre- and gender-blurring novel. **ROUGH TRADE** follows Carrasco's critically acclaimed debut *The Best Bad Things* and reimagines queer communities, the turbulent early days of modern media and medicine, and the pleasures—and price—of satisfying desire?

It is a feast of the senses, a rich historical thriller told in powerful, alluring prose and exploring love, community, and the unbreakable bonds of found families.

KATRINA CARRASCO is author of *The Best Bad Things*, which was a finalist for the Washington State Books Award. She holds an MFA in fiction from Portland State University, where she received the Tom and Phyllis Burnam Graduate Fiction Scholarship and the Tom Doulis Graduate Fiction Writing Award. Her work has appeared in *Witness Magazine*, *Post Road Magazine*, *Quaint Magazine*, and other journals.

Praise for *Rough Trade*

“

Rough Trade is a thrilling, fascinating game of shifting alliances and betrayals. The blazing heart of the novel is queer joy—queer spaces of the past brought to life in roaring, Technicolor glory, an unforgettable found family of rebels and outlaws, and timeless questions about the radical choices and sacrifices necessary to live an authentic life. I loved this book.

—Kim Fu, author of *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*

“

Cunning and wildly compelling, *Rough Trade* is as lush as the smell of good tobacco, and just as dangerously addictive.

—Lev Ac Rosen, author of *The Bell in the Fog*

“

In *Rough Trade*, Katrina Carrasco gives us the queer body as a source of joy. It's a delight to read of unexpected freedoms in our queer past.

—Nicola Griffith, author of *Menewood*

“

Clever and twisty, stark and swift. If the gender-fluid, leads-with-their-jaw antihero doesn't get you—and how can they not?—then the blood-thumping plot will.

—Kawai String Washburn, author of *Sharks in the Time of Saviors*

BROTHER BRONTË (A Novel) —Fernando A. Flores

Two women adventure to save their dystopian border town—and books themselves—in Fernando A. Flores's most fantastical novel yet.

 MCD

February 2025 (manuscript available April 2024)

Rights Sold
Tears of the Trufflepig

FRENCH / Gallimard
SPANISH / Bunker Books



BROTHER BRONTË (A Novel) —Fernando A. Flores

The year is 2038, and the formerly bustling town of Three Rivers, Texas is a surreal wasteland. Under the authoritarian thumb of its tech industrialist mayor Pablo Henry Crick, the town has outlawed reading and forced most of Three Rivers' mothers to work as indentured laborers at the Big Tex Fish Cannery, which poisons the atmosphere and lines Crick's pockets.

Scraping by in this forsaken landscape are best friends Prosperina and Neftalí, the latter of whom, one of town's last literate citizens, hides and reads the books of the mysterious renegade author Jazzmin Monelle Rivas, whose last novel, *Brother Brontë*, is finally in Neftalí's possession. But after a series of increasingly violent atrocities committed by Crick's forces, Neftalí and Prosperina, with the help of a wounded bengal tigress, three scheming triplets, and an underground network of rebel tías, rise up to reclaim their city—and in the process, unlock Rivas's connection to Three Rivers itself.

BROTHER BRONTË is a mordant and gonzo romp through a ruined world that, in its dysfunction, tyranny, and disparity, nonetheless feels uncannily like our own. With his most ambitious book yet, Flores once again bends what fiction can do, in the process crafting a moving and unforgettable story of perseverance.

FERNANDO A. FLORES was born in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and grew up in South Texas. He is the author of the collections *Death to the Bullshit Artists of South Texas* and *Valleyesque* 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*, *American Short Fiction*, *Ploughshares*, *Frieze*, *Porter House Review*, and elsewhere. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Praise for VALLEYESQUE

“

In this exuberantly strange story collection, Flores asks: Whose reality? What rules?...Flores writes with a sublime comic sensibility.

—Jean Chen Ho, *The New York Times Book Review*

“

Three books into a sui generis career, Flores represents a breakout from the strictures of social realism and documentary historical fiction, into a delirious literary mashup that conjures up the Texas writers Gloria Anzaldúa and Americo Paredes, as well as Jorge Luis Borges, Franz Kafka, and Iggy Pop—an autochthonous punk-rock magicalism of the borderlands.

—John Phillip Santos, *Texas Monthly*

“

A unique mix of magical realism and hyperrealism come together to pack quite the punch in 188 pages. Despite the lingering questions you may have, Flores is skilled with leaving you very satisfied with what you got. Right on the border of silly and serious, Valleyesque demands to be devoured in a single sitting.

—Alex Reeve, *Houston Chronicle*

“

Fernando Flores writes some of the most inventive, genre-defying fiction around, and yet I will still try to claim him for crime fiction because his stories are, at the very least, deeply disturbing...This is the trippiest book of the summer.

—*CrimeReads*

IN TONGUES (A Novel) —Thomas Grattan

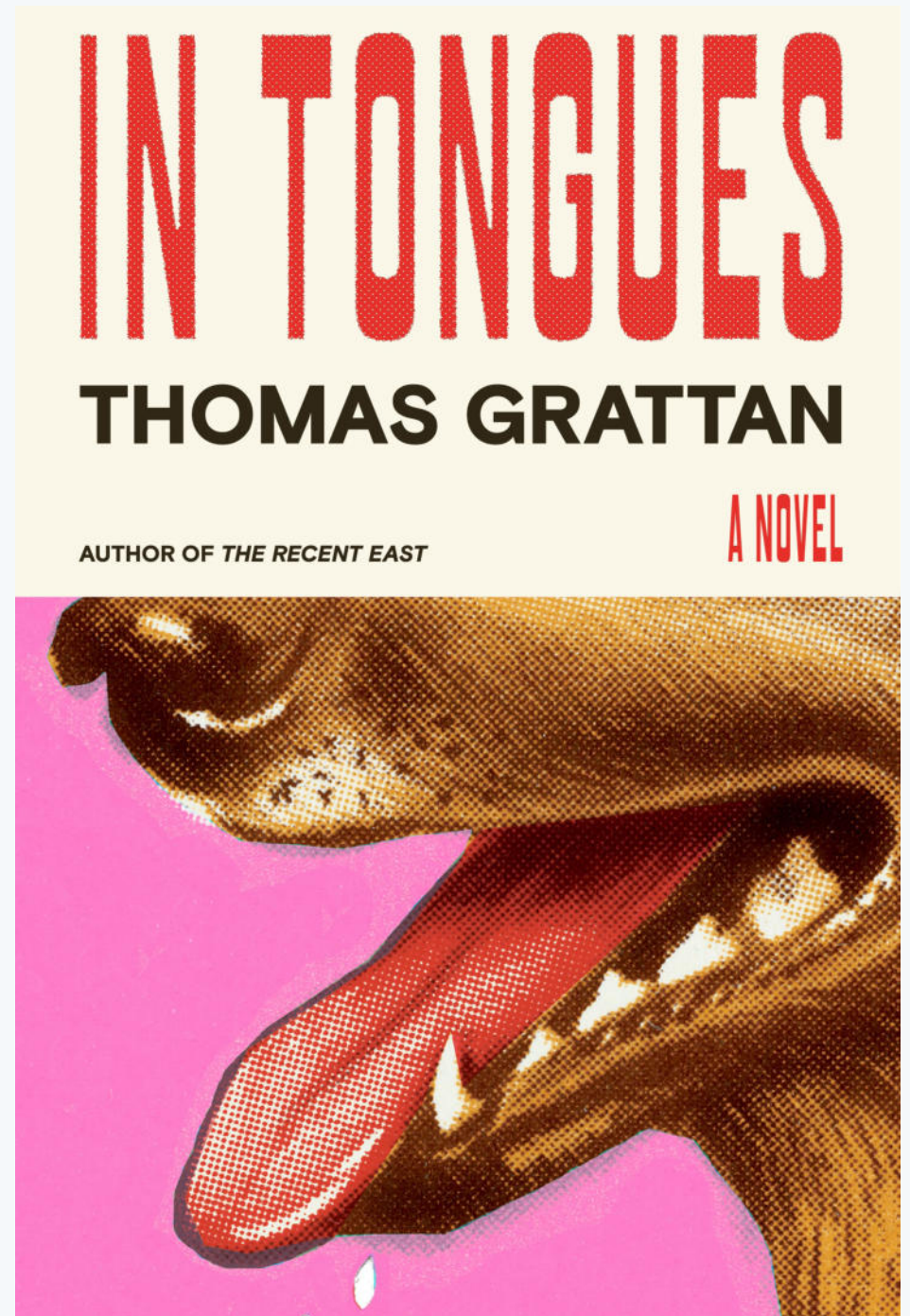
A young gay man upends the lives of a powerful art world couple in this steamy novel of self-discovery.

 MCD

May 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold
The Recent East

RUSSIAN / Ripol



IN TONGUES (A Novel)

—Thomas Grattan

It's 2001, and twenty-four-year-old Gordon—handsome, sensitive, and eager for direction—takes a bus from Minnesota to New York City because it's the only place for a young gay man to go. As he begins to settle into the city's punishing rhythm, he gets a job walking rich Manhattanites' dogs. But it isn't until he stumbles into the West Village brownstone of one of his clients, the powerful gallery owners Phillip and Nicola, that Gordon learns how much the world has hidden from him—and what he's capable of doing in order to get it for himself.

A lush, heart-quickenning novel about family and art, sex and class, and the terror of self-discovery, Thomas Grattan's **IN TONGUES** chronicles Gordon's perilous pursuit of belonging from the Midwest to New York and, later, to Europe and Mexico City. As he floats further into Phillip and Nicola's exclusive universe, and as lines blur between employee, muse, lover, and mentor, Gordon's charm, manipulation, and growing ambition begin to escape his own control, in turn threatening to unravel the lives, and lies, of those around him.

Anchored by winsome lyricism, glinting intellect, and a main character whose yearnings and mistakes come to feel like our own, **IN TONGUES** crackles with fierce longing and pointed emotion, further confirming Grattan as a rare chronicler of young adulthood's joys and devastations.

THOMAS GRATTAN is the author of the novel *The Recent East*, which was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction, longlisted for the 2021 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, and named a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *One Story*, *Slice*, and *Colorado Review*. He has an MFA in fiction writing from Brooklyn College and has taught middle school English for more than a decade. He lives in upstate New York.

Praise for IN TONGUES

“

Wistful, unapologetically sexy, and blazingly alive...Grattan's novel is a tender portrait of queer young adulthood in all its messy glory.

—Micah Nemerever, author of *These Violent Delights*

“

At first, *In Tongues* reads like a comedy of manners—a cute young man moves to Manhattan and takes a job as a dog walker/assistant to two older men from the art world. But then we watch the sexual, ethical, and monetary inequality turn dark. Thomas Grattan is a master of plot—that rare ability—which makes *In Tongues* a real roller coaster: funny, sad, shocking, and, finally, quite moving.

—Andrew Holleran, author of *Dancer from the Dance* and *The Kingdom of Sand*

“

Funny, touching, and authentic, *In Tongues* is about trying to survive in a declining society, a novel that should become the touchstone of a whole generation.

—Edmund White

“

A rare beauty of a novel, both thrillingly sexy and heartbreakingly human...Grattan brings fresh wit and insight to the beloved gay, New York, coming-of-age novel.

—Christopher Bollen, author of *The Lost Americans*

“

Thomas Grattan masterfully elucidates the life of an elegant hero—shattering friendships, sudden lovers, surprising moments of grace. Reading *In Tongues* felt like a deliciously banal and dangerous afternoon I never wanted to end. I love this beautiful, horny, honest, glamorous novel.

—Marie-Helene Bertino, author of *Beautyland*

MENEWOOD (A Novel) —Nicola Griffith

In the much anticipated sequel to *Hild*, Nicola Griffith's **MENEWOOD** transports readers back to seventh-century Britain, a land of rival kings and religions poised for epochal change.

 MCD

October 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold

SPANISH / Machado Libros

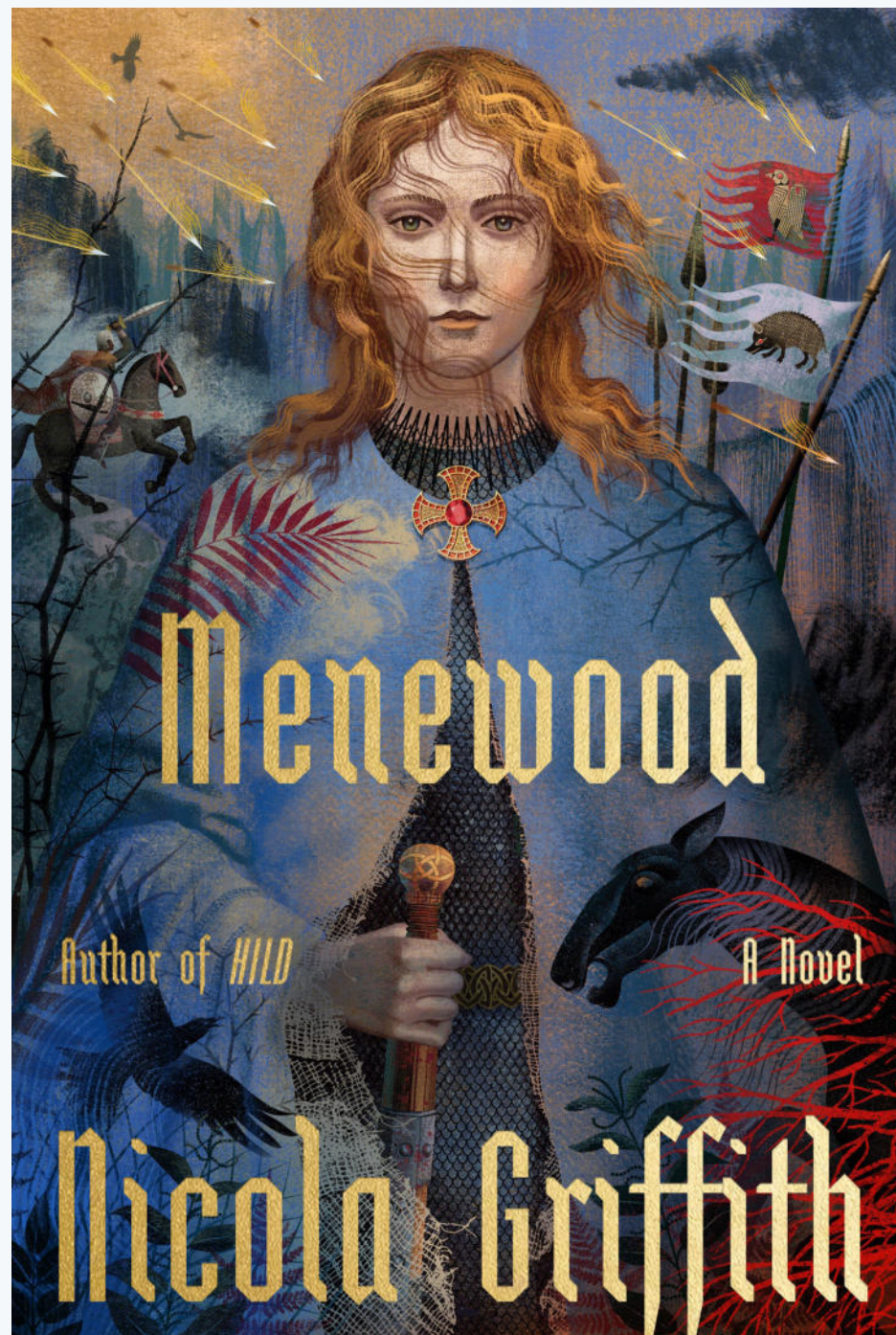
Rights Sold

Hild

BRITISH / Black Friars

POLISH / Zysk

SPANISH / Machado Libros



MENEWOOD (A Novel) —Nicola Griffith

Hild is no longer the bright child who made a place in Edwin Overking's court with her seemingly supernatural insight. She is eighteen, honed and tested, the formidable Lady of Elmet, now building her personal stronghold in the valley of Menewood.

But Edwin needs his most trusted advisor. Old alliances are fraying. Younger rivals are snapping at his heels. War is brewing—bitter war, winter war. Not knowing who to trust, he becomes volatile and unpredictable. Hild begins to understand the true extent of the chaos ahead, and now she must navigate the turbulence and fight to protect both the kingdom and her own people. Hild will face the losses and devastation of total war, and then she must find a new strength, the implacable determination to forge a radically different path for herself and her people. She trains herself and her unexpected allies in new ways of thinking as she prepares for one last wager: risking all on a single throw for a better future...

In the last decade, *Hild* has become a beloved classic of epic storytelling. **MENEWOOD** picks up where that journey left off, and exceeds it in every way.

NICOLA GRIFFITH (she/her) is a dual UK/US citizen living in Seattle. She is the author of award-winning novels including *Hild*, *So Lucky*, and *Ammonite*, and her books have won the Nebula Award, the Washington State Book Award, the Otherwise/Tiptree Award, the World Fantasy Award, and the Lambda Literary Award (six times). She is the founder and co-host of #CripLit, holds a PhD from Anglia Ruskin University, and enjoys a ferocious bout of wheelchair boxing. She is married to novelist and screenwriter Kelley Eskridge.

Praise for MENEWOOD

“

Menewood is everything *Hild* was in terms of prose craft, depth of research and immensity of feeling...Menewood doesn't feel like a sequel so much as the same book, the same life, spooling a little farther along its path. While I hope not to have to wait another 10 years for another volume, I trust that it would be worth it.

—Amal El-Mohtar, *The New York Times Book Review*

“

Menewood is a searing depiction of a world at war, and the ferocious and complicated woman at the center of it.

—Maria Dahvana Headley, author of *The Mere Wife* and *Beowulf: A New Translation*

“

[This] much-anticipated follow-up finds Hild a little older and living in a small stronghold of her own—while tensions across England are rising, threatening all sense of order. Like the first book, *Menewood* anchors its far-off subject matter with close attention to the natural world. It's also visceral in a whole new way, dramatizing some of northern Britain's most violent years.

—*Vulture*, “Fall Books to Read”

“

Griffith follows up *Hild* with a transportive second volume inspired by the life of St. Hilda of Whitby (614–680), known for advising kings as an abbess and portrayed here as a canny royal leader and fierce warrior in the years before she's recruited by the church. There's no shortage of visceral prose (as Hild mounts her mare, Griffith writes: “She felt herself swell, blood coursing rich and thick in her veins, and her heart rose like a great bubble”). Admirers of the first book will not be disappointed.

—*Publishers Weekly*

HESTIA STRIKES A MATCH (A Novel) —Christine Grillo

The slyly funny, achingly accurate story of a woman looking for love, friendship and a meaningful life even as the world around her collapses.

© FSG

April 2023 (finished books available)



HESTIA STRIKES A MATCH (A Novel) —Christine Grillo

Hestia Harris is forty, newly single by virtue of abandonment for the Union Cause, and her parents are absconding to the confederacy. Yes, it's 2023 and the United States has collapsed into another bloody civil war, with Unionists against Confederates, children against parents, friends against friends. Meanwhile, Hestia is adrift, save for her coworkers at a retirement village and her best friend, Mildred, an 84-year-old resident. Mildred, widowed three times, gleefully supports Hestia's somewhat half-hearted but nonetheless hopeful attempts to find love in a time of chaos and disunion with a hilariously broad range of suitors including an arborist, a UN peacekeeper, a war widower, a Russian bartender, a mime puppeteer, and a Tai Chi instructor.

For fans of Maria Semple, Andrew Sean Greer, Ling Ma, and Gail Honeyman, **HESTIA STRIKES A MATCH** is an irreverent, incisive, and laugh-out-loud interrogation of modern love of all kinds, in all its messy beauty. With a heart filled to fend off despair, it asks the seemingly ever-relevant question: how do you embrace a whole life when the whole world is breaking into bits and madness?

CHRISTINE GRILLO is a writer and editor covering food systems, agriculture, and climate change, whose nonfiction has been published in outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *CityLab*, *Audubon*, *NextTribe*, and *Real Simple*. Her short fiction has appeared in *Story Quarterly*, *The Southern Review* and *LIT*.

Praise for HESTIA STRIKES A MATCH

SHORTLISTED FOR CROOK'S CORNER BOOK PRIZE

Best Books of the Year, NPR

Best Books for Spring, *Oprah Daily*

10 Noteworthy Books for April, *The Washington Post*

“

Witty ... Imaginative.

—Becky Meloon, *The Washington Post*

“

Steamy, smart, and hilarious.

—*Oprah Daily*

“

[Grillo's] sharp, sparkling debut is a timely reminder of what connects people even in a country tearing itself apart.

—Allison Cho, *Booklist*

“

[A] clever satire of life in a divided country... *Bridget Jones's Diary* for the post-MAGA era.

—*Publishers Weekly*

“

[A] sharply observed and written tale.

—*Kirkus*

“

Christine Grillo's debut novel is a wry look at our *it could happen here* dis-Union, one that might just remind us all to take ourselves, and our arguments, less seriously. Great fun.

—Alice McDermott, author of *What About the Baby?*

“

Warning: Do not pick up *Hestia Strikes a Match* without clearing your calendar. I could not put down this pitch-perfect dark comedy.

—Joanna Rakoff, author of *My Salinger Year*

YOU KNOW HER (A Novel) —Meagan Jennett

Killing Eve meets *My Sister the Serial Killer* in this lush, savage Southern Gothic about two women: a fledgling murderer and the cop hell-bent on catching her.

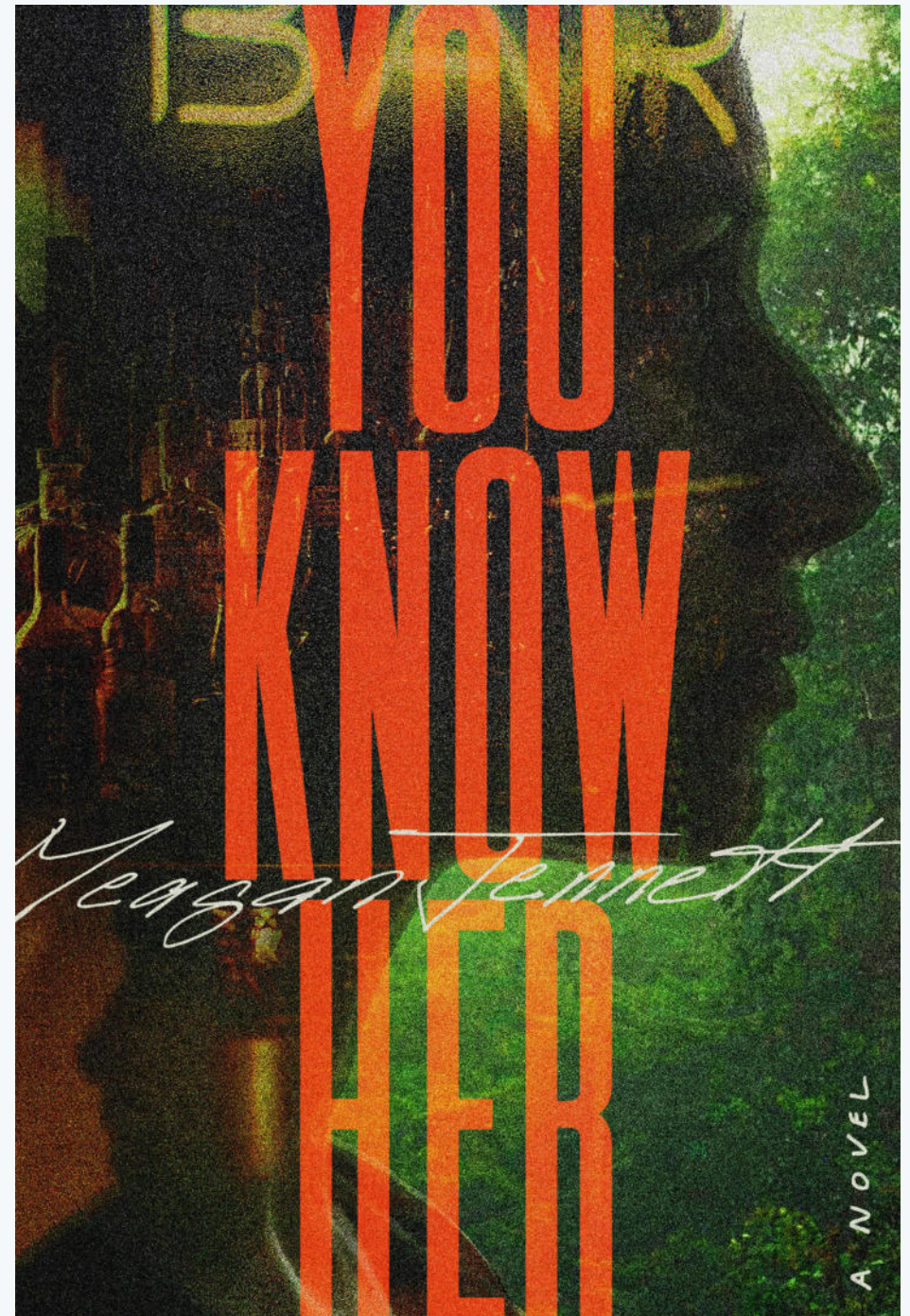
 MCD

April 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold

FRENCH / Les Arenes

GERMAN / Suhrkamp



YOU KNOW HER (A Novel) —Meagan Jennett

Two hours before he vanished, Mark Dixon stole a glass of wine. This is what Sophie Braam tells the police when questioned about her regular customer who was just found, tongueless, in a trash dump. What she doesn't tell them is that she is the one who killed him. Or that his missing tongue is pickling in a jar in her bar fridge.

Standing across the counter is Officer Nora Martin, Bellair Police Department's newest hire, and their only woman in uniform. She's trying very hard to learn the ropes from Detective Richard Murphy while ignoring her new coworkers snapping about a diversity hire.

Bodies pile up, ghosts climb out of their graves, and the two women begin to circle one another, building a friendship over the shared experience of working in male-dominated industries. As Sophie slides deeper into her unique brand of curdled feminism, Nora begins to feel that something's not quite right about the bartender who seems to be crawling even when she's standing still. But will Murphy listen to her, or will he laugh off the idea that it might be a female serial killer haunting their little town?

YOU KNOW HER is an intimate exploration of the terrifying power of feminine rage and grief. When does retribution mean revenge? And when is it forgiveness?

MEAGAN JENNETT is an escaped bartender who traded in crafting cocktails for crafting her own tales. She is a doctoral candidate in fine arts at the University of Glasgow. She has published work in *From Glasgow to Saturn*, *Honey & Lime Lit*, and *Skirting Around Magazine*. *You Know Her* is her debut novel. Meagan currently lives in her hometown of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Praise for YOU KNOW HER

A Most Anticipated Mystery and Thriller Book of 2023, *Paste Magazine*

A Most Anticipated Crime Fiction of 2023, *CrimeReads*

“

Stellar debut...Jennett is a writer to watch.
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

“

Highly recommended, especially for anyone following the growing thriller trend of female serial killers.
—*Booklist*, starred

“

A subversive serial-killer tale that dives headfirst into a furious mind.
—*Kirkus*

“

A fierce, funny, incredibly timely, cathartic, gonzo feminist thriller. This book will be the talk of the genre. If you read one thriller this year, read this one.
—Chelsea Cain, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Heartsick*

TELL ME WHO YOU ARE (A Novel) —Louisa Luna

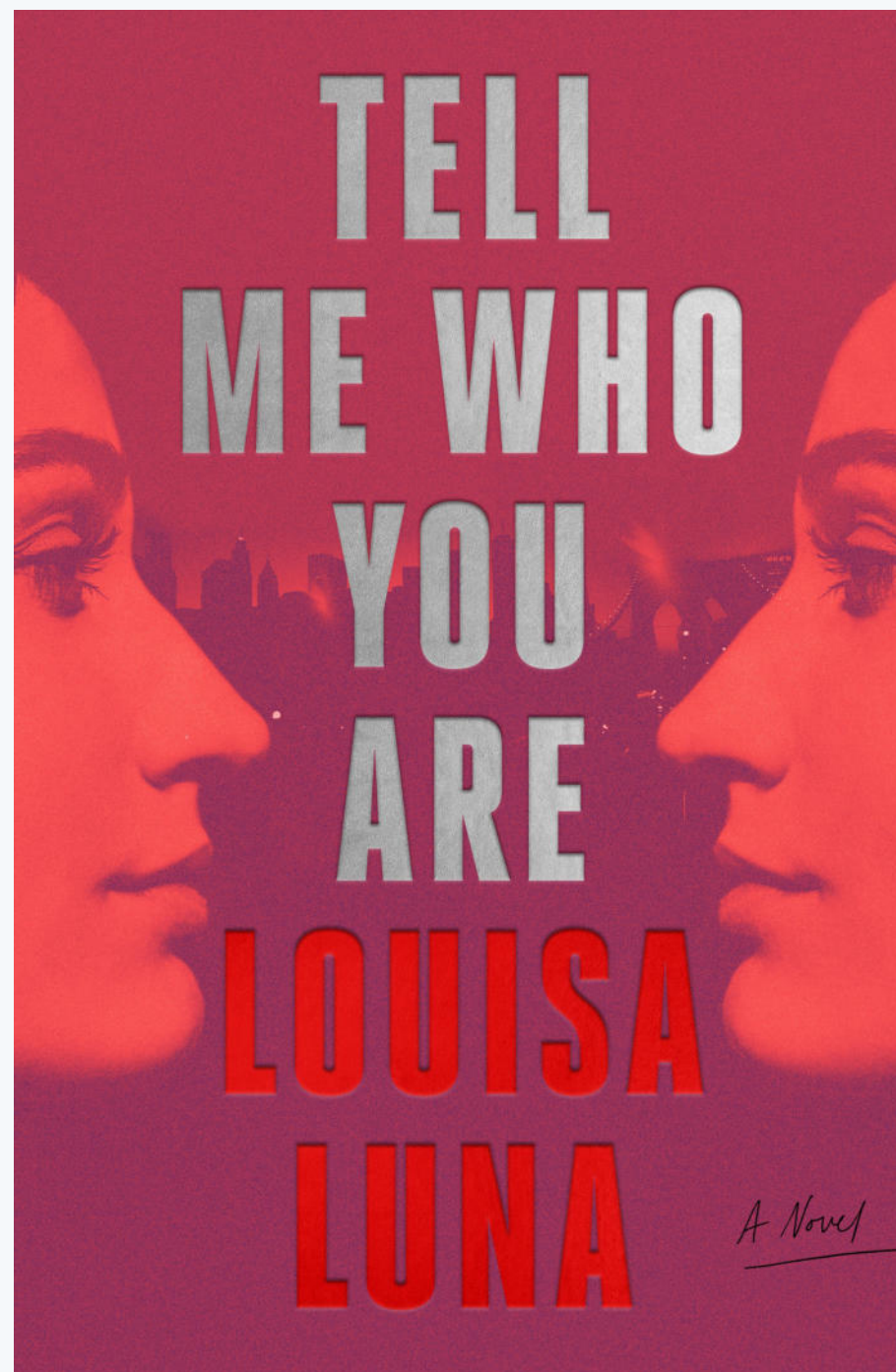
The Silent Patient meets *Gone Girl* in this sharp psychological thriller about a psychiatrist with a shocking past and her dangerous new patient, from the award-winning Louisa Luna.

Ⓜ FSG

May 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold

PORTUGUESE (IN BRAZIL) /
Editora Record



TELL ME WHO YOU ARE (A Novel) —Louisa Luna

Brooklyn psychiatrist Dr. Caroline Strange is certain she knows what's best for her patients, her family, and pretty much everyone else, but all that changes when a troubled young man arrives for his appointment and makes a pair of alarming confessions: I am going to kill someone, and I know who you really are.

Dr. Caroline is accustomed to hearing her patients' deepest darkest secrets, but it seems Nelson Schack may be one step ahead when detectives show up later that day, inquiring about a missing woman. It looks like Nelson has made good on his threat—yet somehow it's Dr. Caroline who becomes the prime suspect.

Convinced the police are incompetent and hell-bent on proving that she's right, Dr. Caroline takes matters into her own hands, chasing down the elusive Nelson and running headlong into a past she's spent her entire life trying to forget. But closing in on her target just leads to all the polished pieces of her manicured life splintering as people start to question who Dr. Caroline really is.

Harrowing, unpredictable, and compulsively readable, award-winning author Louisa Luna's **TELL ME WHO YOU ARE** is an utterly gripping psychological thriller that begs the question: can a person ever really outrun their past?

LOUISA LUNA is the author of seven novels, including the Alice Vega series. She received the 2023 Sue Grafton Memorial Award for her novel *Hideout*. She was born and raised in San Francisco and lives in Brooklyn with her husband and daughter.

Praise for TELL ME WHO YOU ARE

“

Tell Me Who You Are is propulsive. Louisa Luna gives us rich characters, sharp dialogue, and a story that will keep you guessing—and thinking—right up to the last page. I loved this book.

—James Kestrel, Edgar award-winning author of *Five Decembers*

“

This fantastic novel is like going out drinking with your sharpest, sexiest, most dangerous friend, and getting into trouble that's both unexpected and inevitable. Dr. Caroline Strange is a terrific and terrifying protagonist, the interwoven plots lines are propulsive, and the voice is absolutely riveting.

—Chris Pavone, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Two Nights in Lisbon*

“

Tell Me Who You Are absolutely glimmers with tension. Every page is as compelling and sharp as a blade to the ribs. Louisa Luna masterminds a virtuosic puzzle—this book kept me guessing all the way up to the end.

—Natalia Burian, author of *The Night Shift*

COUPLETS (A Love Story) —Maggie Millner

A dazzling love story in poems about one woman's coming-out, coming-of-age, and coming undone.

© FSG

February 2023 (finished copies available)

Rights Sold

BRITISH / Faber & Faber

CATALAN / Navona

GERMAN / Klett-Cotta

ITALIAN / La Nave di Teseo

SPANISH / Navona

SWEDISH / Brombergs



COUPLETS (A Love Story) —Maggie Millner

A woman lives an ordinary life in Brooklyn. She has a boyfriend. They share a cat. She writes poems in the prevailing style. She also has dreams: of being seduced by a throng of older women, of kissing a friend in a dorm-room closet. But the dreams are private, not real.

One night, she meets another woman at a bar, and an escape hatch swings open in the floor of her life. She falls into a consuming affair—into queerness, polyamory, kink, power and loss, humiliation and freedom, and an enormous surge of desire that lets her leave herself behind.

Maggie Millner's captivating, seductive debut is a love story in poems that explores obsession, gender, identity, and the art and act of literary transformation. In rhyming couplets and prose vignettes, **COUPLETS** chronicles the strictures, structures, and pitfalls of relationships—the mirroring, the pleasing, the small jealousies and disappointments—and how the people we love can show us who we truly are.

MAGGIE MILLNER was born and raised in rural upstate New York. She teaches writing at Yale and is a senior editor at *The Yale Review*. Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry*. *Couplets* is her first book.

Praise for COUPLETS

A Best Book of 2023, The Atlantic, The Guardian, Electric Lit, NBC News

“

Couplets is a queer book about queer love, and Millner has no fixed ideas about who ought to want whom or why...If form is a figure for the ways we are bound, always, to the demand to make sense to others, it is also a means by which we unravel, exultantly, from ourselves.

—Anahid Nersessian, *The New York Review of Books*

“

An astounding debut.

—Adrienne Raphel, *The New York Times Book Review*

“

Maggie Millner uses rhyme, confession, and surprising metaphor to create a fresh portrait of desire...Tremendously moving.

—Kamran Javadizadeh, *The New Yorker*

“

Restless, imaginative and daring, *Couplets* advances the canon of the erotic.

—Kristen Millares Young, *The Washington Post*

“

If you're on the hunt for a good book to reset your own brain, might I suggest Maggie Millner's *Couplets: A Love Story*? It's a story of romantic attachment and romantic betrayal told almost entirely in rhymed couplets, and it's a balancing act of such sly virtuosity that it may give you vertigo.

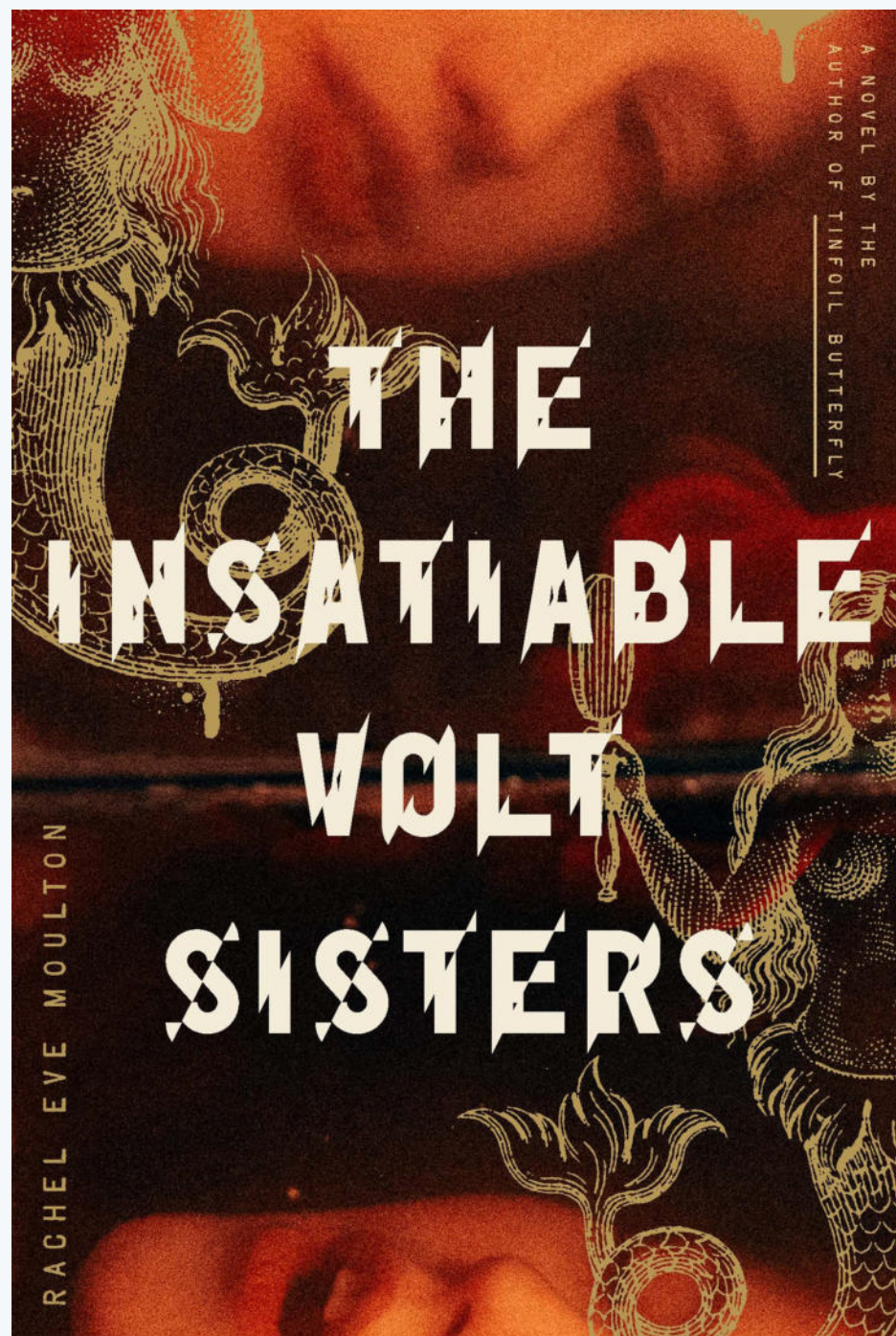
—Gregory Cowles, *The New York Times Book Review*, Editors' Choice

THE INSATIABLE VOLT SISTERS (A Novel) —Rachel Eve Moulton

A blazingly original novel about sisters who return to the remote island they grew up on to face the monsters lurking in their family history.

