





# **RIGHTS LIST**

**Astra House is dedicated to publishing authors across genres and from around the world.**

**Founded in 2020, Astra House's mission is to advocate for authors who experience their subject deeply and personally, and who have a strong point of view; writers who represent multifaceted expressions of intellectual thought and personal experience, and who can introduce readers to new perspectives about their everyday lives as well as the lives of others. Astra House is the adult trade imprint of Astra Publishing House.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.ASTRAHOUSE.COM](http://WWW.ASTRAHOUSE.COM)**

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# **WORLD RIGHTS**



# Ery Shin

## Spring On The Peninsula

A NOVEL



FICTION / LITERARY

ON SALE December 5, 2023

272pp

For readers of contemporary Asian literature:  
Han Kang, Yuko Tsushima, Suah Bae, Taeko Kono,  
Mieko Kawakami, Yoko Tawada

RIGHTS HELD: **World**

A sexually fluid narrator mourns a failed relationship over the course of two harsh winters in this raw, unprecedented portrait of millennials living in Seoul.

The time is roughly now in Seoul, and Kai, a bisexual white-collar worker, has just been abandoned by his longtime lover. Follow him through the city’s alleyways as he reels from this sudden departure. Walk with him up snowy mountains where he contemplates ending his own life. That mourning can be both a sensuous and revelatory art is epitomized in the paths that Kai crosses and the lives he alters for better or worse.

Kai is not the only one feeling disoriented and aimless these days. Those in his inner circle similarly experience personal crises as they go through their thirties in a nation simmering with class and generational tensions, as well as the specter of new and old wars. The center of Kai’s heartbreak, Seoul in all of its millennial glory and turmoil, is brought to the forefront in austere, visceral prose. Doing for Seoul what Kathy Acker and Constance de Jong once did for New York City, Ery Shin offers rare insight into the psyches of those in and around the margins, living under the contemporary geopolitical tensions of the peninsula—her characters are sexually fluid, depraved, nihilistic, impotent, prone to violence and obsessed with suicide. The result is a phantasmagorical story and a poignant meditation on queer life in a city beset by North Korea’s shadow.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

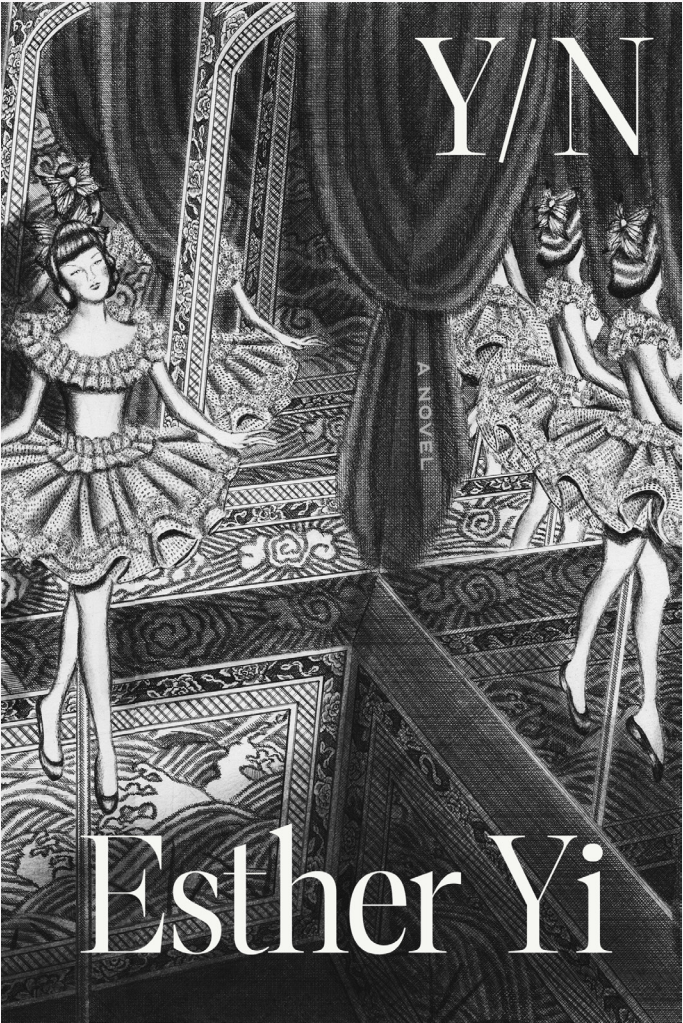
**ERY SHIN** was born in Ames, Iowa in 1986, and raised in Manhattan for the first decade of her life, then Seoul for the second. She received a bachelor’s in English from Princeton University and a doctorate from the University of Oxford. The author of *Gertrude Stein’s Surrealist Years*, a study of Stein’s later experimental gestures and their philosophical implications within Hitler’s Europe, she is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi. *Spring on the Peninsula* is her first novel.



# Esther Yi

Y/N

A NOVEL



FICTION

ON SALE March 21, 2023

192pp

For readers of *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by Ottessa Moshfegh, *Fake Accounts* by Lauren Oyler, *No One Is Talking About This* by Patricia Lockwood, *Either/Or* by Elif Batuman, and *The Emissary* by Yoko Tawada

RIGHTS HELD: World

RIGHTS SOLD: UK (Europa Editions, preempt); Italy (Edizioni E/O, preempt); Poland (Czarna Owca, preempt); Korea (EunHaeng NaMu)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ESTHER YI was born in Los Angeles in 1989. She lives in Leipzig, Germany



Surreal, hilarious, and shrewdly poignant—a novel about a Korean American woman living in Berlin whose obsession with a K-pop idol sends her to Seoul on a journey of literary self-destruction.

It’s as if her life only began once Moon appeared in it. The desultory copywriting work, the boyfriend, and the want of anything not-Moon quickly fall away when she beholds the idol in concert, where Moon dances as if his movements are creating their own gravitational field; on live streams, as fans from around the world comment in dozens of languages; even on skincare products endorsed by the wildly popular Korean boy band, of which Moon is the youngest, most luminous member. Seized by ineffable desire, our unnamed narrator begins writing Y/N fanfic—in which you, the reader, insert [Your/Name] and play out an intimate relationship with the unattainable star.

Then Moon suddenly retires, vanishing from the public eye. She stumbles into total disorientation. As Y/N flies from Berlin to Seoul to be with Moon, our narrator, too, journeys in search of the object of her love. In Korea, an escalating series of mistranslations and misidentifications land her at the headquarters of the Kafkaesque entertainment company that manages the boyband until, at a secret location, together with Moon at last, art and real life approach their final convergence.

