



**Henry Holt and Company  
Metropolitan Books**

**International Rights Guide  
LONDON BOOK FAIR 2025**

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Henry Holt Nonfiction



**HOLT**

Henry Holt Nonfiction

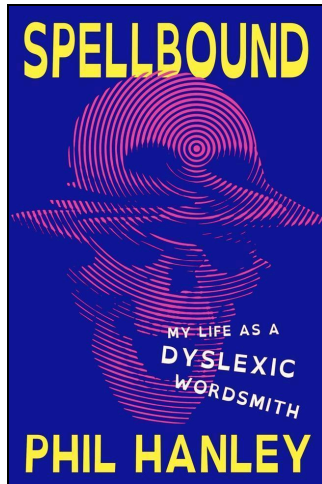
Phil Hanley  
**SPELLBOUND**

**My Life as a Dyslexic Wordsmith**

**Publication:** March 2025

**Editor:** Serena Jones

**Finished books available**



An A-list comedian tells the story of his unlikely path to success while struggling with severe dyslexia.

When Phil Hanley entered first grade, he realized something that would forever set him apart from his peers: he couldn't read. His teachers were ill-equipped to assist him. His school system lacked the proper resources. For years, Phil slipped through the school's cracks, falling farther and farther behind his friends, only passing his grades because of his mother's interventions. Finally he was diagnosed with dyslexia, a learning disability that would shape the rest of his life.

In **SPELLBOUND**, Phil Hanley shares his experience living with extreme dyslexia. Unable to pursue college or a conventional job, Phil was thrust into a life that was defined by unconventional twists. He moved to Europe and became a successful runway model, a job that suited his lack of writing and reading requirements. When that career flamed out, Phil retreated home to his parents where, eager to cure himself of his dyslexia, he found an all-consuming obsession with Transcendental Meditation. Finally, he found himself on a stage with a microphone, a spotlight, and five minutes of jokes. Though stand-up was never his dream, the comedy community provided a path that at the time seemed to be the only option left for him, and one that arguably, saved his life. **SPELLBOUND** is a story of humor and also of struggle and heartbreak, of constantly living in a world that sees things differently than you, and of triumph over adversity.

**Phil Hanley's** comedy career began at open mics in Vancouver, Canada. His Comedy Central special "The Half Hour" premiered November 14, 2015. He has performed on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson*, *The Pete Holmes Show*, John Oliver's *New York Stand-Up Show*, and *@midnight*. He has been showcased at every major comedy festival and can be seen regularly at The Comedy Cellar in New York City.

**A Lit Hub Most Anticipated Book of 2025**

"Candid, heartwarming... Through witty anecdotes and vulnerable confessions, the author's stories demonstrate how dyslexia extends beyond difficulties with spelling and reading to challenges with mental health... Carried by Hanley's sincere voice, the memoir remains lighthearted despite intense frustration and heartbreak."

—**Booklist**

"[A] humorous and affecting debut memoir... This inspires."

—**Publishers Weekly**

"Phil Hanley is the hilarious and authentic voice of dyslexia we all need right now."

—**Amy Schumer, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo***

Henry Holt Nonfiction

Leise Hook  
**NAMES AND FACES**  
**A Graphic Memoir**

**Publication:** April 2026

**Manuscript available**

**Editor:** Retha Powers

A lusciously illustrated graphic memoir-in-essays interweaving critical research and personal experience to examine the in-betweenness of being mixed-race Asian American and the cultural confrontations inherent to forging one's identity.

Who are you? What are you? And how does it feel to be you? Leise Hook was asked these intrusive questions so many times growing up that they haunted her like ghosts. Born to Chinese and German parents, and growing up in Michigan, Tokyo, and Virginia, Leise Hook was never sure where she fit in. More white-passing than her Chinese friends and family, but with the Mandarin skills of a native speaker, she was constantly exceeding some expectations while failing to meet others. From moving to Beijing, to dying her hair blonde, to exploring self portraiture, Hook struggles to figure out who she is and where she belongs.

In the vein of Cathy Park Hong and Gene Luen Yang, Hook's graphic memoir-in-essays rendered via her signature, award-winning style explores what it means to come of age as a mixed-race woman, forging a singular identity in a world intent on putting her into ill-fitting boxes.

**Leise Hook** is an Asian American cartoonist and illustrator currently based in Stockholm, Sweden. Her work has appeared in the *Believer*, the *New Yorker*, and *Catapult*, and has been shortlisted for a National Magazine Award for Digital Storytelling and for the Cartoonist Studio Prize. She received the Electronic Literature Organization's 2021 Robert Coover Award for a Work of Electronic Literature. Hook grew up in Virginia and Michigan, and previously worked in art museums in NYC and Beijing, China. She is a graduate of the MFA program at the Center for Cartoon Studies in Vermont.

Henry Holt Nonfiction

John Hooper  
**THE FORGOTTEN MILLION**  
**The Slaves of the Renaissance**

**Publication:** February 2028  
**Editor:** Tim Duggan

**Proposal available**

The conventional view of the Renaissance is of an era in which Europeans cast off the intellectual shackles that had constrained them in Medieval times, embracing the art and rational philosophy of ancient Greece and Rome, and constructing a culture centered around a new appreciation of the dignity and importance of the individual. Yet, in Florence, the city that was at the very heart of Europe's cultural revival and in many parts of the continent, it was perfectly legal and socially acceptable for some of the inhabitants to belong to others.

Combining travel writing and academic detective work, **THE FORGOTTEN MILLION** tells the story of the million or more people enslaved in the countries fringing the Mediterranean Sea before the start of the Atlantic slave trade, showing the role that slaves played in Renaissance society and forcing us to rethink our most cherished beliefs about Europe's cultural rebirth. It shows the extent to which the importation of free, enslaved labor helped southern Europe to recover economically from the Black Death in the 14th century and, in so doing, enable the full flowering of the Renaissance, and explores whether southern Europe's dependence on slave labor played a role alongside religion in holding back the spread of an entrepreneurial spirit that was already beginning to infuse the north and ultimately facilitated the Industrial Revolution. Further, the southern Europeans who first encountered, conquered and settled the Americas approached the enterprise with a mentality shaped by centuries in which bondage had been economically advantageous, socially permissible and theologically legitimized. This was true, not only of the Spanish and Portuguese, but also of the Italians who played a pivotal role, not just in the discovery of the Americas, but in the implantation of slavery there.

A work of vivid narrative and profound historical inquiry, **THE FORGOTTEN MILLION** restores to its rightful centrality a truth that has long been dismissed as incidental to Europe's history. This is a book that irrevocably transforms our understanding of Europe's most celebrated era.

**John Hooper** is a prize-winning author and foreign correspondent who has spent most of his adult life living in, and writing about, the countries that are the subject of this book. He is currently the Italy and Vatican Correspondent of *The Economist* and an honorary fellow of St. Catharine's College, University of Cambridge. From 2016 to 2022, he was a Stanford University lecturer, teaching at the university's campus in Florence. He is the author of the national bestseller *The Italians* (Viking/Penguin, 2016), and *The Spaniards* (Penguin, 1994 and 2006), which won the Allen Lane Award for a best first work of history or literature. Over the course of a long career in journalism, Hooper has worked for, among others, the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *BBC*, *Reuters* and *NBC*. He has also contributed to the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and many other publications. He knows five languages and has covered various conflicts including in Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Algeria, Kosovo and Afghanistan. The author was educated at the University of Cambridge and graduated with an honors degree in history.

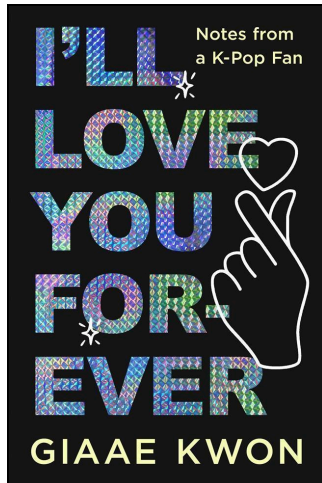
**British/The Stuart Agency**

Henry Holt Nonfiction

Giaae Kwon  
**I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER**  
Notes from a K-Pop Fan

**Publication:** March 2025  
**Editor:** Retha Powers

**Finished books available**



Jia Tolentino's *Trick Mirror* meets Cathy Park Hong's *Minor Feelings* in a meditation that blends memoir and cultural criticism to explore how the author's love affair with K-pop has shaped her sense of self, charting K-pop's complex coming-of-age through some of its biggest idols.

**I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER** is a smart, poignant, constantly surprising essay collection that considers the collision between stratospherically popular music and our inescapably personal selves. Giaae Kwon delves into the global impact of K-pop artists, from H.O.T. to Taeyeon to IU to Suga of BTS, and reveals how each illuminated and shaped her own life.

In using intimate experiences to examine larger cultural topics, this singular work breaks new ground in its consideration of K-pop. Written from the perspective of a bilingual and bicultural Korean American, **I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER** blends the critical with the personal. Kwon interweaves profiles of different K-pop idols with ruminations on various aspects of Korean culture, from the country's attitude toward plastic surgery and female sexuality to its obsession with academia. Combining insightful critique and adoring analysis, **I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER** provides readers with a fuller picture of a culturally and socially complex industry and the machine and heart behind its popularity. Above all, Kwon offers up the passion of a superfan, finding joy in K-pop along the way.

**Giaae Kwon** is a food and culture writer whose writing has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Electric Literature*, *BuzzFeed Reader*, and *Taste*. She wrote a column about K-Pop for *Catapult*. She attended the Tin House Summer Workshop, and her essay on Momofuku Kāwi was a Notable Mention in *Best American Food Writing 2020*. She writes the newsletter, *I Love You, Egg*, and lives in Brooklyn, where she's working on her next project in which she explores Korean food through the lens of the diaspora.