 MCD x FSG Originals

April 2023 (finished books available)



THE INSATIABLE VOLT SISTERS (A Novel) —Rachel Eve Moulton

It's the summer of 1989 on Fowler Island. While their parents bicker and pull their marriage apart piece by piece, B.B. and Henrie, thicker than thieves, roam the island, pursuing an exciting new project. They are investigating the mystery of their ancestors, the famous sisters Eileen and Elizabeth Fowler, who died mysteriously years ago. But their adventure is cut short when they are separated by their parents' divorce, Henrie moving to the mainland with her mother, and B.B. staying behind in their ancestral home with their father. The girls don't know about the conversations the adults are having behind closed doors: that Henrie isn't safe on the island, that it has a grip on her that must be broken.

Ten years pass before the sisters are reunited on the island. Their father has died suddenly, and Henrie returns for the funeral, only to find that the island is even stranger than she remembers. As the island prepares for its macabre yearly festival, the Masquerade, the sisters find themselves on a precipice: Will they inherit the horrors of their past or surpass them?

Told from the perspectives of four forceful, complex women, **THE INSATIABLE VOLT SISTERS** is an eerie fable about the pain that passes through families, and the bonds of sisterhood that both ache and heal.

RACHEL EVE MOULTON earned her BA at Antioch College and her MFA in fiction from Emerson College. Her first novel, *Tinfoil Butterfly*, was shortlisted for the 2019 Shirley Jackson Awards. Her work has appeared in *The Beacon Street Review*, *Bellowing Ark*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *The Bryant Literary Review*, among other publications. Moulton is a recipient of an Individual Artist Grant from the Ohio Arts Council and was a Summer Writing Fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center.

Praise for THE INSATIABLE VOLT SISTERS

A Best Horror Book of 2023, *The New York Times*

“

[An] electrifying horror story.

—Ayesha Rascoe, *NPR Weekend Edition*

“

Readers will be hooked by the place and its dark history. [T]his weird tale morphs from unsettling to terrifying until a monstrous explosion erupts from its core, propelling the story to its satisfying finish. A timely, haunting fable about women fighting back and uniting to defeat their demons.

—Becky Spratford, *Booklist*

“

This vivid and masterful domestic horror novel from Moulton...expertly balances hope and dread as the tension builds to a fever pitch. Readers will be hooked.

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

“

This book has all the elements you could want in a thriller—missing women, a mysterious mansion, monsters, ghosts, and, at its center, a pair of sisters as unsettling as the Blackwoods of Shirley Jackson's *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*...

[A]n engrossing tale.

—*Kirkus*

THE WONDER STATE

(A Novel)

—Sara Flannery Murphy

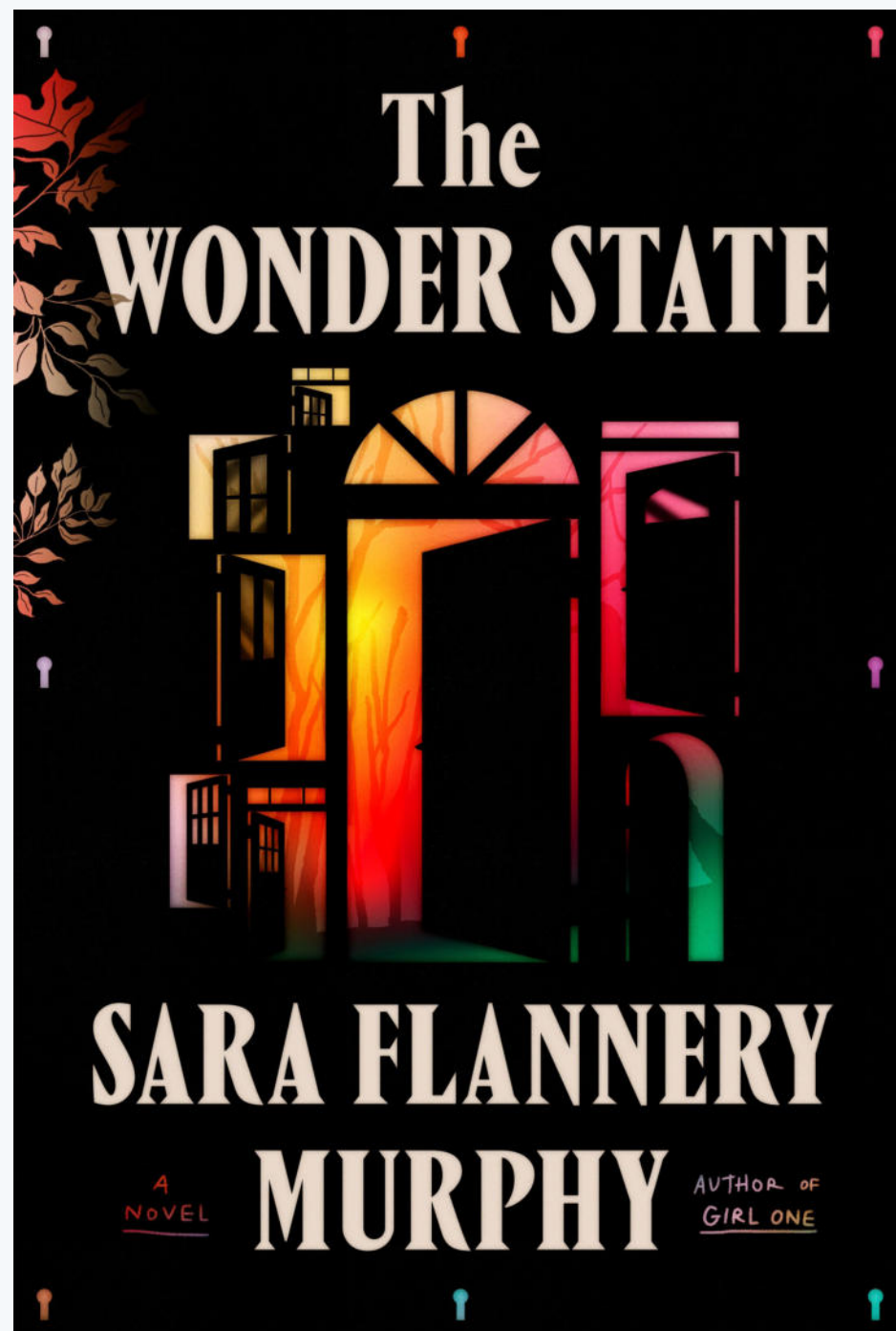
A spellbinding adventure about a strange power lurking in the Arkansas Ozarks, and the group of friends obsessed with finding it.

 MCD

July 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold
Girl One

BRITISH / Bloomsbury
ITALIAN / Edizioni BD



THE WONDER STATE (A Novel) —Sara Flannery Murphy

Five friends arrive back in Eternal Springs, the small town they all fled after high school graduation. Each of them drawn home by a cryptic, scrawled two-word letter: You promised. It has been fifteen years since that life-changing summer, and they're anxious to find out why Brandi called them back, especially when they vowed never to return. But Brandi is missing. She'd been acting erratic for months, in and out of rehab, railing at whomever might listen about the magic all around them, a power they can't see and strange houses that appear only when you need them...

Told in two enthralling timelines, **THE WONDER STATE** is a dazzling, genre-blurring novel—an adventure story laced with nostalgia and magic, exploring belonging and the lasting power of community.

SARA FLANNERY MURPHY is the author of *The Possessions* and *Girl One*. She grew up in Arkansas, studied library science in British Columbia, and received her MFA in creative writing at Washington University in St. Louis. She now lives in Oklahoma with her husband and son.

Praise for THE WONDER STATE



Richly imagined and vividly rendered...Magical, moving, and gripping, this is a special book indeed.

—Kristine Huntley, *Booklist*, starred



The latest standalone thriller from Murphy gets its hooks into readers from the opening chapter and doesn't let go...With echoes of *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, this gives a familiar trope new life.

—*Publishers Weekly*



Across two timelines, a band of friends explores the secrets of an Arkansas hot springs town...influences of Stephen King, Donna Tartt, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* are clear here.

—*Kirkus*



The Wonder State is a startling feat of—and feast for—the imagination, filled with intoxicating mysteries, devastating secrets, and prose as beautiful and magical as the story itself. Its setting is both deeply familiar and uniquely fantastical, and it's the atmospheric page-turner of my dreams.

—Megan Collins, author of *The Family Plot*



Reading this novel was like finding a haunted passageway through the fiercest heart of the Ozarks. It's full of creepy houses, broken promises, and the kind of thorny secrets that bind a small town for generations. Provocative, melodic, and surprising, *The Wonder State* led me into its sparkling dark and still hasn't let me go.

—Amy Jo Burns, author of *Shiner*

SOFT CORE (A Novel) —Brittany Newell

A voracious, manically observant novel about contemporary desire, in which a sex worker's search for her missing ex-boyfriend and herself takes her through the Bay Area erotic underworld, a place of fetish, power, and strange intimacies, for fans of Mary Gaitskill and Raven Leilani.

 FSG

February 2025 (manuscript available)

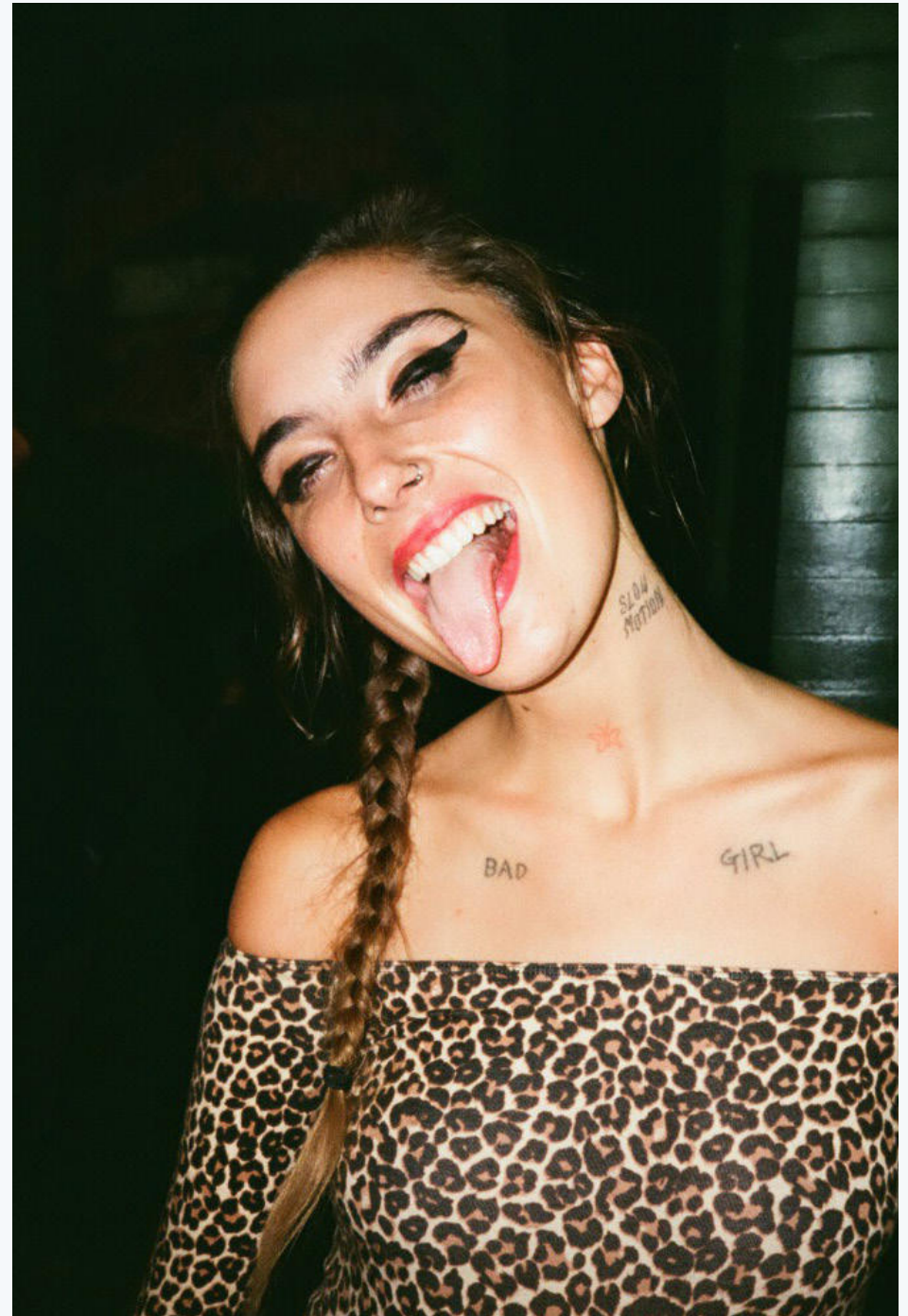
Rights Sold

BRITISH / 4th Estate

Rights Sold

Oola

GERMAN / btb



SOFT CORE (A Novel) —Brittany Newell

SOFT CORE by Brittany Newell is an absolutely electric novel by a singular writer with talent to burn. With white-hot prose that illuminates the experience of a hyper perceptive, damaged, but still desiring, young woman looking for answers in the strangest of places, this is for fans of Melissa Broder, Mary Gaitskill, and other sharp and stylish writers unafraid to push the envelope.

Baby is a sex worker; a drifter with a troubled past. It seems that it's only Dino, her benevolent cross-dressing drug-dealing boyfriend, who can keep her afloat. So when Dino disappears, Baby plunges deep into the Bay Area's erotic underground—a landscape of fetish, power, and strange intimacies—to look for him, and to find herself.

Baby begins an obsessive email communication with a philosophizing suicide fetishist named Nobody; she starts to find anonymous love notes, or maybe threats, in her car and at her strip club; she fends off the overtures of a new dancer, the prim and privileged Emeline, who reminds Baby of someone she once knew. And all along, Dino's doppelgangers follow her path, taunting her with some of the few happy memories she's known. We root for Baby and fear for her along her heroic journey—which also includes spoiled Chihuahuas, grumpy dungeon mothers, a gritty and gorgeous San Francisco backdrop, a full spectrum of men searching for a full spectrum of release from sex workers—and much more humor than you might expect.

Sexy, edgy, and with loads of style, **SOFT CORE** is a book about desire, fantasy, and revenge like no other.

BRITTANY NEWELL is a writer and performer living in San Francisco. In 2017 Holt published her first novel, *Oo/a*, written when she was a college student. Newell's work has been published in *Granta*, *N+1*, *The New York Times*, *Joyland*, and *Playgirl*. In 2021 she was a recipient of the San Francisco Arts Commission's Individual Artist grant for artists serving under-represented communities. A chapter from *Soft Core* appeared in *N+1*

Praise for *OOLA*

“

Newell nails the lure, intoxication, and fallout of obsessive love (and its subsequent madness) that somehow seems a mandatory requirement of growing up.

—*Elle*

“

Stunning...compelling...*Oo/a* is one which will leave the reader pondering questions about love, desire, and possession long after the last page has been turned.

—*NYLON*, “The 10 Best Books to Read in April”

“

Electrifying.

— *Harper's Bazaar*, “14 New Books You Need to Read in April”

RETURN TO VALETTO

(A Novel)

—Dominic Smith

A nearly abandoned Italian village, the family that stayed, and long-buried secrets from World War II.

 FSG

June 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold

ANZ / Allen & Unwin

Rights Sold

The Last Painting of Sara De Vos

ANZ / Allen & Unwin

BRITISH / Allen & Unwin

CHINESE (Complex) / Donmay Publishing Co.

CHINESE (Simplified) / Ginkgo Beijing Book Co.

CZECH / Nakladatelství Leda

DUTCH / Queridos Uitgeverij

FRENCH / Editions Belfond

GERMAN / Ullstein

HEBREW / Armchair

ITALIAN / Giunti Editore

JAPANESE / Tokyo Sogensha

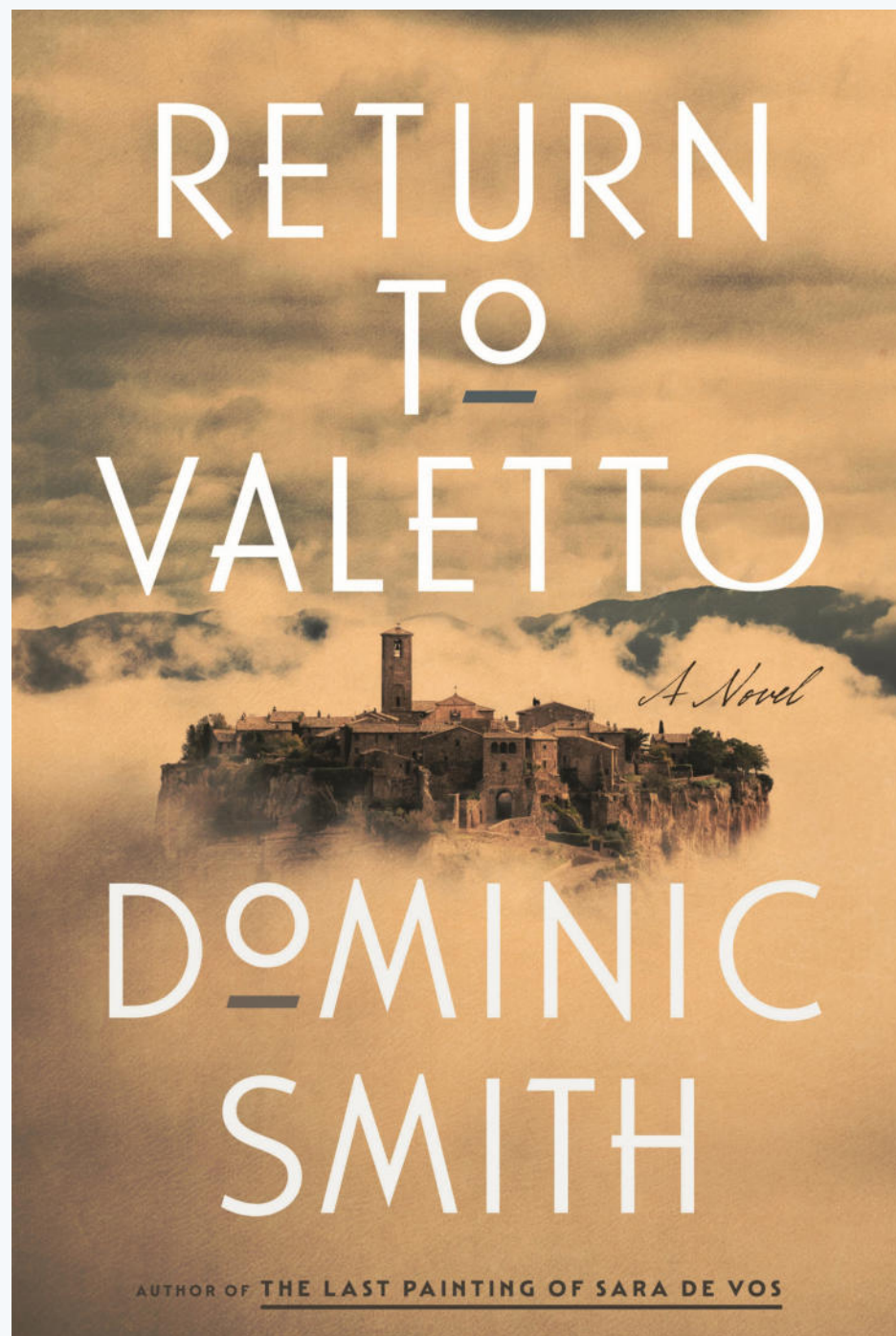
KOREAN / Cheongmirae

POLISH / Rebis

ROMANIAN / RAO

RUSSIAN / Colibri

SPANISH / Ediciones Maeva



RETURN TO VALETTO (A Novel) —Dominic Smith

On a hilltop in Umbria sits Valetto. Once a thriving village—and a hub of resistance and refuge during World War II—centuries of earthquakes, landslides, and the lure of a better life have left it neglected. Only ten residents remain, including the widows Serafino—three eccentric sisters and their steely centenarian mother—who live quietly in their medieval villa. Then their nephew and grandson, Hugh, a historian, returns.

But someone else has arrived before him, laying claim to the cottage where Hugh spent his childhood summers. The captivating and no-nonsense Elisa Tomassi, asserts that the family patriarch, Aldo Serafino, a resistance fighter whom her own family harbored, gave the cottage to them in gratitude. But like so many threads of history, this revelation unravels a secret—a betrayal, a disappearance, and an unspeakable act of violence—that has impacted Valetto across generations. Who will answer for the crimes of the past?

RETURN TO VALETTO is a riveting journey into one family's dark history, a page-turning excavation of the ruins of history and our commitment to justice in a fragile world. For fans of Amor Towles, Anthony Doerr, and Jess Walter, it is a deeply human and transporting testament to the possibility of love and understanding across gaps of all kinds—even time.

DOMINIC SMITH is the author of six novels, including *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice, and was named a best book of the year by Amazon, *Slate*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Kirkus Reviews*. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Texas Monthly*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, and *The Australian*, among other publications. He grew up in Sydney, Australia, and now lives in Seattle, Washington.

Praise for RETURN TO VALETTO

**A Best Book of the Year, *BookPage*, *Oprah.com*
A Must-Read, *The New York Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor***

“

[A] haunting novel...Themes of loss and the burden of history are seasoned with grace and humor.

—*The Christian Science Monitor*

“

A compelling narrative studded with gorgeous descriptions of the Italian landscape and sharp character sketches...More fine work from a gifted storyteller: engrossing, well written, and affecting.

—*Kirkus*

“

[Smith] is a master of his trade who has executed a flawless novel that satisfies on all counts...A richly rewarding book that is imbued with a sense of timelessness. It's an outright pleasure to read.

—Stephenie Harrison, *BookPage*, starred

“

[Smith] brings Valetto to life with a gift for symmetry and a dash of humor...This accomplished novel offers engaging characterization paired with echoes of the past that resound in the present.

—Bethany Latham, *Booklist*

MODEL HOME (A Novel) —Rivers Solomon

Welcome to Rivers Solomon's dark and wondrous **MODEL HOME**, a new kind of haunted-house novel.

 MCD

October 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold
Sorrowland

BRITISH / #Merky Boots
FRENCH / Aux Forges de
Vulcain
ITALIAN/ Mondadori



MODEL HOME (A Novel) —Rivers Solomon

The three Maxwell siblings keep their distance from the lily-white gated enclave outside Dallas where they grew up. When their family moved there, they were the only Black family in the neighborhood. The neighbors acted nice enough, but right away bad things, scary things—the strange and the unexplainable—began to happen in their house. Maybe it was some cosmic trial, a demonic rite of passage into the upper-middle class. Whatever it was, the Maxwells, steered by their formidable mother, stayed put, unwilling to abandon their home, terrors and trauma be damned.

As adults, the siblings could finally get away from the horrors of home, leaving their parents all alone in the house. But when news of their parents' death arrives, Ezri is forced to return to Texas with their sisters, Eve and Emanuelle, to reckon with their family's past and present, and to find out what happened while they were away. It was not a "natural" death for their parents...but was it supernatural?

Rivers Solomon turns the haunted-house story on its head, unearthing the dark legacies of segregation and racism in the suburban American South. Unbridled, raw, and daring, **MODEL HOME** is the story of secret histories uncovered, and of a queer family battling for their right to live, grieve, and heal amid the terrors of contemporary American life.

RIVERS SOLOMON writes about life in the margins, where they are much at home. In addition to appearing on the Stonewall Honor List and winning a Firecracker Award, Solomon's debut novel *An Unkindness of Ghosts* was a finalist for a Lambda, a Hurston/Wright, an Otherwise (formerly Tiptree) and a Locus award. Solomon's second book, *The Deep*, was the winner of the 2020 Lambda Award and shortlisted for a Nebula, Locus, Hugo, Ignyte, Brooklyn Library Literary, British Fantasy, and World Fantasy award. Solomon's short work appears in *Black Warrior Review*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Guernica*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Tor.com*, *Best American Horror and Dark Fantasy*, and elsewhere. A refugee of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade, Solomon was born on Turtle Island but currently resides on an isle in an archipelago off the western coast of the Eurasian continent

Praise for SORROWLAND

THE STONEWALL BOOK AWARD WINNER OF 2022

THE OTHERWISE AWARD WINNER OF 2021

Finalist for the Ray Bradbury Prize for Science Fiction, Fantasy & Speculative Fiction, *Los Angeles Times*

A *TIME* 100 Must-Read Book of 2021,
A *New York Times* Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Book of 2021

Named a Best Book of 2021 by NPR, *The New York Public Library*, *Publishers Weekly* and more!

“

Sorrowland is a tremendous, riveting work, sinking long, deep roots into the nightmare soil of American history in order to grow and feed something new.

—Amal El-Mohtar, *The New York Times Book Review*

“

[T]o read this powerful, moving and terrifying novel is to enter into a constant state of change. The story envelops you slowly, like a cocoon, wrapping you in its ever-increasing depth and heart until you emerge, at the end, transformed.

—Matthew Jackson, *BookPage*

LITTLE UNDERWORLD (A Novel) —Chris Harding Thornton

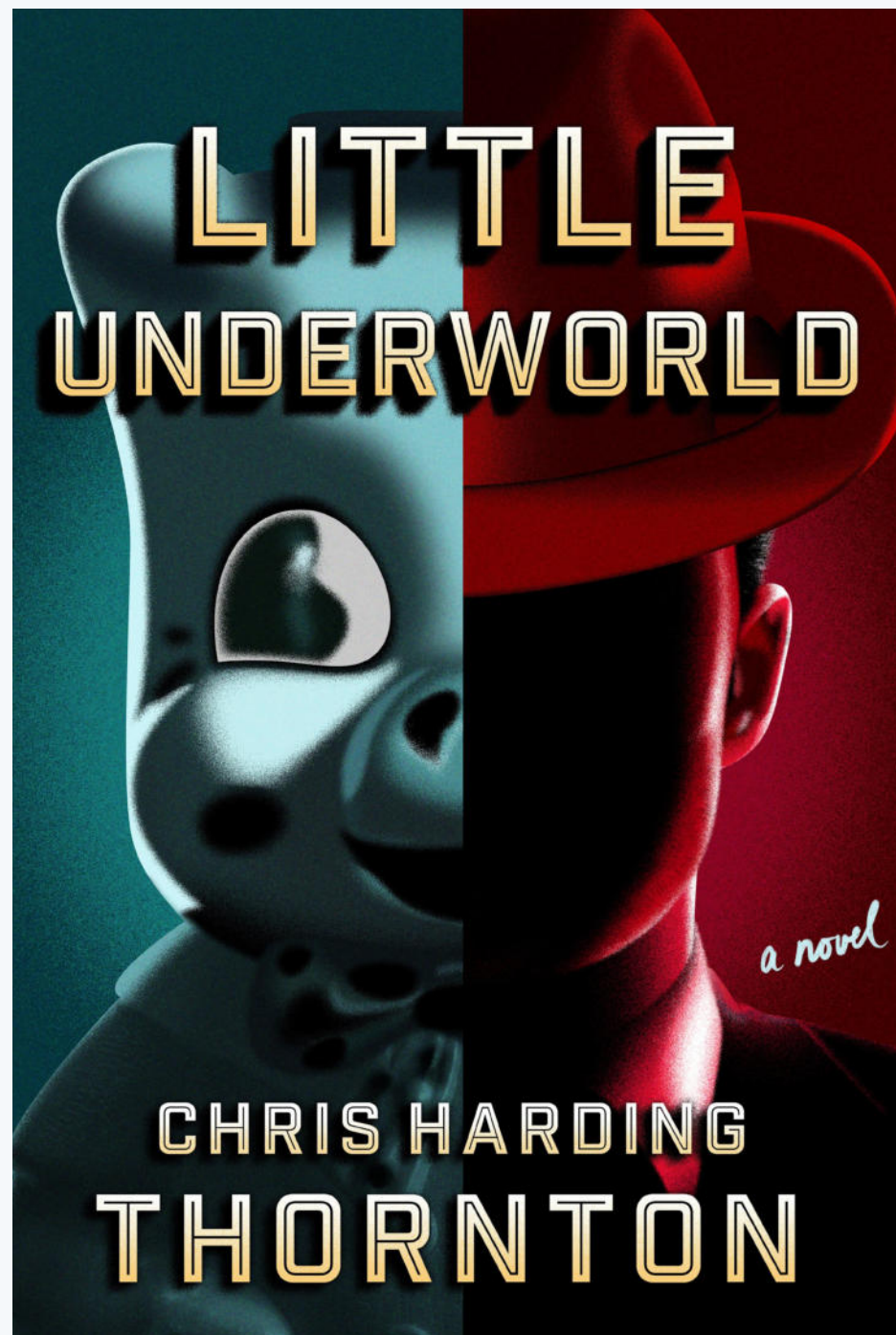
Chinatown meets the Coen brothers in 1930s Omaha in this atmospheric noir by a native Nebraskan.

 MCD

March 2024 (finished books available)

Rights Sold
Pickard County Atlas

GERMAN / Polar



LITTLE UNDERWORLD (A Novel) —Chris Harding Thornton

Omaha, 1930. When ex-cop-turned-PI Jim Beely murders the man who assaulted his fourteen-year-old daughter, the last person he wants to see is local crooked cop Frank Tvrdik. Luckily, Frank isn't interested in the lifeless body in Jim's car. Frank has a proposition: he'll make the dead man disappear if Jim helps take down Elmer Kobb, who is vying for city commissioner and willing to backstab anyone who gets in his way.

Soon, Jim and Frank are sucked into a seedy world of crime and corruption, where no one is safe and nothing is what it seems. Then Jim is violently attacked and one of his operatives turns up dead within the span of twelve hours, and his search for the truth yields a web of lies and a mounting death toll. As he and Frank are pulled deeper into the city's dark underbelly and its absurd political machinations, Jim begins to question everything he knows about Omaha and his place in it.

In her moody, ferocious, and darkly funny follow-up to *Pickard County Atlas*, a novel Tana French called a "slow-burning beauty of a book," the native Nebraskan Chris Harding Thornton mines Omaha's sordid past, melding fact and fiction into an unforgettable tale of danger and deceit. **LITTLE UNDERWORLD** asks: What does it mean to be good, and what is left for those of us who aren't?

CHRIS HARDING THORNTON, a seventh-generation Nebraskan, is the author of *Pickard County Atlas*. She holds an MFA from the University of Washington and a PhD from the University of Nebraska, where she currently teaches. She has worked as a quality assurance overseer at a condom factory, a jar-lid screwdriver at a plastics plant, a closer at Burger King, a record store clerk, an all-ages club manager, and a PR writer.

Praise for *LITTLE UNDERWORLD*

“

Thornton laces the hardboiled narrative with welcome flashes of dark humor.

—*Publishers Weekly*

“

Little Underworld is big, nasty, sharp, and wonderfully dark, packed with 1930s noir and witty dialogue. This book grabs you by those wide lapels and refuses to let go.

—Gabino Iglesias, author of *The Devil Takes You Home*

“

Little Underworld is fantastic! This is the real deal—cynical characters, moody yet hilarious prose, and a plot that loops and twirls in 1930s Omaha. Wrap that all up in a great old-school noir vibe, and you've got one of the best historical crime novels in a long time.

—David Heska Wanbli Weiden, award-winning author of *Winter Counts*

“

In this richly entertaining historical noir, Chris Harding Thornton slits open the underbelly of 1930s Omaha to reveal its dark and gleaming viscera. Harding Thornton is a brilliant writer, and *Little Underworld* is a rare gem you won't want to miss.

—Laura McHugh, award-winning author of *What's Done in Darkness*

“

Seamlessly dark, moving, hilarious and murderously intense, *Little Underworld* is absolutely tremendous storytelling, rich with human nuance and resplendent with a sepia-toned atmosphere. More, please, Ms. Thornton!

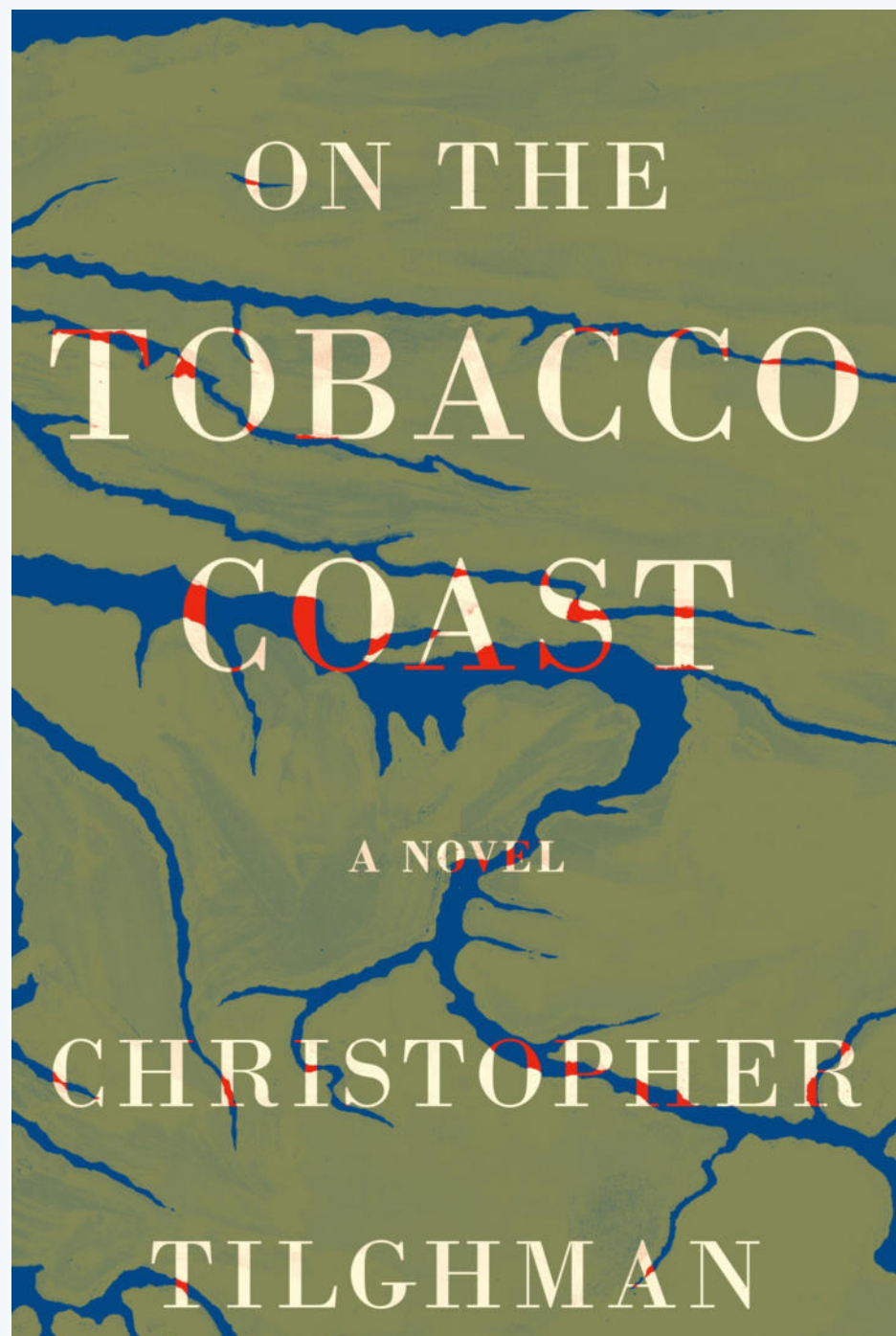
—Stephen Mack Jones, the August Snow thriller series

ON THE TOBACCO COAST (A Novel) —Christopher Tilghman

The culmination of Christopher Tilghman's great Chesapeake saga, a story spanning four centuries of an American family.

 FSG

April 2024 (finished books available)



ON THE TOBACCO COAST (A Novel) —Christopher Tilghman

It is the Fourth of July 2019, and the Mason family is gathering for its annual celebration at the family's historic Chesapeake farm, Mason's Retreat. It isn't everyone's favorite tradition, but Harry Mason has once again goaded his wife, Kate, and their children into participating. Their oldest, Rosalie, is having trouble with her marriage; the youngest, Ethan, is in the throes of a fitful first relationship. In between, Eleanor despairs over her stalled novel, a fictionalized memoir of the wife of the first Mason immigrant who landed in 1659.

Kate, recovering from a second round of chemotherapy, is at the center of this ritual of remembrance. Tart and candid, she asks her husband, "What crimes against humanity did your family not commit on this farm?" And so it happens that when the family, joined by a cast of neighbors and cousins from France, sits down for dinner, the question of how they should regard their past comes to the fore.

Told with warmth and humor, **ON THE TOBACCO COAST** is Christopher Tilghman's concluding meditation on the themes of his novels about Mason's Retreat: place and history, the persistence of family stories, race and white privilege, the enigmas and customs of regions. It is a reflection on the state of America today, its battles with its own history, and efforts to reckon with the wrongs of the past while looking forward to a more just future.

