

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**

Reinbou Pedro Cabiya	6
Thieving Sun Monica Datta	8
Spring On The Peninsula Ery Shin	10
Mouth Puloma Ghosh	12
Early Sobrieties Michael Deagler	14
Y/N Esther Yi	16
Rivermouth Alejandra Oliva	18
Wild Dances William Lee Adams	20

Alejandro Varela	22
The Bathysphere Book Brad Fox	24
Uranians Theodore McCombs	26
Melissa Lozada-Oliva	28
Do You Remember Being Born? Sean Michaels	31
Recent Acquisitions	33
Concerning Those Who Have Fallen Asleep Adam Soto	38
Becoming Abolitionists Derecka Purnell	40

WORLD RIGHTS

Pedro Cabiya

Reinbou

A NOVEL

TRANSLATED BY JESSICA POWELL

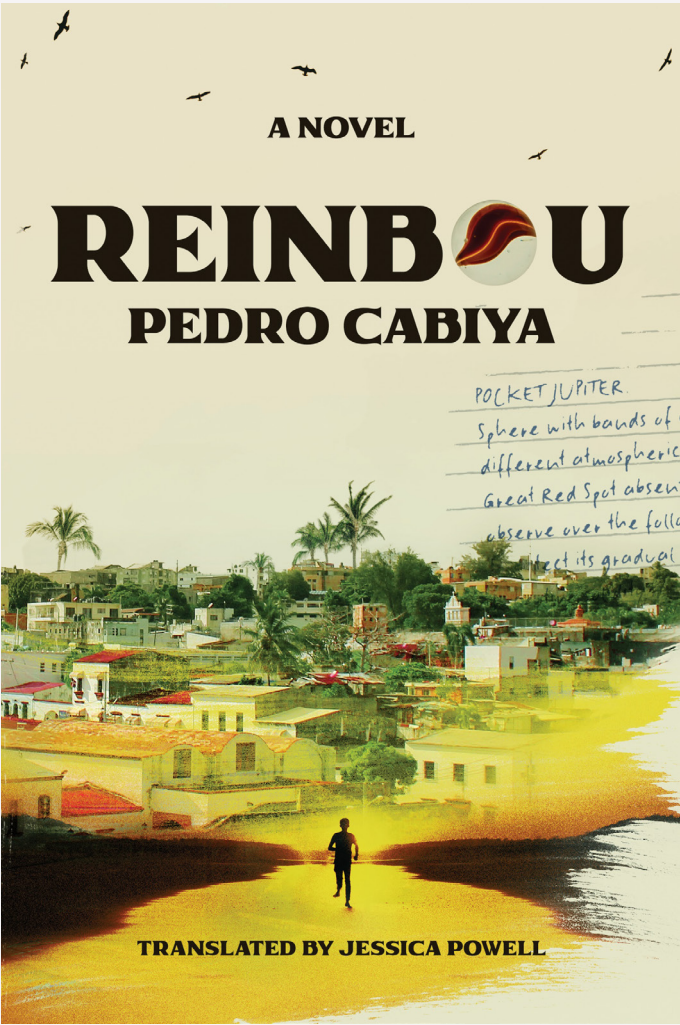
FICTION / HISTORICAL FICTION

ON SALE March 12, 2024

224pp

For readers of *Neruda On The Park*, *Dominicana*, *Woman of Light*, *Half of A Yellow Sun*, *How Beautiful We Were* and Naima Coster

RIGHTS HELD: **World**



Dominicana meets *Woman of Light* in this propulsive work of historical fiction about U.S. intervention and corruption in the Dominican Republic.

The basis of the 2017 film adaptation by Andrés Curbelo and David Maler.

In 1976 Santo Domingo, Ángel Maceta uncovers the real story behind the murder of his father, Puro Maceta, ten years prior. In the process, events that unfolded during and after the war are revealed, unleashing a series of small revolutions in his community that in turn unravel other intrigues of what really took place during the Civil War of 1965.

Weaving together the brutal realities of war with the innocence of childhood imagination, *Reinbou* explores this era in Dominican society, a time when the U.S. sent Marines into the country to back a coup against Juan Bosch, the first democratically elected president of the Dominican Republic since the end of the brutal, three-decade-long dictatorship of the genocidal Rafael Trujillo. Moving between 1965 and 1976, we follow the revolutionary efforts of Puro and the transformative, feverish adventures of Ángel.

Told through the eyes of a child and a varied cast of friends, family, and neighbors, *Reinbou* explores the consequences of political and societal upheaval, corruption, and violence in modern Dominican society.

Spanish MS and English translation are available upon request

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PEDRO CABIYA is the author of 13 books and over 100 essays and articles. His short-story collection *Historias Tremendas* (1999) was declared Best Book of the Year by both PEN Club International and the Institute of Puerto Rican Literature. In 2014 he was awarded the prestigious Caonabo de Oro for excellence in letters.



ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

JESSICA POWELL has published translations by Pablo Neruda, Sergio Missana, Gabriela Wiener, and Silvina Ocampo, among others. Her translation of *Wicked Weeds* (Mandel Vilar Press) by Pedro Cabiya was named a finalist for the 2017 Best Translated Book Award, made the longlist for the 2017 National Translation Award, and was a 2016 Forward Indies Winner.