From a conspicuous new talent comes *Y/N*, a provocative literary debut about the universal longing for transcendence and the tragic struggle to assert one’s singular story amidst the amnesiac effects of globalization. Crackling with the intellectual sensitivity of Elif Batuman and the sinewy absurdism of Thomas Pynchon, Esther Yi’s prose unsettles the boundary between high and mass art, exploding our expectations of a novel about “identity” and offering in its place a sui generis picture of the loneliness that afflicts modern life.

## QUOTES

“It’s an astonishing debut. Unlike anything I’ve ever read before. I certainly loved the voice right from the off, and laughed out loud with delight at several sentences. I adore both the bonkerness of it and the novel’s deep seriousness, more Kafka than magic realism, but with more humour, perhaps more like Lewis Carroll in that the author conjures up an entirely plausible parallel reality.”  
—Christopher Potter, Editorial Director  
Europa Editions UK

“Sumptuous, precise, and full of pulsing, startling life, Yi captures with finesse the rhythms of internet voyeurism, the corporeality of parasocial desire, and the very heartbeat of contemporary longing.”  
—Alexandra Kleeman, author of *Something New Under the Sun*



# Alejandra Oliva

## Rivermouth

A CHRONICLE OF LANGUAGE, FAITH, AND MIGRATION

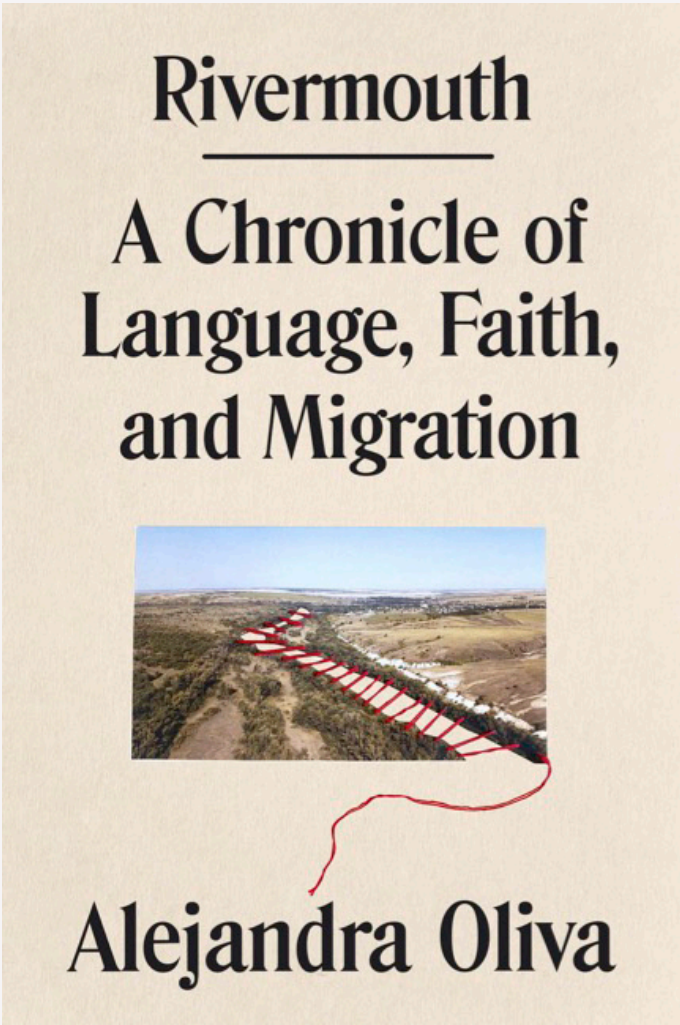
NONFICTION

ON SALE June 20, 2023

320pp

For readers of *The Undocumented Americans* and *The Distance Between Us* and fans of Anne Boyer and Maggie Nelson.

RIGHTS HELD: World



*The Undocumented Americans* meets *Tell Me How It Ends* in this chronicle about translation, storytelling, and borders as understood through the United States’; “immigration crisis.”

Alejandra Oliva is Mexican American, her family lineage defined by a long and fluidrelationship with the border between Texas and Mexico, each generation born on opposite sides of the Rio Grande. Now a translator advocating for Latin American migrants seeking asylum and citizenship, Oliva knows all too well the gravity of taking someone’s trauma and delivering it in the warped form the immigration system demands.

In *Rivermouth*, Oliva focuses on the physical spaces that make up different phases of immigration and looks at how language and opportunity move through each of them; from the river as the waterway that separates the United States and Mexico, to the table as the place over which Oliva prepares asylum seekers for their Credible Fear Interviews, and finally, to the wall as the behemoth imposition that runs along America’s southernmost border.

With lush prose and perceptive insight, Oliva encourages readers to approach the painful questions that this crisis poses with equal parts critique and compassion. By which metrics are we measuring who “deserves” American citizenship? What is the point of humanitarian systems that dole out aid distributed conditionally? What do we owe to our most disenfranchised?

*Rivermouth* is an argument for porosity. Not just for porous borders and a decriminalization of immigration, but for a more open sense of what we owe one another and a willingness to extend radical empathy. As concrete as she is meditative, sharp as she is lyrical, and incisive as she is literary, Oliva argues for a better world while telling us why it’s worth fighting to get there.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ALEJANDRA OLIVA is an essayist, translator, immigrant justice advocate, and embroiderer. Her writing has been included in *Best American Travel Writing 2020*, was nominated for a Pushcart prize, and was honored with an Aspen Summer Words Emerging Writers Fellowship. She was the Frankie Fellow at the Yale Whitney Humanities Center in 2022. Read more are [olivalejandra.com](http://olivalejandra.com)



### QUOTES

“Alejandra Oliva’s *Rivermouth* is a document of witness and grace told with devastating clarity and beauty. A beautiful and important book.”  
—Kate Zambreno, author of *The Light Room*

“*Rivermouth* is a great gift in a time when migrants are demonized on the shores and borders of wealthy western countries, none uglier than the scar that is the US-Mexico border. . . Alejandra Oliva has not only written a poetic, gripping, and magnificent book, she is there, on the border, assisting the migrants in their attempts to escape hunger, deadly gangs, and dysfunctional governments.”  
—Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, author of *Not “A Nation of Immigrants”*



