

# LARRY WEISSMAN LITERARY

## **RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS**

---

**Fall 2019**

The Great Pretender.

A Symphony of Earth.

The Volunteer.

MBS.

Drug Use For Grown-Ups.

D-Day Girls.

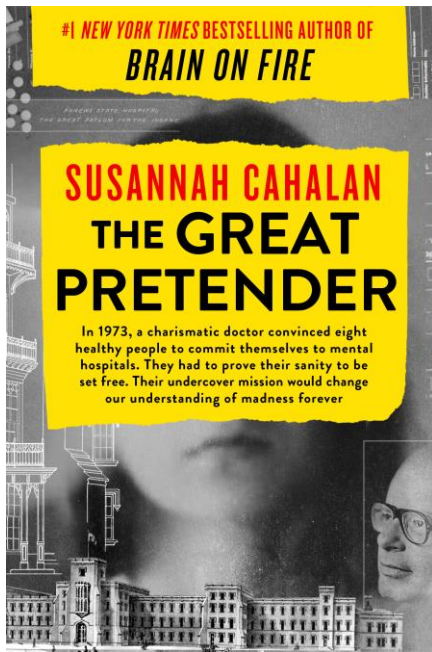
Einstein's Shadow.

Paradise.

# THE GREAT PRETENDER

Susannah Cahalan

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *BRAIN ON FIRE* comes a propulsive work of narrative history that investigates the 50 year-old-mystery behind a dramatic study that changed the course of modern medicine.



For centuries, doctors have struggled to define mental illness—how do you diagnose it, how do you treat it, how do you even know what *it* is? In search of an answer, in the 1970s a Stanford psychologist named David Rosenhan and seven other people -- sane, normal, well-adjusted members of society – went undercover into asylums around America to test the legitimacy of psychiatry’s labels. Forced to remain inside until they'd "proven" themselves sane, all eight emerged with alarming diagnoses and even more troubling stories of their treatment. Rosenhan's watershed study broke open the field of

psychiatry, hastening the closing of institutions and changing mental health diagnosis forever.

But, as Cahalan's explosive new research shows, very little in this saga is exactly as it seems. What really happened behind those closed asylum doors, and what does it mean for our understanding of mental illness today?

An extraordinary new investigative work from “one of America’s most courageous young journalists” (*NPR*), *The Great Pretender* not only exposes a startling mystery that lay hidden in plain sight for fifty years, but this masterpiece of narrative history offers a searing, propulsive, and urgent look at the culture in which a single experiment could change the course of modern medicine.

---

**Grand Central Publishing (World English)**  
– Editor, Millicent Bennett – Manuscript Available; Publishing November 2020.  
Rights: UK: Canongate; China: Citic;

---



Susannah Cahalan is an American journalist and author of the bestselling memoir, *Brain on Fire*. She lives in Brooklyn.

---

# A Symphony of Earth

Ferris Jabr



**A stunning exploration of how life evolves with our planet, which makes the case that this knowledge can help us restore the earth's ecosystems.**

Deeply researched and gorgeously written, *A Symphony of Earth* shows how not only did life evolve on earth in relation to the planet, but how the planet evolved in relation to life. It argues, cogently and compellingly, that Earth is, in the most important ways, alive.

Jabr revisits the Gaia Hypothesis — once dismissed by scientists, but now rapidly gaining credibility with them— and recasts it through a fresh lens, showing us through fascinating science, incredible stories, and illuminating prose a living, breathing planet.

This is a wholly new kind of environmental book—it is realistic and clearheaded, but aspirational and accessible as well. Jabr beautifully illustrates the interconnectedness of the planet, and the reader will *feel* differently about the earth once they have finished the book, and be inspired to help restore the miraculous balance that has allowed life to thrive on the planet. Thought-provoking and written in luminous prose, it will cause readers to look at the world around them anew.