Monica Datta

Thieving Sun

A NOVEL



FICTION / LITERARY

ON SALE March 26, 2024

216pp

For readers of Katie Kitamura, Rachel Cusk, Ruth Ozeki, Catherine Lacey and Lauren Groff

RIGHTS HELD: **World**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MONICA DATTA has a MFA in creative writing from Washington University in St. Louis, from which she received a Divided City/Mellon Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to study segregation in fiction and urban morphology in France, Morocco, and Germany. writing has appeared in *The New Inquiry*, *Conjunctions*, and many other journals.



In this searing debut novel, the tragic aftermath of a youthful relationship years after its end brings the life of a mourning woman in New York—and the pursuit of art—into stark relief.

Told in short passages through a musical device, this international story follows Julianne and Gaspar to Syria, China, Germany and elsewhere.

Julienne, a student of sculpture, and Gaspar, a young composer, fall in love at a small college and share a home for more than a decade before encountering the fundamental rift that will change their lives. The reverberations of grief force Julianne to confront her painful past including the mystery of her own birth and the fantastical story ascribed to it by her flight attendant mother, so that she can envision, for the first time, a real future.

Ultimately, *Thieving Sun* is a profound and contemporary meditation on art, grief, debt, suicide loss and the danger of being alive.

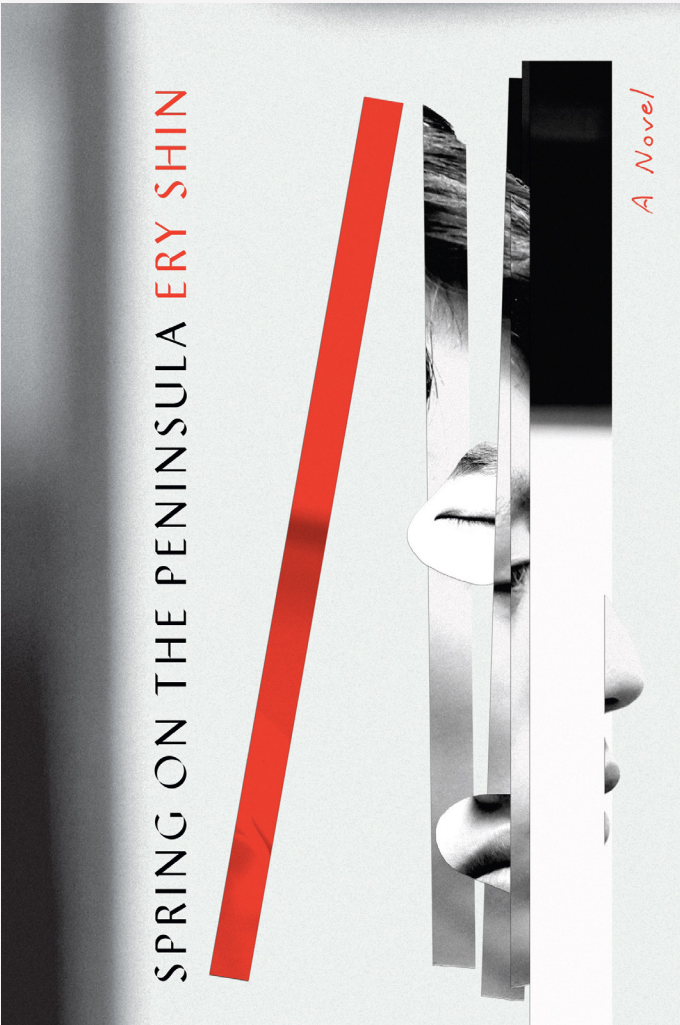
ADDITIONAL ACQUISITIONS:

Nebraska by Monica Datta | **World** | Spring 2025
Akin Akinwumi / Willenfield Literary Agency
A saga spanning generations and continents, centered on the seismic shifts within a family after the matriarch, who had been serving a prison sentence for filicide is released.

Ery Shin

Spring On The Peninsula

A NOVEL



FICTION / LITERARY

ON SALE April 9, 2024

272pp

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

RIGHTS HELD: **World**

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 degree in English from Princeton University and a doctorate from the University of Oxford. She is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi. *Spring on the Peninsula* is her first novel.



A desultory libertine mourns a failed relationship over the course of two harsh winters in this unprecedented portrait of millennials living in Seoul.

The time is roughly now and Kai, a 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. Accompany 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. Doing for Seoul what Kathy Acker does for New York City and Virginie Despentes for Paris, Ery Shin evokes contemporary Seoul in all of its glory and turmoil. Phantasmagorical, melancholic, and daringly irreverent, *Spring on the Peninsula* is a poignant debut novel and a meditation on modern life in a city beset by North Korea's shadow.