# William Lee Adams

## Wild Dances

MY QUEER AND CURIOUS JOURNEY TO EUROVISION

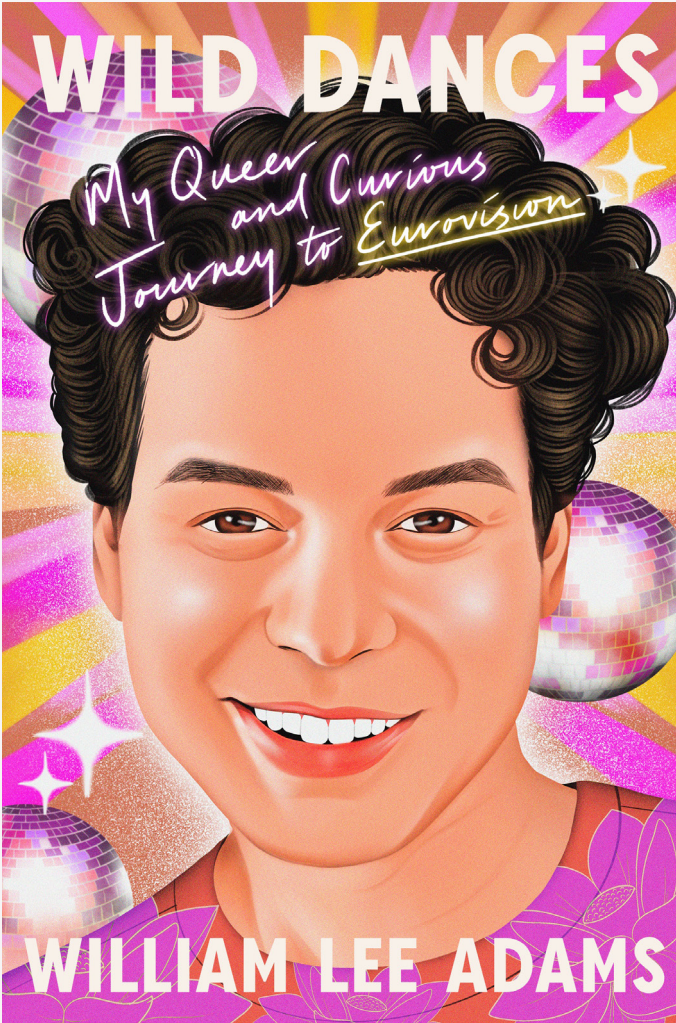
NONFICTION/ MEMOIR

ON SALE May 9, 2023

288pp

For readers of *Minor Feelings*, *Born a Crime*, and *Night Sky With Exit Wounds* and fans of authors like George M. Johnson and Michael Arcenaux.

RIGHTS HELD: **World**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**WILLIAM LEE ADAMS** is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster. A former staff writer at *TIME*, he's written about Eurovision for *Billboard*, the *Financial Times*, *Newsweek*, and the *New York Times*, among others. He lives in south London with his husband and two cats.



For fans of *Crying in H Mart* and *Priestdaddy*; How a misunderstood queer biracial kid in small-town Georgia became a Eurovision Song Contest commentator; A memoir combining race, glitz, glamour, geopolitics, and the power of pop music.

As a boy, William Lee Adams spent his days taking care of his quadriplegic brother, worrying about his undiagnosed bipolar Vietnamese mother, and steering clear of his openly racist, war veteran father. Too shy and anxious to even speak until he's six years old, it seems unlikely William will ever leave Georgia. He passes the time alone in his room, studying maps and reading encyclopedias, dreaming of the day he'll leave all of this behind.

Decades later, as a journalist in London, William discovers the Eurovision Song Contest—an annual singing competition known for its extravagant performers and cutthroat politics. William is instantly hooked. Initially just a fan, he starts blogging about the contest, ultimately becoming the most sought-after expert. From Albania, Finland, and Ukraine, to Israel, Sweden, and Russia, William is soon jetting across the continent to meet divas, drag queens, and aspiring singers, who welcome him to their beautiful, if dysfunctional, family of choice.

An uplifting memoir about glitz, glamour, geopolitics and finding your people, no matter how far you have to travel, *Wild Dances* celebrates the power of pop music to help us heal and forgive.

### QUOTES

“Nothing about William Lee Adams’s heartfelt journey is predictable. Your heart WILL go on!”  
—Mickey Rapkin, author of *PITCH PERFECT*

“A pitch-perfect piece of autobiographical storytelling, a love song to the inspirational power of pop and the enduring resilience of queer kids with big dreams.”  
—Kai Cheng Thom, author of *Falling Back In Love With Being Human*

# Alejandro Varela

## The People Who Report More Stress

STORIES

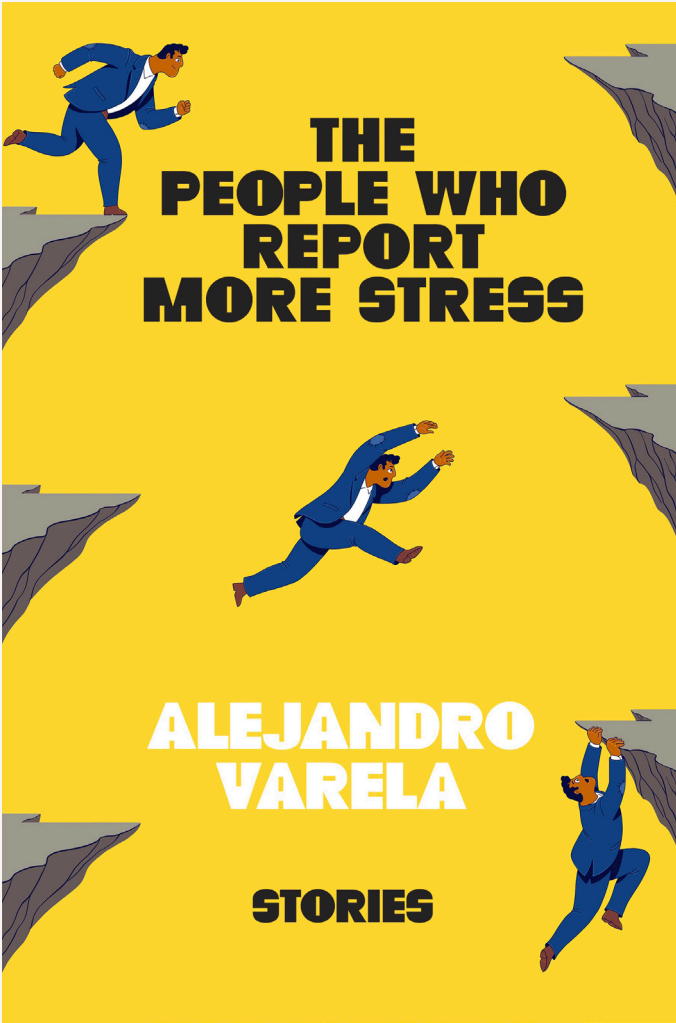
FICTION

ON SALE April 4, 2023

256pp

For readers of *A Lucky Man* and *Heads of the Colored People* and fans of Bryan Washington and Jenny Zhang.

RIGHTS HELD: World



ADDITIONAL ACQUISITIONS:

*The Spirit Level* by Alejandro Varela | [World](#) | Spring 2024  
Robert Guinsler / Sterling Lord Literistic  
Anovel about a vexed local government advisory board member who writes a scathing op-ed that sees him demoted from board duties then enlists a white Latinx friend to act in his stead, ultimately testing the power of whiteness and solidarity.