---

Random House (NA) - Editor, Hilary Redmon

**Rights: UK: Picador; Germany: Dumont; Spain: Ediciones B; Portugal: Saida de Emergencia; Italy: Aboca; China: Beijing Huazhang; Taiwan: Ye-Ren; France: Quanto**

---

Ferris Jabr has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Scientific American*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *The New Yorker*, among many others. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

# THE VOLUNTEER

Jack Fairweather

**The incredible true story of a Polish resistance fighter's infiltration of Auschwitz to sabotage the camp from within, and his death-defying attempt to warn the Allies about the Nazis' plans for a "Final Solution" before it was too late.**

Few books have enthralled, incensed and haunted me as *The Volunteer* has done. There were times I felt compelled to set it aside. There were others when hours of reading passed in what felt like moments ... This is a story that has long deserved a robust, faithful telling, and he has delivered it " – *Wall Street Journal*

To uncover the fate of the thousands being interred at a mysterious Nazi camp on the border of the Reich, a 39-year-old Polish resistance fighter named Witold Pilecki volunteered for an audacious mission: assume a fake identity, intentionally get captured and sent to the new camp, and then report back to the underground on what had happened to his compatriots there. But gathering information was not his only task: he was to execute an attack from inside—where the Germans would least expect it.

The name of the camp was Auschwitz.

Over the next two and half years, Pilecki forged an underground army within Auschwitz that sabotaged facilities, assassinated Nazi informants and officers, and smuggled out evidence of terrifying abuse and mass murder. But as the annihilation of innocents accelerated, lifting the veil on the Nazis' horrific plan to exterminate Europe's Jews, Pilecki realized he would have to attempt another perilous mission: escape Auschwitz and somehow—with hundreds of miles of Nazi-occupied territory in the way—deliver his alert to the Allies before all was lost.

Completely erased from the historical record by Poland's Communist government, Pilecki remains almost unknown to the world. Now,

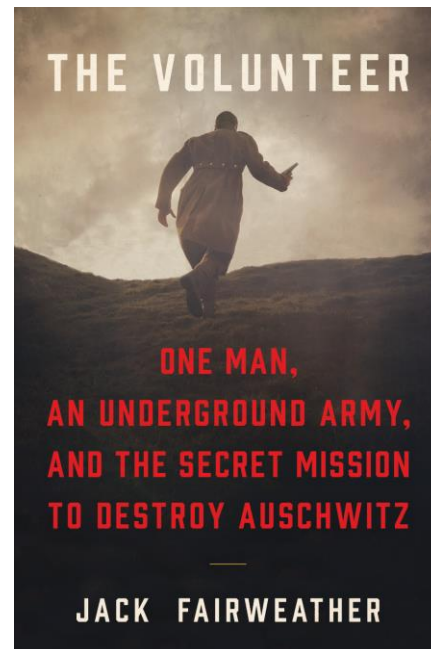
with exclusive access to previously hidden diaries, family and camp survivor accounts, and recently declassified files, Jack Fairweather offers an unflinching portrayal of survival, revenge, betrayal, and heroism in mankind's darkest hour.

---

**Custom House (NA) - Editor, Geoff Shandler – Publication: June 2019**

**Rights: UK: WH Allen; Dutch: Prometheus; Polish, ZNAK; Brazilian: Universo dos Livros; Czech: Albatros; Romanian: Grup; Lithuanian: Alma; Portuguese: 2020 Editora; Slovak: Citadella;**

---



Jack Fairweather has been a correspondent for the *Washington Post* and the *Daily Telegraph*, where he served as the Baghdad and Persian Gulf bureau chief. His reporting from the Iraq War, during he survived a suicide bomb attack, earned him Britain's top press award. The author of *A War of Choice* and *The Good War*, he lives in Charlotte, Vermont.

---

## Praise for *The Volunteer* by Jack Fairweather

“Witold Pilecki is one of the great – perhaps the greatest – unsung heroes of the second world war... Jack Fairweather’s meticulous and insightful book is likely to be the definitive version of this extraordinary life.”

– *Economist*

Superbly written and breathtakingly researched, *The Volunteer* smuggles us into Auschwitz and shows us - as if watching a movie - the story of a Polish agent who infiltrated the infamous camp, organized a rebellion and then snuck back out. We are squarely confronted with the *other* human truth: ordinary people will happily risk their lives to help others. Fairweather has dug up a story of incalculable value and delivered it to us in the most compelling prose I have read in a long time.

