

Rights List

Fall 2021

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World Rights | Fiction

Best Debut Short Stories 2021

The PEN America DAU Prize

Edited by Yuka Igarashi and Sarah Lyn Rogers

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 224 pages

“A tantalizing glimpse of the work of tomorrow’s literary luminaries.” —*Poets & Writers*

The annual—and essential—collection of the newest voices in short fiction, selected this year by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, Kali Fajardo-Anstine, and Beth Piatote.



Who are the most promising short story writers working today? Where do we look to discover the future stars of literary fiction? This book will offer a dozen answers to these questions.

The stories collected here represent the most recent winners of the PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers, which recognizes twelve writers who have made outstanding debuts in literary magazines in the previous year. They are chosen by a panel of distinguished judges, themselves innovators of the short story form: Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, Kali Fajardo-Anstine, and Beth Piatote. Each piece comes with an introduction by its original editors, whose commentaries provide valuable insight into what magazines are looking for in their submissions, and showcase the vital work they do to nurture literature’s newest voices.

NANA KWAME ADJEI-BRENYAHI is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Friday Black*. His work has appeared or is forthcoming from numerous publications, including the *New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *Literary Hub*, *The Paris Review*, *Guernica*, and *Longreads*. He was selected by Colson Whitehead as one of the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" honorees, is the winner of the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award, and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Award for Best First Book and the Aspen Words Literary Prize.

KALI FAJARDO-ANSTINE is a National Book Award Finalist and the author of *Sabrina & Corina*, winner of an American Book Award, finalist for the PEN/Bingham Prize and The Story Prize. Her writing has appeared in *ELLE*, *O, the Oprah Magazine*, *The American Scholar*, and elsewhere. Kali has been awarded fellowships from Yaddo, MacDowell Colony, Tin House, and Hedgebrook. Her work has been translated into multiple languages.

BETH PIATOTE is a writer and scholar. She is Nez Perce from Chief Joseph's Band and is an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes. She holds a PhD from Stanford University and is currently an associate professor at UC Berkeley. She lives in the Bay Area with her two children.

Jacket Weather

A Novel

By Mike DeCapite

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 272 pages

“Poetic and compulsively readable, *Jacket Weather* invents a new genre—call it lyrical realism. Mike DeCapite casts a cool but affectionate eye on New York in the 2010s, as it lives on despite having become a replica of itself. Like Virginia Desportes’s *Vernon Subutex*, *Jacket Weather* traces the lives of those who’ve stayed on after the party. It’s a love story improbably set at the beginning of late middle age, and it’s also a story of cities, survival, adaptation, desire, and a celebration of the small pleasures we invent and discover to offset unavoidable loss.” —Chris Kraus, author of *After Kathy Acker* and *Summer of Hate*



Nick Hornby meets Patti Smith, *Mean Streets* meets *A Visit From the Goon Squad* in this quintessential New York City story about two people who knew each other in the downtown music scene in the 1980s, meet again in the present day, and fall in love.

Mike knew June in New York’s downtown music scene in the eighties. Back then, he thought she was “the living night—all the glamour and potential of a New York night when you’re 25.” Now he’s twice divorced and happy to be alone—so happy he’s writing a book about it. Then he meets June again. “And here she was with a raincoat over the back of the chair talking about getting a divorce and saying she’s done with relationships. Her ice-calm eyes are the same, the same her glory of curls.”

Jacket Weather is about awakening to love—dizzying, all-consuming, worldview-shaking love—when it’s least expected. It’s also about remaining alert to today’s pleasures—exploring the city, observing the seasons, listening to the guys at the gym—while time is slipping away. Told in fragments of narrative, reveries, recipes, bits of conversation and snatches of weather, the book collapses a decade in Mike and June’s life and shifts a reader to a glowing nostalgia for the present.

Under the banner of Sparkle Street Books, **MIKE DeCAPITE** has published the novel *Through the Windshield*, the chapbook *Creamsicle Blue*, and the short-prose collection *Radiant Fog*. Cuz Editions published his story “Sitting Pretty,” later anthologized in *The Italian American Reader*. DeCapite grew up in Cleveland and has lived in London and San Francisco, but has spent most of his time in New York City, where he now resides.

None but the Righteous

A Novel

By Chantal James

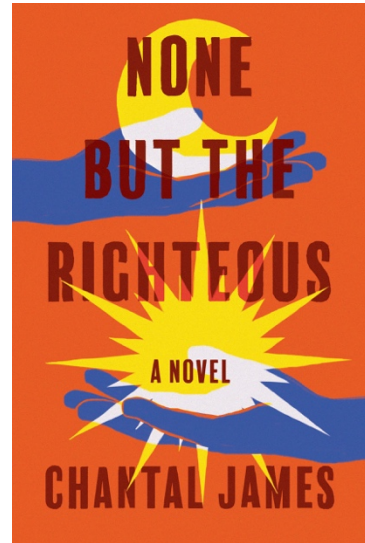
Rights retained: World

Publication: January 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages



“In the tradition of Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*, *None but the Righteous* is a gripping ghost story, a fevered dream of a young man’s quest for freedom and belonging in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Chantal James has written a gorgeous page-turner.”

—Devi S. Laskar, author of *The Atlas of Reds and Blues* and winner of the Crook’s Corner Book Prize

Lyrical, riveting, and haunting from its opening lines, *None but the Righteous* is an extraordinary debut that signals the arrival of an unforgettable new voice in contemporary fiction.

In seventeenth-century Peru, St. Martin de Porres was torn from his body after death. His bones were pillaged as relics, and his spirit was said to inhabit those bones. Four centuries later, nineteen-year-old Ham is set adrift from his hometown of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Hidden beneath his clothes, he wears his only valued possession: a pendant handed down from his foster mother, Miss Pearl. There’s something about the pendant that has always gripped him, and the curiosity of it has grown into a kind of comfort.

When Ham finally embarks on a fraught journey back home, he seeks the answer to a question he cannot face: is Miss Pearl still alive? Ham travels from Atlanta to rural Alabama, and from one young woman to another, as he evades the devastation of what awaits him in New Orleans. Catching sight of a freedom he’s never known, he must reclaim his body and mind from the spirit who watches over him, guides him, and seizes possession of him.

CHANTAL JAMES lives in Washington, D.C., and has been published across genres—as a poet, fiction writer, essayist, and book reviewer—in such venues as *Catapult*, *Paste*, Harvard’s *Transition*, *The Bitter Southerner*, and more. James’s honors include a Fulbright Fellowship in creative writing to Morocco and a finalist position for the Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize from the *North Carolina Literary Review* in 2019.

Seeking Fortune Elsewhere

Stories

By Sindya Bhanoo

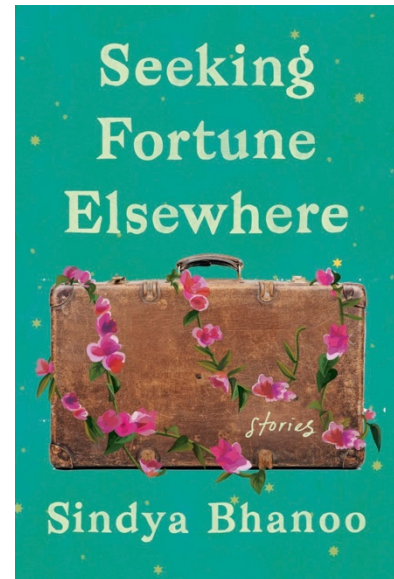
Rights retained: World

Publication: February 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 240 pages



“What a beautiful book *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere* is—stories about home, love, heartache, and betrayal, about the moral complexity of human love in all its varieties. Sindya Bhanoo describes her characters with an astonishing mixture of mercy and mercilessness, which is to say they live and breathe and will break your heart and stun you. Indeed, the whole book is stunning, and the good news is it's only her first.” —**Elizabeth McCracken, author of *The Souvenir Museum***

“I am still in the grip of this gorgeous collection. How thrilling to see women I know in these pages, tender and fierce, yearning for freedom yet plagued by the past. Each character has carved a precise space in my mind. Every one of these stories glows with truth.”

—**Tania James, author of *The Tusk That Did the Damage***

O. Henry Prize winner Sindya Bhanoo’s stunning debut offers intimate stories of South Indian immigrants and the families they left behind, centering women’s lives and asking how women both claim and surrender power.

Traveling from Pittsburgh to Washington to Tamil Nadu, these astonishing 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.

The Houseboat

A Novel

By Dane Bahr

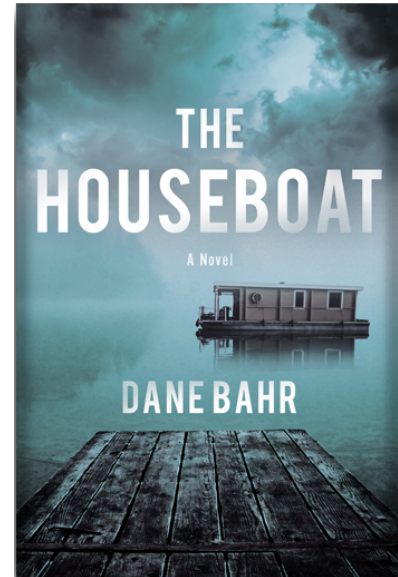
Rights retained: World

Publication: February 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 256 pages



“With scenes as propulsive as any found in *True Detective* and dialogue that could hold its own against the novels of Cormac McCarthy or Donald Ray Pollock, Dane Bahr's debut, *The Houseboat*, is truly a thing of beauty! Enticing the reader from the go, with a clear, clever, and ultimately haunting writing style, Bahr delivers on every page.”

—Urban Waite, author of *Sometimes the Wolf*

“*The Houseboat* is an unruly, scarred and dusk-haunted book. In Bahr's stunning, transcendent descent into the old guilt of our collective humanity, something utterly unique awakens.”

—Shann Ray, author of *Atomic Theory 7*

“Dane Bahr has an unteachable knack to make the natural world a character. And once the book's ecosystems spring to vibrant life, there is a hell of a page-turner floating on top.”

—Joshua Mohr, author of *Model Citizen*

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.

Local outcast Rigby Sellers lives in squalor on a dilapidated houseboat moored on the Mississippi River. With only stolen manikins and the river to keep him company, Rigby begins to spiral from the bizarre to the threatening. As a year of drought gives way to a season of squalls, a girl is found trembling on the side of the road, claiming her boyfriend was murdered. The townspeople of nearby Oscar turn their suspicions toward Sellers.

Town sheriff Amos Fielding knows this crime is more than he can handle alone. He calls on the regional marshall up in Minnesota, and detective Edward Ness arrives in Oscar to help him investigate the homicide and defuse the growing unrest. Ness, suffering his own demons, is determined to put his past behind him and solve the case. But soon more bodies are found. As Ness and Fielding uncover disturbing facts about Sellers, and a great storm floods the Mississippi, threatening the town, Oscar is pushed to a breaking point even Ness may not be able to prevent.

DANE BAHR was born in Minnesota. He lives in Washington State with his wife and dog, watching his sons and orchard grow.

MONARCH

A Novel

By Candice Wuehle

Rights retained: World

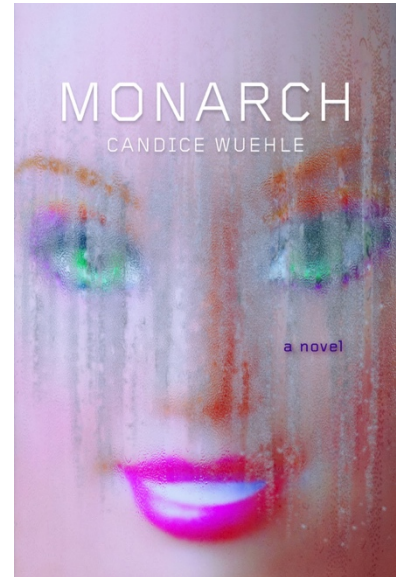
Publication: March 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 256 pages

The cryptic worlds of *Hanna* and *Stranger Things* mingle with the dark humor of *Dare Me* in this debut novel about a teen beauty queen who discovers she's been a sleeper agent in a deep state government program, and whose love for a fellow pageant girl sparks an underworld journey to the truth of her being.



After waking up with a strange taste in her mouth and mysterious bruises, former child beauty queen Jessica Clink unwittingly begins an investigation into a nefarious deep state underworld. Equipped with the eccentric education of her father, Dr. Clink (a professor of Boredom Studies and the founder of an elite study group on idleness, affect, and crime known as “The Devil’s Workshop”), Jessica uncovers a disquieting connection between her former life as a pageant queen and an offshoot of Project MKUltra known as MONARCH.

As Jessica moves closer to the truth, she begins to suspect the involvement of everyone around her, including her own mother, Grethe (a beauty queen turned spokesperson for a Norwegian cryochamber device built to halt the aging process for suburban housewives). With the help of Christine (a black-lipsticked riot grrrl babysitter and confidante), Jessica sets out to take down Project MONARCH and the operatives who programmed her. More importantly, she must discover if her first love, fellow teen queen Veronica Marshall, was genuine or yet another deep state plant.