*The First 200 Years of Alex* by Alejandro Varela | [World](#) | Spring 2025  
A writer who, upon discovering his published fictions come true, tries to right the failures in his life with a story that no outlet will run.

“In linked stories driven by frenzied interior monologue and roving analytical glee . . . *The People Who Report More Stress* dissects the minutiae of relationships to self, city, space, and sensibility so we don’t numbly succumb to the ‘structured order of things.’” —[Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore](#), author of *The Freezer Door*

“Alejandro Varela is one of my favorite short story writers . . . An iconoclast of tenderness, a compass in the storm this life always is.” —[Alexander Chee](#), author of *How to Write an Autobiographical Novel*

*The People Who Report More Stress* is a collection of interconnected stories whose characters who are all acutely aware of the stresses that modern life take on the body and the body politic. These stories brim with the anxieties of people who retreat intothemselves while living in the margins.

In this collection, Alejandro Varela deftly and poignantly expresses the frustration of knowing the problems and solutions to our society’s inequities, but not being able to respond to them.

ALSO AVAILABLE:

## The Town of Babylon

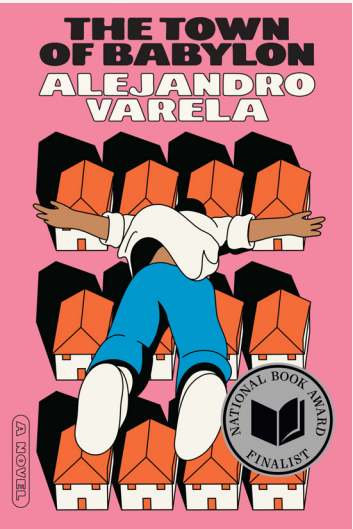
SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD – FICTION  
LONGLISTED FOR THE PEN OPEN BOOK AWARD

“[An] intimate debut novel.”—[The New York Times](#)  
Captivating and poignant; a modern coming-of-age story about the essential nature of community, *The Town of Babylon* is a page-turning novel about young love and a close examination of our social systems and the toll that they take when they fail us.

RIGHTS SOLD: Italy (NN Editore)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ALEJANDRO VARELA (he/him) is based in New York. His work has appeared in *The Point magazine*, *Boston Review*, *Harper’s Magazine*, *The Rumpus*, *Joyland Magazine*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *The Offing*, *Blunderbuss Magazine*, *Pariahs* (an anthology, SFA Press, 2016), *the Southampton Review*, and *The New Republic*. He is a 2019 Jerome Fellow in Literature and his graduate studies were in public health.





# Brad Fox

## The Bathysphere Book

EFFECTS OF THE LUMINOUS OCEAN DEPTHS

NONFICTION/ MEMOIR

ON SALE May 16, 2023

320pp

61 full color images

For fans of *Undrowned*, *The Brilliant Abyss*, and *The Book of Eels*. For fans of visually rich nature documentaries: *My Octopus Teacher*, *Planet Earth*.

RIGHTS HELD: **World**

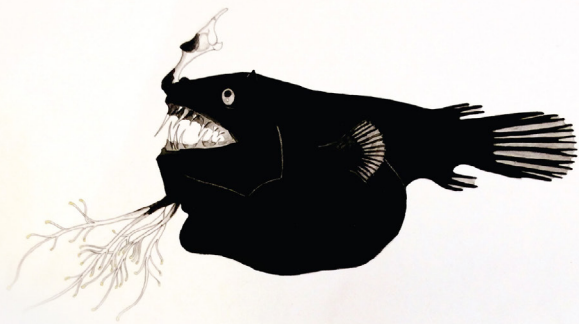
RIGHTS SOLD: UK (Pushkin Press), Germany (WBG); France (Editions du sous-sol, preempt); Italy (Ponte alle Grazie, preempt); the Netherlands (Thomas Rap, preempt); Korea (cocoonbooks, at auction)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**BRAD FOX** is a writer, journalist, translator, and former relief contractor living in New York. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Guernica*, and other venues. His novel *To Remain Nameless* (Rescue Press, 2020) was a finalist for the Big Other Fiction award and a staff pick at the *Paris Review*.



## The Bathysphere Book



Effects of the Luminous Ocean Depths

Brad Fox

### QUOTES

A real gem. Beautifully written and illustrated. It offers so much more than you would expect at first sight. Not just a very exciting firsthand account of the first ever deep sea expedition, a true adventure tale, but it's also about curiosity, and science in a time when mankind still knew very little about the underwater world, the sea as a mystery. About love, about language, even. The writings in Gloria's notebook as the vessel sinks deeper into the dark realms of the ocean read like poetry sometimes. And it's funny. Absolutely thrilled to be able to publish this next year!

— Roel van Diepen, Acquiring Editor Thomas Rap

The adventure of two pioneers of underwater research, whose story is told to us through a splendid illustrated book, *The Bathysphere Book*. Brad Fox goes back to the source and tells the illustrated story of the things seen in the depths. A poetic and powerful story, between Olivier Rolin's *Meteorologist* and Robert MacFarlane's *Underland*, between Emily Dickinson's *Herbarium* and *The Secrets of the Unicorn*. —Adrien Bosc, Publisher Editions du sous-sol

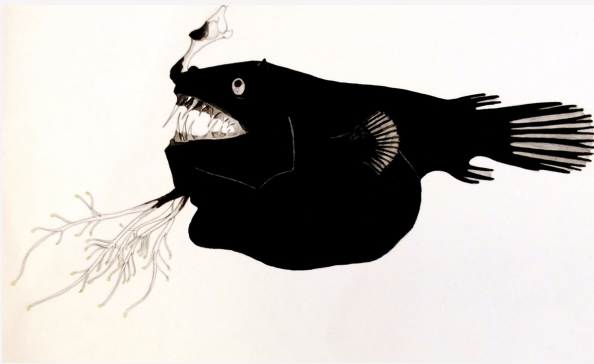
A wide ranging, philosophical, and sensual account of early deep sea exploration and its afterlives, *The Bathysphere Book* begins with the first ever voyage to the deep ocean in 1930 and expands to explore the adventures and entanglements of its all-too-human participants at a time when the world still felt entirely new.

In the summer of 1930, aboard a ship floating near the Atlantic island of Nonsuch, marine biologist Gloria Hollister sat on a crate, writing furiously in a notebook with a telephone receiver pressed to her ear. The phone line was attached to a steel cable that plunged 3,000 feet into the sea. There, suspended by the cable, dangled a four-and-a-half-foot steel ball called the bathysphere. Crumpled inside, gazing through three-inch quartz windows at the undersea world, was Hollister's colleague William Beebe. He called up to her, describing previously unseen creatures, explosions of bioluminescence, and strange effects of light and color.