Puloma Ghosh

Mouth

STORIES

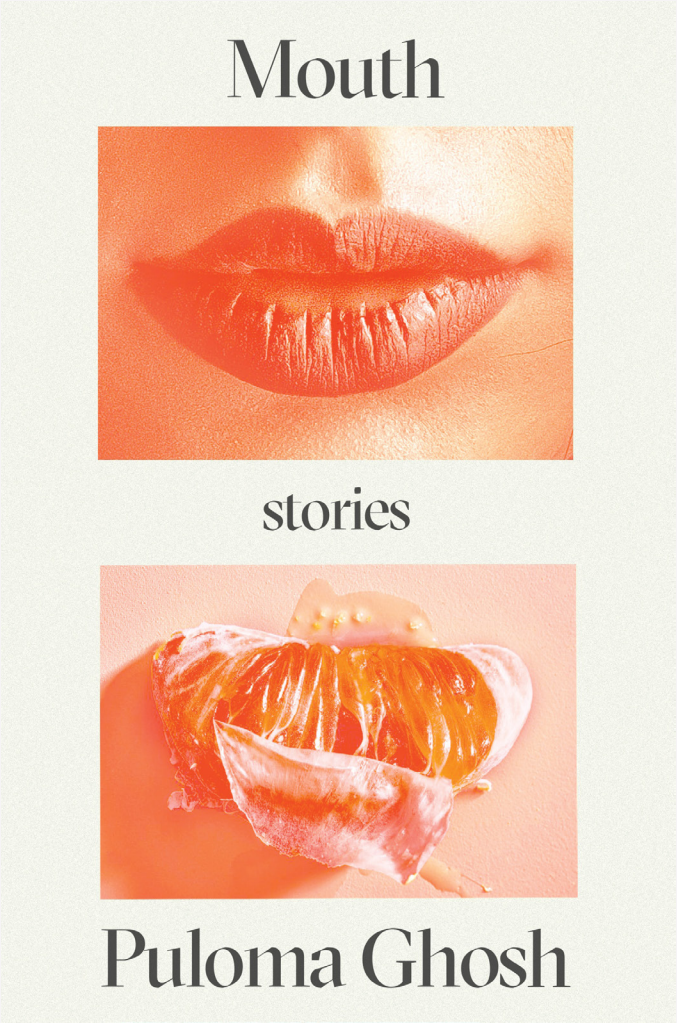
FICTION / SHORT STORIES

ON SALE June 11, 2024

240pp

For readers of Mariana Enriquez, Laura van den Berg, and Samanta Schweblin

RIGHTS HELD: **World**



A collection of 11 eerie, uncanny, and surreal short stories that move across time and place, blurring the lines of conventional reality.

In this debut collection, Puloma Ghosh uses the speculative as a catalyst to push her stories and characters beyond what reality allows. In short pieces of fiction, *Mouth* explores grief, intimacy, the body, mental health, and queerness, leaning into the bizarre and absurd while reaching for the truth.

In “Dessication,” a teen figure skater with necrophiliac tendencies is convinced the only other Indian girl at the rink is a vampire.

In “The Fig Tree,” a woman finally returns to Kolkata and is haunted by the ghost of her mother.

“Leaving Things” questions the limits to companionship.

In “K,” a pathological liar investigates the ghost inhabiting her dorm.

“In the Winter” is an undefined hookup.

“Anomaly” is a first date in a postapocalyptic world.

In “Lemon Boy,” girl meets boy, boy might not be real.

“Supergiant” asks of its readers just how far and how much we’d sacrifice for adoration, admiration, and immortality.

In “Nip,” addiction is bottled up and carried around.

“Natalya” is a hair-raising autopsy of an ex-lover.

And finally, in “Persimmons,” a girl comes to terms as her community prepares her for sacrifice.

Delving into uncanny spaces and giving fangs, talons, and singular sharpness to the otherwise ordinary, awkward, and unmentionable, *Mouth’s* surrealism is both unique and captivating. Experimenting with form and speculative elements, Puloma Ghosh reaches into otherworldly spaces while searching for answers to everyday struggles of isolation and ostracization, lust and longing, and complexities of the body.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PULOMA GHOSH is a fiction writer based in Chicago whose work has appeared in *One Story* and *CRAFT Literary* as the 2020 Flash Fiction Contest winner, among other publications. This is her first book.



Michael Deagler

Early Sobrieties

A NOVEL

FICTION / LITERRARY

ON SALE May 5, 2024

272pp

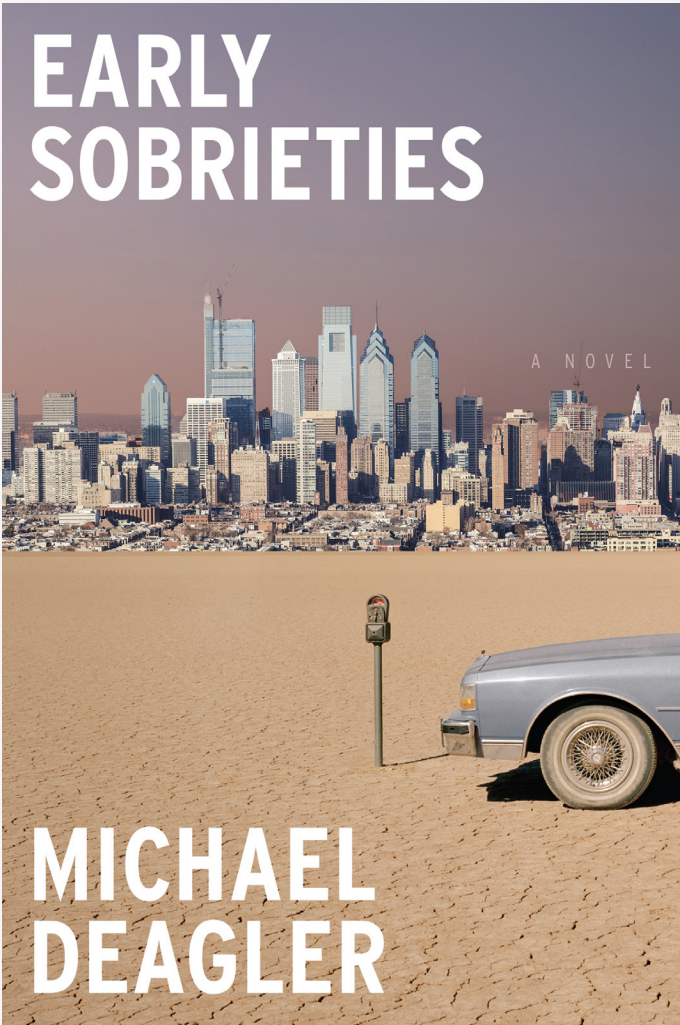
For readers of David Szaley, Andrew Martin, Jamel Brinkley, Thom Jones, David Means, and Raymond Carver

