



CATAPULT COUNTERPOINT SOFT SKULL

RIGHTS LIST
SPRING 2023

<u>World Rights Fiction</u>	3
<u>World Rights Nonfiction</u>	9
<u>World English Rights Fiction</u>	25
<u>World English Rights Nonfiction</u>	41
<u>Cross-genre & Poetry</u>	49
<u>Notable Backlist</u>	53
<u>Co-Agents</u>	64

World Rights | Fiction

Seeking Fortune Elsewhere

Stories

By Sindya Bhanoo

Rights retained: World

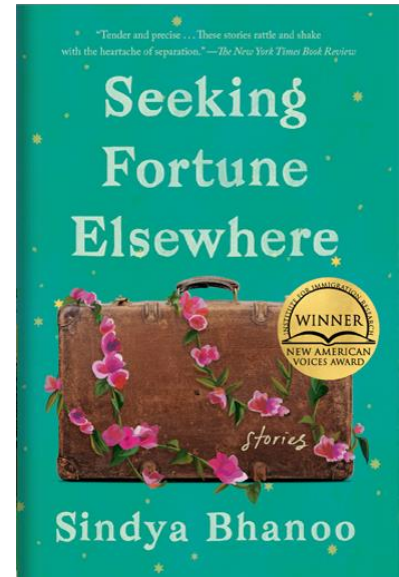
Publication: March 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English), UK offer received

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages

Finalist for The Story Prize, the PEN/Robert J. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection, and the Oregon Book Awards, Longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal of Excellence Winner of the New American Voices Award



“Tender and precise . . . Bhanoo’s focus is clear and tightly observed, centering the decisions and difficulties of a global life, some of them gut-wrenching . . . These stories rattle and shake with the heartache of separation, rendering palpable the magnitude of small decisions in our less-than-small world.” —**Samantha Hunt, *The New York Times Book Review***

“Bhanoo transforms human drama into mystery. Graceful stories by a writer with enormous empathy for even the most flawed and forlorn among us.” —**Kirkus Reviews (starred review)**

These intimate stories of South Indian immigrants and the families they left behind center women’s lives and ask how women both claim and surrender power—a stunning debut collection from an O. Henry Prize winner

Traveling from Pittsburgh to Eastern Washington to Tamil Nadu, these stories about dislocation and dissonance see immigrants and their families confront the costs of leaving and staying, identifying sublime symmetries in lives growing apart.

In “Malliga Homes,” selected by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie for an O. Henry Prize, a widow in a retirement community glimpses her future while waiting for her daughter to visit from America. In “No. 16 Model House Road,” a woman long subordinate to her husband makes a choice of her own after she inherits a house. In “Nature Exchange,” a mother grieving in the wake of a school shooting finds an unusual obsession. In “A Life in America,” a shocked professor reacts to accusations that he exploited his graduate students.

Sindya Bhanoo’s haunting stories take us along on journeys where regret, hope, and triumph appear in disguise, showing us how immigrants’ paths, and the paths of those they leave behind, are always more complicated and more surprising than they first appear.

SINDYA BHANOO’s fiction has appeared in *Granta*, *New England Review*, *Glimmer Train*, and elsewhere. A longtime newspaper reporter, she has worked for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. She is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers. She lives in Austin, Texas.

Brother & Sister Enter the Forest

A Novel

By Richard Mirabella

Rights retained: World

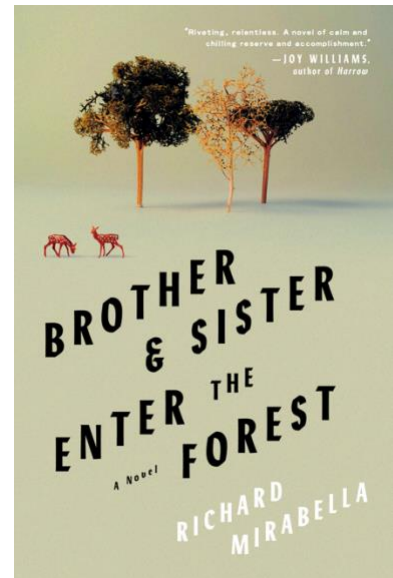
Publication: March 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 288 pages

The Washington Post, A Noteworthy Book
Harper's Bazaar, A Best New Book of 2023
Goodreads, A Buzziest Debut Novel of the Year



“Riveting, relentless. A novel of calm and chilling reserve and accomplishment.” —Joy Williams, author of *Harrow*

“This novel deftly explores the surreal undertones of familiar themes like love and loyalty. Part fantastical horror, part road trip narrative, *Brother & Sister Enter the Forest* is an uncanny portrait of the lengths we go to protect the people we love.” —Isle McEroy, *Vulture*, A Most Anticipated Book of the Year

Opening like a fairy tale and ending like a nightmare, this cannonball of a queer coming-of-age novel follows a young man's relationship with a violent older boyfriend—and how he and his sister survive a terrible crime

After years of severed communication, Justin appears on his sister's doorstep needing a place to stay. The home he's made for himself has collapsed, as has everything else in his life. When they were children, Willa played the role of her brother's protector, but now, afraid of the chaos he might bring, she's reluctant to let him in. Willa lives a carefully ordered life working as a nurse and making ornate dioramas in her spare time. As Justin tries to connect with the people she's closest to—her landlord, her boyfriend, their mother—she begins to feel exposed. Willa and Justin's relationship has always been strained yet loving, frustrating and close. But it hits a new breaking point when Justin spirals out of control, unable to manage his sobriety and the sustained effects of a brain injury.

Years earlier, in high school, desperate to escape his home life and his disapproving, troubled mother, Justin falls into the hands of his first lover, a slightly older boy living on his own who offers Justin some semblance of intimacy and refuge. When Justin's boyfriend commits a terrifying act of violence, the two flee on a doomed road trip, a journey that will damage Justin and change his and his family's lives forever. Weaving together these two timelines, *Brother & Sister Enter the Forest* unravels the thread of a young man's trauma and the love waiting for him on the other side.

RICHARD MIRABELLA is a writer and civil servant living in upstate New York. His short stories have appeared in *Story*, *American Short Fiction* online, *One Story*, *Split Lip Magazine*, and elsewhere. *Brother & Sister Enter the Forest* is his first novel.

Freedom's Ghost

A Mystery of the American Revolution

By Eliot Pattison

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

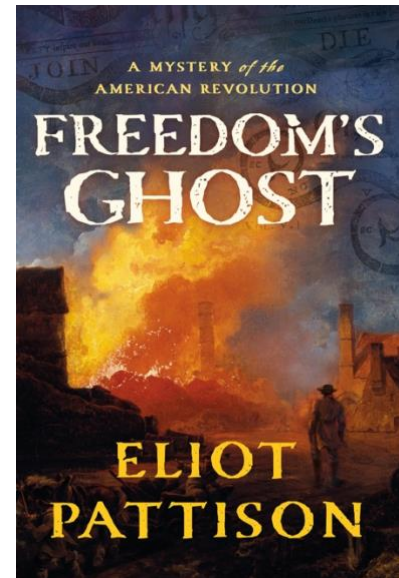
Genre: Fiction | 400 pages

—Praise for Eliot Pattison—

Winner of the Edgar Award

Finalist for the Golden Dagger Award

Nominee for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award



“Compelling.” —CNN

“Intriguingcompelling.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

As the drumbeat of the American Revolution grows ever closer, Scotsman-turned-American-patriot Duncan McCallum must navigate treacherous cultural and political waters if he's to secure a fighting chance for the fledgling nation in this gripping installment of the acclaimed Bone Rattler series

After narrowly avoiding death in London at the hands of the king's secret agents, Duncan McCallum returns to colonial America only to discover that his troubles have followed him across the Atlantic.

The harbor town of Marblehead, Massachusetts, is a smoldering powder keg as British loyalists and advocates for liberty feverishly maneuver to determine the future of the colonies. When a Native American sailor is scapegoated for the gruesome murders of officers of the British occupation troops, McCallum will have to face off against ruthless adversaries close to the crown. Soliciting the assistance of such notable historical figures as John Hancock, Crispus Attucks, and John and Samuel Adams, McCallum must rely on his skills in science, subterfuge, and diplomacy to stave off a war for which America is not yet prepared.

Just as Patrick O'Brian's Master and Commander series took readers on a thrilling journey through the Napoleonic Wars, *Freedom's Ghost* and the Bone Rattler series offer riveting historical adventures embedding readers in the clashes and intrigue of the American Revolution.

ELIOT PATTISON is the author of the Inspector Shan series, which includes *The Skull Mantra*, winner of an Edgar Award and finalist for the Gold Dagger. Pattison's Bone Rattler series follows Scotsman Duncan McCallum on the road to revolution as he fights to protect the cause of freedom. Pattison resides in rural Pennsylvania.

Wings of Red

By James W. Jennings

Rights retained: World

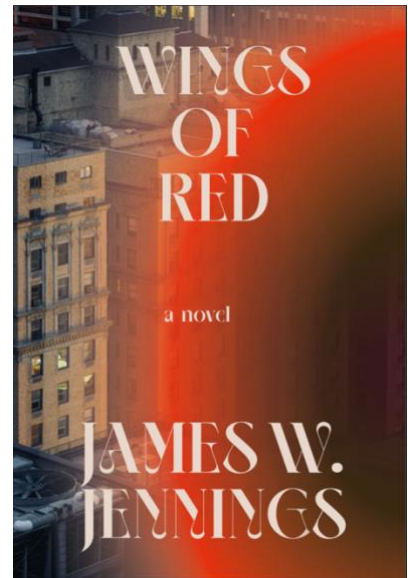
Publication: November 2023

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 170 pages

My name's June. I'm a New City substitute teacher when they need me. What else is there? My lease is up tomorrow and quietly I still owe September rent. A lease for my younger readers is the price you pay for the roof over your head. I can no longer afford mine and I'm feeling like a failure but worse things have happened. My two roommates, my godbrother, and I are shooting dice in the dining room. What else? Winter's approaching. It's almost bubble jacket and long john season. The idea of roaming New City homeless is not something I'm looking forward to. I pick up the dice and roll. A win would be nice.



An inventive and stylish debut written by a Black educator, *Wings of Red* is a clear-eyed, funny, imperfect, and observant work of autofiction that grapples with the absurdity of the New York City educational system as a substitute teacher—that, in the end, reads as an ode to the city itself

June Papers is a twenty-eight-year-old MFA grad with a felony record, “the classic young, Black and gifted American misfit.” He’s also a substitute teacher. He’s also homeless. With dreams of becoming a writer, June endures a host of trials and dilemmas as he reluctantly realizes mentoring and teaching might actually be a path forward for him.

Wings of Red is driven by June’s unique narrative style, a propulsive voice that intimately and vulnerably guides readers through the condemned external reality of a Black educator’s personal and professional world falling apart, and coming together again.

Populated by a host of true-to-life characters who are attempting to realize their dreams despite precarious professional and financial realities, *Wings of Red* elucidates the fallacy of the American dream while serving as a reminder of how powerful and necessary autofiction can be. Directed at students and educators but written for any audience, *Wings of Red* is an inspiring and poetic tour de force and an unexpectedly necessary ode to New York City that features a texture, velocity, and immediacy that speaks to the author's authentic and lived perspective.

Originally from Hartford, Connecticut, **JAMES W. JENNINGS** is an artist and educator with a BA in English from Emory University in Atlanta, and an MFA from CUNY-Brooklyn College; he worked for 7 years as a dean of students within the NYC Department of Education, and is currently an English teacher at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in Oak Bluffs, MA.

Stag

A Novel

By Dane Bahr

Rights retained: World
Publication: April 2024
Available: Unedited manuscript
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | 295 pages



In this new noir, set in the same world as Dane’s critically acclaimed debut *The Houseboat*, Bahr brings all his prodigious gifts in spades—the painterly attention to natural detail, the dramatist’s ear for dialog and director’s sense of pacing—and the result is a book of compelling characters and brutal beauty

It’s 1989 and Amos Fielding, one time sheriff of Oscar, Iowa, is now in his early seventies and grieving the recent loss of his wife, Sara. He packs up his few belongings and heads off to better pastures, in this case a ranch in the far northwest corner of WA state. A destination he can only justify by its distance from Oscar, “where every damn little thing I see or hear or do reminds me that Sara’s gone.” But his years as a sheriff also haunt him, a life spent witnessing the evil that men do. Eager to escape these painful reminders, Fielding throws himself into the daily chores of a gentleman rancher. But there is evil afoot in those hills, as dark as any he faced in Oscar.

A cold blooded, amoral psychopath has been stalking troubled young women in the surrounding woods, staging elaborate scenes of his crimes. The local sheriff has turned a blind eye to the cases. In fact, the only law enforcement agents genuinely concerned about justice are Dee Batey, a recovering alcoholic former detective turned wildlife officer, and Philip Wilson, a young overly ambitious and weirdly obsessed Seattle FBI agent. It is Batey who will strike up a growing friendship with Fielding, providing the lure that will pull Fielding back into the world he so desperately wants to escape.

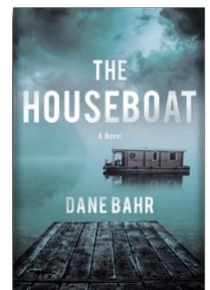
DANE BAHR was born in Minnesota. He is the author of *The Houseboat* and the forthcoming novel, *Stag*. He lives in Washington State with his wife and dog, watching his sons and orchard grow.

Also by Dane Bahr, *The Houseboat*

James Sallis meets *Mindhunter* in this atmospheric noir set in a small Iowa town in the 1960s, a midcentury heartland gothic with abounding twists and a feverish conclusion

“Bahr writes like a demon, with a range from deadpan humor to living horror . . . its haunting sequences may prove impossible to forget.”

—*Wall Street Journal*



World Rights | Nonfiction

MOTHERCARE

An Autobiographical Essay

By Lynne Tillman

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2022

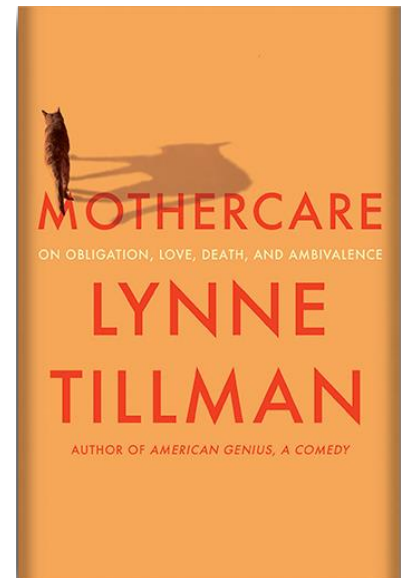
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English),

Peninsula Press (UK/Comm), Yilin Press (Simplified Chinese), Dolbegae Publishers (Korean)

Genre: Memoir | 176 pages

A New York Times Editors' Choice
A Vulture, NPR, and Slate Best Book of the Year



“*MOTHERCARE* is a close examination of the American healthcare system, the constraints of family, and the complexities of care. Tillman’s writing is devastating—unsentimental, honest, full of sharp intelligence, and irrepressible wit. *MOTHERCARE* resonates.”

—Katie Kitamura, author of *Intimacies*

“Masterfully-wrought . . . [A] stunning story of caregiving, with its questions of obligation and ethics and what it means to care for someone who, perhaps, didn’t care for you.”

—*The Boston Globe*

From the brilliantly original novelist and cultural critic Lynne Tillman comes *MOTHERCARE*, an honest and beautifully written account of a sudden, drastically changed relationship to one’s mother, and of the time and labor spent navigating the American healthcare system

When a mother’s unusual health condition, normal pressure hydrocephalus, renders her entirely dependent on you, your sisters, caregivers, and companions, the unthinkable becomes daily life. In *MOTHERCARE*, Tillman describes doing what seems impossible: handling her mother as if she were a child and coping with a longtime ambivalence toward her.

In Tillman’s celebrated style and as a “rich noticer of strange things” (Colm Tóibín), she describes, without flinching, the unexpected, heartbreaking, and anxious eleven years of caring for a sick parent.

MOTHERCARE is both a cautionary tale and sympathetic guidance for anyone who suddenly becomes a caregiver. This story may be helpful, informative, consoling, or upsetting, but it never fails to underscore how impossible it is to get the job done completely right.

LYNNE TILLMAN’s latest novel is *Men and Apparitions*. Her essays and stories appear in various literary journals, art catalogs, and magazines. Tillman has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant.