CHRISTOPHER TILGHMAN is the author of two short-story collections, *In a Father's Place* and *The Way People Run*, and four previous novels, including *Thomas and Beal in the Midi*, *The Right-Hand Shore*, and *Mason's Retreat*, which recount the connected stories of the Mason and Bayly families. He is a professor of English at the University of Virginia and lives with his wife, the novelist Caroline Preston, in Charlottesville, Virginia, and in Centreville, Maryland.

Praise for ON THE TOBACCO COAST

“

Elegant, boisterous, and moving.
—Taylor Antrim, *Vogue*

“

Tilghman concludes his Chesapeake Bay quartet (after *Thomas and Beal in the Midi*) with this understated yet consequential drama of an American family's reckoning with its colonial heritage...A satisfying end to a rich saga.
—*Publishers Weekly*

“

Tilghman's four-volume chronicle of the Mason family, having spanned centuries and continents, ends, as it must, around a dinner table—a domestic idyll at which the ghosts of a brutal history, both national and familial, keep trying to pull up a chair. A moving capstone to one of the epic projects in recent American literature.
—Jonathan Dee, author of *Sugar Street*

STATE OF PARADISE (A Novel) —Laura van den Berg

A heart-racing, fun house of uncanniness hidden in Florida's underbelly from a reality-warping storyteller.

Ⓜ FSG

July 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold

ITALIAN / Mercurio

Rights Sold

I Hold a Wolf by the Ears

CHINESE (COMPLEX) / Sharp
Point

JAPANESE / Switch

POLISH / Pauza



STATE OF PARADISE (A Novel) —Laura van den Berg

Along with her husband, a ghostwriter for a famous thriller author returns to her mother's house in the Florida town she grew up in, wrestling with family secrets and memories of her own troubled youth. Her mercurial sister, who lives next door, spends a growing amount of time using MIND'S EYE, a virtual reality device provided to citizens of the town by ELECTRA, a tech company, during the doldrums of a recent pandemic. But it's not just the ominous cats, her mother's burgeoning cult, or the fact that her belly button has become an increasingly deep cavern—something is off in the town, and it probably has to do with the posters of missing citizens spread throughout the streets.

During a violent rainstorm, the writer's sister goes missing for several days. When she returns, sprawled on their mother's lawn and speaking of another dimension, the writer is forced to investigate not only what happened to her sister and the other missing people, but the uncanny connections between ELECTRA, the famous author, and reality itself. A sticky, rain-soaked reckoning with the elusive nature of storytelling, Laura van den Berg's **STATE OF PARADISE** is an interlocking and page-turning whirlwind. With inimitable control and thrilling style, van den Berg reaches deep into the void and returns with a story far stranger than either reality or fiction.

LAURA VAN DEN BERG is the author of the story collections *What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us*, *The Isle of Youth*, and *I Hold a Wolf by the Ears*, which was named one of the ten best fiction books of 2020 by *TIME*, and the novels *Find Me* and *The Third Hotel*, which was a finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award and an Indie Next pick, and was named a best book of 2018 by more than a dozen publications. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Strauss Living Award and a Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Bard Fiction Prize, a PEN/O. Henry Award, and a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, and is a two-time finalist for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. Born and raised in Florida, Laura splits her time between the Boston area and Central Florida, with her husband and dog.

Praise for STATE OF PARADISE

“

Laura van den Berg excavates the secrets and mysterious technological forces unraveling a family and a sleepy subtropical community with mind-bending, unsettling clarity and devastating resonance. A thrilling, cautionary portrait of Florida's surreal wildness, *State of Paradise* is an absolute knockout.

—Patricia Engel, author of *The Faraway World*

“

[A] wholly original and epically engaging novel from a master of episodic oddity.

—Rachel Yoder, author of *Nightbitch*

“

In her taut, precise prose, van den Berg juxtaposes global crises with personal ones...[A]n exquisite exploration of the ways we try to heal ourselves in the face of unbearable loss.

—Helen Phillips, author of *The Need*

“

[A] weird, wild, thrilling journey...van den Berg's writing is razor sharp and full of depth and humor, and she has an incredible imagination. This book is freaking brilliant.

—Jami Attenberg, author of *All This Could Be Yours*

ABSOLUTION (A Novel)

—Jeff VanderMeer

Ten years after the publication of *Annihilation*, the surprise fourth volume to Jeff VanderMeer's blockbuster Southern Reach Trilogy.

 MCD

October 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold

Southern Reach Trilogy
(*Annihilation*):

BRITISH / 4th Estate
BULGARIAN / ExLibris*
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 Canada
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CZECH / Argo*
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FRENCH / Au Diable Vauvert
GEORGIA / Palitra
GERMAN / Kunstmann
GREEK / Kastaniotis*
HEBREW / Moby Dick
HUNGARIAN / Agave Konyvek

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VARIOUS INDIAN
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 Publishers



ABSOLUTION (A Novel) —Jeff VanderMeer

When the Southern Reach Trilogy was first published a decade ago, it was an instant sensation, celebrated in a front page *New York Times* story before publication, hailed by Stephen King and many others. Each volume climbed the Best Sellers list, awards were won, the books made the rare transition from paperback original to hardcover. Four years later, the movie starring Natalie Portman and Oscar Isaac came out, and it happened all over again. All told, the trilogy has sold over a million units across formats and continues to sell steadily, fixtures atop the FSG backlist. The trilogy is a happy example of a publishing success story.

And yet for all this, for Jeff VanderMeer there was never full closure to the story of Area X. There were a few mysteries left unsolved, some essential points of view never aired, some stories left to tell. Without giving away any spoilers, there remained questions about who had been complicit in creating the conditions for Area X; the story of the first expedition into Area X that had never been fully told; there was plenty more to tell about the Seance and Science Brigade; and what of the world after *Acceptance*. Structured in three parts, echoing the original trilogy, but largely told in the expedition-chronicling format of *Annihilation*, there are some long-awaited answers here, to be sure, but there are also more questions, and profoundly new adventures.

ABSOLUTION is the final word on one of the most provocative and popular speculative fiction series of our time.

JEFF VANDERMEER is an award-winning novelist and editor. His fiction has been translated into twenty languages and has appeared in the Library of America's American Fantastic Tales and multiple year's best anthologies. He writes nonfiction for The Washington Post, The New York Times Book Review, the Los Angeles Times, and The Guardian, among others. He grew up in the Fiji Islands and now lives in Tallahassee, Florida, with his wife. Jeff is the author of *Borne* and The Southern Reach Trilogy.

Praise for SOUTHERN REACH TRILOGY

“

I'm loving The Southern Reach trilogy by Jeff VanderMeer. Creepy and fascinating.
—Stephen King

“

VanderMeer's dreamy narrative, shot through with echoes of Lovecraft, Orwell, and Kafka, is compulsively readable.
—Tina Jordan, *Entertainment Weekly*

“

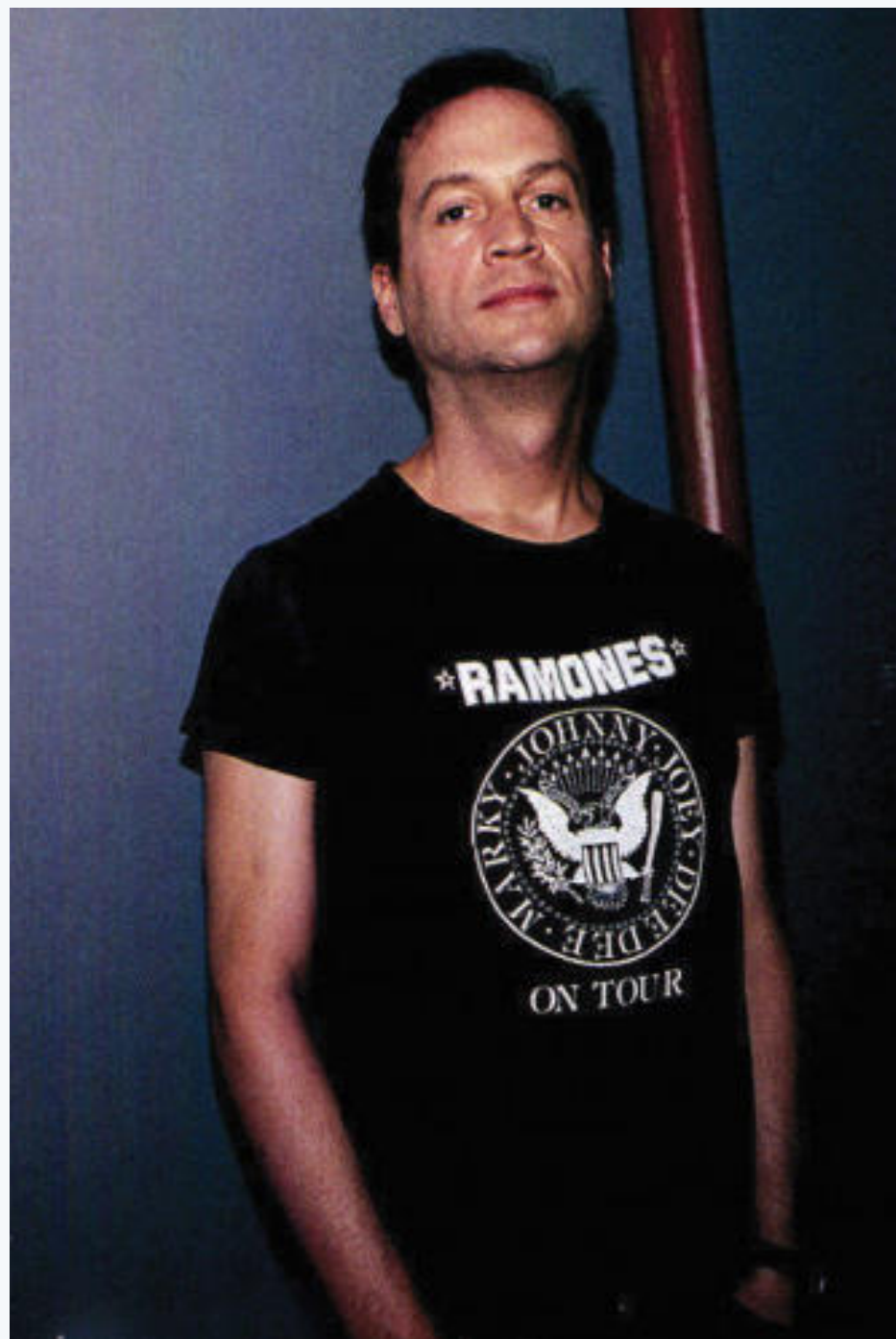
Chilling.
—Julie Bosman, *New York Times*

TRAMPS LIKE US (A Novel) —Joe Westmoreland With an Introduction by Eileen Myles and an Afterword by the Author

Originally published in 2001 and a lost classic of gay literature, **TRAMPS LIKE US** follows a young man traveling throughout America in the 1970s and '80s, meeting and losing friends and lovers, and coming into himself.

 MCD

June 2025 (original manuscript available, intro and afterword available March 2024)



TRAMPS LIKE US (A Novel)

—Joe Westmoreland

With an Introduction by Eileen Myles and an Afterword by the Author

Based on Joe's life and set between 1974 and 1986, bouncing between New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, and everywhere in between, **TRAMPS LIKE US** follows a young gay man traveling the country as he meets and loses friends and lovers, and comes into himself and his sexuality in the years between Gay Liberation and the AIDS epidemic. It's hilarious, vulnerable, sexy, and completely unforgettable.

As the original copy aptly described it, "**TRAMPS LIKE US** is about the search for home, for a better life, (and) feeling like a refugee in one's own country. It's about creating a family from a group of misfits."

Our edition will feature a new afterword by the author, and an introduction by Eileen Myles.

Praise for TRAMPS LIKE US

“

Tramps Like Us charts an incredible moment in the 20th century...so much of that land is gone, yet this writer speaks like a sweet and unworldly citizen of a place you'd like to know.

—Eileen Myles

“

The voice is so original, so controlled that it cannot be quoted from...I think it is an achievement, in the major category.

—Hilton Als

“

(Westmoreland's) simple sentences are each one a little marvel of sophistication and purity... Westmoreland's picture of a bygone, enchanted, troubling San Francisco and indeed the whole U.S.A. will live forever.

—Kevin Killian

TRUE LIFE (Poems) —Adam Zagajewski, Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh

A stunning, intimate collection by the late, great Polish poet Adam Zagajewski.

 FSG

February 2023 (finished copies available)

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Alapítvány

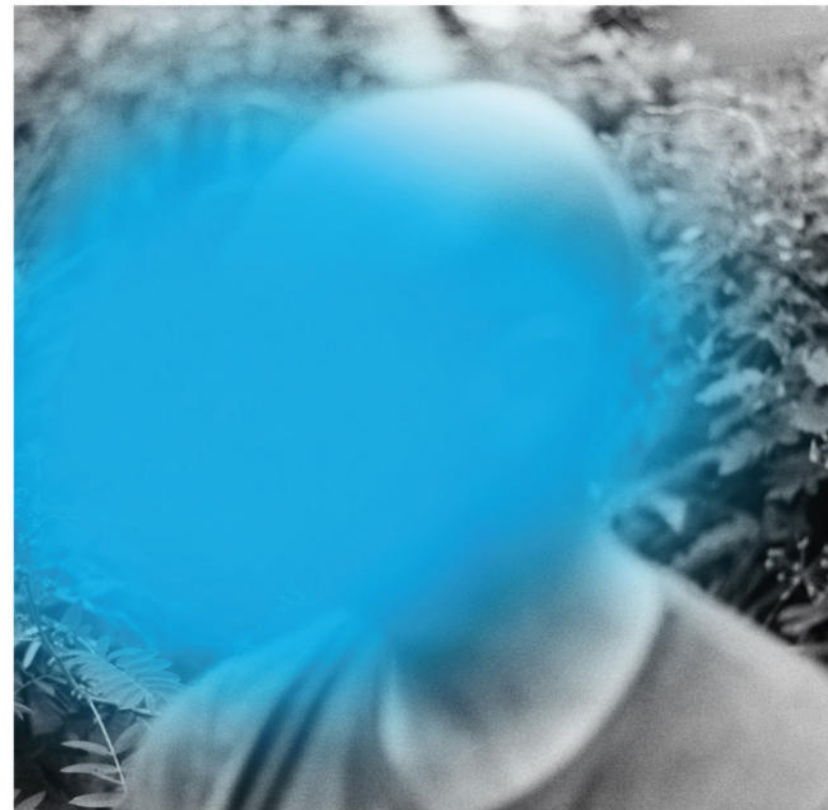
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Adam Zagajewski, *True Life*. Poems. Translated by Clare Cavanagh.

TRUE LIFE (Poems) —Adam Zagajewski, Translated from the Polish by Clare Cavanagh

In **TRUE LIFE**, Adam Zagajewski, one of the most gifted poets of our time and a revolutionary Polish writer and thinker, turns his gaze to the past with piercing clarity and a tone of wry, lyrical melancholy. He captures the rhythms of a city street on the page and the steady beat of the passage of time against it (“Roads cannot be destroyed // Even if peonies cover them / smelling like eternity”) and writes of the endless struggle between stasis and change, between movement and stillness (“We knew / it would be the same / as always // It would all go back to normal”).

Mary Oliver called Zagajewski “the most pertinent, impressive, meaningful poet of our time,” and Philip Boehm wrote in *The New York Times Book Review* that his poems “pull us from whatever routine threatens to dull our senses, from whatever might lull us into mere existence.” **TRUE LIFE**, first published in Polish in 2019 and fluidly translated into English by Clare Cavanagh, reveals the astonishing depth of his insight and artistry.

ADAM ZAGAJEWSKI (1945–2021) was born in Lvov, Poland. His books include *Tremor*; *Canvas*; *Mysticism for Beginners*; *Without End*; *Solidarity, Solitude*; *Two Cities*; *Another Beauty*; *A Defense of Ardor*; *Eternal Enemies*; *Unseen Hand*; and *Asymmetry*—all published by FSG.

CLARE CAVANAGH is a professor of Slavic languages and literatures at Northwestern University. Her most recent book, *Lyric Poetry and Modern Politics*, received the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. She is currently working on an authorized biography of Czeslaw Milosz. She has also translated the poetry of Wislawa Szymborska. She lives in Deerfield, Illinois.

Forthcoming in 2025: **COLLECTED POEMS**

Praise for TRUE LIFE

“

[The poems’] surface calm avoids the customary postures of condemnation; this poetry has a blade of penetration that is less forgiving and more demanding than ordinary, rhetorical righteousness...The poems are at an extreme of truth-telling.

—Robert Pinsky, *The New York Times*

“

Zagajewski’s books are *true*, of their era and eternal...In his own broad senses of time and space, Zagajewski himself was a poet who did live everywhere, and who, thanks to such books as *True Life*, will continue to do so.

—Kathleen Rooney, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

“

Zagajewski represented something more than just a talented writer—he wrote with a voice that was, and is, inimitable and enigmatic. *True Life* contains distance and melancholy as well as enthusiasm, and Zagajewski’s achievement is to show us both. He is much missed, but this volume offers readers one final gift, well worth treasuring.

—Magdalena Kay, *World Literature Today*

“

This tender posthumous work by Zagajewski (*Two Cities*) is exceptionally translated by Cavanagh, who has captured the poet’s subdued, ruminative, and wry tones...This is a remarkable collection by one of the century’s finest poets.

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

Adam Zagajewski Poetry Collections

ASYMMETRY: Poems

Rights sold: **CHINESE (SIMPLIFIED)**/Shanghai Elegance, **CROATIAN**/Vukovic & Runjic, **ESTONIAN**/Hendrik Lindepuu, **GERMAN**/Carl Hanser Verlag, **HUNGARIAN**/Írott Szó Alapítvány, **ITALIAN**/Mondadori, **SERBIAN (IN MONTENEGRO)**/Zavod za Udzbenike, **SERBIAN**/Treci Trg, **SWEDISH**/Norstedts

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TREMOR: Selected Poems

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UNSEEN HAND: Poems

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Previous licenses: **BULGARIAN**/DA Poetry Publishing, **CROATIAN**/Druga Prica, **CZECH**/Protimluc, **HEBREW**/Even Hoshen, **LITHUANIAN**/UAB "Kronta", **PORTUGUESE (IN PORTUGAL)**/Tinta da China, **ROMANIAN**/Editura Eikon*

WITHOUT END: New and Selected Poems

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Nonfiction

AUWA
Farrar, Straus & Giroux
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THE BLOODIED NIGHTGOWN AND OTHER ESSAYS —Joan Acocella

The New Yorker critic examines the books that reveal and record our world in a new essay collection.

 FSG

February 2024 (finished books available)

THE BLOODIED NIGHTGOWN

and other essays

JOAN
ACOCELLA

THE BLOODIED NIGHTGOWN AND OTHER ESSAYS

—Joan Acocella

Joan Acocella was “one of our finest cultural critics” (Edward Hirsch), and she had the rare ability to examine literature and unearth the lives contained within it—its authors, its subjects, and the communities from which it sprung. In her hands, arts criticism was a celebration and an investigation, and her essays pulse with unadulterated enthusiasm. As Kathryn Harrison wrote in *The New York Times*, “Hers is a vision that allows art its mystery but not its pretensions, to which she is acutely sensitive. What better instincts could a critic have?”

THE BLOODIED NIGHTGOWN AND OTHER ESSAYS gathers twenty-four essays from the past decade and a half of Acocella’s career, as well as an introduction that frames her simple preoccupations: “life and art.” In agile, inspired prose, she moves from J. R. R. Tolkien’s translation of *Beowulf* to the life of Richard Pryor, from surveying profanity to untangling the book of Job. Her appetite (and reading list) knew no bounds. This collection is a joy and a revelation, a library in itself, and Acocella is our dream companion among its shelves.

JOAN ACOCELLA (1945–2024) was a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1995. She served as the magazine’s dance critic from 1998 to 2019. Her books include *Mark Morris*, *Willa Cather and the Politics of Criticism*, *Creating Hysteria: Women and Multiple Personality Disorder*, as well as *Twenty-Eight Artists and Two Saints*, a collection of essays. She co-edited *André Levinson on Dance: Writings from Paris in the Twenties* and edited *The Diary of Vaslav Nijinsky*. She received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Academy in Berlin, and the New York Institute for the Humanities, as well as awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the New York Book Critics Circle.

Praise for THE BLOODIED NIGHTGOWN AND OTHER ESSAYS

“

A new piece by Joan Acocella was reason enough to cancel plans...No writer was funnier or more original...[her] fabulous erudition was melded to a frankness that was so unaffected as to seem effortless...A good critic must be much more than a judge. She must be an alchemist, transforming art and the experience of it into words. That power was pure Joan.

—Alexandra Schwartz for *The New Yorker*

“

Essayist Acocella shines in this splendid anthology of literary criticism...Smart and accessible, this is a blast. —*Publishers Weekly*, starred

“

From Gilgamesh and Beowulf to Elmore Leonard and Richard Pryor, a brilliant critic unpacks centuries of artists and their works...[Acocella’s] wit and insight make anything worth reading about...A top-notch collection full of information, elegance, and humor. —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred

“

There are a handful of perfect foods, like yuba, which possess all the essential nutrients (Buddhist monks took it on their pilgrimages.) Rarer, perhaps, are perfect mind foods, like *The Bloody Nightgown*, whose essential nutrients—wit, depth, variety, beauty, humanity—could sustain you even on a desert island. With each rereading, these essays surprise and reward you anew.

—Judith Thurman, author of *A Left-Handed Woman*

“

Joan Acocella has always been one of our country’s sharpest critics. She manages to write at the highest intellectual level and make it read like fun. This collection is endlessly entertaining. It also grapples with the central issues of art, literature and life.

—T. M. Luhrmann, author of *How God Becomes Real*

MY GLORIOUS DEFEATS (Hacktivist, Narcissist, Anonymous: A Memoir) —Barrett Brown

Barrett Brown went to prison for four years for leaking intelligence documents. He was released to Trump's America. This is his story.

🌀 MCD

July 2024 (manuscript available)



MY GLORIOUS DEFEATS
HACKTIVIST, NARCISSIST,
ANONYMOUS: A MEMOIR
BARRETT BROWN

MY GLORIOUS DEFEATS (Hacktivist, Narcissist, Anonymous: A Memoir) —Barrett Brown

After a series of escapades both online and off that brought him in and out of 4chan forums, the halls of power, heroin addiction, and federal prison, Barrett Brown is a free man. He 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 who is also 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, he 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.

BARRETT BROWN is an award-winning journalist who has written for *Vanity Fair*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Guardian*, *Vice*, *The Intercept*, *Skeptic*, *Al-Jazeera*, and other outlets. In 2016 he won the National Magazine Award in the category of columns and commentary. He was released from federal prison in November 2016 after serving four years. He declared political asylum in the United Kingdom in 2021 and currently lives in London.

CANDY DARLING (Dreamer, Icon, Superstar) —Cynthia Carr

The first biography of queer icon and Warhol superstar
Candy Darling.

 FSG

March 2024 (finished books available)



CANDY DARLING (Dreamer, Icon, Superstar) —Cynthia Carr

She inspired Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side," the Kinks' "Lola," Velvet Underground's "Candy Says," The Rolling Stones' "Citadel," and (much later) St. Vincent's "Candy Darling." She was one of the most famous Warhol Superstars, and the first truly famous transgender icon. Candy Darling was entirely her own creation.

Growing up on Long Island, she was enchanted by the Hollywood starlets of the 1940s and 50s. So when she was finally able to leave for the big city, she sought out a life in the spotlight. And she found it in the downtown theater scene, in Warhol's movies, and in the back room of Max's Kansas City. She befriended Jane Fonda, borrowed a dress from Lauren Hutton, was photographed by Richard Avedon, invited by Tennessee Williams to star in one of his plays. And yet, Candy lived on the edge, relying on the kindness of her friends and her quietly devoted mother, squatting in an abandoned Brooklyn brownstone, keeping a part of herself safely hidden. She wanted to be a star, but all she really wanted was to be loved. She died of lymphoma at the age of 29, her deathbed photograph taken by Peter Hujar. She never knew it, but she changed the world.

Immersive and meticulously researched, packed with luminaries and gossip tidbits, intimate and filled with Candy's own words as well as the recollections of those who knew her, **CANDY DARLING** is more than a biography, more than an homage—it is a long overdue return for Candy to the spotlight.

CYNTHIA CARR is the author of *Fire in the Belly: The Life and Times of David Wojnarowicz* and *Our Town: A Heartland Lynching, a Haunted Town, and the Hidden History of White America*. She was a columnist and arts reporter for the *Village Voice* from 1984 to 2003. Writing under the byline C. Carr, she specialized in experimental and cutting-edge art, especially performance art. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Bookforum*, *Modern Painters*, *the Drama Review*, and other publications. She was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007. Carr lives in New York.

Praise for CANDY DARLING

“

[Candy Darling is] an unparalleled close-up of a pop culture icon.

—*Publishers Weekly*

“

[An] incandescent portrait...Carr resurrects a trans icon whose life, artistry, and struggle speak directly to our moment.

—*Kirkus*, starred

“

Carr has written an absorbing account of an unforgettable woman in a fascinating time, a lonely icon who tried to find a place for herself in a world that couldn't hold her.

—Justin Torres, author of *Blackouts*

“

Complexly wrenching, startling, entirely fresh, and frankly alive, *Candy Darling* delivers an altogether frank and shimmering portrait of a self-made American female deity, more than a bit of a prophet, constructed whole cloth from her own and everyone else's desiring dream. Omigod, what a trip!

—Eileen Myles, author of a “*Working Life*”

“

Candy Darling willed herself to be beautiful, and she succeeded: she was uniquely, spectrally beautiful. But the world made her pay for it. The prejudice against gender choice kept her poor, beholden to others, shunned, disrespected, disinvented, and locked up within herself. Cynthia Carr's minute reconstruction of her life is brilliant and profoundly sad. As if Candy's ghost were dictating the terms, it keeps her an enigma, a consummate life actress who never dressed down.

—Lucy Sante, author of *I Heard Her Call My Name*

EXIT INTERVIEW (The Life and Death of My Ambitious Career) —Kristi Coulter

A candid, intensely funny memoir of ambition, gender, and a grueling decade inside Amazon.com.

MCD

September 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold

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Rights Sold

Nothing Good Can Come from This

GERMAN / Goldmann

Exit Interview

The Life and Death of My Ambitious Career

Kristi Coulter

AUTHOR OF *NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM THIS*



EXIT INTERVIEW (The Life and Death of My Ambitious Career) —Kristi Coulter

What would you sacrifice for your career? All your free time? Your sense of self-worth? Your sanity?

In 2006, Kristi Coulter left her cozy but dull job for a promising new position at the fast-growing Amazon.com, but she never expected the soul-crushing pressure that came with it.

In no time she finds the challenge and excitement she'd been craving—along with seven-day workweeks, lifeboat exercises, widespread burnout, and a culture driven largely by fear. But the chase, the visibility, and, let's face it, the stock options, proved intoxicating, and so, for twelve years, she stayed—until she no longer recognized the face in the mirror or the mission she'd signed up for.

Unsparring, absurd, and wickedly funny, **EXIT INTERVIEW** is a rare journey inside the crucible that is Amazon. An intimate, surprisingly relatable look at the work life of a driven woman in a world that loves the idea of female ambition but balks at the reality.

KRISTI COULTER is the author of *Nothing Good Can Come from This* (MCDxFSG Originals, 2018), which was a finalist for the 2019 Washington State Book Award. She holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Michigan, was a Ragdale Foundation resident, and has taught writing at the University of Washington and Hugo House. Her work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *New York* magazine, *Elle*, and elsewhere. She lives in Seattle, Washington..

Praise for EXIT INTERVIEW

A Best Memoirs by Women Still to Come in 2023,
Glamour

“

Coulter's writing is funny and warm, bringing to life a cast of people caught in the same corporate maelstrom...By situating her experience in a larger feminist narrative, Coulter gives her story a...universal application.

—Leah Reich, *The New York Times Book Review*

“

With wry humor, Coutler provides candid insights about life, love, and genders as well as surviving a toxic workplace.

—*Kirkus*

“

A unique and brilliant book—both a hilarious memoir of one woman's journey through the extremes of corporate America and a poignant and arresting account of what modern work culture can do to the soul. I found myself reading passages aloud to anyone who'd listen.

—Oliver Burkeman, author of *Four Thousand Weeks*

“

Kristi Coulter has given us the most vivid account yet of Amazon's chaotic, mercurial, dignity-crushing office culture. *Exit Interview* is also a very funny and intensely personal depiction of what it's like to be female in the oppressively male world of technology.

—Brad Stone, author of *The Everything Store* and *Amazon Unbound*

“

Exit Interview is pure joy from beginning to end. Kristi Coulter's voice is truly inimitable: vibrantly intelligent, tender, occasionally furious, and always funny. A brilliant and surprisingly moving tour of the outer reaches of corporate madness.

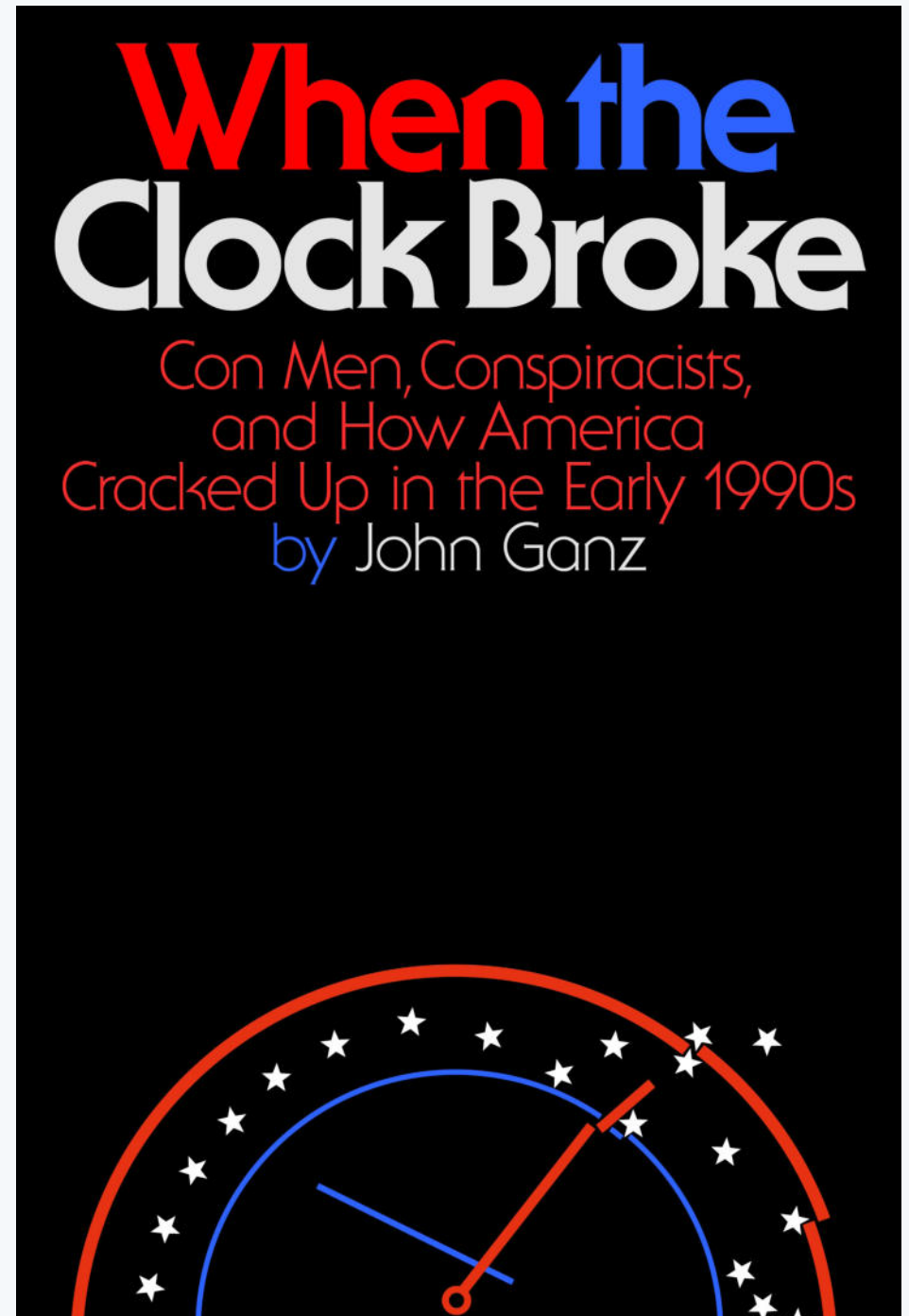
—Claire Dederer, author of *Monsters*

WHEN THE CLOCK BROKE (Con Men, Conspiracists, and How America Cracked Up in the Early 1990s) —John Ganz

A lively, revelatory look back at the convulsions at the end of the Reagan era—and their dark legacy today.

 FSG

June 2024 (manuscript available)



WHEN THE CLOCK BROKE (Con Men, Conspiracists, and How America Cracked Up in the Early 1990s) —John Ganz

With the Soviet Union extinct, Saddam Hussein defeated, and U.S. power at its zenith, the early 1990s promised a “kinder, gentler America.” Instead, it was a period of rising anger and domestic turmoil, anticipating the polarization and resurgent extremism we know today.

In **WHEN THE CLOCK BROKE**, the acclaimed political writer John Ganz tells the story of America’s late-century discontents. Ranging from upheavals in Crown Heights and Los Angeles to the advent of David Duke and heartland survivalists, the broadcasts of Rush Limbaugh, and the bitter disputes between neoconservatives and the “paleo-con” right, Ganz immerses us in a time when what Philip Roth called the “indigenous American berserk” took new and ever-wilder forms. In the 1992 campaign, Pat Buchanan and Ross Perot’s insurgent populist bids upended the political establishment, all while Americans struggled through recession, alarm about racial and social change, the specter of a new power in Asia, and the end of Cold War-era political norms. Conspiracy theories surged, and intellectuals and activists strove to understand the “Middle American Radicals” whose alienation fueled new causes. Meanwhile, Bill Clinton appeared to forge a new vital center, though it would not hold for long.

In a rollicking, eye-opening book, Ganz narrates the fall of the Reagan order, and the rise of a new and more turbulent America.

JOHN GANZ writes the widely-acclaimed “Unpopular Front” newsletter for Substack. His work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Artforum*, the *New Statesman*, and other publications.

Praise for WHEN THE CLOCK BROKE

“

John Ganz is the most important young political writer of his generation—just the one our dark moment needs.

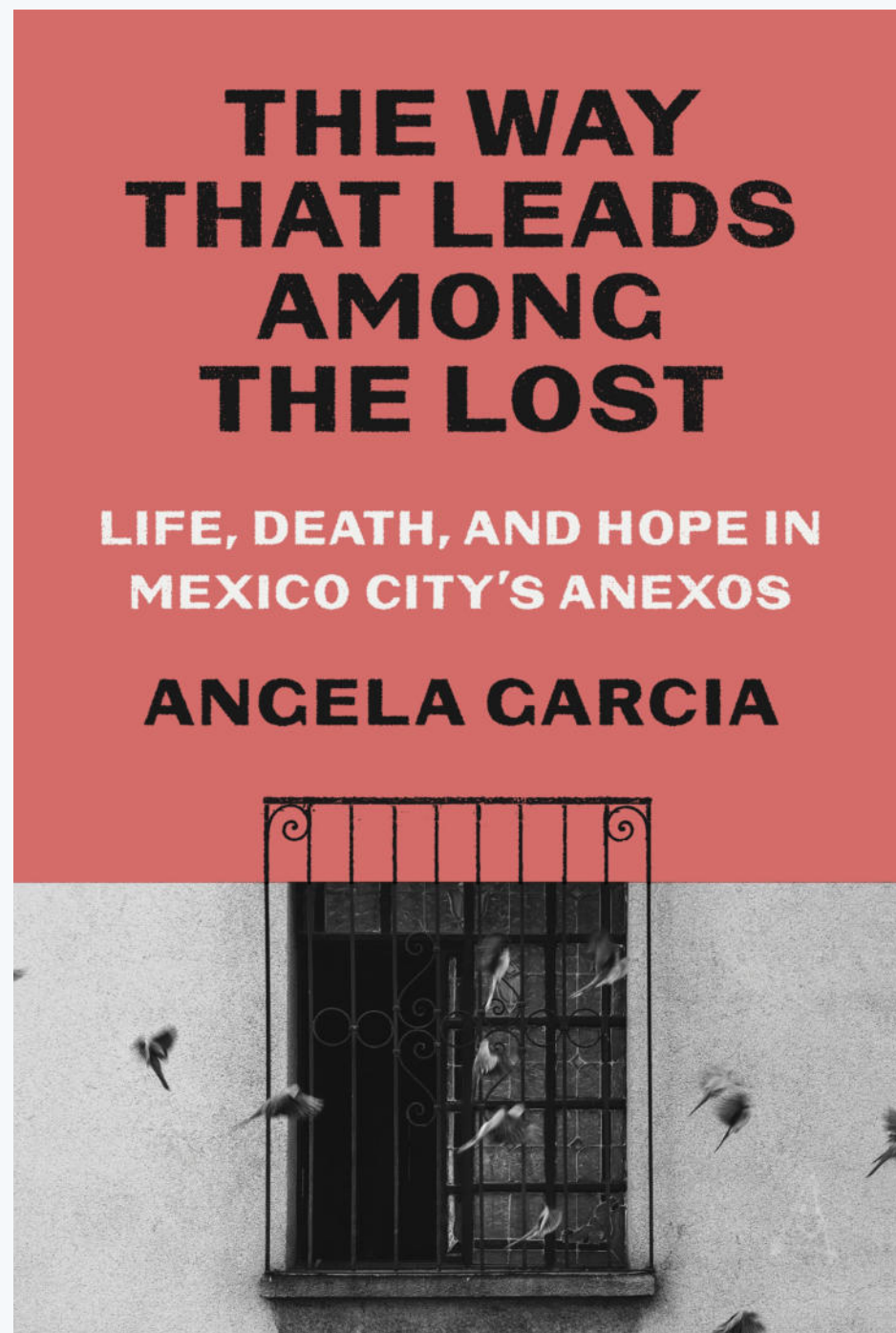
—Rick Perlstein, author of *Nixonland* and *Reaganland*

THE WAY THAT LEADS AMONG THE LOST (Life, Death, and Hope in Mexico City's Anexos) —Angela Garcia

A moving, harrowing journey into the secret world of the anexos, where mothers send their children to protect them from the drug war in Mexico.