Iconic true crime stories of the '90s (Lorena Bobbitt, Nicole Brown Simpson, and JonBenét Ramsey) merge with Jessica’s own past, triggering traumatic revelations and the radical potential of feminist vengeance. Drawing on theories of human consciousness, folklore, and a perennial cultural fixation with dead girls, *MONARCH* questions the shadow sides of self-concept: Who are you if you don't know yourself?

CANDICE WUEHLE is the author of the poetry collections *Fidelitoria: Fixed or Fluxed*, *BOUND*, and *Death Industrial Complex*, currently long-listed for *The Believer* Magazine Book Award. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, she holds a PhD in literary studies and creative writing from the University of Kansas.

Spell Heaven

And Other Stories

By Toni Miroseovich

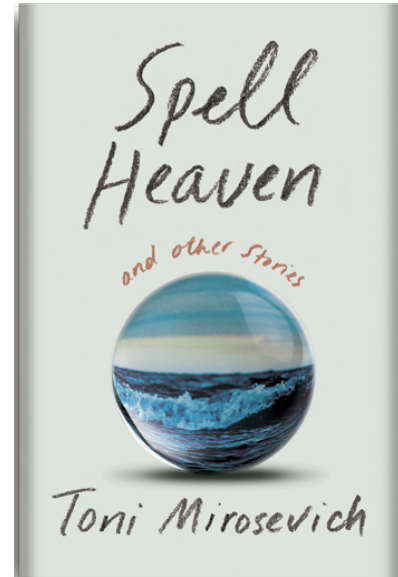
Rights retained: World

Publication: April 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 208 pages



“I would like to wrap myself inside of Toni Miroseovich's words, so that their warmth, vitality, and haunting insights into our humanity will somehow absorb into my thoughts and skin, and I will become a better person. The characters in these unforgettable stories are clever, at times peculiar, but always full of heart. Their experiences stay with you long after you close this book. This is a beautiful collection.” —**Aimee Phan**, author of *We Should Never Meet* and *The Reeducation of Cherry Truong*

After moving to a coastal town, a gay couple is drawn to a group of outsiders living on the edge of the sea.

In *Spell Heaven*, a linked story collection, a lesbian couple moves to a coast town and unexpectedly finds a sense of belonging with a group of outsiders.

Stories include the tale of an undocumented boy's drowning when a wave pulls him out to sea, an ex-FBI agent's surveillance of a man who leaves chocolate bars at a tree in a weekly ritual, a mother on meth who teaches a lesson on mercy, and Kite Man, who flies kites from a fishing pole and sells drugs on the side. His motto: *When the kites fly, you can buy*.

The narrator of these stories, raised in a working-class Croatian American fishing family and immigrant community, chooses an early career in labor-oriented jobs. Years later, she finds herself in an academic position in a white-collar world “where the clothes are clean but the politics are dirty.” She questions her own stereotypes about her neighbors and gradually begins to question her life path.

A modern story about a band of free spirits—not unlike characters found in Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*—and the queer female narrator who yearns to get in with this out crowd, *Spell Heaven* is for readers who are looking for a human connection in today's increasingly isolated world.

TONI MIROSEVICH's stories about an overlooked community in a crumbling coastal town in the Bay Area have appeared in *Catapult*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. She is the author of six books of poetry and prose and lives with her wife in Pacifica, California.

The Novelist

A Novel

By Jordan Castro

Rights retained: World

Publication: June 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 160 pages

“This book, better than any other I know, shows how creation emerges from the nothingness of our culture. A hilarious and important novel.” —**Michael W. Clune**, author of *Gamelife* and *White Out: The Secret Life of Heroin*

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

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

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

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

JORDAN CASTRO is the editor of *New York Tyrant* magazine and *Pets: An Anthology*, and the author of two poetry books. He is from Cleveland, Ohio. *The Novelist* is his first novel.



Which Side Are You On

A Novel

By Ryan Lee Wong

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2022

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 252 pages



Political fiction meets coming of age comedy in *Which Side Are You On*, a conversation starter of a book, for fans of Lisa Ko and Rachel Kushner

Which Side Are You On follows a Chinese Korean American undergrad at Columbia, Reed, who is deeply involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. A particular case strikes a chord, when in 2014 in Brooklyn, Peter Liang, a Chinese American cop, faced a trial for shooting Akai Gurley. Eventually Liang was only given community service and served no prison time. Skeptical of the knowledge he can gain at a university vs. what he can learn by devoting himself full time to the movement, Reed decides to drop out of college. At this stage he visits his ailing grandma and his parents back home in LA, and over a series of conversations with his mother, the leader of a Korean-Black activist coalition during the LA riots, and father, a labor union leader, finds that his notions of effective politics, idealism and pragmatism, privilege and sacrifice, and what it means to live meaningfully in an unjust, violent world are all challenged.

Ryan Lee Wong's debut is unafraid to question the pretenses and laugh at the self-seriousness of a young activist, while also preserving a sense of great gentleness and love as the young activist's parents try to show him a path forward. This intimate, sharp, and funny novel is also beautifully about New York and LA, about friendships which grow and fade as young people grow into their personal ethics, about how to be a parent and how to be a son in a profoundly unjust, bewilderingly upside-down world.

RYAN LEE WONG was born and raised in Los Angeles, the son of a fifth-generation Chinese American father and a Korean immigrant mother. He received an MFA in Fiction at Rutgers-Newark. He worked as Program Director for the Asian American Writers' Workshop and Managing Director of Kundiman, curating numerous workshops, readings, and retreats at both. He has published extensively on visual arts and cultural history, and served on the board of the Jerome Foundation. Based in Brooklyn, he currently lives at a Zen center in Millerton, New York.

Wings of Red

By James W. Jennings

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2022

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 170 pages



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

A poetic tour de force and an unexpected ode to New York City, *Wings of Red* is a necessary story, the missing literary piece that connects teachers and students, for readers of Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* and Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*.

Set predominately in NYC, *Wings of Red* is the story of June, a young man who is forced to move out of his apartment, unable to afford the rent on his salary as a substitute schoolteacher and basketball coach, and begins to reconsider the trajectory of his life: "Twenty-eight-years old, MFA with a felony, the classic young, Black, and gifted American misfit."

Surrounded with a cast of characters who, like June, attempt to realize their dreams despite precarious professional and financial realities, *Wings of Red* is an inventive and stylish debut driven by a narrator who is clear-eyed, funny, imperfect, and observant; and it serves as a reminder of how good autofiction can be, with 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

A Woven World

On Fashion, Fishermen, and the Sardine Dress

By Alison Hawthorne Deming

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2021

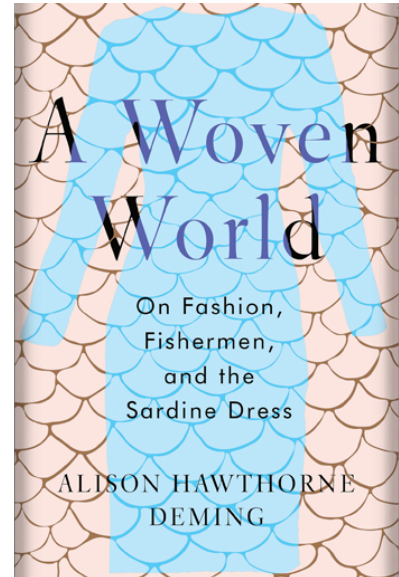
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Environmental History | 256 pages

“A sobering look at how small-scale artisans have been made obsolete by mass production . . . A moving testament to what we’ll lose if we don’t pay attention.”

—**Moira Hodgson, *The Wall Street Journal***



“At first glance, the worlds of fashion and fishing may appear to be disparate topics, but using poetic language, childhood experiences, and knowledge of cultural history, Deming captivantly weaves together these communities . . . A charming, heartfelt homage to the makers, past and present, who have defined lives and communities across the world.”

—**Kirkus Reviews**

Part memoir, part cultural history, *A Woven World* celebrates the fading crafts, industries, and artisans that have defined communities for generations.

The desire to create is the cornerstone of civilization. But as we move into a world where machine manufacturing has nearly usurped craft, Alison Hawthorne Deming resists the erasure of our shared history of handiwork with this appeal for embracing continuity and belonging in a time of destabilizing change.

Sensing a need to preserve the crafts and stories of our founding communities, and inspired by an exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute featuring Yves St. Laurent’s “sardine” dress, Deming turned to the industries of her ancestors, both the dressmakers and designers in Manhattan in the nineteenth century and the fishermen on Grand Manan Island, a community of 2,500 residents, where the dignity of work and the bounty of the sea ruled for hundreds of years. Reweaving the fabric of those lives, *A Woven World* gives presence on the page to the people, places, and practices, uncovering and preserving a record of the ingenuity and dignity that comes with such work. In this way the lament becomes a song of praise and a testament to the beauty and fragility of human making.

ALISON HAWTHORNE DEMING’s most recent books include *Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit* and the poetry collection *Stairway to Heaven*. The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University, National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, and Walt Whitman Award, she is Regents Professor at the University of Arizona. She lives in Tucson and on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Canada.

Generation Occupy

Reawakening American Democracy

By Michael Levitin

Rights retained: World

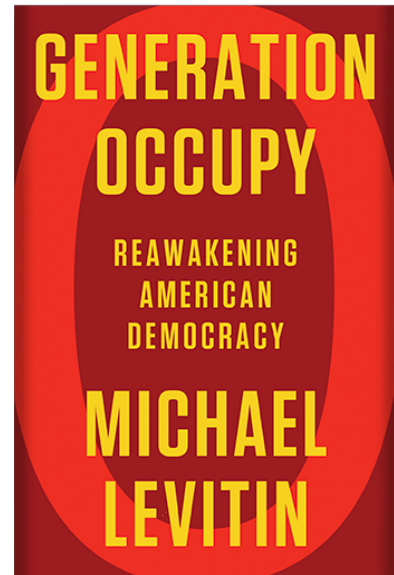
Publication: September 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Political Science | 368 pages

“Abundant . . . Levitin includes colorful vignettes of his time at the [Occupy Wall Street] protests, and offers fresh insights on union workers’ participation and the Rolling Jubilee campaign to abolish student debt . . . A noteworthy contribution to the discussion over why Occupy Wall Street happened, and what it meant.”—*Publishers Weekly*



The fight for a \$15 minimum wage. Nationwide teacher strikes. Bernie Sanders’s political revolution and the rise of AOC. Black Lives Matter. #MeToo. Read how the Occupy movement helped reshape American politics, culture and the groundbreaking movements to follow.

On the ten-year anniversary of the Occupy movement, *Generation Occupy* sets the historical record straight about the movement’s lasting impacts. Far from a passing phenomenon, Occupy Wall Street marked a new era of social and political transformation, reigniting the labor movement, remaking the Democratic Party and reviving a culture of protest that has put the fight for social, economic, environmental and racial justice at the forefront of a generation.

The movement changed the way Americans see themselves and their role in the economy through the language of the 99 versus the 1 percent. But beyond that, in its demands for fairness and equality, Occupy reinvigorated grassroots activism, inaugurating a decade of youth-led resistance movements that have altered the social fabric, from Black Lives Matter and Standing Rock to March for Our Lives, the Global Climate Strikes and #MeToo. Bookended by the 2008 financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic, *Generation Occupy* attempts to help us understand how we got to where we are today and how to draw on lessons from Occupy in the future.

MICHAEL LEVITIN is a journalist and co-founding editor of *The Occupied Wall Street Journal*. He started as a reporter covering the Cochabamba Water War in 2000 for the English language newspaper *Bolivian Times*. He earned his master’s degree from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and later worked as a freelance correspondent in Barcelona and Berlin covering politics, culture and climate change. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *Financial Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time* and the *Los Angeles Times*, among other publications. His debut novel, *Disposable Man*, was published in 2019. He teaches journalism at Diablo Valley College in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he lives with his partner and daughter.

Inter State

Essays from California

By José Vadi

Rights retained: World

Publication: September 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Essays | 224 pages

“A rich and moving meditation on the forces that can make us feel displaced even when we know we are at home.”

—Nina Renata Aron, author of *Good Morning, Destroyer of Men’s Souls*

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

—*Publishers Weekly*

A debut collection of poetic, linked essays investigating the past and present state of California, its conflicting histories and their impact on a writer’s family and life.

California has been advertised as a destiny manifested for those ready to pull up their bootstraps and head west across to find wealth on the other side of the Sierra Nevada since the 19th century. Across the seven essays in the debut collection by José Vadi, we hear from the descendants of those not promised that prize.

Inter State explores California through many lenses: an aging obsessed skateboarder; a self-appointed dive bar DJ; a laid-off San Francisco tech worker turned rehired contractor; a grandson of Mexican farmworkers pursuing the crops they tilled.