The White Mosque

A Memoir

By Sofia Samatar

Rights retained: World

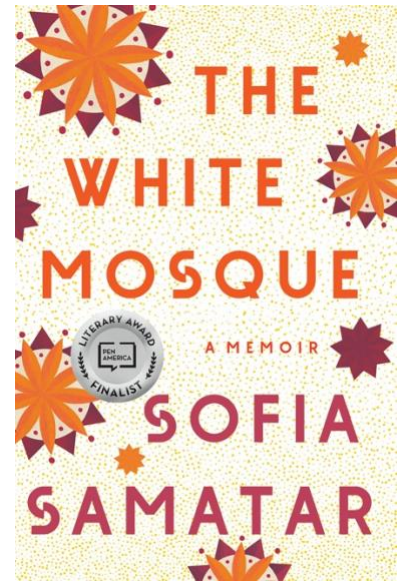
Publication: October 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English), Hurst (UK/Comm, at auction), Boekencentrum Uitgevers (Dutch),

Slovo Publishing House (Russian)

Genre: Memoir | 336 pages



Finalist for the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award

“This is a perfect memoir: a mosaic self that elevates the genre of nonfiction to new heights, and an exploration of what it means to stand in the illuminated intersection of history and identity. . . It is my dearest hope that this book brings Sofia Samatar into the wider public consciousness, something we have not earned, but which she so very richly deserves.”—**Carmen Maria Machado**, author of *In the Dream House*

A historical tapestry of border-crossing travelers, of students, wanderers, martyrs and invaders, *The White Mosque* is a memoiristic, prismatic record of a journey through Uzbekistan and of the strange shifts, encounters, and accidents that combine to create an identity

In the late nineteenth century, a group of German-speaking Mennonites traveled from Russia into Central Asia, where their charismatic leader predicted Christ would return. Over a century later, Sofia Samatar joins a tour following their path, fascinated not by the hardships of their journey, but by its aftermath: the establishment of a small Christian village in the Muslim Khanate of Khiva. Named Ak Metchet, “The White Mosque,” after the Mennonites’ whitewashed church, the village lasted for fifty years.

In pursuit of this curious history, Samatar discovers a variety of characters whose lives intersect around the ancient Silk Road, from a fifteenth-century astronomer-king, to an intrepid Swiss woman traveler of the 1930s, to the first Uzbek photographer, and explores such topics as Central Asian cinema, Mennonite martyrs, and Samatar’s own complex upbringing as the daughter of a Swiss-Mennonite and a Somali-Muslim, raised as a Mennonite of color in America. A secular pilgrimage to a lost village and a near-forgotten history, *The White Mosque* traces the porous and ever-expanding borders of identity, asking: How do we enter the stories of others? And how, out of the tissue of life, with its weird incidents, buried archives, and startling connections, does a person construct a self?

SOFIA SAMATAR is the author of the novels *A Stranger in Olondria* and *The Winged Histories*, the short story collection, *Tender*, and *Monster Portraits*, a collaboration with her brother, the artist Del Samatar.

Out of Silence, Sound. Out of Nothing, Something.

A Writer's Guide

By Susan Griffin

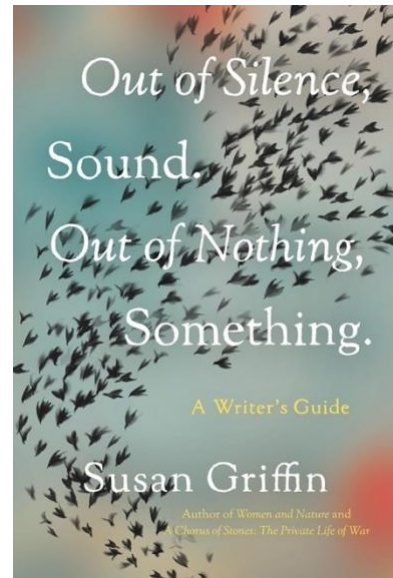
Rights retained: World

Publication: January 2023

Available: Full manuscript

**Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English),
SangSangSquare (Korean, at auction), Znaci Publishing
House (Bulgarian)**

Genre: Nonfiction | 256 pages



“An elegant guide to the art of writing . . . An illuminating memoir of her life in literature . . . These pearls of wisdom will be a boon to novice writers.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Griffin takes a Zen-like approach to generating, constructing, and honing a piece of writing. In serene meditations, she reflects on topics such as silence, focus, reading, the need for solitude, and the power of attentiveness to one’s surroundings and feelings . . . Warm reassurance from a veteran writer.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

In an elegant but contemporary voice, award-winning author Susan Griffin breaks down the creative process step-by-step, guiding the reader through a practical course in how to begin and end a work of literature, whether fiction or nonfiction, poetry, or prose

The distinguished author of more than twenty-two books, many award-winning, Susan Griffin distills daily wisdom garnered from more than five decades teaching creative writing and editing manuscripts, as well as from her own writing. This collection of brief but ultimately pithy chapters designed to help beginning writers get started also guides experienced writers through blocks and difficulties of all kinds.

Organized according to a practical timeline, *Out of Silence, Sound. Out of Nothing, Something.* elucidates the process of writing from beginning to end, presenting an approach that is similar to the practice of meditation as it encourages and enlarges the mind’s intrinsic capacity for creativity. An autobiographical account, a sometimes humorous, at times moving essay called “How I Learned to Write” is threaded throughout the book.

SUSAN GRIFFIN has written over twenty-two books, including nonfiction, poetry, and plays. *A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and a *New York Times* Notable book. *Woman and Nature*, considered a classic of environmental writing, is credited for inspiring the ecofeminist movement. She and her work have been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Emmy, and the Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement & Service, among other honors. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Wanting

Women Writing About Desire

Edited by Margot Kahn and Kelly McMasters

Rights retained: World

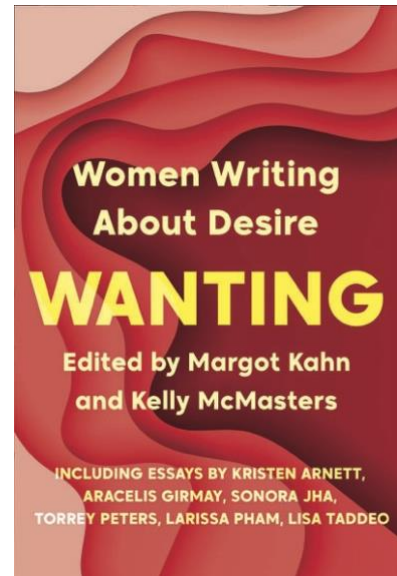
Publication: February 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Anthology | 352 pages

“An impassioned anthology of women’s perspectives on desire . . . The wide-ranging essays reflect the diversity of their authors while sharing a captivating rawness and sincerity. The result is a striking and powerful compendium on the multifaceted nature of longing.” —*Publishers Weekly*



An intimate and empowering anthology of thirty-three essays that explore exploring the changing face of female desire in whip-smart, sensuous prose, with pieces by Tara Conklin, Camille Dungy, Melissa Febos, Lisa Taddeo, and others

What is desire? And what are its rules? In this daring collection, award-winning and emerging female writers share their innermost longings, in turn dismantling both personal and political constructs of what desire is or can be. In the opening essay, Larissa Pham unearths the ache beneath all her wants: time. Rena Priest’s desire for a pair of five-hundred-dollar cowboy boots spurs a reckoning with her childhood on the rez and the fraught history of her hometown. Other pieces in the collection turn cultural tropes around dating, sex, and romance on their heads—Angela Cardinale tries dating as a divorced mother of two in the California suburbs only to discover sweet solace in being alone; Keyanah B. Nurse finds power in polyamory; and when Joanna Rakoff spots a former lover at a bar, the heat between them unravels her family as she is pulled into his orbit—an undoing, she decides, that’s worth everything. Award-winning and emerging female writers from a range of experiences and backgrounds dismantle every formal notion of what desire is or can be in this fierce and daring collection.

Including pieces by Kristen Arnett, Susan Shapiro, Ann Tashi Slater, Domenica Ruta, Karen Russell, and so many others, these candid and insightful essays tackle the complicated knot of women’s desire.

MARGOT KAHN is the author of the biography *Horses That Buck* and co-editor of the anthology *This Is the Place: Women Writing About Home*. Her personal essays, book reviews and award-winning poems have appeared widely in print and online. She lives in Seattle with her family, where she directs the creative writing program at Hugo House.

KELLY MCMASTERS is the author of the forthcoming *The Leaving Season* and *Welcome to Shirley*. She is coeditor, with Margot Kahn, of *This Is the Place: Women Writing About Home*, and her essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, *The Paris Review Daily*, and more. McMasters is an essayist, professor, mother, and former bookshop owner living in New York.

Lesbian Love Story

A Memoir in Archives

By Amelia Possanza

Rights retained: World

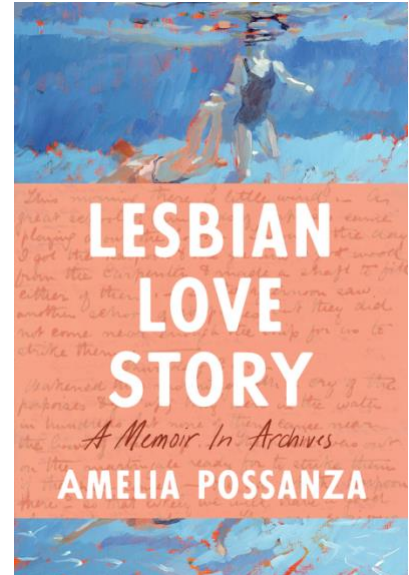
Publication: May 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English), Square Peg (UK/Comm)

Genre: Memoir / History | 288 pages

Named a Most Anticipated Book
by *TIME*, *BuzzFeed*, *Them*, *Zibby's Mag*, and more



“Intimate and sexy, voraciously researched and vibrantly imagined, Amelia Possanza has given us the romantic history all lesbians deserve.” —**Nina LaCour**, author of *Yerba Buena*

“*Lesbian Love Story* cracks open a vault of queer lives that were so meaningful to dig into—sporty girls, masc forbears, illicit loves. These juicy stories are filled with pathos and inspiration, and Ameila Possanza’s thrill at excavating them is personal, palpable and contagious.”

—**Michelle Tea**, author of *Knocking Myself Up: A Memoir of My In/Fertility*

For readers of Saidiya Hartman and Jeanette Winterson, *Lesbian Love Story* is an intimate journey into the archives—uncovering the romances and role models written out of history and what their stories can teach us all about how to love

When Amelia Possanza moved to Brooklyn to build a life of her own, she found herself surrounded by queer stories: she read them on landmark placards, overheard them on the pool deck when she joined the world’s largest LGBTQ swim team, and even watched them on TV in her cockroach-infested apartment. These stories inspired her to seek out lesbians throughout history who could become her role models, in romance and in life.

Centered around seven love stories for the ages, this is Possanza’s journey into the archives to recover the personal histories of lesbians in the twentieth century: who they were, how they loved, why their stories were destroyed, and where their memories echo and live on. Possanza’s hunt takes readers from a drag king show in Bushwick to the home of activists in Harlem and then across the ocean to Hadrian’s Library, where she searches for traces of Sappho in the ruins. Along the way, she discovers her own love—for swimming, for community, for New York City—and adds her record to the archive.

At the heart of this riveting, inventive history, Possanza asks: How could lesbian love help us reimagine care and community? What would our world look like if we replaced its foundation of misogyny with something new, with something distinctly lesbian?

A full-time book publicist and part-time writer, **AMELIA POSSANZA** currently lives in Brooklyn with her cat. Her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *BuzzFeed*, *Electric Literature*, *The Millions*, and NPR’s *Invisibilia*. *Lesbian Love Story* is her first book.

Black Punk Now

Edited by James Spooner and Chris L. Terry

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2023

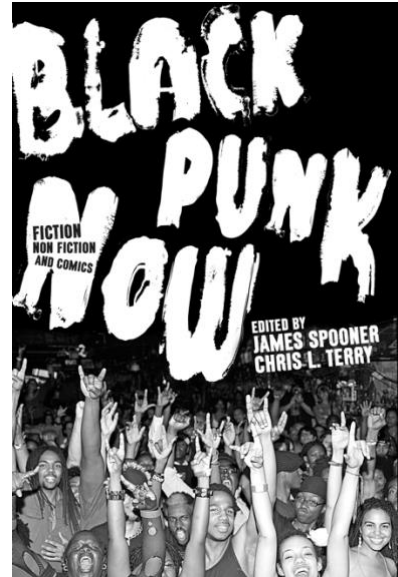
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Anthology | 352 pages

Nylon, A Most Anticipated Book of the Year

A canonizing, bold, and urgent anthology setting a new precedent for Black Punk Lit, created by generations of Black punks—featuring both new voices and those from the not-so-recent past



Black Punk Now is an anthology of contemporary nonfiction, fiction, illustrations, and comics that collectively describe punk today and give punks—especially the Black ones—a wider frame of reference. It shows all of the strains, styles, and identities of Black punk that are thriving, and gives newcomers to the scene more chances to see themselves.

Curated from the perspective of Black writers with connections to the world of punk, the collection mixes media as well as generations, creating a new reference point for music-lovers, readers, and historians by capturing the present and looking towards the future. With strong visual elements integrated throughout, this smart, intimate collection is demonstrative of punk by being punk itself: underground, rebellious, aesthetic but not static—working to decenter whiteness by prioritizing other perspectives.

Edited by graphic novelist and filmmaker James Spooner, and author Chris L. Terry, contributors to the collection include critic Hanif Abdurraqib and cartoonist Ben Passmore, conversations with Brontez Purnell, and a roundtable of all femme festival organizers.

JAMES SPOONER is a graphic novelist, tattoo artist, illustrator, and filmmaker. He directed the seminal documentary *AFRO-PUNK* which premiered at national and international film festivals, including Toronto International and The American Black Film Festival. James also co-founded the Afropunk Festival, which currently boasts audiences in the hundreds of thousands around the world. His debut graphic novel, *The High Desert* is available now.

CHRIS L. TERRY is the author of the novel *Black Card*, which *NPR* called “hilariously searing” and listed it as one of the best books of 2019. Terry’s debut novel *Zero Fade* was on Best of 2013 lists by *Slate* and *Kirkus Reviews*. Terry was born in 1979 to a Black father and white mother. He has a Creative Writing MFA from Columbia College Chicago and lives in Los Angeles, where he teaches creative writing and works as a screenwriter

American Shield

The Immigrant Sergeant Who Defended Democracy

By Aquilino Gonell with Susan Shapiro

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 336 pages

The Washington Post, A Most Anticipated Title

“Sergeant Aquilino Gonell’s story – of coming to America as a child, of overcoming adversity and discrimination, of stepping forward to defend Democracy, of refusing to stay silent in the face of injustice – is riveting . . . *American Shield* is an all-American tale of duty and determination — beautifully told by an immigrant, a veteran, and a patriot.”

—Nancy Pelosi, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives

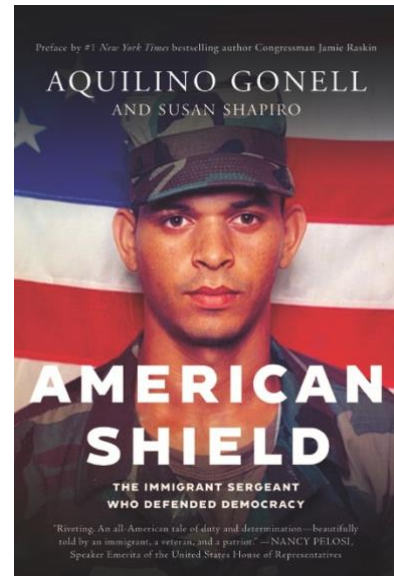
Set against the extraordinary events of January 6, 2021, and rooted in the joys and struggles of the immigrant experience, Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell’s inspirational memoir is one of hope and the belief in the promise of a nation enduring in the face of challenges

When Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell kissed his wife and son goodbye and went to work as a member of the Capitol Police on the morning of January 6, 2021, he didn’t expect that he might never see them again. As an angry mob of insurrectionists goaded by the sitting president descended upon the Capitol, Sergeant Gonell put his life on the line to protect America’s sacred democratic institutions. It wasn’t the first time he sacrificed for his country.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Gonell immigrated to the United States as a boy. He spoke no English and was unprepared for the dangers of his new life in Brooklyn. His patriotism led him to join the Army, where he was stationed in Iraq for 545 days. Coming back to the States, he married, had a son, and landed a job with the Capitol police. He’d achieved the American Dream. What he couldn’t have predicted was that he was on a collision course with history. A stunning example of what it means to sacrifice and strive so that your loved ones may have a better life, *American Treason* urges everyone to put truth and justice above all, and calls on all Americans to work to build a future in which all of us can thrive together.

AQUILINO GONELL is a Dominican immigrant, former U.S. Army Soldier, and Iraq War veteran. He’s been recently featured in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, CBS Mornings, NBC News, MSNBC, *Rolling Stone*, and more. He is the recipient of the Carnegie Immigrant Award.

SUSAN SHAPIRO is an award-winning Jewish American journalist. She’s the author/coauthor of the acclaimed nonfiction books *Unhooked*, *The Forgiveness Tour*, *The Bosnia List*, and *World In Between*. She writes for *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *Newsweek*, among others.



Touching the Art

By Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2023

Available: Full manuscript

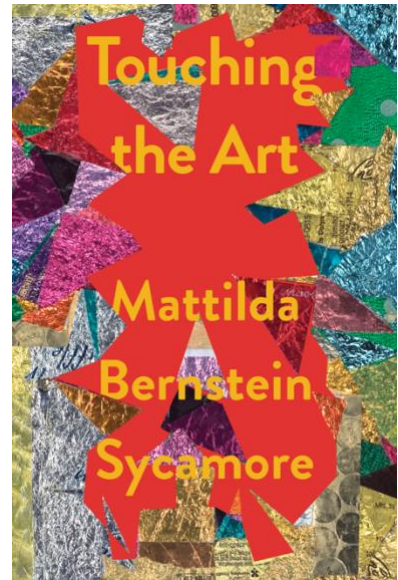
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 256 pages

Ms., A Most Anticipated Title of the Year

“Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore braids humor, tragedy, and unabashed presence in every single sentence she writes. With *Touching the Art* she blends history, essay, and memoir, telling her own secrets and truths through the lives of others. I adore Sycamore’s writing and would follow her anywhere. Nobody touches the art like Sycamore.”