FSG

April 2024 (finished books available)



THE WAY THAT LEADS AMONG THE LOST (Life, Death, and Hope in Mexico City) —Angela Garcia

THE WAY THAT LEADS AMONG THE LOST reveals a hidden place where care and violence are impossible to separate: the anexos of Mexico City. Prize-winning anthropologist Angela Garcia takes us deep into the world of these small rooms, informal treatment centers for alcoholism, addiction, and mental illness, spread across Mexico City's tenements and reaching into the United States. Run and inhabited by Mexico's most marginalized populations, they are controversial for their illegality and their use of coercion. Yet for many Mexican families desperate to keep their loved ones safe, these rooms offer something of a refuge from what lies beyond them—the intensifying violence surrounding the drug war.

This is the first book ever written on anexos. Garcia, who spent a decade conducting anthropological fieldwork in Mexico City, draws readers into their many dimensions, casting light on the mothers and their children who are entangled in this hidden world. She asks what these places are, why they exist, and what they reflect about Mexico and the wider world. With extraordinary empathy and a sharp eye for detail, Garcia attends to the lives that anexos both sustain and erode, wrestling with the question of why mothers turn to them as a site of refuge even as they reproduce violence. Woven into these portraits is Garcia's own powerful story of family, childhood, homelessness, and drugs—a blend of ethnography and memoir converging on a set of fundamental questions about the many forms and meanings that violence, love, care, family, and hope may take.

Infused with profound ethnographic richness and moral urgency, **THE WAY THAT LEADS AMONG THE LOST** is a stunning work of narrative nonfiction, a book that will leave a deep mark on readers.

ANGELA GARCIA is professor of anthropology at Stanford University. Her first book, *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession Along the Rio Grande*, received the Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing and the Pen Center USA-University of California Press Literary Award for Exceptional First Book. She has worked as a baker, hotel maid, corset model, dishwasher, phone banker, record store clerk, HIV activist, waitress, among other jobs. Garcia was born in New Mexico and now lives in San Francisco with her two children.

Praise for THE WAY THAT LEADS AMONG THE LOST

“

Angela Garcia is a card-carrying anthropologist and ethnographer yet her writing reads like the best of literary nonfiction. The world she describes is close at hand and yet most of us would be fearful to get anywhere near, let alone embed ourselves within it. An utterly fascinating story.

—Abraham Verghese, author of *The Covenant of Water*

“

An extraordinary exploration, personal and anthropological, of the impossibly murky boundaries between protecting children, walling them off from the dangers of the world, and abandoning them. Garcia is so gifted that she can turn a history of a small dim room in Mexico City into an examination of both her life and a generation.

—Rachel Aviv, author of *Strangers to Ourselves*

“

The Way That Leads Among the Lost is a profound grappling with the ethics, forms, and practices of care in the midst of unrelenting violence.

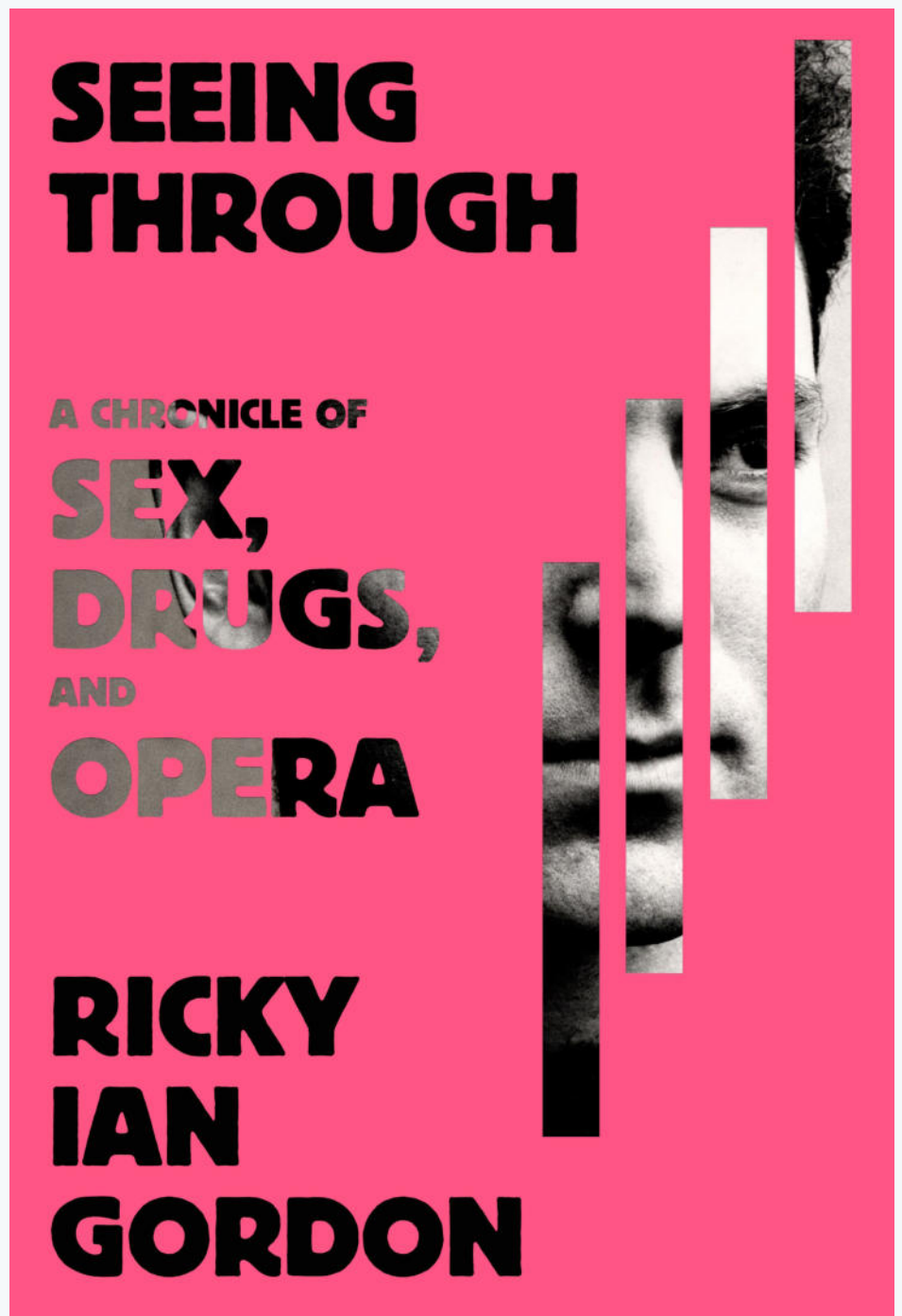
—Christina Sharpe, author of *Ordinary Notes*

SEEING THROUGH (A Chronicle of Sex, Drugs, and Opera) —Ricky Ian Gordon

The true confessions of a working opera composer: the exhilarating story of “a life that comes out of chaos.”

 FSG

July 2024 (manuscript available)



SEEING THROUGH (A Chronicle of Sex, Drugs, and Opera) —Ricky Ian Gordon

At eight years old, Ricky Ian Gordon pulled *The Victor Book of Opera* off his piano teacher's bookshelf, and his world shifted on its axis. Though scandal, sadness, and confusion would shake that world over the next few decades, its polestar remained constant. Music has been the guiding force of Gordon's life; through it, he has not only been able to survive great sorrow, but also to capture the depths of his emotion in song. It is this strength, this technical and visceral genius, that has made Gordon one of our generation's greatest composers.

In **SEEING THROUGH**, Gordon writes with humor, insight, and incredible candor about his life and work: his tumultuous youth on Long Island, his artistic collaborations and obsessions, the creation of his compositions (including *The Grapes of Wrath*, *27*, *Orpheus and Euridice*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Ellen West*, and more), his addictions and the abuses he endured, and the loss of his partner to AIDS and the devastation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As Gordon writes of that period: "We were, thousands of us, Lazarus. We had to rise from the ashes. We didn't have to rebuild our lives, we had to build new ones."

Gordon has succeeded in building a remarkable life, as well as a body of work that bears witness to all he survived in the process—one that will endure as a pivotal chapter in America's songbook.

RICKY IAN GORDON was born in Oceanside, New York, and was raised on Long Island. After studying piano, composition, and acting at Carnegie Mellon University, he settled in New York City, where he quickly emerged as a leading writer of vocal music that spans art song, opera, and musical theater. Gordon's songs have been performed and recorded by Renée Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, Nathan Gunn, Judy Collins, Kelli O'Hara, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, and many others. His works include *Orpheus and Euridice*, *Morning Star*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *27*, *Green Sneakers for Baritone*, *String Quartet*, *Empty Chair and Piano*, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, *Ellen West*, and *Intimate Apparel*.

Praise for SEEING THROUGH



With candor abounding, Ricky Ian Gordon sings the engrossing song of himself. What a lot he has survived! What a lot he has surmounted! I could read him forever.

—Benjamin Taylor, author of *Chasing Bright Medusas: A Life of Willa Cather*

SURVIVAL IS A PROMISE (The Eternal Life of Audre Lorde) —Alexis Pauline Gumbs

A bold, innovative biography that offers a new understanding of the life and work of Audre Lorde and their enduring impact.

 FSG

August 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold

BRITISH / Allen Lane



SURVIVAL IS A PROMISE (The Eternal Life of Audre Lorde) —Alexis Pauline Gumbs

We remember Audre Lorde as an iconic writer, a quotable teacher whose words and face grace t-shirts, non-profit annual reports, and campus diversity center walls. But even those of us who are inspired by Audre Lorde's teachings on "the creative power of difference" may be missing something fundamental about her life and work, and what they can mean for us today.

Audre Lorde's understanding of survival was not simply about getting through to the other side of oppression, or being resilient in the face of her cancer. It was about the total stakes of what it means to be in relationship with a planet in transformation. Possibly the focus on Audre Lorde's quotable essays, to the neglect of her complex poems, has led us to ignore her deep engagement with the natural world, the planetary dynamics of geology, meteorology, and biology. For her, ecological images are not simply metaphors but rather literal guides to how to be of earth on earth, and to survive—to live the ethics that a black feminist lesbian warrior poetics demands.

In **SURVIVAL IS A PROMISE**, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, the first researcher to explore the full depths of Audre Lorde's manuscript archives, illuminates the eternal life of Audre Lorde. Her life and work become more than a sound-bite; they become a cosmic force, teaching us the grand contingency of life together on earth.

ALEXIS PAULINE GUMBS is the author of several works of poetry, and of *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Animals*, which won a Whiting Award in 2022. In 2023, she won a Windham Campbell Prize for her poetry. She lives in Durham, North Carolina.

Praise for *Undrowned*

“

On every page, Alexis Pauline Gumbs offers us a new definition of philosophy, a new definition of evolution. If we truly want a more just way of living, of being interspecies. This is a smart, black feminist, queer poetic; a love evangelist trouble making abolitionist offering. Take it. And be the change.

—Alexis DeVeaux, author of *Warrior Poet: A Biography of Audre Lorde*

“

This book is a devotional. An invitation to live more intentionally, more in harmony/Aligned. In this book, the Divine Mermaid, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, dives inside the wails of the Ancestors as she gives testament and testimony to the brilliance of Knowing Spirit beyond the veils of time, place and embodiment. Here, Alexis serves as guide and translator of vibrational realities of dreaming into how to survive, thrive and shape shift this world.

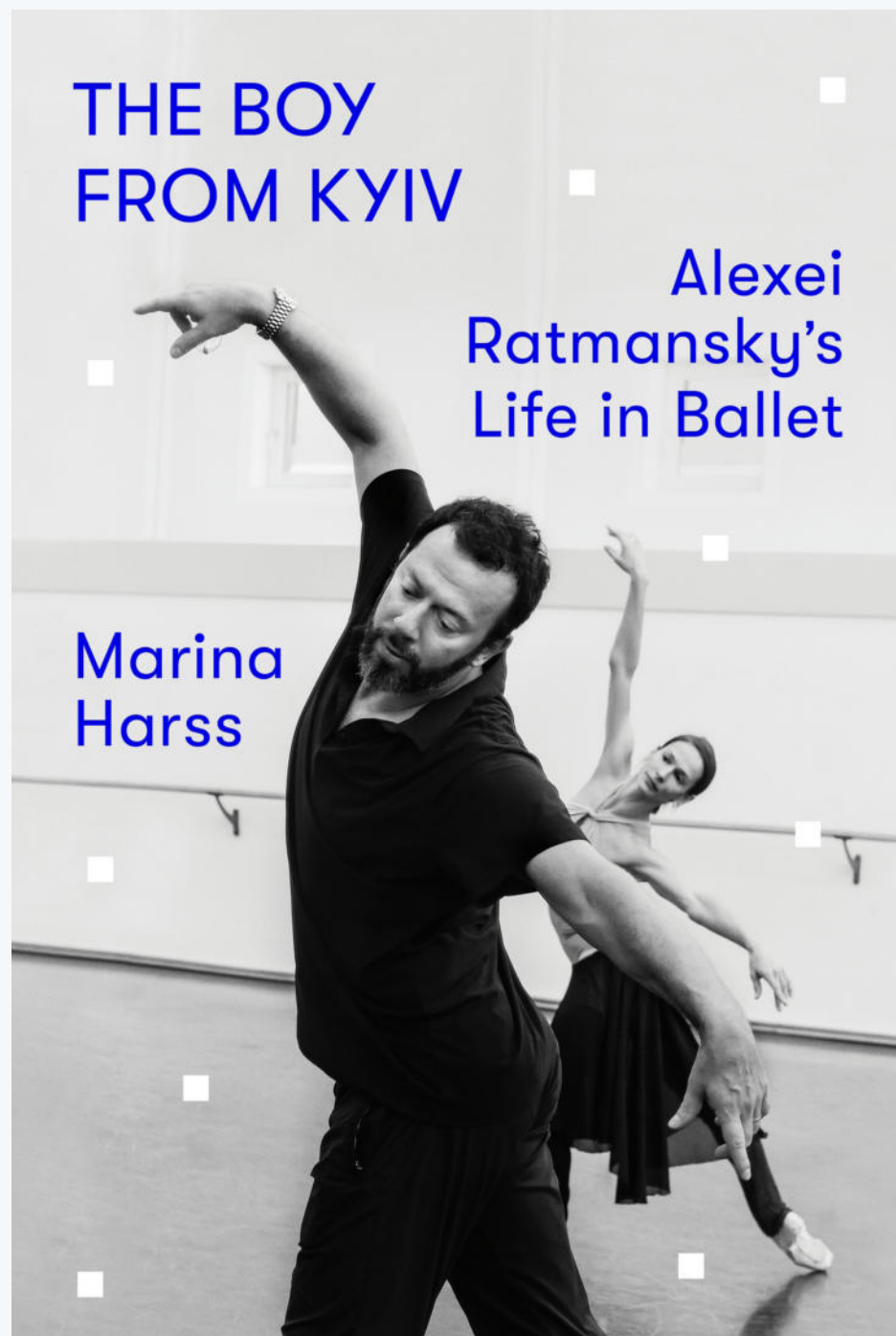
—Sharon Bridgforth, Doris Duke Performing Artist

THE BOY FROM KYIV (Alexei Ratmansky's Life in Ballet) —Marina Harss

THE BOY FROM KYIV tells the life story of Alexei Ratmansky, the most significant ballet choreographer of our time.

 FSG

October 2023 (finished books available)



THE BOY FROM KYIV (Alexei Ratmanský's Life in Ballet) —Marina Harss

Alexei Ratmanský is “the most sought-after man in ballet” (*The New Yorker*). At just 35 years of age, he was the youngest ever person to hold the position of artistic director at Moscow’s famed Bolshoi Ballet. He went on to be appointed resident choreographer at the American Ballet Theatre in New York, a post he holds to this day. He has created magnificent new works for just about every major national ballet that can afford him, breathing fresh, exquisite new life into the allegedly moribund art of classical ballet.

In **THE BOY FROM KYIV**, the celebrated dance critic Marina Harss charts Ratmanský’s exceptional life: his modest upbringing in St. Petersburg and Kyiv, his early years training at the Bolshoi Academy and sneaking into the company’s performances at night, and his dance career spent in Ukraine, Canada, and Denmark. Through these wide-ranging experiences, he developed a singular creative style fusing Russian and Western sensibilities that put him on the path to becoming the most influential choreographer at work today. Of late, he has also found himself in an unexpected new role as perhaps the most vocal critic of Vladimir Putin in the quintessentially Russian ballet world; Ratmanský has vowed to never work in Russia again so long as Putin remains in power and now leads a newly formed company of Ukrainian refugees in the Hague.

Harss has spent the better part of two decades following Ratmanský’s illustrious—and still rising—career. In **THE BOY FROM KYIV**, the first biography of this major artist, Harss delivers a riveting, deeply human account of the collisions of identities, cultures, and traditions that paved the way for Ratmanský’s miraculous ascent to the peaks of artistic excellence.

MARINA HARSS is a dance writer, journalist, and critic based in New York City. Her pieces have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *The Boston Globe*, *Dance Magazine*, and *Fjord Review*.

Praise for THE BOY FROM KYIV

A Best Book of the Year by NPR and *The New Yorker*

“

A revelatory book about how [Ratmanský] evolved into the internationally sought-after choreographer of the moment...A must-read.
— Martha Anne Toll, NPR

“

Deft [and] intimate...[Marina] Harss’s insightful portrait of a prolific creator highlights how Ratmanský’s art reflects the frictions and the liberations of a changing world.
— *The New Yorker*

“

[A] spirited, engaging biography...Ms. Harss analyzes each of Mr. Ratmanský’s ballets, skillfully describing them in such vivid detail that you can almost see them...A deeply researched portrait.
— Moira Hodgson, *The Wall Street Journal*

“

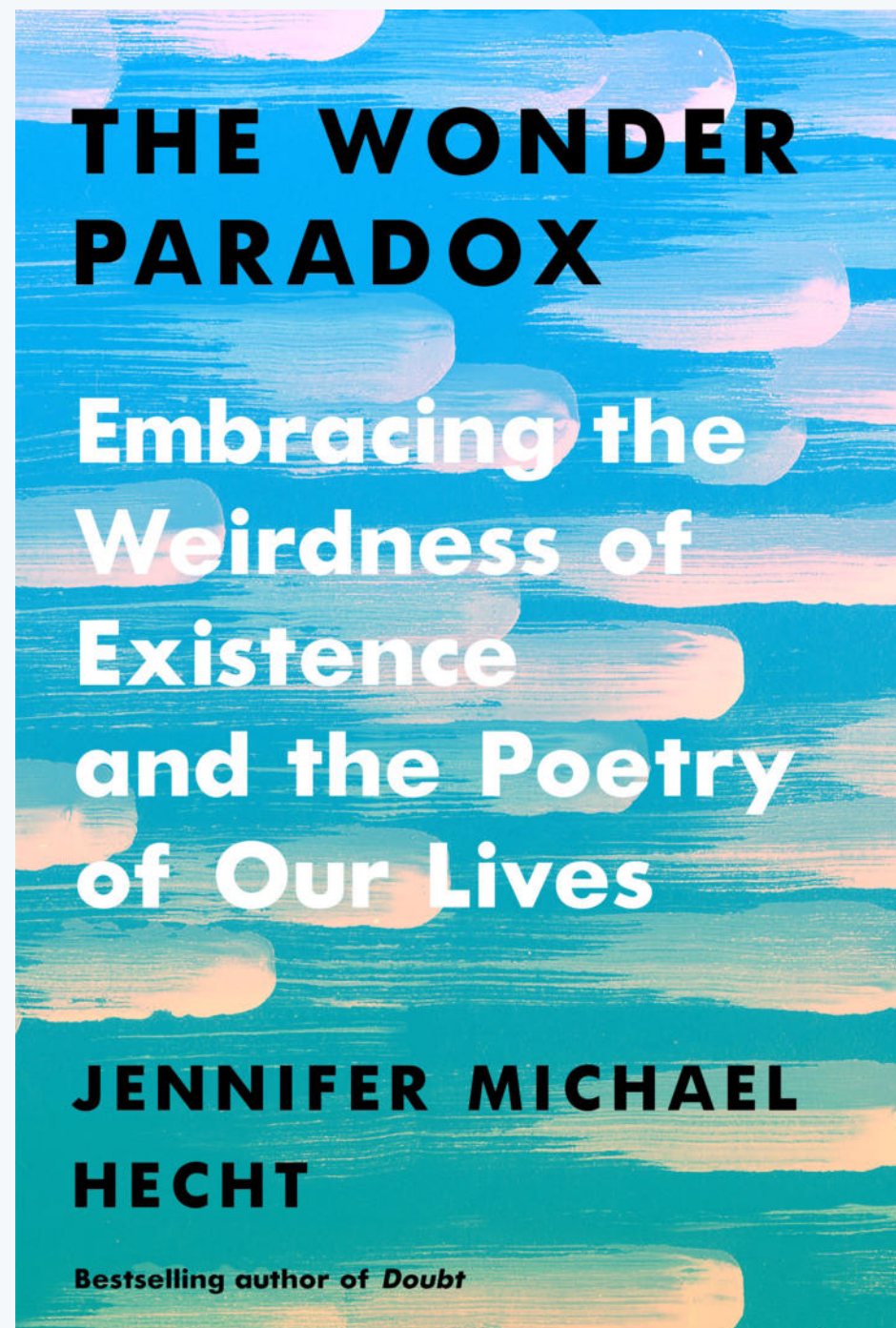
In this elegant, authoritative biography of one of the great choreographers of our time, Marina Harss captures Alexei Ratmanský in all his passionate complexity...Harss shows how a major artist can not only withstand the contradictions of twenty-first-century identity but thrive on them. Most important, she brings the dances to riveting life on the page, evoking history in motion.
— Alex Ross, author of *Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music*

THE WONDER PARADOX
(Embracing the Weirdness of Existence
and the Poetry of Our Lives)
—Jennifer Michael Hecht

A lively, practical, and transcendent roadmap to meaning
and connection through poetry.

Ⓜ FSG

March 2023 (finished books available)



THE WONDER PARADOX (Embracing the Weirdness of Existence and the Poetry of Our Lives) —Jennifer Michael Hecht

We have calendars to mark time, communal spaces to bring us together, bells to signal hours of contemplation, official archives to record legacies, the wisdom of sages read aloud, weekly, to map out the right way to live—in kindness, justice, morality. These rhythms and structures of society were all once set by religion. Now, for many, religion no longer runs the show.

So how then to celebrate milestones? Find rules to guide us? Figure out which texts can focus our attention but still offer space for inquiry, communion, and the chance to dwell for a dazzling instant in what can't be said? Where, really, are truth and beauty? The answer, says **THE WONDER PARADOX**, is in poetry.

In twenty chapters built from years of questions and conversation with those looking for an authentic and meaningful life, Hecht offers ways to excavate the useful aspects of tradition and to replace what no longer feels true. Through cultures and poetic wisdom from around the world—Sappho, Rumi, Shakespeare, Issa, Tagore, Frost, Szymborska, Angelou, and others—she blends literary criticism with spiritual guidance rooted in the everyday. Linking our needs to particular poems, she helps us better understand those needs, ourselves, and poetry itself.

Our capacity for wonder is one of the greatest joys of being human; **THE WONDER PARADOX** celebrates that instinct and that yearning. Like Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way* and Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird*, it promises to inspire generations of readers.

JENNIFER MICHAEL HECHT, a historian and poet, is the award-winning and bestselling author of the histories *Doubt*, *Stay*, *The Happiness Myth*, and *The End of the Soul*. Her poetry books include *Who Said*, *The Next Ancient World*, and *Funny*. She earned her PhD in history from Columbia University and teaches in New York City.

Praise for THE WONDER PARADOX



Thought-provoking and intriguing...Studded with insightful commentary...[An] inspirational invitation to reconsider the role of poetry in life.
—*Kirkus*



[Jennifer Michael Hecht] designs a liturgy for a disenchanted world...Drawing on an admirable array of poets (many not Western), Hecht synthesizes artistic and spiritual insight in astute but not stuffy ways, and welcomes readers unsure where to start.
—*Publishers Weekly*



[*The Wonder Paradox*] delights...Warmth and enthusiasm suffuse Hecht's enchanting prose, which make this book a moving, hopeful read.
—Zachariah Motts, *Library Journal*, starred



The Wonder Paradox leads its readers into the open space between the extremes of atheism and religious belief; here, spiritual insights that lie hidden in daily experience are released through secular rituals and the practice of poetry. In her lively, useful exploration of this middle zone, Jennifer Michael Hecht offers us a wakeful perspective, both timeless and germane to our times.
—Billy Collins, author of *Whale Day*

LOU REED

(The King of New York)

—Will Hermes

The most complete and penetrating biography of the rock master, whose stature grows every year.

 FSG

October 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold

BRITISH / Viking Penguin

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ITALIAN / Minimum Fax

POLISH / Foksal

PORTUGUESE (IN BRAZIL) /

Editora Record

SPANISH / Editorial Sexto Piso



LOU REED (The King of New York) —Will Hermes

Since his death ten years ago, Lou Reed's living presence has only grown. In **LOU REED**, Will Hermes offers the definitive narrative of Reed's life and legacy, dramatizing his long, brilliant, and contentious dialogue with fans, critics, fellow artists, and assorted habitués of the demimonde. We witness Reed's complex partnerships with David Bowie, Andy Warhol, John Cale, and Laurie Anderson; track the deadpan wit, street-smart edge, and poetic flights that defined his craft as a singer and songwriter with the Velvet Underground and beyond; and explore the artistic ambition and gift for self-sabotage he took from his mentor Delmore Schwartz.

As Hermes follows Reed from Lower East Side cold-water flats to the landmark status he later achieved, he also tells the story of New York City as a cultural capital. The first biographer to draw on the New York Public Library's much-publicized Reed archive, the release of previously unheard recordings, and a wealth of recent interviews, Hermes gives us a new Lou Reed—a pioneer in living and writing about nonbinary sexuality and gender identity, a committed artist who pursued beauty and noise with equal fervor, and a turbulent and sometimes truculent man whose emotional imprint endures.

WILL HERMES is a contributing writer for *Rolling Stone*, a longtime contributor to NPR's *All Things Considered* and *The New York Times*, and the author of *Love Goes to Buildings on Fire*. He also writes for *Pitchfork* and other publications, and was co-editor of *SPIN: 20 Years of Alternative Music*.

Praise for LOU REED

A Best Book of 2023, *Kirkus*, NPR, *The Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, *Pitchfork*, *Variety*, *Esquire*
A *New York Times* "Great Read"
Fall Books Preview, *Vulture*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Lit Hub*



The only Lou Reed bio you need to read.
—*The Washington Post*



A compulsively readable and astonishingly well-researched book that's not just for Reed's fans, but for anyone interested in American cultural history. This is a biography with a real rock and roll heart.
—Michael Schaub, NPR



The achievement of Will Hermes's book...is, first, in how thoughtfully it contains Reed...It is a work of grand affection, one that allows a person their failings, and one that knows that examining those failings alongside the grandest achievements is how one pays homage to a full life.
—Hanif Abdurraqib, *Bookforum*

FEEDING GHOSTS (A Graphic Memoir) —Tessa Hulls

A ravishing, stunningly original, illustrated debut memoir set against the tumultuous backdrop of Chinese history.

 MCD

March 2024 (finished books available)

Rights Sold

CANADIAN / McClelland and Stewart

CHINESE (COMPLEX) / Faces/Cite

FRENCH / Editions Globe

ITALIAN / Tunué Srl (Il Castoro)

PORTUGUESE (IN BRAZIL) /

Companhia das Letras

SPANISH / PRH Grupo Editorial



FEEDING GHOSTS (A Graphic Memoir) —Tessa Hulls

In her evocative, genre-defying, graphic memoir, Tessa Hulls tells the story of three generations of women in her family: her Chinese grandmother, Sun Yi; her mother, Rose; and herself.

Sun Yi, was a Shanghai journalist caught in the political crosshairs of the 1949 Communist victory. After eight years of government harassment, she fled to Hong Kong with her daughter. Upon arrival, Sun Yi wrote a bestselling memoir about her persecution and survival, used the proceeds to put Rose in an elite boarding school—and promptly had a breakdown that left her committed to a mental institution. Rose eventually came to the United States on a scholarship and brought Sun Yi to live with her.

Tessa watched her mother care for Sun Yi, both of them struggling under the weight of Sun Yi's unexamined trauma and mental illness. Vowing to free herself from her mother's smothering fear, Tessa left home and traveled to the farthest-flung corners of the globe (Antarctica!). But at the age of thirty, it starts to feel less like freedom and more like running away, and she returns home to face the history that shaped her family.

Extensively researched and gorgeously rendered, **FEEDING GHOSTS** is Hulls' homecoming, a vivid journey into the beating heart of one family, set against the backdrop of Chinese history. At turns fascinating and heartbreaking, inventive and poignant, **FEEDING GHOSTS** exposes the fear and trauma that haunt generations, and the love that holds them together.

TESSA HULLS is an artist, writer, and adventurer. Her essays have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Atlas Obscura*, and *The Adventure Journal*, and her comics have been published in *The Rumpus*, *CityArts*, and *Spark*. She has received grants from The Seattle Office of Arts and 4Culture, and is a fellowship recipient from The Washington Artist Trust. *Feeding Ghosts* is her first graphic memoir.

Praise for FEEDING GHOSTS

“

Feeding Ghosts reminds us how much the personal is political...an audacious, awe-inspiring feat. For me, it was an essential read.

—Ling Ma, author of *Bliss Montage*

“

A deep, illuminating dive into Chinese history, mental illness, and inherited trauma.

—Thi Bui, author of *The Best We Could Do*

“

Detailed, vulnerable, [and] harrowing.

—*Booklist*, starred

“

From start to finish, this book is a revelation...A work that glimmers with insight, acumen, and an unwillingness to settle for simple answers.

—*Kirkus*, starred

ERRAND INTO THE MAZE

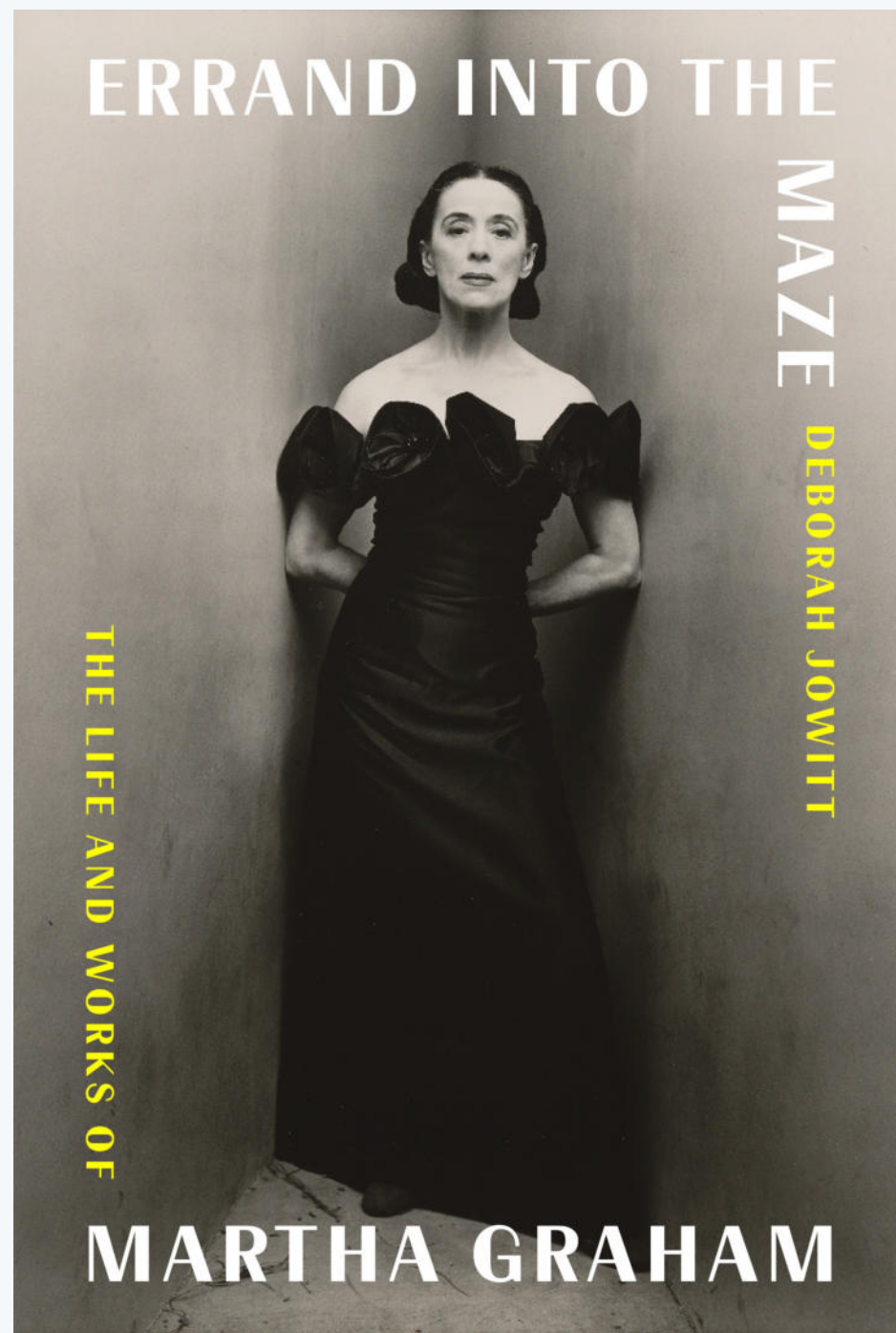
(The Life and Works of Martha Graham)

—Deborah Jowitt

The definitive biography of the visionary dancer and choreographer Martha Graham, one of the great American artists of the twentieth century.

 FSG

January 2024 (finished books available)



ERRAND INTO THE MAZE (The Life and Works of Martha Graham) —Deborah Jowitt

Between 1926 and 1991, the year of her death, Martha Graham choreographed close to one hundred works, many of them—such as *Appalachian Spring*, *Night Journey*, *Deaths and Entrances*, and *Primitive Mysteries*—masterpieces. She changed how dancers were perceived onstage, devised new ways of moving and structuring movement, and created a revolutionary dance technique that increases “the emotional activity of the dancer’s body.” Along the way, Graham engaged with the debates, ideas, and events of the twentieth century—creating dances of social commentary and human experiences. Graham, the first dancer and choreographer to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and named *TIME*’s “Dancer of the Century,” was the iconic face of what came to be called modern dance.

In **ERRAND INTO THE MAZE**, the dance critic Deborah Jowitt draws on Graham’s personal papers and a wide range of sources that have become available only after her death, to give us a definitive portrait of this great American artist. Beginning with Graham’s childhood and early work in theatrical productions, like *The Greenwich Village Follies*, and touching on her offstage adventures, including her marriage to the choreographer Erick Hawkins, this elegant, empathetic biography places Graham’s works and creations at the heart of her story. Her dances, brimming with emotional intensity, are intimately linked with their creator; she was the heroine in almost all the dances she choreographed, portraying figures like Jocasta, Clytemnestra, and Judith. In this volume, Graham is center stage once more, and Jowitt casts a bright and brilliant spotlight on her life and work.

DEBORAH JOWITT is a dance critic who wrote a column for *The Village Voice* from 1967 to 2011 and whose work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *Dance Magazine*, among other outlets. Her previous books include the biography *Jerome Robbins: His Life, His Theater, His Dance*, the essay collection *Time and the Dancing Image*, and the critical works *Dance Beat* and *The Dance in Mind*. A former Guggenheim fellow, she has lectured and conducted workshops worldwide and taught in the Dance Department of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts for forty years.

Praise for ERRAND INTO THE MAZE

A Best Book of the Month, *Kirkus*

“

Jowitt excels at describing, minutely, the work—restoring to readers the novelty of Graham’s now-ingrained concepts; her conviction and distinct style...A definitive biography of this woman who lived until 96 and spoke in epigrams, undulations and billowing fabric might be impossible to contain between one set of covers, but *Errand Into the Maze* is a distinguished biography: its description rich, its author’s rigor unquestionable.
—Alexandra Jacobs, *The New York Times*

“

Gently magisterial and written with compelling fluency...*Errand into the Maze* is piercingly insightful about both the creativity and personal life of the choreographer Martha Graham. Even if you watched Graham’s dances when she was living, you often meet her as if for the first time in these pages.
—Alastair Macaulay, former chief dance critic at *The New York Times*

“

[A] portrait of a modern dance icon. Veteran dance critic [Deborah] Jowitt offers an authoritative, sensitive biography...Prodigious research informs an insightful [work].
—*Kirkus*, starred

“

A rigorous, authoritative biography of [a legend]...Fans will thrill to this comprehensive account of Graham’s boundary-breaking work.
—*Publishers Weekly*

AMERICAN BLOODS (The Untamed Dynasty That Shaped a Nation) —John Kaag

An ambitious history of an extraordinary family that
unfolds into an unexpected portrait of America.

Ⓜ FSG

May 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold

Hiking with Nietzsche

BRITISH / Granta Books

CHINESE (COMPLEX) / Business
Weekly Publications

CHINESE (SIMPLIFIED) / Beijing
Imaginist Culture Co.