From this momentous first encounter with the unknown depths, *The Bathysphere Book* widens its scope to explore a transforming and deeply paradoxical America, as the first great skyscrapers rose above New York City and the Great Plains baked to dust. In prose that is magical, atmospheric, and entirely engrossing, Brad Fox dramatizes new visions of our planetary home, delighting in tales of the colorful characters who surrounded, supported, and participated in the dives—from groundbreaking scientists and gallivanting adventurers to eugenicist billionaires.

Brad Fox blurs the line between poetry and research, unearthing and rendering a visionary meeting with the unknown.

### IMAGES





# Theodore McCombs

## Uranians

STORIES



FICTION/STORIES

ON SALE May 30, 2023

288pp

Fans of queer fiction with genre elements: Carmen Maria Machado, Morgan Thomas, Helen Oyeyemi. Readers of high-concept literary fiction with allegorical criticisms of society: Ted Chiang, Nana Adjei-Brenyah, Karen Russell. Readers of speculative fiction about climate catastrophe like Jeff Vandermeer and *Black Mirror*-esque parables about tech like *The Circle* by Dave Eggers

RIGHTS HELD: **World**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**THEODORE MCCOMBS's** stories have appeared in *Guernica*, *The Magazine of Fantasy Science Fiction*, and the anthology *Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Born in Thousand Oaks, California, he is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, U.C. Berkeley School of Law, and the Clarion Writers Workshop. He lives in San Diego with his partner and their surly old cat.



At the end of the Victorian era, a handful of public intellectuals advocated for tolerance of the “Uranian”—a man who loved other men. Some went so far as to propose that these “intermediate sexes” might, in fact, constitute a totally different species, even serve as intrepid guides in our march toward an uncertain future.

The five speculative stories in Theodore McCombs’s kaleidoscopic collection span several possible worlds, teasing the boundaries between coexisting realities and taking up the question of queer difference from one surprising vantage after another. In “Toward a Theory of Alternative Lifestyles,” a heartbroken gay man waits in line at an exclusive Berlin rave promising visions of parallel lives across the multiverse. In “Six Hangings in the Land of Unkillable Women,” at the turn of an alternate 20th century, a policeman’s wife feels that if you want an execution done right, you just have to do it yourself. And in the operatic novella “Uranians,” an expedition of queer artists, scientists, and one trans priest embark on a lifelong interplanetary voyage that requires them to renegotiate their connections to a remote and hostile Earth, while keeping their ship’s biome—and each other—alive.

Each story unfolds with the depth and complexity of an entire universe; each is inhabited by characters learning to divest from a society that has marked and rejected them. Discerning which dreams of Western civilization to hold fast to and which to leave behind, these outsiders set their gazes on new horizons and prepare for the changes to come. Arch but tender, clear-eyed and compassionate, *Uranians* brilliantly illustrates the vital role that queerness plays in every possible version of our world.

### QUOTES

“I have been waiting for this sumptuous, prismatic collection for literal years. Theodore McCombs is a poet of queer pasts, presents, and futures, and *Uranians* is a formidable debut.”

—Carmen Maria Machado, author of *Her Body and Other Parties*

# Melissa Lozada- Oliva

## Candelaria



FICTION / HISPANIC & LATINO

ON SALE September 19, 2023

223pp

For fans of *The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina*,  
*Her Body & Other Parties*, *Mexican Gothic*, *Gods of Jade and Sorrow*

RIGHTS HELD: World

ADDITIONAL ACQUISITIONS:

*Beyond All Reasonable Doubt, Jesus is Alive* by Melissa Lozada-Oliva | [World](#) | Fall 2024

Rachel Kim / 3Arts

*Fiction: Stories*

Author of DREAMING OF YOU Melissa Lozada-Oliva’s BEYOND ALL REASONABLE DOUBT, JESUS IS ALIVE, a collection of surreal short stories revealing the complex inner lives of women in search of salvation.

Xochitl Gonzalez’s *Olga Dies Dreaming* meets Zoraida Córdova’s *The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina* in this debut novel following a fiery Guatemalan grandmother after a natural disaster brings about the end of the world as we know it.

A deadly earthquake eerily similar to one in 1976 that left Guatemala in ruins leaves present-day Massachusetts in shambles and sets off a global apocalypse. Strange creatures emerge from the earth’s broken surface and begin to wreak havoc. An 88-year-old Guatemalan woman named Candelaria “Candy” Garcia is determined to make her way to her estranged daughter Lucia, twenty miles outside the city limits.

A sweeping, mystical intergenerational novel about mothers and daughters, Candelaria explores the far reaches of historical trauma, how myths of the past can pre-determine one’s present, and how we must strive to break those cycles and define our futures even in the face of the end of the world.

ALSO AVAILABLE:

## Dreaming of You

One of *The Millions* “Most Anticipated” books and a *Harper’s BAZAAR* must read of 2021

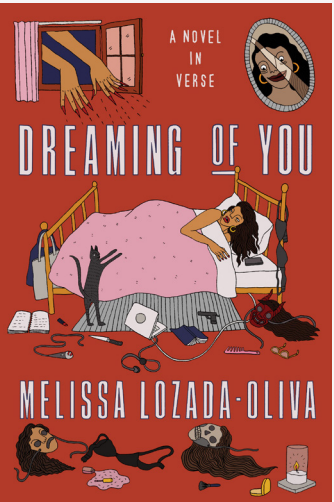
“The novel is narrated in verse, a device that could feel gimmicky in less capable hands than Lozada-Oliva’s, but instead melds with the macabre-yet-gossipy subject matter to create an unforgettable portrait of a public figure who to many seemed larger than life.” —[Emma Specter, Vogue](#)

A macabre novel in verse of loss, longing, and identity crises following a poet who resurrects pop star Selena from the dead.

Playfully morbid and profoundly candid, an interrogation of Latinidad, womanhood, obsession, and disillusionment, *Dreaming of You* grapples with the cost of being seen for your truest self.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MELISSA LOZADA-OLIVA, is the child of Guatemalan and Colombian immigrants. She co-hosts the podcast *Say More* and is a member of the band Meli and the Specs. She holds an MFA in poetry from NYU and her writing has been featured in *Remezcla*, *PAPER*, *The Guardian*, *The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 4*, *Wirecutter*, *Vulture*, *Bustle*, *Glamour*, *The Huffington Post*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *The Poetry Project*, *Audible*, and *BBC Mundo*. She is from Massachusetts and lives in New York City. Her debut novel-in-verse, *Dreaming of You* (2021), was published by Astra House.