—Catherine Lacey, author of *Pew* and *Biography of X*



A daringly observant memoir about intergenerational trauma, fine art, and compartmentalization from a returning Soft Skull author and Lambda Literary Award winner

A mixture of memoir, biography, criticism, and social history, *Touching the Art* is queer icon and activist Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore’s interrogation of the possibilities of artistic striving, the limits of the middle-class mindset, the legacy of familial abandonment, and what art can and cannot do.

Taking the form of a self-directed research project, Sycamore recounts the legacy of her fraught relationship with her late grandmother, an abstract artist from Baltimore who encouraged Mattilda as a young artist, then disparaged Mattilda’s work as “vulgar” and a “waste of talent” once it became unapologetically queer.

As she sorts through her grandmother Gladys’s paintings and handmade paperworks, Sycamore examines the creative impulse itself. In fragments evoking the movements of memory, she searches for Gladys’s place within the trajectories of midcentury modernism and Abstract Expressionism, Jewish assimilation and white flight, intergenerational trauma and class striving.

Sycamore writes, “Art is never just art, it is a history of feeling, a gap between sensations, a safety valve, an escape hatch, a sudden shift in the body, a clipboard full of flowers, a welcome mat flipped over and back, over and back, welcome.” Refusing easy answers in search of an embodied truth, Sycamore upends propriety to touch the art and feel everything that comes through.

MATTILDA BERNSTEIN SYCAMORE is the author of *The Freezer Door*, a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice, one of *Oprah Magazine*’s Best LGBTQ Books of 2020, and a finalist for the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award. She’s the author of three novels and three nonfiction titles, and the editor of six nonfiction anthologies, most recently *Between Certain Death and a Possible Future: Queer Writing on Growing Up with the AIDS Crisis*.

Seeing One Thing Through *The Zen Life and Teachings of* **Sojun Mel Weitsman**

By Mel Weitsman, edited by Alan Senauke

Rights retained: World

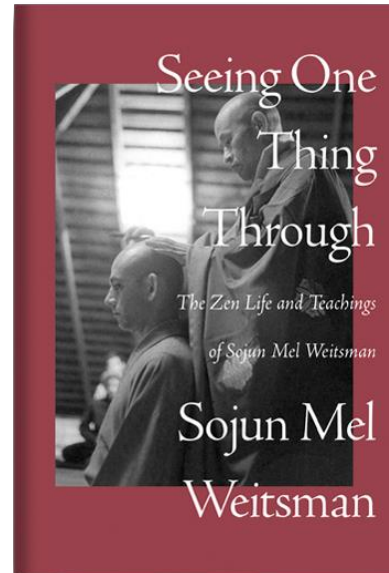
Publication: December 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 192 pages

A young painter, coming of age in San Francisco's bohemian 1950s, meets his teacher—Shunryu Suzuki, a pivotal figure in Buddhist America—and dedicates his life to continuing Suzuki Roshi's teachings



Seeing One Thing Through begins with a series of biographical memories and reflections going back to Mel Weitsman's boyhood in Southern California, his coming of age as an artist and a seeker in the vibrant San Francisco of 1950s, and encountering Zen in the person of one remarkable teacher, Shunryu Suzuki Roshi. From that moment, and for nearly sixty years after, Sojun's life took the direct path of Zen—as a student, as a teacher, and as one of the first generation of American Zen masters. The larger portion of the book is a collection of Sojun Mel Weitsman's edited talks, his articulation of "ordinary mind," and his strong belief that Zen as a way of life is available to all.

SOJUN MEL WEITSMAN grew up in Southern California. He became one of the first Americans to train with Shunryu Suzuki Roshi. In 1967, he founded a zendo in Berkeley which, under Suzuki's guidance, became the Berkeley Zen Center. As Abbott of Berkeley Zen Center, he practiced and taught there for fifty five years. Sojun Mel Weitsman died at home in January of 2021, leaving more than thirty dharma heirs, and hundreds of devoted students.

Stranger in the Desert

By Jordan Salama

Rights retained: World
Publication: February 2024
Available: MS due April 2023
Publishers: Catapult (US/English),
Under option in China
Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages



—Praise for *Every Day the River Changes*—

“A mesmerizing travelogue . . . Both complex and achingly beautiful, this outstanding account brims with humanity.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“The book is more than a notable achievement in travel literature and more than a clarifying window into a misunderstood culture; it is a book of conscience and open-heartedness . . . It is a privilege to savor, if vicariously, this harvest of a promising writer’s vivid journeys.”
—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“Richly observed.”—Liesl Schillinger, *The New York Times Book Review*

A rising star of travel writing, published in *The New York Times* and *National Geographic*, Jordan Salama, author of *Every Day the River Changes* returns to document his latest adventure

Stranger in the Desert traces Salama’s journey from Argentina to Bolivia in the footsteps of his great-grandfather Selim Salama. From that very specific and vivid journey, the book reflects on Salama’s own identity as a person with Jewish, Syrian, Iraqi and Argentine heritage, aspects of his identity that are often perceived to be at odds, and the cultural traffic between the Middle East and South America. It’s a book that continues Salama’s project of presenting complex travel writing about South America that is attentive to the long history of Middle Eastern immigrants there.

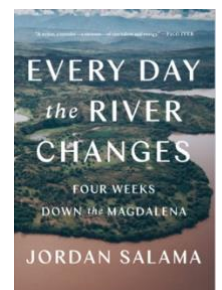
JORDAN SALAMA’s work has appeared in outlets including *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, and *Scientific American*. A 2019 graduate of Princeton University, he lives in New York.

Also by Jordan Salama, *Every Day the River Changes*
The Commercial Press (Simplified Chinese)

A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year

An exhilarating travelogue for a new generation about a journey along Colombia’s Magdalena River, exploring life by the banks of a majestic river now at risk, and how a country recovers from conflict.

“This is a born journalist.”—John McPhee, *Princeton University News*



Chipped

Essays on Skateboarding

By José Vadi

Rights retained: World
Publication: April 2024
Available: Sample manuscript,
Full manuscript due June 2023
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)
Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages



—Praise for *INTER STATE*—

“A rich and moving meditation on the forces that can make us feel displaced even when we know we are at home.”—**Nina Renata Aron, author of *Good Morning, Destroyer of Men’s Souls***

“Part love letter, part indictment, this moving debut essay collection from Vadi captures the changing landscape of California. A native Californian, aging skateboarder, and poet, Vadi laments in deeply felt prose California’s transformation . . . The provocative observations will please essay fans.”—***Publishers Weekly***

***Chipped* is an intimate, genre-pushing meditation on skateboarding as a catalyst for the reasons we continue to get up after every fall this toy—and life—throws our way**

There’s no question that skateboarding can impact lives, and the jury is still out on whether or not skateboarding is a crime. But the bigger question, according to writer José Vadi, is how skateboarding can become the initial step into a larger, life-altering relationship with space, culture, power, and how it compliments or clashes with Vadi’s life. *Chipped: Failing in Love with Skateboarding* expands the idea of what it means to be a skateboarder by visualizing the ways skateboarding can alter one’s life.

Skateboarding was an underlying thread in Vadi’s well-received debut collection *INTER STATE: Essays from California* and he continues his role as “ethnographer on a skateboard” in *Chipped*. Vadi cracks open the mind of a lifetime obsessed skateboarder and weaves the findings into the many experiences *Chipped* traces—a critical mass skater takeover of San Francisco’s streets; the sonic connections between skateboarding and jazz; an analysis of ‘90s skate video soundtracks; the solace found skating a parking lot during a global pandemic.

JOSÉ VADI is an award-winning essayist, poet, playwright, and film producer. Vadi received the San Francisco Foundation's Shenson Performing Arts Award for his debut play, a eulogy for three, produced by Marc Bamuthi Joseph's Living Word Project. He is the author of *SoMa Lurk*, a collection of photos and poems published by Project Kalahati / Pro Arts Commons. His work has been featured by the *PBS NewsHour*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Daily Beast*, while his writing has appeared in *Catapult*, *McSweeney’s*, *New Life Quarterly*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *SFMOMA's Open Space*, and *Pop-Up Magazine*.

Shadow Men

Blackmail, Murder, and a Sensational Scandal at the Dawn of the Jazz Age

By James Polchin

Rights retained: World

Publication: April 2024

Available: MS due July 2023

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English), Under option in UK

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages



—Praise for *Indecent Advances*—

“[A] fascinating new book on the treatment of gay men in true crime and crime fiction [that] reexamines the violence that people at the Stonewall Inn had faced every day, and the rage crackling up underneath . . . What makes Polchin’s readings stand out is the way he pursues an underlying story across several seemingly separate crimes.”

—Alexander Chee, *The New Republic*

On the morning of May 16th, 1922, the body of a young man was found on a desolate road near the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County, a suburb of New York City

The victim, nineteen-year-old Clarence Peters, would soon be termed by the press as a “penniless ex-sailor.” Peters’s murder went from local story to national scandal when, the day after his identity was made public, Walter S. Ward, a thirty-one-year-old vice president and millionaire heir of the Ward Baking Company, issued a statement through his attorney confessing to the killing. Had Ward run afoul of some criminal element, or was he, as he claimed, the victim of “shadow men,” those who entrapped others in compromising positions and then blackmailed them to remain silent? In the ensuing sixteen months, the twists and turns of this mysterious murder would capture the public’s attention and make headlines across the country.

In *Shadow Men: Blackmail, Murder, and a Sensational Scandal at the Dawn of the Jazz Age*, James Polchin details the investigation, telling the story of a diverse cast of characters who either by choice or circumstance were drawn into the case. Polchin exposes the historical practice of these “shadow men.” The threat of exposure in a world where queer people were criminalized and subjected to medical and sociological speculation fueled a robust extortion industry, helped along by tabloids eager for scandal and innuendo. In placing the queer aspects of this blackmail within a host of complex social tensions in the 1920s about class privilege, criminality, and the growing power of the press to define ideas of private life and public reputation, *Shadow Men* reckons with the elusive nature of crime stories themselves—what they reveal and what remains hidden.

JAMES POLCHIN, PhD, has taught at the Princeton Writing Program, the Parsons School of Design, the New School for Public Engagement, and the Creative Nonfiction Foundation. His writing has appeared in several places, including *The New Inquiry*, *Lambda Literary*, *Brevity*, and the *Gay and Lesbian Review / Worldwide*, where he is a contributing writer.

Dangerous Fictions

By Lyta Gold

Rights retained: World

Publication: July 2024

Available: Sample available May 2023,

Full manuscript due October 2023

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages

***Dangerous Fictions* is cultural critic and political thinker Lyta Gold's exploration of the western world's robust history of literary panic**



American society has always found plenty of time to panic over what happens in its fiction: from YA readers condemning faults in representation of marginalized identities, to debates over the moral worth of controversial works like *Lolita*, to conservative calls to ban literature that might make white readers feel guilty about American history. Clearly, people of all political stripes believe stories hold political power. But how “dangerous” is fiction, really?

This question is the central concern of Lyta Gold’s *Dangerous Fictions* where she incisively posits that a panic about art is a panic about power, in disguise. Gold argues that we’ve been having versions of these same fights over fiction for centuries, and that by exposing the fiction of fiction as a site of social danger, a battleground of immediate public concern, we can see what each side really wants: the right to shape the future of a world deeply in flux.

Dangerous Fictions is an essential work that offers a necessary analysis of arguments at the intersection of art and politics, exposing what’s truly being fought about, and why.

LYTA GOLD, previously the Managing and Amusements editor at *Current Affairs*, writes fantasy, sci-fi, essays, poetry, and political satire. Her essays and fiction have appeared in *The Baffler*, *Current Affairs*, *Protean*, and several volumes of the *Sirens Benefit* Anthologies. She also has a contribution in *Climbing Lightly Through the Forests*, an Ursula Le Guin-focused poetry anthology. Lyta hosts the arts and culture podcast [Art for the End Times](#).

Opacities

By Sofia Samatar

Rights retained: World

Publication: Fall 2024

Available: Sample manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English), Under option in the UK, Russia, and the Netherlands

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages



—Praise for *The White Mosque*—

“An enthralling memoir.”

—Laura Zornosa, A *TIME* Best Book of the Month

“Complex and gorgeously written, this memoir invites readers on a journey to the ever-expanding borders of human compassion.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

A compendium through and around literary greats like Kafka, Aimé Césaire, Marguerite Duras, Rilke, Blanchot, Lispector, and more, *Opacities* delivers personal, contemplative essay on the art of writing, craft, and the reverential love of writers

Combining Samatar’s tender empiricism, encyclopedic range, and indelible style, *Opacities* speaks to the vulnerability both readers and writers must have to the “dreadful and ecstatic” literary landscape, and the “tyranny of identity” experienced by all authors, “a second tyranny reserved for those with representational bodies.”

With Édouard Glissant’s concept of *opacity* as its namesake, Samatar asserts that “[t]he purpose of avant-garde writing for a writer of color is to prove you are human.” But does human writing, writing that resists codes of language, and subverts the expectations to imitate or represent, subvert art itself?

Opacities recounts the fear and desire coiled up in writing, the research, the dreaming, the questions, the demands. Becoming a true space of literature unto themselves, these potent, intimate, letter-like entries can be consumed on the spot or savored in pieces, inviting readers and writers alike to wonder where the author ends and the book begins.

SOFIA SAMATAR is the author of five books, most recently the memoir *The White Mosque*, which is a finalist for a PEN/Jean Stein Book Award. Sofia holds a PhD in African Languages and Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and she currently teaches African literature, Arabic literature in translation, world literature, and speculative fiction at James Madison University.

Third Ear

By Elizabeth Rosner

Rights retained: World

Publication: TK

Available: MS due March 2023

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English), Under option in Korea and the Netherlands

Genre: Nonfiction | 320 pages

As we face the lessening of the pandemic, as parts of the world open up again, and we begin to think about reassimilation into social environments, *Third Ear* is an important guide through the art and science of hearing the world around us



Exploring subjects personal and culturally relevant, Rosner shares stories from growing up the daughter of two immigrant Holocaust survivors who spoke six languages in the home, interwoven with research across psychotherapy, neurolinguistics, and creativity, and drawing on expertise from psychotherapists, journalists, podcasters, performers, translators, acoustic biologists, spiritual leaders, composers, and educators. Each source illuminates some facet of the complex ways we absorb and are impacted by the voices, stories, and silences of others. Personal interviews include those with Anna Deavere Smith, Maxine Hong Kingston, Jackie Lyden of *NPR*, CMarie Fuhrman, Armand Volkas, and podcasters, sign language interpreters, and others whose specialties provide insights into what it means to listen. It was Theodor Reik, a disciple of Freud's, who coined the term "third ear" as a tenant of psychotherapy. *Third Ear* brings this term to the mainstream and shows the healing and hopeful ways listening can lead to connection.

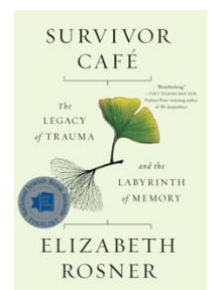
Using the same lyrical and illuminating voice as *Survivor Café*, as well as its intricate and braided structure, *Third Ear* makes a significant contribution to conversations about the power of listening to build interpersonal empathy and social transformation.

ELIZABETH ROSNER is the author of three novels and a poetry collection. *The Speed of Light* was translated into nine languages and won several awards in the US and in Europe, including being shortlisted for the prestigious Prix Femina. *Blue Nude* was named among the best books of 2006 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *Electric City* was named among the best books of 2014 by *NPR*. Her essays and reviews have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Elle*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and others. She lives in Berkeley, CA.

Also by Elizabeth Rosner, *Survivor Café*
Uitgeverij Scriptum (Dutch), Geulhangari (Korean)
Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award

"Her impressive, highly readable *Survivor Café* takes on important issues of atrocity, trauma, and memory, rendering them all with such great clarity and intimacy that the reader will not soon forget them, or this powerful book."

—Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer*



World English Rights | Fiction

Salton Sea

Stories

By Tod Goldberg

Rights retained: World English

Publication: TK

Available: TK

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | TK pages



—Praise for *The Low Desert*—

Nominated for the 2022 Strand Critics Award
32nd Annual Reading the West Book Awards Nominee

“Tod Goldberg is a terrific writer, and *The Low Desert* is a smart, surprising page turner.”

—Don Winslow

Extending the universe of celebrated crime writer and Hammett Prize Finalist, Tod Goldberg, careful readers of his critically acclaimed collection *The Low Desert* could probably feel this coming . . .

Young lawman Morris Drew arrives at the Salton Sea just after his stint in the Korean War with his young wife to start over and begin a legitimate career as the only law enforcement in the area. In the 1950s and 60s, this inland sea attempted to become a resort destination, pulling in such celebrities as Frank Sinatra, The Beach Boys, and Bing Crosby. Yacht clubs held parties at night and golf courses were built. Lakeshore communities grew as vacation homes were built and, at its peak, more than 1.5 million tourists visited annually.