—Sebastian Junger

This is such an amazing story it would be impossible to believe if it were not so meticulously researched and clearly told in Jack Fairweather’s book. The great irony is that Witold Pilecki’s failure — to alert the world the horrors of Auschwitz and to resist the Soviet occupation of his country — is a monument to singular, courageous decency in the face of boundless atrocity. The book succeeds as a page-turner, a remarkable inside-view of the Holocaust, and also as a testament to all that is best in the human spirit.

—Mark Bowden

This is a riveting account of human heroism in the face of overwhelming odds, and Fairweather’s storytelling is simply masterful.

—Jon Lee Anderson

“Were it not true, the story of Witold Pilecki, a Polish resistance fighter who volunteered to be imprisoned in Auschwitz, would seem beyond belief. In *The Volunteer*, Jack Fairweather has meticulously chronicled Pilecki’s remarkable journey, one that was lost from history, crafting a book that is as riveting as any page-turner and as profound as any great work of literature as it reveals humanity’s capacity for both courage and savagery.”

—Elliot Ackerman

"Totally gripping.... The fascinating revelatory and surreal WWII story of almost incredible courage and unspeakable horror."

—Simon Sebag Montefiore, author of *Jerusalem: The Biography* and *The Moscow Trilogy*

## **MBS:** **The Rise to Power of** **Mohammed bin Salman** Ben Hubbard



**The gripping, definitive chronicle of the rise of Saudi Arabia's secretive and mercurial new ruler**

*MBS* is the untold story of how one man fought his way to the summit of power in Saudi Arabia, the wealthiest country in the Middle East and a key ally of the United States. Even in his youth as an obscure princeling among the vast Saudi royal family, Mohammed bin Salman nurtured sweeping ambitions to accumulate power for himself and reshape how his staunchly conservative kingdom interacted with the world.

He got his chance in 2015, when his father, King Salman, ascended to the throne. *MBS* became known as "Mr. Everything," the young leader working to reformat the kingdom's economy, loosen its strict Islamic moral codes and confront its enemies around the region, especially Iran. That vision won him fans at home and in foreign capitals, including in

Washington, where President Trump embraced the prince as a partner in his own vision for the Middle East. Over time, however, the sheen of the visionary young reformer has worn off, leaving many wondering whether the young prince is actually an aspiring dictator whose lack of experience and rash decisions are destabilizing the world's most volatile region.

Based on years of reporting in and outside of Saudi Arabia and hundreds of interviews in more than a half-dozen countries, *MBS* provides new insights into the catastrophic military intervention in Yemen, the bizarre kidnapping of the Lebanese prime minister, and the surprise detention of hundreds of princes and businessmen in the Riyadh Ritz-Carlton. And through a detailed reconstruction of the murder of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, *MBS* assesses the greatest crisis to afflict the young prince's rise and how it will echo across the Middle East and beyond.

---

Ben Hubbard is the Beirut bureau chief for *The New York Times*. A fluent Arabic speaker with more than a decade in the Middle East, he has access to sources far beyond those of most Western journalists in the region, and this book will feature revelations never previously reported.



**Tim Duggan Books (NA) - Editor, Tim Duggan – Manuscript Delivered.**

**Rights: UK, HarperUK;**

## **DRUG USE FOR GROWN-UPS:**

### **A Neuroscientists's Pursuit of Happiness**

**Dr. Carl Hart**

**A provocative, smart, illuminating primer on how informed and responsible adults can, if they choose, use a wide range of drugs safely; a forthright account of the author's own drug use; and an authoritative argument against the drug policies that have caused irreparable harm to our country.**

PEN/E.O. Wilson Award-winning author of *High Price*, neuroscientist and drug expert Dr. Carl Hart's **DRUG USE FOR GROWN-UPS: A Neuroscientist's Pursuit of Happiness**, makes the provocative and compelling argument that people can safely, and beneficially, use drugs that have been demonized in this country, and that those already using them, like himself, should be able to "come out of the closet" and not be ashamed.

