



CATAPULT COUNTERPOINT SOFT SKULL

RIGHTS LIST
FALL 2023

<u>World Rights Fiction</u>	3
<u>World Rights Nonfiction</u>	7
<u>World English Rights Fiction</u>	20
<u>World English Rights Nonfiction</u>	32
<u>Poetry</u>	41
<u>Notable Backlist</u>	46
<u>Co-Agents</u>	51

World Rights | Fiction

An Earthquake Is a Shaking of the Surface of the Earth

A Novel

By Anna Moschovakis

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2024

Available: TK

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | TK pages



—Praise for *Participation*—

“A brilliant and prescient story of an intellectual woman’s engagement with two book clubs amid climate catastrophe and political strife. . . . Moschovakis brings her fierce intelligence to bear in the structurally surprising and impeccably executed narrative. This is formal innovation at its finest.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

***An Earthquake Is a Shaking of the Surface of the Earth* is a formidable, uncanny, and utterly unique new novel from accomplished novelist and poet, Anna Moschovakis**

In *An Earthquake Is a Shaking of the Surface of the Earth*, an unnamed narrator struggles to regain the ability to walk after a sudden seismic event has rendered unpredictable shifts and undulations in the ground. Convinced of a need to find and kill her younger housemate, Tala, who has disappeared, the narrator struggles physically and psychologically to contend with her homicidal task in the wake of failure as a Method actor. The narrator travels back in time and out into a dust-covered, shadowy city, where she is targeted by charismatic “healing” ideologues with uncertain motives. Torn between a paranoid suspicion of internalized, toxic language, and a desperate attempt to find stability and feel something like whole, she is forced to question familiar figurations of light, shadow, authenticity, and voice, taking tentative steps toward a new understanding of self and world.

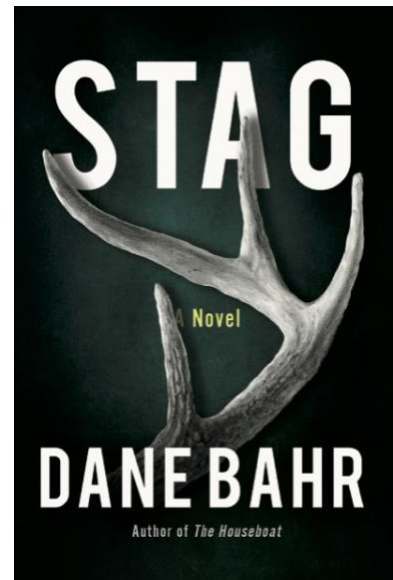
Darkly comic, entirely relatable, and hallucinatory in tone, *An Earthquake Is a Shaking of the Surface of the Earth* will appeal to readers of Annie Ernaux, Lynne Tillman, Dionne Brand, Natalia Ginzburg, Renee Gladman, Anna Kavan, Sheila Heti, and Fernanda Melchor, among others.

ANNA MOSCHOVAKIS is a poet and translator whose most recent novel is *Participation* (2022, Coffee House Press). Other books include the novel *Eleanor, or, The Rejection of the Progress of Love*, and poetry books *They, We Will Get Into Trouble for This* and *You and Three Others Are Approaching a Lake*, winner of the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. She has also translated Albert Cossery’s *The Jokers*, Annie Ernaux’s *The Possession*, and various others. She is a member of the publishing collective *Ugly Duckling Presse*, and co-founder of Bushel Collective, an experimental mixed-use storefront space in Delhi, NY.

Stag
A Novel
By Dane Bahr

Rights retained: World
Publication: April 2024
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | 304 pages

“Dane Bahr writes with the story savvy of James Lee Burke, strange but elegant characters not unlike those of Flannery O'Connor, and the prose potency of Cormac McCarthy. Under the fire of his pen, the northwest Washington represented in his brilliant novel *Stag* burns with mystery and shadow and crackles with indelible life. I'm a huge fan.” —**Alan Heathcock, author of *Volt* and *40***



To stop a serial killer terrorizing the hills of rural Washington state, retired sheriff Amos Fielding must re-enter a world he's tried desperately to escape

It's 1989 and Amos Fielding, onetime sheriff of Oscar, Iowa, is in his early seventies and grieving the recent loss of his wife, Sara. He packs up his few belongings and heads to a ranch in the far northwest corner of Washington State. The farther he can get from Oscar and his years there as sheriff, the better. Eager to escape painful memories, Fielding throws himself into the daily chores of a gentleman rancher. But there is evil afoot, 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 chief of police 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 and former detective turned wildlife officer) and Philip Wilson (an overly ambitious and weirdly obsessed young Seattle FBI agent). It is Batey and Fielding's growing friendship that provides the lure that will pull Fielding back into the world he so desperately wants to escape as the three team up to hunt a killer and stop the predator from finding new prey.

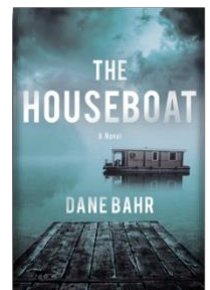
DANE BAHR was born in Minnesota. He is the author of *The Houseboat*. He lives in Washington State with his wife and dog, watching his sons and orchard grow.

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*



Wings of Red

By James W. Jennings

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2023

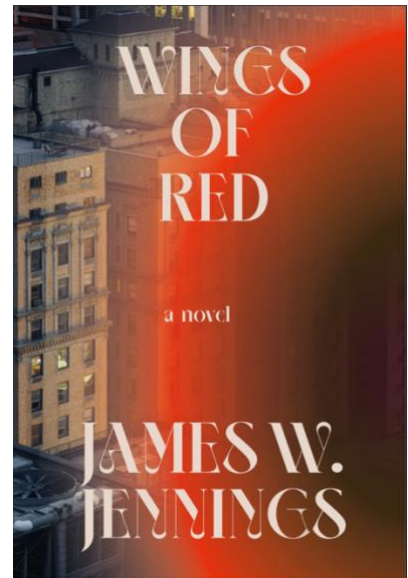
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages

“Much like the author himself, *Wings of Red* is totally unique and individual, and yet finds deep points of connection and understanding. Written for the teacher and the student in us but also the brother, mother, and friend we hope to be, this is a story that breaks all the rules in the best of ways.”

—**Mathea Morais, author of *There You Are***



“The stylish narrative voice propels this book. Jennings’ point of view is unlike any other.”

—**Adam Vitcavage, *Debutiful, A Most Anticipated Book of 2023***

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.

World Rights | Nonfiction

Empire of Skulls

The Fantastic Fowlers and a National Obsession to Unlock the Secrets of the Human Mind

By Paul Stob

Rights retained: World

Publication: TK

Available: Proposal available, MS due January 2025

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages

***Empire of Skulls* is a spectacular piece of science and history centered on the long-lost practice of phrenology**



Phrenology in the United States exploded in popularity in the 1830s, 40s, and 50s, largely because of one family: the Fowlers. Orson, Lorenzo, and Charlotte Fowler led Americans to embrace the new science by amassing a world-renowned collection of human skulls, performing readings on hundreds of thousands of strangers, launching a transformative publishing firm, and rubbing shoulders with revered politicians, quirky celebrities, infamous criminals, and social outcasts. Brimming with energy to change the world, and espousing the belief in self transformation, the Fowlers connected their science to practically every aspect of life. As a result, they were central to the interplay of nascent science and social change that marked the nineteenth century. While the science of phrenology has long been disproven, the roots of its ideas can still be seen today. The Fowlers were wrong about a great deal, as are scientists in every generation but their work represents an important stage in the development of our understanding of the human mind, a process of the scientific unfolding of knowledge that continues to this day.

Latching on to a technique launched in Europe, the Fowlers transformed their system into one of “practical phrenology” – a new science for a new country, brimming with promise and hope for self-betterment, for both individuals and the nation. By understanding the complex interplay of nature and nurture, the Fowlers argued, one could influence improvements upon one by enhancing the other – thus making an important contribution to such progressive movements as abolition, temperance, female suffrage, and relations between the sexes. The spirit of their mission lives on – in IQ tests, Myers Briggs personality assessments, self-help books, and 23andMe, where we spit into a tube, pop it into the mail, and await the key to understanding our physical and mental makeup.

PAUL STOB is Director of the Program in American Studies at Vanderbilt University, where he also teaches in the Department of Communication Studies and the Program in the Communication of Science and Technology. His research and teaching focus on American intellectual culture in the nineteenth century, with an emphasis on the connection between reading, writing, and lecturing as well as religion, democracy, populism, and social movements. He is co-author of *The Art of Public Speaking*.

Third Ear

Reflections on the Art and Science of Listening

By Elizabeth Rosner

Rights retained: World
Publication: September 2024
Available: MS due November 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.

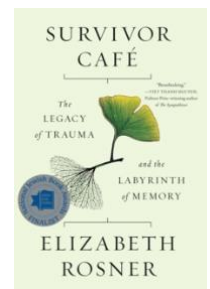
Using the same lyrical and illuminating voice as *Survivor Café*, as well as its intricate and braided structure, *Third Ear* makes a significant contribution to conversations about the power of listening to build interpersonal empathy and social transformation.

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*



Opacities

By Sofia Samatar

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2024

Available: Sample manuscript, Full MS due October 2023

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

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages



—Praise for *The White Mosque*—

“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?