But the sea was doomed. The influx of Chicago crime families looking for a piece of this new resort town clashed with the region’s indigenous tribes and the growing population of immigrant workers. The remote location meant the region could never shake off its Wild West mentality and crime increased. Worst of all, the sea was polluted; the water filled with salts, selenium, and nitrates turning it fetid and inhospitable to wildlife and to humans. Evaporation in the desert heat concentrated the salt. Fish started dying off, then the birds, and then the hopes of a resort. To look at the ruined landscape today is to experience a true desert mirage: a wavy illusion of dreams that never materialized, a ghost of a glamorous seaside Riviera in the desert, leaving only the brutal reminder that nothing much can survive in this harsh and arid world.

A sunburnt noir, *Salton Sea*, begins as the best crime stories do; with a body. Morris will have to investigate the mysterious death of his predecessor as he seeks to learn more about his new town and the various forces starting to influence it.

TOD GOLDBERG is the author of more than a dozen books, including *Gangsterland*, a finalist for the Hammett Prize, *Gangster Nation*, and *The Low Desert: Gangster Stories*, named Southwest Book of the Year and a finalist for several literary prizes. He lives in Indio, California, where he directs the low-residency MFA in creative writing and writing for the performing arts at the University of California, Riverside.

Gangsters Don't Die

A Novel

By Tod Goldberg

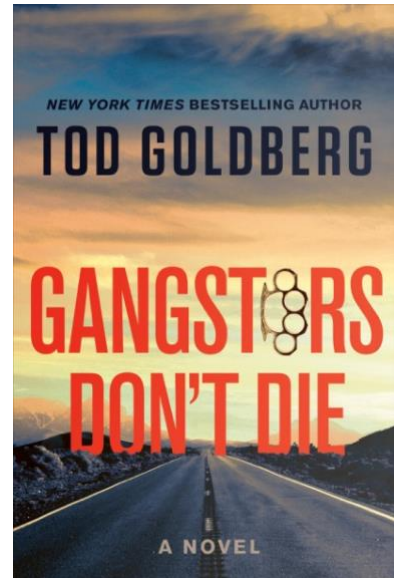
Rights retained: World English

Publication: September 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 384 pages



—Praise for *Gangster Nation*—

“*Gangster Nation* is a razor. It will slice you open and reveal your insides. And like the best of Tod Goldberg’s work, it’ll show you everything you are at your core.”

—Brad Meltzer, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The President’s Shadow*

“Sal Cupertine is back —and better than ever. I love this guy.” —Lee Child

The “gloriously original” and critically acclaimed crime series starring a Chicago hitman hiding out as a rabbi in Vegas comes to a thrilling conclusion (*The New York Times*)

Mafia hit-man-turned-rabbi Sal Cupertine is ready to get out of the life. But it’s not going to be easy. His once-brilliant plan to pass himself off as Rabbi David Cohen is unraveling. Enemies on both sides of the law are hot on his trail. His wife and son are unreachable, in witness protection and are probably in danger. In order to find his family, get out of the desert alive, and salvage his long-sought-after happy ending, Sal is going to have to confront some very bad people from his past.

Native American kingpin Peaches Pocotillo has wrested control of Chicago’s notorious mob family while expanding his criminal empire in the west and now seeks to settle an old score with Sal. These two antiheroes have a history that stretches back decades, and the blood feud between Peaches and Sal will lead them to a violent showdown deep in the heart of the low desert.

As complications cast old revelations in a new light, including one that stretches back to the long-ago death of Sal’s infamous gangster father Dark Billy Cupertine, Sal must team up with some unlikely allies—and confront the reality of who he has become—in this stunning conclusion to the popular and critically acclaimed *Gangsterland* trilogy.

TOD GOLDBERG is the author of more than a dozen books, including *Gangsterland*, a finalist for the Hammett Prize; *Gangster Nation*; and *The Low Desert: Gangster Stories*, named a Southwest Book of the Year and a finalist for several literary prizes. He lives in Indio, California, where he directs the low-residency MFA in creative writing and writing for the performing arts at the University of California, Riverside.

The Future Was Color

By Patrick Nathan

Rights retained: World English
Publication: June 2024
Available: Unedited manuscript,
Full manuscript due August 2023
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | TK pages



—Praise for *Image Control*—

“A novelist’s nonfiction debut of historical and political criticism explores the re-emergence of fascist aesthetics and how they have infiltrated art, photography and social media in an age of constant scrolling.” —*The New York Times*

***Gods and Monsters* filtered through the lens of Eve Babitz only begins to describe the energy offered in this stunning new novel by Patrick Nathan**

George is a gay Hungarian immigrant working as a studio hack writing monster movies in 1950s Los Angeles. He must navigate the McCarthy era studio system filled with possible Communists and spies; the life of closeted men along Sunset Boulevard; the inability of the era to disassemble love from persecution and guilt. But when a wealthy socialite named Madeleine offers George a “writing residency” at her estate in Malibu to work on the political writing he cares most deeply about, his world changes dramatically. Soon it’s drinks by the pool every night, pleasure in every direction, and Madeleine carrying him like an ornament into a class of postwar L.A. society ordinarily hidden from men like him.

What this lifestyle hides behind, aside from the monsters on the screen, are the monsters dwelling closer to home: this endless bacchanalia covers a gnawing hole shelled wide by the horror of the war they’d thought they left behind. Beneath his newfound relationships lie the pernicious forces of the American political project. And what George can never escape: his past as György, the queer Jew who fled Budapest before the war, landing in New York all alone a decade prior. In New York as in California, the people he loves aren’t what they seem—and neither is his adopted country, one pretending to have transcended bigotry, authoritarianism, and violence. It is a novel as well as a historical document, upending our perceptions of just how personal the political can be.

Spanning from sun-drenched Los Angeles, to hidden corners of working-class New York, to a virtuosic climax in the Las Vegas desert, *The Future Was Color* is an immaculately written exploration of making art and reinventing the self, post-war American decadence, and the psychosis that lingers in a world that’s seen the bomb.

PATRICK NATHAN is the author of *Some Hell*, a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. His short fiction and essays have appeared in *The New Republic*, *American Short Fiction*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Baffler*, and elsewhere. He lives in Minneapolis.

The Witches of Bellinas

A Novel

By J. Nicole Jones

Rights retained: World English

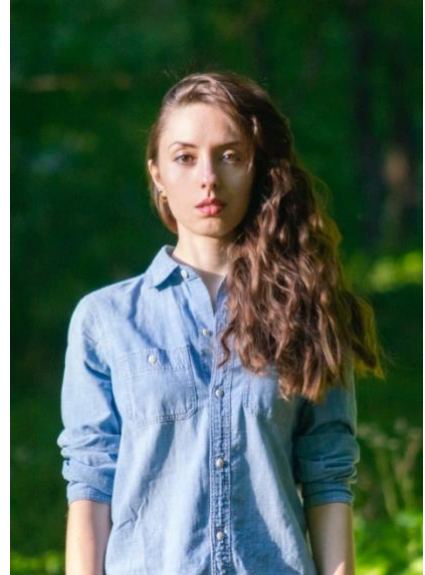
Publication: June 2024

Available: Unedited manuscript,

Full manuscript due September 2023

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 317 pages



—Praise for *Low Country*—

“Ghosts and legends swirl in an affecting family memoir . . . A captivating debut . . . [Jones’] confidential asides to readers create a genuine sense of intimacy. Lyrical prose graces a deftly crafted narrative.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“Gorgeous, ambling passages that veer from the beach to the bar, from crumbling edifices of lost wealth to secret rooms filled with dolls . . . A tangled memoir told as a tall tale and as true as lived experience . . . It is impossible not to lose yourself in the story of a young, whip-smart girl, who is trying to make sense of this world of men, a world where the best thing women can hope for is to return and haunt the territory.” —Hilary Leichter, *Literary Hub*

From the author of *Low Country: A Southern Memoir* comes a fiction debut that is California Gothic—Miriam Toews meets Emma Cline with a touch of Shirley Jackson

The Witches of Bellinas is an eerie tale of a woman who leaves New York with her husband for the mysterious coastal town of Belinas. There, finding herself in a commune, she begins to question how much of herself she is willing to surrender—to her husband and to the charismatic male leader—until she learns, and we learn along with her, that it is the women of the commune who have been the leaders of this society the whole time, the man at the helm no more than their puppet. She, too, can choose to be as powerful as they are. With its stylish and subversive twist at the end, the book feels distinctive in the literature of cults. Part of what is distinctive too is the attention, in Jones’s incomparably beautiful language, to wildfires in the background, a strange wind which hardly ceases, the puzzling absence of animals, an atmosphere of uncanny nature mirroring the strangeness of that human society.

J. NICOLE JONES received her MFA in creative nonfiction from Columbia University and has since held editorial positions at *VICE* and *VanityFair.com*. Her essay defending the art of memoir, “Why’s Everyone So Down on the Memoir?” was published by *The Los Angeles Review of Books* in 2013 and went viral, and her reviews and other writings have appeared in magazines, including *Harper’s* online. She grew up in South Carolina, and now lives in Brooklyn and Tennessee.

The Body Farm

Stories

By Abby Geni

Rights retained: World English

Publication: May 2024

Available: Unedited manuscript,

Full manuscript due July 2023

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 325 pages

—Praise for *The Wildlands*—

Finalist for the Chicago Review of Books Fiction Award

Named a Best Book by *BuzzFeed*, *Kirkus*

Reviews, *Entertainment Weekly*, BBC

Culture, *Refinery29*, *Bustle*, *HuffPost*, and more.

O, *The Oprah Magazine*, A Title to Pick Up Now



“Tantalizing . . . Geni brilliantly captures the magnetism of a fanatic whose diagnosis of society’s ills is spot-on but whose conclusions are deranged.” —*The Washington Post*

“Geni’s character-driven environmental thriller—think *Silent Spring* by way of Celeste Ng—centers on the survivors of a tornado that destroys an Oklahoma farm and kills the family’s father.” —*O*, *The Oprah Magazine*

With crystalline prose, these eleven stories of insight and empathy boldly explore the physical self in transition throughout the eras of a life—and the attendant joys and challenges—to reveal how the body is the greatest store of knowledge

“Childish” (published in *TriQuarterly*) looks at the elegiac losses of Alzheimer’s through a caregiver obsessed with a stained-glass lampshade; “Selkie” highlights the often-universal belief that our siblings just might be animals brought forth from the deep; “Petrichor” is the most haunting COVID story you’ll read; while the title story follows an etymologist who studies the decay of corpses in a field through the insect life they develop, using the body knowledge to help solve cold cases and uphold a sense of justice. These eleven stories again display Abby’s great insight and empathy in taking us into the lives and experiences of others but more boldly explore the physical self: birth, childhood, transition, mental health, trauma, aging, illness, love, sex, and even death.

ABBY GENI is the author of *The Lightkeepers*, winner of the 2016 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award for Fiction and the inaugural *Chicago Review of Books* Award for Best Fiction, *The Wildlands*, a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize, and *The Last Animal*, an Indies Introduce Debut Authors selection and a finalist for the Orion Book Award. Geni is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and a recipient of the Iowa Fellowship. Find out more at www.abbygeni.com.

A Woman of Pleasure

**By Kiyoko Murata, translated by
Juliet Carpenter**

Rights retained: World English
Publication: March 2024
Available: Sample chapter,
Full manuscript due June 2023
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | TK pages



—Praise for the Japanese edition—

“Kiyoko Murata is an excellent storyteller who can burrow folk tales and mythological legends into our psyche which sharply identify the joy and horror of life and death. The knowledge of a female body that is passed on from woman to woman in the book is amazingly powerful.”

—*Mainichi Shimbun*

“Even though *A Woman of Pleasure* exposes the realistic setting of sex workers, a dynamic optimism pierces throughout the book. Only Kiyoko Murata can write this novel.”

—Yoko Ogawa, author of *The Memory Police* (*Yomiuri Shimbun*)

***A Woman of Pleasure* is a historical novel inspired by a real-life event about women in the red-light district who had organized a strike and eventually walked away from the brothel**

Set in 1903, a fifteen-year-old girl, Ichi Aoi, from a fishing village was sold to the most exclusive brothel in Kumamoto, the southernmost island of Japan. By law, the brothels are required to send their girls to a special school for prostitutes and teach them how to speak, write, do simple math, and to be tested for STDs. As Ichi begins her education, she develops the voice that shapes her life. By writing down her thoughts, she learns about who she is in the social hierarchy, the power of sex and money, and the bonds between women.

A Woman of Pleasure reads like a series of Tanka, a classical form of Japanese poetry. The style is simple, succinct, and smooth. Kiyoko Murata is a true writer’s writer.

KIYOKO MURATA was born in Fukuoka, Japan in 1945. She has been awarded many of Japan’s major literary awards including the Akutagawa Prize in 1987. *A Woman of Pleasure* is Murata’s first book to be published in the U.S.

JULIET CARPENTER’s translation of Abe Kobo’s novel *Secret Rendezvous* (*Mikkai* in Japanese) won the 1980 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. She is a veteran translator. She has lived in Japan for over 45 years.

I Love You So Much It's Killing Us Both

A Novel

By Mariah Stovall

Rights retained: World English

Publication: February 2024

Available: Unedited manuscript,

Full manuscript due April 2023

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 309 pages

I Love You So Much It's Killing Us Both*, a debut novel, is a Black woman's coming-of-age story about female friendship, mental health, music fandom, and burgeoning sexuality that's set in the suburbs of L.A. and Manhattan. Told in a Russian doll-like structure going backwards in time, this debut reads like a mix of Susan Choi's *Trust Exercise* and Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity



The indelible Khaki Oliver is a millennial Black feminist whose fiercely intelligent mind can't save her from a longing to disappear—into a codependent friendship, punk-rock, a sexual relationship that reeks of #MeToo, and finally, into the ether—the latter following in the footsteps of Fiona, her lily White, picture-perfect best-friend from high school, who suffers from chronic anorexia.

After a decade of estrangement, Khaki, self-isolating in Manhattan, gets a letter from Fiona inviting her to a party to celebrate her newly adopted daughter. But Khaki isn't celebrating anything until she gets the apology Fiona owes her for a devastating betrayal. The emotions that Khaki has built her life around avoiding start to cloud her head. Former music nerd that she is, she sets out to craft the perfect mixtape, to spark memories of her and Fiona's past, and to weigh the rewards and risks of a reconciliation.

MARIAH STOVALL has written fiction for *Vol 1. Brooklyn*, *Hobart*, *the Minola Review* and *Joyland*, and nonfiction for *The Paris Review*, *Poets & Writers*, *Literary Hub* and more. Her recent fiction has appeared in *Ninth Letter* and recent nonfiction in *Catapult*, *Full Stop*, and with a short story to appear in the forthcoming Soft Skull anthology, *Black Punk Now*.

Goldenseal

A Novel

By Maria Hummel

Rights retained: World English

Publication: January 2024

Available: Full manuscript

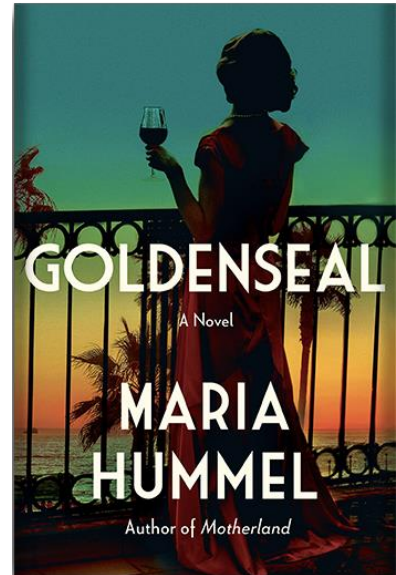
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages

—Praise for *Lesson in Red*—

“A gutting meditation on the relationship between art, life and violence.”

—Sarah Weinman, *The New York Times Book Review*



A Gentleman in Moscow meets *My Brilliant Friend* in *Goldenseal*, a novel of two former friends who meet again in a glamorous Los Angeles hotel to confront the betrayal that tore them apart forty years ago, peeling away the complicated layers of female friendship and the sorrows and regrets of love

A potent, elegant novel burning with atmosphere, mystery, resentment, and regret about two former childhood friends who reunite one night at a grand luxury hotel in 1990's downtown Los Angeles (based on The Biltmore). Alone in her luxury hotel suite, recluse Lacey Crane receives a message. Downstairs awaits her former best friend, Edith. These women haven't seen each other in over four decades following several disastrous events that occurred between them in their twenties and which ended their friendship.

Unfolding like a dream or a memory and through a continuous, twisting conversation in which each woman tells her story and reveals long hidden secrets, upending everything they thought they knew about one another, *Goldenseal* peels away the layers of a long friendship and the betrayals that split it apart. The author's long-time obsession with the classic novel *Embers* is realized here through the lens of female friendships and Los Angeles, a stirring and haunting mystery about memory and listening and seeking out connection.

MARIA HUMMEL is a novelist and poet. Her novel, *Still Lives*, was a Reese Witherspoon x Hello Sunshine Book Club pick, Book of the Month Club pick, and *BBC Culture* Best Book of 2018, and has been optioned for television and translated into multiple languages. She is also the author of *Lesson in Red*; *Motherland*, a *San Francisco Chronicle* Book of the Year; and *House and Fire*, winner of the APR/Honickman Poetry Prize. She has worked and taught at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Stanford University; and the University of Vermont. She lives in Vermont with her husband and sons.