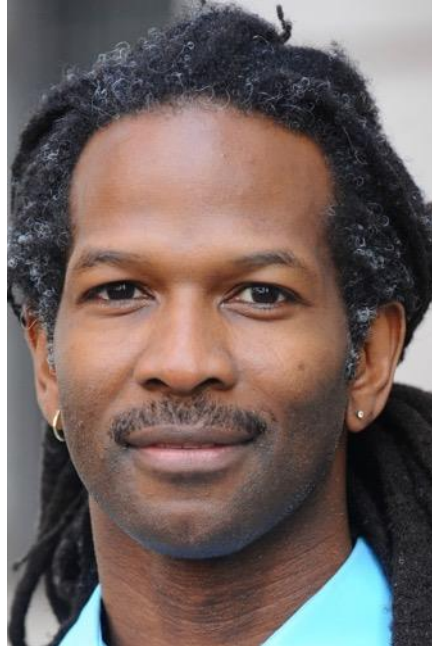
He argues that the vast majority of drug users are not addicts, and that those in positions of power who want to impose their own vision of puritanical morality on others, as well special interest groups, have distorted our research and our thinking, pathologizing drug use and demonizing users, and leaving unconsidered a whole host of more beneficial and benign aspects of drug use when used in an informed and intelligent way.

---

**Penguin Press (NA) - Editor, Scott Moyers  
– Manuscript Delivered.**

**Rights: Spain: Temas de Hoy; Brazil:  
Zahar.**

---



Carl Hart is the Chair of the Department of Psychology at Columbia University. Dr. Hart has published numerous scientific and popular articles in the area of neuropsychopharmacology and is co-author of the textbook *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior* (with Charles Ksir). His book, *High Price: A Neuroscientist's Journey of Self-Discovery That Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs and Society*, was the 2014 winner of the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. Professor Hart has appeared on multiple podcasts, radio and television shows, and documentary films, including the award-winning "The House I Live In." His essays have been published in several popular publications including *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *The Nation*, *Ebony*, *The Root*, and *O Globo*.

---



# **D-DAY GIRLS: The Women of Churchill's Secret Army**

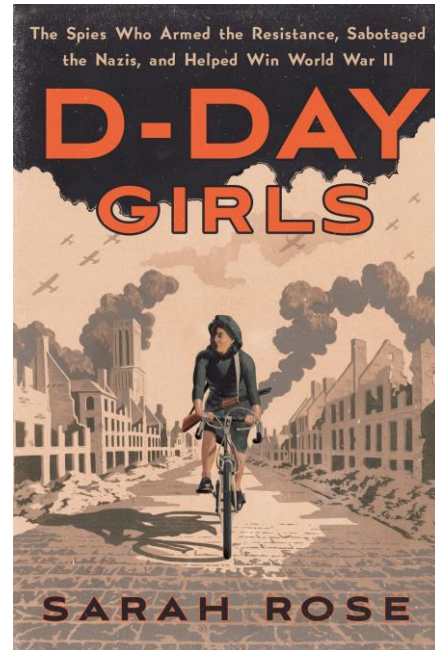
Sarah Rose

The year was 1943, and the Allies were losing. The Nazi flag flew all across Europe, there seemed to be no end in sight to Germany's continuing domination, and every able man in England was fighting. Churchill believed Britain was locked in an existential battle, and created a secret agency, Special Operations Executive (SOE), whose undercover spies were trained in everything from explosives to code, parachuting to sharp shooting to hand-to-hand combat, and whose job, he declared, was to "to set Europe ablaze!" But he didn't have enough men for what needed to be done, and so the SOE did something unprecedented: they recruited women. From young single women to mothers and matrons and even a princess, 39 women were recruited, leaving their lives and families to become saboteurs in France, under threat of death if they breathed a word to anyone. Half were caught, and a third would not make it home alive. D-DAY GIRLS: The Women of Churchill's Secret Army, is their story, one that has been waiting more than 70 years to be told. The author, Sarah Rose, has full access to the recently declassified files, and has brought these remarkable women to rich life, and crafted a white-knuckled narrative that will sit on reader's shelves next to those by Erik Larson, Ben Macintyre and Alan Furst.