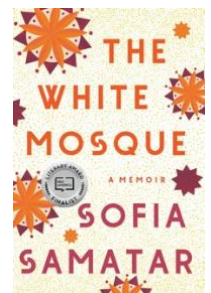
Opacities recounts the fear and desire coiled up in writing, the research, the dreaming, the questions, the demands. Becoming a true space of literature unto themselves, these potent, intimate, letter-like entries can be consumed on the spot or savored in pieces, inviting readers and writers alike to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

Also by Sofia Samatar, *The White Mosque*
Hurst (UK/Comm, at auction), Boekencentrum Uitgevers (Dutch),
Slovo Publishing House (Russian)

Winner of the Bernard J. Brommel Award for Memoir, PEN/Jean Stein Book Award Finalist

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



Dangerous Fictions

The Fear of Fantasy and the Invention of Reality

By Lyta Gold

Rights retained: World

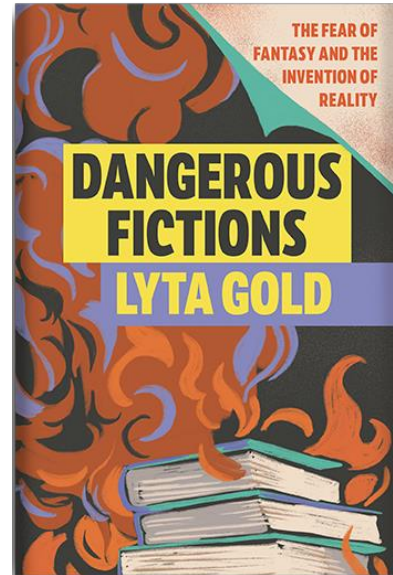
Publication: July 2024

Available: Sample manuscript, Full MS due November 2023

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages

In a cultural moment when panics over the stories we tell are at their peak, *Dangerous Fictions* shows us exactly what we're fighting about and why



Fictional stories have long been imagined to hold an uncanny power over hearts and minds, especially those of young people. These days, everybody frets about fiction: according to the National Coalition Against Censorship, the current wave of book bans is the worst since the 1980s, and our cultural debates are consumed by questions about the politics and moral responsibility of storytelling. Can readers and viewers, at any age, be harmed by what they read and see?

In *Dangerous Fictions* Lyta Gold traces arguments both historical and contemporary that have labeled fiction as dark, immoral, frightening, or poisonous; within each she asks, how “dangerous” is fiction, really? And what about it provokes waves of moral panic and even censorship?

Fiction is the story of other people: that, more than anything else, is what makes it dangerous. From YA readers condemning faults in representation, 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, people of all political stripes clearly believe stories hold considerable political power.

Dangerous Fictions incisively posits that a panic about art is largely 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 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, along with an entertaining sideshow to distract from more pressing material concerns about money, access, and the hard work of politics.

From novels about people driven insane by reading novels to “copaganda” TV shows that impact how viewers regard the police, Gold uses her signature wit, research, and fearless commentary to point readers towards a more substantial question: fiction may be dangerous to us, but aren’t we also dangerous to it?

LYTA GOLD is a critic, essayist, and fiction writer living in Queens. Her work has appeared in *The Baffler*, *Protean*, the *New York Review of Architecture*, and *Current Affairs*.

Shadow Men

The Tangled Story of Murder, Media, and Privilege That Scandalized Jazz Age America

By James Polchin

Rights retained: World

Publication: June 2024

Available: Full manuscript

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*

***The Great Gatsby* meets *Last Call*, and set against the rapid social transformation of the post-World War I era in New York, *Shadow Men* is a deeply reported narrative nonfiction of queer exploitation and class privilege told through a murder mystery that captivated a nation**

On the morning of May 16, 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 be termed by the press as a “penniless ex-sailor” and his murder soon went from local story to national scandal. The day after Peters’ identity was made public, Walter S. Ward, the thirty-one-year-old vice president and millionaire heir of the Ward Baking Company, issued a statement through his attorney admitting that he was the one who committed the murder. This confession only added to the mystery. Ward claimed to have run afoul of the “shadow men,” those who entrapped others in compromising positions and then blackmailed them to remain silent.

In *Shadow Men: Blackmail, Murder, and a Sensational Scandal at the Dawn of the Jazz Age*, James Polchin tells the story of a diverse cast of characters who either by choice or circumstance were drawn into the case, from minor figures such as small town butchers and shoemakers in Massachusetts, and Black doormen and maids in Harlem, to the well-known and powerful, like the New York State governor and future presidential candidate Al Smith, Joseph Medill Peterson, the ambitious editor of New York *Daily News*, and even the British detective writer Arthur Conan Doyle. In placing the queer aspects of this crime 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, is the author of *Indecent Advances*, a finalist for the Edgar Award. He has taught at the Princeton Writing Program, the Parsons School of Design, the New School for Public Engagement, and the *Creative Nonfiction* foundation.

Chipped

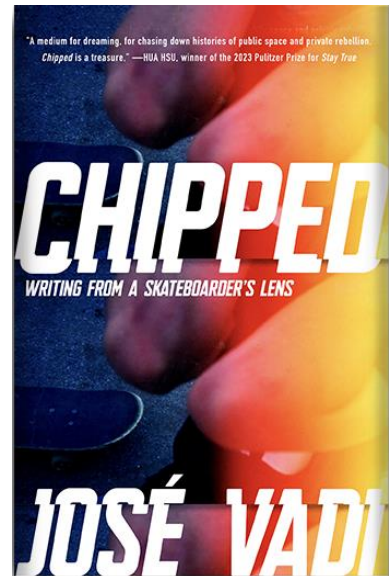
Writing From a Skateboarder's Lens

By José Vadi

Rights retained: World
Publication: April 2024
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)
Genre: Nonfiction | 160 pages

“To José Vadi, one of our great poets of the overlooked and ignored, it’s not just a skateboard. It’s a medium for dreaming, for chasing down histories of public space and private rebellion, for measuring ourselves against the wide-open visions of youth. *Chipped* is a treasure.”

—Hua Hsu, author of National Book Critic Circle award-winning *Stay True*



A memoir-in-essays about how skateboarding re-defines space, curates culture, confronts mortality, and affords new perspectives on and off the board

Chipping a board—where small pieces of deck and tape break off around the nose and tail—is a natural part of skateboarding. Novice or pro, you’ll see folks riding chipped boards as symbols of their stubborn dedication toward a deck, a toy, and aging bodies that will also reach their inevitable end.

In *Chipped*, José Vadi personalizes and expands upon this symbol. Written after finishing his debut collection *Inter State: Essays From California*, Vadi used these essays to explore his own empathy in aging, and to elaborate on the impact skateboarding has had on culture, power, and art. From tracing a critical mass skater takeover of San Francisco’s streets, to an analysis of visceral ‘90s skate videos and soundtracks, to the solace found skating a parking lot during a global pandemic, Vadi expands our understanding of the ways skateboarding can alter one’s life.

Vadi acts as a “ethnographer on a skateboard,” writing, living, and animating an object, likening the board and skate ephemera to the fear of being discarded, wanting to be seen as useful, functional, living. These essays analyze the legacy of seminal texts like *Thrasher Magazine*, influential programming giants like MTV, and skateboard artists like Ed Templeton. They imagine jazz composer Sun Ra as a skateboarder to explore sonic connections between skateboarding and jazz, obsessively follow bands, chronicle tours, and discover the creative bermuda triangle Southern California suburbs have to offer. *Chipped* is an intimate, genre-pushing meditation on skateboarding and the reasons we continue to get up after every fall life throws our way.

JOSÉ VADI is the author of *Chipped* and *Inter State: Essays from California*. An award-winning essayist, poet, playwright and film producer, his work has been featured by the *Paris Review*, *The Atlantic*, the *PBS NewsHour*, *Free Skate Magazine*, *Alta Journal of California*, and the *Yale Review*. He lives and writes in Sacramento, California.

Beyond the Mountains

An Immigrant's Inspiring Journey of Healing and Learning to Dance with the Universe

By Deja Vu Prem

Rights retained: World

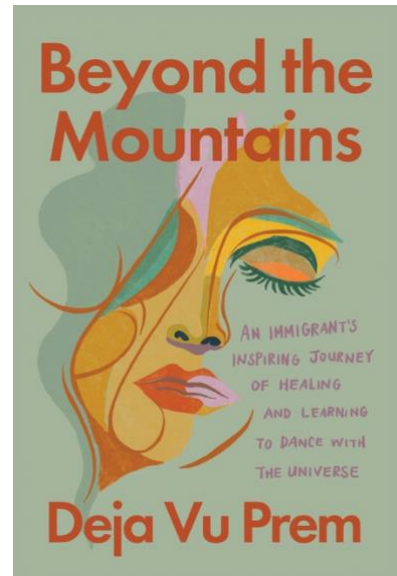
Publication: May 2024

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | 180 pages

The powerful story of how an immigrant from the Philippines overcame childhood trauma and an emotionally abusive marriage to find her voice and thrive



As a child in a small barrio in the Philippines, Deja Vu Prem faced neglect and physical abuse. At seventeen years old, desperate to escape her situation and claim a better life for herself beyond the mountains of her town, she became a mail order bride and moved to San Francisco. But the challenges of her childhood didn't go away, they merely evolved into the form of her emotionally abusive husband.

Cut off from her family or any kind of emotional or financial support, Prem was a prisoner in her own home, unable to even use the phone or check the mail. But she wasn't helpless. Relying on her deep faith and the fire within that had always pushed her to achieve, Prem made the brave decision to escape her situation to provide a better life for herself and her two young children.

Recounting Prem's harrowing yet hopeful journey, *Beyond the Mountains* is a stirring and moving portrait of one immigrant's refusal to be defined as a victim and a powerful testament on finding the strength to forgive in order to reclaim the power that lives within us all.