# **WORLD ENGLISH RIGHTS**



# Chai Jing

## Seeing

A MEMOIR OF TRUTH AND COURAGE  
FROM CHINA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL  
TELEVISION JOURNALIST

NONFICTION

ON SALE August 15, 2023

304pp

For readers of Katy Tur, Jane Pauley, Peter Jennings, and Evan Osnos looking for a narrative deep dive into China's political backdrop, through the lens of an honest portrait of contemporary television journalism

RIGHTS HELD: **World English**

Seeing A Memoir of  
Truth and Courage  
from China's Most  
Influential Television  
Journalist Chai Jing



Translated by  
Yan Yan

In the tradition of Katy Tur, Jane Pauley, and Peter Jennings, Chai Jing shows us the power of television news and the complex challenges of reporting in China.

After garnering an intimate cult following as a late-night college radio DJ, Chai Jing is thrust into the spotlight when she is offered a position as a news anchor at CCTV, China's official state news channel. She struggles to find her footing while discovering the corruption, courage, and hope within the people she meets. Through an immediate and deeply personal narrative, Chai tells the stories of SARS quarantine wards, a teenage suicide cult, domestic violence, the consequences of industrial pollution, and workplace sexism, while examining her growth as a journalist. While at times doubting her abilities and fighting through the challenges of a male-dominated workplace, Chai Jing returns time and again to the extraordinary stories of her interviewees, committed to sharing their voices. Seeing provides a window into how China has faced challenges like pollution, climate change, and #MeToo, in this candid memoir about the government's obstacles and successes.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**CHAI JING** is an award-winning reporter and television host in China. She gained recognition covering the SARS epidemic in 2003. She has reported on domestic violence in China, changing the relative laws in 2005, the same year LGBT+ people appeared in an interview. In 2015, she was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people, and one of the top 100 global thinkers by Foreign Policy.



# Sean Michaels

## Do You Remember Being Born?

A NOVEL

FICTION / LITERARY

ON SALE September 5, 2023

296pp

For readers of high concept, literary prose styl-  
ists: Rivka Galchen, Helen Oyeyemi, Karen Russell  
and for readers who love fiction about Big Tech:  
fans of *The Circle* by David Eggers and *Made for  
Love* by Alissa Nutting

RIGHTS HELD: **World English (excluding Cana-  
da)**



Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Sean Michaels’s moving, innovative novel about an aging poet laureate who “sells out” by agreeing to collaborate with a Big Tech company’s poetry AI.

*Do You Remember Being Born?* is sensitively narrated by the aging, world-renowned poet Marian Farmer. Marian’s pristine life of the mind—for which she’s sacrificed nearly all personal relationships, from romance to friendship to showing up for her son—is interrupted one day by a cryptic invitation from a tech giant. Come to California, the invitation beckons, and write with a machine. The Company’s lucrative offer—for Marian to compose a “historic partnership” of a poem with their highly intelligent poetry bot, called Charlotte—much as it chafes at everything she believes about artmaking as an individual pursuit, is a second chance she cannot resist. And so to California she goes, a skeptic. But as unexpectedly welcome to Marian as being suddenly a financially reliable parent is her generative, growing fascination with Charlotte.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**SEAN MICHAELS** is a novelist, short story writer, and critic. Born in Stirling, Scotland, and raised in Ottawa. His debut novel, *Us Conductors*, received the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the QWF Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction, and was nominated for the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, the Kirkus Prize, the International Dublin Literary Award and (in translation) the Prix des libraires de Québec. His second novel, *The Wagers*, appeared in 2019. Sean’s award-winning writing has also appeared in multiple, publications.



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

*A Woman is a School* by Céline Semaan | [World](#) | Spring 2024

Anthony Mattero / Creative Artists Agency

*Non-fiction: Narrative*

Slow Factory Foundation founder Céline Semaan's *A WOMAN IS A SCHOOL*, combines memoir, research, and social theory to advocate for alternate paths to sustainable growth and self realization, based on decolonizing education and shaped in traditions of the Global South.

*Get On the Job and Organize* by Jaz Brisack | [World](#) | Spring 2024

Katie Kotchman / Don Congdon Associates

*Non-fiction: Politics/Current Affairs*

Barista and leader of the Starbucks union drive Jaz Brisack's *GET ON THE JOB AND ORGANIZE*, chronicling unionizing journey of the author and coworkers, with unreported behind-the-scenes details on Starbucks' efforts to stop them, helping to explain this moment as a new nationwide labor movement is on the rise, including takeaways for readers seeking to organize their workplace, in an effort to forever change the employee mindset.

*Death In Ferguson* by Derecka Purnell | [World](#) | Spring 2024

Alia Hanna Habib / Gernert

*Non-fiction: Politics/Current Affairs*

Derecka Purnell's book on activists, which tells the stories of several protestors who have died since the Ferguson Uprising, exposing the toll and exhibiting the power of Black and multiracial protests in America, for publication in time for the 10th anniversary in 2024.

*Front Street* by Brian Barth | [World](#) | Spring 2024

Melissa Falshman/Janklow & Nesbit

*Non-fiction: Politics/Current Affairs*

Journalist Brian Barth's *FRONT STREET*, a narrative investigation into the dramatic effects of the tech economy on the working poor, focusing on three unhoused communities in Cupertino, Mountain View, and Oakland, showing how housing insecurity is spreading to the middle class, and how local governments, developers, and tech companies are complicit.



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

*Early Sobrieties* by Michael Deagler | [World](#) | Spring 2024

Samantha Shea / Georges Borchardt, Inc.

RIGHTS SOLD: Greece (Gutenberg); UK (Hutchinson Heinemann)

*Fiction: Debut*

National Magazine Award for Fiction winner Michael Deagler's *EARLY SOBRIETIES*, pitched as a sober version of *JESUS' SON*, following one narrator across a novel-in-stories as he returns to Philadelphia for his first alcohol-free summer, and exploring the specters of guilt and exile that haunt even a "successful" recovery.

*O/X* by Benjamin Wright | [World](#) | Fall 2024

Kayla Lightner / Ayesha Pande Literary

*Fiction: Debut*

Benjamin Wright's *O/X*, a sprawling American epic set in an alternate reality where the Black population has suddenly and inexplicably vanished, following a family after a tragic murder and the recording of a mysteriously powerful vinyl record in 1960s Harlem that sets off a series of events rippling across decades.

*The Chronicles of Doom* by S.H. Fernando | [World](#) | Fall 2024

William LoTurco/LoTurco Literary

*Non-fiction: Biography*

Veteran music journalist S.H. Fernando Jr.'s *THE CHRONICLES OF DOOM: UNRAVELING RAP'S MASKED ICONOCLAST*, a biography of Daniel Dumile, aka MF DOOM, recounting the rise, fall, redemption, and untimely demise of one of hip-hop's most enigmatic and influential figures.