RIGHTS HELD: **World**

RIGHTS SOLD: English (UK & BC excl Can) (Hutchinson Heinemann/PRH UK), Greece (Gutenberg/Dardanos)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MICHAEL DEAGLER was raised in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He lives in Los Angeles, where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Southern California. *Early Sobrieties* is his first novel.



Like a sober millennial *Jesus’ Son*, Michael Deagler’s debut is a quarterlife bildungsroman following a former blackout drunk who returns to Philadelphia for his first alcohol-free summer

Dennis Monk is 26, a college graduate, and a former blackout drunk. Once, he planned on being a writer. Now, he mostly works menial jobs as he puzzles over how to exist in the world as a sober person. He’s spent the last few months living at his parents’ house in the Philadelphia suburbs, but after they kick him out, he returns to the temptations of city life and a summer of couch surfing across South Philadelphia.

Monk makes his humbling pilgrimage through a Philadelphia itself in an awkward state of change; growing, gentrifying, maturing in baffling and humiliating and wonderful ways; haunted by its past as well as its unrealized potential. A few of Monk’s schoolmates have gotten nice jobs and moved out of state, but many have failed that millennial imperative for geographic and social mobility. His adventures with former friends and lovers reveal that sobriety is not the happy ending of his confusion but merely a new, just-as-messy chapter. What if you quit drinking and that alone makes you no happier, no kinder, no better at life? From where does one seek his salvation then—and where can a weary traveler lay his head?

Michael Deagler’s *Early Sobrieties* is a second coming-of-age story, a wry but poignant meditation on the sublime, confessional, redemptive power of a writer, at last, finding the right words.

QUOTES

“Michael Deagler is the real deal. This novel is surprising in all the best ways. The actions of the complex and complicated people in this world are not predictable, but always, frighteningly, believable. Deagler writes with great control and understatement. This is a truly intelligent work from a clearly intelligent writer.”

—Percival Everett, 2023 Windham Campbell Prize recipient and author of *Dr. No*

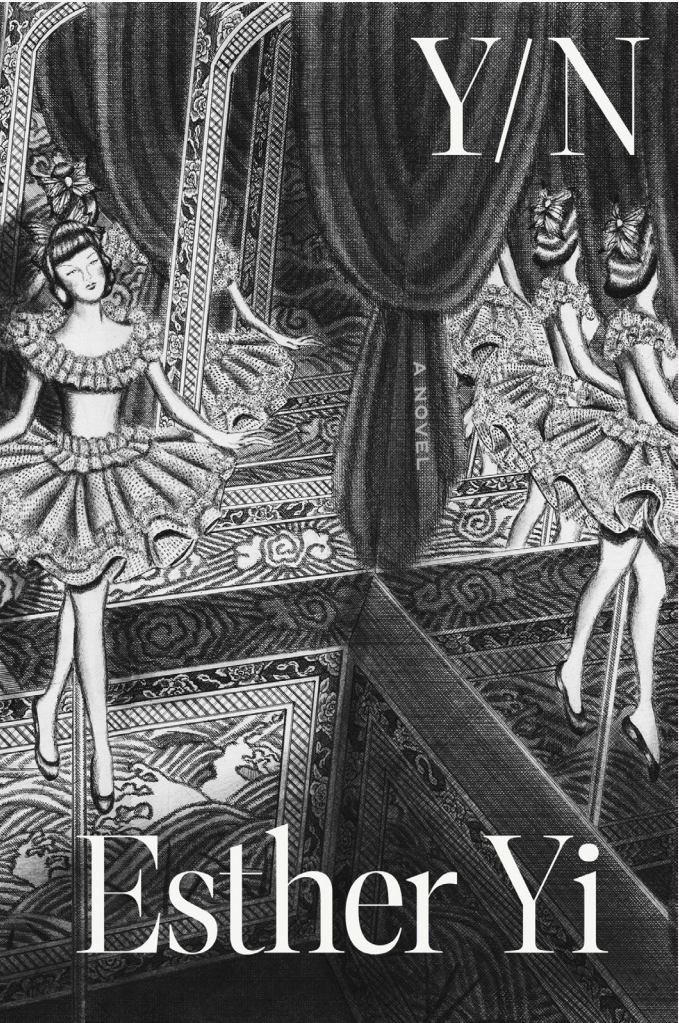
“Deagler’s debut pulls in a reader with such an inviting clarity—there’s something about the honesty in this voice that creates a lot of room for the reader to feel and makes for an illuminating and moving read.”

—Aimee Bender, author of *The Butterfly Lampshade*

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); Russia (AST); World Spanish (Aristas Martinez, at auction); China (CITIC), France (Le Gospel)

Over 12k copies sold

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ESTHER YI was born in Los Angeles in 1989.