DEJA VU PREM is a filmmaker, originally from the Philippines.

Stranger in the Desert

A Family Story

By Jordan Salama

Rights retained: World

Publication: February 2024

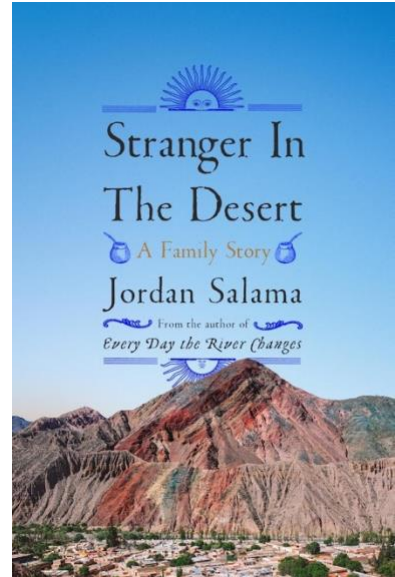
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English),

Under option in China

Genre: Nonfiction | 240 pages

“Salama has a precocious curiosity about his family’s past and a journalist’s determination to hit the road in search of it. His book is at once a young man’s quest for identity and a travelogue that tenderly evokes the sights, sounds, and stories of his ancestors’ worlds.” —**Ariel Sabar, author of *My Father’s Paradise***



Inspired by family lore, a young writer embarks on an epic quest through the Argentine Andes in search of a heritage spanning hemispheres and centuries, from the Jewish Levant to turn-of-the-century trade routes in South America

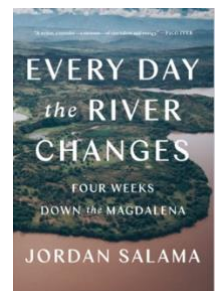
One Thanksgiving afternoon at his grandparents’ house, Jordan Salama discovers a large binder stuffed with yellowing papers and old photographs—a five-hundred-year wandering history of his Arab-Jewish family, from Moorish Spain to Ottoman Syria to Argentina and beyond.

One story in particular captures his attention: that of his great-grandfather, a Syrian-born, Arabic-speaking Jewish immigrant to Argentina who in the 1920s worked as a traveling salesman in the Andes—and may have left behind forgotten descendants along the way. Encouraged by his grandfather, Jordan goes in search of these “Lost Salamas,” traveling more than a thousand miles up the spine of South America’s greatest mountain range. Combining travelog, history, memoir, and reportage, *Stranger in the Desert* transports readers from the lonely plains of Patagonia to the breathtaking altiplano of the high Andes; from the old Jewish quarter of Damascus to today’s vibrant neighborhoods of Buenos Aires. It is also a fervent journey of self-discovery as Salama grapples with his own Jewish, Arab, and Latin American identities, interrogating the stories families tell themselves, and to what end.

JORDAN SALAMA is the author of *Every Day the River Changes*, a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year. His work has appeared in *National Geographic*, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, *Scientific American*, and on NPR’s *All Things Considered*. He lives in New York.

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



Seeing One Thing Through

The Zen Life and Teachings of Sojun Mel Weitsman

By Mel Weitsman, edited by Alan Senauke

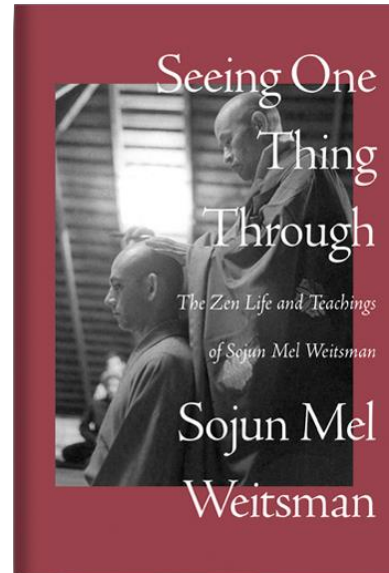
Rights retained: World

Publication: December 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 352 pages



“Sojun’s is a voice of American Zen, inflected with a ferocious wisdom, unafraid to address our weaknesses, our foolishness, and always with gentleness. Intimate memories of Suzuki Roshi blend with the real everyday problems of today’s Zen practitioners and Zen Centers. His teachings of classic Zen stories are made relevant to our lives today. Do Read It!” —**Enkyo Pat O’Hara, author of *A Little Bit of Zen***

“I began my Zen practice in 1967 in Mel’s living room, and he has been my good friend, mentor and teacher ever since. He was an extraordinary man, but you had to look closely to see it; he didn’t advertise it. What he did do was encourage people, whatever he did and wherever he went. One time in 2001 when I had become angry and discouraged about Zen, I came to his Berkeley Zen Center for meditation, and afterwards watched while Mel made his bows to Buddha. Suddenly something clicked, and tears came to my eyes. He was so completely himself, a no-nonsense just-this American, not trying to be holy or wise, bowing just to bow. His bows brought me back and made me whole again. That morning I saw his inner light. Read this book and I think you will see it too.”

—**Lewis Richmond, author of *Aging as a Spiritual Practice***

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 autobiographical memories and reflections going back to Sojun Mel Weitsman’s boyhood in Southern California, his coming of age as an artist and a seeker in the vibrant San Francisco of the 1950s, and his encounter with Zen in one remarkable teacher, Shunryu Suzuki Roshi. From that moment, and for nearly sixty years after, Weitsman’s life took the direct path of Zen—as a student, as a teacher, and as one of the first generations of American Zen masters. The larger portion of the book is a collection of 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 Roshi’s guidance, became Berkeley Zen Center. As abbot of Berkeley Zen Center, he practiced and taught there for fifty-five years. Sojun died at home in January 2021, leaving more than thirty dharma heirs and hundreds of devoted students.

Touching the Art

By Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2023

Available: Full manuscript

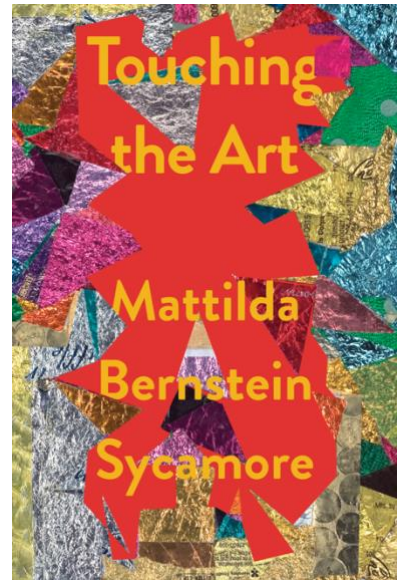
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 304 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*.

Black Punk Now

Edited by James Spooner and Chris L. Terry

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2023

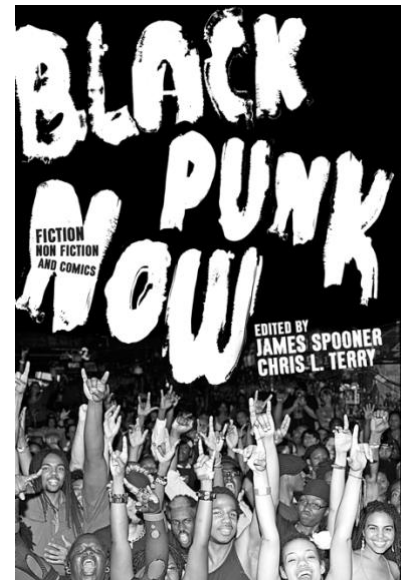
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Anthology | 352 pages

Nylon and *Literary Hub*, A Most Anticipated Book of the Year

“*Black Punk Now* delivers a unique literary experience, full of sociopolitical insights, arresting visuals, and limitless imagination. By turns sharp, rousing, delightful, and electric, this is an anthology to savor.” —Dawnie Walton, author of *The Final Revival of Opal & Nev*



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.

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

“Warmhearted and sexy.” —**Keziah Weir**, *Vanity Fair*

“A brilliant and beautifully written ode to women who love women and the importance of their visibility.”

—**Arianna Rebolini**, *Vulture*

“Too often, queer stories end in tragedy. What binds these stories together is how these lesbians create pockets of safety, security and community, even in the most hostile circumstances.” —**NPR**

“*Lesbian Love Story* boasts an inventive blend of genres. Amelia Possanza spins together memoir, archival nonfiction, and fictional passages with ease.” —**Laura Zornosa**, *Time*

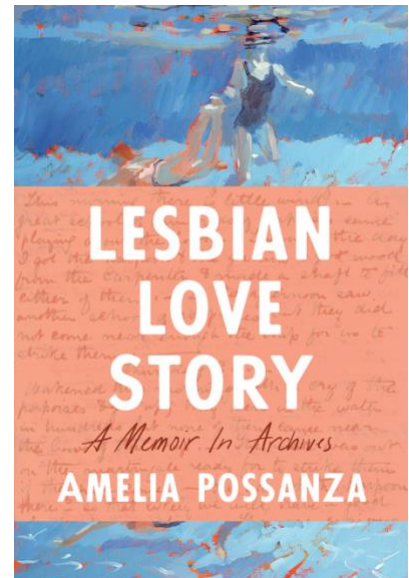
For readers of Saidiya Hartman and Jeanette Winterson, *Lesbian Love Story* is an intimate journey into the archives—uncovering the romances and role models written out of history and what their stories can teach us all about how to love

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.