---

Crown (NA) - Editor, Amanda Cook –  
Publication: May 2019  
Rights: UK, Little, Brown UK;

---



Sarah Rose has been awarded the Society of Professional Journalists' First Prize in Reporting, the Lowell Thomas Award for Feature Writing, the North American Travel Journalists Association Grand Prize in Writing and was a grant recipient from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

---

## **Praise for D-Day Girls:**

“Gripping, queasily so: Spies, romance, Gestapo thugs, blown-up trains, courage, and treachery (lots of treachery)—and all of it true, all precisely documented. Sarah Rose leaves you marveling at the sheer courage shown by these women of Churchill’s Special Operations Executive, who risked all to fight the Nazis and help prepare the way for D-Day.”

—**Erik Larson, author of *The Devil in the White City and Dead Wake***

“The mission is this: Read *D-Day Girls* today. Not just for the spy flair—code names, aliases, and operating covers—but also because this history feels more relevant than ever, as an army of women and girls again find themselves in a fight for the common good.”

—**Lily Koppel, author of *The Astronaut Wives Club***

“Sarah Rose’s *D-Day Girls* is not only an edge-of-your-seat World War II thriller that reads like fiction, it’s a highly relevant read that will, at long last, inscribe the names of three remarkable female spies—Andrée Borrel, Odette Sansom, Lise de Baissac—into our history books.”

—**Susannah Cahalan, author of *Brain on Fire***

“With skill and heart, Sarah Rose captures the adventures of an extraordinary group of women who kept the resistance alive during the darkest days of World War II, risking everything to liberate their loved ones, their nations, and democracy itself. Spies and saboteurs, high explosives, ingenious deceptions, dirty poems transformed into cryptologic keys—I couldn’t stop reading.”

—**Jason Fagone, author of *The Woman Who Smashed Codes***

“Sarah Rose’s edge-of-the-seat spy thriller weaves the incredible stories of World War II’s forgotten heroines—daring, modern, and key to defeating the Nazis in France. Brilliantly researched and gorgeously written—with a cameo from Winston Churchill—this is the D-Day book the world has been waiting for.”

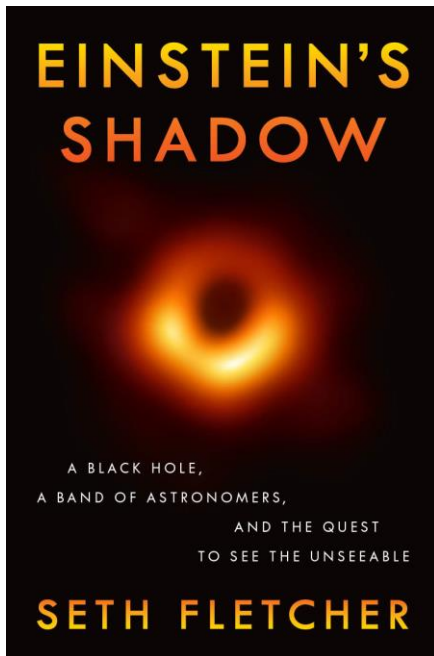
—**Karen Abbott, author of *Sin in the Second City and Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy***

“Sarah Rose has worked wonders to provide a fresh, thrilling account of the female spies whose courage and audacity helped win the day on June 6, 1944.”

—**Alex Kershaw, author of *The Bedford Boys and Avenue of Spies***

# EINSTEIN'S SHADOW: A Black Hole, a Band of Astronomers, and the Quest to See the Unseeable

Seth Fletcher



***Einstein's Shadow* follows a team of elite scientists on their historic mission to take the first picture of a black hole, putting Einstein's theory of relativity to its ultimate test and helping to answer our deepest questions about space, time, the origins of the universe, and the nature of reality.**

Photographing a black hole sounds impossible, a contradiction in terms. But Shep Doeleman and a global coalition of scientists are on the cusp of doing just that.

With exclusive access to the team, journalist Seth Fletcher spent five years following Shep and an extraordinary cast of characters as they assembled the Event Horizon Telescope, a virtual radio observatory the size of the Earth. He

witnessed their struggles, setbacks, and breakthroughs, and along the way, he explored the latest thinking on the most profound questions about black holes. Do they represent a limit to our ability to understand reality? Or will they reveal the clues that lead to the long-sought Theory of Everything?