LONGLISTED FOR THE 2023 CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE

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

“[A] wondrous and strange first novel . . . Y/N resists the junkiness of the internet . . . against which a well-formed novel like this counteracts, a blast of cleansing heat.”
—Alexandra Jacobs, *The New York Times*

“This is a curious, cerebral work, shot through with moments of tender poetry and a vertiginous self-awareness.”
—Nina Allan, *The Guardian*

“A riveting and innovative tale about identity, fandom, and art.”
—Laura Zornosa, *TIME*

“Witty, astute, and self-aware.”
—Melissa Broder, *The Guardian*

Alejandra Oliva

Rivermouth

A CHRONICLE OF LANGUAGE, FAITH, AND
MIGRATION

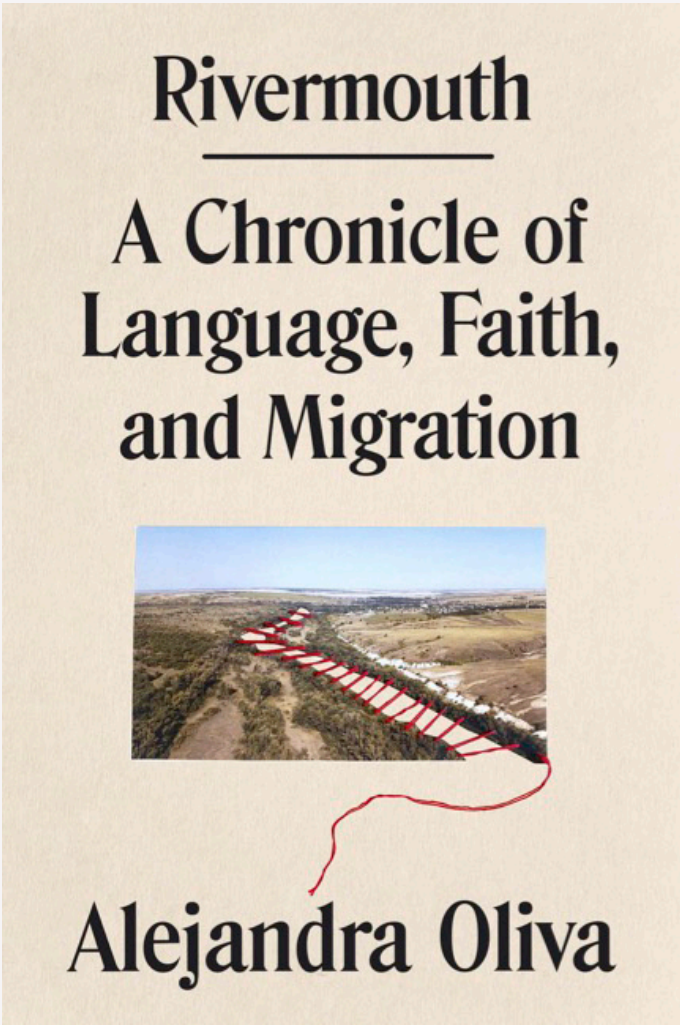
NONFICTION

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. She is a recipient of the 2022 Creative Nonfiction Whiting Grant. 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.



QUOTES

“A timely book by a translator at America’s southern border, “*Rivermouth*” is one of the most thoughtful meditations on our nation’s immigration policy in recent memory. Oliva’s Kafkaesque portrayal of her work retelling the traumatic stories of migrants in English for asylum applications will linger long after you’re done reading.”
—*The Boston Globe*