*Mouth* by Puloma Ghosh | [World](#) | Spring 2024

Rachel Kim / 3 Arts Entertainment

*Fiction: Debut*

Tin House Summer Workshop Scholar Puloma Ghosh's *MOUTH*, a debut collection of speculative, surreal, and uncanny stories that reach into otherworldly spaces while searching for answers to everyday struggles of isolation and ostracization, grief and lust, and the complexities of the body.

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

*Nothing More of This Land* by Joseph V. Lee | [World](#) | Spring 2025

Alia Hanna Habib / The Gernert Company

Senior Indigenous Affairs Fellow and member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Joseph V. Lee's NOTHING MORE OF THIS LAND uses the story of Joseph's own tribe to tackle key questions around contemporary indigenous identity and how it applies to other native groups around the world.

*Dirty Kitchen* by Jill Damatac | [World English](#) | Spring 2024

Charlotte Seymour/ Andrew Nurnberg

*Non-fiction: Memoir*

Filmmaker Jill Damatac's DIRTY KITCHEN, blending memoir, food writing, and history as the author cooks her way through recipes from her native-born Philippines and shares family stories as undocumented immigrants in America, forgotten Filipino colonial history, and long-buried indigenous traditions, exploring fractured memories to ask questions of what it means to belong.

*Blowfish* by Kyung Ran-Jo | [World English](#) | Spring 2024

Barbara Zitwer / Barbara J. Zitwer Agency

*Fiction: General/Other*

Kyung-Ran Jo's BLOWFISH, about a young sculptor contemplating a woman's claim to art, love, and death in the footsteps of her grandmother who, having learned of her husband's infidelity, died by suicide at the age of 30 by artfully preparing and deliberately eating a lethal dish of blowfish in front of her husband and child.

*Salt, Fat, Acid, Defeat* by Aaron Timms | [World English](#) | Spring 2024

Sarah Bolling / The Gernert Company

*New Republic*, *n+1*, and *Baffler* contributor Aaron Timms's SALT FAT ACID DEFEAT, expanding his *n+1* essay of the same name, examining food and restaurant culture under financial capitalism—how egomaniac chefs, rapacious venture capitalists, and feckless politicians became so central to our collective relationship with what we eat—and looking forward to a more humane food future.

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

*Galapagos* by Fátima Vélez | [World English](#) | Fall 2024

Translation from Colombia

María Lynch / Casanovas & Lynch Agency

*Fiction: Debut*

Colombian poet Fatima Velez's GALAPAGOS, following a group of bohemian artists who are dying of AIDS as they embark on a final voyage through the Galapagos islands, their decaying bodies cloaked in the skins of their dead; a lyrical novel in which the alliance between female and queer male bodies is deeply fraught, and the intersection of AIDS and motherhood are interrogated in love, friendship, and abjection.



**NOTABLE BACKLIST**

# Adam Soto

## Concerning Those Who Have Fallen Asleep

GHOST STORIES

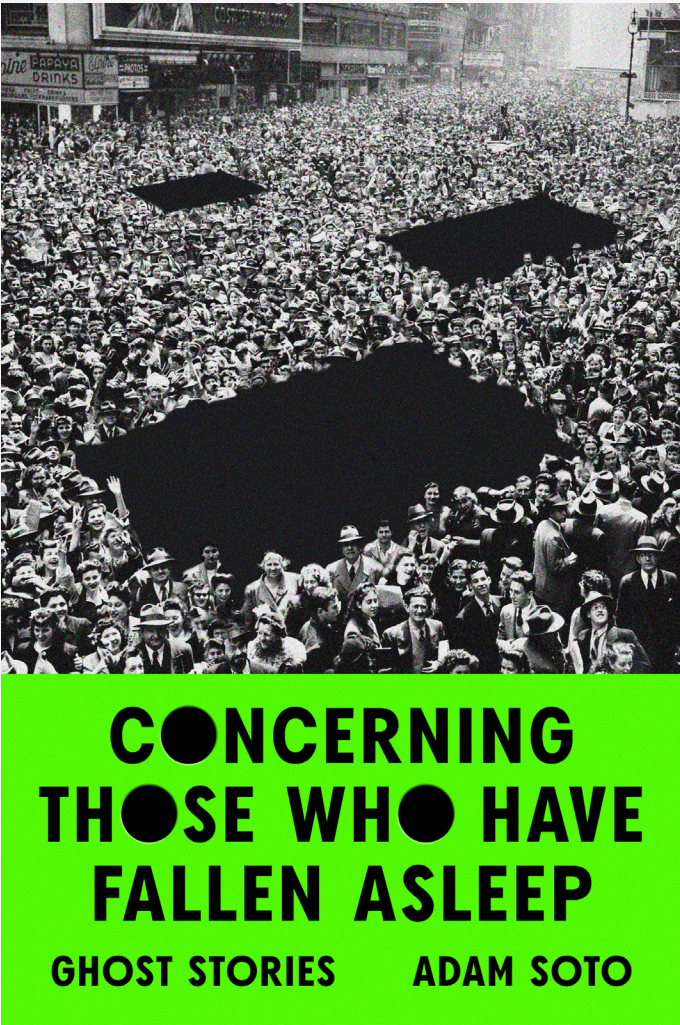
FICTION

ON SALE September 27, 2022

272 pp

For readers of literary horror, thriller and science fiction writers like Carmen Maria Machado, Silvia Maria Moreno, Gabino Iglesias, and Sarah Moss.

RIGHTS HELD: **World**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**ADAM SOTO**, Adam Soto is the web editor of American Short Fiction. He holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and is a former Michener-Copernicus Foundation Fellow. His first novel, *This Weightless World*, was published by Astra House in 2021.



A collection of short stories moving through time and place, exploring the spaces where we haunt each other and ourselves through our choices, our institutions, and our dreams.

Adam Soto, author of the debut novel *This Weightless World*, which Robin Sloan called “The social novel for the 21st century,” returns with *Concerning Those Who Have Fallen Asleep*.

In the title story, a one-armed Harlem Hellfighter goes in search of his specially altered military uniform while Influenza ravages Philadelphia. In “Sleepy Things,” a man is bound to the bedside of his comatose girlfriend who haunts his mother’s dreams. In “Wren & Riley,” a couple travels to Wyoming to visit a childhood friend who killed her abusive husband. And in “The Vegetable Church,” a pair of Syrian sisters, refugees of the civil war, find themselves at a crossroads in the home of their European hosts while their dead father whispers to them words of comfort and guidance.