DUTCH / Ten Have

GERMAN / btb Verlag

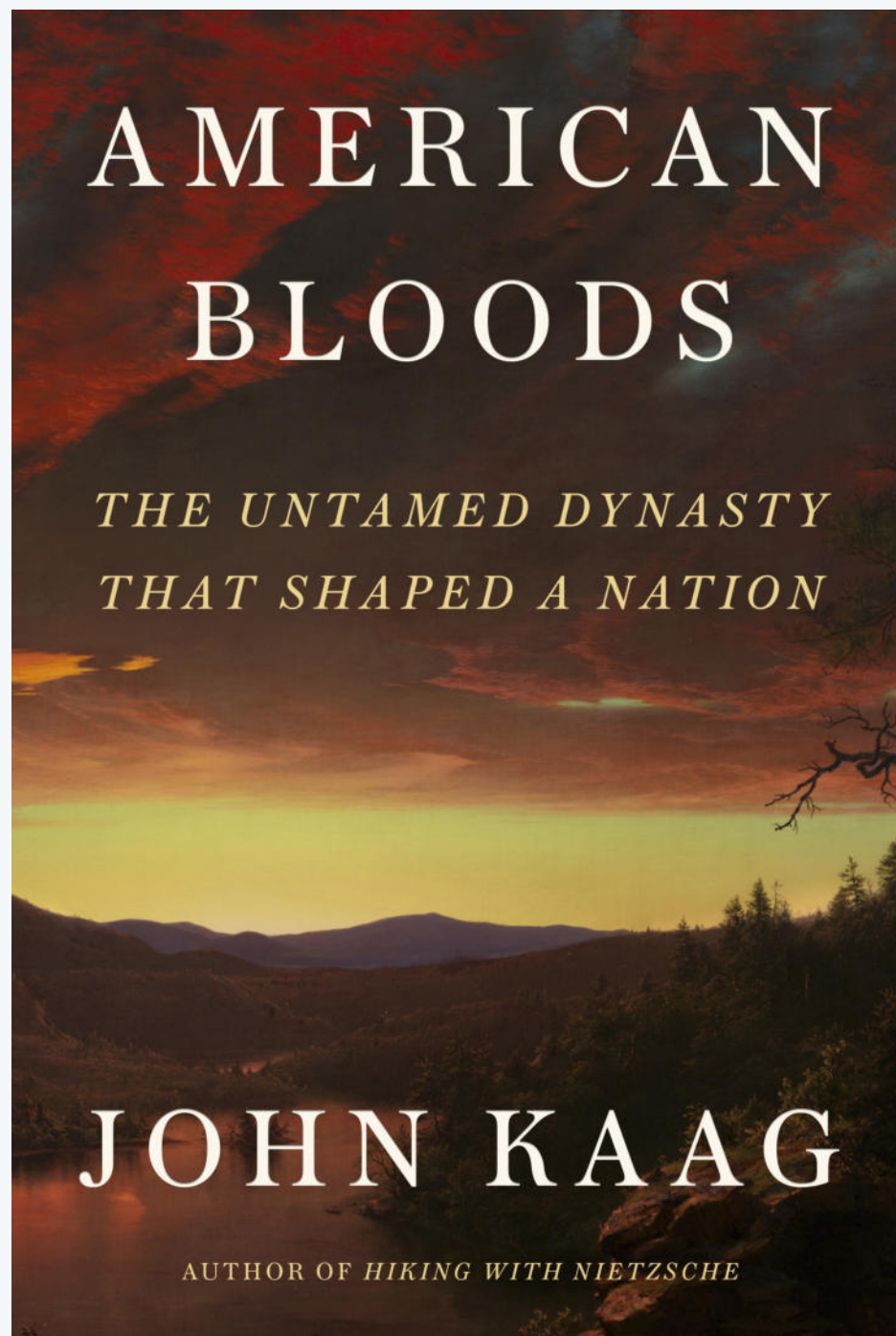
KOREAN / Purun Communication*

LITHUANIAN / UAB Leidykla
VAGA

PORTUGUESE (IN BRAZIL) /
R.ED. Red Tapioca Entretenimento
e Comércio Eireli

SERBIAN / Graficki atelje
DERETA

TURKISH / Lades/Ren*



AMERICAN BLOODS

(The Untamed Dynasty That Shaped a Nation)

—John Kaag

The Bloods were one of America's first and most expansive pioneer families. They explored and laid claim to the frontiers—geographic, political, intellectual, and spiritual—that would become the very core of the United States. John Kaag's **AMERICAN BLOODS** follows eight members of this family from the British Civil War in the 17th century through the founding of the colonies, the American Revolution, Transcendentalism, the Industrial Revolution, the Civil War, and the rise of first wave feminism, all the way to the beginning of the 20th century. The Bloods were active participants in virtually every pivotal moment in American history, coming into contact with everyone from Emerson and Thoreau to John Brown, Fredrick Douglass, Victoria Woodhull, and William James. The genealogy of the family tracks the ebb and flow of what Thoreau called "wildness," an original untamed spirit that would recede in the making of America, but would never be extinguished entirely. **AMERICAN BLOODS**, then, is an enduring reminder of the risks and rewards that were taken in laying claim to the lands that would become the United States, and a composite portrait of America like no other.

JOHN KAAG is a professor of philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. He is the author of *American Philosophy: A Love Story*, and *Hiking with Nietzsche*, both of which were named best books of the year by NPR. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and many other publications. He lives outside Boston with his wife and children.

Praise for AMERICAN BLOODS

“

Rich and incisive...Kaag provides a lively and insightful examination of his remarkable subjects. An astute and absorbing narrative of one family's intersection with the nation's development.

—Kirkus

“

John Kaag's seductive book weds his empathy for the Transcendentalists—Thoreau and Emerson—with the biographer's quest for ferreting out the astonishing, funny and highly improbable story of the American Bloods. A multi-generational biography that reveals America with all its glorious warts, this book tells a delightful tale.

—Kai Bird, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and director of the Leon Levy Center for Biography

“

In a taut and spell-binding narrative, Kaag traces the Blood family's influence through generations by singling out individuals—revolutionary, ascetic, polygamist, mystic—and finding these 'borderers' always in close connection with the central thinkers and doers of their day: Emerson, Thoreau, Cornelius Vanderbilt, William James. I couldn't have been more surprised—and delighted—to join Kaag on this voyage of discovery.

—Megan Marshall, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life* and *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*

BY THE SECOND SPRING (Seven Ukrainians and the Search for Humanity in War) —Danielle Leavitt

A narrative of the Russo-Ukrainian War, told through the lives of Ukrainians on and near the front lines in the first year of the conflict.

Ⓜ FSG

May 2025 (manuscript available May 2024)

Rights Sold

BRITISH / Calligraph LLC



BY THE SECOND SPRING (Seven Ukrainians and the Search for Humanity in War) —Danielle Leavitt

In this intimate narrative, the journalist and historian Danielle Leavitt tells the story of how Ukrainians have lived through invasion and war, in the vein of Barbara Demick's *Nothing to Envy* and Masha Gessen's *The Future is History*. Drawing on a trove of diaries updated in real-time by Ukrainians, we see how their lives intertwine through brutal days of fighting and privation, at the front, and in their home cities and villages. The result is a close-up view of how shooting wars have returned to Europe, and the individuals whose lives are at stake.

Collecting memories, history, and cultural context, Leavitt follows her characters as their stories flow outward after the beginning of the war and as their reflections begin to eddy around themes of loss, connection, nationalism, and home. The result is a rare, intimate window into an actively unfolding and increasingly global war, grounded in the author's expertise and fueled by human stories.

The lack of resolution to this conflict may pose a particular challenge for works of straight analysis, which will follow at its conclusion. With no end to the war in sight, Leavitt's privileged access and source material means she can go deeper than any ongoing reporting, resulting in powerful storytelling that closely observes real people, letting their lives shed light on larger forces rather than the other way around. **BY THE SECOND SPRING** shares moving stories of humans navigating the unimaginable, and is an incredible portrait of how people thrown into an enormous crisis manage to find a way through it.

DANIELLE LEAVITT is a fellow at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Center. But her connection with Ukraine is not purely academic: she spent formative years in Kyiv as a child and continued to return every year with her family until the war began. She is passionate about introducing a wide general audience to these Ukrainians she's come to know so well and excited to do their stories justice.

PACIFIC CIRCUIT —Alexis C. Madrigal

NPR host Alexis Madrigal's explains how the Port of Oakland explains the world—from its pivotal position in the history of radical politics as well as the global supply chain.

 MCD

March 2025 (manuscript available April 2024)



PACIFIC CIRCUIT —Alexis C. Madrigal

In **PACIFIC CIRCUIT**, distinguished journalist Alexis Madrigal sculpts an intricate tableau of the city of Oakland—a port city confronted by the political and economic upheavals born from decades of globalization. This story is more than a comprehensive account; it's an investigation of history's impact on individuals, organizers, laborers, and activists in this often under-examined city.

Oakland's stories encompass everything from Silicon Valley's prominence, the ramification of a compulsively digital future, to the underestimated costs of technological innovation—all personified in this changing landscape for the city's lifelong inhabitants.

PACIFIC CIRCUIT holds a magnifying glass to the scars and triumphs etched by systemic violence, generations of segregationist policies, and the ceaseless march of technological advancement. Yet these are not abstract concepts; they are embedded in the very fabric of Oakland and its people. Madrigal dissects city hall politics, traces the intertwining arcs of capital and hedge funds, and offers unprecedented insight into Silicon Valley's genesis and growth, all against the backdrop of Oakland—a city vibrating with untold stories and unexplored connections.

ALEXIS C. MADRIGAL is a journalist in Oakland, California. He's a staff writer at *The Atlantic* and a co-founder of The COVID Tracking Project. Previously, he was the editor-in-chief of *Fusion* and a staff writer at *Wired*. He's been a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Information School and UC Berkeley's Center for the Study of Technology, Science, and Medicine as well as an affiliate with Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. Madrigal authored the book *Powering the Dream: The History and Promise of Green Technology*. He curates the *5it* newsletter, which covers emerging technologies and social dynamics through history and a general appreciation that the future will be as weird as the present.

BONES WORTH BREAKING

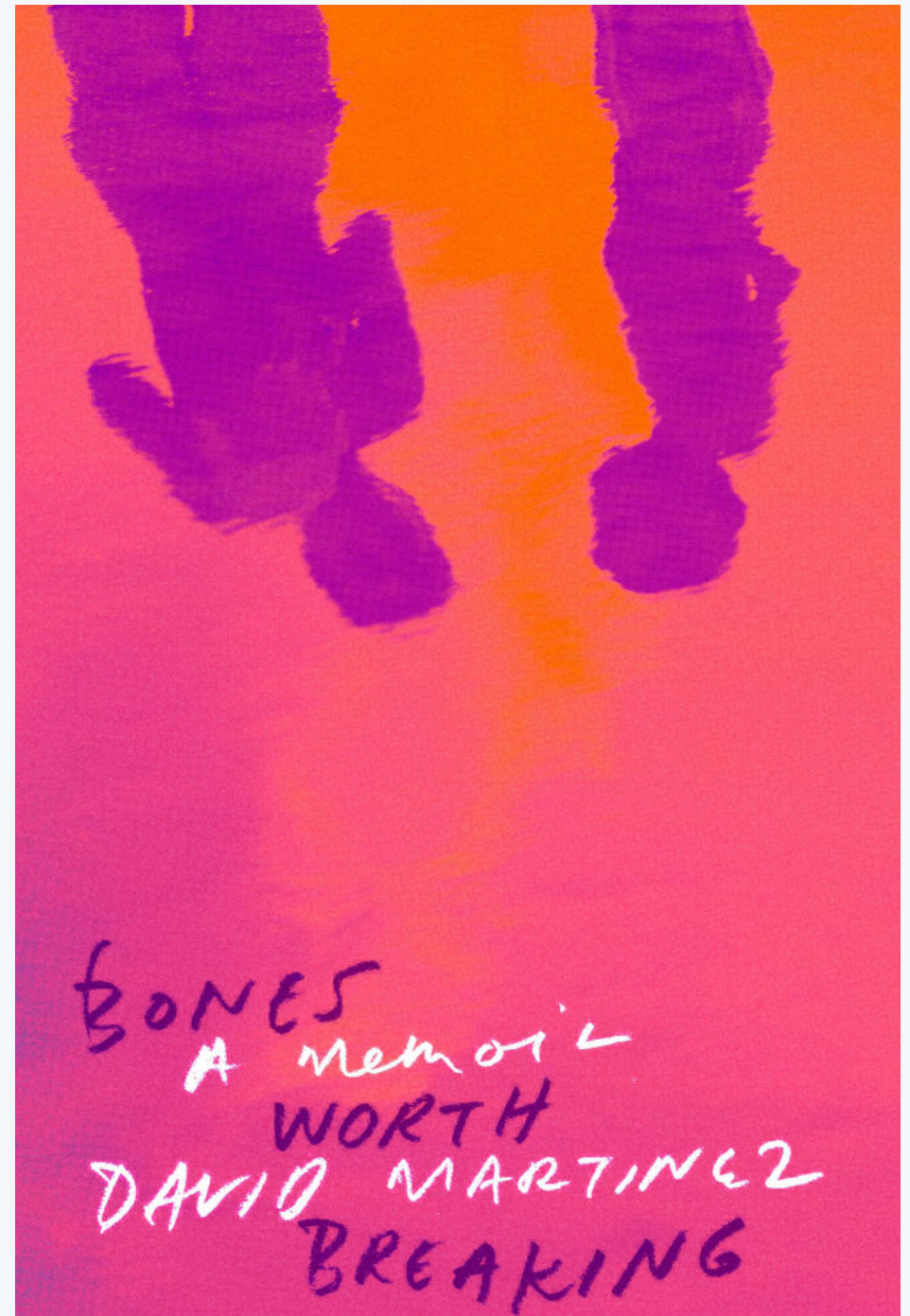
(A Memoir)

—David Martinez

An international story of racial and religious identity, mental illness, brotherhood, and the search for self through the broken social system of the United States.

 MCD

April 2024 (finished books available)



BONES WORTH BREAKING (A Memoir) —David Martinez

Nobody around David Martinez saw how quickly he was breaking apart except for his younger brother, Mike. They stood out in Idaho, Black and Brazilian-American in a Mormon community that in the years before David's birth, considered Black people ineligible for salvation. The Martinez brothers were raised to be "good boys," definitely not to get high, skateboard all night, have sex, or get arrested, all of which they did with zeal. Then their paths diverged. David went on a two-year mission trip to Brazil like his father before him, and Mike stayed in the US finding himself in and out of prison. When David returned, in the middle of the still unnamed opioid epidemic, things had irrevocably changed, and in 2021, Mike unexpectedly died in prison.

Martinez writes with a serrated edge, as viscerally felt as an exposed nerve, and transforms from a stoic boy constantly seeking escape, to a vulnerable man eager to contextualize the legacies and losses that shaped his life. **BONES WORTH BREAKING** is a portrait of the unbreakable bond between brothers who were robbed of the chance to grow old together, and a reckoning with the brutal, global forces that let so many poor young men of color fall perilously through the cracks.

DAVID MARTINEZ earned his MFA from UC Riverside Palm Desert, and previously taught English and Creative Writing at Glendale Community College in Arizona. He is a dual citizen of the US and Brazil and has lived all over both countries as well as in Puerto Rico. His work has appeared in *The Coachella Review*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Broken Pencil* and *Automata Review*. He lives in Glendale, Arizona.

Praise for BONES WORTH BREAKING

“

A deeply moving and courageous story of brotherly love. In this most intimate and soul-baring of memoirs, David Martinez describes not one, but many unforgettable odysseys through addiction and migration, identity and faith.

—Héctor Tobar, author of *Our Migrant Souls*

“

In this heart-felt depiction of the lives of two brothers who end up taking different life paths—one that leads to redemption and the other to a tragic end—David Martinez reminds us of the danger that comes with hiding our wounds. Beautiful and deeply moving, *Bones Worth Breaking* is a book worth reading.

—Obed Silva author of, *The Death of my Father the Pope*

“

Written with uncanny grit and beauty, *Bones Worth Breaking* is as much a personal revelation as it is an American reckoning. Martinez's prose at times left me breathless.

—Liska Jacobs, author of *The Plnk Hotel*

TABULA RASA (Volume 1) —John McPhee

A literary legend's engaging review of his career, stressing the work he never completed, and why.

 FSG

July 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold

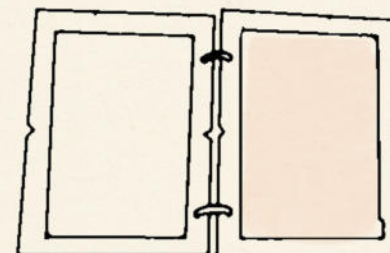
ITALIAN / Adelphi (The
New Yorker excerpt)
KOREAN / Geulhangari

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Draft No. 4

BRITISH / Text Publishing
CHINESE (COMPLEX) / Rye Field
CHINESE (SIMPLIFIED) /
Shanghai Insight Media
ITALIAN / Adelphi
JAPANESE / Hakusui-sha
KOREAN / Geulhangari

TABULA RASA



JOHN McPHEE

TABULA RASA (Volume 1) —John McPhee

For over seven decades, John McPhee has set a standard for literary nonfiction. From assaying mountain ranges, bark canoes, experimental aircraft, the Swiss Army, geophysical hot spots, ocean shipping, shad fishing, to dissident art in the Soviet Union, he has consistently written narrative pieces of immaculate design.

In **TABULA RASA**, McPhee looks back at his career from the vantage point of his desk drawer, reflecting wryly upon projects he once planned to do but never got around to—people to profile, regions he meant to portray. This first volume includes, glimpses of a frosty encounter with Thornton Wilder, interrogative dinners with Henry Luce, the allure of western Spain, criteria in writing about science, fireworks over the East River as seen from Malcolm Forbes's yacht, the evolving inclinations of the Tower of Pisa, the islands among the river deltas of central California, teaching in a pandemic, and persuading *The New Yorker* to publish an entire book on oranges. The result is a fresh survey of McPhee's singular planet.

JOHN MCPHEE was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and was educated at Princeton University and Cambridge University. His writing career began at *TIME* magazine and led to his long association with *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer since 1965. Also in 1965, he published his first book, *A Sense of Where You Are*, with Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and in the years since, he has written over 30 books, including *Oranges* (1967), *Coming into the Country* (1977), *The Control of Nature* (1989), *The Founding Fish* (2002), *Uncommon Carriers* (2007), and *Silk Parachute* (2011). *Encounters with the Archdruid* (1972) and *The Curve of Binding Energy* (1974) were nominated for National Book Awards in the category of science. McPhee received the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters in 1977. In 1999, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Annals of the Former World* and he is the recipient of the 2017 Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

Praise for TABULA RASA

Best Nonfiction of 2023, *Electric Lit*
Best New Books of the Year, Barnes and Noble

“

It's not faint praise to say [McPhee] is still more pleasingly consistent than any other writer working. There is never a dud metaphor, never a cliché...McPhee collapses the distance between man and métier as he rarely has before.

—Mark Oppenheimer, *The Washington Post*

“

The cogency, potency, and temperance of [McPhee's] voice never waver...A gem from an exemplar of narrative nonfiction.

— *Kirkus*, starred

PUTTING OURSELVES BACK IN THE EQUATION (Why Physicists Are Studying Human Consciousness and AI to Unravel the Mysteries of the Universe) —George Musser

A revelatory exploration of why a “theory of everything” is likely to depend on a theory of mind.

 FSG

November 2023 (finished books available)

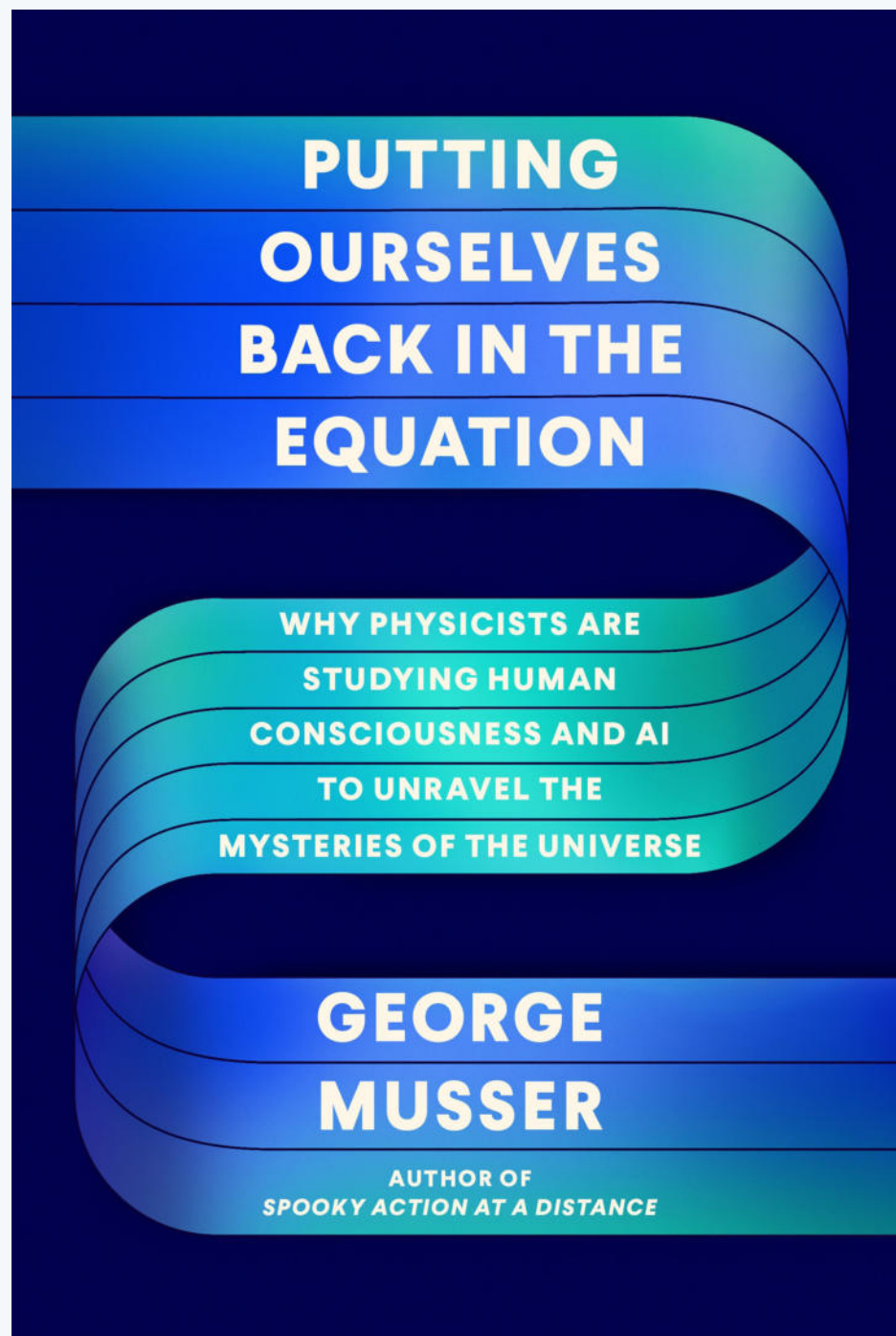
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Spooky Action at a Distance

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Telecom Press
ITALIAN / Adelphi
JAPANESE/Intershift
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Press
RUSSIAN / Alpina



PUTTING OURSELVES BACK IN THE EQUATION

(Why Physicists Are Studying Human Consciousness and AI to Unravel the Mysteries of the Universe)

—George Musser

The whole goal of physics is to explain what we observe, yielding faithful representations of what is out there. But when physicists began to study the subatomic realm, they found that observation often interferes with what is being observed—that the act of seeing changes what we see. The same is true of cosmology: our view of the universe is inevitably distorted by observation bias. And so whether they're studying subatomic particles or galaxies, physicists must first explain consciousness—and for that they must turn to neuroscientists and philosophers.

Neuroscientists have painstakingly built up an understanding of the structure of the brain. Could this help physicists understand the levels of self-organization they observe in other systems? These same physicists, meanwhile, are trying to explain how particles organize themselves into the objects around us. Could their discoveries help explain how neurons produce our conscious experience?

Exploring these questions and more, George Musser tackles the extraordinary interconnections between quantum mechanics, cosmology, and human consciousness. Combining vivid descriptive writing with portraits of scientists working on the cutting edge, **PUTTING OURSELVES BACK IN THE EQUATION** shows how theories of everything depend on theories of mind—and how they might be one and the same.

GEORGE MUSSER is an award-winning journalist, a contributing editor for *Scientific American*, and the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to String Theory*. He is the recipient of a Jonathan Eberhart Planetary Sciences Journalism Award from the American Astronomical Society and the 2011 American Institute of Physics Science Communication Award for Science Writing. He was a Knight Science Journalism fellow at MIT from 2014 to 2015. He has appeared on *Today*, CNN, NPR, the BBC, Al Jazeera, and other outlets.

Praise for PUTTING OURSELVES BACK IN THE EQUATION

“

Musser knows that the point of popular science is...to get a sense of what's at stake, what kinds of answers are being offered to difficult questions, and why it all matters. One could not ask more of *Putting Ourselves Back in the Equation*—on all three counts it delivers.

—Julian Baggini, *The Wall Street Journal*

“

Electrifying...Musser has a talent for distilling complex science into accessible language...Lucid and endlessly intriguing, [*Putting Ourselves Back in the Equation*] will expand readers' minds.

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

“

George Musser is one of my favorite science writers of all time. [This] is an important book that will inform the future of both physics and the philosophy of mind.

—Annaka Harris, bestselling author of *Conscious: A Brief Guide to the Fundamental Mystery of the Mind*

“

“This is a delightful account of one of the deepest and most fascinating explorations going on today at the frontier of our knowledge.”

—Carlo Rovelli, bestselling author of *The Order of Time* and *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*

SCALE BOY (A Memoir) —Patrice Nganang

 FSG

May 2025 (manuscript available April 2024)

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SCALE BOY (A Memoir) —Patrice Nganang

Patrice Nganang, the award-winning novelist and international activist, chronicles his youth in Cameroon and his discovery of the textures of his community, its political conflicts, and the intricacies of the world unraveling around him.

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), *When the Plums Are Ripe* (FSG, 2019) and *A Trail of Crab Tracks* (FSG, 2022). He teaches comparative literature at Stony Brook University.

Praise for *A Trail of Crab Tracks*

A Best Book of 2022, *The New Yorker*
A Notable African Book of 2022, *Brittle Paper*

“

For Patrice Nganang...reimagining a nation has required reimagining the novel. Each work in [his] trilogy takes aim at the intricacies of history through an equally intricate narrative approach: the novels range back and forth across time, weaving real-world figures amid fictional characters, and shifting rapidly among different voices, registers, and languages...*A Trail of Crab Tracks* becomes a singularly complex interrogation of the relationship between thought and action, between writing and the world.

—Kristen Roupenian, *The New Yorker*

“

The final novel of [Nganang's] monumental trilogy...brings the cycle to a dramatic close... Dense and immersive, *Crab Tracks* is also playful, irreverent—a novel of pogroms and resettlement camps but also fancy balls and scandalous affairs.

—Anderson Tepper, *The New York Times*

“

Nganang's genius is in his ability to express the personal and the panoramic with equal artistry. Both intimate and sweeping, this epic brings a satisfying and profound closure to historic events.

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

TEN BRIDGES I'VE BURNT (A Memoir in Verse) —Brontez Purnell

From the beloved author of *100 Boyfriends*, a wrenching, sexy, and exhilaratingly energetic memoir-in-verse.

 MCD

February 2024 (finished books available)

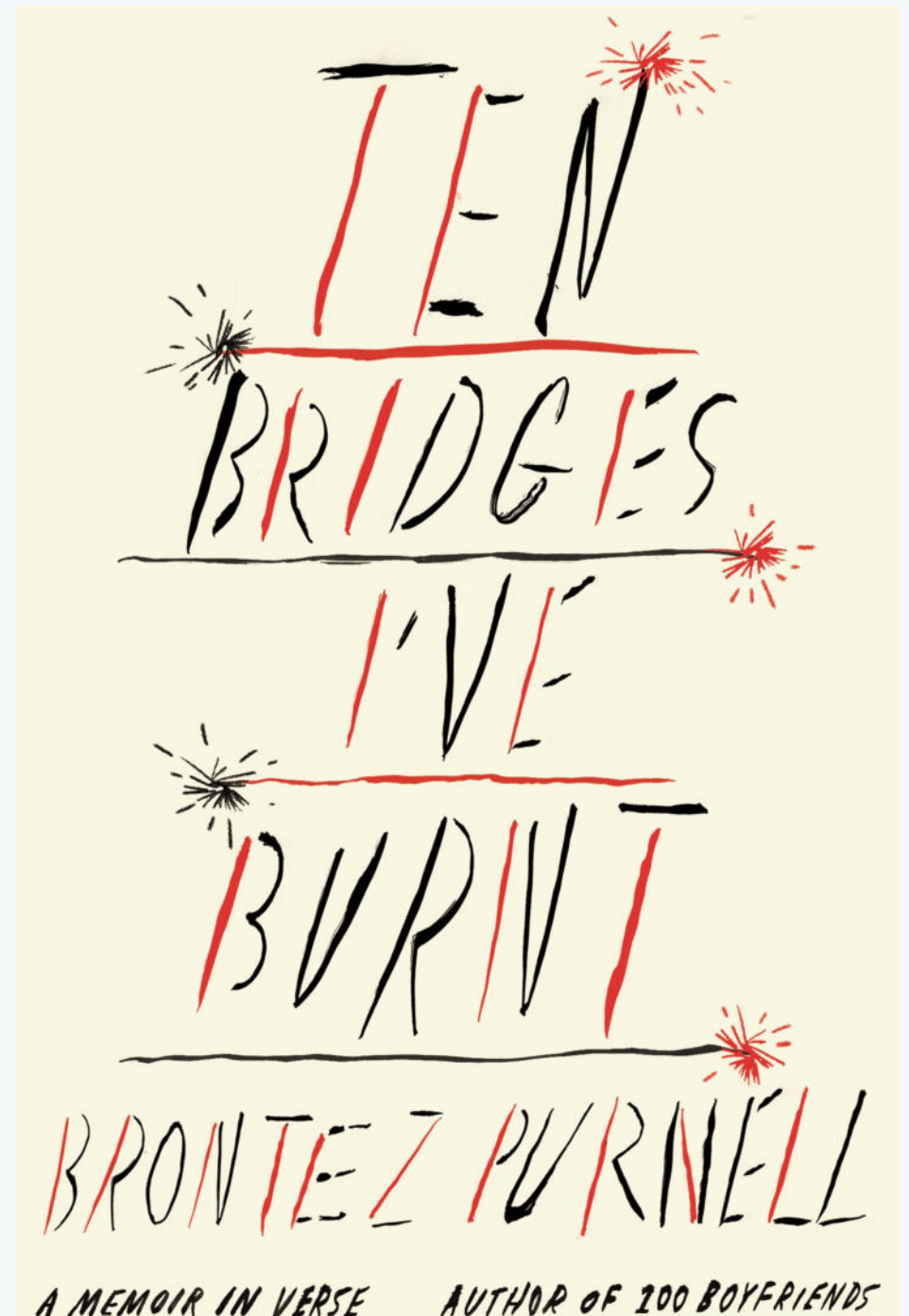
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BRITISH/ Cipher Press
SWEDISH / Aska Forlag

Rights Sold

100 Boyfriends

BRITISH/ Cipher Press
GERMAN / Albino
SWEDISH / Aska Forlag



TEN BRIDGES I'VE BURNT (A Memoir in Verse) —Brontez Purnell

In **TEN BRIDGES I'VE BURNT**, Brontez Purnell—the bard of the underloved and overlooked—turns his gaze inward. A storyteller with a musical eye for the absurdity of his own existence, he is peerless in his ability to find the levity within the stormiest of crises. Here, in his first collection of genre-defying verse, Purnell reflects on his peripatetic life, whose ups and downs have nothing on the turmoil within. “The most high-risk homosexual behavior I engage in,” Purnell writes, “is simply existing.”

The thirty-eight autobiographical pieces pulsing in **TEN BRIDGES I'VE BURNT** find Purnell at his no-holds-barred best. He remembers a vicious brawl he participated in at a poetry conference and reckons with packaging his trauma for TV writers' rooms; wrestles with the curses, and gifts, passed down from generations of family members; and chronicles, with breathless verve, a list of hell-raising misadventures and sexcapades. Through it all, he muses on everything from love and loneliness to capitalism and Blackness to jogging and the ethics of art, always with unpredictable clarity and movement.

With the same balance of wit and wisdom that made *100 Boyfriends* a sensation, Purnell unleashes another collection of boundary-pushing writing with **TEN BRIDGES I'VE BURNT**, a book as original and thrilling as the author himself.

BRONTEZ PURNELL is the author of several books, most recently *100 Boyfriends*, which won the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Fiction, was longlisted for the Mark Twain American Voice in Literature Award and the Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize, and was named an Editors' Choice by *The New York Times Book Review*. The recipient of a Whiting Award for Fiction and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Robert Rauschenberg Award, he was named one of the thirty-two Black Male Writers of Our Time by *T: The New York Times Style Magazine* in 2018. Purnell is also the frontman for the band the Younger Lovers and a renowned performance artist and zine-maker. Born in Triana, Alabama, he lives in Oakland, California.

Praise for TEN BRIDGES I'VE BURNT

“

An assortment of poems that serve as a personal history of sexuality, at turns funny, confrontational, and achingly sad...[*Ten Bridges I've Burnt*] presents abundant wry commentary on accepted norms and the extent to which one may suffer in pursuit of them. The author's prose is vivid and earthy...A unique, indelible memoir on being Black and gay in America.

—Kirkus

“

Purnell's language...is propulsive. His verse ladders down, alive with clear-eyed anger, bittersweet refusals. The braiding of emotions is jaw-dropping...Defiant and timely, this book razes expectations, blazes in the mind long after finishing it.

—Eduardo C. Corral, author of *guillotine*, winner of the 2021 Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry and longlisted for the 2020 National Book Award for Poetry

“

This book is brutal and brutally honest, but still perversely addictive because Brontez Purnell is a performer in the truest sense. Reading *Ten Bridges I've Burnt*, I felt tucked-in with him, along for the intimate ride, and paused only once to write down a part I'd been looking for my whole life.

—Miranda July

“

This memoir in verse makes me enormously happy. To the things I know about Brontez Purnell add astral poet (in terms of imagination and scale) and classicist (elegant concerns). Witness it here.

—Eileen Myles

HIP-HOP IS HISTORY —Questlove with Ben Greenman

This is a book only Questlove could have written: a perceptive and personal reflection on the first half-century of hip-hop.

 AUWA

June 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold

BRITISH / White Rabbit /
Weidenfeld & Nicolson
SPANISH / Alianza



HIP-HOP IS HISTORY —Questlove with Ben Greenman

When hip-hop first emerged in the 1970s, it wasn't expected to become the cultural force it is today. But for a young Black kid growing up in a musical family in Philadelphia, it was everything. He stayed up late to hear the newest songs on the radio. He saved his money to buy vinyl as soon as it landed. He even started to try to make his own songs. That kid was Questlove, and decades later, he is a six-time Grammy Award-winning musician, an Academy Award-winning filmmaker, a *New York Times* bestselling author, a producer, an entrepreneur, a cofounder of one of hip-hop's defining acts (the Roots), and the genre's unofficial in-house historian.

In this landmark book, **HIP-HOP IS HISTORY**, Questlove skillfully traces the creative and cultural forces that made and shaped hip-hop, highlighting both the forgotten but influential gems and the undeniable chart-topping hits—and weaves it all together with the stories no one else knows. It is at once an intimate, sharply observed story of a cultural revolution and a sweeping, grand theory of the evolution of the great artistic movement of our time. And Questlove, of course, approaches it with not only the encyclopedic fluency and passion of an obsessive fan but also the expertise and originality of an innovative participant. Hip-hop is history, and also *his* history.

QUESTLOVE is a six-time Grammy Award-winning musician, Academy Award-winning filmmaker, drummer, DJ, producer, director, culinary entrepreneur, *New York Times* bestselling author, cofounder of the Roots, and the musical director for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, where the Roots serves as the house band. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Mo' Meta Blues*, *Creative Quest*, *Music Is History*, and his first children's book series, *The Rhythm of Time*, as well as the James Beard Award-nominated *somethingtofoodabout*, *Mixtape Potluck*, and the Grammy-nominated audiobook *Creative Quest*. Questlove made his directorial debut with the Academy Award-, Grammy Award-, and BAFTA Award-winning documentary film *Summer of Soul*, which broke the record for the highest-selling documentary to come out of the Sundance Film Festival. Questlove is a co-founder of Two One Five Entertainment. He is the publisher of AUWA Books, an imprint of MCD / Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

BEN GREENMAN is a *New York Times* bestselling author and *New Yorker* contributor who has written both fiction and nonfiction. His novels and short-story collections include *The Slippage* and *Superbad*. He has been Questlove's collaborator on a series of books, including *Mo' Meta Blues*, *Creative Quest*, and *Music Is History*, and he has written memoirs with Sly Stone, George Clinton, and Brian Wilson. His writing has appeared in numerous publications.