Straw Dogs of the Universe

A Novel

By Ye Chun

Rights retained: World English

Publication: October 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

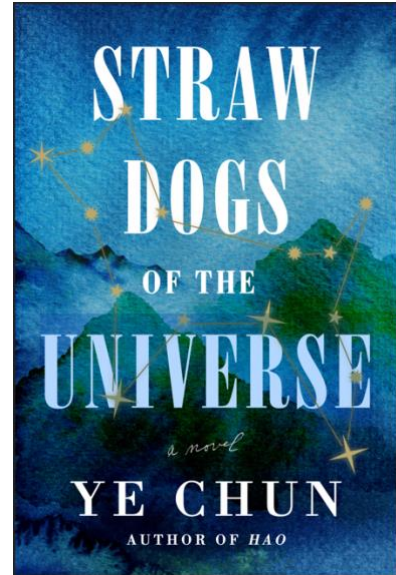
Genre: Fiction | 336 pages

***Library Journal*, A Most Anticipated Book of the Year**

“A visceral and poetic work of art—Ye Chun’s grasp of our shared history, of her unforgettable characters, and of the vast sweep of this narrative can only be marveled at: who else could tell us the story of Chinese settlement in California as if it were an adventure tale filtered through the lens of Thomas Hardy? That the writing here is so insightful, so clear and vibrant and heartbreaking, is a testament to the overwhelming talent of one of our finest authors.”

—**Brian Castleberry, author of *Nine Shiny Objects***

A harrowing and redemptive immigrant story for readers of *Pachinko*, *Straw Dogs of the Universe* follows a Chinese railroad worker and his young daughter—sold into servitude—in 19th century California search for family, fulfillment, and belonging in a violent new land



A sweeping historical novel of the American West from the little-seen perspective of those who helped to build it, *Straw Dogs of the Universe* traces the story of one Chinese father and his young daughter, desperate to find him against all odds.

After her village is devastated by famine, 10-year-old Sixiang is sold to a human trafficker for a bag of rice and six silver coins. Her mother is reluctant to let her go, but the promise of a better life for her beloved daughter ultimately sways her. Arriving in America with the profits from her sale and a single photograph of Guifeng, her absent father, Sixiang journeys across an unfamiliar American landscape in the hopes of reuniting her family.

As she makes her way through an unforgiving new world, her father, a railroad worker in California, finds his attempts to build a life for himself both upended and defined by along-lost love and the seemingly inescapable violence of the American West. A generational saga ranging from the villages of China to the establishment of the transcontinental railroad and the anti-Chinese movement in California, *Straw Dogs of the Universe* considers the tenacity of family ties and the courage it takes to survive in a country that rejects you, even as it relies upon your labor.

YE CHUN (surname: Ye) is a bilingual Chinese American writer and literary translator. Her debut story collection, *Hao*, was longlisted for the 2022 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. A recipient of an NEA Literature Fellowship, a Sustainable Arts Foundation Award, and three Pushcart Prizes, she teaches at Providence College and lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Liquid Snakes

A Novel

By Stephen Kearse

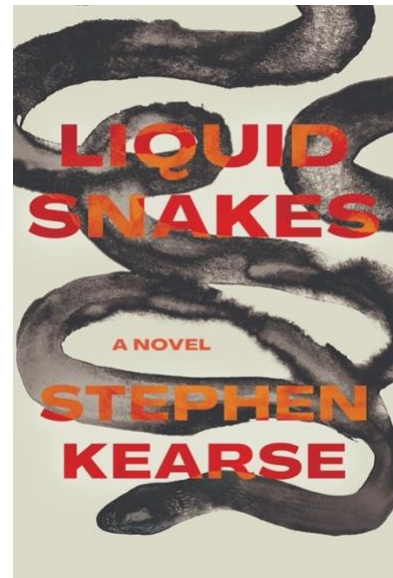
Rights retained: World English

Publication: August 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 320 pages



—Praise for *In the Heat of the Light*—

“The playful, techno-inflected thriller is full of the textures of the city: the stickiness of Waffle House tables, the post-apocalyptic landscape of Old National Parkway in Clayton County, the gleaming bike lanes in Old Fourth Ward.” —*Atlanta Magazine*

What if toxic pollutants traveled up the socioeconomic ladder rather than down it? A Black biochemist provides an answer in this wildly original novel of pollution, poison, and dark pleasure

In Atlanta, Kenny Bomar is a biochemist-turned-coffee-shop-owner in denial about his divorce and grieving his stillborn daughter. Chemicals killed their child, leaching from a type of plant the government is hiding in Black neighborhoods. Kenny’s coping mechanisms are likewise chemical and becoming more baroque—from daily injections of lethal snake venom to manufacturing designer drugs. As his grief turns corrosive, it taints every person he touches.

Black epidemiologists Retta and Ebonee are called to the scene when a mysterious black substance is found to have killed a high school girl. Investigating these “blackouts” sends the women down separate paths of blame and retribution as two seemingly disparate narratives converge in a cinematic conclusion.

Liquid Snakes is an immersive, white-knuckle ride with the spookiness of speculative fiction and the propulsion of binge-worthy shows like FX’s *Atlanta* and HBO’s *Random Acts of Flyness*. Transfiguring a whodunit plot into a labyrinthine reinterpretation of a crime procedural, Stephen Kearse offers an uncanny commentary on an alternative world, poisoned.

STEPHEN KEARSE is a contributing writer at *The Nation*, where he covers music, movies, and books. His criticism and reporting have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *GQ*, and *Pitchfork* among other outlets. His debut novel, *In the Heat of the Light*, was published in 2019 by Brain Mill Press. Originally from Atlanta, he now lives in metro Washington, DC with his family.

Time's Mouth

A Novel

By Edan Lepucki

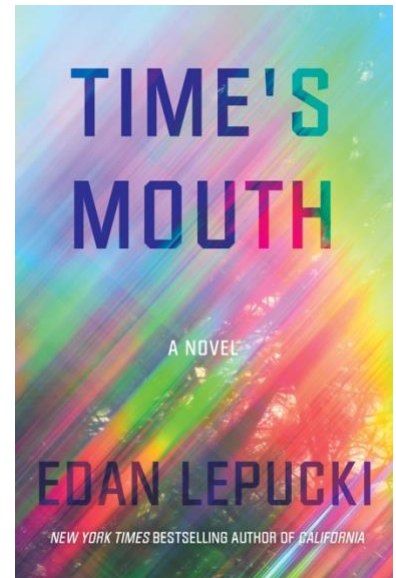
Rights retained: World English

Publication: August 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 416 pages



“Lepucki’s prose is tactile, sensual, nimble—precise and full of pleasures. *Time’s Mouth* is an engrossing novel and a sprawling work of imagination.” —**Charles Yu, author of *Interior Chinatown***

“Novels like *Time’s Mouth* are rare: it’s both delightful and emotional. Beyond the pleasures of time-travel, all-female cults, and an ominous look at California’s legacy of mysticism, the heart of *Time’s Mouth* is a story of mothers and daughters. Edan Lepucki writes with insight and deep pathos about the gifts and curses passed down over generations, and of time’s ability not only to injure but to heal.” —**Stephanie Danler, author of *Sweetbitter***

From *New York Times* bestselling author Edan Lepucki comes an enthralling saga about family secrets that grow more powerful with time, set against the magical, dangerous landscape of California

Ursa possesses a very special gift. She can travel through memory and revisit her past. After she flees her hometown for the counterculture glory of 1950’s California, the intoxicating potential of her unique ability eventually draws a group of women into her orbit and into a ramshackle Victorian mansion in the woods outside Santa Cruz. Yet Ursa’s powers come with a cost. Soon this cultish community of sisterhood takes an ominous turn, prompting her son, Ray, and his pregnant lover, Cherry, to flee their home for Los Angeles and reinvent themselves far from Ursa’s insidious influence. But escaping their past won’t be so easy. A series of mysterious events forces Cherry to abandon their baby, leaving Ray to raise Opal alone.

Now a teenager and still heartbroken over the abandonment of the mother she never knew, Opal must journey into her own past to reveal the generations of secrets that gave rise to the shimmering source of her family’s painful legacy.

From the forests of Santa Cruz, to the 1980s glam of Melrose Avenue to a solitary mansion among the oil derricks off La Cienega Boulevard, and brimming with the double-edged capacity of memory to both heal and harm, *Time’s Mouth* is a poignant and evocative excavation of the bonds that bind families together.

EDAN LEPUCKI is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *California* and *Woman No. 17*, as well as the editor of *Mothers Before: Stories and Portraits of Our Mothers as We Never Saw Them*. Her nonfiction has been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Esquire Magazine*, and *The Cut*, among other publications. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.

The Forest Brims Over

A Novel

By Maru Ayase, translated by Haydn Trowell

Rights retained: World English

Publication: July 2023

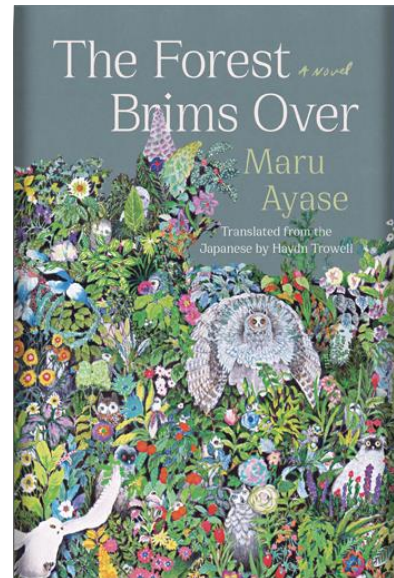
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 208 pages

“*The Forest Brims Over* fascinates with its surrealistic and yet all-too-familiar tale of female agency subsumed under male ambition. Again and again the prose shifts registers and morphs, a feat that Ayase and Trowell pull off beautifully.”

—YZ Chin, author of *Edge Case*



A woman turns herself into a forest after long being co-opted to serve as the subject of her husband’s novels—this surrealist fable challenges traditional gender attitudes and exploitation in the literary world

Nowatari Rui has long been the subject of her husband’s novels, depicted as a pure woman who takes great pleasure in sex. With her privacy and identity continually stripped away, she has come to be seen by society first and foremost as the inspiration for her husband’s art. When a decade’s worth of frustrations reaches its boiling point, Rui consumes a bowl of seeds, and buds and roots begin to sprout all over her body. Instead of taking her to a hospital, her husband keeps her in an aquaterrarium, set to compose a new novel based on this unsettling experience. But Rui grows at a rapid pace and soon breaks away from her husband by turning into a forest—and in time, she takes over the entire city.

As fantasy and reality bleed together, *The Forest Brims Over* challenges unconscious gender biases and explores the boundaries between art and exploitation—muse abuse—in the literary world.

MARU AYASE has published seventeen books, many of which have been finalists for major awards in Japan. *The Forest Brims Over* is her first title to be translated into English.

HAYDN TROWELL is an Australian literary translator of modern and contemporary Japanese fiction. His translations include *Love at Six Thousand Degrees* by Maki Kashimada and the forthcoming title *The Rainbow* by Yasunari Kawabata.

The Viper

A Dave Gurney Novel

By John Verdon

Rights retained: World English

Publication: July 2023

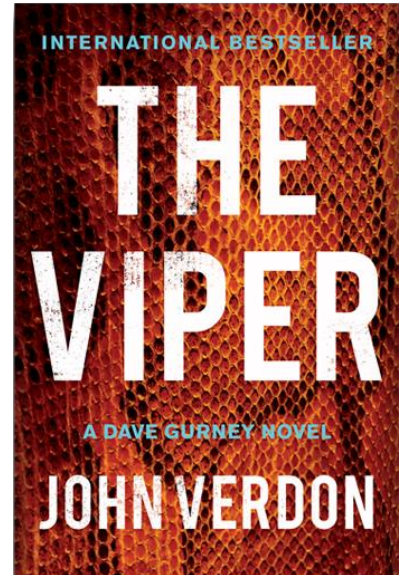
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 400 pages

“Moral dilemmas, great characters, and twisty, propulsive plotting makes John Verdon’s *The Viper* a winner. You’ll want to get your hands on this one.” —**Connor Sullivan, author of *Wolf Trap***

Pushed to his breaking point and accused of murder, retired NYPD detective Dave Gurney must face his greatest adversary yet to solve a mystery that is quickly tearing his world apart



Tennis bad boy Ziko Slade is serving twenty years for the grisly murder of small-time criminal Lenny Lerman. The facts of the case—and Slade’s checkered past—seem indisputable. What begins as a cursory review of the case as a favor to Dave Gurney’s wife’s friend soon spirals into something much more complicated. When Gurney’s involvement threatens to expose a viper’s nest of corruption, he finds himself framed for murder and pursued by a sensational media, a ruthless district attorney, and a coldblooded killer.

As he evades the law and attempts to solve the case to salvage his reputation, Gurney grapples with the realization that his unshakable need for police work is costing him more than the brilliant detective ever suspected. *The Viper* is the most shocking and riveting chapter yet in the internationally bestselling Dave Gurney series.

JOHN VERDON is the author of the Dave Gurney series of thrillers, international bestsellers published in more than two dozen languages: *Think of a Number*, *Shut Your Eyes Tight*, *Let the Devil Sleep*, *Peter Pan Must Die*, *Wolf Lake*, *White River Burning*, and *On Harrow Hill*. Before becoming a crime fiction writer, Verdon had two previous careers: as an advertising creative director and a custom furniture maker. He currently lives with his wife, Naomi, in the rural mountains of upstate New York—raising chickens, tending the garden, mowing the fields, and devising the intricate plots of the Gurney novels.

The Dig

A Novel

By Anne Burt

Rights retained: World English
Publication: March 2023
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | 288 pages

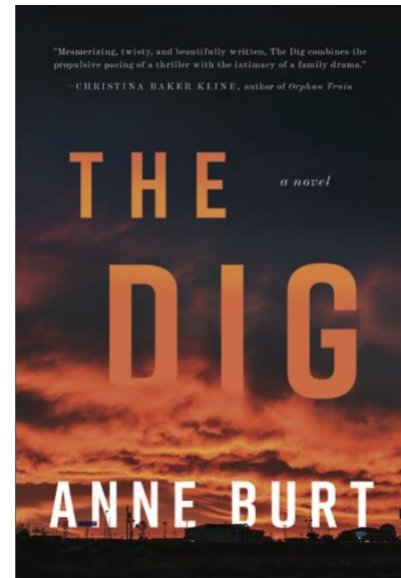
“[An] inspired debut . . . The work’s strength lies in the ways Burt complicates her archetypal characters . . . An engaging family tragedy.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“*The Dig* is a riveting and chilling tale that mixes family drama and corporate intrigue (à la *Succession*) with thought-provoking insights about immigration, adoption, and the horrors of war. I couldn’t put it down.”

—**Angie Kim, author of the Edgar Award winning *Miracle Creek***

“Mesmerizing, twisty, and beautifully written, *The Dig* combines the propulsive pacing of a thriller with the intimacy of a family drama.”

—**Christina Baker Kline, *The New York Times* #1 bestselling author of *Orphan Train***



When Sarajevo-born siblings Antonia and Paul join a wealthy Midwestern family in the 1990s, a series of events with deadly consequences is set in motion. Now, with her career on the line and her brother missing, Antonia must race against the clock to confront long-buried family secrets

Antonia King has a complicated relationship with the past. She and her brother were found amid the rubble of a bombed-out apartment in Sarajevo and taken in by a family of contractors in Thebes, Minnesota. Eager to escape the constraints of her adopted town, Antonia embarks on a high-powered legal career. But it isn’t long before her brother’s mysterious disappearance pulls her back home. There, over the course of a single day, Antonia unearths decades of secrets and lies, leading to shocking revelations about her adoptive family—and the sinister truth behind her biological mother’s death—that will alter the course of her life and change her definition of family forever.

Informed by timely issues of immigration, capitalism, and justice, yet timeless in its themes of love, identity, and competing loyalties, *The Dig*, inspired by the Greek tragedy *Antigone*, portrays a woman at odds with her history, forced to choose between her own ambitions and her loyalty to her beloved, idealistic brother.

ANNE BURT is the editor of *My Father Married Your Mother: Dispatches from the Blended Family* and coeditor, with Christina Baker Kline, of *About Face: Women Write About What They See When They Look in the Mirror*. Her essays and fiction have appeared in numerous publications and venues, including *Salon*, NPR, and *The Christian Science Monitor*; she is a past winner of *Meridian*’s Editors’ Prize in Fiction. Anne lives in New York City.

The Survivalists

A Novel

By Kashana Cauley

Rights retained: World English

Publication: January 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 288 pages

A Phenomenal Book Club Pick
Named a Best Book by *Today* and *People*

“This is a banger of a book!” —Samantha Irby

“A great and engrossing read, Kashana humanizes a way of life that is often made fun of and makes the reader understand why someone would go to such great lengths to prepare for the future, so much so she almost sold me on those Life Preserver soy bars!” —Trevor Noah

“If there was such a thing as required reading for living through the twenty-first century in America, I’d put *The Survivalists* near the top of the list. I loved it.”