Fletcher transforms astrophysics into something exciting, accessible, and immediate, taking us on an incredible adventure to better understand the complexity of our galaxy, the boundaries of human perception and knowledge, and how the messy human endeavor of science really works.

Weaving a compelling narrative account of human ingenuity with excursions into cutting-edge science, *Einstein's Shadow* is a tale of great minds on a mission to change the way we understand our universe—and our place in it.

---

**Ecco – Editor, Denise Oswald**  
**Paperback Publication: October, 2019**

**Rights: Chinese Simplified: Hunan S&T;**  
**Italian: Bollati; Russian: AST; Japanese: Sanseido**

---

Seth Fletcher is chief features editor at *Scientific American* and author of *Bottled Lightning: Superbatteries, Electric Cars, and the New Lithium Economy*. He lives in New York's lower Hudson Valley with his wife and daughter.

---

## Praise For Einstein's Shadow:

"[Fletcher] has knack for deft, accurate explanations that are quick to read and easy to understand, with memorably vivid language. His excellent prose and a powerful story fuel this shining quasar of a book." (**New York Times Book Review**)

"A compelling behind-the-scenes story of scientists struggling as much with funding and competition as with the challenges of seeing Sagittarius A\*. . . . Address[es] the seeming absurdities of [the] subject with authority and wit." (**Nature**)

"Ambitious and richly detailed . . . a refreshingly fast-paced account of this extraordinary scientific enterprise." (**Science**)

"In the paradoxical nihilism of black holes, we might discover the biggest, grandest truths about the universe." (**Wired**)

"With stakes this high and writing this lucid, readers will be drawn into the narrative as easily as matter being drawn toward the event horizon itself... This is scientific storytelling at its best." (**Kirkus Reviews (starred review)**)

"Engaging . . . captivating and informative." (**Booklist**)

"Fletcher manages to humanize a complicated scientific project while providing readers with a comprehensive guide to the cosmos." (**Library Journal**)

"A thoughtful and riveting ethnography of an ambitious project to map the sacred boundary of our local black hole, at the heart of the Milky Way, drawing attention to the psychological drives that inspire us scientists to quest for the exciting discoveries that await..." (**Priyamvada Natarajan, Astrophysicist, Yale University, author of *Mapping the Heavens: The Radical Scientific Ideas That Reveal the Cosmos***)

"Mind-bending and suspenseful, *Einstein's Shadow* tells a story about the immense black holes that pierce galaxies, and the humans trying to take their picture. Fletcher is there with them every step of the way, capturing the thrill of a wild and beautiful quest." (**Jason Fagone, author of *The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies***)

"Fletcher has crafted an extraordinary narrative, explaining the most mind-bending physics with impressive clarity and vividly bringing to life a mostly unsung band of characters who are turning the crazy-sounding idea of taking a picture of a black hole into a reality." (**Michael D. Lemonick, author of *The Perpetual Now and Mirror Earth***)

# **PARADISE: Life, Loss, and Survival in California's Deadliest Wildfire**

Lizzie Johnson



**Crown - Editor, Amanda Cook (North American) – Delivery: February 2020**

---

Lizzie Johnson is a reporter at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the first journalist in the country to report full-time on the fire beat.

**A riveting, deeply-reported narrative of the devastating Camp Fire in Paradise, CA, following residents and first responders as they fight to save themselves and their town.**

Lizzie Johnson tells the story of the worst fire season in California's history, primarily through a gripping, hour-by-hour tick tock narrative following several groups of people caught in the devastating blaze in Paradise — from a mother being evacuated from a hospital with her hours-old newborn, to a school bus full of young children, whose driver is desperately trying to find an escape route, to a group combatting the fire with rakes, hoses, even their bare hands — fighting for their lives as their town is swallowed whole by fire.

Interwoven into the narrative are stories of other recent devastating blazes, and Johnson takes readers up-close to experience those, then pulls back to provide a clear, devastating picture of fire in California through the eyes of the people who have experience it. She also explores the history of fire, and the role of climate change on our new era of megafires.

Lizzie has been reporting from the front lines of the California fires since 2015, has been present for the state's most dangerous blazes, and has spent years in dozens of ravaged communities.