World English Rights | Fiction

The Love of Elses

By Tree Abraham

Rights retained: World English

Publication: January 2025

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 140 pages

***The Love of Elses* is an experimental portrait of the year that followed a friendship confronted by unrequited love**

As a queer asexual, Tree Abraham deftly and courageously recounts the starts and stops of a transitioning relationship from housemates and friends into an undefined elseship. Having recorded the experience in real time, Tree combines personal entries with conceptual categories as she profoundly dissects how love and desire can metabolize differently from society's heteronormative canon.

To endure our complexity I had to actively solder facets of us into a meaningful narrative. That year I needed this story, I still do.

Written with honesty, integrity, and the chaotic glee of curiosity, *The Love of Elses* is Rebecca Solnit meets Angela Chen's *ACE*: a literal and figurative deep glimpse into a mind mapping pathways that probe the edges of an eroding territory of eros. Accompanying the searching and raw interiority of her prose, Tree includes illustrations, photos, and thought-maps leading readers through a deeply specific, yet universal project on modern love and what it means to make, feel, maintain, and process the connections of our world.

TREE ABRAHAM is a Canadian-born, Brooklyn-based writer, book designer, and maker of things. She has a B.Soc.Sc. in International Development & Environmental Sustainability and a B.A. in Graphic Design and Illustration. She works as an art director and cover designer for dozens of publishers and writes often about design for online publishing magazines. She is currently the senior art director for Mindy Kaling's Book Studio at Amazon Publishing.



Olive Days

A Novel

By Jessica Elisheva Emerson

Rights retained: World English

Publication: September 2024

Available: TK

Publishers: Counterpoint Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | TK pages

***Olive Days* is a sexy, evocative, and compassionate novel that celebrates the diverse communities that comprise Los Angeles and reads like *The End of the Affair* meets Sally Rooney**



A passionate, deeply felt story of desire, responsibility, and the often-difficult choices women find themselves making to live authentic lives, *Olive Days* follows Rina Kirsch, an exhausted young mother and modern orthodox Jew in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood of Los Angeles. At the start of the novel, Rina, who is reevaluating her relationship to her faith, is convinced by her husband to partake in a night of wife swapping with a few other orthodox couples. Her husband argues that the practice preserves marriage, but the events of that fateful night set Rina on a different path altogether, one of personal enrichment and fulfillment that begins with a rekindling of her passion for painting and culminates in a whirlwind romance with Will Ochoa, a married Mexican American art teacher.

JESSICA ELISHEVA EMERSON's stories and poems have been published in journals including *The Beloit Fiction Journal*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Crucible*, and *Anemone Sidecar*. She has also had an original play produced at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood. She graduated from Antioch University with an MFA in writing and the University of Southern California with a BA in journalism and is the inaugural director of the progressive Jewish Emergent Network.

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

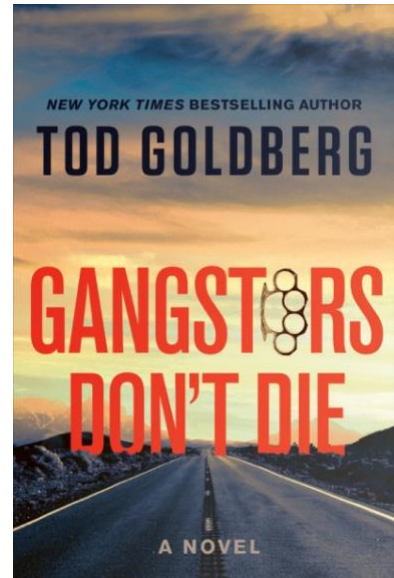
Rights retained: World English

Publication: September 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 384 pages



“Only thing better than the smell of napalm in the morning is the heavy rain of body parts Tod Goldberg gives us here. That includes the heart, on every page of this conclusion to the Gangsterland series. I want Sal Cupertine to be my spiritual advisor now, please.”

—Stephen Graham Jones, author of *Don't Fear the Reaper*

“A mesmerizing comic noir that’s fully accessible to series newcomers . . . This is a stellar end to one of the most inventive crime series in recent memory.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

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

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

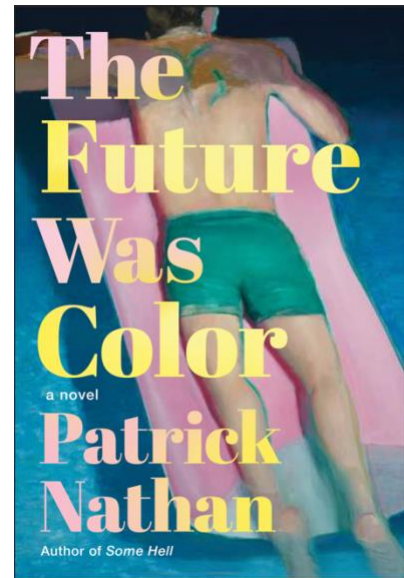
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 224 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*



A dazzling novel about the inextricable link between the personal and the political set against the decadence of Hollywood and postwar Los Angeles

As a Hungarian immigrant working as a studio hack writing monster movies in 1950s Hollywood, George Curtis must navigate the McCarthy-era studio system filled with possible communists and spies, the life of closeted men along Sunset Boulevard, and the inability of the era to cleave love from persecution and guilt. But when Madeline, a famous actress, offers George a writing residency at her estate in Malibu to work on the political writing he cares most deeply about, his world is blown open. Soon Madeline is carrying George 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 bacchanalia covers a gnawing hole shelled wide by the horror of the war they thought they’d left behind and the glimpse of an atomic future. It’s here that George understands he can never escape his past as György, the queer Jew who fled Budapest before the war and landed in New York, all alone, a decade prior.

Spanning from sun-drenched Los Angeles to the 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 postwar American decadence, reinventing the self through art, and the psychosis that lingers in a world that’s seen the bomb.

PATRICK NATHAN is the author of *Image Control* and *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: May 2024

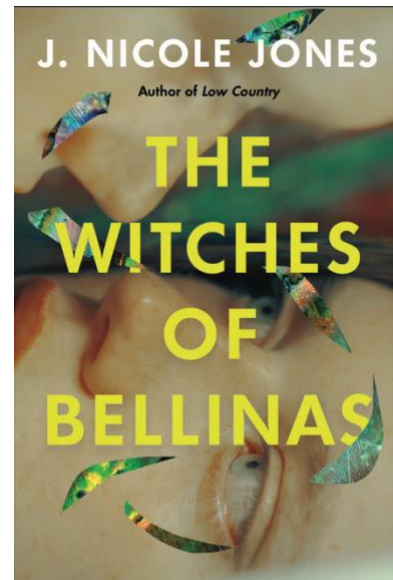
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 317 pages

—Praise for *Low Country*—

“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***



A dreamy California Gothic about a woman who moves to the mysterious town of Bellinas to save her marriage, only to be swept up in a hedonistic cult that isn't what it seems

Tansy and her husband Guy are the newest arrivals in Bellinas, a lush oasis tucked into the coast of northern California where a reclusive, creative community is beginning to take shape. Helmed by Guy's cousin Mia, a famous model -turned -wellness -luminary, and her tech mogul husband, the group renounces the outside world in pursuit of purity, fashioning their own rules about what to eat and how to live.

Mia and the other women drape Tansy in expensive clothing and spend their days fawning over their babies, while the men surf and dive for abalone. Everything seems perfect in Bellinas: food is abundant, flowers are always in bloom, and nearby wildfires leave the town remarkably unscathed. While Guy is happy in their new lives, Tansy becomes more and more suspicious of the community and increasingly desperate to save her already-fragile marriage. And as lonely women have throughout the ages, she wants to believe in what may only be a beautiful lie.

The Witches of Bellinas unfolds as a confession from Tansy, filled with anguish over the life, and sense of self, she's surrendered in her desperation to belong. In J. Nicole Jones's clever reimagining of cult power and groupthink, the question isn't why join, but rather, what happens when you understand the danger, but can't conceive of a way out?

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: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

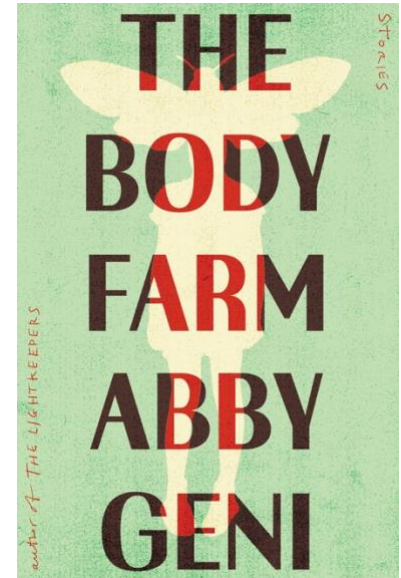
Genre: Fiction | 325 pages

—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



“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*

From the winner of the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award and a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize come eleven bold new stories that examine the human body and the natural world, and the subtle yet profound ways this relationship can change as we make our journey through life

The body cannot tell any lies. From birth to death, and through all the transitions in between, the body stores our knowledge and history, our feelings and experiences. Our betrayals. These insightful and empathetic stories, from the critically acclaimed author of *The Last Animal*, shine new light on our physical vessels set against our physical world, two landscapes irretrievably connected and altered over time.

An etymologist solves cold cases and upholds a sense of justice by studying the decay of corpses in a field and the insect life they develop. A caregiver obsesses over a stained-glass lampshade to deal with the elegiac losses of Alzheimer’s. A sister with webbed fingers highlights the often-universal belief that our siblings just might be creatures brought forth from the deep. The memory of a scent evokes the haunting legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These eleven stories display Abby Geni’s great capacity to take us into the lives and experiences of others to scrutinize the physical self: birth, childhood, transition, mental health, trauma, aging, illness, love, sex, and death.