Amidst wildfires, high speed rail, housing crises, unprecedented wealth and its underlying decay, *Inter State* excavates and roots itself inside those necessary stories and places lost in the ever-changing definitions of a selectively golden state.

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



A Tale of Two Omars

A Memoir of Family, Revolution, and Coming Out During the Arab Spring
By Omar Sharif Jr.

Rights retained: World

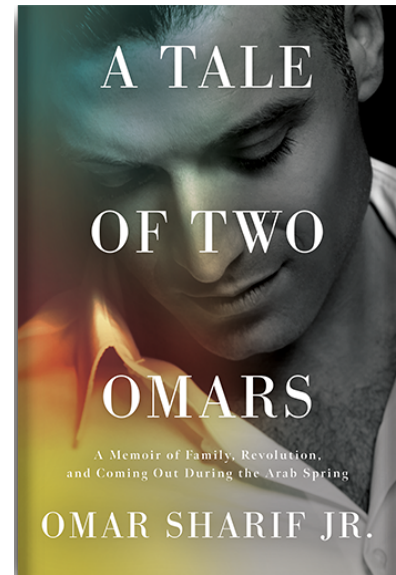
Publication: October 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 224 pages

“*A Tale of Two Omars* is a story of freedom. It’s about taking all your challenges and privileges, owning them and using them to live a life in charge.” —**Diane von Furstenberg**



“In a story made for the screen, Omar rips away the bandages and exposes the many scars of his past. Harrowing and haunting, but shared with hope and humility, *A Tale of Two Omars* reminds us how important it is to live our truths without shame. The message is clear: Don’t let the past define your future, have it inform and illuminate a future path.”

—**Rosanna Arquette, BAFTA Winner, Emmy and Golden Globe Nominated Actress**

“Sharif, grandson of the legendary Egyptian actor by the same name, bares all with his stirring debut, an account of his extraordinary and turbulent life . . . This moving story will appeal to anyone looking for an account of inspiration in the face of oppression.” —**Publishers Weekly**

The grandson of Omar Sharif shares his personal story and the lessons he inherited from his family that have helped to bring him strength and prepared him to be an international leader in the fight for LGBTQ equality.

The grandson of Hollywood royalty on his father’s side and Holocaust survivors on his mother’s, Omar Sharif Jr. learned early on how to move between worlds, from the Montreal suburbs to the glamorous orbit of his grandparents’ Cairo. His famous name always protected him wherever he went. When, in the wake of the Arab Spring, he made the difficult decision to come out in the pages of *The Advocate*, he knew his life would forever change. What he didn’t expect was the backlash that followed.

From bullying, to illness, attempted suicide, becoming a victim of sex trafficking, death threats by the thousands, revolution and never being able to return to a country he once called home, Omar Sharif Jr. has overcome more challenges than one might imagine. Drawing on the lessons he learned from both sides of his family, *A Tale of Two Omars* charts the course of an iconoclastic life, revealing in the process the struggles and successes that attend a public journey of self-acceptance and a life dedicated in service to others.

OMAR SHARIF JR. is an Egyptian Canadian actor and model who currently lives in the United States. He is the grandson of Omar Sharif, the actor.

Gentrifier

A Memoir

By Anne Elizabeth Moore

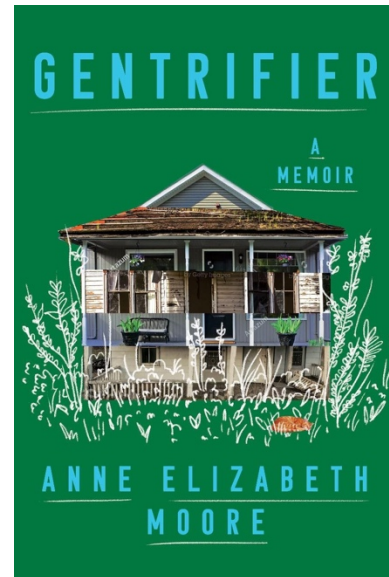
Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 272 pages



“This kaleidoscopic page-turner chronicles the absurdities and hard-won joys of existing in a body, a household, a community, and a country. I don't know how Anne managed to write the funniest book I've read in years *and* the most honest one about the scramble of American life, but she did, and we are the better for it.” —**Jace Clayton, author of *Uproot***

“Funny, tender, rigorous, and alive. . . . A tour de force by a writer who is smart enough to let activism and absurdity sit side by side, and let them go. I'm in awe.”

—**Paul Lisicky, author of *Later: My Life at the Edge of the World***

In 2016, a Detroit arts organization grants Anne Elizabeth Moore, Eisner winner and Lambda Literary Award finalist, a free house—a room of her own, à la Virginia Woolf—in Detroit's majority-Bangladeshi “Banglatown.” Within months, her life changes dramatically, as relayed in this hilarious and gutting memoir.

Accompanied by her cats, Anne Elizabeth Moore moves to a bungalow in a new city where she gardens, befriends the neighborhood youth, and grows to intimately understand civic collapse and community solidarity. When the troubled history of her prize house comes to light, Moore finds her life destabilized by the aftershocks of the housing crisis and governmental corruption.

This is a memoir of art, gender, work, and survival. Moore writes into the gaps of Woolf's declaration that “a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write”; what if this woman were queer and living with chronic illness, as Moore is, or a South Asian immigrant, like Moore's neighbors? And what if her primary coping mechanism is jokes?

Part investigation, part comedy of a vexing city, and part love letter to girlhood, *Gentrifier* examines capitalism, property ownership, and whiteness, asking if we can ever really win when violence and profit are inextricably linked with victory.

ANNE ELIZABETH MOORE has written several critically acclaimed nonfiction books including *Unmarketable: Brandalism, Copyfighting, Mocketing, and the Erosion of Integrity*; *Cambodian Grrrl*; and the Lambda Literary Award-nominated *Body Horror: Capitalism, Fear, Misogyny, Jokes*. Her most recent book, *Sweet Little Cunt*, won an Eisner Award, and her *Truthout* comics journalism series with Melissa Mendes was funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. She lives in Hobart, New York, with her cat, Captain America.

Every Day the River Changes

My Four Weeks Down the Magdalena

By Jordan Salama

Rights retained: World

Publication: November 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Travel / Latin American Studies / Nature | 224 pages

“This is a born journalist.”

—John McPhee, in the *Princeton Weekly Bulletin*

“A mesmerizing travelogue . . . Both complex and achingly beautiful, this outstanding account brims with humanity.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

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

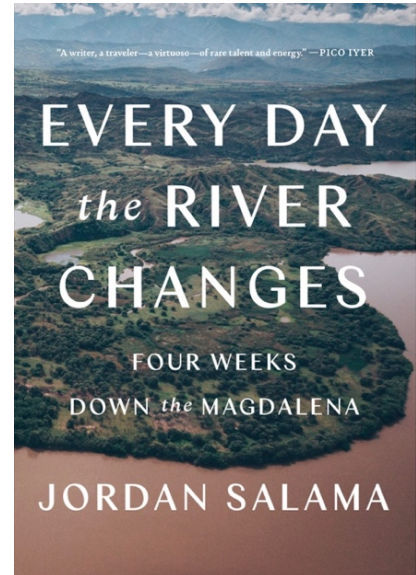
—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

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.

An American writer of Argentine, Syrian, and Iraqi Jewish descent, Jordan Salama tells the story of the Río Magdalena, nearly one thousand miles long, the heart of Colombia. This is Gabriel García Márquez’s territory—rumor has it Macondo was partly inspired by the port town of Mompox—as much as that of the Middle Eastern immigrants who run fabric stores by its banks.

Following the river from its source high in the Andes to its mouth on the Caribbean coast, journeying by boat, bus, and improvised motobalinera, Salama writes against stereotype and toward the rich lives of those he meets. Among them are a canoe builder, biologists who study invasive hippopotamuses, a Queens transplant managing a failing hotel, a jeweler practicing the art of silver filigree, and a traveling librarian whose donkeys, Alfa and Beto, haul books to rural children. Joy, mourning, and humor come together in this astonishing debut, about a country too often seen as only a site of war, and a tale of lively adventure following a legendary river.

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



41-Love

On Addictions, Tennis, and Refusing to Grow Up By Scarlett Thomas

Rights retained: World

Publication: December 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 384 pages

“What, really, is a trophy? Scarlett Thomas’s is covered in spikes, and may also be radioactive, but she plunks it down defiantly in this addictive memoir. A bracing statement on athleticism as continual work in progress, the limits of bodies, and the go-for-broke ambition to be exceptional.”

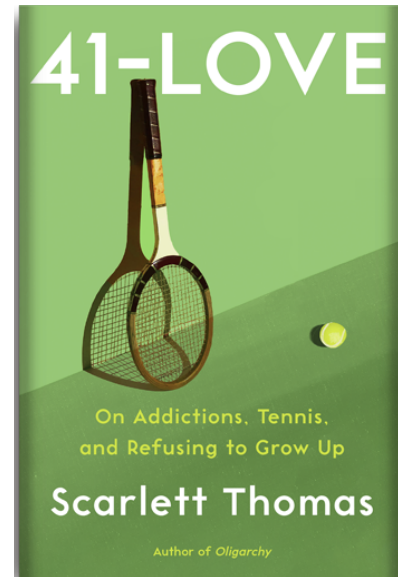
—Vikki Warner, author of *Tenemental: Adventures of a Reluctant Landlady*

A darkly funny memoir about a mid-life crisis, exercise addiction, tennis, and how to grow up when you really don’t want to.

At forty-one, Scarlett Thomas was a successful novelist and a senior academic. She’d quit smoking, gotten healthier, settled down in a lovely house with a wonderful partner. She’d had all the therapy. Then her beloved dog died. Of her three fathers (she’d acquired a stepfather at ten), one died of a heroin overdose and the other two were diagnosed with cancer. Her sister-in-law became pregnant at the same time that she realized that she really was never going to become a mother. For the first time in her life, maintaining her ideal weight had become nearly impossible.

She was supposed to grow up, but she didn’t know how. So instead, she decided to regress: to go back to the thing she’d loved best as a child but had inexplicably abandoned: tennis. Thomas knows she’s not the only person to have wondered if you throw enough money and time and passion at something, whether you can make your dream come true. *41-Love* is heartbreaking but frequently darkly funny as Scarlett finds she’ll do anything to win—almost anything.

SCARLETT THOMAS was born in London in 1972. She is the author of *Oligarchy*, *The Seed Collectors*, *PopCo*, and *The End of Mr. Y*. Her previous novels, including *The End of Mr. Y*, *PopCo*, and *The Seed Collectors*, have developed a cult following and sold more than half a million books worldwide. Her work has been translated into twenty-five languages. Thomas is a professor of creative writing and contemporary fiction at the University of Kent in the U.K.



High-Risk Homosexual

A Memoir

By Edgar Gomez

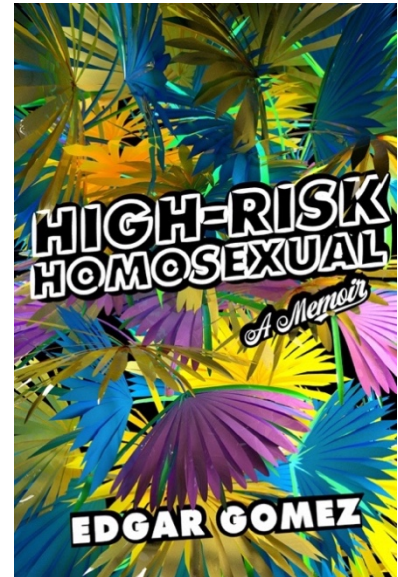
Rights retained: World

Publication: January 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 304 pages



“High-Risk Homosexual is a keen and tender exploration of queer identity, masculinity, and belonging. From the cockfighting ring in Nicaragua, where he was taken by his uncles to learn how to be a man, to the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, where he witnesses freedom and joy on the dance floor, Edgar Gomez writes with honesty and humor about the difficulty of straddling boundaries and the courage of finding oneself. This book signals the arrival of a major new talent.”

—Laila Lalami, author of *Conditional Citizens*

Gomez’s witty memoir follows a touching and often hilarious spiralic path to embracing his gay, Latinx identity against a culture of machismo—from his uncle’s cockfighting ring in Nicaragua to cities across the U.S.—and the bath houses, night clubs, and drag queens who helped him redefine pride.