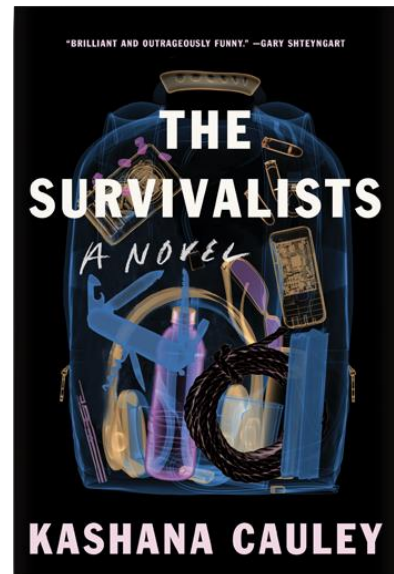
—Kelly Link, author of *Get in Trouble*

A single Black lawyer puts her career and personal moral code at risk when she moves in with her coffee entrepreneur boyfriend and his doomsday-prepping roommates in a novel that’s packed with tension, curiosity, humor, and wit from a writer with serious comedy credentials

In the wake of her parents’ death, Aretha, a habitually single Black lawyer, has had only one obsession in life—success—until she falls for Aaron, a coffee entrepreneur. Moving into his Brooklyn brownstone to live along with his Hurricane Sandy-traumatized, illegal-gun-stockpiling, optimized-soy-protein-eating, bunker-building roommates, Athena finds that her dreams of making partner are slipping away, replaced by an underground world, one of selling guns and training for a doomsday that’s maybe just around the corner.

For readers of Victor LaValle’s *The Changeling*, Paul Beatty’s *The Sellout*, and Zakiya Harris’s *The Other Black Girl*, *The Survivalists* is a darkly humorous novel from a smart and relevant new literary voice that’s packed with tension, curiosity and wit, and unafraid to ask the questions most relevant to a new generation of Americans: Does it make sense to climb the corporate ladder? What exactly are the politics of gun ownership? And in a world where it’s nearly impossible for young people to earn enough money to afford stable housing, what does it take in order to survive?

KASHANA CAULEY is a former Midtown antitrust lawyer and Brooklyn resident. She is a writer for the Fox comedy *The Great North*, a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*, and a *GQ* contributor. She’s written for *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* and *Pod Save America* on HBO as well as *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Pitchfork*, and *Rolling Stone*, and more.



World English Rights | Nonfiction

Notes on Postcards

By Jennifer Croft

Rights retained: World English

Publication: Fall 2024

Available: MS due May 2023

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages

—Praise for *Homesick*—

Longlisted for the Women’s Prize for Fiction 2023

“Haunting and visually poetic, Croft’s book explores the interplay between words and images and the complexity of sisterly bonds with intelligence, grace, and sensitivity. Poignant, creative, and unique.” —*Kirkus Reviews*



A National Book Award finalist and winner of the Man Booker International Prize for her translation of Olga Tokarczuk’s *Flights*, Jennifer Croft, an obsessive postcard collector and sender expands on her *LA Review of Books* essay, *Notes on Postcards*

Notes on Postcards is a work of literary nonfiction that combines critical theory, art history, and memoir to explore the artistry and history of a beloved form of communication that is emblematic of many of the major changes of the twentieth century, and that provides surprising insights into how we conceive of ourselves as beings trying to connect across time and space. Like the postcards that mean the most to her, Croft’s book is both broadly applicable and deeply personal, a story of obsession with an art form that also brims with the obsessions and insecurities of other writers and artists across history, their lives glimpsed through the postcards they sent and received.

Framed by Croft’s specific experiences of 2020—a year of losses and loneliness, but also unexpected connections—*Notes on Postcards* leads readers to a newly heightened awareness of the importance of location in our lives.

JENNIFER CROFT was awarded the Man Booker International Prize in 2018 and a National Book Award Finalist for her translation from Polish of Olga Tokarczuk’s *Flights*. She is the recipient of Fulbright, PEN, MacDowell, and National Endowment for the Arts grants and fellowships, as well as the inaugural Michael Henry Heim Prize for Translation and a Tin House Workshop Scholarship for her memoir *Homesick*. She holds a PhD from Northwestern University and an MFA from the University of Iowa. She is a founding editor of *The Buenos Aires Review* and has published her own work and numerous translations in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Granta*, *VICE*, *n+1*, *Electric Literature*, *Lit Hub*, *BOMB*, *Guernica*, *The New Republic*, *The Guardian*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and elsewhere. She currently divides her time between Buenos Aires and Los Angeles.

Encanto '82

By Peter Houlahan

Rights retained: World English
Publication: July 2024
Available: MS due October 2023
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages

—Praise for *Norco '80* —
One of *NPR*'s Best Books of the Year
Shortlisted for the Hammett Award for Literary Excellence in Crime Writing
Nominated for the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime



“[A] thrilling nonfiction book . . . In Houlahan's talented hands, the whole story is as urgent and real as if you were watching it live on TV. He also takes readers through the trial phase, which is as fascinating as fiction but all too true . . . Read Houlahan's book now. You'll love it.”

—Ken Raymond, *The Oklahoman*

A smashing but largely forgotten story of a young Black man in San Diego, in the mid-1980s, who, in the midst of an undeserved and racially motivated arrest, killed a police officer

Southern California, the mid-1980s: an era of big hair and shoulder pads, crack cocaine and the birth of rap music. On March 31, 1985 two patrol men pulled over a young black driver, Sagon Penn, without cause. Raised in the mostly black Encanto section of San Diego, Penn was an idealist who believed in world peace and the oneness of humanity. Earlier that day, Penn had applied to be an officer for the San Diego Police Department and was scheduled to take the written test in the coming week. Events escalated and Penn seized a police officer's gun, shot two cops (killing one), a woman "ride-along" in one of the police vehicles, and commandeered another police car to make his escape before turning himself in. With the help of a daring and charismatic defense lawyer named Milt Silverman, Penn, after two riveting trials, is found not guilty on all charges.

Utterly unique in its details, Sagon Penn's story is also an all-too-familiar story of the relationship between Black communities and the police. Penn never disputed his actions. The question was what, if anything, could justify such an act? What could turn this peaceful young man into someone at the center of a murder trial? For two years, San Diego struggled to come to terms with what this trial said about its city, its inhabitants, and its law enforcement community. Penn's trial became a media spectacle that presaged such notorious cases in the 90s as the trials for OJ Simpson, the Menendez brothers, and even Lorena Bobbitt and Scott Peterson.

PETER HOULAHAN is the author of *Norco '80*, a Finalist for the Edgar Award. He holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. A native Southern Californian, Houlahan now lives in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Spirit Box

By Noé Álvarez

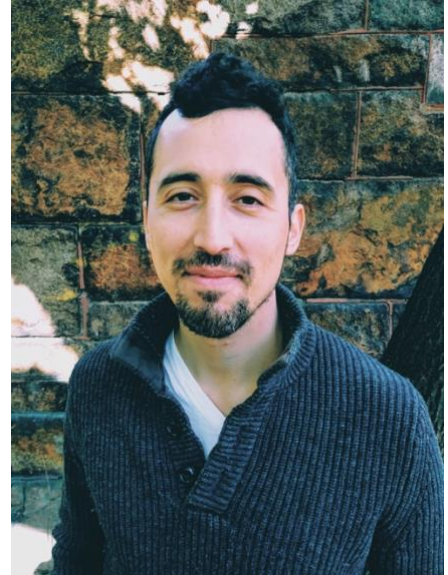
Rights retained: World English

Publication: May 2024

Available: MS due August 2023

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages



—Praise for *Spirit Run*—

“A beautiful read.”

—Ari Shapiro, “All Things Considered,” NPR

“Lyrical . . . Part travelogue, part traditional memoir . . . The story of the striving, first-generation kid made good is a familiar one; Álvarez makes his ache.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

From the author of *Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America’s Stolen Land*, a *Remezcla* Best Book by Latine or Latin American Authors of the Year, comes a musical journey to heal ancestral wounds

Learning to heal in the musical atmosphere of other artists, in many diverse landscapes, and finding harmony in our shared tragedies, Álvarez takes a personal journey into his grandfather’s story—a traveling musician who carried religion in his accordion. As an attempt to bring music back to his life, and an investigation into how an accordion informed his grandfather’s life, and subsequently destroyed his father’s, Álvarez explores what it means when one’s musical lineage gets severed and what happens to one’s story and spirit.

Spirit Box is a search for the healing power of music in the sacred spaces of other musicians, while Álvarez travels to San Antonio, Louisiana, and journeying through Mexico in search of his grandfather, collecting music and stories along the way.

NOÉ ÁLVAREZ was born to Mexican immigrant parents and raised working-class in Yakima, Washington. He holds degrees in philosophy and creative writing from Whitman College and Emerson College, respectively. He studied conflict analysis, peacemaking, and conflict resolution at American University and in Northern Ireland, received a fellowship at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, and researched U.S. drug policy, military aid, and human rights issues in Colombia’s Putumayo jungles. He lives in Boston, where, until recently, he worked as a security officer at the Boston Athenæum.

Rabbit Heart

A Memoir

By Kristine S. Ervin

Rights retained: World English

Publication: June 2024

Available: MS due July 2023

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | TK pages

***Rabbit Heart* is a beautiful, brutal memoir documenting the author's search for identity alongside her family's decades-long search for the identities of the two men who kidnapped, raped, and murdered her mother**



Kristine was just eight years old when her mother, Kathy Sue Engle, was abducted from an Oklahoma mall parking lot and violently murdered in a nearby oil field. First, there was grief. Then the desire to know: what happened to her, what she felt in her last, terrible moments, and all she was before these acts of violence defined her life.

In her mother's absence, Kristine tries to reconstruct a woman she can never fully grasp – from her own memory, from letters she uncovers and the stories of other family members. Meanwhile, as more information about her mother's death comes to light, Kristine's drive to know her mother only intensifies, winding its way into her own fraught adolescence. In the process of both, Kristine butts up against contradictions of what a woman is allowed to be – a self beyond the roles of wife, mother, daughter, victim – what a “true” victim is supposed to look like, and, finally, how complicated, and elusive justice can be.

Told fearlessly and poetically, Kristine weaves together themes of power, gender, and justice into a manifesto of grief and reclamation: our stories do not need to be simple to be true, and there is power in the telling.

KRISTINE S. ERVIN grew up in a small suburb of Oklahoma City and now teaches creative writing at West Chester University, outside of Philadelphia. She holds an MFA in Poetry from New York University and a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature, with a focus in nonfiction, from the University of Houston. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Brevity*, and *Passages North*, and her essay “Cleaving To” was named a notable essay in the 2013 edition of *Best American Essays*.

Contradiction Days

An Artist on the Verge of Motherhood

By JoAnna Novak

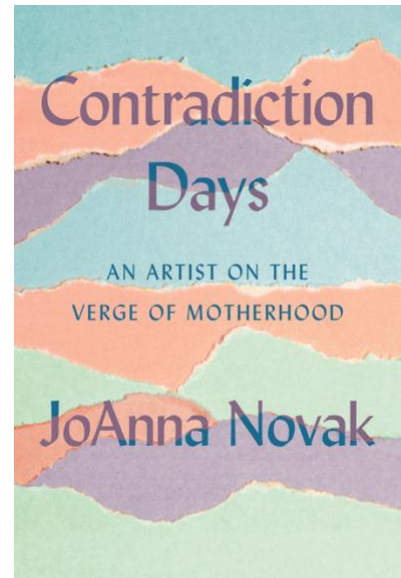
Rights retained: World English

Publication: July 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 256 pages



“JoAnna Novak uses obsession as her guide to write sharply and beautifully about different aspects of survival—if she gives herself the right rules in the right place, can she finally get it right? *Contradiction Days* is fierce in its ambition and vivid in its execution.”

—Chelsea Hodson, author of *Tonight I'm Someone Else*

For readers of Rachel Cusk and Maggie Nelson, the rapturous memoir of a soon-to-be-mother whose obsession with the reclusive painter Agnes Martin threatens to upend her life

Five months pregnant and struggling with a creative block, JoAnna Novak becomes obsessed with the enigmatic abstract expressionist painter Agnes Martin. She is drawn to the contradictions in Martin’s life as well as her art—the soft and exacting brushstrokes she employs for grid-like compositions that are both rigid and dreamy. But what most calls to JoAnna is Martin’s dedication to her work in the face of paranoid schizophrenia.

Uneasy with the changes her pregnant body is undergoing, JoAnna relapses into damaging old habits and thought patterns. When she confides in her doctor that she’s struggling with depression and suicidal ideation, he tells her she must stop being so selfish, given she has a baby on the way, and start taking antidepressants. Appalled by his patronizing tone and disregard of her mental health history, JoAnna instead turns to Martin for guidance, adopting the artist's doctrine of joyful solitude and isolation.

JoAnna heads to Taos, where Martin lived for decades, and gives herself three weeks to model her hermetic existence: phone off, email off, no talking to her husband, no touching the dog. Out of a deep, solitary engagement with a remarkable artist’s body of work emerges an entirely new way for Joanna to relate to the contradictions of her own body and face up to the joys and challenges of impending motherhood.

JOANNA NOVAK’s short story collection, *Meaningful Work*, won the 2020 Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Contest. Novak is the author of the novel *I Must Have You* and two previous books of poetry: *Noirmania* and *Abeyance, North America*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and other publications.

Life B

Overcoming Double Depression

By Bethanne Patrick

Rights retained: World English

Publication: May 2023

Available: Full manuscript

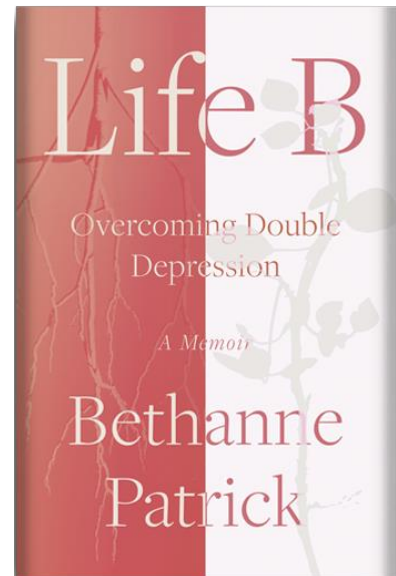
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 208 pages

A Zibby Mag Most Anticipated Book of 2023

“Patrick offers valuable insight into what it means to live with a debilitating mental illness . . . Candid and heartfelt.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



“Insightful, honest, and ultimately life-affirming, *Life B* shines a light on a secret life many experience in shame and silence, and shows that it's never too late to take those first steps toward healing. Bethanne Patrick's perseverance in getting a correct diagnosis and treatment at midlife gives hope to everyone who has ever wondered if life will get better.”

—**Lori Gottlieb, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk To Someone***

“Bethanne Patrick has long been a hero in the literary world — a tireless supporter of writers and writing. Now she has given us this brave, elegant work. It’s so good. Radical truth.”

—**Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The House of Broken Angels***

Plagued by depression her entire life, it wasn’t until her early fifties that writer and book critic Bethanne Patrick, advocating for her own care, received a medical diagnosis that would set her on the path to wellness and stability

Recognizing the intergenerational effects of trauma and mental health struggles, Patrick unearths the stories of her past in order to forge a better future for herself and her two daughters, dismantling the stigmas surrounding mental health challenges that can plague families into silence and resignation. *Life B* is an intimate portrait we haven’t yet seen—of a lifelong struggle with depression, of midlife diagnosis and newly found strength. Most important, it’s a life-affirming blueprint of how to accept and transcend the limitations of mental illness.

BETHANNE PATRICK maintains a storied place in the publishing industry as a critic and as @TheBookMaven on Twitter, where she created the popular #FridayReads and regularly comments on books and literary ideas to over 200K followers. Her work appears frequently in the *Los Angeles Times* as well as at *The Washington Post*, *NPR Books*, and *Literary Hub*. She sits on the board of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation and has served on the board of the National Book Critics Circle. She is the host of the *Missing Pages* podcast.

Satellite Boy

The International Manhunt for a Master Thief That Launched the Modern Communication Age

By Andrew Amelinckx

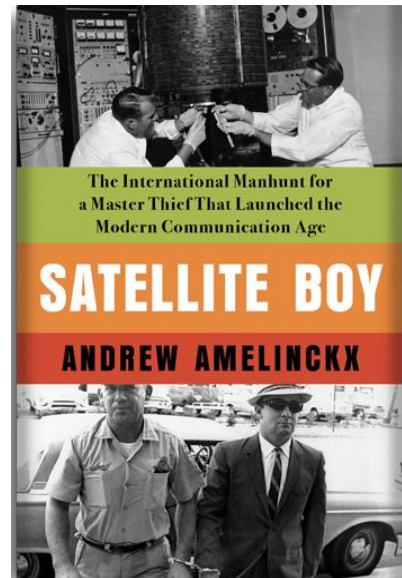
Rights retained: World English

Publication: March 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | 336 pages



“This colorful . . . dual biography mashes together the lives of Canadian bank robber Georges Lemay and American engineer Harold Rosen . . . Amelinckx lucidly explains the technical aspects and spotlights the boon communication satellites provided to law enforcement agencies.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“*Satellite Boy* is one of the most entertaining, original, and informative stories I've read in a long, long time. . . Amelinckx masterfully combines crime, high tech, and history into a crackling page-turner. Don't miss it!”