ABBY GENI is the author of *The Lightkeepers*, winner of the 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 *Los Angeles 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.

I Love You So Much It's Killing Us Both

A Novel

By Mariah Stovall

Rights retained: World English

Publication: February 2024

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 336 pages



“Mariah Stovall’s prose sounds like driving in a car with your best friend, volume up high on your favorite song. *I Love You So Much...* resurrected feelings I had almost forgotten about what it means to be young in a hard, and nonetheless beautiful, world.”

—**Vauhini Vara, author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Immortal King Rao***

“*I Love You So Much It's Killing Us Both* is a spiraling meditation on the porousness of music and memory, the blurred lines between obsession and friendship, and the hearts we must break in order to grow—including our own.” —**Emma Brodie, author of *Songs In Ursa Major***

Susan Choi’s *Trust Exercise* meets Nick Hornby’s *High Fidelity* in a Black woman’s coming-of-age story, chronicling a life-changing friendship, the interplay between music fandom and identity, and the slipperiness of sanity

Set in the suburbs of Los Angeles and New York City, *I Love You So Much It's Killing Us Both* is an immersive journey into the life and mind of Khaki Oliver, who’s perennially trying to disappear into something: a codependent friendship, an ill-advised boyfriend, the punk scene, or simply, the ether. These days it’s a meaningless job and a comfortingly empty apartment. Then, after a decade of estrangement, she receives a letter from her former best friend. Fiona’s throwing a party for her newly adopted daughter and wants Khaki to join the celebration.

Khaki is equal parts terrified and tempted to reconnect. Their platonic love was confusing, all-consuming, and encouraged their worst impulses. While stalling her RSVP, Khaki starts crafting the perfect mixtape—revisiting memories of formative shows, failed romances, and the ups and downs of desire and denial—while weighing the risks and rewards of saying yes to Fiona again.

One song at a time, from 1980s hardcore to 2010s emo, the shared and separate contours of each woman’s mind come into focus. Will listening to the same old songs on repeat doom Khaki to a lonely life of arrested development? Or will hindsight help her regain her sense of self and pave a healthy path for the future, with or without Fiona?

MARIAH STOVALL has written fiction for the anthology *Black Punk Now*, and for *Ninth Letter, Vol 1. Brooklyn, Hobart, the Minola Review, and Joyland*; and nonfiction for The Los Angeles Review of Books, Full Stop, Hanif Abdurraqib’s 68to05, The Paris Review, Poets & Writers, and LitHub. *I Love You So Much It's Killing Us Both* is her first novel and *24 Hour Revenge Therapy* is her favorite Jawbreaker album. She lives in New Jersey.

The Best That You Can Do

Stories

By Amina Gautier

Rights retained: World English

Publication: January 2024

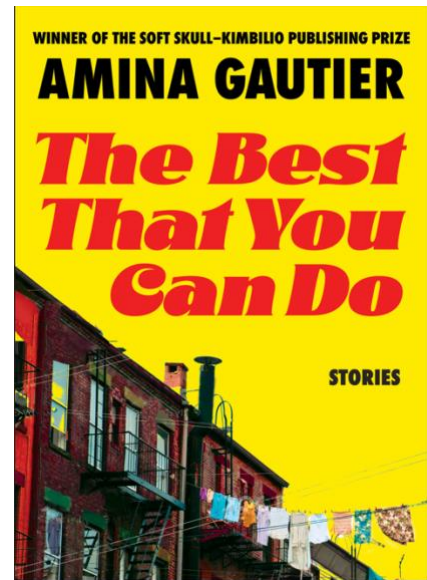
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages

“*The Best That You Can Do* is another triumph for Amina Gautier. . . In [Gautier’s] hands, the microfiction or short-short is a jewel box to show off the scintillations of ‘ordinary’ experience, especially childhood experience. This is the luminous everyday, and Gautier’s talent is incandescent.”

—Micahel Griffith, author of *Bibliophilia* and *Trophy*



Winner of the 2023 Soft Skull-Kimbilio Publishing Prize, a collection of short stories that elaborate the realities of a diasporic existence, split identities, and the beautiful potency of meaningful connections

Primarily told from the perspective of women and children in the Northeast who are tethered to fathers and families in Puerto Rico, these stories explore the cultural confusion of being one person in two places—of having a mother who wants your father and his language to stay on his island but sends you there because you need to know your family. Loudly and joyfully filled with Cousins, Aunts, Grandparents, and budding romances, these stories are saturated in summer nostalgia, and place readers at the center of the table to enjoy family traditions and holidays: the resplendent and universal language of survival for displaced or broken families.

Refusing to shy away from dysfunction, loss, obligation, or interrogating Black and Latinx heritages “If we flip the channels fast enough, we can turn almost anyone Puerto Rican, blurring black and white into Boricua.” Gautier’s stories feature New York neighborhoods made of island nations living with seasonal and perpetual displacement. Like Justin Torres’ *We the Animals*, or Quiara Alegria Hudes’ *My Broken Language*, it’s the characters-in-becoming—flanked by family and rich with detail—that animate each story with special frequencies, especially for readers grappling split-identities themselves.

AMINA GAUTIER, Ph.D., is the author of three short story collections: *At-Risk*, *Now We Will Be Happy*, and *The Loss of All Lost Things*. Gautier is the recipient of the Blackwell Prize, the Chicago Public Library Foundation’s 21st Century Award, the International Latino Book Award, the Flannery O’Connor Award, and the Phillis Wheatley Award in Fiction. For her body of work, she has received the PEN/MALAMUD Award for Excellence in the Short Story.

Goldenseal

A Novel

By Maria Hummel

Rights retained: World English

Publication: January 2024

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages

“I devoured *Goldenseal*, enchanted by the satin prose and dialogue as smooth as cognac. I loved everything about this story of exquisite tenderness, passionate friendship and betrayal, the electric rendezvous of past and future.”

—Miciah Bay Gault, author of *Goodnight Stranger*

“For anyone who has ever had—and lost—that rarest of gifts: a true friend. A deft, exquisite novel, one that will stay in your heart like a memory, as if it were one of your very own.”

—Barbara Bourland, author of *The Force of Such Beauty*

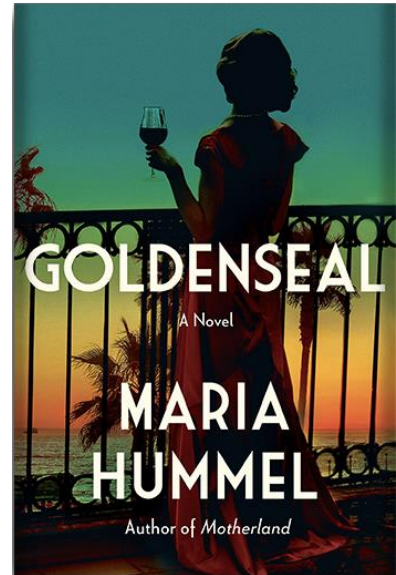
A Gentleman in Moscow meets My Brilliant Friend in this novel of two estranged friends who reunite to confront each other and the devastating betrayal that tore them apart

Downtown Los Angeles, 1990. Alone in her luxury hotel suite, the reclusive Lacey Crane receives a message: Edith is waiting for her in the lobby. Former best friends, Lacey and Edith haven’t spoken to one another in over four decades.

As young adults meeting at summer camp in Maine, and later making their way in the glitzy spotlight of postwar Hollywood, Edith and Lacey share a deep-rooted bond that once saved them from isolation and despair, providing comfort from the public and private traumas that they had each endured and which a newly optimistic world was eager to forget. Told through a continuous, twisting conversation that unfolds over the course of a single evening, in which each woman tells her story and reveals long-hidden secrets, the narratives of Edith and Lacey burn with atmosphere, mystery, resentment, and regret.

Set against the vivid landscapes of Los Angeles and unfolding with the evanescence of a dream or a memory, *Goldenseal* peels away the layers of an intimate female friendship to reveal a stirring and haunting story about the search for connection and the lingering echoes of lost love.

MARIA HUMMEL is a novelist and poet. Her novel, *Still Lives*, was a Reese's Book Club pick, a Book of the Month Club pick, and a 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 First Book 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

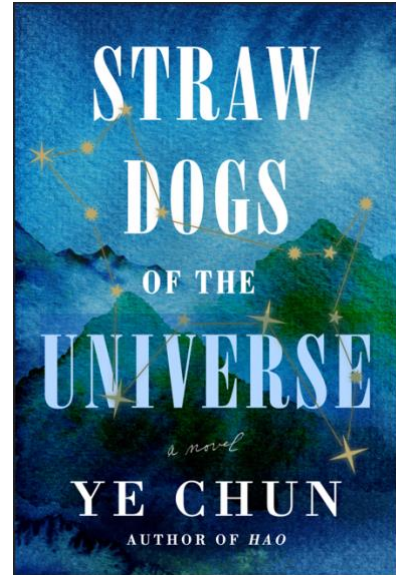
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 336 pages

“Hauntingly beautiful and exquisitely written, *Straw Dogs of the Universe* shines much-needed light on a historical period that we must not forget if we want to do better as a human race. This book is a treasure, to be read and re-read, as the best poems should be.”

—**Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai**, internationally bestselling author of *The Mountains Sing* and *Dust Child*



A harrowing and redemptive immigrant story for readers of *Pachinko*. 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

*“Heaven and earth do not pick and choose.
They see everything as straw dogs.”*

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.