TWENTY YEARS (Hope, War, and the Betrayal of an Afghan Generation) —Sune Engel Rasmussen

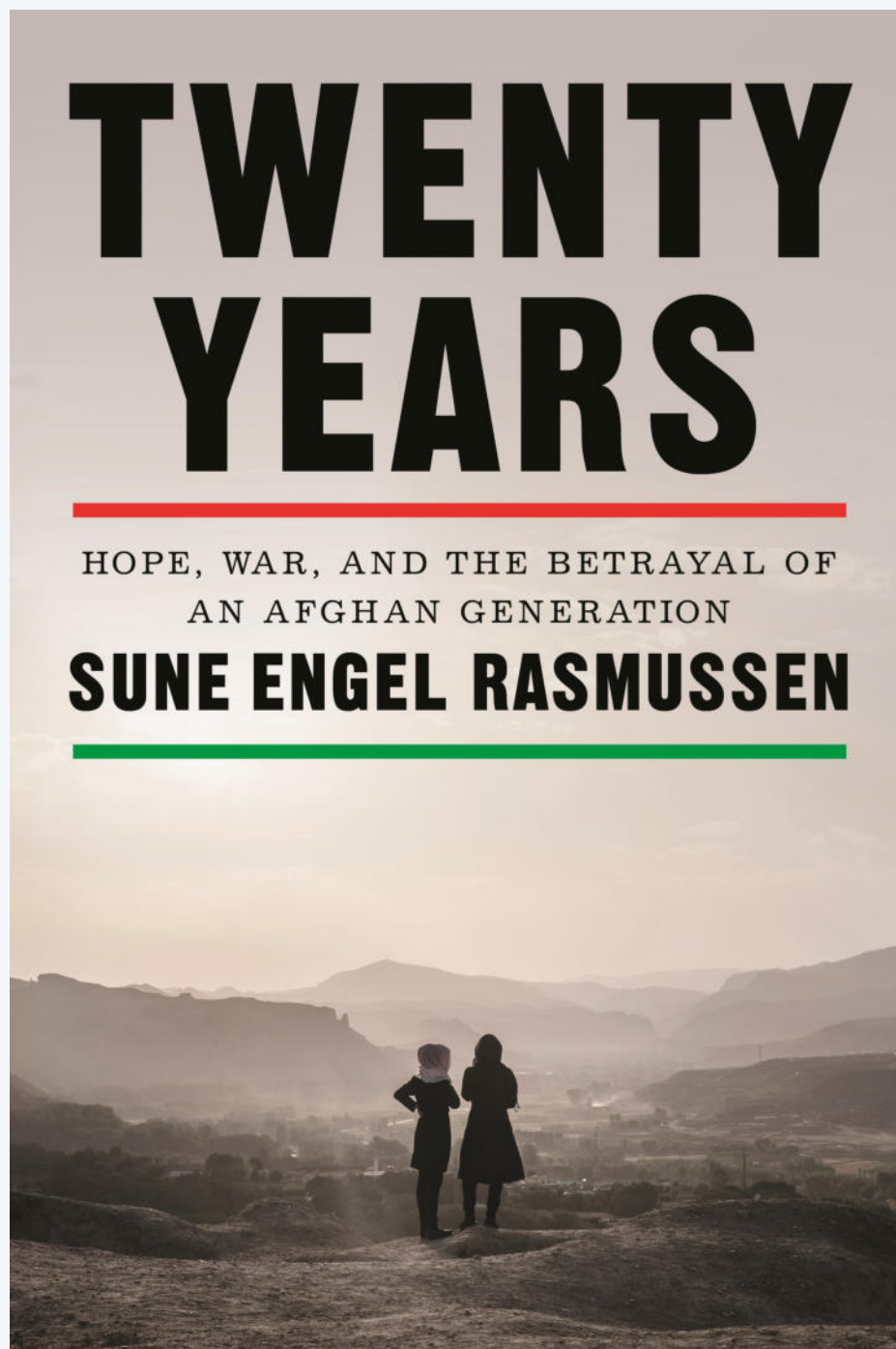
An intimate history of the Afghan war—and the young Afghans whose dreams it enabled and dashed.

 FSG

August 2024 (manuscript available)

Rights Sold

CZECH / Mapcards.net



TWENTY YEARS

(The Hopes and Betrayal of an Afghan Generation)

—Sune Engel Rasmussen

No country was more deeply affected by 9/11 than Afghanistan: an entire generation grew up amid the upheaval that began that day. Young Afghans knew the promise of freedom, democracy, and safety, fought with each other over its meaning—and then witnessed its collapse. In **TWENTY YEARS**, the Wall Street Journal correspondent Sune Engel Rasmussen draws on more than a decade of reporting from the country to tell Afghanistan's story from a new angle. Through the eyes of newly empowered women, skilled entrepreneurs, driven insurgents, and abandoned Western allies, we see the United States and its partners bring new freedoms and wealth, only to preside over the corruption, war-lordism, and social division that led to the Taliban's return to power.

Rasmussen relates this history via two main characters: Zahra, who returns from abroad with high hopes for her liberated country, where she must fight to escape a brutal marriage and rebuild her life; and Omari, who joins the Taliban to protect the honor of his village and country, and winds up wrestling with doubt and the trauma of war after achieving victory. We also meet Parasto, who risks her life running clandestine girls' schools under the new Taliban regime, and Fahim, a rags-to-riches tycoon who is forced to flee. With intimate access to these and other characters, Rasmussen offers deep insight into a country betrayed by the West and Taliban alike.

SUNE ENGEL RASMUSSEN has reported in Afghanistan extensively for *The Guardian* and *The Wall Street Journal*, where he now covers Afghanistan, Iran, and European security affairs. The author of a 2019 Danish-language book on Afghanistan, he lives in London. His work has also appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, *The Economist*, *National Geographic*, *GQ*, *Newsweek*, and *TIME*.

Praise for TWENTY YEARS

“

The war in Afghanistan was a strategic calamity for America and a catastrophic tragedy for the people of that country. We have yet to fully understand that conflict and come to terms with its impact on the people of Afghanistan. *Twenty Years* is a rare account of what the war did to Afghanistan, tracing the rise and fall of hopes for a nation, and the despair that became its fate. Relying on his extensive reporting during the war, Sune Engel Rasmussen looks at what happened to the country through the eyes of its people, showing how they experienced the promise of change, and faced the daily horrors of war. This is at once an empathetic human story and an insightful history of the Afghan war. The lessons Rasmussen draws are urgent and poignant, ones that we would do well to heed.

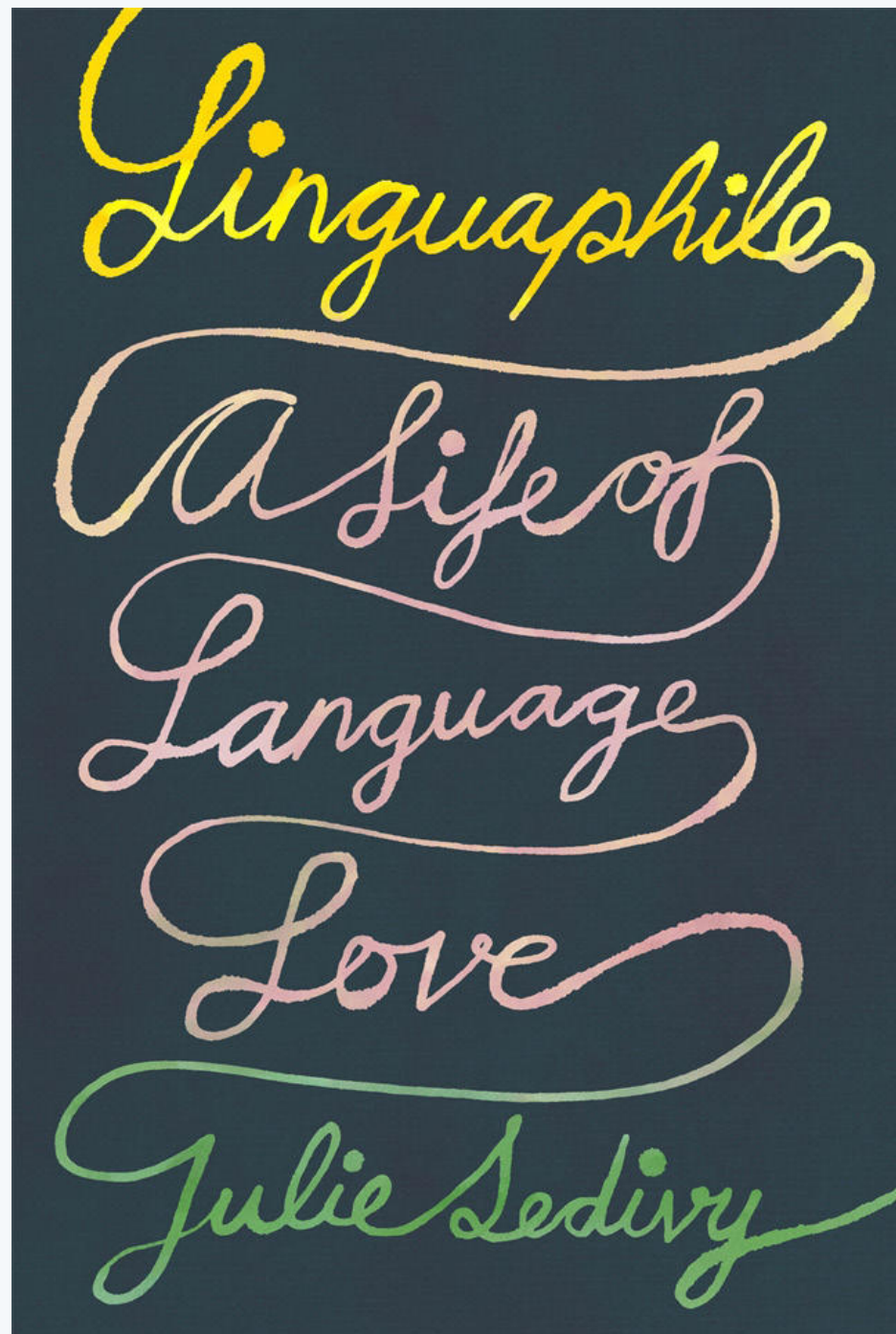
—Vali Nasr, professor at Johns Hopkins University and author of *Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat*

LINGUAPHILE
(A Life of Language Love)
—Julie Sedivy

A celebration of the beauty and mystery of language and how it shapes our lives, our loves, and our world.

Ⓜ FSG

October 2024 (manuscript available)



LINGUAPHILE (A Life of Language Love) —Julie Sedivy

If there is one feature that defines the human condition, it is language: written, spoken, signed, understood, and misunderstood, in all its infinite glory. In this ingenious, lyrical exploration, Julie Sedivy draws on years of experience in the lab and a lifetime of linguistic love to bring the discoveries of linguistics home, to the place language itself lives: within the yearnings of the human heart and amid the complex social bonds that it makes possible.

LINGUAPHILE follows the path that language takes through a human life—from an infant’s first attempts at sense-making to the vulnerabilities and losses that accompany aging. As Sedivy shows, however, language and life are inextricable, and here she offers them together: a childish misunderstanding of her mother’s meaning reveals the difficulty of relating to other minds; frustration with “professional” communication styles exposes the labyrinth of standards that define success; the first signs of hearing loss lead to a meditation on society’s discomfort with physical and mental limitations.

Part memoir, part scientific exploration, and part cultural commentary, this book epitomizes the thrills of a life steeped in the aesthetic delights of language and the joys of its scientific scrutiny.

JULIE SEDIVY has taught linguistics and psychology at Brown University and the University of Calgary. She is the author of *Memory Speaks: On Losing and Reclaiming Language* and *Self and Language in Mind: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*, as well as the coauthor of *Sold on Language: How Advertisers Talk to You and What This Says About You*. She lives in Calgary, Canada

THE WOMEN OF NOW (How Feminists Built an Organization That Transformed America) —Katherine Turk

The history of NOW—its organization, trials, and revolutionary mission—told through the work of three members.

 FSG

August 2023 (finished books available)

THE WOMEN OF NOW



HOW FEMINISTS BUILT
AN ORGANIZATION THAT
TRANSFORMED AMERICA

KATHERINE TURK

THE WOMEN OF NOW

(How Feminists Built an Organization That Transformed America)

—Katherine Turk

In the summer of 1966, crammed into a D.C. hotel suite and passing paper cups of liquor, twenty-eight women hatched a revolutionary plan. Betty Friedan, the well-known author of *The Feminine Mystique*, and Pauli Murray, a lawyer at the front lines of the civil rights movement, had quietly pulled away attendees from the State Womens' Commissions annual conference. Frustrated with government inertia, they laid out a vision for an organization to unite and advocate for all women. By the end of the conference, the National Organization of Women was born.

In **THE WOMEN OF NOW**, historian Katherine Turk chronicles this foundational group through three relatively unknown, core members: Aileen Hernandez, a federal official of Jamaican-American heritage, Mary Jean Collins, a working-class union organizer and Chicago Catholic, and Patricia Hill Burnett, a Michigan Republican and former beauty queen. From its inception in 1966, through the tumultuous training ground of the 1970s, NOW's feminism flooded the nation, shifted American culture and politics, and clashed with conservative forces, presaging our fractured national landscape. These women built an organization that was radical in its time and built it to last. This is the first time anyone has told their story.

KATHERINE TURK is the author of *Equality on Trial: Gender and Rights in the Modern American Workplace*, which was awarded the Mary Nickliss Prize in the U.S. Women's and/or Gender History from the Organization of American Historians. She is an associate professor of history and adjunct associate professor of gender studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Praise for THE WOMEN OF NOW

Named a Best Book of 2023, *The New Yorker*

“

Superb history...Turk has done a much-needed service, writing the first full history of NOW... [W]e come away with a clear blueprint for change—replete with cautionary tales—as we face new challenges to women's freedom and equality...It is a must-read.

—Clara Bingham, *The Guardian*

“

[A] smart, clear-eyed history...a timely addition to the history of 'second wave' feminism that illuminates today's debates about women's rights.

—*Publishers Weekly*

“

Turk tells a lively story of the development of the National Organization for Women...A thoroughly researched and well-balanced history.

—*Kirkus*

“

I lived through the history inscribed in this book but I never understood it anywhere as richly as I do now, having had it all laid out for me with impressive clarity and imagination, as Katharine Turk has done.

—Vivian Gornick, author of *Unfinished Business: Notes of a Chronic Re-Reader*

THE OTHER OLYMPIANS (Fascism, Queerness, and the Making of Modern Sports) —Michael Waters

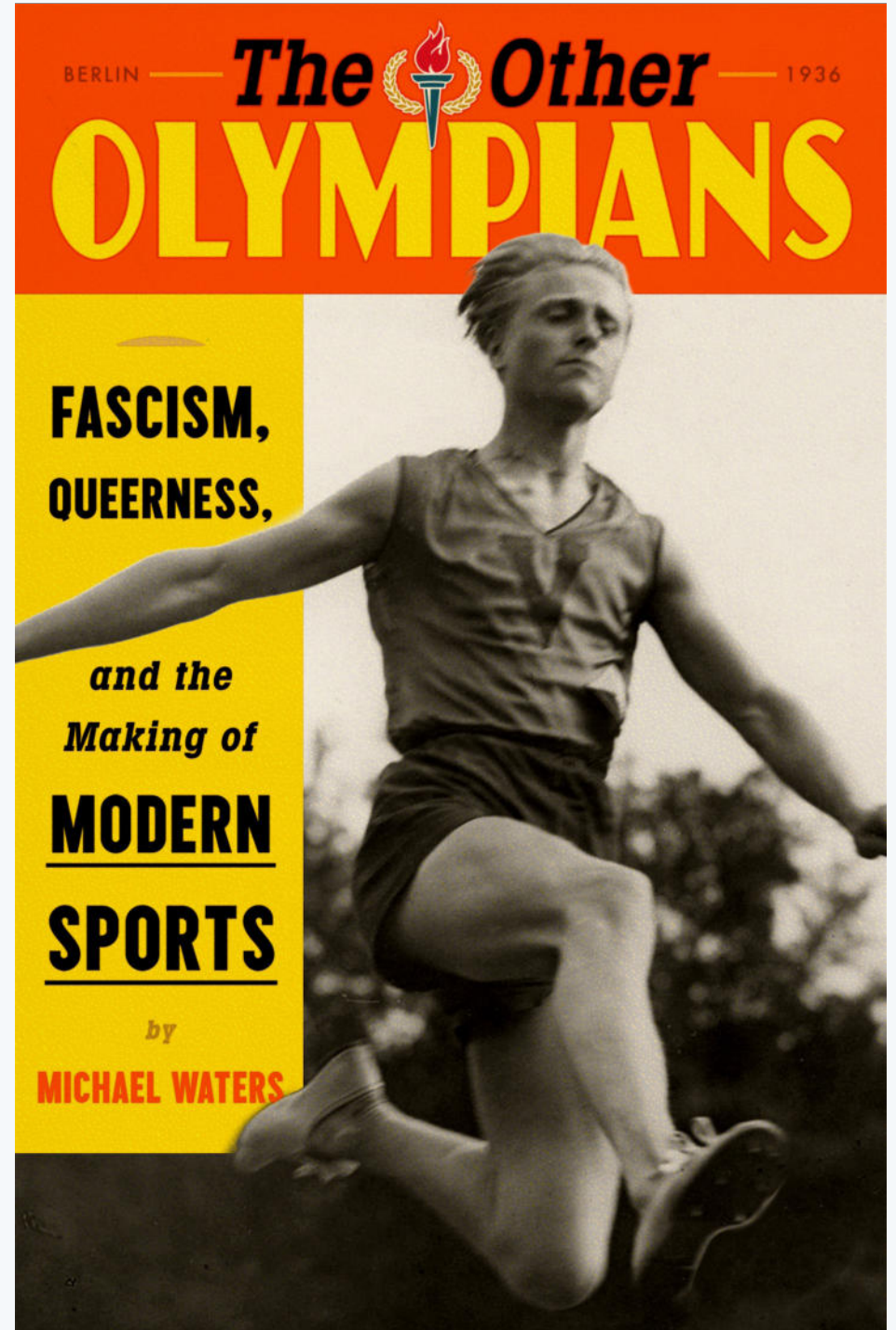
The story of the early trans athletes and Olympic
bureaucrats who lit the flame for today's culture wars.

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June 2024 (manuscript available)

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BRITISH / Ebury Press



THE OTHER OLYMPIANS —Michael Waters

In December 1935, Zdeněk Koubek, one of the most famous sprinters in European women's sports, declared he was now living as a man. Around the same time, the celebrated British field athlete Mark Weston, also assigned female at birth, announced that he, too, was a man. Periodicals and radio programs across the world carried the news; both became global celebrities. A few decades later, they were all but forgotten. And in the wake of their transitions, what could have been a push toward equality became instead, through a confluence of bureaucracy, war, and sheer happenstance, the exact opposite: the now all-too-familiar panic around trans, intersex, and gender nonconforming athletes.

In **THE OTHER OLYMPIANS**, Michael Waters uncovers, for the first time, the gripping true stories of Koubek, Weston, and other pioneering trans and intersex athletes from their era. With dogged research and cinematic flair, Waters also tracks how International Olympic Committee members ignored Nazi Germany's atrocities in order to pull off the Berlin Games, a partnership that ultimately influenced the IOC's nearly century-long obsession with surveilling and cataloging gender.

Immersive and revelatory, **THE OTHER OLYMPIANS** is a groundbreaking, hidden-in-the-archives marvel, an inspiring call for equality, and an essential contribution toward understanding the contemporary culture wars over gender in sports

MICHAEL WATERS's writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *Vox*, *Slate*, and other publications. In 2021, he was named a Martin Duberman Visiting Fellow at the New York Public Library. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Praise for THE OTHER OLYMPIANS



A remarkable and compelling chronicle of a forgotten episode in both the history of sport and the history of gender that demonstrates their centrality in the Nazis' rise to power.

—Drew Gilpin Faust, author of *Necessary Trouble*



A riveting and important work of history. Michael Waters performs an Olympian act of storytelling, using the stories of these extraordinary athletes to explore in brilliant detail the struggle for understanding and equality. *The Other Olympians* is a book of great originality, deeply researched and beautifully written.

—Jonathan Eig, author of *King: A Life*



The 1936 Berlin Olympics take center stage in Michael Waters' fascinating, erudite account of the lives and careers of acclaimed athletes who challenged the conventional boundaries between men and women, decades before 'transgender' became a flashpoint in contemporary social struggles. He charts a clash of ideologies over how to regulate gender in international women's sporting events—and beyond—that still animates headlines today.

—Susan Stryker, author of *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution*



The Other Olympians is a stunning addition to queer and sports history, an inspiring and cinematic account of perseverance, identity, activism, and, ultimately, joy. Michael Waters has achieved what all great historians aim to do: changing our understanding of the present by illuminating the hidden stories of the past.

—Eric Cervini, author of the *New York Times*-best seller *The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs. The United States of America*

GILDING THE METROPOLIS (The Lives of Stanford White and Augustus Saint-Gaudens) —Henry Weineck

A dual biography of two great artists at the turn of the twentieth century who were close friends and confidantes in Gilded Age New York.

 FSG

July 2025 (manuscript available May 2024)

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An Imperfect God

BRITISH / Macmillan UK



GILDING THE METROPOLIS (The Lives of Stanford White and Augustus Saint-Gaudens) —Henry Wiencek

Sanford White was the American Renaissance's greatest architect—and Augustus Saint-Gaudens its greatest sculptor. In **GILDING THE METROPOLIS**, the acclaimed historian Henry Wiencek relates the story of their partnership, from the studio and street to the opulent parties and secret clubs of New York City. It's the story of White, a raffish dandy who glided through high society, and Saint-Gaudens, a troubled artist, and how White gave Saint Gaudens his support and Saint Gaudens gave White his vision, until White's shocking murder brought their camaraderie to an end.

HENRY WIENCEK, the author of numerous books, won the National book Critics' Circle Award in Biography for *The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White*, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in History for *An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America*, which also won the Best Book Award from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. His last book, *Master of the Mountain: Thomas Jefferson and His Slaves*, was chosen by Jonathan Yardley of the *Washington Post* as one of the best books of 2012. He has been awarded fellowships at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the International Center for Jefferson Studies, and the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College, where he was the inaugural Patrick Henry Writing Fellow.

Praise for *Master of the Mountain*

“

[A] brilliant examination of the dark side of the man who gave the world the most ringing declarations about human liberty.

—Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post*

“

[A] meticulous account...Wiencek's vivid, detailed history casts a new slant on a complex man.

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

“

Well-rendered yet deeply unsettling...Wiencek scours the primary sources...for a thoughtful reexamination of what was really going on behind the harmonious façade of the great house on the mountain...Beautifully constructed reflections and careful sifting of Jefferson's thoughts and deeds.

—*Kirkus*, starred

Praise for *An Imperfect God*

“

The process of fathoming Washington's moral evolution is not a simple one...[Wiencek] rises to the challenge.

—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

“

...[T]his book nevertheless succeeds in laying bare the monstrous cruelty of the slave system, showing how it stained, corrupted and victimized free and unfree alike...This book should be read by all who are interested in Washington. It must be read by all who wish to understand early America.

—John Ferling, *The Washington Post*

“

This work of stylish scholarship and genealogical investigation makes Washington an even greater and more human figure than he has seemed before.

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

ZERO AT THE BONE

(Fifty Entries Against Despair)
—Christian Wiman

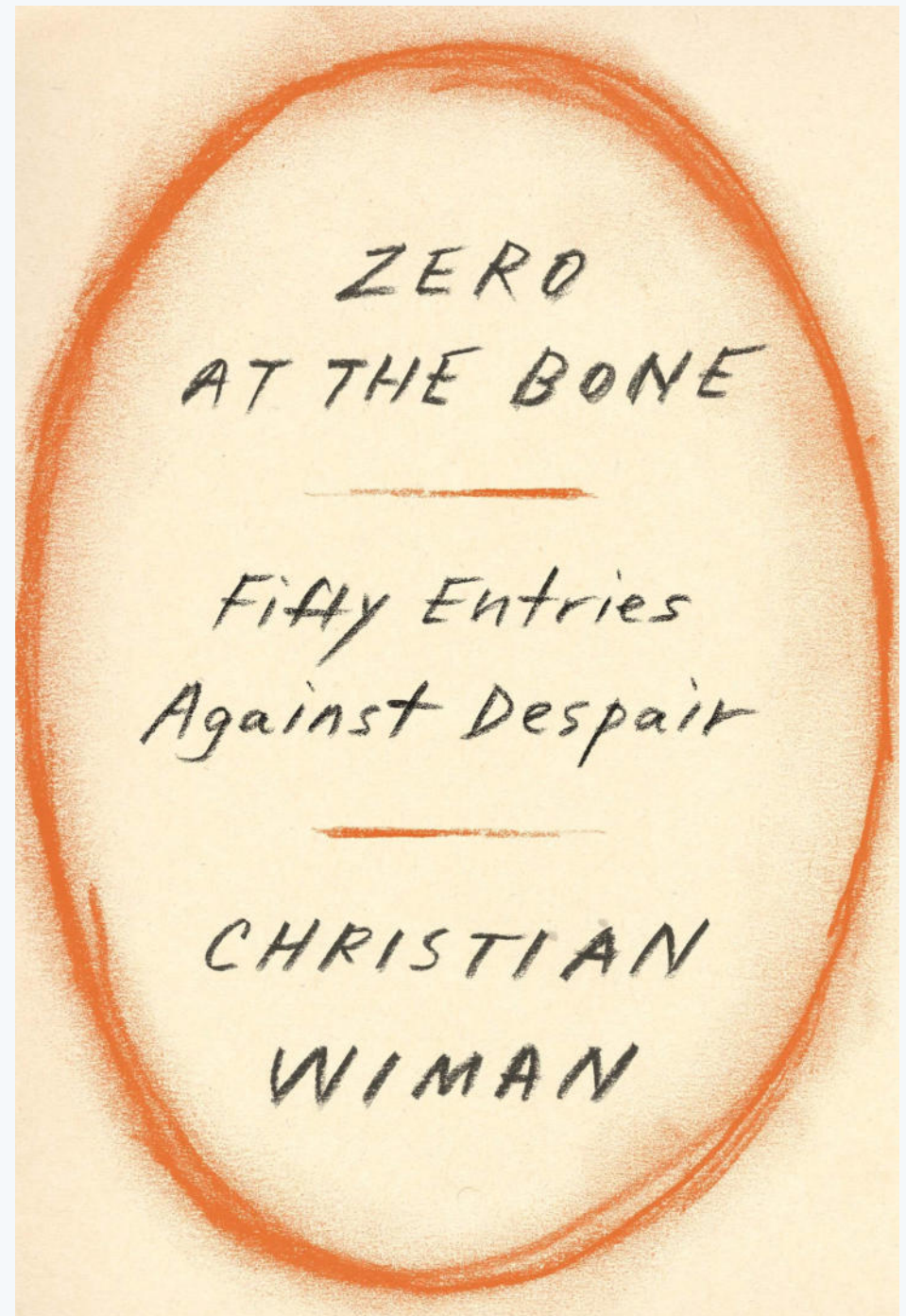
Christian Wiman braids poetry, memoir, and criticism to create an inspired, career-defining work.

 FSG

December 2023 (finished books available)

Rights Sold
He Held Radical Light

DUTCH / Uitgeverij Brandaan



ZERO AT THE BONE (Fifty Entries Against Despair) —Christian Wiman

Few contemporary writers ask the questions about faith, morality, and God that Christian Wiman does, and even fewer—perhaps none—do so with his staggering urgency and eloquence. Wiman, the author of *My Bright Abyss* and award-winning poet, lays the motion of his mind on the page in this genre-defying work, an indivisible blend of poetry, criticism, theology, and searing memoir. As Marilynne Robinson wrote, “[Wiman’s] poetry and his scholarship have a purifying urgency that is rare in this world...it enables him to say new things in timeless language, so that the reader’s surprise and assent are one and the same.”

ZERO AT THE BONE begins with Wiman’s preoccupation with despair, and through fifty brief pieces, framed by two more, he unravels its seductive appeal. The book is studded with the poetry and prose of writers who inhabit Wiman’s thoughts, and the voices of Wallace Stevens, Lucille Clifton, Emily Dickinson, and others join his own. At its heart and Wiman’s, however, are his family—his young children (who ask their own invaluable questions, like “Why are you a poet? I mean *why*?”), his wife, and those he grew up with in West Texas. Wiman is the rare thinker who takes up the mantle of our greatest mystics, and he does so with an honest, profound, and contemporary sensibility. **ZERO AT THE BONE** is a revelation.

CHRISTIAN WIMAN is the author, editor, or translator of more than a dozen books of poetry and prose, including two memoirs, *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer* and *He Held Radical Light: The Art of Faith, the Faith of Art; Every Riven Thing*, winner of the Ambassador Book Award; *Once in the West*, a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist; and *Survival Is a Style*—all published by FSG. He teaches religion and literature at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and at Yale Divinity School

Praise for ZERO AT THE BONE

A Best Book of 2023, *Shelf Awareness*,
Publisher’s Weekly

“

Wiman offers a welcome tonic: poetic and philosophical reminders of how to get through troubling times...Wiman could charm an atheist out of a tree...[*Zero at the Bone* is] a profane, irreverent, freewheeling and necessary book. Readers of whatever creed will be jolted to lift their heads from their screens and turn them to the unfathomable heavens.

—Alexandra Jacobs, *The New York Times*, Editor’s Choice

“

Wiman is among the most distinguished Christian writers of his generation...Now he hopes that his experimental book—part poetry anthology, part memoir, part theological treatise—can help others live...The rewards for readers are immense and renewable...Word by word, Wiman resuscitates ancient ideas, from being to spirit, leaving our faces pressed hopefully against the here-and-now window of the poem.

—Casey Cep, *The New Yorker*

“

[In *Zero at the Bone*] Wiman has discovered a new...form, one that embodies the abstractions of faith and finds music for the soul’s yearnings.

—Anthony Domestico, *The Washington Post*

“

Wiman weaves together poetry, essay, and memoir in this dazzling, multivocal examination of and refusal to accept existential despair...Wiman’s knowledge is vast, and his evocative imagery lingers in the mind...[*Zero at the Bone* is] a gorgeous ode to the power of poetry to grapple with life’s most anguished moments.

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred



Backlist Highlights

Farrar, Straus & Giroux
Hill and Wang
MCD x FSG Originals
North Point Press
Picador
Sarah Crichton Books

A MANUAL FOR CLEANING WOMEN (Selected Stories) —Lucia Berlin

The New York Times bestselling, critically acclaimed, posthumous story collection compiles the best work of the legendary short-story writer Lucia Berlin.

∞ FSG

November 2015

Film forthcoming starring Cate Blanchett

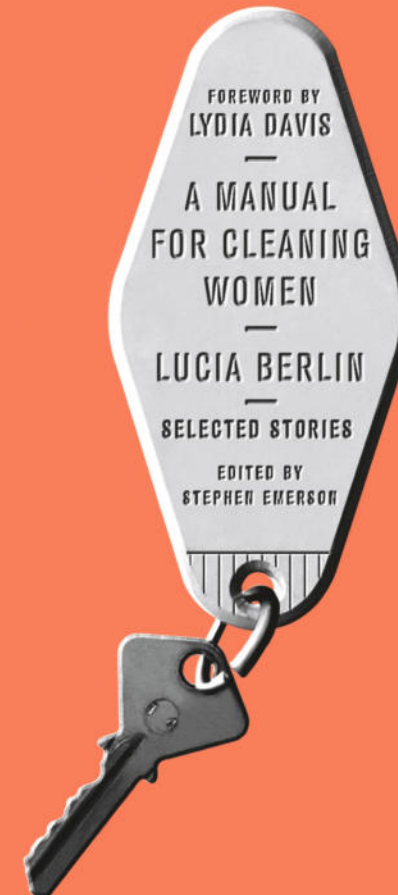
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SLOVENIAN / Cankarjeva Založba
SWEDISH / Natur och Kultur



EVENING IN PARADISE (More Stories) —Lucia Berlin

A careful selection from Berlin's remaining stories—twenty-two gems that showcase the gritty glamor that made readers fall in love with her.

 FSG

November 2018

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TURKISH / Siren

Previous Licenses

POLISH / Foksal

SLOVAK/ Inaque



WELCOME HOME (A Memoir with Selected Photographs and Letters) —Lucia Berlin

A book of previously unpublished autobiographical sketches. Berlin's son, Jeff, fills in the gaps with photos and letters from her eventful, romantic, and tragic life.

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Previous Licenses
SLOVAK / Inaque

LUCIA BERLIN (1936-2004) worked brilliantly but sporadically throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. Her stories are inspired by her early childhood in various Western mining towns; her glamorous teenage years in Santiago, Chile; three failed marriages; a lifelong problem with alcoholism; her years spent in Berkeley, New Mexico, and Mexico City; and the various jobs she later held to support her writing and her four sons. Sober and writing steadily by the 1990s, she took a visiting writer's post at the University of Colorado Boulder in 1994 and was soon promoted to associate professor. In 2001, in failing health, she moved to Southern California to be near her sons. She died in 2004.



NEVADA (A Novel) —Imogen Binnie

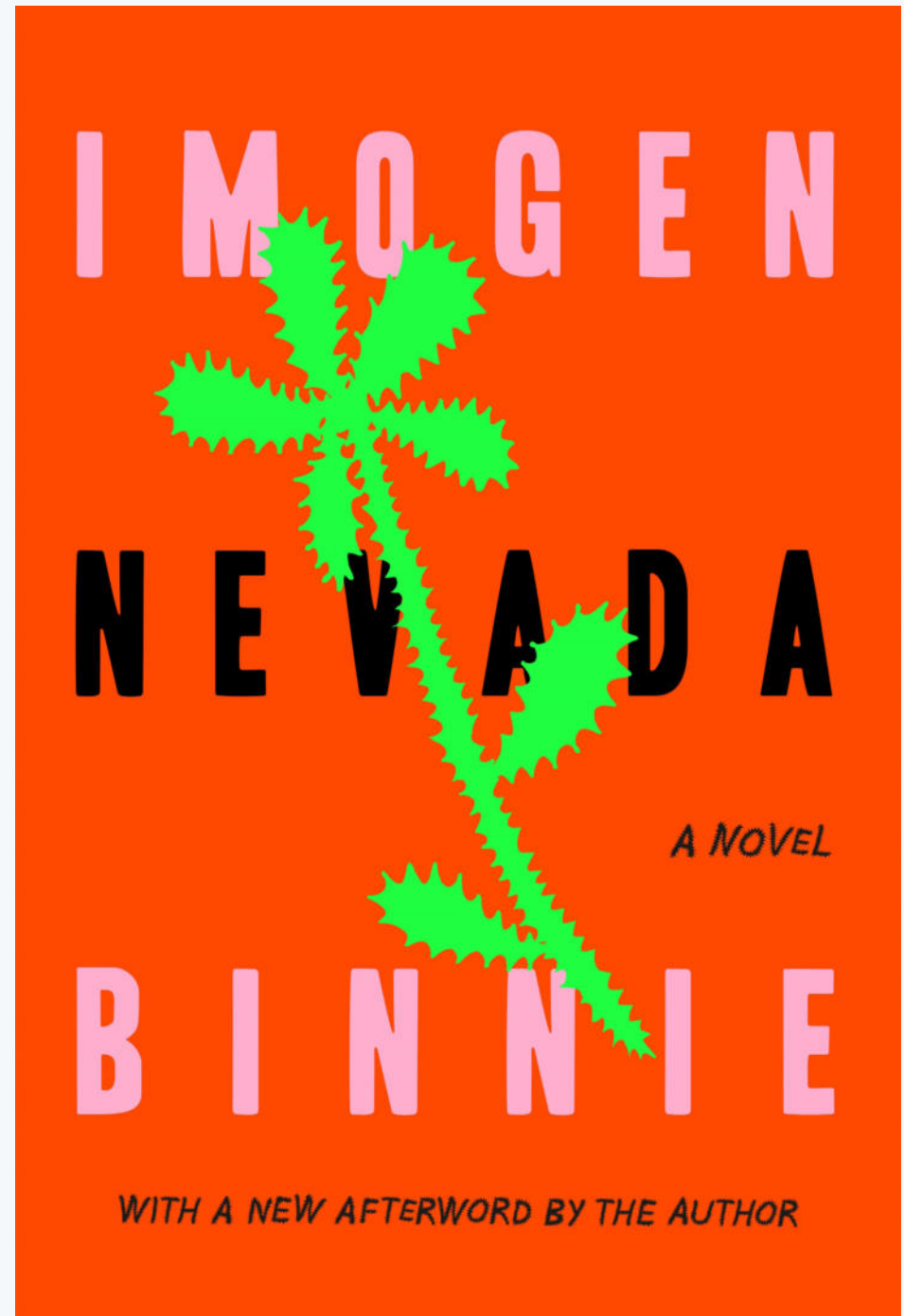
A beloved and blistering cult classic and finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Fiction finally back in print, **NEVADA** follows a disaffected trans woman as she embarks on a cross-country road trip.

 MCD x FSG Originals

June 2022

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NEVADA (A Novel) —Imogen Binnie

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.

Maria Griffiths is almost 30 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 onto 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.

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 Rockroll, she lives in Vermont with her family.

Praise for NEVADA

A Most Influential Works of Postwar Queer Literature, *The New York Times T Magazine*
Best Books of 2022 So Far, *Vogue*
Best Summer Reads of 2022, *Buzzfeed*, *Book Riot*
Queer Books to Read in 2022, *Dazed*

“

[*Nevada*] is defiant, terse, not quite cynical, sometimes flip, addressed to people who think they know. It is, if you like, punk rock.

—Stephanie Burt, *The New Yorker*

“

It's long past time for the cis reader to form a bond with the brilliance of [Binnie's] work.

—Emma Specter, *Vogue*

“

Sharp, energizing, and laugh-out-loud funny... among the first contemporary novels to treat a trans woman's story in a complicated, nuanced way.

—Lily Meyer, *The Atlantic*

“

A funny, profane, and melancholy portrayal of trans-ness...the result is one of the most controversial, explosive endings in LGBTQ literature.

—Casey Plett, *Harper's Bazaar*

“

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*

HOUSE OF MIST (A Novel) —María Luisa Bombal

HOUSE OF MIST stands as one of the first South American novels written in the style that was later called magical realism. Set in a house deep in the lush Chilean woods, it is a story of a young bride struggling with the mysteries surrounding her marriage to an aloof landowner.

Ⓜ FSG

1947

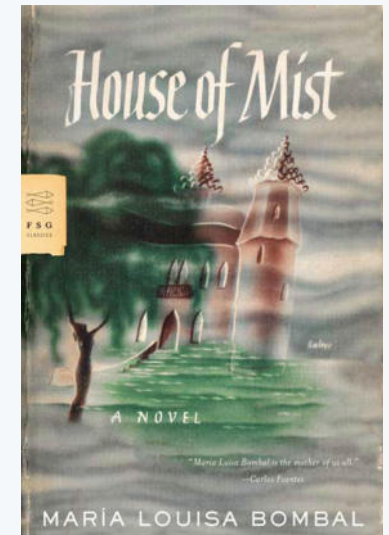
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Cosac & Naify Edicoes
SWEDISH / Tranan



THE SHROUDED WOMAN (A Novel)

In the same delicately haunting style she used in *House of Mist*, Maria-Luisa Bombal tells the story of a beautiful and violent woman, who sees clearly, only after death, the intricate pattern which her passions made in the lives of those who were close to her.