"Intensely compelling, courageous, joyful, and illuminating, food and culture writer Kwon's first book grounds itself in the experience of being a *bbasooni*, a super fan of the musical genre K-pop. . . . This is truly razor-sharp cultural criticism that will give readers a more profound understanding of Korean history. The book combines a musicologist's researched, nuanced detail with the broad, big-picture analysis of a cultural historian."—**Booklist, starred review**

"A great resource to learn more about K-Pop whether you're a seasoned fan or a newbie. Kwon writes so sincerely and vulnerably about pop culture."—**McKayla Cole, Lit Hub**

"Kwon folds piercing examinations of fandom and Korean pop culture into a candid self-portrait. . . . This entertaining blend of criticism and personal history will captivate even those who've never pressed play on a K-pop track."—**Publishers Weekly**

"A front-seat look at K-pop fandom . . . a fun, colorful memoir of a global phenomenon."—**Kirkus Reviews**

Rights sold: **Korean**/Geulhangari

Henry Holt Nonfiction

Lauren Sherman and Chantal Fernandez

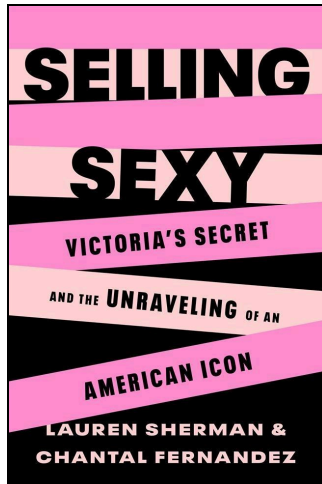
## **SELLING SEXY**

### **Victoria's Secret and the Unraveling of an American Icon**

**Publication:** October 2024

**Finished books available**

**Editor:** Riva Hocherman



The story of how Victoria's Secret skyrocketed from a tiny chain of boutiques to an intimates monolith with annual sales in excess of \$6 billion—all the while defining female beauty and sex standards for generations of women—and how the brand's grip on the industry slipped.

Victoria's Secret is one of the most influential, and polarizing, brands to ever infiltrate the psyche of the American consumer. It helped to define what it meant to look like a happy, successful—and most importantly, sexy—modern woman to a whole generation of consumers across the globe through its airbrushed advertisements, pink velvet-lined stores, and annual televised fashion show, which drew in millions of viewers each year. But as culture changed, Victoria's Secret did not change with it. Not only did the company miss out on big expansion opportunities, it also refused to change its marketing as the world became less obsessed with thinness and perfection, and more keenly focused on body acceptance. Meanwhile, Wexner, the mastermind,

became increasingly known for his complicated relationship with sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, whose lifestyle he funded for many years. Today, Victoria's Secret is trying to rebuild its reputation—and maintain the still-significant grip it has on the consumer. **SELLING SEXY** expertly draws from sources within the company and across the fashion industry to examine: What happens now to a brand with such a heavy history?

**Lauren Sherman** has been reporting inside the fashion industry for more than 15 years. Now a special correspondent for new media venture Puck, she spent nearly a decade leading coverage for *The Business of Fashion*, and before that, was a staff reporter at *Forbes*. Along the way, she has contributed to various publications, from the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times* to *Fast Company*, *Women's Health*, and *The Gentlewoman*.

**Chantal Fernandez** is a writer covering fashion, retail, luxury, and beauty with a focus on business and culture. She is currently a features writer for *The Cut*. A former senior reporter at the *Business of Fashion*, her work has appeared in the *Financial Times*, the *New York Times*, *Elle*, and *Harper's Bazaar*.

**Named one of Amazon's Best Business and Leadership Books of 2024**  
**Named one of the best fashion books of 2024 by *Fashionista* and *British Vogue***

"[A] lively chronicle of the global retail empire built on sweet-nothing bits of lace and rayon . . . in chatty but precise prose, Sherman and Fernandez unfurl the kind of forensic, thoroughly sourced narrative more often found in the business pages of a newspaper, albeit one that makes clear the ongoing role that sexism, racism and sizeism played in the company's undoing."—*The New York Times*

"Veteran fashion journalists Lauren Sherman and Chantal Fernandez go beyond the salacious headlines . . . Victoria's Secret is a vehicle for understanding the retail landscape in 2024, and a fable for what happens when greed skews the moral compass."—*British Vogue*, "Best Fashion Books" 2024

Rights sold: **Chinese (simplified)**/Tao Zhi Yao Yao Culture, **Turkish**/The Kitap, **Ukrainian**/Knigolove, **Vietnamese**/Times Business Vietnam

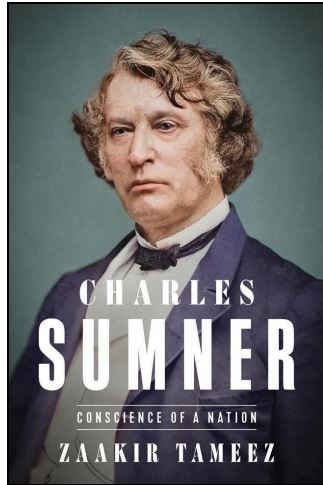


Henry Holt Nonfiction

Zaakir Tameez  
**CHARLES SUMNER**  
**Conscience of a Nation**

**Publication:** June 2025  
**Editor:** Tim Duggan

**Manuscript available**



A landmark biography of Charles Sumner, the unsung hero of the American Civil War and Reconstruction.

Known mainly as the abolitionist senator brutally caned within an inch of his life by slaveholder Preston Brooks on the Senate floor in 1856, Charles Sumner also played a pivotal role in advancing democracy and shaping the Constitution during Reconstruction, America's "Second Founding." During the Civil War, Sumner convinced Lincoln to emancipate the South's slaves; stopped England from joining the conflict; and created the Freedmen's Bureau. After the war, Sumner transformed America by authoring the Fourteenth Amendment and thereby embedding his slogan—"equality before the law"—into the Constitution. Sumner was a martyr-like senator who put principles above politics at every turn.

In **CHARLES SUMNER**, Zaakir Tameez shows how this overlooked luminary is one of the most significant figures in the history of civil rights, as well as a visionary progenitor of modern progressive politics. He focuses on Sumner's passionate struggle to end slavery, promote civil rights, and redeem the Constitution, and considers how his emphasis on the Constitution as a vehicle for the promotion of human rights—rather than simply the protection of individual liberty—was a radical interpretation that anticipated much contemporary progressive jurisprudence. The book also looks at Sumner's social milieu, which included an extraordinary range of prominent thinkers and writers, from Ralph Waldo Emerson to Henry Longfellow to Frederick Douglass. Finally, it is the first biography to identify Sumner as a gay man who struggled with his sexuality, and as a committed white ally who had deep relationships with Black community leaders.

Eminently readable and meticulously researched, **CHARLES SUMNER** promises to be a groundbreaking intervention in the field of constitutional law and an authoritative biography of this major American figure.

**Zaakir Tameez** is an emerging scholar of antitrust and constitutional law. A graduate of Yale Law School, he was an editor on the Yale Law Journal and has published multiple law review articles. He also holds degrees from the University of Virginia, where he was a Lawn Resident and Posse Scholar, and Queen Mary University of London, where he studied on a Fulbright Scholarship. In 2025, he will be clerking for Judge Jill Pryor of the 11th Circuit. He is from Houston, Texas.

"With this insightful and original work, Zaakir Tameez gives us a Charles Sumner for our time and for all time, an inspiring fighter for racial justice and a brilliant constitutional theorist. This is a book worthy of its towering subject."—**Jonathan Eig, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *King: A Life***

"In this welcome new biography, Zaakir Tameez offers unique insight into Charles Sumner as a pathbreaking constitutional theorist as well as a committed advocate for racial justice and equality under the law. At the same time, Tameez paints a vivid and affecting portrait of a lonely and often tormented man. The book is an all-too-timely reminder of the origins of the freedoms we now have the responsibility to preserve and defend." —**Drew Gilpin Faust, former president of Harvard University, author of *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War***

Henry Holt Nonfiction

Anthony Vinci

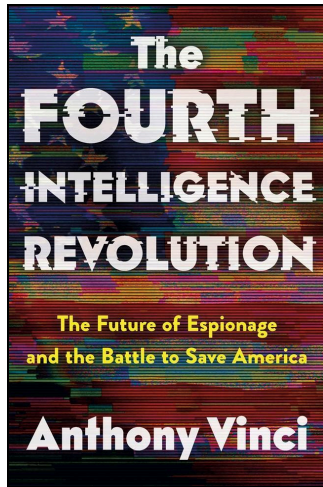
## THE FOURTH INTELLIGENCE REVOLUTION

The Future of Espionage and the Battle to Save America

Publication: October 2025

Editor: Tim Duggan

Manuscript available



A former senior intelligence officer reveals how our espionage practices are being transformed by a new global intelligence conflict. Adversaries like China, Iran, and Russia have realized that everyday people are targets because we work at companies that supply our industrial base or vote for our leaders. As a result, they target all of us—stealing our financial data and medical records, eavesdropping on our conversations, and using platforms like TikTok and Hollywood movies to influence our opinions and votes.

This eye-opening account exposes how intelligence now permeates every corner of society, from economic espionage and biological intelligence to information operations targeting children through online education—even extending to reconnaissance on the far side of the moon. At the same time, it reveals how AI and autonomous technologies are revolutionizing the field, driving us toward a future where most intelligence will be created by machines, for machines.

**THE FOURTH INTELLIGENCE REVOLUTION** serves as both a warning and a call to action, highlighting the dangers of these emerging threats and the risks of mismanaging this revolution. Yet it also offers hope, demonstrating how we can seize this pivotal moment to reinvent espionage in a way that is more ethical, transparent and democratized. In its boldest argument, the book suggests that we are all, in essence, becoming intelligence officers and that citizens have both the power and responsibility to reclaim intelligence missions to safeguard and strengthen our democracy.

**Dr. Anthony Vinci** served as the first Chief Technology Officer and Associate Director for Capabilities at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). Earlier in his career he served in Iraq, Africa and Asia. After leaving the world of intelligence, Anthony became an executive at a private equity firm and CEO of a technology company, where he continues his mission to defend America. Dr. Vinci is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and received his PhD in International Relations from The London School of Economics.

“From spy satellites to social media, technology is transforming spycraft—and empowering our adversaries.

*The Fourth Intelligence Revolution* shows that America's intelligence agencies risk falling behind this wave of technological change. With a career spanning tech companies and the intelligence community, Anthony Vinci knows the peril we face as adversaries use AI to sift and analyze enormous quantities of our data. Our only hope is to be faster and smarter. *The Fourth Intelligence Revolution* explains how we can compete.”

—Chris Miller, author of *Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology*

“In this compelling book, Anthony Vinci explains the evolution of intelligence as a pillar of U.S. national security, describes an increasingly dangerous future, and identifies what we all must do to protect our nation and our way of life. *The Fourth Intelligence Revolution* should be read, discussed, and, most importantly, heeded.”