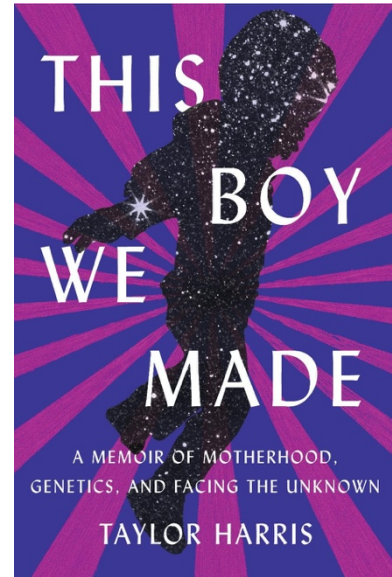
A debut memoir about coming of age as a gay, Latinx man, *High-Risk Homosexual* opens in the ultimate anti-gay space: Gomez’s uncle’s cockfighting ring in Nicaragua, where he was sent at thirteen years old to become a man. Readers follow Gomez through the queer spaces where he learned to love being gay and Latinx, including Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, a drag queen convention in Los Angeles, and the doctor’s office where he was diagnosed a “high-risk homosexual.”

With vulnerability, humor, and quick-witted insights into racial, sexual, familial, and professional power dynamics, Gomez shares a hard-won path to taking pride in the parts of himself he was taught to keep hidden. His story is a scintillating, beautiful reminder of the importance of leaving space for joy.

EDGAR GOMEZ is a Florida-born writer with roots in Nicaragua and Puerto Rico. A graduate of University of California, Riverside’s MFA program, he is a recipient of the 2018 Marcia McQuern Award for nonfiction. His writing has been published and anthologized widely in such outlets as *POPSUGAR*, *Longreads*, *Best Gay Stories*, *The Rumpus*, and *Ploughshares*. He lives in Queens, New York, where he is saving up for good lotion.

This Boy We Made *A Memoir of Motherhood, Genetics, and Facing the Unknown* By Taylor Harris

Rights retained: World
Publication: January 2022
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Catapult (US/English)
Genre: Memoir | 272 pages



“As Taylor Harris guides us through the bureaucratic and emotional hoops that come with being a Black mother to a kid with disabilities in America today, she gives us deep insight into what it is to be human. *This Boy We Made* is written with such love and candor and grace-under-fire—I wanted to hang out forever in Taylor Harris’s brain. I want her to be my mom.” —**Meaghan O’Connell**, author of *And Now We Have Everything*

A Black mother bumps up against the limits of everything she thought she believed—about science and medicine, about motherhood, and about her faith—in search of the truth about her son.

One morning, Tophs, Taylor Harris’s round-cheeked, lively twenty-two-month-old, wakes up listless and unresponsive. She rushes Tophs to the doctor, ignoring the part of herself, that tries to whisper that she’s overreacting. But at the hospital, her maternal instincts are confirmed: something is wrong with her boy, and Taylor’s life will never be the same.

With every question the doctors answer about Tophs’s increasingly troubling symptoms, more arise, and Taylor dives into the search for a diagnosis. Some days, her sweet, charismatic boy seems just fine—others, he struggles to answer simple questions. What is she missing?

When Taylor brings Tophs to a long-awaited appointment with a geneticist, she hopes that this time, she’ll leave with answers. The test reveals nothing about what’s causing Tophs’s drops in blood sugar, his processing delays—but it does reveal something unexpected about Taylor’s own health. What if her son’s challenges have saved her life? And how can she choose the best path forward—for herself and for her beautiful, unsolvable boy?

This Boy We Made is a stirring and radiantly written examination of the bond between mother and child, full of hard-won insights about fighting for and finding meaning when nothing goes as expected.

TAYLOR HARRIS is a writer, wife, and mom to three who lives in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her work has appeared in *O Quarterly*, *The Washington Post*, *Longreads*, *The Cut*, *Romper*, *Parents*, *McSweeney’s*, and other publications.

Zen Roots

The First Thousand Years

By Red Pine (Bill Porter)

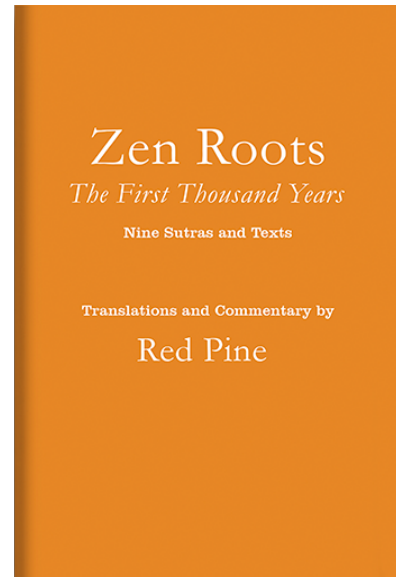
Rights retained: World

Publication: February 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction / Zen | 288 pages



—Praise for *The Lankavatara Sutra*—

“Buddhism can be daunting to the casual Western reader—daunting in its antiquity, the strangeness and profusion of its names, and the complexity of some of its concepts . . . Red Pine eases the path to the Lankavatara Sutra with plentiful notes, explanations, and study questions, as well as his plainspoken translation. Through his work, seekers may get closer to the notions of perception and experience of perception the sutra teaches.” —*Library Journal*

Including new translations of nine texts from the first thousand years of Zen, this collection of sacred Buddhist texts with refreshed commentary is made to be carried with you.

Dating from the middle of the second century BC to the middle of the ninth century AD, *Zen Roots* includes the Heart, the Diamond, and the Platform sutras, selections from the Vimalakirti and Lankavatara sutras, Bodhidharma's *Principles & Practice*, Sengcan's *Trusting the Mind*, Yongjia's *Song of Enlightenment*, and Huangbo's *Transmission of the Mind*.

These translations are accompanied by introductions and enough notes to explain what needs explaining but not so many as to get in the way. Sized for toting with you, this collection is the perfect companion for travel, to introduce to the higher elevations, or just read in the backyard.

BILL PORTER (aka "Red Pine") is widely recognized as one of the world's preeminent translators of Chinese poetry and religious texts; he assumes the pen name "Red Pine" for his translations. He was the first translator to translate the entirety of Han-shan's oeuvre into English, published as *The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain*. He was also the first to translate into English the entirety of *The Poems of the Masters*. He has translated several of the major Buddhist sutras, including the *Heart Sutra*, *Diamond Sutra*, and *Platform Sutra*.

The Lonely Stories **20 Celebrated Writers on the** **Joys & Struggles of Being Alone** **Edited by Natalie Eve Garrett**

Rights retained: World
Publication: April 2022
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Catapult (US/English), Hyeda (Korean)
Genre: Essays | 272 pages

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

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

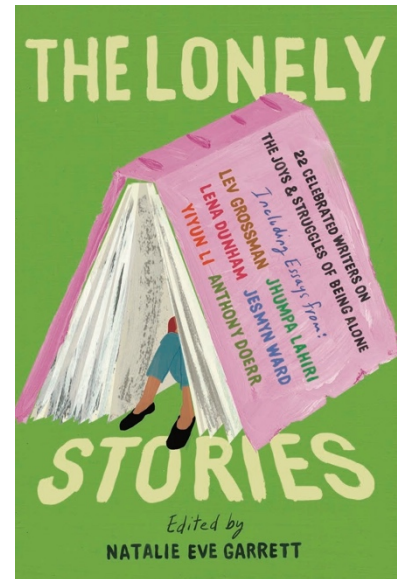
A collection of essays about the joys and struggles of being alone by 22 literary writers including: Lev Grossman, Jhumpa Lahiri, Lena Dunham, Jesmyn Ward, Yiyun Li, and Anthony Doerr.

If you're feeling lonely or if you've ever felt unseen, if you're emboldened by solitude or secretly longing for it: Welcome to *The Lonely Stories*. This cathartic collection of personal essays illuminates what the experience is like for all of us.

Some of these stories are heartbreaking, such as Jesmyn Ward's reckoning with the loss of her husband, Imani Perry's confrontation with chronic illness, and Dina Nayeri's reflection on immigrating to a foreign country. Others are witty, such as Lev Grossman's rueful tale of heading to the woods alone or Anthony Doerr's struggles with internet addiction. Still others celebrate solitude and the kind of clarity it can bring about, such as Claire Dederer's journey toward sobriety and Lidia Yuknavitch's sensual look at women and desire.

Thoughtful and ultimately affirming, *The Lonely Stories* explores emotions that so often go undiscussed, and lets us all know that we're not alone.

NATALIE EVE GARRETT is an artist, writer, and the editor of *Eat Joy: Stories & Comfort Food from 31 Celebrated Writers*, a collection of personal stories with recipes that explore how comfort food helps us cope in dark times. She is also the editor of *The Artists' and Writers' Cookbook: A Collection of Stories with Recipes*. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design, Natalie lives with her husband, daughter, and son in a town outside DC and along the Potomac River.



The Red Zone

A Love Story

By Chloe Caldwell

Rights retained: World

Publication: April 2022

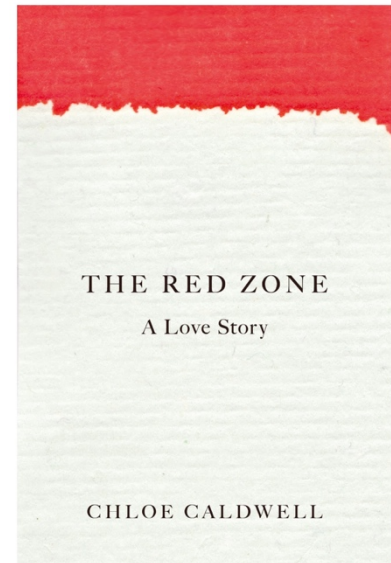
Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 304 pages

“Chloe Caldwell is a force. A quirky writer who shares personal details of her life and describes them in a way that never feels like TMI, it’s the opposite. You want more, the result of a trustworthy narrator and a skilled storyteller.”

—*Hippocampus Magazine*



A searching, galvanizing memoir about blood and love: how learning more about her period, PMS, PMDD, and the effects of hormones on moods transformed her relationships—to a new partner, to family, to non-blood kin, and to her own body—from the beloved essayist and author of *Women*.

Chloe Caldwell's period has often felt inconvenient or uncomfortable or even painful, but it's only once she's in her thirties, as she's falling in love with Tony, a musician and single dad, that its effects on her mood start to dominate her life. Spurred by the intensity and seriousness of her new relationship, she soon realizes that her outbursts of anxiety and rage match her hormonal cycle. Compelled to understand the truth of what's happening to her every month, Chloe documents attitudes toward menstruation among her peers and family, reads Reddit threads about PMS, goes on antidepressants, goes off antidepressants, goes on antidepressants again, attends a conference called Break the Cycle, and learns about premenstrual dysphoric disorder, PMDD, which helps her name what she's been going through. For Chloe, healing isn't just about finding the right diagnosis or a single cure. It means reflecting on other underlying patterns in her life: her feelings about her queer identity and writing persona in the context of a heterosexual relationship; how her parents' divorce contributed to her issues with trust; and what it means to blend a family.

The Red Zone is a funny, intimate, and revelatory memoir for anyone grappling with controversial medical diagnoses and labels of all kinds. It's about coming to terms with the fact that, along with proper treatment, self-acceptance, self-compassion, and transcending shame are the ultimate keys to relief. It's also about love: how challenging it can be, how it reveals your weaknesses and wounds, and how, if you allow it, it will push you to grow and change.

CHLOE CALDWELL is the author of three books: *I'll Tell You In Person*, and *Legs Get Led Astray*. Her essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Buzzfeed*, *Nylon*, *Vice*, *Salon*, *Longreads* and many anthologies.

A Redemptive Path Forward

From Incarceration to a Life of Activism

By Antong Lucky

Rights retained: World

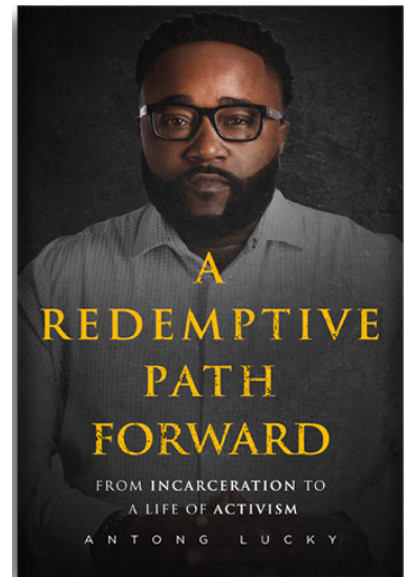
Publication: May 2022

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 224 pages

The motivational memoir by a formerly incarcerated man who transformed from founder and leader of the Dallas Bloods to a practitioner of peace and nonviolence in the neighborhood he once helped destroy.



As a child of an incarcerated father, Antong Lucky grew up in an impoverished, crime-ridden neighborhood in East Dallas, Texas, born at the same time as East Dallas experienced an alarming rise in crack cocaine and heroin use. Despite his high grades and passion for learning, Antong is introduced to gang life and its consequences.

Eventually, Antong forms the Dallas Bloods gang, inaugurating a period in the 1990s of escalating retaliatory gun violence buoyed by a lucrative illegal drug enterprise until he is ultimately arrested and sentenced to seven years in prison. His journey through the doors of transformation came through the pain of incarceration and introspection that caused him to question the cognitive distortions embedded in him since childhood.