—David Bell, *USA Today* bestselling author of *She's Gone* and *The Finalists*

Spanning the underworld haunts of Montreal to Havana and Miami in the early days of the Cold War, *Satellite Boy* reveals the unlikely connection between an audacious bank heist and the “other Space Race” that gave birth to the modern communication age

On April 6, 1965, Georges Lemay was relaxing on his yacht in a south Florida marina following one of the largest and most daring bank heists in Canadian history. For four years, the roguishly handsome criminal mastermind hid in plain sight, eluding capture and the combined efforts of the FBI, Interpol, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. His future appeared secure.

What Lemay didn't know was that less than two hundred miles away at Cape Canaveral, a brilliant engineer named Harold Rosen was about to usher in the age of global live television with the launch of the world's first twenty-four-hour commercial communications satellite. Rosen's extraordinary accomplishment would not only derail Lemay's cushy life but change the world forever. Brimming with criminal panache and technological intrigue, and set against a turbulent and iconic period that includes the moon landing and the civil rights movement, *Satellite Boy* tells the largely forgotten, high-stakes story of the two equally driven men who inadvertently launched the modern era.

ANDREW AMELINCKX is a freelance journalist who has previously written three historical true crime books. He has spent a decade as an award-winning investigative crime reporter for several news organizations, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Berkshire Eagle*. His work has appeared in *Business Insider*, *Smithsonian*, *Men's Journal*, *Modern Farmer*, and elsewhere. He lives in New York's Hudson Valley.

Cross-genre & Poetry

Uncollected Poems, Drafts, Fragments, and Translations

By Gary Snyder

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint Press (US/English), Dumi Media
Co., Ltd (Simplified Chinese)

Genre: Poetry | 112 pages

Finalist for the CALIBA's 2022 Golden Poppy Book Awards

"Snyder's is a wise voice crying out on behalf of the wilderness with an authority and eloquence that's not been heard in our literature since Thoreau." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"His sense of the history of land and cultures and his ability to write as both the Worker and the Thinker create a fertile whole." —*Los Angeles Times*

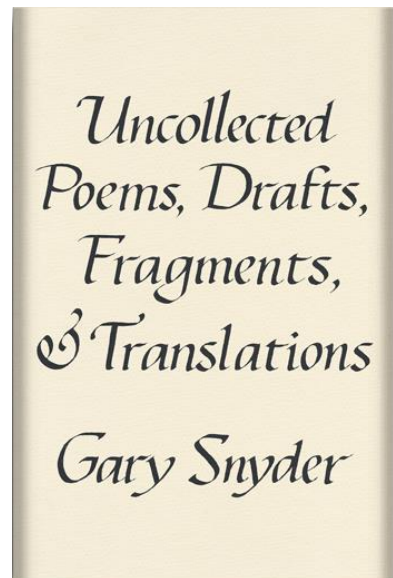
"These previously uncollected and unpublished works by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Beat poet sing with history, politics, and place, offering new glimpses into Snyder's verse . . . Readers drawn to Snyder's irrepressible energy will find this a worthy addition to his established body of work." —*Publishers Weekly*

A collection of previously uncollected and unpublished works by a Pulitzer Prize-winning Beat poet Gary Snyder, written during his most productive and important years

Far from being a simple miscellany of poems, *Uncollected Poems, Drafts, Fragments, and Translations* contains some of Gary Snyder's best work, written during his most productive and important years.

Many of these have been published in magazines or as broadsides, including *Spel Against Demons*, *Dear Mr. President*, *Hymn to the Goddess San Francisco*, *Smokey the Bear Sutra*, *A Curse on the Men in Washington*, *Pentagon*. The collection also includes a great number of translations from Chinese and Japanese poets. Much of this work has been gleaned from journals, manuscripts and correspondence, and never before published in any form.

GARY SNYDER is the author of more than twenty collections of poetry and prose. Since 1970, he has lived in the watershed of the South Yuba River in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1975, Snyder has also been awarded the Bollingen Prize for Poetry and the Robert Kirsch Award for lifetime achievement. His 1992 collection, *No Nature*, was a National Book Award finalist, and in 2008 he received the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. Snyder is a poet, environmentalist, educator, and Zen Buddhist.



I Done Clicked My Heels Three Times

Poems

By Taylor Byas

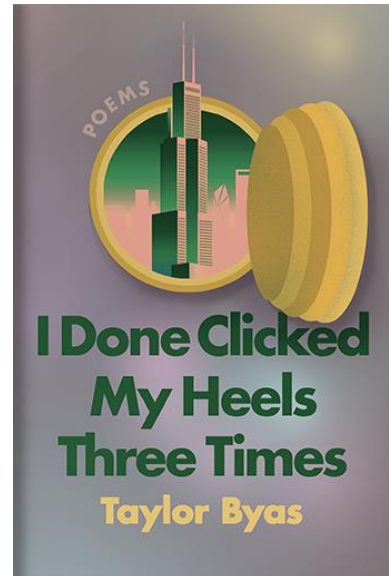
Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Poetry | 128 pages



“So many of the greatest poets in the American tradition have been Chicago Black women and this debut collection is an announcement that one more has joined that proud tradition. Byas’s work unfolds with tender attention to all sides of life in the Black metropolis. From mulberry trees to daisy dukes to candy ladies to liquor stores, this work sings of the city that raised me in an authentic way, with a careful formal attention befitting the lineage of Gwendolyn Brooks. This is a work to cherish.”

—Nate Marshall, author of *Finna: Poems*

Inspired by *The Wiz*, this debut, full-length poetry collection celebrates South Side Chicago and a Black woman’s quest for self-discovery—one that pulls her away from the safety of home and into her power

I Done Clicked My Heels Three Times takes its inspiration and concept from the cult classic film *The Wiz* to explore a Black woman’s journey out of the South Side of Chicago and into adulthood. The narrative arc of *The Wiz*—a tumultuous departure from home, trials designed to reveal new things about the self, and the eventual return home—serves as a loose trajectory for this collection, pulling readers through an abandoned barn, a Wendy’s drive-thru, a Beyoncé video, Grandma’s house, Sunday service, and the corner store. At every stop, the speaker is made to confront her womanhood, her sexuality, the visibility of her body, alcoholism in her family, and various ways in which narratives are imposed on her.

Subverting monolithic ideas about the South Side of Chicago, and re-casting the city as a living, breathing entity, *I Done Clicked My Heels Three Times* spans sestinas, sonnets, free-verse, and erasures, all to reimagine the concept of home. Chicago isn’t just a city, but a teacher, a lingering shadow, a way of seeing the world.

TAYLOR BYAS is a Black Chicago native currently living in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is the 1st place winner of the 2020 Poetry Super Highway, the 2020 Frontier Poetry Award for New Poets Contests, and the 2021 Adrienne Rich Poetry Prize. She is the author of the chapbooks *Bloodwarm* and *Shutter*.

Domestirexia

Poems

By JoAnna Novak

Rights retained: World

Publication: July 2024

Available: Sample manuscript,

Full manuscript due September 2023

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Poetry | TK pages



—Praise for *Contradiction Days*—

“Anyone who’s ever thought about—or lived at the intersection of—art, obsession, and embodiment will take solace in and inspiration from *Contradiction Days*. With Agnes Martin as both her source and temple, Novak charts the fear, euphoria, and madness of both art- and life-making. *Contradiction Days* is an exquisite ode to the inseparable pain and bliss of creation.”

—Cyrus Dunham, author of *A Year Without a Name*

“What more could one want from a memoir? JoAnna Novak shies away from nothing in the portrayal of her struggle towards elusive self certainty and maternal commitment. I have not read a more honest account of the intellectual, physical, and psychological insecurities that both threaten and sustain us. A brave and thought-provoking book about the will to live and the will to create.” —Kathleen Finneran, author of *The Tender Land: A Family Love Story*

***Domestirexia* contorts the idea of home, far from being a site of comfort and nourishment, coaxing the reader to think about domesticity in knotty new ways**

Rote notions of home and the domestic are reimaged in these poems as estranging, excessive, and populated by unknowable characters.

Beyond the entanglement of “domestic” and “anorexia,” *Domestirexia* explores a behind-closed-doors sensuality, borne of the idea of making home: a space of both resistance/discomfort that one desires/takes pleasure in enjoying. Exploring themes of family, sacrifice, disease, death, money, cooking, romance, sex, art, and the visceral qualities of the everyday, the poems twist themselves into binds for the reader to undo or surrender.

JOANNA NOVAK’s short story collection *Meaningful Work* won the Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Contest. She is the author of three books of poetry, most recently *New Life*, and a novel, *I Must Have You*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, and other publications. She is a co-founder of the literary journal and chapbook publisher, *Tammy*.

Notable Backlist

The Novelist

A Novel

By Jordan Castro

Rights retained: World

Publication: June 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English),

Urbanbooks (Korean)

Genre: Fiction | 208 pages

A LitHub Most Anticipated Book of the Year

An NPR Best Book of the Year

“Brisk and shockingly witty, exuberantly scatological as well as deeply wise, *The Novelist* is a delight. Jordan Castro is a rare new talent: an author highly attuned to the traditions he is working within while also offering a refreshingly fun sendup of life beset by the endless scroll.”

—**Mary South, author of *You Will Never Be Forgotten***

“This book, better than any other I know, shows how creation emerges from the nothingness of our culture. A hilarious and important novel.”

—**Michael W. Clune, author of *Gameline* and *White Out: The Secret Life of Heroin***

In Jordan Castro’s provocative debut novel, the seemingly mundane routines and events of a single morning are magnified into complex, hilarious, and profound statements on the modern condition

In Jordan Castro’s inventive, funny, and surprisingly tender first novel, we follow a young man over the course of a single morning as he tries and fails to write an autobiographical novel, finding himself instead drawn into the infinite spaces of Twitter, quotidian rituals, and his own mind.

The act of making coffee prompts a reflection on the limits of self-knowledge; an editor’s embarrassing tweet sparks rage at the literary establishment; a meditation on first person versus third examines choice and action; an Instagram post about the ethics of having children triggers mimetic rivalry; the act of doing the dishes is at once ordinary and profound: one of the many small commitments that make up a life of stability.

The Novelist: A Novel pays tribute to Nicholson Baker’s *The Mezzanine* and Thomas Bernhard’s *Woodcutters*, but in the end is a wholly original novel about language and consciousness, the internet and social media, and addiction and recovery.

JORDAN CASTRO is the author of two poetry books and the former editor of *New York Tyrant Magazine*. He is from Cleveland, Ohio. *The Novelist* is his first novel.



Things We Found When the Water Went Down

A Novel

By Tegan Nia Swanson

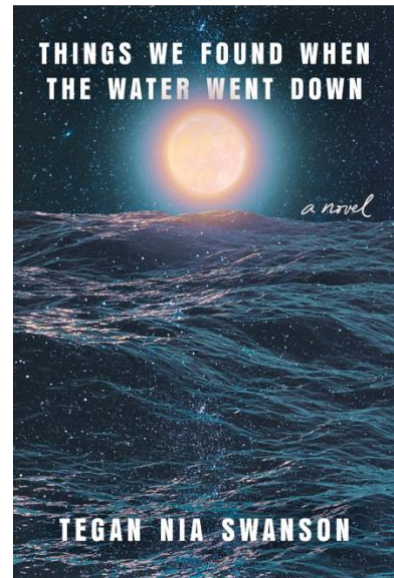
Rights retained: World

Publication: December 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 256 pages



“An inventive and beguiling debut.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“*Things We Found When the Water Went Down* is an ethereal, mixed media mystery novel about what we lose when the strongest, most vulnerable among us are made to disappear.”

—*Eileen Gonzalez, Foreword Reviews (starred review)*

“Swanson writes with nuance and care—clearly as someone who has devoted a part of her life to understanding the processes of healing and trauma . . . Swanson’s prose is stunning, mysterious, and intricate.”

—*Sarah Neilson, Shondaland*

In this dark and ethereal debut novel, a young woman tries to make sense of strange artifacts and unsettling memories in an effort to find her mother—missing since being accused of murder

When brutish miner Hugo Mitchum is found murdered on the frozen shore of a North Country lake, the local officials and town gossips of Beau Caelais are quick to blame Marietta Abernathy, outspoken environmental activist and angry, witchy recluse. But Marietta herself has disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

Living on an isolated island with her father, Marietta’s sixteen-year-old daughter, Lena, begins sifting through her mother’s journals and collected oddities in an attempt to find her. While her father’s grief threatens to consume him and her adoptive aunt Bea reckons with guilt and acceptance, it is the haunting town outcast Ellis Olsen who might have the most to lose if Lena fails to find her mother.

A Nordic eco-noir shot through with magical realism, *Things We Found When the Water Went Down* examines power, identity, and myth in a story that asks us to explore what it means to heal—or not—after violence.

TEGAN NIA SWANSON is an advocate, educator, artist, gardener, and UU-Buddhist, most at home while in or near large bodies of water, or walking under the canopies of many trees. *Things We Found When the Water Went Down* is her first novel.

Which Side Are You On

A Novel

By Ryan Lee Wong

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 192 pages

Finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction

“A thought-provoking and poignant coming-of-age story.”

—**TIME**

“Told with the witty brio of our narrator’s youth, *Which Side Are You On* marks the arrival of an electric new voice.”

—**Adrienne Westenfeld, Esquire**

“A sharply observed story of an earnest Asian American activist considering dropping out of college to dedicate himself to organizing. . . the story, both moving and funny, is sure to speak powerfully to the many who struggle to find hope and joy in an unjust world.”

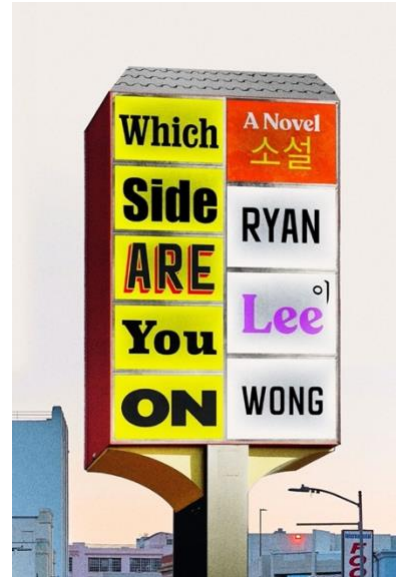
—**Lisa Wong Macabasco, Vogue**

How can we live with integrity and pleasure in this world of police brutality and racism? An Asian American activist is challenged by his mother to face this question in this powerful and funny debut novel of generational change, a mother’s secret, and an activist’s coming-of-age

Twenty-one-year-old Reed is fed up. Angry about the killing of a Black man by an Asian American NYPD officer, he wants to drop out of college and devote himself to the Black Lives Matter movement. But would that truly bring him closer to the moral life he seeks?

In a series of intimate, charged conversations, his mother—once the leader of a Korean-Black coalition—demands that he rethink his outrage, and along with it, what it means to be an organizer, a student, an ally, an American, and a son. As Reed zips around his hometown of Los Angeles with his mother, searching and questioning, he faces a revelation that will change everything. Inspired by his family’s roots in activism, Ryan Lee Wong offers an extraordinary debut novel for readers of Anthony Veasna So, Rachel Kushner, and Michelle Zauner: a book that is as humorous as it is profound, a celebration of seeking a life that is both virtuous and fun, an ode to mothering and being mothered.

RYAN LEE WONG was born and raised in Los Angeles, and currently lives in Brooklyn, where he is the administrative director of Brooklyn Zen Center. Previously, he served as program director for the Asian American Writers’ Workshop and managing director of Kundiman. He holds an MFA in fiction from Rutgers University–Newark. *Which Side Are You On* is his first book.



Heart Berries

A Memoir

By Terese Marie Mailhot

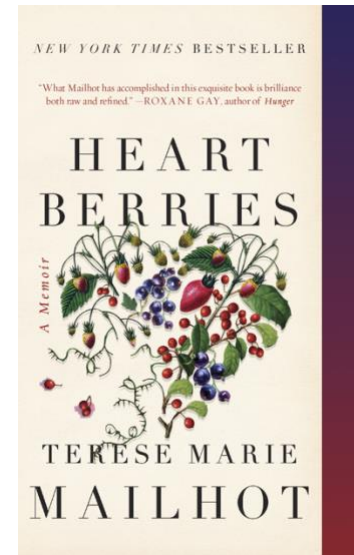
Rights retained: World

Paperback Publication: April 2019

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English), Bloomsbury (UK/Commonwealth), Doubleday (Canadian), Marchand de Feuilles (French Canadian), Planeta Mexico (Spanish), Iryoil Books (Korean), Editions Depaysage (French)

Genre: Memoir | 126 pages



— A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER —

A *New York Times* Editors' Choice

A Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection

An Emma Watson Book Club selection

An NPR Best Book of the Year

Winner of the Spalding Prize for the Promotion of Peace and Justice in Literature

“A sledgehammer . . . Her experiments with structure and language . . . are in the service of trying to find new ways to think about the past, trauma, repetition and reconciliation, which might be a way of saying a new model for the memoir.”

—Parul Sehgal, *The New York Times*

“*Heart Berries* by Terese Mailhot is an astounding memoir in essays . . . What Mailhot has accomplished in this exquisite book is brilliance both raw and refined, testament.”