Ⓜ FSG

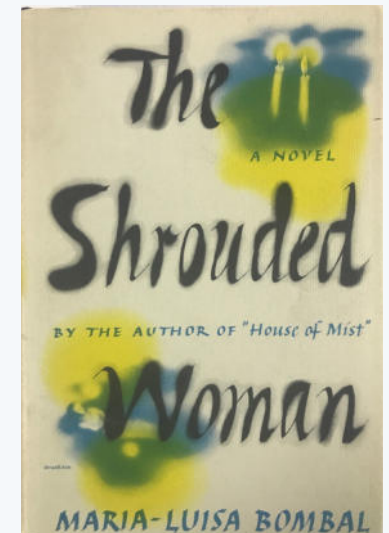
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Naify Edicoes



NEW ISLANDS (And Other Stories) —Foreword by Jorge Luis Borges

Ⓜ FSG

1982

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MARIA LUISA BOMBAL (1910–1980) was a Chilean novelist and short story writer. At twenty she wrote articles for Chilean literary reviews. In 1933 she went to live in Argentina, where her first book, *La Ultima Niebla* (*House of Mist*), was published in 1934. She returned to Chile in 1941 and was awarded the Grand Prix de Roman of Santiago for her second novel, *La Amortajada* (*The Shrouded Woman*). She represented Chile in the International Congress of Pen Clubs at the World's Fair in 1938, and in 1942 she came here again on a mission to the Library of Congress for the Bibliotheque Nationale.

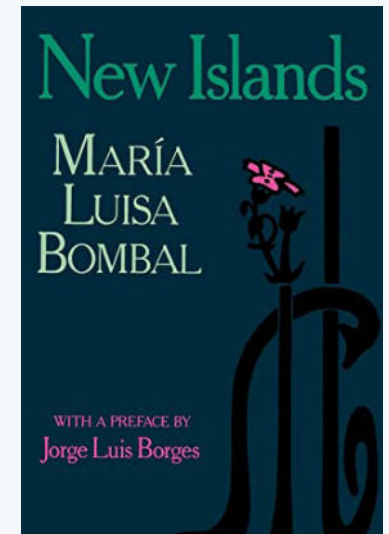
Praise for María Luisa Bombal

“Bombal—with her bold disregard for simple realism in favor of a heightened reality in which the external world reflects the internal truth of the characters’ feeling, and with her deliberate mingling of fantasy, memory and event—is the precursor of the magical realism that is the flower of South American writing today.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Maria Luisa Bombal is the mother of us all.”

—Carlos Fuentes



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.

 FSG

June 2022

An Instant *New York Times* Bestseller

Forthcoming in 2026 SLEUTH-HOUND: The Victorian Medical Detective Who Inspired Sherlock Holmes

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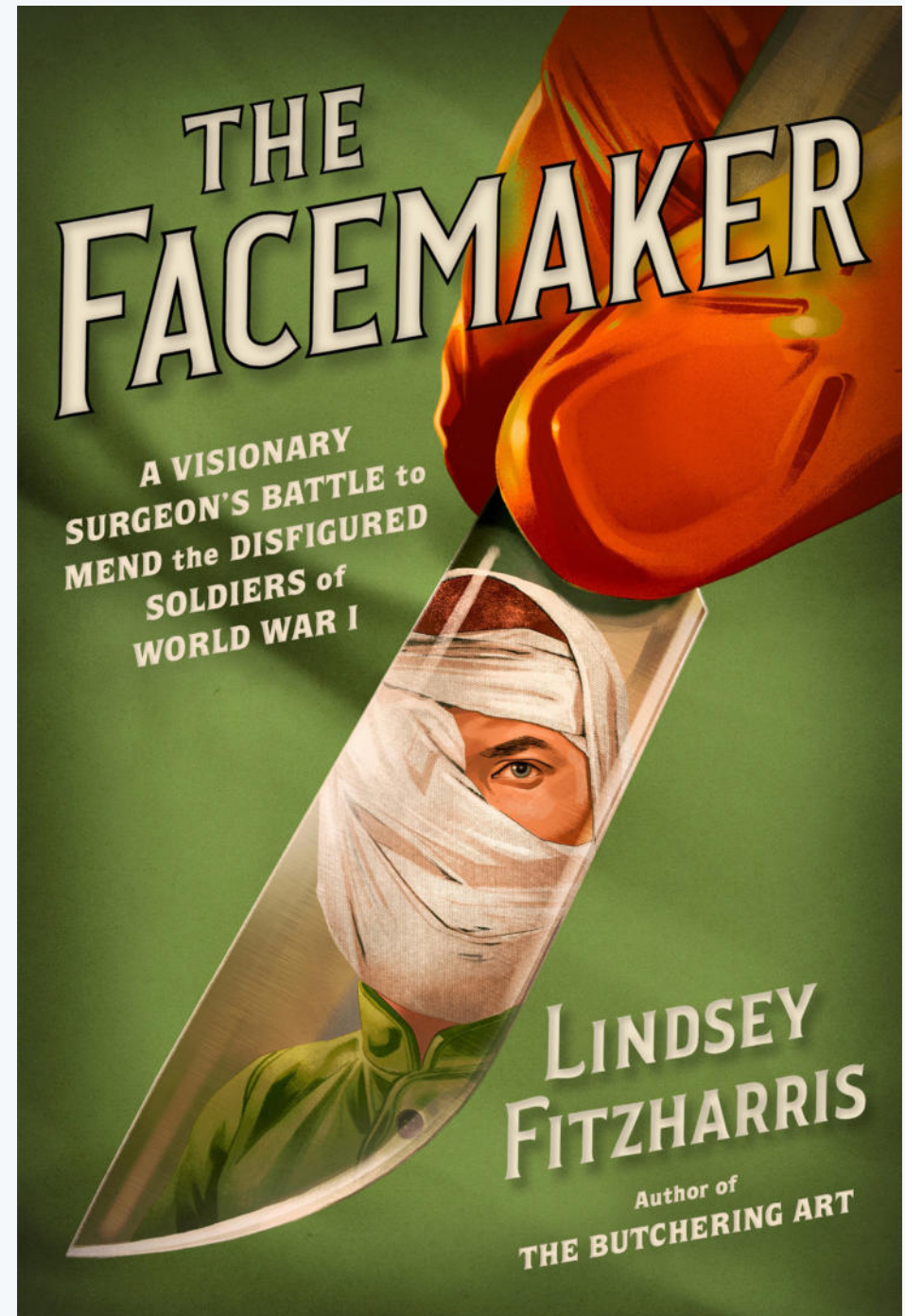
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ROMANIAN / SC Publica

RUSSIAN / EXMO

SPANISH / Captain Swing



THE FACEMAKER (A Visionary Surgeon's Battle to Mend the Disfigured Soldiers of World War I) —Lindsey Fitzharris

In **THE FACEMAKER**, Lindsey Fitzharris presents the compelling, true story of a visionary surgeon who rebuilt the faces of the First World War's injured heroes, and in the process ushered in the modern era of plastic surgery. From the moment that the first machine gun rang out over the Western Front, one thing was clear: mankind's military technology had wildly surpassed its medical capabilities. Bodies were battered, gouged, hacked, and gassed. The war claimed millions of lives and left millions more wounded and disfigured. In the midst of this brutality, however, there were also those who strove to alleviate human suffering, among them the pioneering plastic surgeon Harold Gillies, who dedicated himself to restoring the burned and broken faces of the injured soldiers under his care.

Gillies established one of the world's first hospitals dedicated entirely to facial reconstruction, assembling a unique group of practitioners whose task was to restore what had been torn apart, to recreate what had been destroyed. At a time when losing a limb made a soldier a hero, but losing a face made him a monster to a society that was largely intolerant of facial differences, Gillies restored not just the faces of the wounded but also their spirits.

THE FACEMAKER places Gillies's ingenious surgical innovations alongside the dramatic stories of soldiers whose lives were wrecked and repaired, and those of the many doctors, nurses, artists, and orderlies who staffed Gillies's hospital. The result is a vividly absorbing account of how medicine can be an art, and of what courage and imagination can accomplish in the presence of relentless horror.

DR. 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...* aired on the Smithsonian Channel. She contributes regularly to *The Wall Street Journal*, *Scientific American*, and other notable publications, and holds a doctorate in the History of Science and Medicine from the University of Oxford.

Praise for THE FACEMAKER
FINALIST FOR THE KIRKUS PRIZE FOR NONFICTION

The New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice

Best Books of 2022, *Fresh Air*, *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, *The Evening Standard*, Amazon

“

Grisly yet inspiring...The suspense of [Fitzharris's] narrative comes not from any interpersonal drama but from the formidable challenges posed by the physical world.

—Jennifer Szalai, *The New York Times*

“

A riveting, old-fashioned, man-meets-the-moment account...[Fitzharris] give[s] vivid immediacy to the patients' ordeals.

—Maureen Corrigan, *NPR*

“

Both heartbreaking and inspiring, *The Facemaker* tells a profound story of survival, resurrection and redemption... not only a stirring tribute to the singular humanity and greatness of one man but a haunting and unforgettable elegy to the sacrifice and suffering of all the soldiers of [WWI]..

— James L. Swanson, *The Wall Street Journal*

THE SITUATION AND THE STORY (The Art of Personal Narrative) —Vivian Gornick

A guide to the art of personal writing by the author of *Fierce Attachments* and *The End of the Novel of Love*.

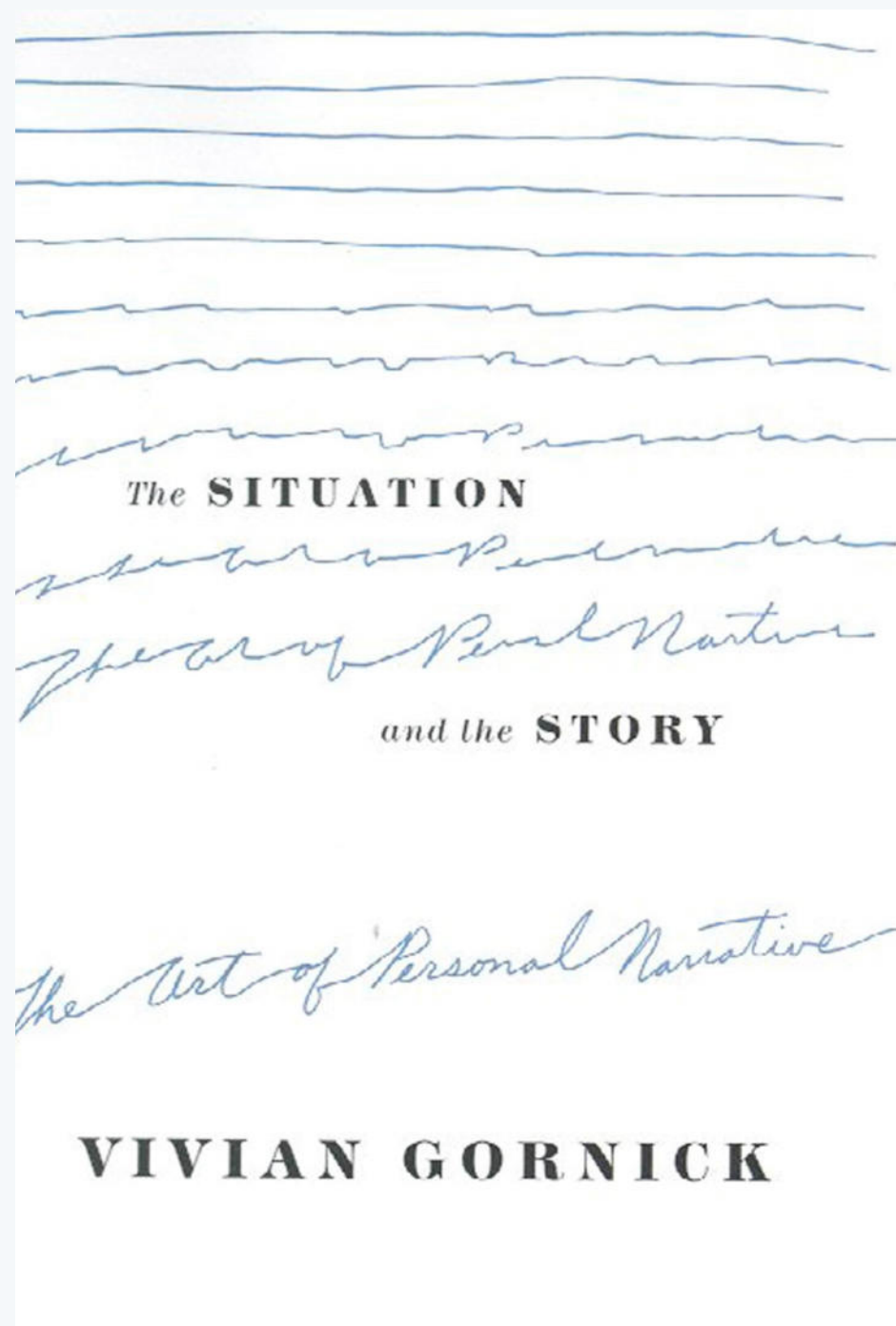
Ⓜ FSG

October 2001

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CATALAN / L'Altra Editorial

SPANISH / Editorial Sexto Piso



THE SITUATION AND THE STORY (The Art of Personal Narrative) —Vivian Gornick

All narrative writing must pull from the raw material of life a tale that will shape experience, transform event, deliver a bit of wisdom. In a story or a novel the “I” who tells this tale can be, and often is, an unreliable narrator but in nonfiction the reader must always be persuaded that the narrator is speaking truth.

How does one pull from one’s own boring, agitated self the truth-speaker who will tell the story a personal narrative needs to tell? That is the question **THE SITUATION AND THE STORY** asks—and answers. Taking us on a reading tour of some of the best memoirs and essays of the past hundred years, Gornick traces the changing idea of self that has dominated the century, and demonstrates the enduring truth-speaker to be found in the work of writers as diverse as Edmund Gosse, Joan Didion, Oscar Wilde, James Baldwin, or Marguerite Duras.

This book, which grew out of fifteen years teaching in MFA programs, is itself a model of the lucid intelligence that has made Gornick one of our most admired writers of nonfiction. In it, she teaches us to write by teaching us how to read: how to recognize truth when we hear it in the writing of others and in our own.

VIVIAN GORNICK is the author of several books, including the acclaimed memoir *Fierce Attachments*, reissued as an FSG Classic in 2005; the essay collections *The End of the Novel of Love*; and *The Men in My Life*; *The Odd Woman and the City*; and *Unfinished Business*. She was awarded the 2021 Windham-Campbell Prize. She began her career as a staff writer for *The Village Voice* in 1969, and her work has since appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Atlantic*, and many other publications.

Praise for THE SITUATION AND THE STORY

“

An elegant, concise, unlocking of the mystery of personal narrative. It’s changed my thinking already and should be on every writer’s bookshelf.
—Elaine Showalter, author of *The Madwoman in the Attic*

“

A wonderful illumination of some of the best and most moving writers of personal narrative, by a writer whose own graceful style and exemplary forthrightness make this a most rewarding book for both the college classroom and one’s own favorite armchair.
—Lydia Davis, author of *Essays One*

“

[Gornick’s] incisive and vivid blend of story and information conveys the essence and the challenge of the creative nonfiction genre and is an example of what the genre can do.
—Lee Gutkind, author of *The Art of Creative Nonfiction*

“

Gornick writes with distilled wisdom and practiced accuracy. I trust her intuition absolutely.
—Sven Birkerts, author of *Changing the Subject*

“

Gornick has...produc[ed] a brilliant exegesis that is both analysis and exemplar of the difficult art of personal narrative. She brings a laser-like focus to her subject, while complicating it at every turn with moral nuance. The writing is both eloquent and elegant; the sentences have bite; the whole thing is an exhilarating read.
—Phillip Lopate, author of *A Mother’s Tale*

FIERCE ATTACHMENTS **(A Memoir)** **—Vivian Gornick**

In this deeply etched and haunting memoir, Vivian Gornick tells the story of her lifelong battle with her mother for independence.

 **FSG**

April 1987, reissued September 2005 with an introduction by Jonathan Lethem

New York Times #1 Best Memoir of the Past 50 Years
 Shortlisted for Grand Prix Littéraire Américaine in France, 2017
 Gremio de Libreros de Madrid Book of the Year, 2017
 Premio Euskadi de Plata, 2018

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FSG CLASSICS

Fierce **Attachments** *a memoir* **Vivian Gornick**

Introduction by Jonathan Lethem

"A fine, unflinchingly honest book . . . The story of an abiding, difficult love over time."
 —Mona Simpson, *The New York Times Book Review*

ODD WOMAN AND THE CITY **(A Memoir)** **—Vivian Gornick**

A contentious, deeply moving ode to friendship, love, and urban life.

Ⓜ FSG

May 2015

Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism

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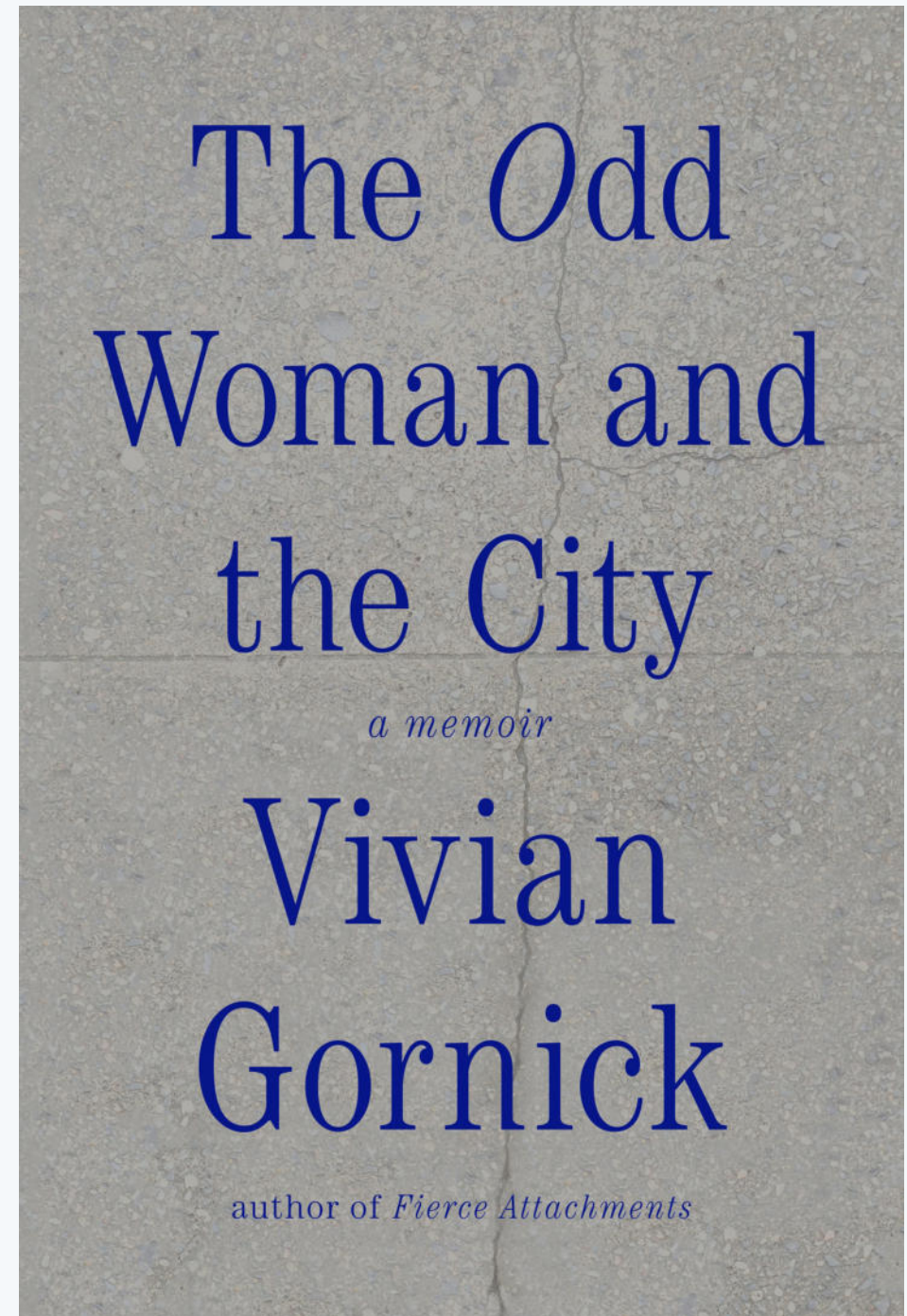
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Notes of a Chronic Re-reader) —Vivian Gornick

One of our most beloved writers reassess the electrifying works of literature that have shaped her life.

Ⓜ FSG

February 2020

Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism
PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award Finalist
Best Books 2020, *Library Journal*

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SWEDISH / Natur & Kultur

Somewhat, this devastation-of-the-book went through me like a shock. It was as though the physical book had been a living thing, and I could not bear to sweep its tortured remains into the trash. I began picking up random pages, holding one after another up close to my eyes as if committing to new memory its fading print, and then to my nose, as if intent on inhaling some essence-of-book. After that, I alternated between concentrating on individual pages and examining the dried-out glue along the spine, as if it held some scientific secret that would explain what had happened.

Suddenly my attention was caught by the sight of a sentence I must have underlined some forty years ago, and after that a paragraph I'd encircled, and in a margin two exclamation points standing side by side. I looked first at the underlined sentence: it puzzled me. Why'd you underline this, I asked myself, what's so interesting here? Then again, look at this one you've also underlined—how obvious—what were you thinking? My eyes drifted to a sentence on the page opposite where nothing was underlined and I thought, Now here's something really interesting, how come this didn't attract your attention all those years ago?

How come indeed.

I began to read the various pages with reader's marks on them, and then I began to piece them together, like an archaeologist poring over ancient fragments to see which order will yield some design worth having been excavated, and soon enough I saw my younger reading self clear enough, marveling at the most elementary insights this wonderful book had yielded up. Very nearly, it was as though I'd written "So true!" all over the margins.

I put the pages back together in their proper order and sat down to read the book anew, this time underlining and encircling in a pen of another color the sentences and passages that now struck me as worth noting. Then I bound the pages together with a thick rubber band and put the book back on the shelf where it had been sitting all this time. I hope I live long enough to read it again, with a pen of yet another color in hand.

AUTHOR OF *THE ODD WOMAN AND THE CITY*

180

APPROACHING EYE LEVEL —Vivian Gornick

Seminal essays on loneliness, living in New York, friendship, feminism, and writing from a nonfiction master.

PICADOR Picador

September 1997, reissued March 2020

Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism

Praise for APPROACHING EYE LEVEL:

“There’s more to these seven original essays than a hymn to Manhattan. There is also exploration of that most brutal and unconquerable of human sorrows, loneliness.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“At heart this is a book not about repose but about escalating struggle—the day-to-day struggle to face down the brutality of growing loneliness, to accept the limitations of friendship and intimacy, to honor the process of becoming oneself.”

—Mary Hawthorne, *The New York Times*

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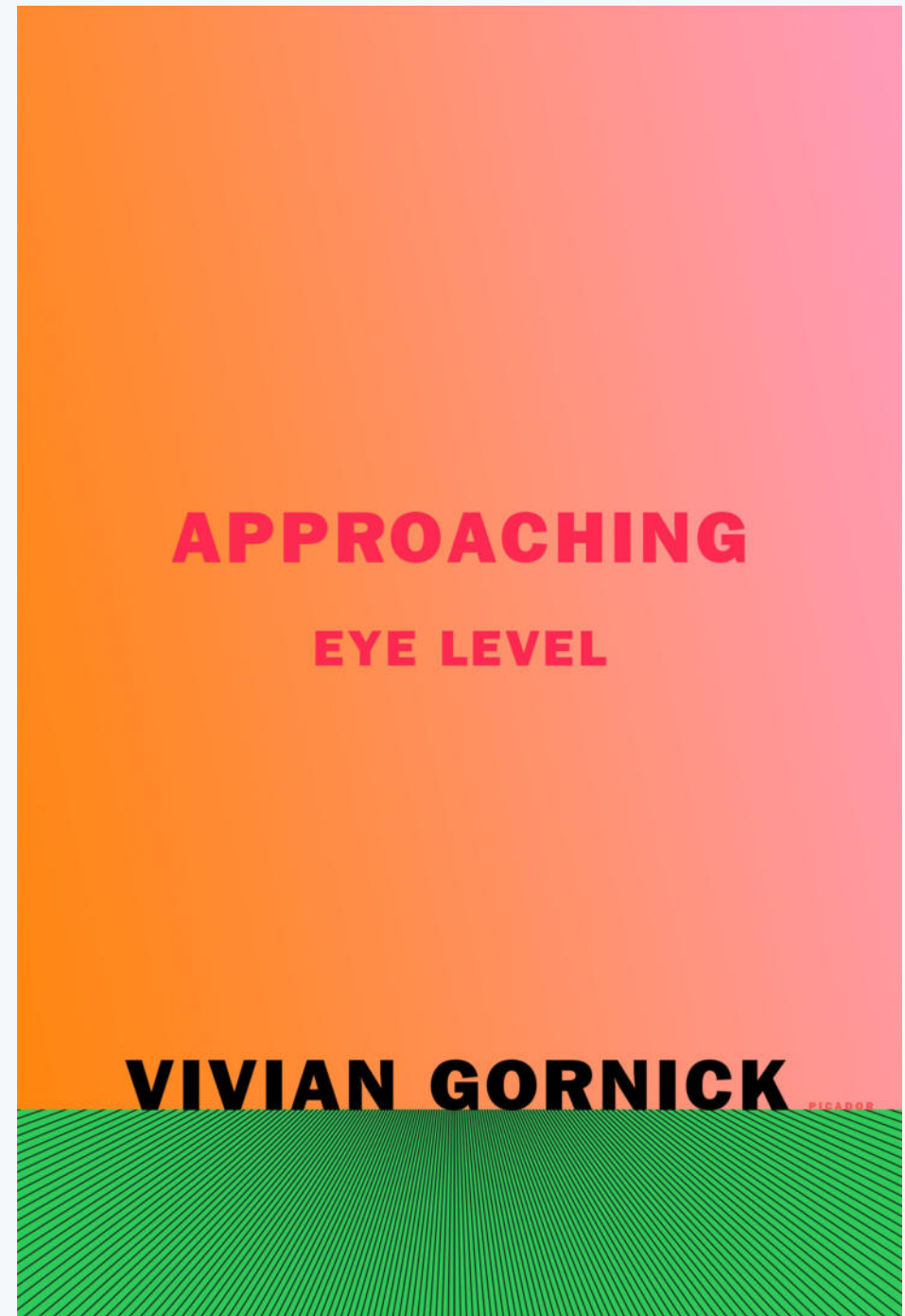
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THE END OF THE NOVEL OF LOVE —Vivian Gornick

Eleven classic essays that explore the meaning of love and marriage as literary themes in the twentieth century.

PICADOR Picador

October 1998, reissued March 2020

Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism

Praise for THE END OF THE NOVEL OF LOVE:

“Vivian Gornick’s prose is so penetrating that reading it can be almost painful...[*The End of the Novel of Love*] stands out as a model of luminous clarity.”

—Susie Linfield, *The Los Angeles Times*

“[Gornick] is fearless...Reading her essays, one is reassured that the conversation between life and literature is mutually sustaining as well as mutually corrective, and that it is likely to continue both in spite of and because of our changes of heart—in love or out of it.”

—Elizabeth Frank, *The New York Times Book Review*

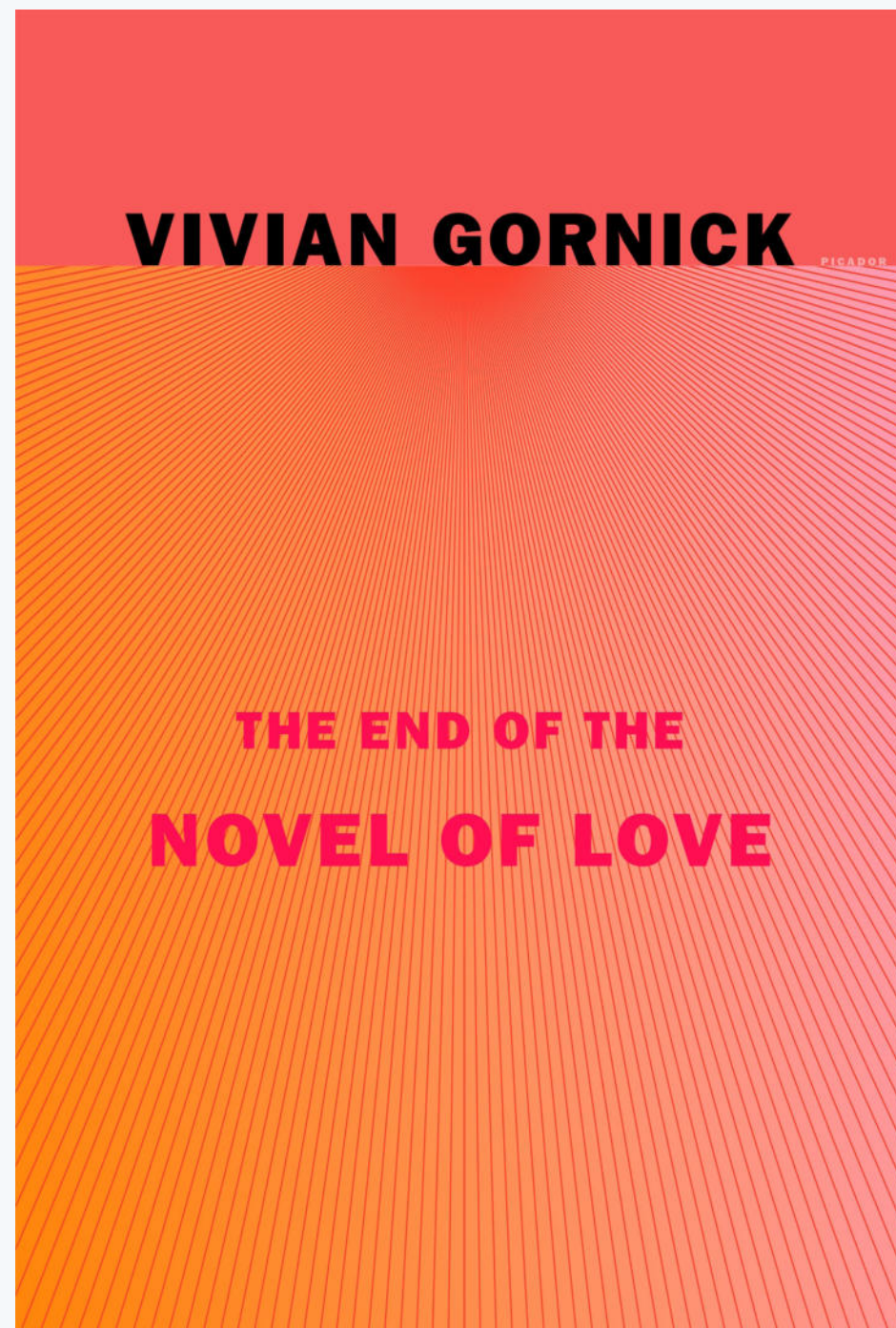
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THE OTHER PARIS —Lucy Sante

A trip through Paris as it will never be again—dark and dank and poor and slapdash and truly bohemian.

Ⓜ FSG

October 2015

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The Other Paris



Lucy Sante

THE OTHER PARIS —Lucy Sante

Paris, the City of Light, the city of fine dining and seductive couture and intellectual hauteur, was until fairly recently always accompanied by its shadow: the city of the poor, the outcast, the criminal, the eccentric, the willfully nonconforming. In **THE OTHER PARIS**, Lucy Sante gives us a panoramic view of that second metropolis, which has nearly vanished but whose traces are in the bricks and stones of the contemporary city, in the culture of France itself, and, by extension, throughout the world.

Drawing on testimony from a great range of witnesses—from Balzac and Hugo to assorted boulevardiers, rabble-rousers, and tramps—Sante, whose thorough research is matched only by the vividness of her narration, takes the reader on a whirlwind tour. Richly illustrated with more than three hundred images, **THE OTHER PARIS** scuttles through the knotted streets of pre-Haussmann Paris, through the improvised accommodations of the original bohemians, through the whorehouses and dance halls and hobo shelters of the old city.

A lively survey of labor conditions, prostitution, drinking, crime, and popular entertainment, and of the reporters, réaliste singers, pamphleteers, and poets who chronicled their evolution, **THE OTHER PARIS** is a book meant to upend the story of the French capital, to reclaim the city from the bons vivants and the speculators, and to hold a light to the works and lives of those expunged from its center by the forces of profit.

LUCY SANTE was born in Verviers, Belgium. Her books include *Low Life*, *The Other Paris*, *Evidence*, *The Factory of Facts*, and *Kill All Your Darlings*. She is the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award, an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Grammy (for album notes), an Infinity Award for Writing from the International Center of Photography, and Guggenheim and Cullman fellowships. Sante has contributed to *The New York Review of Books* since 1981, and has written for many other magazines. She is the visiting professor of writing and the history of photography at Bard College and lives in Ulster County, New York.

Praise for THE OTHER PARIS

“

Sante is in a class by herself...the pleasures to be had from the fruits of his research are considerable...[*The Other Paris*'s] great virtue is to send the reader down investigative paths of his own.

—Molly Haskell, *The New York Times Book Review*

“

The Other Paris is both eulogy and paean to the matrixes of anarchy, creativity, crime, and serendipity that once gave shape to the City of Light.

—Anna Wiener, *The New Republic*

“

[Sante] has written a wonderfully rich book, packed with information, lively in style, evoking the turbulence of a vanished time and city.

—Allan Massie, *The Wall Street Journal*

“

All who love Paris will love this book.

—*Kirkus*

“

This brilliant, beautifully written essay is the finest book I have ever read about Paris. Ever. Thank you, Lucy Sante.

—Paul Auster

“

Magisterial as ever, Sante returns us to the flavor, texture, savor, shouts, and clashes of the bygone city.

—Rebecca Solnit

HENRY KISSINGER AND AMERICAN POWER (A Political Biography) —Thomas A. Schwartz

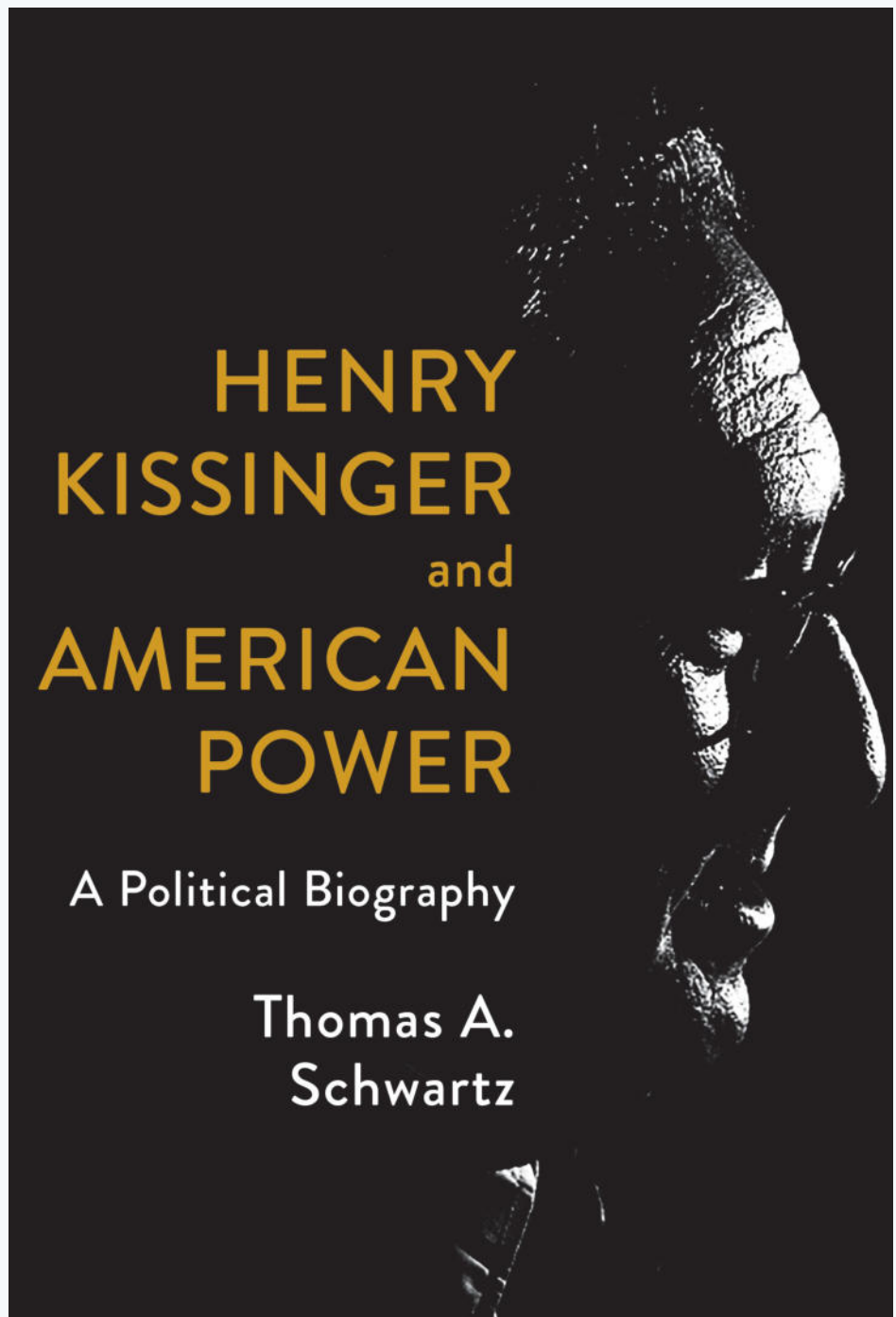
The definitive biography of Henry Kissinger—at least for those who neither revere nor revile him.

 Hill and Wang

August 2020

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HENRY KISSINGER AND AMERICAN POWER (A Political Biography) —Thomas A. Schwartz

Over the past six decades, Henry Kissinger has been America's most consistently praised—and reviled—public figure. He was hailed as a “miracle worker” for his peacemaking in the Middle East, pursuit of détente with the Soviet Union, negotiation of an end to the Vietnam War, and secret plan to open the United States to China. He was assailed from the left and from the right for his indifference to human rights, complicity in the pointless sacrifice of American and Vietnamese lives, and reliance on deception and intrigue. Was he a brilliant master strategist—“the 20th century's greatest 19th century statesman”—or a cold-blooded monster who eroded America's moral standing for the sake of self-promotion?