World English Rights | Nonfiction

The Coils of the Anaconda

By Christopher Knowlton

Rights retained: World English

Publication: TK

Available: TK

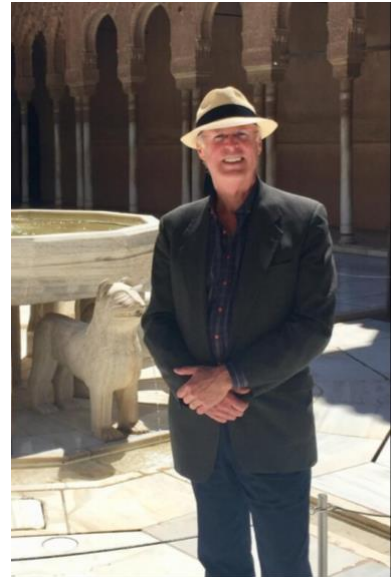
Publishers: Counterpoint Press (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages

—Praise for *Bubble in the Sun*—

“A lucid account of the human and economic factors that drove a notorious land rush.” —*Kirkus Review*

“Knowlton delivers a vibrant, eminently readable cautionary tale about business and cultural history.” —*Booklist*



***The Coils of the Anaconda* is a dynamic new work of narrative history from Christopher Knowlton**

For over one hundred years, Anaconda Copper was the poster child for unbridled capitalism, American style. Rising to prominence in Gilded Age Montana, Anaconda ruthlessly established itself as the dominant mining conglomerate and the fourth largest company in the world. Anaconda instigated the coup in Chile that toppled the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende and brought to power the murderous Pinochet regime; it attracted investment from some of the world’s wealthiest families, including the Clarks, the Hearsts, the Rothschilds, the Guggenheims, and three generations of Rockefellers; it exercised a chokehold on state and federal politics that allowed it to violently crush unions, create the largest Superfund site in North America, and end the career of the first woman elected to the United States House of Representatives.

But Anaconda didn’t operate in a bubble. The history of this quintessential American company runs parallel to an era that saw the violent spasms of a burgeoning labor movement in response to the rise of giant industrial trusts, the imperial dominance of American economic and political power, and the desecration of the environment in pursuit of short-term profit for shareholders.

From a contemporary perspective, the tale of Anaconda Copper is a cautionary saga about the dangers of amoral, Wild West capitalism. A legacy that, sadly, finds far too many echoes in our contemporary moment. The book’s final argument will be that if we, as a nation, remain ignorant of our economic and environmental history, we will continue to repeat our increasingly costly mistakes and tarnish our democratic ideals.

CHRISTOPHER KNOWLTON is a former staff writer for *Fortune Magazine* who specializes in writing deeply researched and highly readable cultural and financial history. His previous books include *Cattle Kingdom* and the award-winning *Bubble in the Sun*, a history of the epic Florida land boom during the Roaring Twenties. He is a regular contributor to *The New York Times Book Review* and the WSJ Weekend section of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Notes on Postcards

By Jennifer Croft

Rights retained: World English

Publication: TK

Available: TK

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.

A Place Called Yellowstone

By Randall K. Wilson

Rights retained: World English

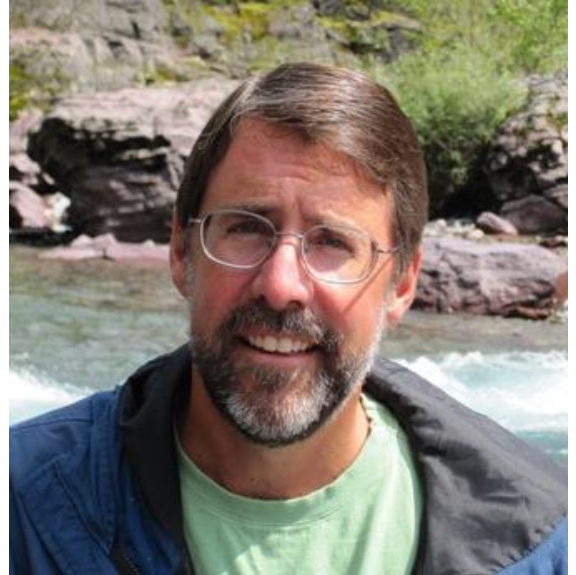
Publication: October 2024

Available: MS due November 2023

Publishers: Counterpoint Press (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | TK pages

A fascinating mix of history, adventure, and nature writing, *A Place Called Yellowstone* explore the geology, ecology, and people of Yellowstone Park, starting with the mega volcanic explosion 2.1 million years ago, which brought to the surface the caldera that still defines the area, through a major earthquake (1959), a catastrophic fire (1988), the reintroduction of wolves (1995), and floods (2022), all of which have kept the park at the forefront of debates about how humans and nature coexist and evolve together



It has been called Wonderland, America's Serengeti, the Crown Jewel of the National Park System, and America's Best Idea. But how did this remote and faraway landscape evolve into one of the most recognizable and influential places in the world? Just as the National Mall in Washington D.C. has served as the nation's public square, a touchstone for sorting out social and political matters of the day, Yellowstone has played a similar role for our understanding of the natural world. As the birthplace of the national park system, Yellowstone witnessed the first-ever attempt to protect wildlife, to restore endangered species, and to develop a new industry centered on nature tourism. As a national icon, Yellowstone remains one of the few entities capable of bridging ideological divides in the United States. Yet the park's history is also filled with episodes of conflict and exclusion, setting precedents for Native American land dispossession, land rights disputes, and prolonged tensions between commercialism and environmental conservation. In short, Yellowstone's legacies are both celebratory and problematic, underscoring the way the park both reflects and influences American society. *A Place Called Yellowstone* tells the epic story of Yellowstone as the story of the nation itself.

A Place Called Yellowstone brings readers, a singular history of this monumental place, one that speaks as well to the development of the country itself.

RANDALL K. WILSON, Ph.D., is a professor of environmental studies at Gettysburg College, where he teaches courses on environmental policy, natural resource management, sustainable communities, and the geography of the American West. He has served on the USDA Forest Service's National Science Panel and on the board of directors for the Rural Geography Research Group within the Association of American Geographers. He's earned a Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Vienna. His book, *America's Public Lands: From Yellowstone to Smokey Bear and Beyond* (2014), was named an Outstanding Academic Title from Choice Reviews and the winner of the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Prize from the Association of American Geographers.

Reap the Whirlwind

Violence, Race, Justice, and the True Story of Sagon Penn

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



The first major interrogation of the largely forgotten story of a young Black man in 1980s San Diego who, during 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 an author, freelance writer, and book review contributor. His work has appeared in *CrimeReads*, *Salon*, *L.A. Magazine*, *Hearst*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Daily Mirror*, and more. His first book *Norco '80: The True Story of the Most Spectacular Bank Robbery in American History* was a finalist for the Edgar Award, the Hammett Prize, and Macavity Award. The book has been chosen as a *New York Times* summer pick, a best book of the year by NPR, the *Wall Street Journal*, and Amazon, and a Gold Standard selection by the Junior Library Guild. *Norco '80* has been produced as a multi-episode podcast by LAist/Futuro Studios.

Accordion Eulogies

A Memoir of Music, Migration, and Mexico

By Noé Álvarez

Rights retained: World English

Publication: May 2024

Available: Full manuscript

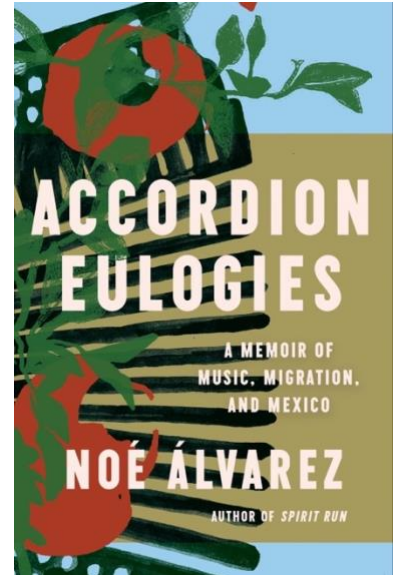
Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | 208 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*

Searching, propulsive, and deeply spiritual, *Accordion Eulogies* is an odyssey to repair a severed family lineage, told through the surprising history of a musical instrument

Growing up in Yakima, Washington, Noé Álvarez never knew his grandfather. Stories swirled around this mythologized, larger-than-life figure: That he had abandoned his family, and had possibly done something awful that put a curse on his descendants. About his grandfather, young Noé was sure of only one thing: That he had played the accordion. Now an adult, reckoning with the legacy of silence surrounding his family’s migration from Mexico, Álvarez resolves both to take up the instrument and to journey into Mexico to discover the grandfather he never knew.

Álvarez travels across the US with his accordion, meeting makers and players in cities that range from San Antonio to Boston. He uncovers the story of an instrument that’s been central to classic American genres, but also played a critical role in indigenous Mexican history. Like the accordion itself, Álvarez feels trapped between his roots in Mexico and the U.S. As he tries to make sense of his place in the world—as a father, a son, a musician—he gets closer to uncovering the mystery of his origins.

NOÉ ÁLVAREZ is the author of *Spirit Run* (Catapult, 2020). He was born in the desert and raised in the weeds.