—H.R. McMaster, author of *Dereliction of Duty*, *Battlefields*, and *At War with Ourselves*

Henry Holt Fiction

**Henry Holt Fiction**



**HOLT**

Henry Holt Fiction

Amin Ahmad  
**A KILLER IN THE FAMILY**  
A Novel

**Publication:** April 2026

**Manuscript available**

**Editor:** Retha Powers

**A KILLER IN THE FAMILY** by Amin Ahmad is a bold and riveting showstopper of a novel, perfect for book club readers who love a smart thriller and family drama. Think: the high-octane power dynamics of HBO's *Succession*, combined with the character rivalries of *Crazy Rich Asians*—and a dash of the menace of *Dexter*.

When Ali Azeem, a naïve Muslim bachelor from Mumbai, agrees to a traditional arranged marriage with pretty, staid Maryam Khan, he thinks he has hit the jackpot: Maryam is the daughter of Abbas Khan, a self-made real-estate tycoon and one of the richest men in New York City. But shortly after Ali moves to America—where he's being groomed to take over the Khan's real-estate empire—he receives a warning from Maryam's older sister, Farhan, a mercurial divorcee who casts a seductive spell over Ali: Farhan claims Abbas Khan is an amoral monster, and a dark secret lies at the heart of his accomplishments.

But can Farhan be trusted? She is the black sheep of the family, and according to Maryam, an unstable liar. Unsure which sister to believe, Ali launches his own amateur investigation into the Khans and quickly discovers a disconcerting connection between the family and the Jackson Heights Serial Killer—who may still be out there.

Before Ali commits to taking over Abbas's role in the family business, he struggles to determine who the Khans really are: The embodiment of the American dream—or a bona fide nightmare? As allegiances shift and facades crumble, Ali is forced to question everything he believes about family and loyalty—and when the truth is finally revealed, Ali must ask himself if he can pay the dark price of success.

Exploring themes of immigrant success, family secrets, and the power of the one percent, **A KILLER IN THE FAMILY** is a riveting and smart page-turner that will keep you wondering “just who *is* the killer in the family?” right up to its stunning conclusion.

**Amin Ahmad** was raised in India, educated at Vassar College and MIT, and worked as an architect for many years. Today, he lives in Durham, NC with his wife and daughter and teaches creative writing at Duke University. Early in his writing career, Amin published two noir genre novels under the pen name “AX Ahmad” (Minotaur/HarperCollins India 2013, 2014), *The Caretaker* and *The Last Taxi Ride*. *The Last Taxi Ride* was named one of NPR's “Best books of 2015,” chosen for *Entertainment Weekly*'s “Summer Thrills and Chills,” and favorably reviewed on *Fresh Air*. He is also the winner of the 2020 G S Chandra Prize for fiction.

Rights sold: **British**/Hutchinson Heinemann

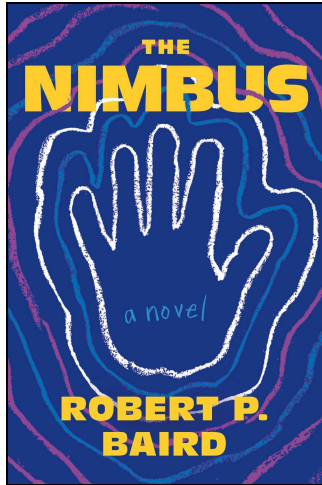
Henry Holt Fiction

Robert P. Baird  
**THE NIMBUS**  
A Novel

**Publication:** June 2025

**Editor:** Tim Duggan

**Manuscript available**



An exhilarating debut novel about a child whose literal enlightenment sets the stage for an exuberant tragicomedy of marriage, religion, and parenthood.

On an otherwise ordinary fall day on a university campus in Chicago, the toddler son of an ambitious divinity school professor named Adrian Bennett mysteriously starts to glow. The nimbus, as the strange, soft light comes to be known, offers no clues to its origin and frustrates every attempt at rational explanation.

Though the nimbus appears only intermittently, and not to everyone, the otherworldly glow quickly upends the lives of all those who encounter it, including Paul Harkin, Adrian's broke and feckless graduate student, who likes being a graduate student a little too much for his own good; Renata Bennett, Adrian's omniscient wife, who can't see her son glowing even though the nimbus is turning her life upside down; and Warren Kayita, a down-on-his-luck

librarian and aging div school alumnus on the run from a violent criminal.

At once a rollicking intellectual satire, a searing portrait of a family in crisis, and a thrilling metaphysical page-turner, **THE NIMBUS** offers a comic and profound examination of the persistence of spiritual belief in a secular age and humanity's timeless search for meaning.

**Robert P. Baird** holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and has worked as an editor at the *New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, the *Paris Review*, *Esquire*, and *Chicago Review*. He has written for all those publications, as well as for the *New York Times*, the *London Review of Books*, the *Guardian*, and *Poetry*, among others.

"Baird is brilliant, and so is his remarkable novel about faith, family, and the life of the mind. Read this wonderful book. You'll be glad to own it."

—Annie Dillard, author of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

"Robert P. Baird has written a novel of remarkable breadth, one that ponders both the big mysteries (God, miracles) and the small ones (petty graduate school advisers). *The Nimbus* is a revelation, a book that explores our deep longing for something extraordinary in an otherwise ordinary world."

—Nathan Hill, author of *Wellness*

"I think that there are miracles in the world, but realistic novels don't usually tackle them. Baird's intelligence, compassion, and humor illuminate this astonishingly original debut, which somehow manages to ask hard questions about how to live while also being enormously fun to read."

—Nell Freudenberger, author of *The Limits*

"A big-hearted novel about the biggest questions—marriage, religion, parenthood, meaning. *The Nimbus* is comic and profound, a novel that practically glows. Robert P. Baird is a huge talent."

—Elliot Ackerman, author of *Waiting for Eden*

Henry Holt Fiction

Sarah Bruni  
**MASS MOTHERING**  
A Novel

**Publication:** February 2026  
**Editor:** Riva Hocherman

**Manuscript available**

**MASS MOTHERING** follows an amateur translator in an unnamed city as she encounters the stories of a community of mothers who gather to publicly mourn their disappeared sons. Haunting and humane, it illuminates the mutuality of grief, the ambiguity of violence in a globalized world, and the radical, life-affirming virtue of testimony.

A. is an amateur translator living alone in an unforgiving, late-capitalist metropolis. Adrift and hounded by debt after a rare diagnosis results in a sudden hysterectomy, she spends her days caring for a young boy who is not, and could never be, her own. In the evenings, to forget herself as much as to more fully occupy her newly failing body, she goes dancing at a regular rotation of bars that offer live music for cheap covers. Most nights on the dancefloor, she encounters N., an immigrant who shares both her haunted state and, sometimes, her bed.

Among N.'s meager possessions, A. discovers a small book about a city of missing boys. Unfinished at the time of its author's death and titled simply, *Field Notes*, the book records the testimonies of a community of mothers who gather to publicly mourn their disappeared sons. A. becomes transfixed by the collective chorus of the mothers' primal grief, preternatural strength, and intuitive care for one another. When a near-assault stuns A. out of her circumscribed existence, she travels to the conflict-ridden, faraway city where *Field Notes* was written in search of answers. The further A. looks for its author, the more she discovers traces of a murdered female poet whose mysterious legacy may lead to deeper truths.

Sarah Bruni writes with the ethical and philosophical intelligence of Katie Kitamura, the mesmerizing imagination of Mohsin Hamid, and the spare electricity of Jenny Offill, as she deftly constructs a layered story of astonishing formal invention and indelible poignancy. **MASS MOTHERING** captivates with questions of cause and complicity, only to then subvert those expectations and reveal what matters most in the end: the awesome, world-bending force of a mother's love.

**Sarah Bruni** is a writer, educator, editor, and translator. She holds an MFA in Fiction Writing from Washington University in St. Louis and an MA in Latin American Studies from Tulane University. She is the author of the novel *The Night Gwen Stacy Died*, which was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2013 and described as "witty, observant and hypnotic" by the *New York Times* and "superbly suspenseful" by *Kirkus* in a starred review, with *Bookforum* saying, "Bruni's book superbly explores the part fiction plays in our search for identity." She is the recipient of two Tinker Foundation Field Research Grants to perform research in Uruguay (2015) and Colombia (2016) respectively. An early excerpt from **MASS MOTHERING** was published in the *Boston Review* as part of its Global Dystopias issue, and Bruni's translations have appeared in the *Buenos Aires Review*.

**Praise for *The Night Gwen Stacy Died*:**

"Sweetly eccentric."  
—*New York Times Book Review*

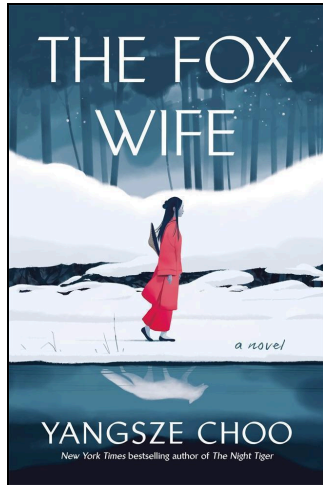
"Superbly suspenseful first novel . . . Bruni writes dark passages and playful moments with equal aplomb.  
The world is her oyster."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Henry Holt Fiction

Yangsze Choo  
**THE FOX WIFE**  
A Novel

**Publication:** February 2024  
**Editor:** Emily Griffin

**Finished books available**



Manchuria, 1908. In the last years of the dying Qing Empire, a courtesan is found frozen in a doorway. Her death is clouded by rumors of foxes, believed to lure people by transforming themselves into beautiful women and handsome men. Bao, a detective with an uncanny ability to sniff out the truth, is hired to uncover the dead woman's identity.

Meanwhile, the family of a Chinese medicine shop can cure ailments, but not the curse that afflicts them. When a disruptively winsome servant named Snow enters their household, the family's luck seems to change. Or does it? Snow is a creature of many secrets, but most of all, she's a mother seeking vengeance for her lost child. The trail will take her from northern China to Japan, even as Bao follows doggedly behind. Navigating the myths and misconceptions of fox spirits, both Snow and Bao will touch on old friends and new foes, even as more deaths occur.