Once in prison, Antong denounced his gang affiliation and began working to unite rival gangs, quickly rising to become one of the most respected and sought-after mentors in prison. A spiritual transformation further inspired Antong to return to his old neighborhood after early release, seeking to align with like-minded people dedicated to challenging systemic issues in U.S. communities through collective efforts. The work of an incisive, determined mind, *A Redemptive Path Forward* will take its place among the broadening canon of titles championing and investigating prison abolition and societal transformation.

ANTONG LUCKY is an activist, advocate, and public speaker concentrating in the areas of mentoring Black men and boys, bridging the gap between community and police, and developing and launching violence reduction strategies, criminal justice reform, and reentry initiatives for formerly incarcerated people.

Death by Landscape

Essays

By Elvia Wilk

Rights retained: World

Publication: July 2022

Available: Sample manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Essays | 200 pages

—Praise for *Oval*—

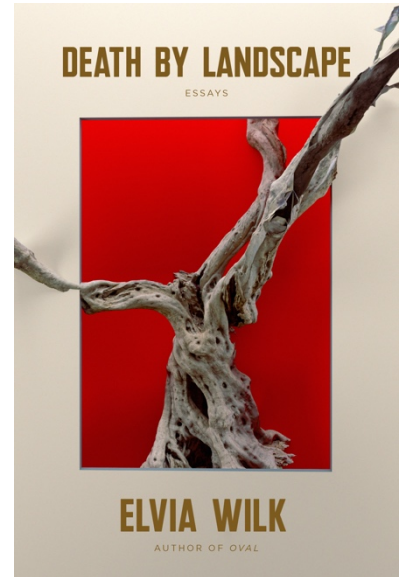
“Elvia Wilk’s *Oval* is a marvel. At the core of this seductive, acute, superbly contemporary update of midperiod J. G. Ballard lies a deep-beating, deep-dreaming heart.” —**Jonathan Lethem**

“A fascinating near-future exploration of relationships, sustainability, and power. An extraordinarily accomplished debut novel.” —**Jeff VanderMeer**

From the author of *Oval*, a collection of “fan nonfiction” that proposes new possibilities and genealogies for weird fiction in the age of extinction.

This collection is about love, death, plants, and weird fiction. It takes its title from a Margaret Atwood story in which an adolescent girl seems to turn into a tree. It examines works by Doris Lessing, Jenny Hval, Anne Carson, Octavia Butler, Michelle Tea, Helen Phillips, Mark Fisher, Donna Haraway, and Jeff and Ann VanderMeer; it explores the erotics of compost, vampire-themed live-action roleplaying, intoxicated birds, medieval nuns, invasive spores, and solarpunk. The book asks: what kind of stories are being written that help us rethink our human-centric perspective of Earth? What kinds of narratives will make sense of the age of extinction? *Death by Landscape* creates a syllabus for feminist sci-fi and speculative fiction for our time.

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



Body Language

Writers on Identity, Physicality, and Making Space for Ourselves

Edited by Nicole Chung and Matt Ortile

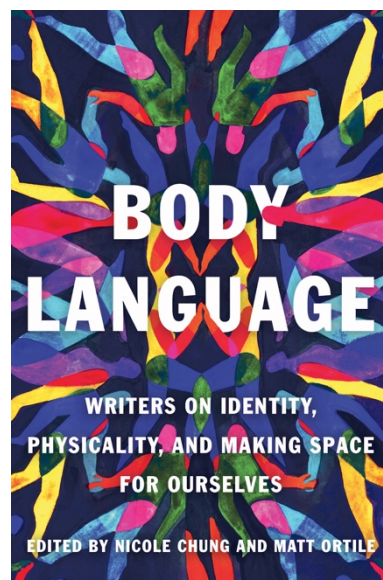
Rights retained: World

Publication: July 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Essays | 280 pages



“*Body Language* is a wide-ranging, heart-rending, hope-generating collection of stories. From disordered eating to athleticism to disability, it was impossible to turn away from these intimate and astute offerings. ... This book, then, is a revelation, treasured company that I'll keep with me always.” —**Melissa Febos**, author of *Girlhood*

A kaleidoscopic anthology of essays published by *Catapult* magazine about the stories our bodies tell, and how we move within—and against—expectations of race, gender, health, and ability.

Bodies are serious, irreverent, sexy, fragile, strong, political, and inseparable from our experiences and identities as human beings. Pushing the dialogue and challenging monolithic myths, this collection of essays tackle topics like weight, ability, desire, fertility, illness, the embodied experience of race in probing and challenging ways.

Selected from the archives of *Catapult* magazine, the essays in *Body Language* affirm and challenge the personal and political conversations around human bodies from the perspectives of twenty-five writers diverse in race, age, gender, size, sexuality, health, ability, geography, and class—a brilliant group probing and speaking their own truths about their bodies and identities, refusing to submit to others’ expectations about what their bodies should look, function, and behave.

Covering a wide range of experiences—from art modeling as a Black woman to nostalgia for a brutalizing high school sport, from the frightening upheaval of cancer diagnoses to the small beauties of funeral sex—this collection is intelligent, sensitive, and unflinchingly candid. Through the power of personal narratives, as told by writers at all stages of their careers, *Body Language* reflects how, as we evolve as people, so do the ways we celebrate and inhabit our bodies.

NICOLE CHUNG is the author of *All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir* and Catapult's digital editorial director.

MATT ORTILE is the author of *The Groom Will Keep His Name* and Catapult's digital managing editor.

Nobody Is Protected

How the Border Patrol Became the Most Dangerous Police Force in the United States

By Reece Jones

Rights retained: World

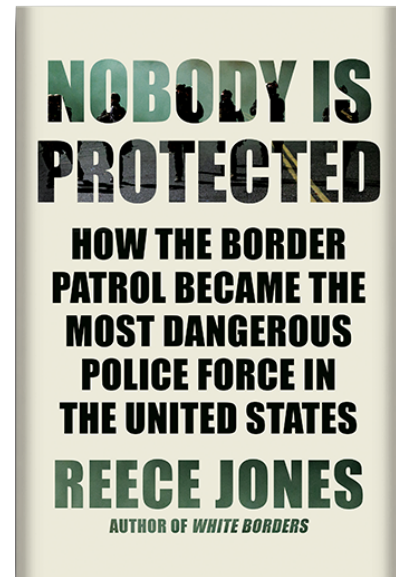
Publication: July 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Nonfiction | 304 pages

An urgent look at the US Border Patrol from its xenophobic founding to its current role in racist policing and the ongoing assault on the Fourth Amendment.



Late one July night in 2020 in Portland, Oregon, armed men, identified only by the word POLICE stitched onto their uniforms, began snatching people off the street and placing them in unmarked vans. The people targeted were legally protesting as part of a nationwide Black Lives Matter movement. More arrests soon followed. These actions were not done by a group of right-wing terrorists, or the FBI or CIA. They were common practice maneuvers conducted by the US Border Patrol. The fact that the Border Patrol was operating so far from what we think of as “the border” might seem like a surprising revelation. The Border Patrol can legally operate anywhere in the United States, but it has additional powers to stop and interrogate people without a warrant in a zone within one hundred miles of land borders and coastlines, an area including nine of the ten largest cities in the United States and two thirds of the population, and an area the American Civil Liberties Union has come to call the Constitution Free Zone, as a result.

Nobody is Protected: How the Border Patrol Became the Most Dangerous Police Force in the United States is the untold story of how the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution has been curtailed in service of the policing of our borders. It shines a light on this often secretive but powerful police force; how its agents are arrested for committing crimes five times more often than regular police officers, how its culture of racism and violence has proliferated over the last few decades, and how its power, oftentimes, goes unchecked. Borders expert Reece Jones tells the history of the Border Patrol that has defined its culture and authority: mapping its Wild West beginnings, starting with a small cohort one hundred years ago, to its militarized force today, revealing the shocking true stories and characters behind its most dangerous policies. With Border Patrol agents now using their powers to arrest peaceful protestors and demonstrators, the truth behind their influence and history has never been more urgent.

REECE JONES is a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Geography and Environment at the University of Hawai‘i. He is the author of three books, the award-winning *Border Walls*, and *Violent Borders*, as well as the forthcoming *White Borders* (2021). He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Geopolitics* and he lives in Honolulu with his family.

Mothercare

A Memoir

By Lynne Tillman

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2022

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 117 pages



—Praise for *Men and Apparitions*—

“No one anywhere writes more vibrantly and astutely into the gut of culture than Lynne Tillman. I always want to eat her books because her language is profoundly embodied. She is my secular art angel, my intellectual and creative hope, my full-blown galaxy.” —**Lidia Yuknavitch, author of *Verge***

From the author of *Men and Apparitions* and *American Genius, A Comedy* comes *Mothercare*, Lynne Tillman’s first work of personal nonfiction/memoir about her mother, who develops an unpredictable brain condition late in life and is cared for by Lynne and her sisters for eleven years until her death.

For eleven years, with her two older sisters, Tillman took care of her mother—who, from one day to the next, went from herself to someone else, becoming completely dependent on her daughters. This became Tillman’s focus: to find out what had happened to her mother, how to cure or treat it. To get an accurate diagnosis of her mother’s unusual condition—Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus—took nearly a year. And that was just the beginning. To be a patient advocate is urgent; through surgeries, misdiagnoses, wrong medications, and learning how to “manage” her mother and the complications that arose with her memory problems, *Mothercare* is an honest and straightforward account of doing the unexpected.

Mothercare is an intensely painful story that many will relate to: anyone who’s had to look after an aging parent; anyone who’s had to navigate our medical system. Written with an extraordinary depth of observation, ambivalence, honesty, humor, and insight, *Mothercare* is an account of confronting doctors and one’s own emotions. Tillman recounts essential lessons she learned on the job, as a kind of guide for when or if you ever need to take on this grave responsibility.

LYNNE TILLMAN is a writer and cultural critic, whose novels include *Haunted Houses*; *Motion Sickness*; *Cast in Doubt*; *No Lease on Life*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; *American Genius, A Comedy*. Her nonfiction books include *The Velvet Years: Warhol’s Factory 1965–1967*, with photographs by Stephen Shore and *What Would Lynne Tillman Do?*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism.

The White Mosque

A Memoir

By Sofia Samatar

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2022

Available: Unedited manuscript

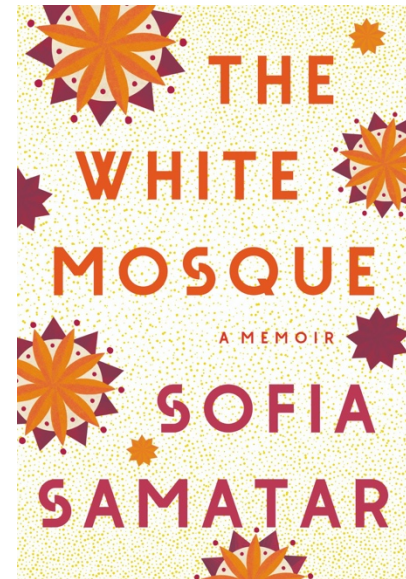
Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 300 pages

—Praise for *The Winged Histories*—

“A highly recommended indulgence.” —N.K. Jemisin,
The New York Times

“A lyrical immersion into a finely wrought world.” —*Kirkus Reviews*



***The White Mosque* records a journey through Uzbekistan and an investigation of the strange shifts, encounters, and accidents that combine to create an identity.**

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

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

SOFIA SAMATAR is the author of the novels *A Stranger in Olondria* and *The Winged Histories*, the short story collection, *Tender*, and *Monster Portraits*, a collaboration with her brother, the artist Del Samatar. Her work has received several awards, including the William L. Crawford Award, the John W. Campbell Award, the British Fantasy Award, and the World Fantasy 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.

The Tiger and the Cage

A Memoir

By Emma Bolden

Rights retained: World

Publication: October 2022

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Memoir | 322 pages



—Praise for *House Is an Enigma*—

“These poems worry several stones in their pockets—grief and the body, certainly, rubbing both until they gleam—but also language and its deliciously endless possibilities. What can I say but that the mind whirring inside these poems, this beautiful lyric-building mind, is one I wish were housed in my own skull? What can I say but give yourself over to these poems, and if you’re very, very lucky, some of Emma Bolden’s genius may seep into you—and leave you, too, irrevocably changed.”—Maggie Smith, author of *Good Bones*

***The Tiger and the Cage* unmask[s] debilitating medical practices and mindsets, exploring female rage, bodily autonomy, and compulsory sexuality while questioning expected roles for women’s bodies. Informed by hidden illness, Bolden’s work asks what so many wonder: Who do I want to be, and who does my body allow me to be?**

In fifth grade, Emma experienced a bout of psychosomatic coughing that Freud would’ve diagnosed as “hysteria.” Soon after, she faced severe pelvic pain and menstrual bleeding. At thirteen, she was diagnosed with endometriosis. Other illnesses followed. As she fought to find diagnoses, doctor after doctor shifted the blame for her physical problems to her mental state. Some said her pain was imaginary; some blamed it on unremembered childhood trauma. Her symptoms, often exacerbated by experimental medical treatments, became so severe that she couldn’t function. At thirty-three, she had a total hysterectomy: a botched surgery that only brought more problems.