The Whole Staggering Mystery *A Story of Fathers Lost and Found* By Sylvia Brownrigg

Rights retained: World English

Publication: April 2024

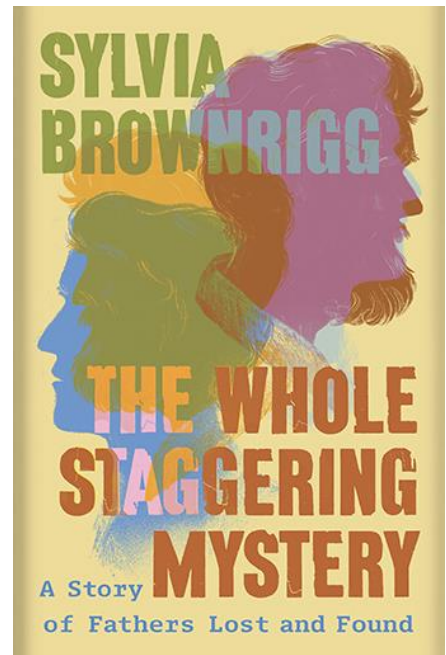
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 336 pages

“The Whole Staggering Mystery is just that: at its heart is the secret of Brownrigg’s particular family. . . But there is also the universal tangle of fathers and sons, dads and daughters: the possibility and impossibility we all feel of knowing and understanding and healing our pasts, of making peace with those who have gone before, or at least making peace with ourselves. Brownrigg tells it all in prose that is gorgeous and wry, slipping seamlessly between the real and the imagined, layering stories—which, in the end, are all we have—upon stories, to arrive at something that feels deeply, urgently true.”

—Peggy Orenstein, author of *Girls & Sex* and *Cinderella Ate My Daughter*



Critically acclaimed author Sylvia Brownrigg’s memoir reconstructs a poignant story of fathers lost and found, and of children rebuilding bridges burned by their own parents

When Sylvia Brownrigg received a package addressed to her father that had been lost for over fifty years, she wanted to deliver it to him before it was too late. She did not expect that her father, Nick, would choose not to open it, so she and her brother finally did.

Nick, an absent father, was a hippie and would-be Beat writer who lived off the grid in Northern California. Nick’s own father, Gawen—also absent—had been a well-born Englishman who wrote a Bloomsbury-like novel about lesbian lovers, before moving to Kenya and ultimately dying a mysterious death at age twenty-seven. Brownrigg was told he had likely died by suicide.

Reconstructing Gawen’s short, colorful life from revelations in the package takes her through glamorous 1930s London and Pasadena, toward the last gasp of the British Empire in Kenya, and from there, deep into the California redwoods, where Nick later carved out a rugged path in the wilderness, keeping his English past at bay. Vividly weaving together the lives of her father and grandfather, through memory and imagination, Brownrigg explores issues of sexuality and silences, and childhoods fractured by divorce. In her uncovering of this lost family, she finally makes her own story whole.

SYLVIA BROWNRIGG is the author of several acclaimed works of fiction, including the novels *Morality Tale*; *The Delivery Room*, winner of the Northern California Book Award; *Pages for You*, winner of the Lambda Award; and *The Metaphysical Touch*; and a collection of stories, *Ten Women Who Shook the World*. Brownrigg’s works have been included in *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* lists of notable fictions and have been translated into several languages.

Rabbit Heart

A Mother's Murder, a Daughter's Story

By Kristine S. Ervin

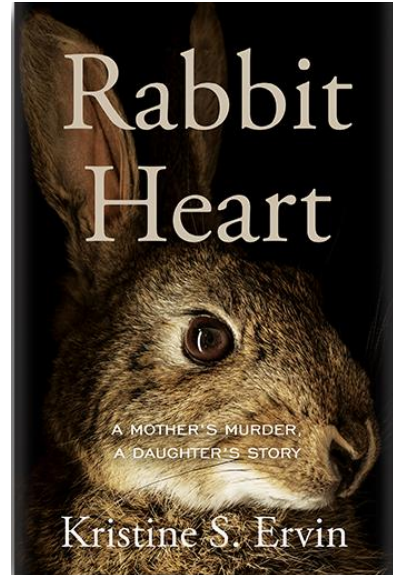
Rights retained: World English

Publication: March 2024

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | TK pages



“A deeply moving memoir. Throughout each nuanced essay-chapter, we watch our speaker encounter grief, examine grief, and ultimately transform abiding grief into abiding art. *Rabbit Heart* is an elegy to a lost mother, yes. It is also a profound meditation on patience, on healing, and a bildungsroman that carries us unforgettably into the speaker's—and her family's—bittersweet beyond.”

—Julie Marie Wade, author of *Just an Ordinary Woman Breathing* and *Otherwise: Essays*

For readers of *My Dark Places* and *I'll Be Gone in the Dark*, a beautiful, brutal memoir documenting one woman's search for identity alongside her family's decades-long quest to identify the two men who abducted—and murdered—her mother

Kristine S. Ervin was just eight years old when her mother, Kathy Sue Engle, was abducted from an Oklahoma mall parking lot and violently murdered in an 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, Ervin 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. As more information about her mother's death comes to light, Ervin's drive to know her mother only intensifies, winding its way into her own fraught adolescence. In the process of both, she reckons with 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, *Rabbit Heart* 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 Philadelphia. She holds an MFA in poetry from New York University and a PhD in creative writing and literature, with a focus in nonfiction, from the University of Houston.

With Every Great Breath *New and Selected Essays, 1995-2023* By Rick Bass

Rights retained: World English
Publication: February 2024
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Essays | 336 pages

—Praise for Rick Bass—

“A literary titan. . . His world-building is beautiful, crisp, and perfect.” —*New York Times Book Review*

“Bass’s prose is charged with a lyrical intensity rare in American fiction. The beauty of his sentences recalls the stylistic finesse of Cormac McCarthy and Willa Cather.”
—*Chicago Tribune*

“Extravagant. . . Writing of this quality creates a stillness in the mind.” —*Time*

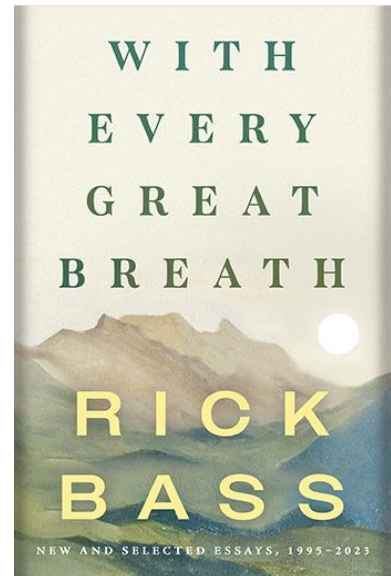
“One of the very best writers we have.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Master craftsman” and beloved author Rick Bass illustrates ecological, social, and personal landscapes through this collection that brings together his best-loved essays and brand-new pieces (*Los Angeles Times*)

For acclaimed writer and environmental activist Rick Bass, it can be wearying to dwell relentlessly upon the broken, fragmented, the dead and the dying, and the doomed-to-extinction. Activism is a necessary part of the environmental movement, but so is the time-honored celebration of the beauty that inspires us.

Spanning his storied career, these new and selected essays attempt to take a brief step to the side, away from lamentation and prescription, and to inhabit, as deeply as possible, the greater depths of beauty in-the-moment. *With Every Great Breath* ranges from the extremely local—a long-form essay about the community affected by the largest Superfund site in U.S. history, in Libby, Montana—to the farflung: the Galapagos, Namibia, and Alaska. Throughout, Bass offers a portrait of our planet that is always alert to its wonders, even in the face of environmental crisis.

RICK BASS is the author of over twenty books. He is a winner of The Story Prize, the James Jones Literary Society First Novel Fellowship, a PEN/Nelson Algren Award Special Citation for fiction, and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship.



Poetry

DOMESTIREXIA

Poems

By JoAnna Novak

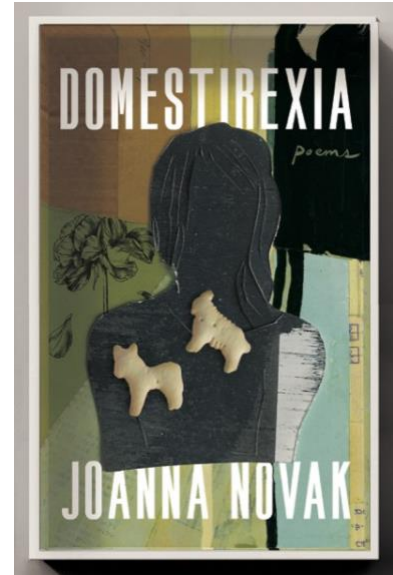
Rights retained: World

Publication: July 2024

Available: Sample manuscript, Full MS due September 2023

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Poetry | TK pages



—Praise for *Contradiction Days*—

“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*

A poetry collection contorting the idea of home away from being a site of comfort and nourishment by coaxing the reader to think about domesticity in knotty new ways

Domestirexia goes beyond the entanglement of "domestic" and "anorexia" exploring a behind-closed-doors sensuality, borne in the concept of making home.

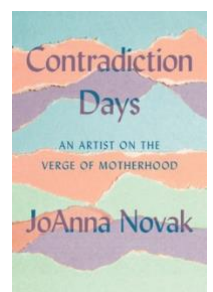
Home can be a space of both resistance and discomfort that one desires or takes pleasure in enjoying. Rote notions of home and the domestic are reimagined in these poems as estranging, excessive, and populated by unknowable characters. Exploring themes of family, sacrifice, disease, death, money, cooking, romance, sex, art, and the visceral qualities of the everyday, the poems twist themselves into binds for the reader to undo or surrender to.

Quarantined at her in-law's house during Covid, Novak wrote these poems while watching *The Great British Baking Show*, reading *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, skimming Grimm Brothers fairy tales, and babysitting an infant. These are poems about wanting to misbehave. Light voyeurism at home, with gin and cake.