*New York Times* bestselling author Yangsze Choo brilliantly explores a world of mortals and spirits, humans and beasts, and their dazzling intersection. Epic in scope and full of singular, unforgettable characters, **THE FOX WIFE** is a stunning novel about old loves and second chances, the depth of maternal love, and ancient folktales that may very well be true.

**Yangsze Choo** is a Malaysian author of Chinese descent. After graduating from Harvard, she worked at various corporate jobs before writing her *New York Times* bestselling debut novel, *The Ghost Bride*, now a Netflix Original series. Her second novel, *The Night Tiger*, was a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick and a Big Jubilee Read selection for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

**Named Best Book of February, *Time***  
**February 2024 pick, Indie Next List and LibraryReads**  
**A Most Anticipated Book of 2024, *Lit Hub* and *BookPage***

"Witty and suspenseful." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"[*The Fox Wife*] will appeal to fans of diverse, imaginative literary fiction, historical mysteries like Nilima Rao's *A Disappearance in Fiji* (2023), and fantasy like Marlon James' *Dark Star* trilogy." —***Booklist*, starred review**

"Choo's writing is lush and the slow revelation of complicated relationships and reunions hum with tension. This is a treat." —***Publishers Weekly***

**British/Bent Agency**

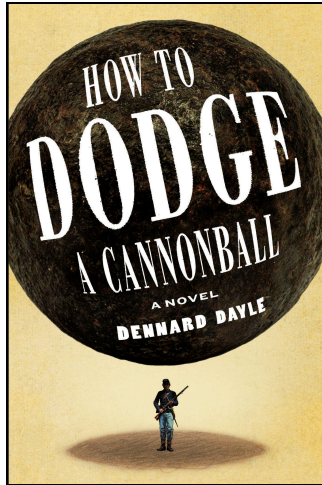
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**Spanish**/Urano/Plata, **Turkish**/Serenad, **Ukrainian**/Nebo Booklab



Dennard Dayle  
**HOW TO DODGE A CANNONBALL**  
A Novel

**Publication:** June 2025  
**Editor:** Retha Powers

**Manuscript available**



A cutting, revealing caricature of the American Civil War, told through the eyes of a white teenager who joins an all-Black regiment of soldiers, for fans of Colson Whitehead and James McBride.

Razor-sharp and hilarious, **HOW TO DODGE A CANNONBALL** tells the story of Anders, a white teenager who volunteers to be a Union Army flag-twirler to escape his abusive mother. In desperate acts of self-preservation, he defects—twice—before joining a Black regiment at Gettysburg, claiming to be an octoroon. In his new and entirely incredulous unit, Anders becomes entangled with questionable military men and an arms dealer working for both sides. But more importantly he bonds with the other soldiers, finding friendship and a family he desperately needs. After deploying to New York City to suppress the draft riots and to Nevada to suppress Native Americans, Anders begins to see the war through the eyes of his newfound brothers.

Dayle's satire spares no one, whether he's writing about Anders's naivete and unexpected love interest, the quirks of Confederate and Union soldiers, those out to make a quick buck off the tragedy of war, or the theater of war itself (literal theater, as the novel includes a one-act play the troop obsesses over while they wait for action).

Uproariously funny and revelatory, **HOW TO DODGE A CANNONBALL** is an inimitable take on which America is worth fighting for.

**Dennard Dayle** is a Jamaican American author who lives in Brooklyn, New York. He is a graduate of Princeton University and received his MFA from Columbia University. His short fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Clarkesworld*, *Matchbook*, the *Hard Times*, and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*. His first book was the short story collection *Everything Abridged*. Before taking up fiction and mischief as a full-time job, he was an advertising copywriter who dangerously flirted with stand-up comedy. He teaches as an adjunct at Columbia and recently made the rash decision to take up skateboarding.

**A Lit Hub Most Anticipated Book of 2025**

"Dennard Dayle's second book certifies his talent. I can't think of a wittier, more hilarious or more relevant young writer. *How to Dodge a Cannonball* is the great Civil War novel I didn't know I needed, but now it is never leaving my shelf."—**Gary Shteyngart**, author of *Our Country Friends* and *Super Sad True Love Story*

"This is the Civil War send-up the American canon has been waiting for, and which today's America, still unsure which version of itself it wants to become, so sorely needs. Dayle is one of our sharpest, funniest, and most unrelenting writers."—**Jessi Jezewska Stevens**, author of *The Exhibition of Persephone Q*

"A sharp and chaotic skewering of everything America believes about itself, told from the point of view of a young man bumbling his way through the horrors of the Civil War. Full of absurdity and humanity in equal measure, Dayle treats warfare with all the reverence and respect it deserves, which is none."—**Jason Pargin**, author of *If This Book Exists, You're in the Wrong Universe* and *This Book is Full of Spiders*

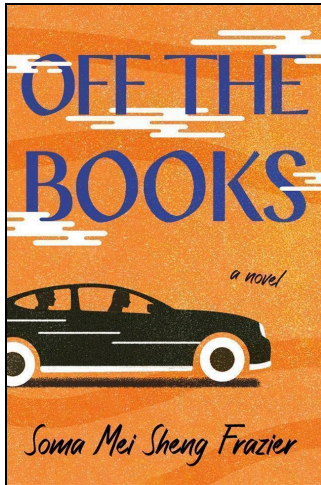


Henry Holt Fiction

Soma Mei Sheng Frazier  
**OFF THE BOOKS**  
A Novel

Publication: July 2024  
Editor: Micaela Carr

Finished books available



A captivating debut following a cross-country road trip that will make you believe in the goodness of people, **OFF THE BOOKS** sheds light on the power in humanity during the most troubled of times.

Recent Dartmouth dropout Mei, in search of a new direction in life, drives a limo to make ends meet. Her grandfather convinces her to allow her customers to pay under the table, and before she knows it, she is working as a routine chauffeur for sex workers. Mei does her best to mind her own business, but her knack for discretion soon leads her on a life changing trip from San Francisco to Syracuse with a new client.

Handsome and reserved, Henry piques Mei's interest. Toting an enormous black suitcase with him everywhere he goes, he's more concerned with taking frequent breaks than making good time on the road. When Mei discovers Henry's secret, she does away with her usual close-lipped demeanor and decides she has no choice but to confront him. What Henry reveals rocks her to her core and shifts this once casual, transactional road trip to one of moral stakes and dangerous consequences.

An original take on the great American road trip, **OFF THE BOOKS** is a beautifully crafted coming of age story that showcases the resilience of the human spirit and the power of doing the right thing. The spirit of Frazier's characters will stay with readers long after they have arrived at their destination.

**Soma Mei Sheng Frazier's** work has earned nods and awards from numerous authors and entities. Her stories have been published in *Glimmer Train*, *ZYZZYVA*, the *Mississippi Review*, and *Hyphen*, amongst others. She relocated from California, where she was a San Francisco Library Laureate, to New York, for a professorship in creative writing and digital storytelling at SUNY Oswego. Soma has taught at the University of Silicon Valley, the Sarah Lawrence College Summer High School Writers Program, the University of San Francisco, Oakland School for the Arts, Holy Names University, Gavilan College, and Valhalla Women's Correctional Facility—and she worked at KQED, a premier national public media source in the Bay Area.

"Frazier captures the relatable toggle between the private and the collective, between sinking into the anxieties of your life and grieving for the cruelties of the world."—*The New York Times*

"Frazier's economical debut is many things at once: a tale of high stakes on the open road, a bighearted portrait of a frayed family, a slightly off-color comedy and an indictment of repressive political regimes . . .

Frazier crafts nimble, powerful scenes in which her characters learn how the Chinese government — with help from American investors — uses internet surveillance to persecute Uyghurs, hundreds of thousands of whom have been imprisoned because of their beliefs."—*The San Francisco Chronicle*

**Forthcoming in 2027, EAT BITTER, ANASTASIA:**

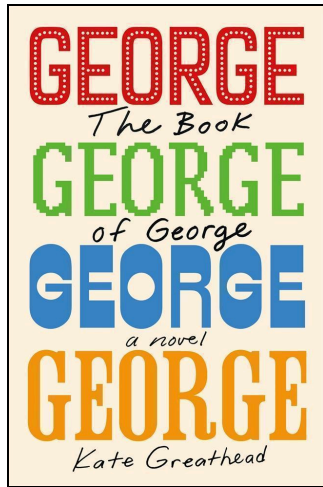
**A would-be photographer and museum curator inherits her grandfather's Victorian home in Oakland's Chinatown, along with all of its needed repairs, and will have to decide if she is going to "eat bitter" and take care of her grandfather's legacy, or leave it all behind for grad school**

Henry Holt Fiction

Kate Greathead  
**THE BOOK OF GEORGE**  
A Novel

**Publication:** October 2024  
**Editor:** Serena Jones

**Finished books available**



A razor-sharp but big-hearted excavation of millennial masculinity.

If you haven't had the misfortune of dating a George, you know someone who has. He's a young man brimming with potential but incapable of following through; noncommittal to his long-suffering girlfriend, Jenny; distant from but still reliant on his mother; funny one minute, sullenly brooding the next. Here, Kate Greathead paints one particular, unforgettable George in a series of droll and surprisingly poignant snapshots of his life over two decades.

And yet, it's hard not to root for George at least a little. Beneath his cynicism is a reservoir of fondness for Jenny's valiant willingness to put up with him. Each demonstration of his flaws is paired with a self-eviscerating comment. No one is more disappointed in him than himself (except maybe Jenny and his mother). As hilarious as it is astute and singular as it is universal, **THE BOOK OF GEORGE** is a deft, unexpectedly moving portrait of one man—but also countless others.

**Kate Greathead** is the author of *Laura & Emma*. Her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and on NPR's *Moth Radio Hour*. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, the writer Teddy Wayne, and their children.

**Named a Notable Fiction Book of 2024 by *The Washington Post***

"Delicious. . . Greathead attains a perfect balance among irritation, pathos and comedy. . . *The Book of George* captures the curdled resentment of a generation of young men unwilling or unable to adjust to a long-overdue redistribution of power and opportunity."

—Ron Charles, *The Washington Post*

"The protagonist of this comic novel is George, a millennial with vague writerly aspirations, who sustains his aimless lifestyle by drawing on family connections and his girlfriend's trust fund. . . . The women in George's life, who bear the brunt of his self-absorption, confront him with his egotism in occasional moments of clarity—but whether they can cure him, this wry story suggests, is less clear."