“*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

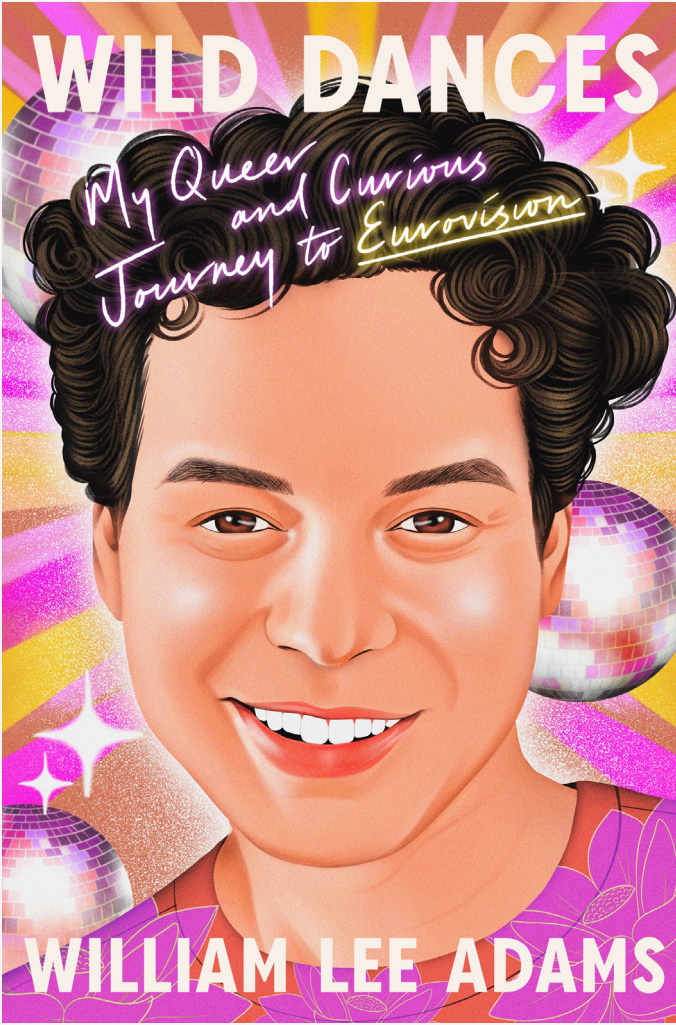
NONFICTION/ MEMOIR

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

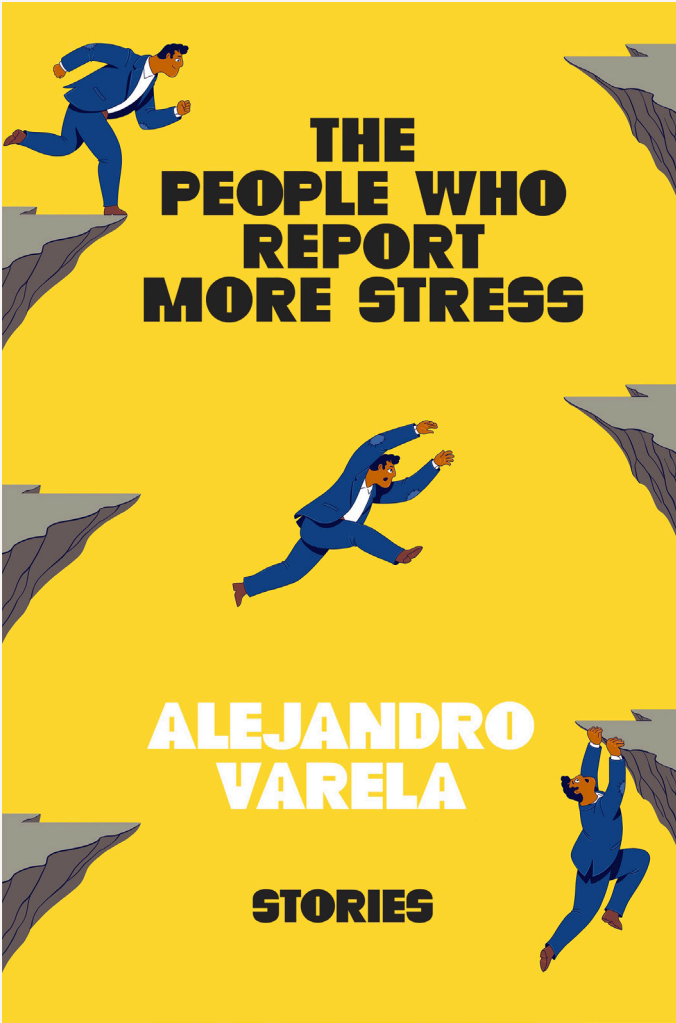
FICTION

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 a writer based in New York. His debut novel, *The Town of Babylon* (2022), was a finalist for the National Book Award. His work has appeared in the *Point Magazine*, *Georgia Review*, *Boston Review*, *Harper’s*, and the *Offing*, among others outlets. Varela is an editor-at-large of *Apogee Journal*. 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

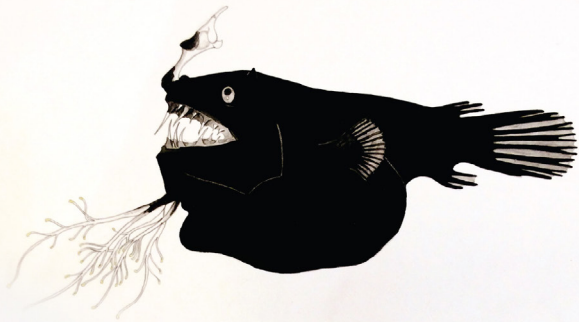
RIGHTS SOLD: UK (Pushkin Press), Germany (WBG); France (Editions du sous-sol, preempt); Italy (Ponte alle Grazie, preempt); the Netherlands (Thomas Rap, preempt); Korea (cocoonbooks, at auction); China (China Science)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BRAD FOX is a writer, journalist, translator, and former relief contractor. 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

“Beautifully written and beautifully made, *The Bathysphere Book* is a piece of poetic nonfiction that strives to conjure up the crushing blackness of the midnight zone. Full color, overflowing with stunning illustrations of the uncanny creatures that live beyond the sun, it raises questions of exploration and wonder, of nature and humanity, and lets readers find answers on their own.”
—W. M. Akers, *The New York Times Book Review*

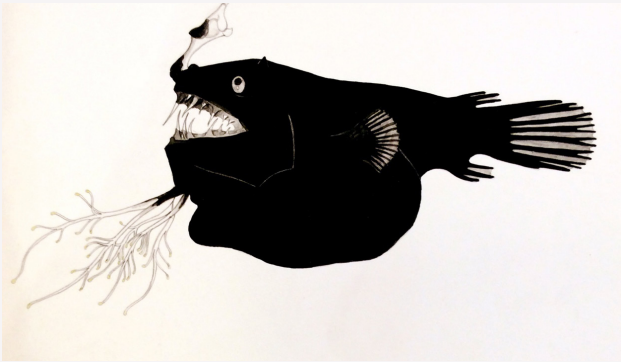
A wide ranging, philosophical, and sensual account of early deep sea exploration and its afterlives, *The Bathysphere Book* begins with the first ever voyage to the deep ocean in 1930 and expands to explore the adventures and entanglements of its all-too-human participants at a time when the world still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