Sorrowful, funny, and surreal, the stories in *Concerning Those Who Have Fallen Asleep* unpack and examine, in Soto’s signature style, the devices of genre fiction. The ghosts haunting these pages are sometimes literal—the kind that haunt from beyond the grave—but are just as often metaphorical—ghosts of guilt and longing, suppressed desires, and past lives.

ALSO AVAILABLE:

## This Weightless World

A *Locus Magazine* “2021 Recommended Reading”

A literary debut subverting classic sci-fi tropes set in gentrified Chicago, Silicon Valley, and across the vastness of the cosmos. From the streets of gentrified Chicago, to the tech boom corridors of Silicon Valley, *This Weightless World* follows a revolving cast of characters after alien contact upends their lives.

### QUOTES

“An imaginative and otherworldly collection. [...] In these well-crafted stories, Soto evocatively shows how the characters are at turns mystified by inexplicable experiences or haunted by burdensome pasts. [...] Readers will be enriched by the way this work thoroughly investigates the human heart.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

“Adam Soto is the metaphysical detective for our dissonant era, and every one of these stories is a new type of ghost he shines a light on, in this portable haunted house of a short story collection. An exhilarating ride, to be read throwback-style: chain-smoking under a pale moon, in black and white.”  
—*Fernando A. Flores, author of Hog Peninsula and Rio Grande Split*



# Derecka Purnell

## Becoming Abolitionists

POLICE, PROTESTS,  
AND THE PURSUIT  
OF FREEDOM

SOCIAL SCIENCE / RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS

ON SALE October 05, 2021

288pp

For readers of *Stamped from the Beginning*, *How to Be an Antiracist*, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, *The New Jim Crow*, *Chokehold*, *Are Prisons Obsolete*, and *White Fragility*, looking for a more radical response to the issue of police violence

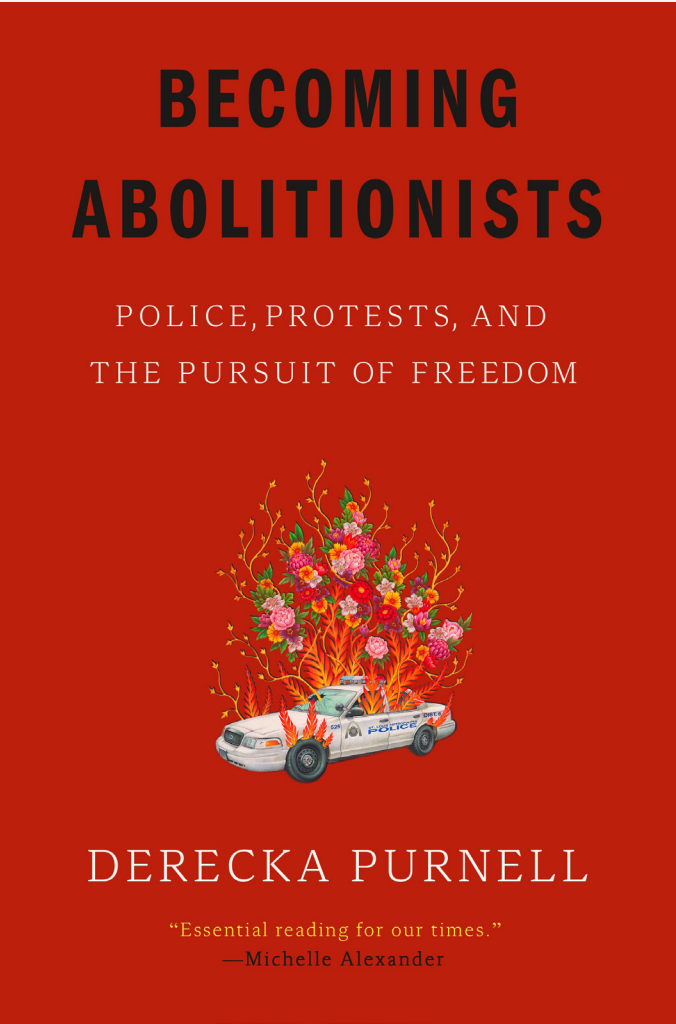
RIGHTS HELD: World

RIGHTS SOLD: UK&BC ex Can: Verso Books; France: Éditions Syllepse; Brazil/Portuguese: Novo Século; Italy (Fandango)

Over 12k copies sold

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**DERECKA PURNELL**, is a human rights lawyer, writer, and organizer. She received her JD from Harvard Law School, and works to end police and prison violence by providing legal assistance, research, and training to community-based organizations through an abolitionist framework. Her work and writing has been featured in the *New York Times*, NPR, *The Atlantic*, the *Boston Globe*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Cosmopolitan*, *The Appeal*, *Truthout*, *Slate*, and many other publications. Derecka is currently a columnist at the *Guardian* and co-founder of the forthcoming National Museum of Social Justice and Contemporary Activism.



“With deep insight and moral clarity, Purnell shares her compelling journey of political education and personal transformation, inviting us not only to imagine a world without police, but to muster the courage to fight for the more just world we know is possible. *Becoming Abolitionists* is essential reading for our times.”

— Michelle Alexander, best-selling author of *The New Jim Crow*

For more than a century, activists in the United States have tried to reform the police. From community policing initiatives to increasing diversity in departments, none of it has stopped the police from killing about three people a day. Millions of people continue to protest police violence because these “solutions” do not match the problem: the police cannot be reformed.

In *Becoming Abolitionists*, Purnell draws from her experiences as a lawyer, writer, and organizer who was initially skeptical about police abolition because she’d seen too much sexual violence and buried too many friends to consider getting rid of police in her hometown of St. Louis, let alone the nation. But the police were a placebo. Calling them felt like something, and something feels like everything when the other option seems like nothing.

Purnell details how multi-racial social movements rooted in rebellion, risk-taking, and revolutionary love pushed her and a generation of activists towards abolition. The book travels across geography and time, and offers lessons that activists have learned from Ferguson to South Africa, from Reconstruction to contemporary protests against police shootings.

Here, Purnell argues that police can not be reformed and invites readers to envision new systems that work to address the root causes of violence instead. *Becoming Abolitionists* shows that abolition is not solely about getting rid of police, but an invitation and commitment to create and support different answers to the problem of harm in society, and, most excitingly, an opportunity to reduce and eliminate harm in the first place.

### QUOTES

“At once specific and sweeping, practical and visionary, *Becoming Abolitionists* is a triumph of political imagination and a tremendous gift to all movements struggling towards liberation. Do not miss its brilliance!”

— Naomi Klein, best-selling author of *The Shock Doctrine*

“As a member of the ‘Trayvon Generation,’ Derecka offers us invaluable insights into how young activists are navigating and challenging current injustices. If you’ve curious about the modern abolitionist movement, this book is a must-read!”

— Mariame Kaba, best-selling author of *We Do This ‘Til We Free Us*