—*The New Yorker*

"Greathead has quietly delivered a scathing indictment of millennials in a novel that risks becoming one of those that defines a generation."

—Ian McAllen, *Chicago Review of Books*

"[A] deadpan, hilarious new novel . . . Greathead's skewering of this 'specific kind of male arrogance' is deeply satisfying, but her finely layered portrait is not without pity—it's strangely, unexpectedly humanizing."

—*Oprah Daily*

Rights sold: **British**/Atlantic Books

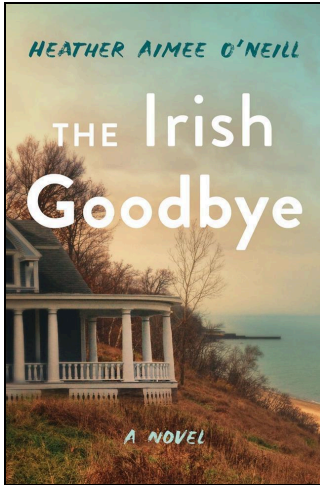
Henry Holt Fiction

Heather Aimee O'Neill  
**THE IRISH GOODBYE**  
A Novel

**Publication:** October 2025

**Editor:** Serena Jones

**Manuscript available**



In this debut, for fans of J. Courtney Sullivan and Mary Beth Keane, three adult sisters grapple with a shared tragedy over a Thanksgiving weekend spent in their childhood home, navigating complex relationships and old tensions.

It's been years since the three Ryan sisters were all home together at their family's beloved house on the eastern shore of Long Island. Two decades ago, their lives were upended by an accident on their brother Topher's boat: a friend's brother was killed, the lawsuit nearly bankrupted their parents, and Topher spiraled into a depression, eventually taking his life. Now the Ryan women are back for Thanksgiving, eager to reconnect, but each carrying a heavy secret. The eldest, Cait, still holding guilt for the role no one knows she played in the boat accident, rekindles a flame with her high school crush, Topher's best friend and the brother of the boy who died. Middle sister Alice has been thrown a curveball threatening the career she's restarting and faces a difficult decision that may doom her marriage. And the youngest, Maggie, is finally taking the risk to bring the woman she loves home to her devoutly Catholic mother. Infusing everything is the grief for Topher that none of the Ryans have figured out how to carry together.

When Cait invites a guest to Thanksgiving dinner, old tensions boil over and new truths surface, nearly overpowering the flickering light of their family bond. Far more than a family holiday will be ruined unless the sisters can find a way to forgive themselves—and one another.

**Heather Aimee O'Neill** is the Assistant Director of the Sackett Street Writers' Workshop and the author of the poetry collection *Obliterations* (co-authored with Jessica Piazza) and the poetry chapbook *Memory Future*, which won the USC Gold Line Press Award. As a writing teacher and independent developmental editor, she has helped hundreds of writers tell their stories. She lives in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, with her wife and two sons.

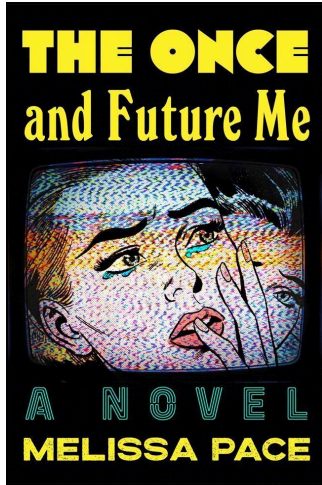
Rights sold: **British**/Mantle/Pan Macmillan

Melissa Pace  
**THE ONCE AND FUTURE ME**  
A Novel

**Publication:** August 2025

**Editor:** Micaela Carr

**Manuscript available**



*Dark Matter* meets *Girl, Interrupted* with a feminist twist in this gripping psychological thriller about a young woman teetering on the edge of reality, perfect for fans of dystopian fiction, time travel, and shows like *Black Mirror* and *Russian Doll*.

Virginia, 1954. When a woman wakes up on a transport bus to Hanover State Psychiatric Hospital, she remembers nothing of her life up to that moment. Doctors tell her she's Dorothy Frasier, a paranoid schizophrenic committed by the state for her violent delusions. She refuses to believe them, but despite her uncanny fighting skills and ability to pick locks and find impossible escape routes, she has no idea who she actually is and no knowledge of any of the dark things she may have seen and done.

Visions begin invading her reality, transporting her to a dystopian future where she is told of her mission, which could help save humanity. She

decides not to tell her doctors about the hallucinations or her doubts of her own sanity—until she has a visitor. A man whose concerned, loving face she recognizes; a man her doctors call her husband, Paul.

Now she is sure of nothing, but she needs answers—about the future, about Paul, and, most importantly, about herself. To find those answers, she will have to face the darkness inside her as she risks everything in a cat-and-mouse quest for the truth.

**Melissa Pace**, a Wesleyan University graduate, is a former editor and writer for *Elle Magazine*, and a past finalist in the Humanitas New Voices fellowship for emerging television and screenwriters. She is a middling soccer player, an erstwhile oil painter but a mother to three incredible grown children. Pace lives in Los Angeles with her husband. *The Once and Future Me* is her first novel.

“A thrilling, genre-bending, and addictive read! *The Once and Future Me* is a page turner with a fascinating cast of characters and a feminist twist. I couldn't put it down!”

—**Amy Tintera**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Listen for the Lie*

“A truly spectacular psychological thriller about memory and identity that will absolutely blow your mind. With twists, turns and a premise to die for —stop what you're doing now and read this book!”

—**Matthew Blake**, international bestselling author of *Anna O*

## Metropolitan Books



Metropolitan Books

Breaking the Silence  
**THE WARS BEFORE THE WAR**  
**Israel's Military Campaigns in Gaza, 2008–2021**

**Publication:** September 2026  
**Editor:** Riva Hocherman

**Proposal available**

An Israeli veterans whistleblower organization reveals the IDF's radical rewriting of the rules of warfare in Gaza and the years-long evolution of its strategy and practices in this startling, unsparing exposé.

In December 2008, when Israeli forces launched Operation Cast Lead, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip thought they knew what to expect. But it was unlike any incursion that had come before: the scale of forces deployed, the extent of fire power, and the resulting death and destruction were unprecedented. It was the start of a new era in Israel's approach to Gaza, one in which incursions would be conducted as all-out wars, involving artillery fire and ground missiles, tanks and armored vehicles, infantry, navy, air force, and high-end intelligence. Yet this form of conventional, symmetrical warfare was used against a small, densely populated area, with no proper military of its own, that was largely controlled by Israel itself.

How did Israel arrive at this radical shift in strategy? And how has it shaped the war now being fought in Gaza? *Breaking the Silence*, a group of Israeli veterans dedicated to exposing the truth of their country's actions, traces the evolution of this strategy over the years, in which the Gaza Strip is treated as an independent hostile state with an enemy army and a conventional battlefield free of civilians. It probes Israel's purpose in projecting a fiction of symmetrical war, and how this ultimately served its goal of maintaining control over Palestinians and fragmenting their territory. Unveiling this fiction is at the heart of this book: what it involves, how it has been sustained, and, crucially, how it has allowed Israel to ignore the reality of unfathomable human loss.

Drawing on soldiers' testimonies, Palestinian accounts, and IDF publications, **THE WARS BEFORE THE WAR** offers an unprecedented high-resolution view of how and why Israel has wreaked havoc on Gaza. Gripping and revelatory, it is essential reading for all those concerned with human rights, global politics, and the future of Israel and Palestine, at once a landmark investigation and a shocking chronicle of a catastrophe foretold.

**Breaking the Silence** is an organization of veteran soldiers who have served in the Israeli military and are committed to exposing the reality of life in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Its mission is to portray a picture "in which the deterioration of moral standards finds expression in the character of the military orders and rules of engagement that the state considers justified in the name of Israel's security." Previous books from the group include *Our Harsh Logic* and *The Kingdom of Olives and Ash*.

**Praise for *Our Harsh Logic*:**

"One of the most important books on Israel/Palestine in this generation."  
—*The New York Review of Books*

Rights Sold: **British**/Ithaca Press

Previous licenses, *Our Harsh Logic*: **Dutch**/Singel Uitgeverijen, **French**/Editions Autrement,  
**German**/Ullstein, **Italian**/Donzelli Editore, **Spanish**/Ediciones de Intervencion Cultural,  
**Swedish**/Leopard Förlag



Metropolitan Books

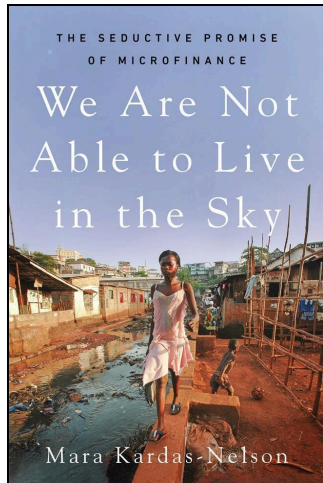
Mara Kardas-Nelson

## **WE ARE NOT ABLE TO LIVE IN THE SKY** **The Seductive Promise of Microfinance**

**Publication:** June 2024

**Editor:** Serena Jones

**Finished books available**



A deeply reported work of journalism that explores the promises and perils of microfinance, told through the eyes of those who work in small-scale lending and women borrowers in West Africa.

In the mid-1970s, Muhammad Yunus, an American-trained Bangladeshi economist, met a poor female stool maker who needed money to expand her business. In an act known as the beginning of microfinance, Yunus lent \$27 to 42 women, hoping small credit would help them to pull themselves out of poverty. Soon, Yunus's Grameen Bank was born, and very small, often high-interest loans for poor people took off. In 2006, Yunus and the Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize "for...creat[ing] economic and social development from below."

But there's a problem with this story. There are mounting concerns that these small loans are as likely to bury poor people in debt as they are to pull them from poverty, with borrowers from India to Kenya facing consequences such as jail time and forced land sales. Hundreds have even reportedly committed suicide. What happened? Did microfinance take a wrong turn, or was microfinance flawed from the beginning?

**WE ARE NOT ABLE TO LIVE IN THE SKY** is a story about unintended consequences, blind optimism, and the decades-long ramifications of seemingly small policy choices, rooted in the stories of women borrowers in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Their narratives are set against the rise of Yunus's vision explored through a deep history of modern international development. Kardas-Nelson asks: What is missed with a single, financially-focused solution to global inequity that ignores the real drivers of poverty? Who stands to benefit and, more important, who gets left behind?