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*

“Playful and provocative . . . McCombs’s mix of heart and zany ideas is often reminiscent of George Saunders. Readers will find plenty of earthy and unearthly delights.”
—*Publishers Weekly*

Melissa Lozada-Oliva

Candelaria

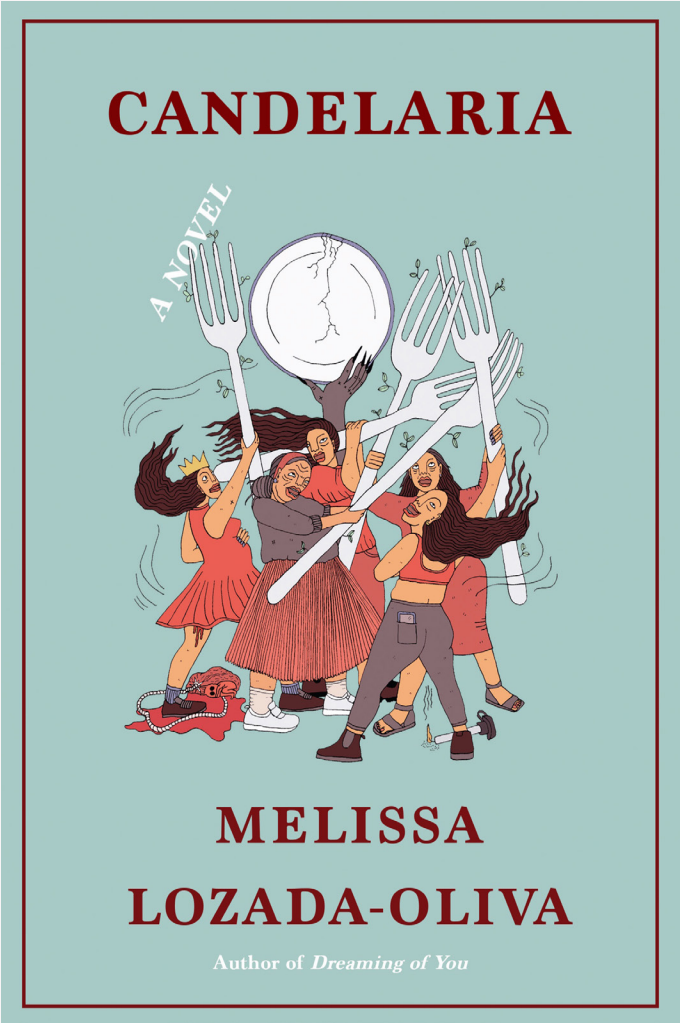
FICTION / HISPANIC & LATINO

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.

“A literary ride unlike any other. Heartbreaking, hilarious and absurd in the very best way, it sticks to your soul and leaves you seeing the world and the people in it a bit differently.” —Xochitl Gonzalez, Pulitzer Prize Finalist and author of *Olga Dies Dreaming*

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

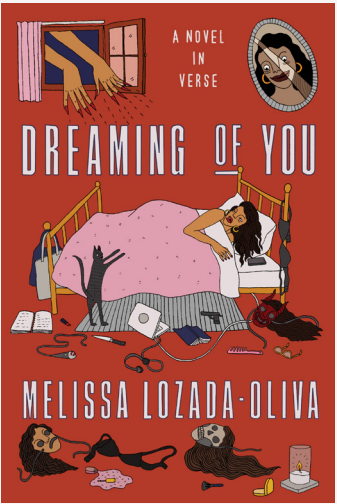
One of *The Millions* “Most Anticipated” books and a *Harper’s BAZAAR* must read of 2021

“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*

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 co-hosts the podcast *Say More*. She holds an MFA in poetry from NYU and her writing has been featured in *Remezcla*, *PAPER*, *The Guardian*, *The Break-Beat Poets Vol. 4*, *Wirecutter*, *Vulture*, *Bustle*, *Glamour*, *The Huffington Post*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *The Poetry Project*, *Audible*, and *BBC Mundo*.



WORLD ENGLISH RIGHTS

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)**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SEAN MICHAELS 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.



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.

QUOTES

“[A] timely and lovely new novel . . . Michaels has a poet’s eye for detail and ear for fresh phrasing . . . No matter your stance on A.I., *Do You Remember Being Born?* is a tender and moving character portrait full of sharp scenes and memorable observations.
—Lincoln Michel, *The New York Times Book Review*

“Michaels merges modernist poetry with contemporary technology in this inventive outing . . . [*Do You Remember Being Born?* asks] probing and humane questions about what it means to be an artist.”
—*Publishers Weekly*

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Get On the Job and Organize by Jaz Brisack | [World](#) | Fall 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.

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.

Blowfish by Kyung Ran-Jo | [World English](#) | Fall 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 2025

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

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 2025

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.

Galapagos by Fátima Vélez | [World English](#) | Spring 2025

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.

Front Street by Brian Barth | [World](#) | Spring 2025

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

Foreclosure Gothic by Harris Lahti | [World](#) | Spring 2025

Halley Parry / Mike Hamilburg Agency

Fiction: Debut

An ex-Hollywood actor and his wife as they, in the footsteps of his father, resolve to make a life restoring one foreclosed home after another; an intimate uncanny portrait of three generations of men which reimagines the American Gothic against the backdrop of today's Hudson valley.

A Woman is a School by Céline Semaan | [World](#) | Fall 2025

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.