Emma’s story is not unique. For centuries, the medical establishment has doubted women’s testimony about their own bodies. Examining stories of other women, from “hysteria” patients at the Salpêtrière in the 19th century to 21st century women whose “hysterical” illnesses similarly captivated popular culture, she unites these narratives with her own to illustrate how women have historically been treated as unreliable narrators of their own experiences and to explore how—and if—women can ever take control of their own bodies’ stories.

EMMA BOLDEN is the author of *House Is an Enigma* (Southeast Missouri State University Press), *medi(t)ations* (Noctuary Press), and *Maleficae* (GenPop Books). The recipient of an NEA fellowship, her work has appeared in *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Best Small Fictions*, and more. She is Associate Editor-in-Chief for *Tupelo Quarterly*.

An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe

In Search of a Planetary Wisdom

By Brian Thomas Swimme

Rights retained: World

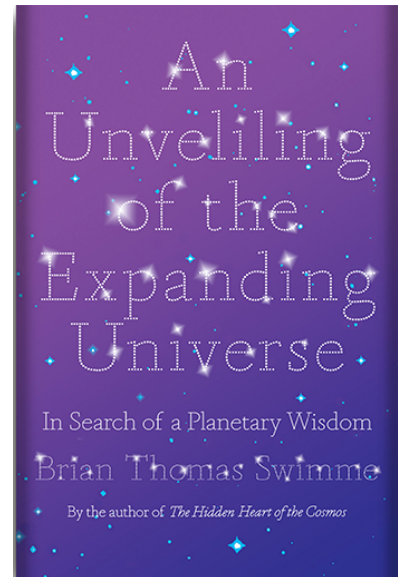
Publication: November 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Memoir / Science / Cosmology | 320 pages

Contemporary cosmology is the playground of the collision between science and religion. Building on the work of luminaries such as Thomas Berry, Terry Tempest Williams, and others, Brian Thomas Swimme, an award-winning professor of mathematics, cosmology, and evolutionary biology and host of PBS's *Journey of the Universe*, looks to his own life to understand the rich collision between science and the spiritual.



The discovery that the universe has been expanding from its fiery beginning fourteen billion years ago and has developed into stars, galaxies, life, and human consciousness is one of the most significant of human history. It is taught throughout the world and has become our common creation story for every culture with modern educational processes. It holds the promise of a new human unity. In terms of this story of the universe's development, we humans are not primarily French or Chinese, Democrat or Republican. We are primarily cosmological beings.

An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe narrates the same cosmological events as thousands of other books, it has one unique feature. It tells the story of the universe while simultaneously telling the story of the storyteller. If indeed cosmogenesis is one of the greatest discoveries of human history, it will necessarily have an immense impact on humanity, at least as profound as the Copernican revolution. And yet, to my knowledge, none of the science books published in English explores the effects cosmogenesis has on human consciousness. *An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe* tells the story of how my mind was deconstructed by the impact of this new story and then reassembled. In shorthand: I began with the mind of a cartesian scientist and ended with a mind aligned with the creativity of the universe.

BRIAN THOMAS SWIMME is a professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies, in San Francisco, where he teaches evolutionary cosmology to graduate students in the Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness program. He is the co-creator and host of Emmy-award winning PBS documentary *Journey of the Universe* and the companion book of the same title.

World English Rights | Fiction

Radiant Fugitives

A Novel

By Nawaaz Ahmed

Rights retained: World English

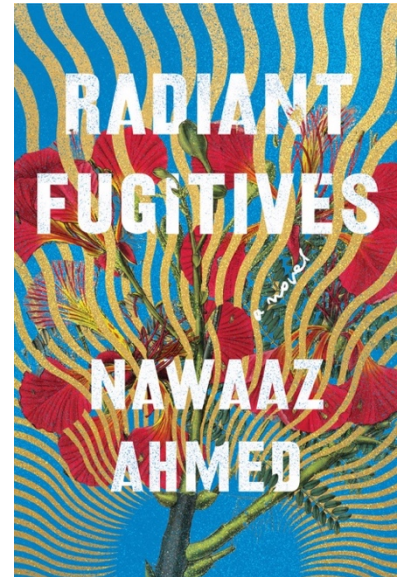
Publication: August 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 384 pages

Longlisted for the 2021 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize
A Best Book of the Month in *Entertainment Weekly*,
The Washington Post, *Time Magazine*, *Oprah Daily*, *Nylon*



“[A] luminously intelligent, culturally magisterial debut.”
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Guaranteed to entertain and engage.” —*Vanity Fair*

“A stirring, polyphonic novel that taps Eastern and Western literary influences.”
—*Hamilton Cain, Oprah Daily*

A tour de force debut following three generations of a Muslim Indian family confronted with a nation on the brink of change in Obama-era San Francisco and Texas.

Working as a consultant for Kamala Harris’s attorney general campaign in Obama-era San Francisco, Seema has constructed a successful life for herself in the West, despite still struggling with her father’s long-ago decision to exile her from the family after she came out as lesbian. Now, nine months pregnant and estranged from the Black father of her unborn son, Seema seeks solace in the company of those she once thought lost to her: her ailing mother, Nafeesa, traveling alone to California from Chennai, and her devoutly religious sister, Tahera, a doctor living in Texas with her husband and children.

But instead of a joyful reconciliation anticipating the birth of a child, the events of this fateful week unearth years of betrayal, misunderstanding, and complicated layers of love—a tapestry of emotions as riveting and disparate as the era itself.

Told from the point of view of Seema’s child at the moment of his birth, and infused with the poetry of Wordsworth and Keats and verses from the Quran, *Radiant Fugitives* is a moving tale of a family and a country grappling with acceptance, forgiveness, and enduring love.

NAWAAZ AHMED was born in Tamil Nadu, India. Before turning to writing, he was a computer scientist, researching search algorithms for Yahoo. He holds an MFA from University of Michigan–Ann Arbor and is the winner of several Hopwood Awards. He is the recipient of residencies at MacDowell, Yaddo, Djerassi, and VCCA. He’s also a Kundiman and Lambda Literary Fellow. He currently lives in Brooklyn.

Hao

Stories

By Ye Chun

Rights retained: World English
Publication: September 2021
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Catapult (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | 208 pages

Starred *Kirkus* and *Booklist* Reviews
***The Millions*, A Most Anticipated Book of the Year**

“It is not often that a writer possesses the gift of rendering the missed moments of the world visible, and who finds a language for deeply meditative attention, but such is the accomplishment of Ye Chun.”

—Carolyn Forché, author of *What You Have Heard Is True*

“Ye Chun captures the complexities of human emotion with a fine chisel and poet's eye, moving deftly between themes of motherhood, loss and migration. *Hao* is a richly imagined, satisfying collection, one that invites you to stay, to linger and be moved.”

—Te-Ping Chen, author of *Land of Big Numbers*

“*Hao* is an unsettling, hypnotic collection spanning centuries, in which language and children act simultaneously as tethers and casting lines, the reasons and the tools for moving forward after trauma. You'll come away from this beautiful book changed.”

—Julia Fine, author of *The Upstairs House*

This extraordinary collection of short stories by a three-time Pushcart Prize winner follows Chinese women in both China and the United States who turn to signs and languages to cross the alien landscapes of migration and motherhood.

In “Gold Mountain,” a young mother hides above a ransacked store during the San Francisco anti-Chinese riot of 1877. In “A Drawer,” an illiterate mother invents a language through drawing. In “Stars,” a graduate student loses her ability to speak after a stroke.

By turns reflective and visceral, the stories in *Hao* examine the ways in which women can be silenced as they grapple with sexism and racism, and how they find their own language to define their experience.

YE CHUN (surname: Ye) is a bilingual Chinese American writer and literary translator. She has published two books of poetry, *Travel Over Water* and *Lantern Puzzle*; a novel in Chinese, 《海上的桃树》 (Peach Tree in the Sea); and three volumes of translations. 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.



The Four Humors

A Novel

By Mina Seçkin

Rights retained: World English

Publication: November 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 368 pages

“Set in a stunning evocation of contemporary Turkey, *The Four Humors* is spellbinding. With sensitivity and insight, Mina Seçkin weaves the entanglements of romantic love and the complexities of familial love throughout this exploration of cultural identity. This debut novel is one for our time.”

—Binnie Kirshenbaum, author of *Rabbits for Food*

“Mina Seçkin’s brilliant and understated first novel describes a young person’s quest to situate herself geographically, culturally, historically, and physiologically—to map out a place for her inner self in the world, in her family, and in her own body. Funny, heartrending, illuminating, informative, brimming with cultural specificity and human universality.”

—Elif Batuman, author of *The Idiot*

In this introspective and cerebral debut novel, Mina Seçkin sifts through the stories we choose to tell about our families, the secrets we choose to keep, and the insurmountable grief that comes with losing a loved one.

Twenty-year-old Sibel thought she had concrete plans for the summer. She would care for her grandmother in Istanbul, visit her father’s grave, and study for the MCAT. Instead, she finds herself watching Turkish soap operas and self-diagnosing her own possible chronic illness with the four humors theory of ancient medicine. Is an imbalance of blood, bile, choler, and phlegm the cause of her physical and emotional turmoil?

Also on Sibel’s mind: her blond American boyfriend who accompanies her to Turkey; her energetic but distraught younger sister; and her devoted grandmother, who, Sibel comes to learn, carries a harrowing secret.

Delving into her family’s history, the narrative weaves through periods of political unrest in Turkey, from military coups to the Gezi Park protests. Told with pathos and humor, Sibel’s search for strange and unusual cures is disrupted as she begins to see how she might heal herself through the care of others, including her own family and its long-fractured relationships.

MINA SEÇKIN is a writer from Brooklyn. Her work has been published in *McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. She serves as managing editor of *Apogee Journal*, and *The Four Humors* is her first novel.



The Perishing

A Novel

By Natasha Deón

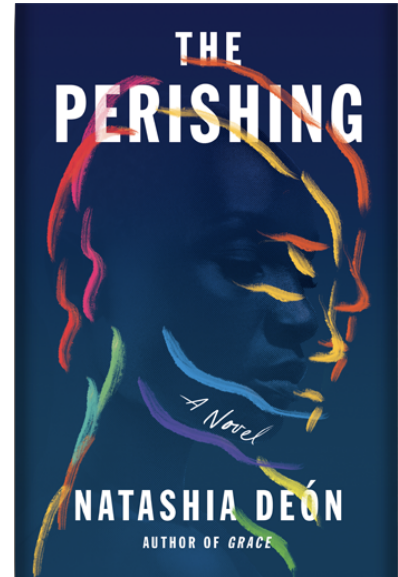
Rights retained: World English

Publication: November 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 320 pages



“This isn’t a book. It’s a touchstone. It’s an oracle. It’s a mirror in which you will see your authentic self, reflected on the pages. *The Perishing* is one part lyrical mystery, one part history lesson you didn’t learn in school, one part time machine. It’s a lush, genre-smashing, philosophical experience of a novel that blew my mind even as it broke my heart.” —**Jamie Ford**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

From NAACP Image Award Nominee Natasha Deón, the author of *Grace*, a *New York Times* top book of the year, comes a stunning portrait of a Black immortal who must recover the memory of her past in order to save the world in this extraordinarily affecting novel for readers of N. K. Jemisin and Octavia E. Butler.

Lou, a young Black woman, wakes up in an alley in 1930s Los Angeles, nearly naked and with no memory of how she got there or where she’s from. Taken in by a caring foster family, Lou dedicates herself to her education while trying to put her mysterious origins behind her. She’ll go on to become the first Black female journalist at the *Los Angeles Times*, but Lou’s extraordinary life is about to turn even more remarkable. When she befriends a firefighter at a downtown boxing gym, Lou is shocked to realize that though she has no memory of meeting him, she’s been drawing his face for years. Increasingly certain that their paths previously crossed—and beset by unexplainable flashes from different times that have been haunting her dreams—Lou begins to believe she may be an immortal sent for a very important reason, one that only others like her will be able to explain. With the help of her friends, Lou sets out to investigate the mystery of her existence and make sense of the jumble of lifetimes calling to her, just as new forces rise to threaten the existence of those around her.

Set against the rich historical landscape of Los Angeles—Prohibition, the creation of Route 66, and the collapse of the St. Francis Dam—*The Perishing* is a stunning examination of love and justice through the eyes of one miraculous woman whose fate seems linked to the city she comes to call home.