**Mara Kardas-Nelson** is an independent journalist focusing on international development and inequality. Her award-winning work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Nation*, NPR, the *Guardian* and elsewhere. Mara has also spent years working in global health. Originally from the U.S., she has also lived in Canada, South Africa and Sierra Leone. Her time in different parts of the world informs the questions she asks, and how she frames her stories.

**\*Shortlisted for the Columbia University 2025 J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize\***

"[R]evealing . . . vivid . . . a deeply reported history of how the microfinance industry was created and where it went wrong...remarkable."—*The New York Times*

"This powerful chronicle traces the global rise and possible fall of microlending . . . We would all do well to heed [Kardas'] reminder." —*Wall Street Journal*

"A keen examination of the rise and fall in popularity of the microfinance loan system . . . [E]ducative and heartbreaking."—*Kirkus Reviews*

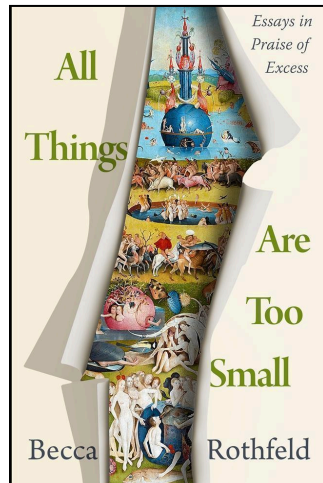
Rights sold: **British**/Scribe Publications

Metropolitan Books

Becca Rothfeld  
**ALL THINGS ARE TOO SMALL**  
Essays in Praise of Excess

**Publication:** April 2024  
**Editor:** Riva Hocherman

**Finished books available**



In **ALL THINGS ARE TOO SMALL** “brilliant and stylish” (*Washington Post*) critic Becca Rothfeld takes on one of the most sacred cows of our time: the demand that we apply the virtues of equality and democracy to culture and aesthetics. The result is a culture that is flattened and sanitized, purged of ugliness, excess, and provocation. In a healthy culture, Rothfeld argues, economic security allows for wild aesthetic experimentation and excess; alas, in the contemporary Anglophone West, we’ve got it flipped. The gap between rich and poor yawns hideously wide, while we strive to compensate with egalitarianism in art, erotics, and taste, where it does not belong.

With uncompromising intellect, exuberance, and sly humor, Rothfeld insists that in culture, imbalance functions as a kind of catapult, transforming our stagnant beliefs and identities. For culture to change, she says, it must bulge and binge. Readers of Jia Tolentino and Rebecca Solnit will be enthralled by this provocative and delightfully contrarian debut.

**Becca Rothfeld** is the nonfiction book critic for the *Washington Post*, and editor at *The Point*, as well as a PhD candidate (on long hiatus) in philosophy at Harvard, an essayist, critic, editor, and philosopher. The recipient of the 2023 National Book Critics Circle Nona Balakian Prize for Criticism as well as the Robert B. Silvers Prize for Literary Criticism, she has written for the *New York Review of Books*, the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Bookforum*, *Art in America*, and the *Baffler*. She lives in Washington, DC.

**A Best Book of 2024, *The New Yorker***

“The critic Becca Rothfeld’s first collection is splendidly immodest in its neo-Romantic agenda—to tear down minimalism and puritanism in its many current varieties . . . Rothfeld’s rigor and eloquence suggest that in her case, as the title of one essay has it, ‘More Is More.’” —*The New York Times*

“Piquant . . . Rothfeld applies an incisive lens to everything from decluttering and fasting to mindfulness.”  
—*The New Yorker*

“Bracing and brilliant . . . The iconoclastic US author’s intellectually poised critique of minimalism boasts scintillating writing of breadth and power . . . Becca Rothfeld is a dynamo.”  
—*The Guardian*

“Shrewd . . . The arguments here are delivered with gusto and delight, and eagerly invite heat of disagreement.”  
—*The Wall Street Journal*

“Rothfeld, who works in the lineage of 20th-century philosophers such as Theodor Adorno, thinks about criticism as a means of imagining a better world. . . . [She] is both a seriously precise writer and a very funny one. *All Things Are Too Small* vibrates with good phrases and perspicacious analysis.”  
—*The Telegraph*

Rights sold: **British**/Virago, **Korean**/ETRE, **Polish**/Filtr



Metropolitan Books

Giovanni Russonello

**THE FIRST MINUTE OF A NEW DAY**  
**Gil Scott-Heron's Revolution**

**Publication:** April 2027  
**Editor:** Riva Hocherman

**Manuscript available July 2025**

The definitive biography that explores the transformative legacy of Gil Scott-Heron, musical genius, pioneering Black nationalist, and progenitor of rap.

If you've heard the phrase "The revolution will not be televised" then you've heard the words of Gil Scott-Heron, legendary jazz musician, poet, activist and author. Sometimes called "the Godfather of Rap" or even the "Black Bob Dylan," neither phrase gets at the true legacy of the brilliant, complicated, and infamous artist who touched everything from poetry to music to politics to literature.

**THE FIRST MINUTE OF A NEW DAY**, the first definitive biography of Scott-Heron, will do justice to the vast reach of his political, cultural, and musical influence. It will tell the turbulent story of his life in Washington, DC., in the 1970s, his crucial role in Black nationalism, and its meaning for Black power and society for decades to follow. Most of all, it will reveal the vast impact of his work, which lives on in every cultural medium imaginable.

Gil Scott-Heron is overdue for a restoration to his place in history and recognition for his acute relevance to our times. Giovanni Russonello is the only writer with the expertise to engage with the life of Gil Scott-Heron. With one foot deeply in the world of jazz, and the other even deeper in politics, he has the rare authority and ability to write what will be a classic, award-winning biography.

**Giovanni Russonello** is a writer, organizer and educator who is the only person to serve simultaneously as a music critic and political columnist for the *New York Times*. He currently covers jazz and experimental music for the *Times*, while also reaching more than a million subscribers each day as the lead writer of the "On Politics" newsletter. For the past 11 years he has been the president and co-founder of CapitalBop, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes, presents and preserves jazz in Washington, D.C., as a means of building community in a city riven by the impact of gentrification. He spent years as a talk-radio host on the local "jazz and justice" radio station, WPFW 89.3 FM. He teaches writing part-time at New York University's School of Professional Studies, and is a 2021 fellow in the Logan Nonfiction Program.

Rights sold: **British**/Faber & Faber

Metropolitan Books

Nathan Thrall

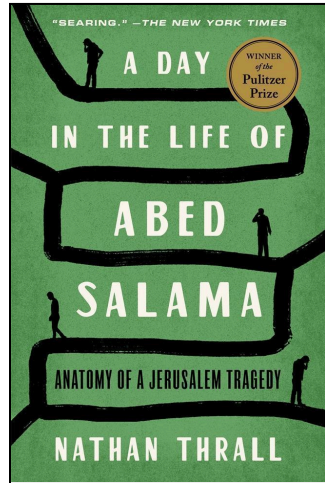
## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ABED SALAMA

### Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy

Publication: October 2023

Finished books available

Editor: Riva Hocherman



Immersive and gripping, an intimate story of a deadly accident outside Jerusalem unravels a tangle of lives, loves, enmities, and histories over the course of one revealing, heartbreaking day.

Five-year-old Milad Salama is excited for a school trip to a theme park on the outskirts of Jerusalem. On the way, his bus collides with a semi-trailer. His father, Abed, gets word of the crash and rushes to the site. The scene is chaos—the children have been taken to different hospitals in Jerusalem and the West Bank; some are missing, others cannot be identified. Abed sets off on an odyssey to learn Milad's fate. It is every parent's worst nightmare, but for Abed it is compounded by the maze of physical, emotional, and bureaucratic obstacles he must navigate because he is Palestinian. He is on the wrong side of the separation wall, holds the wrong ID to pass the military checkpoints, and has the wrong papers to enter the city of Jerusalem. Abed's quest to find Milad is interwoven with the stories of Jewish and Palestinian characters whose lives and histories unexpectedly converge. **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ABED**

**SALAMA** offers an indelibly human portrait of the struggle over Israel/Palestine and a new understanding of the tragic history and reality of one of the most contested places on earth.

**Nathan Thrall** is the author of *The Only Language They Understand: Forcing Compromise in Israel and Palestine*. His essays, reviews, and reported features have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Guardian*, the *London Review of Books* and the *New York Review of Books* and have been translated into more than a dozen languages. He spent a decade at the International Crisis Group, where he was director of the Arab-Israeli Project, and has taught at Bard College. Originally from California, he lives in Jerusalem.

**\*\*2024 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER FOR NONFICTION\*\***

**LONGLISTED FOR THE BAILLIE GIFFORD BOOK PRIZE**

**Named a Best Book of the Year by *The New Yorker*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *The New Republic*, and the *Financial Times***

“Thrall is one of the few writers who can combine vivid storytelling with in-depth analysis of the occupation . . . his expertise allows him to shuttle nimbly between the viewpoints of frantic families and Palestinian leaders as well as Israeli officials and nearby settlers.”

—*The New York Times*, named a Book Review Editors' Choice

“A powerful evocation of a two-tiered society that treats children as potential combatants.”

—*The New Yorker*

“Gut-wrenching.” —Imogen Dewey, *The Guardian*

Rights sold: **British**/Allen Lane, **Arabic**/Arab Scientific, **Bosnian**/Buybook, **Catalan**/Periscopi, **Chinese (simplified)**/Shanghai Naquan Cultural Diffusion, **Chinese (complex)**/Gusa, **Croatian**/Petrine, **Czech**/Maraton, **Dutch**/Cossee, **Estonian**/Kava Kirjastus, **French**/Gallimard, **German**/Pendragon, **Greek**/Doma, **Hebrew**/Schocken, **Indonesian**/KPG, **Italian**/Neri Pozza, **Japanese**/Chikuma Shobo, **Korean**/SoWooJoo, **Polish**/Znak, **Portuguese (excl. Brazil)**/Livros Ziguarte, **Portuguese (in Brazil)**/Zahar, **Romanian**/Litera, **Serbian**/LAGUNA, **Slovak**/Absynt, **Slovenian**/Gnostica, **Spanish**/Anagrama, **Turkish**/Ketebe, **Vietnamese**/Lightbooks

## Backlist Highlights

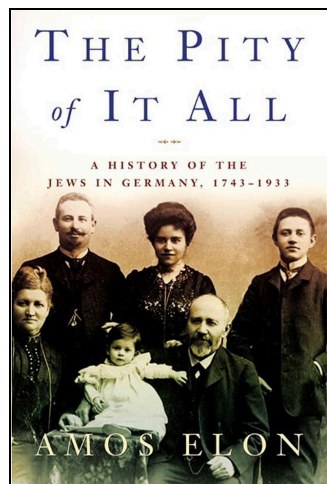


**HOLT**

Amos Elon  
**THE PITY OF IT ALL**  
**A History of the Jews in Germany, 1743-1933**

Publication: November 2002

Metropolitan Books Nonfiction



From an acclaimed historian and social critic, a passionate and poignant history of German Jews from the mid-eighteenth century to the eve of the Third Reich.