Death In Ferguson by Derecka Purnell | [World](#) | Fall 2025

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.

God Forgives, Brothers Don't: Courage, Cruelty, and The Long March of Military Education in America by Jasper Craven | [World](#)

Caroline Eisenmann / Frances Goldin Literary

Non-fiction

Investigative journalist Jasper Craven's GOD FORGIVES, BROTHERS DON'T: Courage, Cruelty, and The Long March of Military Education in America, the first narrative history of military education in the US, tracing its deep connections to the armed forces and showing how it parallels the evolution of toxic masculinity in American society.

NOTABLE BACKLIST

Adam Soto

Concerning Those Who Have Fallen Asleep

GHOST STORIES

FICTION

ON SALE September 27, 2022

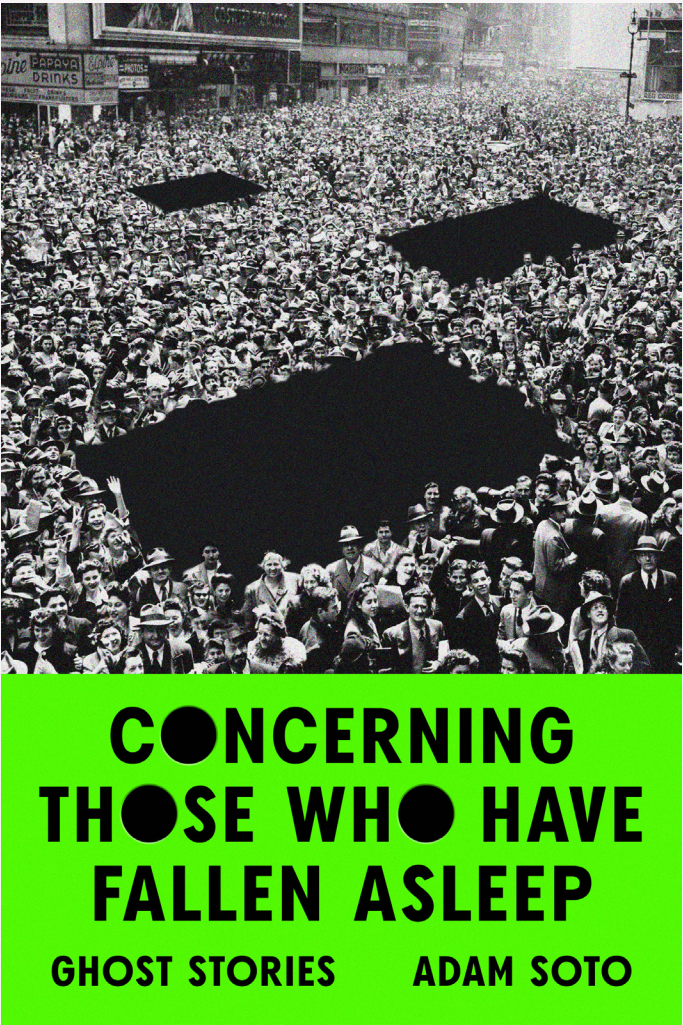
272 pp

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

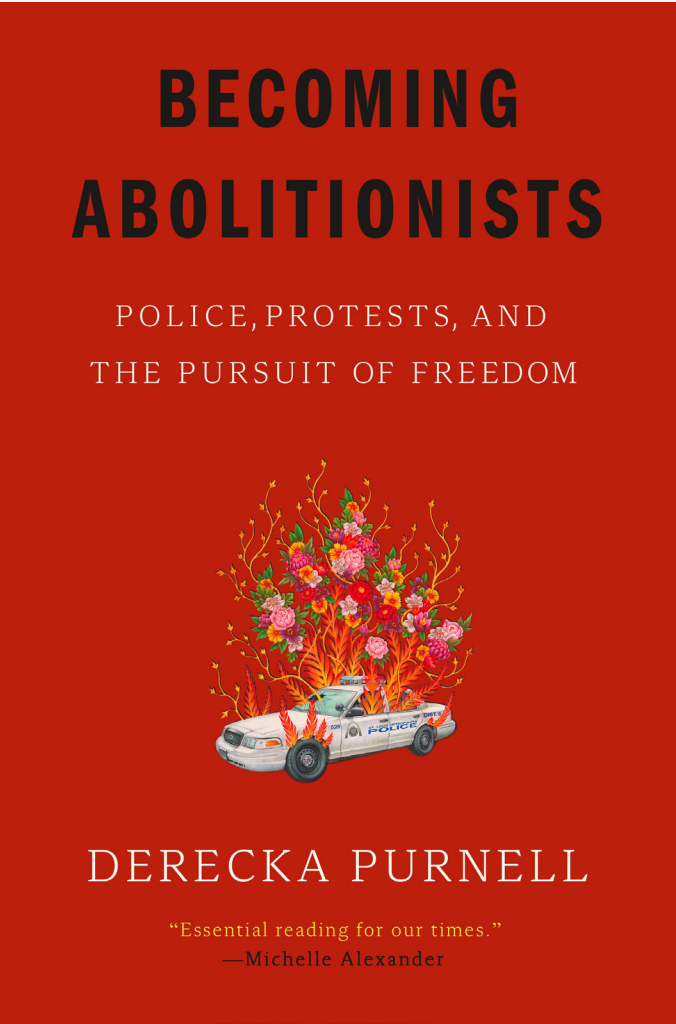
RIGHTS HELD: World

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 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.



“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*