JOANNA NOVAK's memoir *Contradiction Days* was published by Catapult in July 2023. Her short story collection *Meaningful Work* won the Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Contest and was published by FC2. She is the author of the novel *I Must Have You* and three books of poetry: *New Life*; *Abeyance, North America*; and *Noirmania*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and other publications.

Also by JoAnna Novak, *Contradiction Days*

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



Another Day ***Sabbath Poems 2013-2022*** **By Wendell Berry**

Rights retained: World
Publication: April 2024
Available: MS due August 2023
Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)
Genre: Poetry | TK pages

—Praise for *This Day*—

“Overwhelmingly, though, the poems in *This Day* reveal the life of a person who cares about his relationship to the earth and the human community . . . His poems, whether they soothe or jolt, inspire or move to responsible action, aim at keeping ‘kindness’ and ‘kinship’ alive in the world. That alone makes *This Day* a book well worth reading, on a Sabbath or any other day of the week.” —***Marginalia Review of Books***

—Praise for *A Small Porch*—

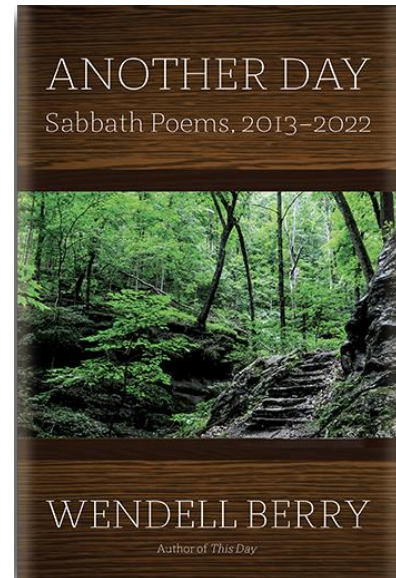
“[Berry’s] essays, poetry and fiction have fertilized a crop of great solace in my life, and helped to breed a healthy flock of good manners, to boot . . . Mr. Berry’s sentences and stories deliver a great payload of edifying entertainment, which I hungrily consume, but it is the bass note of morality thumping through his musical phrases that guides me with the most constant of hands upon my plow.” —**Nick Offerman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Paddle Your Own Canoe***

A new collection of poems and the companion volume to the popular bestseller *This Day*, Wendell Berry's *Another Day* is another stunning contribution to the poetry canon from one of America's most beloved writers

A companion to his beloved volume *This Day* and Wendell Berry's first new poetry collection since 2016, this new selection of Sabbath Poems are filled with spiritual longing and political extremity, memorials and celebrations, elegies and lyrics, alongside the occasional rants of the Mad Farmer, pushed to the edge yet again by his compatriots and elected officials.

With the publication of this new edition, it has become increasingly clear that the Sabbath Poems have become the very heart of Berry’s work.

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. In 2010, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama, and in 2016, he was the recipient of the Ivan Sandrof Life Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle. Berry lives with his wife, Tanya Berry, on their farm in Henry County, Kentucky.



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

Shortlisted for the Maya Angelou Book Award

“The poet uses her strong voice to deliver evocative, richly described snapshots . . . In this promising work, Byas tells an intimate story of growing up.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

“My fellow Chicagoans, rejoice. Taylor Byas’s poems are visually stunning and formally inventive. They give us more proof that everything dope does indeed come from Chicago.”

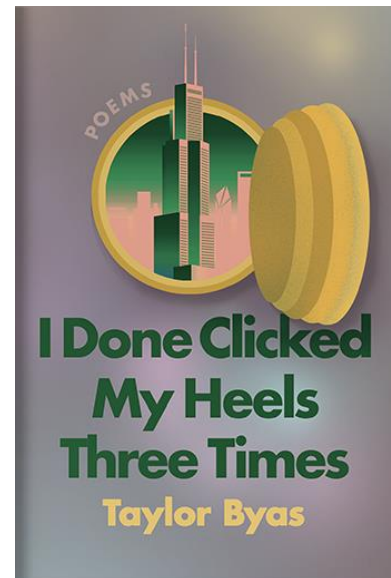
—José Olivarez, author of *Promises of Gold*

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*.



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), Le Réalgar (French)

Genre: Poetry | 112 pages

Finalist for the CALIBA 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*

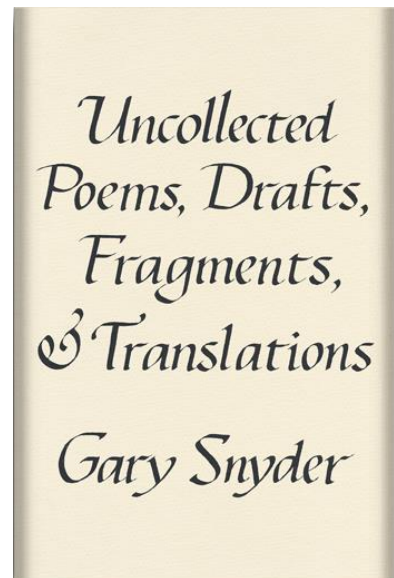
“These previously uncollected and unpublished works by the Pulitzer Prize–winning Beat poet sing with history, politics, and place, offering new glimpses into Snyder’s verse . . . Readers drawn to Snyder’s irrepressible energy will find this a worthy addition to his established body of work.” —*Publishers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



Notable Backlist

Brother & Sister Enter the Forest

A Novel

By Richard Mirabella

Rights retained: World

Publication: March 2023

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English),

1980 Books Co. (Vietnamese)

Genre: Fiction | 288 pages

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice

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

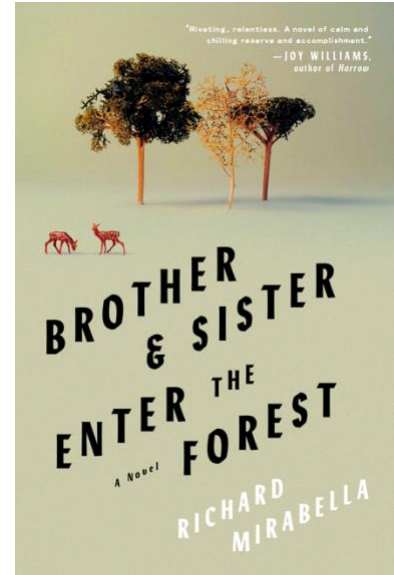
“This novel deftly explores the surreal undertones of familiar themes like love and loyalty. Part fantastical horror, part road trip narrative, *Brother & Sister Enter the Forest* is an uncanny portrait of the lengths we go to protect the people we love.” —Isle McEroy, *Vulture*, *A Most Anticipated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



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

A Writer's Guide

By Susan Griffin

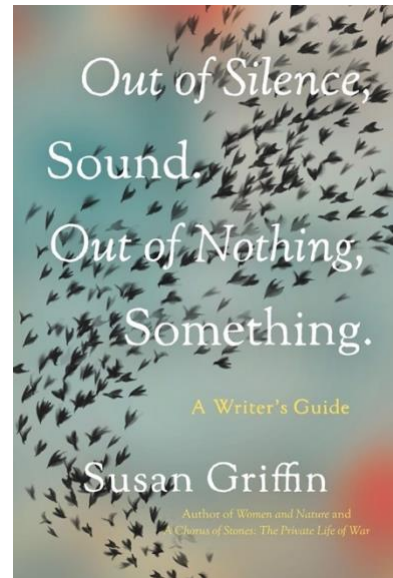
Rights retained: World

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.

MOTHERCARE

An Autobiographical Essay

By Lynne Tillman

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2022

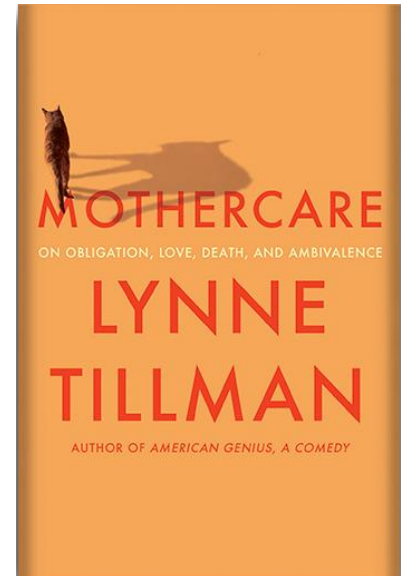
Available: Full manuscript

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.

Seeking Fortune Elsewhere

Stories

By Sindya Bhanoo

Rights retained: World

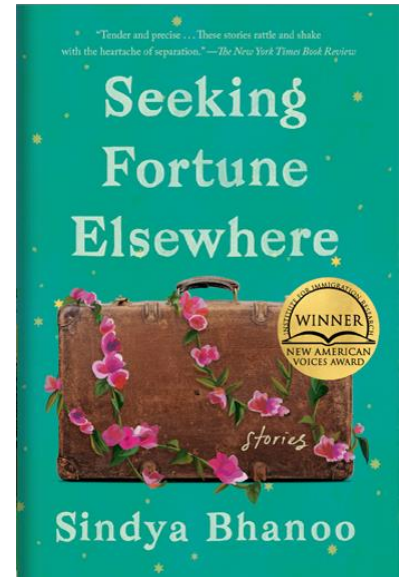
Publication: March 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages

Finalist for the PEN/Robert J. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection and the Sergio Troncoso Award for Best First Book of Fiction
Longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal of Excellence
Winner of the New American Voices Award and the Oregon Book Award for Fiction



“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.