As it's usually told, the story of the German Jews starts at the end, with their tragic demise in Hitler's Third Reich. Now, in this important work of historical restoration, Amos Elon takes us back to the beginning, chronicling a period of achievement and integration that at its peak produced a golden age second only to the Renaissance.

Writing with a novelist's eye, Elon shows how a persecuted clan of cattle dealers and wandering peddlers was transformed into a stunningly successful community of writers, philosophers, scientists, tycoons, and activists. He peoples his account with dramatic figures: Moses Mendelssohn, who entered Berlin in 1743 through the gate reserved for Jews and cattle, and went on to become "the German Socrates"; Heinrich Heine, beloved lyric poet who famously referred to baptism as the admission ticket to European culture; Hannah Arendt, whose flight from Berlin signaled the end of the German-Jewish idyll. Elon traces how this minority—never more than one percent of the population—came to be perceived as a deadly threat to national integrity, and he movingly demonstrates that this devastating outcome was uncertain almost until the end.

A collective biography, full of depth and compassion, **THE PITY OF IT ALL** summons up a splendid world and a dream of integration and tolerance that, despite all, remains the essential ennobling project of modernity.

**Amos Elon** (1926–2009) was the author of eight widely praised books, including *Founder: A Portrait of the First Rothschild* and the *New York Times* bestseller *Israelis: Founders and Sons*. A frequent contributor to the *New York Times Magazine* and the *New York Review of Books*, he divided his time between Jerusalem and Tuscany.

"Brilliant, far-reaching, passionate . . . sweeping and marvelously detailed . . . finely, intimately, movingly drawn . . . A book for the ages."—*The New York Times*

"A work packed with beautifully sketched portraits, and constructed with a practiced eye for memorable, well-executed anecdotes."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"If there is one book Americans should read this winter, it is Amos Elon's *The Pity of It All*—a meticulous and wrenching history of a people in a place at a moment in time that bears urgently upon our own." —**Joan Didion**, author of *Political Fictions*

Active licenses: **British**/Penguin Press, **Chinese (simplified)**/Ginkgo

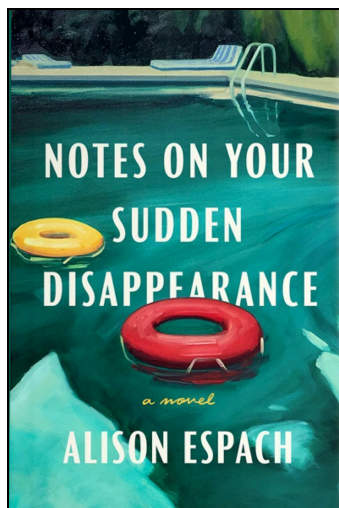
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Backlist Highlights

Alison Espach  
**NOTES ON YOUR SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE**  
A Novel

Publication: May 2022

Henry Holt & Company



**NOTES ON YOUR SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE** is a tender, funny coming of age tale. It's also a wrenching but delicately handled depiction of loss. And, ultimately, it's a moving and unconventional love story.

This altogether mesmerizing novel is narrated by Sally, our young heroine, who addresses the book to Kathy, her beloved and impossibly cool older sister. Beginning just after Sally's thirteenth birthday, the book spans fifteen years—the fault line of which is Kathy's untimely death. We watch as her absence creates a gaping hole that only Billy Barnes, Kathy's beau, understands and might possibly begin to fill. **NOTES ON YOUR SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE** charts years of Sally and Billy's shared history and missed connections, and is both a breathtaking love story between two broken people who are unexplainably, inconveniently drawn to each other, and a wry, sharply observant coming of age story that looks at the ways the people we love the most continue to shape our lives long after they're gone.

**Alison Espach** is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Wedding People*, a #ReadwithJenna pick named by *Elle*, *The New York Post*, and *Glamour* as a best book of the summer, as well as *The Adults*, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice and a Barnes and Noble Discover pick. Her short story series *In-Depth Market Research Interviews with Dead People* is an Audible Original and her work has appeared in *McSweeney's*, *Vogue*, *Joyland*, *Glamour*, and *Salon*, among other places. She teaches creative writing at Providence College in Rhode Island.

An Indie Next pick for June 2022  
Named a “Best Book of 2022” by *NPR*  
A *USA Today* “Must Read”

“Incongruously funny . . . Ms. Espach uses irony well.” —**Sam Sacks**, *The Wall Street Journal*

“Espach once again proves that she’s a brilliantly talented author.” —**Michael Schaub**, *NPR*

“Terrific.” —*The Chicago Tribune*

“Riveting.” —*People*

“Inventive and powerful . . . Espach captures the minutiae of love and loss with unflinching clarity and profound compassion, and pulls off the second-person point of view unusually well. Readers will be deeply moved.” —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

British/Friedrich Agency

Rights sold: **Croatian**/Znanje, **German**/Ullstein, **Italian**/Bollati Boringhieri

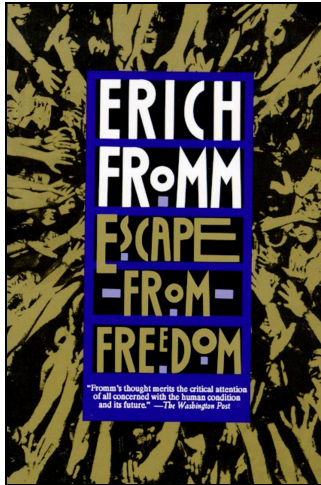
Backlist Highlights

Erich Fromm  
**ESCAPE FROM FREEDOM**

\*\*\* 2025 is Erich Fromm's 125th anniversary\*\*\*

Publication: 1994

Holt Paperbacks



Masha Gessen wrote in the *New York Review of Books*, “I’ve been surprised, in the last year, that the resurgence of interest in some of the classic books on totalitarianism has not brought back Erich Fromm’s wonderful **ESCAPE FROM FREEDOM** . . . In the book, Fromm proposes that there are two kinds of freedom: ‘freedom from,’ which we all want—we all want our parents to stop telling us what to do—and ‘freedom to,’ which can be difficult or even unbearable. This is the freedom to invent one’s future, the freedom to choose. Fromm suggests that at certain times in human history the burden of ‘freedom to’ becomes too painful for a critical mass of people to bear, and they take the opportunity to cede their agency—whether it’s to Martin Luther, Adolf Hitler, or Donald Trump.”

If humanity cannot live with the dangers and responsibilities inherent in freedom, it will probably turn to authoritarianism. This is the central idea of **ESCAPE FROM FREEDOM**, a landmark work by one of the most distinguished thinkers of our time, and a book that is as timely now as when first published in 1941. Few books have thrown such light upon the forces that shape modern society or penetrated so deeply into the causes of authoritarian systems. If the rise of democracy set some people free, it simultaneously gave birth to a society in which the individual feels alienated and dehumanized. Using the insights of psychoanalysis as probing agents, Fromm’s work analyzes the illness of contemporary civilization as witnessed by its willingness to submit to totalitarian rule.

**Erich Fromm**, Ph.D. (Sociology, University of Heidelberg) was a German-American social psychologist, psychoanalyst, sociologist, and humanistic philosopher. He was a German Jew who fled the Nazi regime and settled in the United States. He was one of the founders of The William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis and Psychology in New York City and was associated with the Frankfurt School of critical theory. He died in 1980.

“An analysis par excellence of our cultural neurosis.” —*The Nation*

“Fromm’s thought merits the critical attention of all concerned with the human condition and its future.”  
—*The Washington Post*

“An important and challenging work.” —*The New York Herald Tribune*

Rights sold: **Arabic**/Dar al Hiwar, **Chinese (complex)**/Ecus, **Chinese (simplified)**/Shanghai 99 Readers Culture Co., **Czech**/Portal, **Dutch**/Erven J. Bijleveld, **French**/Éditions des Belles Lettres, **Georgian**/Intelekti, **German**/DTV, **Greek**/Dioptra, **Hebrew**/Kinneret, **Italian**/Mondadori, **Japanese**/Tokyo Sōgensha, **Korean**/Archive, **Norwegian**/Sisyfos, **Polish**/vis-a-vis/Etiuda, **Portuguese (excl. Brazil)**/Almedina, **Russian**/AST, **Serbian**/Nova Knjiga, **Swedish**/Modernista, **Turkish**/SAY, **Ukrainian**/Family Leisure Club



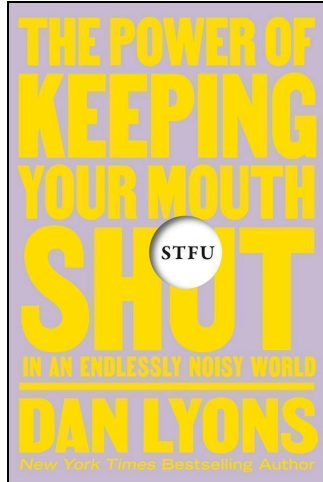
## Backlist Highlights

Dan Lyons  
**STFU**

### The Power of Keeping Your Mouth Shut in an Endlessly Noisy World

Publication: March 2023

Henry Holt & Company



*New York Times* bestselling author Dan Lyons is here to tell you—and don't take this the wrong way—that you really need to shut the f\*ck up!

Our noisy world has trained us to think that those who get in the last word win, when in fact it's those who know how to stay silent who really hold the power. **STFU** is a book that unlocks this power and will change your life, freeing you to focus on what matters. Lyons combines leading behavioral science with actionable advice on how to communicate with intent, think critically, and open your mind and ears to the world around you.