In this masterfully researched biography, the renowned diplomatic historian Thomas Schwartz offers an authoritative, and fair-minded, answer to this question. While other biographers have engaged in hagiography or demonology, Schwartz takes a measured view of his subject. He recognizes Kissinger's successes and acknowledges that Kissinger thought seriously and with great insight about the foreign policy issues of his time, while also recognizing his failures, his penchant for backbiting, and his reliance on ingratiating and fawning praise of the president as a source of power. Throughout, Schwartz stresses Kissinger's artful invention of himself as a celebrity diplomat and his domination of the medium of television news. He also notes Kissinger's sensitivity to domestic and partisan politics, complicating—and undermining—the image of the far-seeing statesman who stands above the squabbles of popular strife.

Rounded and textured, and rich with new insights into key dilemmas of American power, **HENRY KISSINGER AND AMERICAN POWER** stands as an essential guide to a man whose legacy is as complex as the last sixty years of US history itself.

THOMAS A. SCHWARTZ is Distinguished Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, where he specializes in the foreign relations of the United States. He has served on the U.S. State Department's Historical Advisory Committee and as president of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations. *Henry Kissinger and American Power* is his third book.

Praise for HENRY KISSINGER AND AMERICAN POWER

“

A very fine political biography...Schwartz also separates his work from most others. He tackles an angle that is often overlooked in the never-receding field of Kissingerology: how domestic political concerns and necessities inform and shape foreign policy discourse and policies. In Schwartz's apt and original rendering, Kissinger the realist intellectual is in fact a quintessential 'political actor'.

—Mario Del Pero, *The Washington Post*

“

[A] deeply researched, first-rate narrative... [Schwartz] bridges those who accuse Kissinger of being a war criminal for his politics toward Vietnam, Cambodia, and Chile, and those who praise his negotiations with China, the Soviet Union, and the Middle East...[A] richly detailed investigation.

—Karl Helicher, *Library Journal*, starred

AGAINST HAPPINESS (In Praise of Melancholy) —Eric G. Wilson

Maybe we're better off with the blues: a scholar of melancholy offers a controversial solution to our modern woes.



Sarah Crichton Books

January 2008

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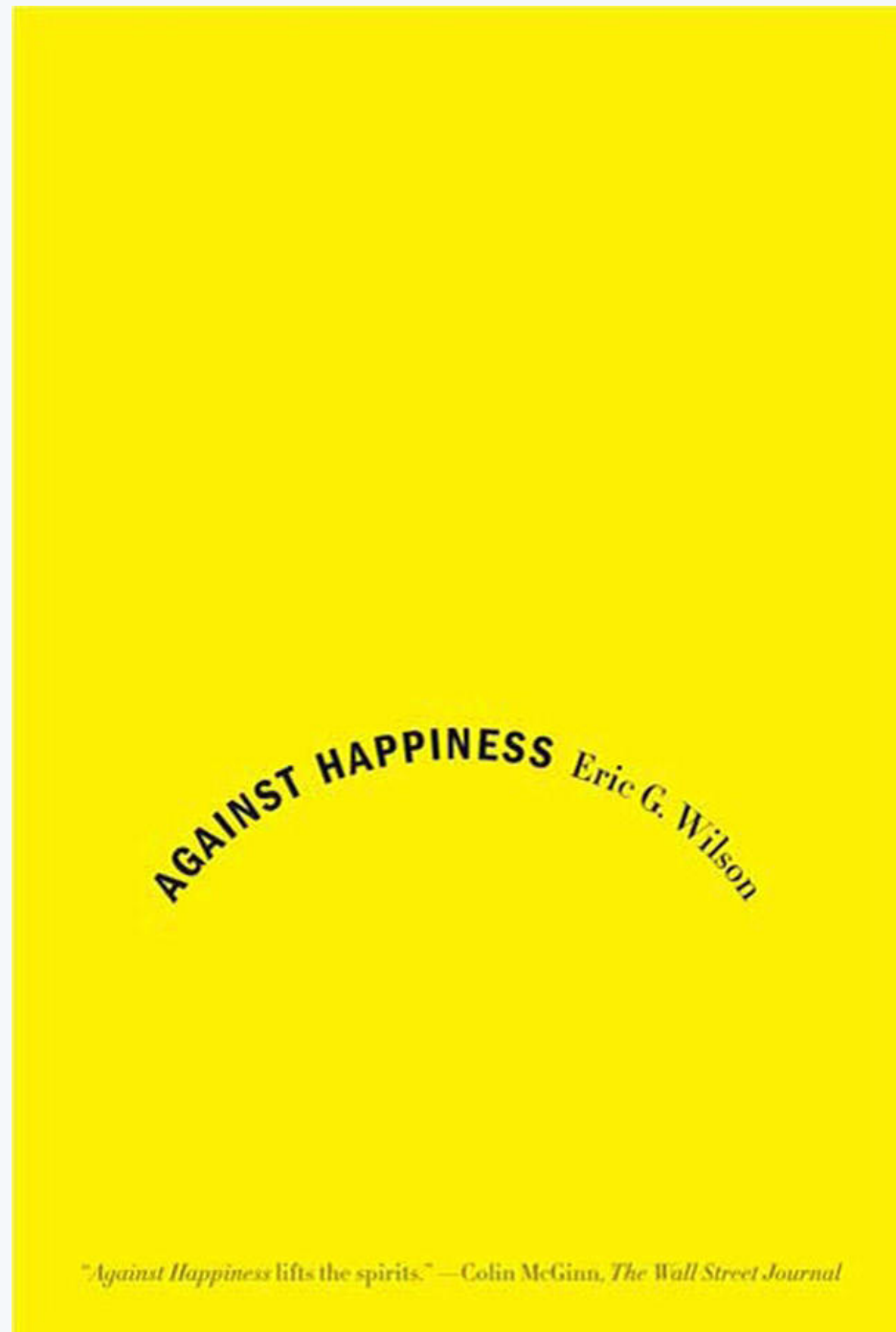
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AGAINST HAPPINESS (In Praise of Melancholy) —Eric G. Wilson

We are addicted to happiness. When we're not popping pills, we leaf through scientific studies that take for granted our quest for happiness, or read self-help books by everyone from armchair philosophers and clinical psychologists to the Dalai Lama on how to achieve a trouble-free life.

But who says we're supposed to be happy? In **AGAINST HAPPINESS**, the scholar Eric G. Wilson argues that melancholia is necessary to any thriving culture, that it is the muse of great literature, painting, music, and innovation—and that it is the force underlying original insights. Francisco Goya, Emily Dickinson, Marcel Proust, and Abraham Lincoln were all confirmed melancholics. So enough Prozac-ing of our brains. Let's embrace our depressive sides as the wellspring of creativity. What most people take for contentment, Wilson argues, is living death, and what the majority takes for depression is a vital force. In **AGAINST HAPPINESS**, Wilson suggests it would be better to relish the blues that make humans people.

ERIC G. WILSON is the Thomas H. Pritchard Professor of English at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is the author of *Everyone Loves a Good Train Wreck: Why We Can't Look Away*, *Against Happiness: In Praise of Melancholy*, *The Mercy of Eternity: A Memoir of Depression and Grace*, and five books on the relationship between literature and psychology.

Praise for AGAINST HAPPINESS

“

Mr. Wilson's case for the dark night of the soul brings a much needed corrective to today's mania for cheerfulness. One would almost say that, in its eloquent contrarianism and earnest search for meaning, *Against Happiness* lifts the spirits.

—Colin McGinn, *The Wall Street Journal*

“

An impassioned, compelling, dare I say poetic, argument on behalf of those who 'labor in the fields of sadness'...a loose and compelling argument for fully embracing one's existence, for it is a miracle itself—a call to live hard and full, to participate in the great rondure of life and to be aware of the fact that no one perspective on the world is ever finally true.

—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“

[A] lively, reasoned call for the preservation of melancholy in the face of all-too-rampant cheerfulness...pithy and epigrammatic.

—*Bookforum*



FSG Film

THINKING LIKE A DIRECTOR (A Practical Handbook) —Michael Bloom

The only theater book of its kind—a guide to directing technique by a professional director.

 FSG

October 2001

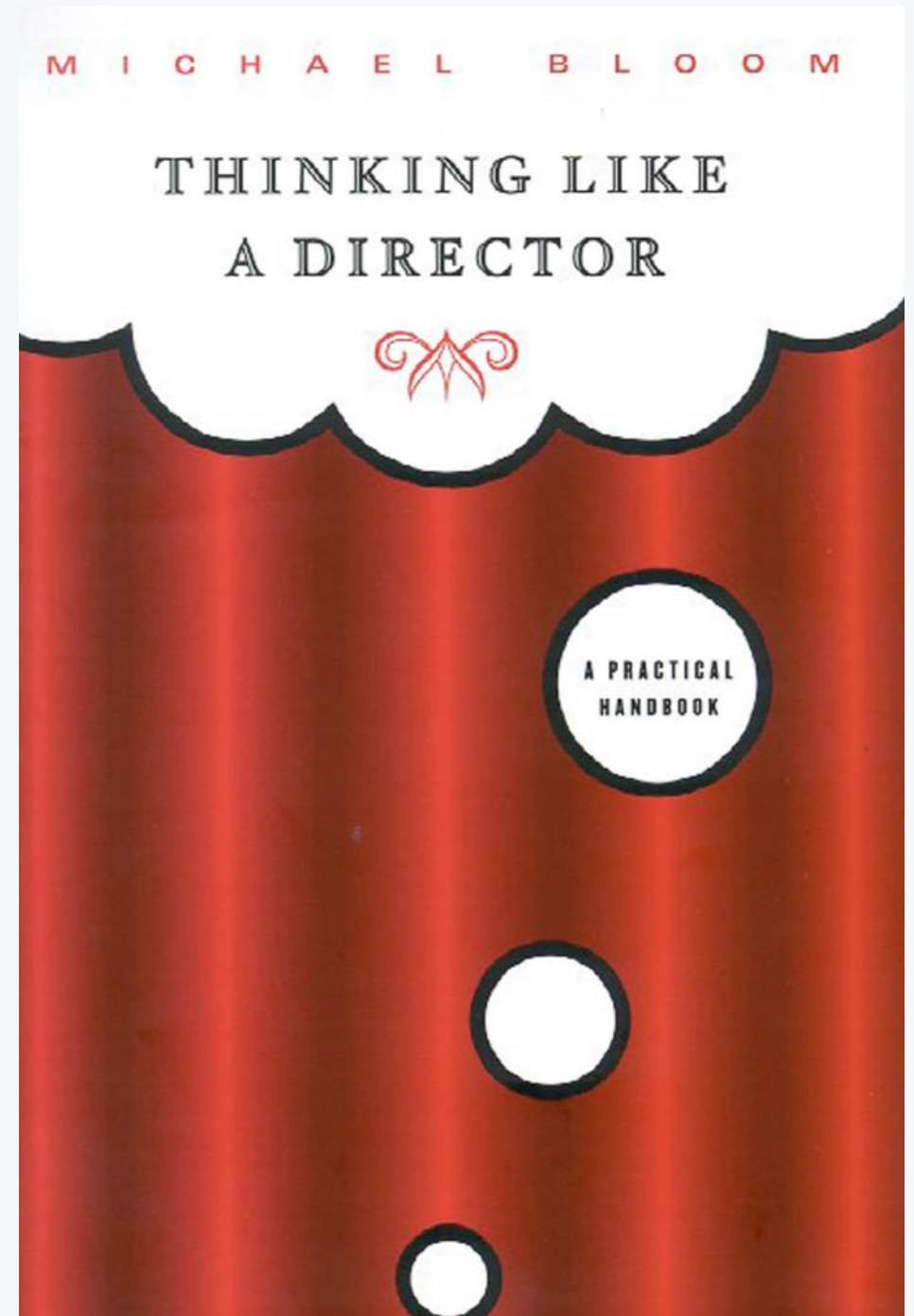
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(Beijing)

KOREAN / Theatre & Man Press



THINKING LIKE A DIRECTOR

(A Practical Handbook)

—Michael Bloom

Based on nearly twenty years of directing and teaching, **THINKING LIKE A DIRECTOR** is a practical handbook that aims to convey the experience of directing and the theatrical mind-set that successful directors possess. More than a mere set of guidelines, Michael Bloom's book details a comprehensive way of thinking about directing that covers every stage of a production—from a director's first reading of a play through final rehearsals. Bloom reveals that the key to directorial thinking is a dual-perspective vision, focusing on the life of each character (internal point of view) and the structural elements (external) of a play. In this manner, all of the key elements for interpretation and working with actors are integrated into a single method. Bloom illustrates his techniques by utilizing one of America's most accessible and popular plays, *The Glass Menagerie*, as his primary touchstone. Concise and engaging, Bloom's book is for anyone who has ever uttered the phrase "But what I really want to do is direct."

In addition to directing throughout the United States and Japan, **MICHAEL BLOOM** is head of directing at the University of Texas at Austin. His writing on the stage has appeared in *The New York Times* and *American Theatre magazine*. Bloom directed the premiere of Donald Margulies's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Dinner with Friends* at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and he also directed premieres by Don DeLillo, Ariel Dorfman, David Hare, and David Lodge. He won the Elliott Norton Award for Directing for his production of *Gross Indecency*, and was nominated for a Drama Desk for *Sight Unseen* at Manhattan Theatre Club and the Orpheum Theatre.

Praise for THINKING LIKE A DIRECTOR

“

Thinking Like a Director is a lucid, concise and admirably undogmatic manual for aspirant directors, from which writers, actors, and ordinary theatergoers will also learn much about the complex business of putting on plays.

—David Lodge

“

Michael Bloom's *Thinking Like a Director* helps fill the void of practical handbooks that are available to theater directors. It is smart and lucidly written and should prove to be an invaluable guidebook for students and emerging directors.

—Donald Margulies, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Dinner With Friends*

“

If I ever decided (Heaven and Hell forbid) to direct a play, I'd be sure to have Michael Bloom's illuminating and indispensable text nearby to guide and challenge me, step-by-step, as I found my way.

—Ariel Dorfman

MOVIEMAKERS' MASTERCLASS (Private Lessons from the World's Foremost Directors) —Laurent Tirard

From Scorsese and Lynch to Wenders and Godard, interviews with twenty of the world's greatest directors on how they make films—and why.

 FSG

October 2002

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- JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET ■
- TAKESHI KITANO ■
- EMIR KUSTURICA ■
- DAVID LYNCH ■
- SYDNEY POLLACK ■
- CLAUDE SAUTET ■
- MARTIN SCORSESE ■
- OLIVER STONE ■
- LARS VON TRIER ■
- WIM WENDERS ■
- WONG KAR-WAI ■
- JOHN WOO ■

MOVIEMAKERS' MASTER CLASS

PRIVATE LESSONS
FROM THE
WORLD'S FOREMOST
DIRECTORS

LAURENT TIRARD

MOVIEMAKERS' MASTERCLASS

(Private Lessons from the World's Foremost Directors)

—Laurent Tirard

Each great filmmaker has a secret method to his moviemaking—but each of them is different. In **MOVIEMAKERS' MASTER CLASS**, Laurent Tirard talks to twenty of today's most important filmmakers to get to the core of each director's approach to film, exploring the filmmaker's vision as well as his technique, while allowing each man to speak in his own voice.

Martin Scorsese likes setting up each shot very precisely ahead of time—so that he has the opportunity to change it all if he sees the need. Lars Von Trier, on the other hand, refuses to think about a shot until the actual moment of filming. And Bernardo Bertolucci tries to dream his shots the night before; if that doesn't work, he roams the set alone with a viewfinder, imagining the scene before the actors and crew join him. In these interviews—which originally appeared in the French film magazine *Studio* and are being published here in English for the first time—enhanced by exceptional photographs of the directors at work, Laurent Tirard has succeeded in finding out what makes each filmmaker—and his films—so extraordinary, shedding light on both the process and the people behind great moviemaking. Other filmmakers included are Tim Burton, Joel and Ethan Coen, and John Woo.

LAURENT TIRARD was born in 1967. He studied filmmaking at New York University, from which he graduated with honors in 1989. After a year as a script reader for the Warner Bros. studio in Los Angeles, he became a journalist for the French film magazine *Studio*, where he screened and reviewed more than a hundred films per year. He also had the opportunity to interview all the great directors of the day, including Martin Scorsese, Jean-Luc Godard, John Woo, Steven Spielberg, and many others, engaging them in lengthy discussions on the most practical aspects of filmmaking for a series called *Leçons de Cinéma*. For the last several years, he has put all his lessons into practice, first as a screenwriter on French features and TV movies, then as a director.

THE ANATOMY OF GENRES (How Story Forms Explain the Way the World Works) —John Truby

A guide to understanding the major genres of the story world by the legendary writing teacher and author of *The Anatomy of Story*, John Truby.

PICADOR
Picador

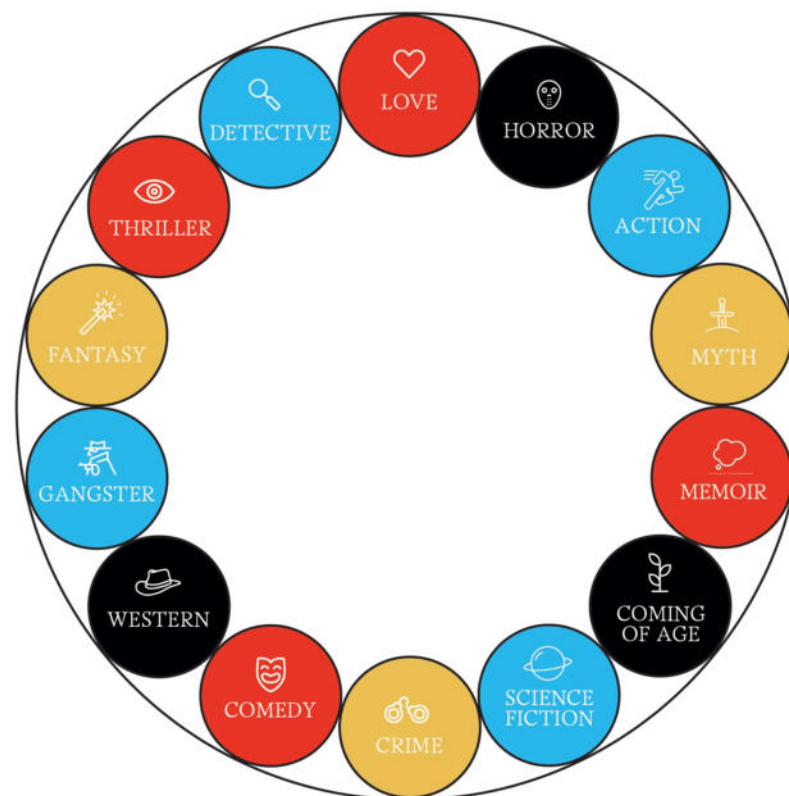
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The Anatomy of GENRES

How Story Forms Explain
THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS



AUTHOR OF *THE ANATOMY OF STORY*
JOHN TRUBY

THE ANATOMY OF GENRES

(How Story Forms Explain the Way the World Works)

—John Truby

Most people think genres are simply categories on Netflix or Amazon that provide a helpful guide to making entertainment choices. Most people are wrong. Genre stories aren't just a small subset, they are the all-stars of the entertainment world, comprising the vast majority of popular stories worldwide. That's why businesses—movie studios, production companies, video game studios, and publishing houses—buy and sell them. Writers who want to succeed professionally must write the stories these businesses want to buy. Simply put, the storytelling game is won by mastering the structure of genres.

THE ANATOMY OF GENRES is the legendary writing teacher John Truby's step-by-step guide to understanding and using the basic building blocks of the story world. He details the three ironclad rules of successful genre writing, and analyzes more than a dozen major genres and the essential plot events, or "beats," that define each of them. As he shows, the ability to combine these beats in the right way is what separates stories that sell from those that don't. Truby also reveals how a single story can combine elements of different genres, and how the best writers use this technique to craft unforgettable stories that stand out from the crowd.

Just as Truby's first book, *The Anatomy of Story*, changed the way writers develop stories, **THE ANATOMY OF GENRES** will enhance their quality and expand the impact they have on the world.

JOHN TRUBY is the founder and director of Truby's Writers Studio and the author of *The Anatomy of Story*. Over the past thirty years, he has taught more than fifty thousand students worldwide, including novelists, screenwriters, and TV writers. Together, these writers have generated more than fifteen billion dollars at the box office, with major studios including Disney, Sony Pictures, Fox, HBO, the BBC, Canal Plus, Globo, and AMC. Truby lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Leslie, and their two cats, Tink and Peanut.

Praise for *The Anatomy of Story*



Highly recommended.
—*Library Journal*



Truby's tome is invaluable to any writer looking to put an idea to paper.
—*Booklist*



A veritable bible for screenwriters.
—*Backstage*



If you're ready to graduate from the boy-meets-girl league of screenwriting, meet John Truby... [His lessons draw] epiphanies that make you see the contours of your psyche as sharply as your script.
—*LA Weekly*



FSG Nature

WHAT A FISH KNOWS (The Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins) —Jonathan Balcombe

Do fishes think? Do they really have three-second memories? And can they recognize the humans who peer back at them from above the surface of the water?

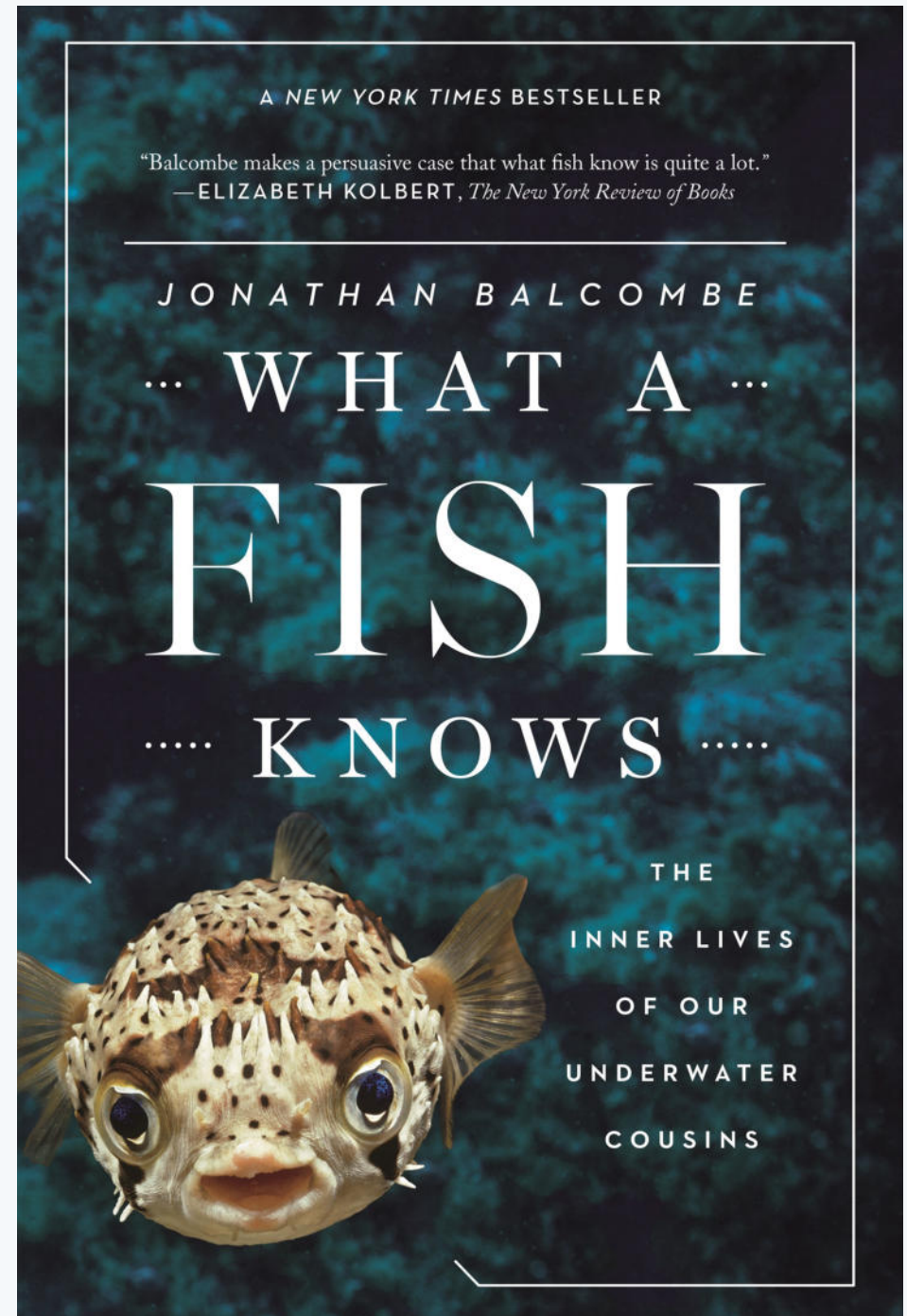
Ⓜ Scientific American / FSG

June 2016

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WHAT A FISH KNOWS

(The Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins)

—Jonathan Balcombe

In **WHAT A FISH KNOWS**, the myth-busting ethologist Jonathan Balcombe addresses these questions and more, taking us under the sea, through streams and estuaries, and to the other side of the aquarium glass to reveal the surprising capabilities of fishes. Although there are more than thirty thousand species of fish—more than all mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians combined—we rarely consider how individual fishes think, feel, and behave. Balcombe upends our assumptions about fishes, portraying them not as unfeeling, dead-eyed feeding machines but as sentient, aware, social, and even Machiavellian—in other words, much like us.

WHAT A FISH KNOWS draws on the latest science to present a fresh look at these remarkable creatures in all their breathtaking diversity and beauty. We may imagine that fishes lead simple, fleeting lives, but, as Balcombe demonstrates, the truth is far richer and more complex, worthy of the grandest social novel. Teeming with insights and exciting discoveries, **WHAT A FISH KNOWS** offers a thoughtful appraisal of our relationships with fishes and inspires us to take a more enlightened view of the planet's increasingly imperiled marine life, forever changing how we see our aquatic cousins.

JONATHAN BALCOMBE is the director of animal sentience at the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy and the author of *Second Nature and Pleasurable Kingdom*. A popular commentator, he has appeared on *The Diane Rehm Show*, the BBC, and the National Geographic Channel, and in several documentaries, and is a contributor of features and opinions to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Nature*, and other publications. He lives in Maryland.

Praise for WHAT A FISH KNOWS

A New York Times Bestseller
 LONGLISTED FOR THE 2017 PEN / E.O.
 WILSON LITERARY SCIENCE WRITING
 AWARD

One of the 10 Best Popular Science Books of
 2016: Biological Sciences, *Forbes*
 One of the Week's Best Science Picks, *Nature*
 A "Must Read" Book, *The Sunday Times*
 (London)

“

Balcombe vividly shows that fish have feelings and deserve consideration and protection like other sentient beings.

—The Dalai Lama

“

[An] exhaustively researched and elegantly written argument for the moral claims of ichthyofauna.

—Nathan Heller, *The New Yorker*

OTHER MINDS (The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness)

—Peter Godfrey-Smith

Peter Godfrey-Smith dons a wet suit and journeys into the depths of consciousness in **OTHER MINDS**.

Ⓜ FSG

December 2016

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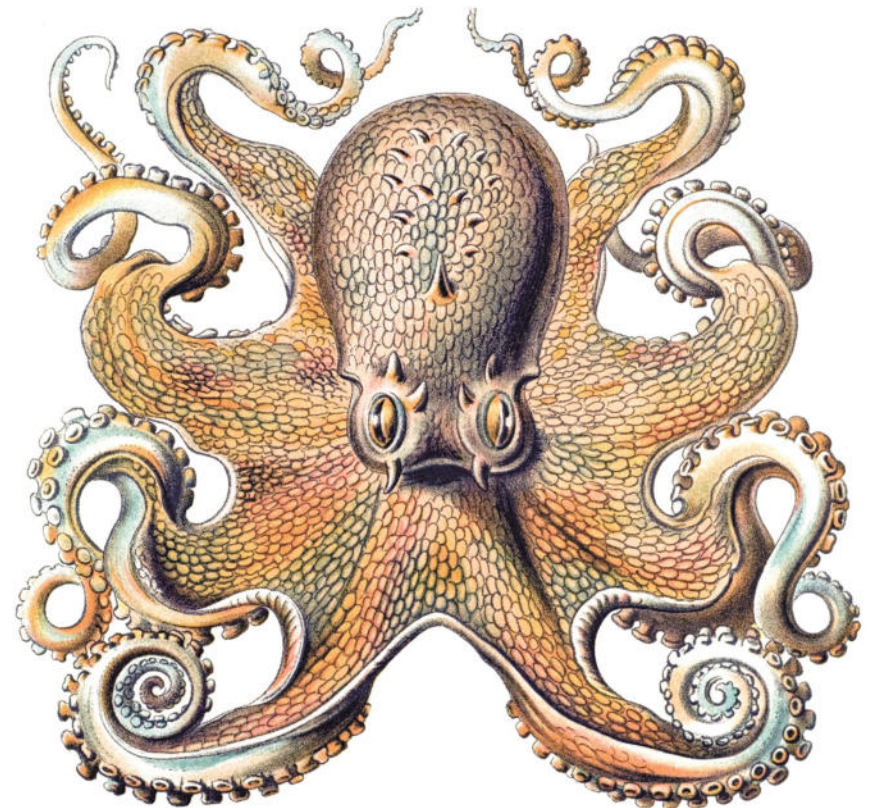
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OTHER
MINDS

THE OCTOPUS,
THE SEA, and
THE DEEP ORIGINS
of CONSCIOUSNESS



PETER GODFREY-SMITH

OTHER MINDS

(The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness)

—Peter Godfrey-Smith

Although mammals and birds are widely regarded as the smartest creatures on earth, it has lately become clear that a very distant branch of the tree of life has also sprouted higher intelligence: the cephalopods, consisting of the squid, the cuttlefish, and above all the octopus. In captivity, octopuses have been known to identify individual human keepers, raid neighboring tanks for food, turn off lightbulbs by spouting jets of water, plug drains, and make daring escapes. How is it that a creature with such gifts evolved through an evolutionary lineage so radically distant from our own? What does it mean that evolution built minds not once but at least twice?

In **OTHER MINDS**, Peter Godfrey-Smith, a distinguished philosopher of science and a skilled scuba diver, tells a bold new story of how subjective experience crept into being—how nature became aware of itself. As Godfrey-Smith stresses, it is a story that largely occurs in the ocean, where animals first appeared. But what kind of intelligence do cephalopods possess? Drawing on the latest scientific research and his own scuba-diving adventures, Godfrey-Smith probes the many mysteries that surround the lineage. By tracing the question of inner life back to its roots and comparing human beings with our most remarkable animal relatives, Godfrey-Smith casts crucial new light on the octopus mind—and on our own.

PETER GODFREY-SMITH is a professor in the School of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney. He is the author of the bestselling *Other Minds*, which has been published in more than twenty languages. His other books include *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science and Darwinian Populations and Natural Selection*, which won the 2010 Lakatos Award.

Praise for OTHER MINDS

A New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice
One of the Most Anticipated Books of Fall
2016 and a Top Ten Science Book of Fall 2016,
Publishers Weekly



Godfrey-Smith is a rare philosopher who searches the world for clues. Knowledgeable and curious, he examines, he admires. His explorations are good-natured. He is never dogmatic, yet startlingly incisive.

—Carl Safina, *The New York Times Book Review*

OWLS OF THE EASTERN ICE (A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl)

—Jonathan Slaght

A field scientist and conservationist tracks the elusive Blakiston's fish owl in the forbidding reaches of eastern Russia.

 FSG

August 2020

I saw my first Blakiston's fish owl in the Russian province of Primorye, a coastal talon of land hooking south into the belly of Northeast Asia...No scientist had seen a Blakiston's fish owl so far south in a hundred years...

Forthcoming in October 2025:
TIGERS BETWEEN EMPIRES

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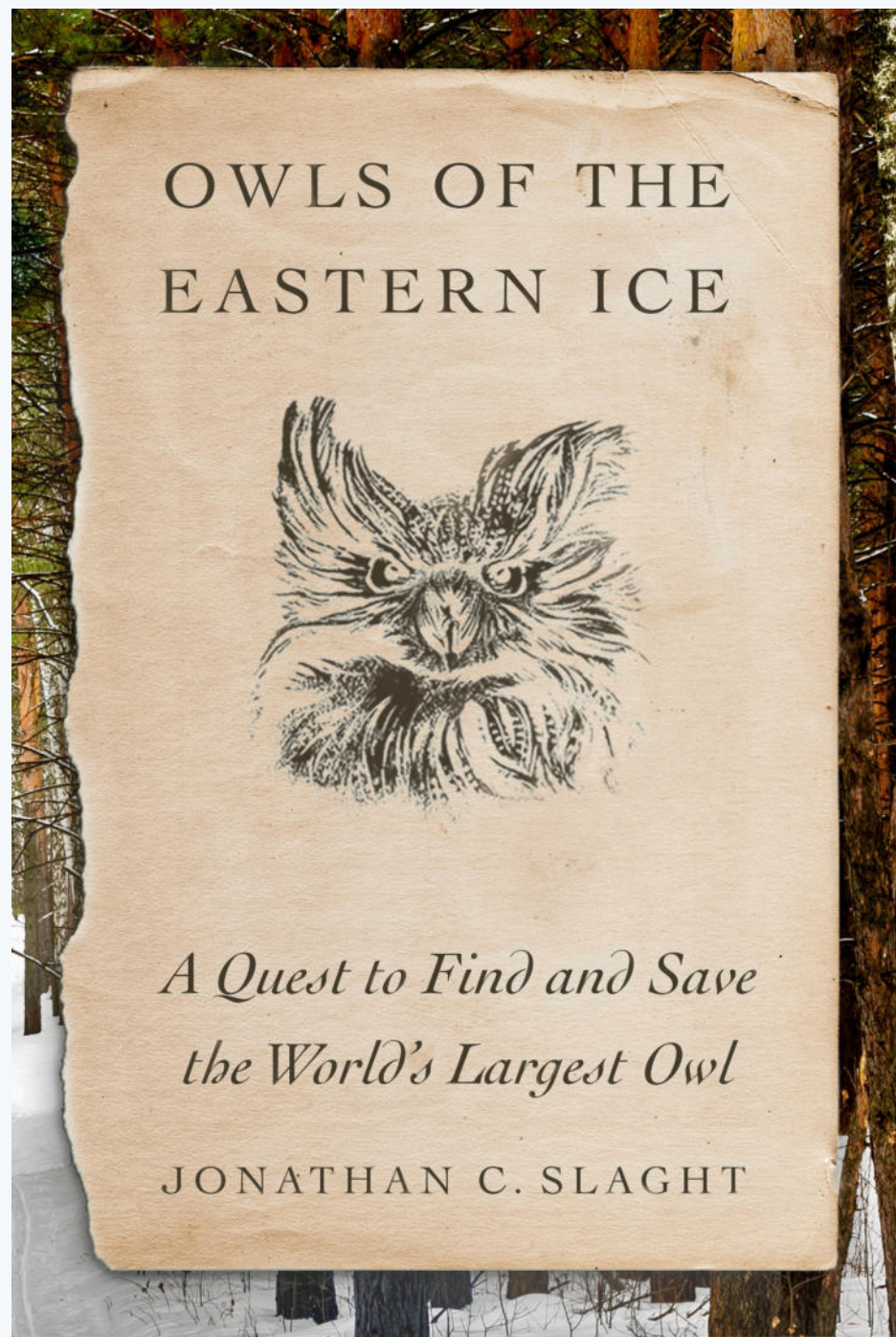
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OWLS OF THE EASTERN ICE (A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl) —Jonathan Slaght

When he was just a fledgling birdwatcher, Jonathan C. Slaght had a chance encounter with one of the most mysterious birds on Earth. Bigger than any owl he knew, it looked like a small bear with decorative feathers. He snapped a quick photo and shared it with experts. Soon he was on a five-year journey, searching for this enormous, enigmatic creature in the lush, remote forests of eastern Russia. That first sighting set his calling as a scientist. Despite a wingspan of six feet and a height of over two feet, the Blakiston's fish owl is highly elusive. They are easiest to find in winter, when their tracks mark the snowy banks of the rivers where they feed. They are also endangered. And so, as Slaght and his devoted team set out to locate the owls, they aim to craft a conservation plan that helps ensure the species' survival. This quest sends them on all-night monitoring missions in freezing tents, mad dashes across thawing rivers, and free-climbs up rotting trees to check nests for precious eggs. They use cutting-edge tracking technology and improvise ingenious traps. And all along, they must keep watch against a run-in with a bear or an Amur tiger. At the heart of Slaght's story are the fish owls themselves: cunning hunters, devoted parents, singers of eerie duets, and survivors in a harsh and shrinking habitat.

Through this rare glimpse into the everyday life of a field scientist and conservationist, **OWLS OF THE EASTERN ICE** testifies to the determination and creativity essential to scientific advancement and serves as a powerful reminder of the beauty, strength, and vulnerability of the natural world.

JONATHAN C. SLAGHT is the Russia and Northeast Asia coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, where he manages research projects on endangered species and coordinates avian conservation activities along the East Asia–Australasian Flyway from the Arctic to the tropics. His annotated translation of *Across the Ussuri Kray*, by Vladimir Arsenyev, was published in 2016, and his work has been featured by *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, the BBC World Service, NPR, *Smithsonian* Magazine, *Scientific American*, and *Audubon* magazine, among others. *Owls of the Eastern Ice* won the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award as well as the Minnesota Book Award for General Nonfiction, and was longlisted for the National Book Award. He lives in Minneapolis.

Praise for OWLS OF THE EASTERN ICE

LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

WINNER OF THE PEN/E.O. WILSON LITERARY SCIENCE WRITING AWARD; THE MINNESOTA BOOK AWARD FOR GENERAL NONFICTION; THE PEACE CORPS WORLDWIDE SPECIAL BOOK AWARD

A FINALIST FOR THE STANFORD DOLMAN TRAVEL BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

A New York Times Notable Book of 2020

A Best Book of the Year by NPR, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Smithsonian*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The BirdBooker Report*, *Geographical*, *Open Letter Review*, *The Times* (London)

“

A terrifically exciting account of [Slaght's] time in the Russian Far East studying Blakiston's fish owls, huge, shaggy-feathered, yellow-eyed, and elusive birds that hunt fish by wading in icy water...Even on the hottest summer days this book will transport you.

—Helen Macdonald, author of *H is for Hawk*, in *Kirkus*

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