—Roxane Gay, author of *Hunger*

The *New York Times* bestselling debut memoir and one of the most critically acclaimed books of 2018, now in paperback

Guileless and refreshingly honest, *Heart Berries* chronicles Terese Marie Mailhot’s coming-of-age on Seabird Island Band in the Pacific Northwest and dual diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and bipolar II disorder. While hospitalized, she is given a notebook and begins to write her way out of trauma. The triumphant result is *Heart Berries*, a memorial for Mailhot’s mother, a social worker and activist who had a thing for prisoners; a story of reconciliation with her father—an abusive drunk and a brilliant artist—who was murdered under mysterious circumstances; and an elegy on how difficult it is to love someone while dragging the long shadows of shame.

TERESE MARIE MAILHOT is from Seabird Island Band. She graduated with an MFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her work appears in *West Branch*, *Guernica*, *Pacific Standard*, *Elle*, *Medium*, *BuzzFeed*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

The Elephant of Belfast

A Novel

By S. Kirk Walsh

Rights retained: World

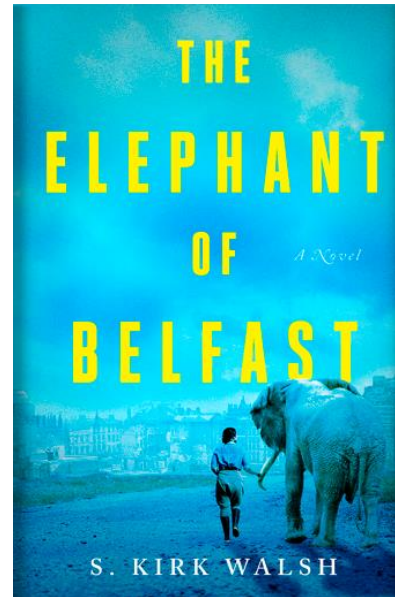
Publication: April 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English), Hodder & Stoughton (UK), Editura Corint (Romanian), Strawberry Publishing AS (Norwegian)

Genre: Historical Fiction | 336 pages

32nd Annual Reading the West Book Awards Nominee
Kirkus Reviews, 1 of 10 Fiction Books to Look for This Year



“In 1941, with Nazi bombs shattering Belfast, a young zookeeper rushed to save the elephant in her charge. Walsh’s lovely debut spins this historical sliver into a vivid novel of redemption and mutual care.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“Based on real events, this engrossing novel takes place a year into the Second World War. A three-year-old elephant named Violet arrives at Belfast’s Bellevue Zoo, where Hettie Quin, a young zookeeper mourning the recent death of a sister, finds purpose and solace in caring for her . . . The novel vividly evokes the speed with which war makes the commonplace surreal, as Hettie and Violet become fugitives in a ruined city.” —*The New Yorker*

Inspired by the life of Denise Austin, S. Kirk Walsh deftly renders the changing relationship between Hettie and her young charge, and their growing dependence on each other for survival and solace. *The Elephant of Belfast* is a complicated portrait of love, loss, grief, and resilience

In October 1940, twenty-year-old zookeeper Hettie Quin meets Violet, a three-year-old elephant arriving at the Belfast docks from Ceylon. Soon she becomes Violet’s dedicated zookeeper at the Bellevue Zoo. While she is in mourning for the recent loss of her sister and the abandonment of her father, she finds contentment in her relationships with Violet and her fellow zookeepers.

Six months later, in April 1941, Belfast is attacked. One evening, over five hours, 674 bombs are dropped and almost a thousand civilians killed. During the bombings, Hettie Quin fights to save her elephant and survive the destruction and escalating sectarian unrest of the city.

S. KIRK WALSH lives in Austin, Texas, and her work has been widely published in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Longreads*, *Story Quarterly*, *Electric Literature*, and other publications. *The Elephant of Belfast* is her first novel. Find out more at skirkwalsh.com

How It Went

Thirteen More Stories of the Port William Membership

By Wendell Berry

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2022

Available: Full manuscript

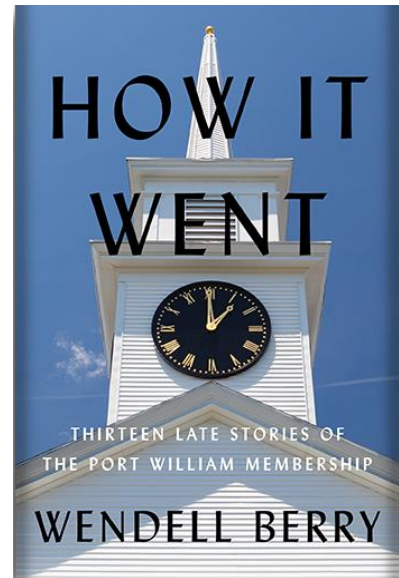
Publishers: Counterpoint Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 256 pages

Starred Reviews from *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *BookPage*

“This is a work of essential American literature.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)



“Wendell Berry is an American literary treasure. . . A misty melancholy hangs over every page of this novel. But Berry’s powers as a writer render that heartbroken tone beautiful. Berry is a master craftsman in all literary genres. No extra word or shabby sentence mars his work. The reader pauses often to admire the crystalline precision of his writing. . . Let us hope we also can embrace Berry’s quiet celebration in this work and others of how people can learn to get along when they share a community. Though he writes almost exclusively of times past, Berry is a powerful writer for our time.” —**Pamela Miller, *Minneapolis Star Tribune***

Thirteen new stories of the Port William membership spanning the decades from World War II to the present moment

For those readers of his poetry and inspired by his increasingly vital work as advocate for rational land use and the right-size life, these stories of Wendell Berry’s offer entry into the fictional place of value and beauty that is Port William, Kentucky. Berry has said it’s taken a lifetime for him to learn to write like an old man, and that’s what we have here, stories told with grace and ease and majesty. Wendell Berry is one of our greatest living American authors, writing with the wisdom of maturity and the incandescence that comes of love.

These thirteen new works explore the memory and imagination of Andy Catlett, one of the well-loved central characters of the Port William saga. From 1932 to 2021, these stories span the length of Andy’s life, from before the outbreak of the Second World War to the threatened end of rural life in America.

WENDELL BERRY, an essayist, novelist, and poet, has been honored with the T. S. Eliot Prize, the Aiken Taylor Award in Modern American Poetry, the John Hay Award of the Orion Society, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, among others. Berry lives with his wife, Tanya Berry, on their farm in Henry County, Kentucky.

The Night Lake
A Young Priest Maps
the Topography of Grief
By Liz Tichenor

Rights retained: World

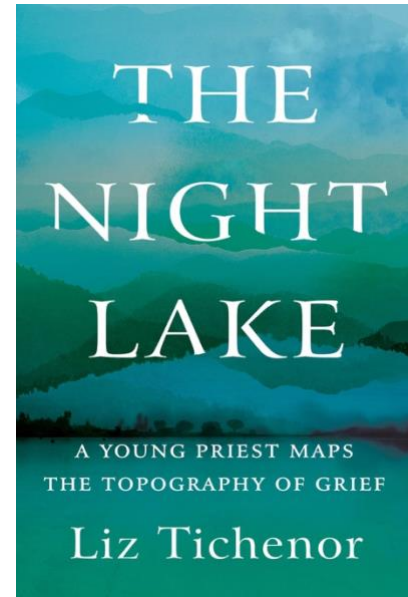
Publication: January 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English), Kristeligt Dagblad Forlag (Danish)

Genre: Memoir | 304 pages

Nominee for the Northern California Book Award (NCBA) in Creative Nonfiction



“Heart-wrenching yet gorgeous . . . Tichenor’s honest and plush writing lets readers sink into her settings and emotions, whether in grief, hope, or wonder. Perfect for fans of Anne Lamott and any reader interested in the intersection of grief and faith.”

—**Kathy Sexton, *Booklist* (starred review)**

“A powerful, forthright chronicle of surviving profound loss.” —***Kirkus Reviews***

***The Night Lake* is a raw memoir by a young priest about loss and grief and its aftermath, and the hard-won joy that can follow**

Liz Tichenor has taken their newborn son, five weeks old, to the doctor, from a cabin on the shores of Lake Tahoe. She is sent home to her husband and two-year-old daughter with the baby, who is pronounced “fine” by an urgent care physician. Six hours later, her baby dies in their bed. Less than a year and a half before, Tichenor’s mother jumped from a building and killed herself after a long struggle with alcoholism. As a very young Episcopal priest, Tichenor has to “preach the Good News,” to find faith where there is no hope, but she realizes these terrible parts of her own life will join her in the pulpit.

The Night Lake is the story of finding a way forward through a tragedy that seems like it might be beyond surviving and of learning to carve out space for the slow labor of learning to live again, in grief.

LIZ TICHENOR has put down roots in the Bay Area but is originally from New Hampshire and the Midwest. An Episcopal priest, she serves as rector at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Pleasant Hill, California. Tichenor and her husband, Jesse, are raising two young children and continuing to explore the adventure of living, parenting, and leading in the community.

The Tiger and the Cage *A Memoir of a Body in Crisis* By Emma Bolden

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2022

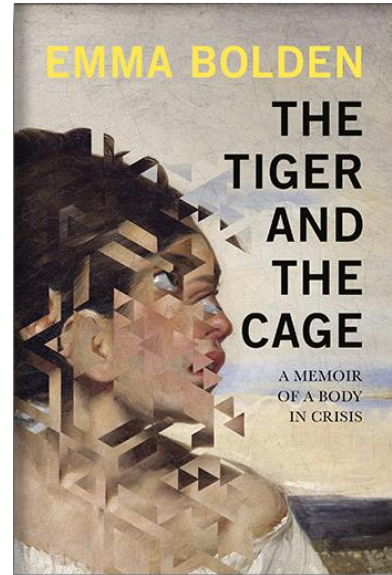
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 368 pages

“Bolden’s memoir digs into the layers of sociocultural beliefs around menstruation, fertility, the expectations of women’s role to mate and procreate, and the indivisible links between sexuality, psychological security, desire, and self-awareness.”

—Cat Woods, *Shondaland*



“Dark and riveting . . . [It] stings as much as it astounds.” —*Publishers Weekly*

For readers of Susannah Cahalan’s *Brain on Fire* and Porochista Khakpour’s *Sick*, this exquisitely wrought debut memoir recounts a lifelong struggle with chronic pain and endometriosis, while speaking more broadly to anyone who’s been told “it’s all in your head”

In Catholic grade school, Emma Bolden has a strange experience with a teacher that unleashes a short-lived, persistent coughing spell—something the medical establishment will later use against her as she struggles through chronic pain and fainting spells that coincide with her menstrual cycle.

With *The Tiger and the Cage*, Bolden uses her own experience as the starting point for a journey through the institutional misogyny of Western medicine—from a history of labeling women “hysterical” and parading them as curiosities to a lack of information on causes or cures for endometriosis, despite more than a century of documented cases. Recounting botched surgeries and dire side effects from pharmaceuticals affecting her and countless others, Bolden speaks to the ways people are often failed by the official narratives of institutions meant to protect them.

Bolden also interrogates a narrative commonly imposed on menstruating bodies: the expected story arc of marriage and children. She interrogates her body as a painful site she must mentally escape and a countdown she hopes to beat by having a child before a hysterectomy. Only later does she find language and acceptance for her asexuality and the life she needs to lead. Through all its gripping, devastating, and beautiful threads, *The Tiger and the Cage* says what Bolden and so many like her have needed to hear: *I see you, and I believe you.*

EMMA BOLDEN is the author of *House Is an Enigma*, *medi(t)ations*, and *Maleficae*. The recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship, her work has appeared in *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Best Small Fictions*, and more. She is the associate editor in chief for *Tupelo Quarterly*.

The Lonely Stories

20 Celebrated Writers on the Joys & Struggles of Being Alone

Edited by Natalie Eve Garrett

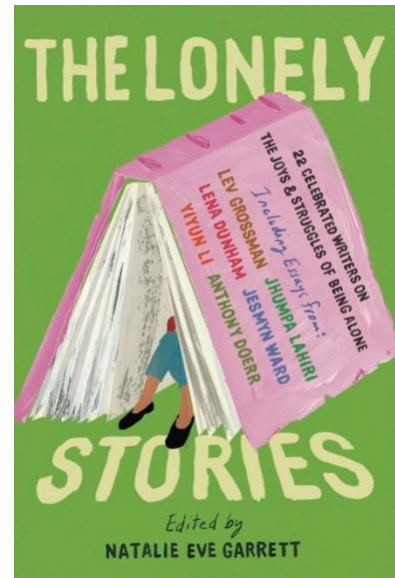
Rights retained: World

Publication: April 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English), Hyeda (Korean),
Shanghai Translation Publishing House (Simplified Chinese)

Genre: Essays | 272 pages



“An absorbing, moving, cathartic collection.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“This profound collection shines light on the different facets of being alone, a condition of modern life that predates the pandemic and will continue beyond. It's a gorgeous, illuminating exploration of the ways in which connection is crucial to survival and creative expression can heal.” —*Suleika Jaouad, author of [Between Two Kingdoms](#)*

“Surprising, sly, heart-stopping, celebratory—the essays in *The Lonely Stories* evoke the gamut of emotions, in the way of isolation itself. A timely, and lasting, collection.”

—*Claire Messud, author of [The Burning Girl](#)*

A collection of essays about the joys and struggles of being alone by 22 literary writers including: Lev Grossman, Jhumpa Lahiri, Lena Dunham, Jesmyn Ward, Yiyun Li, and Anthony Doerr.

If you're feeling lonely or if you've ever felt unseen, if you're emboldened by solitude or secretly longing for it: Welcome to *The Lonely Stories*. This cathartic collection of essays illuminates an experience that so few of us openly discuss. Some stories are heartbreaking, such as Jesmyn Ward's reckoning with the loss of her husband and Dina Nayeri's reflection on immigrating to a foreign country. Others are witty, such as Lev Grossman's rueful tale of heading to the woods or Anthony Doerr's struggles with internet addiction. Still others celebrate the clarity of solitude, like Claire Dederer's journey toward sobriety and Lidia Yuknavitch's sensual look at desire. Thoughtful and affirming, *The Lonely Stories* reveals the complexities of an emotion we've all felt—reminding us that we're not alone.

NATALIE EVE GARRETT is an artist and a writer. She's the editor of *Eat Joy: Stories & Comfort Food from 31 Celebrated Writers* and *The Artists' and Writers' Cookbook: A Collection of Stories with Recipes*. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design, Natalie lives with her husband, daughter, and son in a town outside D.C.

Death by Landscape

Essays

By Elvia Wilk

Rights retained: World

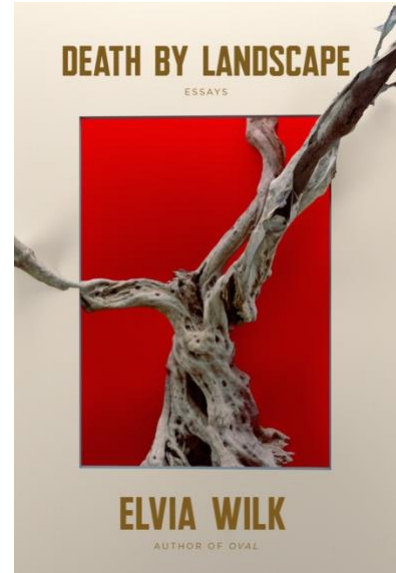
Publication: July 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English),

Add Editore (Italian)

Genre: Essays | 320 pages



“Elvia Wilk’s learned and bracing essays distribute the mind out beyond the stubborn habits and enclosures of our ‘humanities’—out past hack plots or boundaries assigned to gender or species—where it can expand into subsoil or outer space or corpuscle in narratives weird enough to reflect another human/non-human social life.”

—Keller Easterling, author of *Medium Design* and *Extrastatecraft*

“Elvia Wilk is one of the most exciting essayists working today. I love this book.”

—Catherine Lacey, author of *Pew*

From the acclaimed author of the novel *Oval* comes a book of “fan nonfiction” about living and writing in the age of extinction

In this constellation of essays, Elvia Wilk asks what kinds of narratives will help us rethink our human perspective toward Earth. The book begins as an exploration of the role of fiction today and becomes a deep interrogation of the writing process and the self.

Wilk examines creative works across time and genre in order to break down binaries between dystopia and utopia, real and imagined, self and world. She makes connections between works by such wide-ranging writers as Mark Fisher, Karen Russell, Han Kang, Doris Lessing, Anne Carson, Octavia E. Butler, Michelle Tea, Helen Phillips, Kathe Koja, Jeff and Ann VanderMeer, and Hildegard von Bingen.

What happens when research becomes personal, when the observer breaks through the glass? Through the eye of the fan, this collection delves into literal and literary world-building projects—medieval monasteries, solarpunk futures, vampire role plays, environments devoid of humans—bridging the micro and the macro and revealing how our relationship to narrative shapes our relationships to the natural world and to one another.

ELVIA WILK is a writer living in New York. Her work has appeared in publications like *Frieze*, *Artforum*, *Bookforum*, *Granta*, *The Atlantic*, *n+1*, *The White Review*, *BOMB*, *Mousse*, *Flash Art*, and *Art Agenda*. She is currently a contributing editor at *e-flux Journal*. She is the recipient of a 2019 Andy Warhol Arts Writers Grant and a 2020 fellowship at the Berggruen Institute. Her first novel, *Oval*, was published by Soft Skull in 2019.