Talk less, get more. That's what **STFU** is all about. Prescriptive, informative, and addictively readable, **STFU** gives you the tools to become your better self, whether that's in the office, at home, online, or in your most treasured relationships. Because, after all, what you say is who you are. So take a deep breath, turn the page, and quietly change your life.

**Dan Lyons** is a veteran journalist, author, and screenwriter. His *New York Times*-bestselling memoir *Disrupted: My Adventures in the Startup Bubble* has been translated into a dozen languages and optioned for film/TV. He also wrote *Lab Rats: How Silicon Valley Made Work Miserable for the Rest of Us*, and *Options*, a satirical novel. He was, for years, co-producer and writer for the HBO series *Silicon Valley*. As a journalist, he spent a decade covering Silicon Valley for *Forbes*, ran tech coverage at *Newsweek*, and contributed to *Fortune*, the *New York Times*, *Wired*, *Vanity Fair*, and the *New Yorker*.

“Dan Lyons’ ridiculously funny gem taught me how to shut up, pay fierce attention to others, stifle my ‘manalogues’ and so many more antidotes for my talkaholic tendencies. My only problem is that, after reading *STFU*, I can’t stop talking about how much I love this book!”—**Robert I. Sutton, organizational psychologist, Stanford Professor, and *New York Times* bestselling author of seven books including *The No Asshole Rule***

“*STFU* teaches us what we all need to learn: how to listen, pause and speak. How to communicate with intention, and power. The book opens your mind by closing your mouth.”—**Aaron James, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Assholes: A Theory***

“Entertaining, illuminating, and inspiring! More than a book, it’s a public service announcement that we’d all do well to—well, STFU and listen to!”—**Sarah Knight, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Calm the F\*ck Down***

British/Fletcher & Company

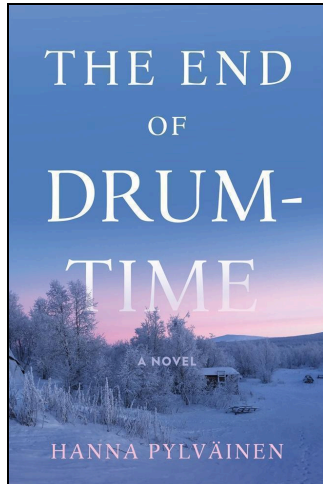
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Backlist Highlights

Hanna Pylväinen  
**THE END OF DRUM-TIME**  
A Novel

Publication: January 2023

Henry Holt & Company



An epic love story in the vein of *Cold Mountain* and *The Great Circle*, about a young reindeer herder and a minister's daughter in the nineteenth century Arctic Circle.

In 1851, at a remote village in the Scandinavian tundra, a Lutheran minister known as Mad Lasse tries in vain to convert the native Sámi reindeer herders to his faith. But when one of the most respected herders has a dramatic awakening and dedicates his life to the church, his impetuous son, Ivvár, is left to guard their diminishing herd alone. By chance, he meets Mad Lasse's daughter Willa, and their blossoming infatuation grows into something that ultimately crosses borders—of cultures, of beliefs, and of political divides—as Willa follows the herders on their arduous annual migration north to the sea. Gorgeously written and sweeping in scope, Hanna Pylväinen's **THE END OF DRUM-TIME** immerses readers in a world lit by the northern lights, steeped in age-old rituals, and guided by passions that transcend place and time.

**Hanna Pylväinen** is the author of the novel *We Sinners*, which received a Whiting Award and a Balcones Fiction Prize. Her work has appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, as well as residencies from MacDowell, Yaddo, and the Lásságámmi Foundation. She has taught at the University of Michigan, Princeton University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and currently she is on the faculty at the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers. She lives in Philadelphia.

**\*\*FINALIST FOR THE 2023 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION\*\***

**Named a Best Book of 2023 by NPR, *Time*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Vox*, and *Kirkus*  
A Most Anticipated Book of 2023, *Elle***

"This stunning novel manages to explore major themes of identity, race, politics, and faith, all while putting the focus firmly on the human stories at hand. *The End of Drum-Time* masterfully takes us to a place, people, and time unfamiliar to most readers but one that becomes completely alive—and closely mirrors the most divisive and potent aspects of our contemporary lives."—**The 2023 National Book Award Citation**

"A monumental feat of melodic prose and astute observation."—*Elle*

"The writing is so beautiful and so entrancing that you'll embrace both the harsh realities of herding and hunting in sub-zero temperatures, and the doctrines dictated by a culture centered on suffering and submission."—**NPR**

Rights sold: **British**/Swift Press, **French**/Editions Paulsen, **German**/Gutkind/Bonnier,  
**Romanian**/Humanitas



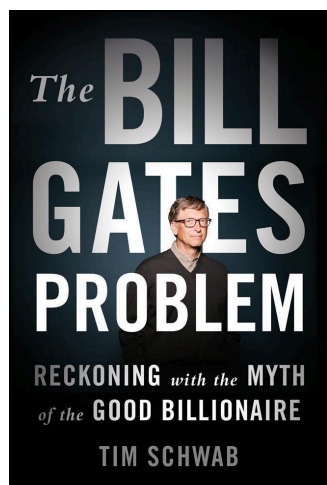
Tim Schwab

## THE BILL GATES PROBLEM

Reckoning with the Myth of the Good Billionaire

Publication: November 2023

Metropolitan Books



A powerful investigation of the Gates Foundation, interrogating how Bill Gates uses philanthropy as a political tool with no accountability.

Through his vaunted philanthropy, Bill Gates transformed himself from a tech villain into one of the most admired people on the planet. Even as divorce proceedings and allegations of misconduct have tarnished his public image, the beneficence of the Gates Foundation, celebrated for spending billions to save lives around the globe, is taken as a given. But as Tim Schwab shows in this fearless investigation, Gates is still exactly who he was at Microsoft: a bully and monopolist, convinced of his own righteousness and intent on imposing his ideas, his solutions, and his leadership on everyone else. At the core, he is not a selfless philanthropist but a power broker, a clever engineer who has innovated a way to turn extreme wealth into immense political influence—and who has made us believe we should applaud his acquisition of power, not challenge it.

Piercing the blinding halo that has for too long shielded the world's most powerful (and most secretive) charitable organization from public scrutiny, **THE BILL GATES PROBLEM** shows how Gates's billions have purchased a stunning level of control over public policy, private markets, scientific research, and the news media. Whether he is pushing new educational standards in America, health reforms in India, global vaccine policy during the pandemic, or Western industrialized agriculture throughout Africa, Gates's heady social experimentation has shown itself to be not only undemocratic, but also ineffective and damaging. His philanthropic empire is a problem of money in politics; a dangerous model of unconstrained power that threatens democracy and demands our attention.

**Tim Schwab** is an investigative journalist based in Washington, DC. His groundbreaking reporting on the Gates Foundation for the *Nation*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, and the *British Medical Journal* has been honored with an Izzy Award and a Deadline Club Award. *The Bill Gates Problem* is his first book.

*New York Times* Editors' Choice

Best Books in November, *New York Times*, *InsideHook*, *New York Post*

"Schwab makes a strong case, based on years of reporting, that under the direction of a humbler man the Gates Foundation would probably be a more effective force for good."—*The New York Times*

"[A] muckraking work of investigative journalism with a fierce polemical edge...Nobody who comes away from reading *The Bill Gates Problem* will look at him in the same way."—*The Times*

"An extraordinary and detailed work of investigative journalism into an underexplored nexus of influence in global affairs."—*The Telegraph*

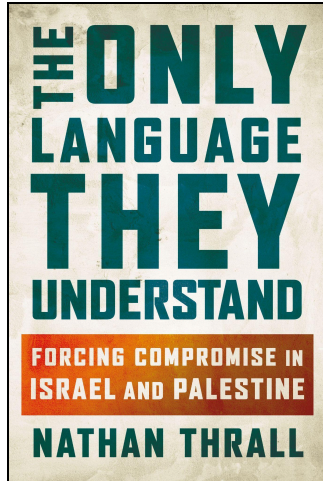
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Nathan Thrall

**THE ONLY LANGUAGE THEY UNDERSTAND**  
**Forcing Compromise in Israel and Palestine**

Publication: May 2017

Metropolitan Books



Scattered over the territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea lie the remnants of failed peace proposals, international summits, secret negotiations, UN resolutions, and state-building efforts. The conventional story is that these well-meaning attempts at peacemaking were repeatedly, perhaps terminally, thwarted by the use of violence.

Through a rich interweaving of reportage, historical narrative, and forceful analysis, Nathan Thrall presents a startling counter-history. He shows that Israelis and Palestinians have persistently been marching toward partition, but not through the high politics of diplomacy or the incremental building of a Palestinian state. In fact, negotiation, collaboration, and state-building—the prescription of successive American administrations—have paradoxically entrenched the conflict in multiple ways. They have created the illusion that a solution is at hand, lessened Israel’s incentives to end its control over the West

Bank and Gaza, and undermined Palestinian unity. Ultimately, it is those who have embraced confrontation through boycotts, lawsuits, resolutions imposed by outside powers, protests, civil disobedience, and even violence who have brought about the most significant change.

Published as Israel’s occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza reaches its fiftieth year, which is also the centenary of the Balfour Declaration that first promised a Jewish national home in Palestine, *The Only Language They Understand* advances a bold thesis that shatters ingrained positions of both left and right and provides a new and eye-opening understanding of this most vexed of lands.

**Nathan Thrall** is the author of *The Only Language They Understand: Forcing Compromise in Israel and Palestine* and *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*, a 2024 Pulitzer Prize winner. His essays, reviews, and reported features have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Guardian*, the *London Review of Books* and *The New York Review of Books* and have been translated into more than a dozen languages. He spent a decade at the International Crisis Group, where he was director of the Arab-Israeli Project, and has taught at Bard College. Originally from California, he lives in Jerusalem.

“Nathan Thrall does a brilliant job describing the political and geostrategic reasons for the intractability . . . His argument is smart and hard to dispute.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Thrall is one of the best-informed and most trenchant observers of the conflict.”—*Financial Times*

“Life is short, and writings about Israel and the Palestinians can be very, very long. So it’s a good thing there’s Nathan Thrall.”—*Time*

“An important new book... eloquently expresses what has long been clear: that there is no hope of a breakthrough unless the international community forces it on the parties.”—*The Independent (UK)*

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