NATASHIA DEÓN is an NAACP Image Award Nominee, practicing criminal attorney, and college professor. A Pamela Krasney Moral Courage Fellow, Deón is the author of the critically acclaimed debut novel, *Grace*, which was named a Best Book by *The New York Times*.

X

A Novel

By Davey Davis

Rights retained: World English

Publication: July 2022

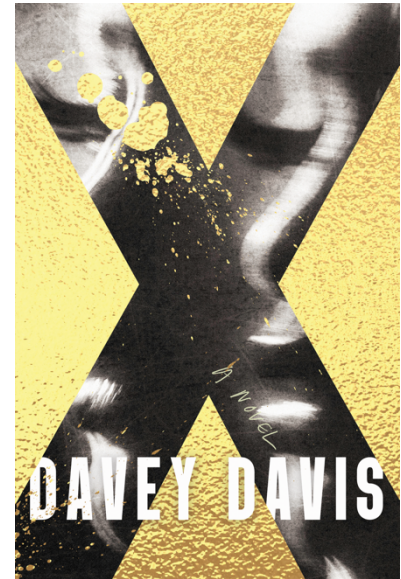
Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 316 pages

“Davis is an astounding writer, seemingly unconstrained by taboos and waist deep down in the maw of life, examining what the rest of us shy away from—never more than here in *X*, the rare book that can thrill and entertain, while simultaneously causing you to question everything about how you’re living.”

—Torrey Peters, author of *Detransition, Baby*



A thrilling portrait of political terror and the violent pleasures found in warehouses, bathrooms, and dungeons across New York City, *X* is a novel that unabashedly delves into the psyches of characters on the margins.

The world is ending, and down-and-out sadist Lee spends their days working for a big corporation and their nights wandering the streets of Brooklyn listening to true crime podcasts. But everything changes when Lee is dragged to a warehouse party by their best friend, where they find themselves in the clutches of the seductive and bloodthirsty X. When Lee seeks her out again, she’s nowhere to be found.

Amid the steady constriction of civil rights and the purging of migrants and refugees, the U.S. government has recently begun encouraging the semi-voluntary “exporting” of undesirable citizens—the radicalized, the dissident, and the ungovernable. Word has it that X may be among those leaving. If Lee doesn’t track her down soon, she may be gone forever.

DAVEY DAVIS’s first book, *the earthquake room*, was released by TigerBee Press in 2017. You can find their newsletter/mutual aid project about culture, sexuality, criticism, and people named David at itsdavid.substack.com. They live in Brooklyn.

Lungfish

A Novel

By Meghan Gilliss

Rights retained: World English

Publication: August 2022

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 275 pages

I feel the feeling that is like my brain is being used for fuel, and scan the field for things to eat.

And yet I know. I know with peaceful certainty that none of it matters—that humans are doomed, our time is coming to an end.

I know well enough to enjoy this moment.



With the emotional suspense and structural brilliance of Jenny Offil's *Dept. Of Speculation* and the mesmerizing interiority of Claire Louise-Bennett's *Pond*, *Lungfish* is the story of a woman whose husband's addiction has drained their finances and driven them to move illegally to an abandoned island off the coast of Maine. There, she must care for their young daughter and scrape together enough money to leave before winter arrives—or before they are found out—while her husband struggles to detox.

Survival on the island is urgent, but not without joy: the protagonist forages rose hips from bushes along the beach, mussels from rocks by the water, berries, seaweed, and anything else she can find. There is an existential force to this novel, shimmering in the strangeness of her malnourished mind.

With exquisite prose that is displacing and even transformative, Gilliss explores the wild, unknown spaces of what makes a family, and of our capacity to concede ourselves in order to begin again. *Lungfish* is a brilliant and heartbreaking novel about addiction, doubt, marriage, motherhood, and the ground that is ever-shifting beneath our feet.

MEGHAN GILLISS's work has been published in *Salamander*, *The Rattling Wall*, *Nat. Brut*, and *fields magazine*, among others, as well as in the recent anthology of Maine writing, *North by Northeast*. She was awarded the Alexander Cappon Prize for Fiction and is a graduate of the Bennington Writing Seminars as well as the University of Missouri's School of Journalism. She lives in Maine with her husband and their daughter.

Tell Me I'm an Artist

By Chelsea Martin

Rights retained: World English
Publication: September 2022
Available: Full manuscript
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | 284 pages

—Praise for *Caca Dolce*—

“Martin's honest writing exists above the confines of fear and social norms. She is . . . a breath of pure oxygen in a literary environment that often shies away from female grit . . . her writing is sweaty, uncomfortable, and enchanting . . . A sure hit for fans of Sara Benincasa's *Agorafabulous!* and Lena Dunham's *Not That Kind of Girl*.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)



An art student from a poor background struggles to find her place within a new social class of rich, intellectual, well-connected peers. Trouble back at home forces her to grapple with the selfishness of choosing to be an artist while the people close to her suffer.

Tell Me I'm An Artist takes place over the course of a semester in a San Francisco art school. Joelle is enrolled in a film elective for which she is supposed to make a self-portrait and has decided to remake “Rushmore” without ever having seen the movie. The assignment hangs over her as she's figuring out her place in a world that is hugely different from any she has known. Her family is miles away; she has an older sister struggling with addiction and leaves a newborn alone with their mother, who constantly suggests that Joelle is selfish for staying in school and keeping her student loan money for herself to do something frivolous. Meanwhile, her enigmatic only friend at school, Suz, makes meaningful, appealing art, a product of Suz's own singular drive and talent as well as decades of careful nurturing by wealthy, sophisticated parents.

Tell Me I'm An Artist is a novel about class and privilege and money, but it's also about how those things are invisible, their effects insidious and subtle. Joelle is self-aware and thoughtful, but she also operates under denial in order to survive. She struggles to take herself, her interests, and her desire to make art seriously as she fails to pay rent; her guilt and resentment about her family weigh on her, especially as she continues to try to push them away. The tension in the book builds slowly and masterfully, as Joey is left to wonder how she fits in amongst her well-connected art school peers, what to do with the shame of not sacrificing yourself to help others, and whether or not she is even an artist.

CHELSEA MARTIN is the author of *Everything Was Fine Until Whatever*; *The Really Funny Thing About Apathy*; *Even Though I Don't Miss You*, which was named one of the Best Indie Books of 2013 by *Dazed* magazine, *Mickey*; and *Caca Dolce*. She grew up in Northern California and attended California College of the Arts in Oakland, CA. She now lives in Spokane, WA with her husband and child, and works as a freelance writer and artist.

Dead-End Memories

Stories

By Banana Yoshimoto, translated by Asa Yoneda

Rights retained: World English

Publication: September 2022

Available: Sample manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 208 pages

—Praise for *Moshi Moshi*—

“A beautiful translation...Yoshimoto deploys a magically Japanese light touch to emotionally and existentially tough subject matter: domestic disarray, loneliness, identity issues, lovesickness...[a] nimble narrative.” —*ELLE*

“Banana Yoshimoto’s novels are like jewel boxes, and *Moshi Moshi* is no exception.”

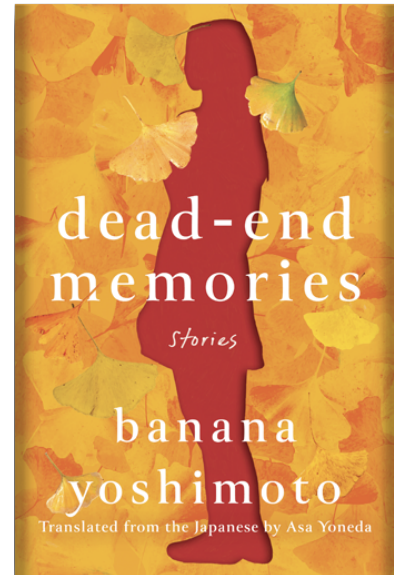
—*Vanity Fair*

Internationally celebrated Japanese author, Banana Yoshimoto returns to Counterpoint with the story collection *Dead-End Memories*, translated into English for the first time.

The short story collection *Dead-End Memories*, first published in Japan in 2003, includes stories of five women who, following sudden and painful events, quietly observe their lives and discover their ways back to recovery. Among the women you’ll meet in *Dead End Memories* are a college student who encounters the ghosts of an elderly couple who haven’t realized that they have been dead for years; a writer who recalls her childhood friend and his profound appreciation for life; and a victim of sexual assault who finally finds a small hope of romance. Yoshimoto repeatedly reminds us that the true miracle is as simple as sharing a meal with someone in a park. Happiness surrounds us, and her gentle, effortless prose makes that spiritual idea available to everyone.

BANANA YOSHIMOTO has won numerous prizes in her native Japan and around the world. In Italy she won the Scanno Literary Prize in 1993, the Fendissime Literary Prize in 1996, the Maschera d’argento Prize in 1999, and the Capri Award in 2011. She is the author of ten books including the international bestseller, *Kitchen*. Her works have been translated and published in more than 30 countries. She lives in Tokyo.

ASA YONEDA was born in Osaka, Japan, and lives in Bristol, U.K. In addition to Yukiko Motoya, she has translated works by Banana Yoshimoto, Aoko Matsuda, and Natsuko Kuroda.



The Islands

Stories

By Dionne Irving

Rights retained: World English

Publication: November 2022

Available: Unedited manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 200 pages

Unpacking issues of race, immigration, sexual discrimination, and class, *The Islands* contains ten stories about the Jamaican diaspora that examine the lives of people of color who are haunted by the ghosts of colonialism.



Though Dionne’s stories are set across the globe—London, Panama, France, Mumbai, Jamaica, Florida and New England—most are told by characters of Jamaican descent and explore the legacy of colonialism. The voices here range from a divorced boxer struggling to give a birthday present (a baby pig) to his daughter, to an alcoholic couple who fear their Southern neighbors, to a wealthy housewife returning to Panama to bury her childhood abuelita. In conversation with each other, and the world we live in today, the stories in this collection are fiercely honest and just as fiercely understanding.

DIONNE IRVING’s work has previously appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *The Normal School*, *Carve Magazine*, *The New Delta Review*, *Story Magazine*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Terminus Magazine* and *New Flash Fiction Review*. Irving’s essay “Treading Water” was a notable selection in *Best American Essays 2017*. She has received fellowships from the Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation and Sewanee Writers’ Conference. She is currently a professor of English at St. Mary’s College.

The Survivalists

By Kashana Cauley

Rights retained: World English
Publication: January 2023
Available: Unedited manuscript
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)
Genre: Fiction | 291 pages



But Aaron's hurricane speech had gotten to her. She'd done some googling to doublecheck what he told her and spent hours looking at color-coded maps that showed the hurricanes arcing north more often since the planet had been put on the stove to boil. She'd found charts detailing the progression of northern hurricane season, which had grown to almost six full months of keeping watch over the ocean. She'd watch the forecast videos of hurricanes with generic-ass names swirling around the Caribbean and wonder if the next one would crawl up to their stretch of coast, even though she spent most of her time on the fifty-eighth floor of a building, fifty-seven stories too high for hurricanes to bother with. If she couldn't prepare herself for the emotional and financial insult of getting fired, she could at least figure out how to escape some rising water.

With dark humor calling to mind Ling Ma's *Severance* and its psychologically acute depictions of office life, and explorations of millennial financial stress and emotional unease in the vein of Halle Butler's *The New Me*, Kashana Cauley's debut novel *The Survivalists* is about a black lawyer who puts her career and personal moral code at risk when she moves in with her coffee-company owning boyfriend and his law-breaking, doomsday-prepping roommates.

In New York City, we find Aretha, a workaholic, terminally single lawyer, when she meets the perfect guy: Aaron, the charmingly laid-back head roaster of his own company—Tactical Coffee. If only he didn't own his business with Brittany and James, his Hurricane Sandy-traumatized, illegal-gun-stockpiling, optimized-soy-protein-eating, bunker-building roommates. Her therapist best friend Nia calls out the red flags, but Aretha loves Aaron, so she moves into his company's Brooklyn brownstone headquarters, figuring she's strong-willed and cynical enough to avoid getting sucked into the household's survivalist leanings. She is able to hold her own despite Aaron's sparse presence due to his increasingly frequent work trips, that is until her career begins going awry, making the off-the-grid aspect of the Tactical Coffee lifestyle appear to be a tempting alternative to the insurmountable obstacle of making partner at her firm. Aretha's addictively sardonic, wry voice will appeal to readers of Nafissa Thompson-Spires and Paul Beatty.

KASHANA CAULEY is a writer for the Fox comedy *The Great North*, a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*, and a *GQ* contributor. She's written for *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* and *Pod Save America* on HBO as well as *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Pitchfork*, and *Rolling Stone*, and has published fiction in *Esquire*, *Slate*, *Tin House*, and *The Chronicles of Now*. Kashana now lives in Los Angeles.

Cross-genre & Poetry

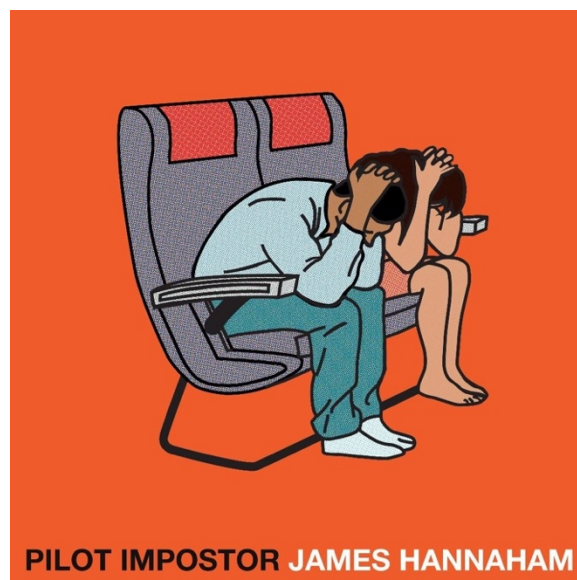
Pilot Impostor

By James Hannaham

Rights retained: World English
Publication: November 2021
Available: Unedited manuscript
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)
Genre: Cross-genre | 160 pages

“Hannaham’s book—not quite a novel, not quite a short story collection, not quite like anything else—is a clever series of reflections on art, doubt, race, and impostor syndrome . . . Hannaham continues to be one of the country’s smartest and most surprising writers of fiction . . . Unclassifiable, dizzying, and gorgeous.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)



From visual artist and award-winning writer of *Delicious Foods*, a book of prose and images that uses the poetry of Fernando Pessoa and the history of air disasters to investigate con men, identity politics, failures of leadership, the privilege of ineptitude, the slave trade, and the nature of consciousness.

Early in 2017, on a plane trip from Cape Verde to Lisbon, James Hannaham started reading Pessoa & Co., Richard Zenith’s English translation of Fernando Pessoa’s selected works. It was two months since the presidential election; like many people, ideas about unfitness for service and failures of leadership were very much on his mind.

Imagine his consternation upon opening the Pessoa anthology to discover that the first line in the first poem, *The Keeper of Sheep* is: “I’ve never kept sheep/But it’s as if I did.”

The Portuguese, Hannaham had been musing, were also responsible for jump-starting colonialism and the global slave trade, which gradually became racialized based on false beliefs about people of African descent. Pessoa published only one book in Portuguese in his lifetime, *Mensagem*, which consisted of unselfconscious paeans to European explorers.

Hannaham felt compelled to respond to Pessoa’s work in some way: to undo it in certain respects, and to rescue from it what still felt relevant. Once in Lisbon, he began a quasi-daily practice of reading a poem from Zenith’s anthology, meditating on a response, and writing a piece in whatever mode seemed to click, regardless of form or genre. This book is the result of that practice.

JAMES HANNAHAM was born in the Bronx, grew up in Yonkers, New York, and now lives in Brooklyn. His most recent novel, *Delicious Foods*, won the PEN/Faulkner and Hurston/Wright Legacy Awards. His novel *God Says No* was honored by the ALA’s Stonewall Book Awards. His short stories have been in *One Story*, *Fence*, *Story Quarterly*, *BOMB*.

What to Miss When

Poems

By Leigh Stein

Rights retained: World

Publication: August 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Poetry | 128 pages

—Winner of The Almas 5781 for The Best Jewish Poetry—

“*What To Miss When* is hilarious and absolutely horrifying. If you think the quarantine habits you developed are unique and charming, read this book to be put in your place. But I beg of you, gift that to yourself, it’ll make you feel less alone. ‘I’m a feminist, I got the memo,’ is Stein’s perfect disclaimer when shouting the things so many of us are afraid to even whisper. It’s a specific kind of book that helps us remember how things were, that serves as a map for our children to understand why we are the way we are. This book is one of them.” —**Olivia Gatwood, author of *Life of the Party***

“Darkly humorous . . . Pleasantly sarcastic . . . The power in this collection lies in the way Stein serves her feelings on ice.” —***Library Journal***

Catalyzed by sheltering in place and by a personal challenge to give up alcohol for thirty days, Leigh Stein, the poet laureate of *The Bachelor*, has written a 21st century *Decameron* to frame modern fables of reality TV and wellness influencers, juicy thoughtcrimes and love languages, and the mixed messages of contemporary feminism.

“Think Starlight,” the first poem in this collection, written before any self-quarantine orders, imagined the likelihood that the United States would follow in Italy’s footsteps in terms of caseload and hospital overwhelm. By March 17, 2020, the imagined was *the real*; New York City had closed schools, bars, and restaurants—with the rest of the country to follow.

With nihilist humor and controlled despair, *What to Miss When* explores fears of death and grocery shopping, stress cleaning and drinking, influencers behaving badly, everything we took for granted, and life mediated by screens—with dissociation-via-internet, and looking for mirrors in a fourteenth-century pandemic text, a kind of survival response to living casually through catastrophe.

LEIGH STEIN is the author of five books, including the novel *Self Care* and the poetry collection *Dispatch from the Future*. She has also written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Allure*, *Elle*, *The Cut*, *Salon*, and *Slate*. She is a recipient of an Amy Award from *Poets & Writers*, and *The Cut* named her “poet laureate of *The Bachelor*.”



Path of Totality

Poems

By Niina Pollari

Rights retained: World English

Publication: February 2022

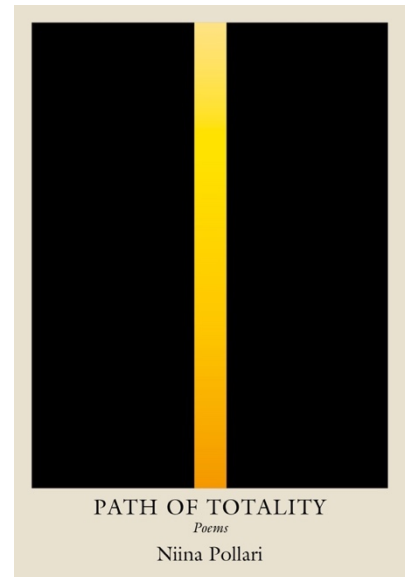
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Poetry | 144 pages

“These poems are blisteringly clear, devastated, and oracular, and they brim with the kindness that comes after terrible enlightenment.”

—Sarah Manguso, author of *300 Arguments*



“You hold this book but this book also holds you . . . This book is alive, as painful as that might be to its brilliant writer. It’s not much comfort but not much can comfort—comfort is not in this universe. What suffuses this universe is all the universe holds despite what, and who, is lost. Am I speaking in code? Any reader of this book knows what I’m saying about it—to the reader nothing, not even utter emptiness, is alien. And emptiness is never utter, though it can be uttered and that sound resembles a splash of stars, a milky wash of stark existence, consciousness, connectedness almost unbearably relentless, almost unbearably beautiful.”

—Brenda Shaughnessy, author of *The Octopus Museum*

Exploring the sudden loss of her child, the hope that precedes this crisis, and the suffering that follows, this collection of poetry renders a shattering experience with candor and immediacy.

This collection is about the eviscerating loss of a child, the hope that precedes this crisis, and the suffering that follows. Spare, plain, sometimes startling in their snatches of humor, Pollari’s poems careen into the “tilted reality” of grief. This is poetry dredged from shock and rage, then dissected with pointillistic precision.

Many of the pieces are closer to prose: in plain, forceful, language that will capture readers outside the poetry audience, they uncover and name sentiments outside of what is expected in books about child loss and grief: for instance, the embarrassment Niina felt for letting herself feel hope and joy, for revealing that she desired to be a mother at all, and for having to inform the world that her desire would not be granted.

A shattering experience rendered with candor and immediacy, *Path of Totality* is a book “for anyone who ever expected anything” about a rarely told experience of motherhood.

NIINA POLLARI is the author of *Dead Horse* and the translator, from the Finnish, of Tytti Heikkinen’s *The Warmth of the Taxidermied Animal*. She is also an occasional reviewer. Her work can be found at *Catapult*, *LA Review of Books*, *Pitchfork*, and other outlets.

Shotgun Seamstress

By Osa Atoe

Rights retained: World English
Publication: November 2022
Available: Unedited manuscript
Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)
Genre: Nonfiction / Zine | 233 pages



“Creating a separate currency for those that are not interested in replicating boring ideals in underground existences, *Shotgun Seamstress* is like the best mix tape anyone has ever made, where radical politics are never sidelined for an easier ride, where good times are never in doubt and where subsumed experiences are revealed as real.” —**Layla Gibbons, *Maximum Rocknroll***

Through essays, interviews, historical portraits of important artists and scenes, reviews, and so much more, *Shotgun Seamstress* pays tribute to and gives a platform for Black feminists, artists, punks, queers, and musicians.

Shotgun Seamstress is a cut-and-paste celebration of Black punk and outsider identity. Laid out by hand, photocopied and distributed in small batches, each issue features interviews with and portraits of musicians and artists that typify free Black expression and interrupt notions of Black culture as a monolith.

Figures such as Vaginal Cream Davis, the seminal Black punk band Death, Poly Styrene, Bay Area rocker Brontez Purnell, British post-punker Rachel Aggs, New York photographer Alvin Baltrop, Detroit garage rocker Mick Collins and so many others demonstrate the scope of Blackness outside of mainstream corporate consumerist identity. Within the pages of this book, rock’n’roll is reclaimed as Black music and a wide spectrum of gender and sexuality is represented. The collection comprises eight issues created between 2006 and 2015, with a new introduction by Atoe.

OSA ATOE is an artist, teacher, and ceramicist operating Pottery by Osa, producing small-batch handmade ceramics. Currently residing in Sarasota, Florida, Osa previously lived in Portland, OR and New Orleans, where she primarily made *Shotgun Seamstress*. Osa is also a punk musician who performed in numerous bands including VHS, New Bloods, and Firebrand.

Notable Backlist

Heart Berries

A Memoir

By Terese Marie Mailhot

Rights retained: World

Paperback Publication: April 2019

Available: Full manuscript

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

Genre: Memoir | 126 pages

— *A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* —

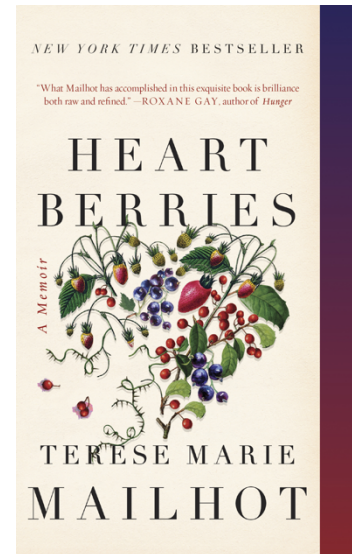
A *New York Times* Editors' Choice

A Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection

An Emma Watson Book Club selection

An NPR Best Book of the Year

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



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

—Parul Sehgal, *The New York Times*

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

—Roxane Gay, author of *Hunger*

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

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

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

A Human Algorithm *How Artificial Intelligence is Redefining Who We Are* By Flynn Coleman

Rights retained: World

Paperback Publication: November 2019

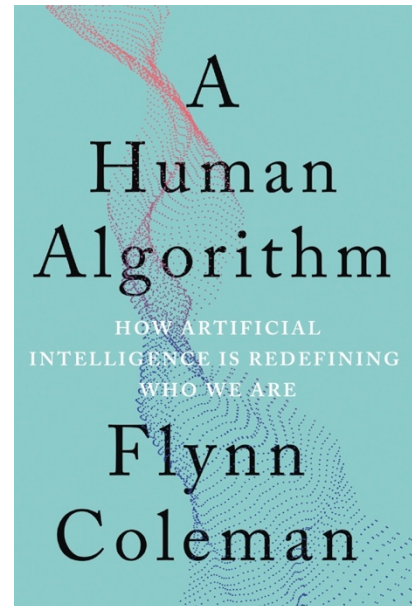
Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Counterpoint (US/English), Melville House (UK), Arab Scientific Publishers (Arabic)

Genre: Nonfiction / Technology | 336 pages

“[An] earnest, meaty investigation of the ideal future of how we work with intelligent technologies . . . Coleman necessarily operates in the realm of conjecture because she grapples with age-old questions and the unframed future. However, AI's rapidly expanding capacity for autonomy suggests that these are the very questions that must be addressed now . . . An energetic, holistic consideration of AI's potentialities to impact our lives in profound ways.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



Spirited, expansive, and universal, this is your personal guidebook to reimagining life in the Intelligent Machine Age and thriving in our brave new world.

A Human Algorithm: How Artificial Intelligence is Redefining Who We Are examines the immense impact intelligent technology will have on human rights and humanity in the face of sweeping change. It details how intelligent machines, like nothing before in history, will challenge some of our most deeply held beliefs and illustrates why it is critical that we instill values, ethics, and morals into our robots, algorithms, and other forms of AI. Equally important, Coleman emphasizes the need to develop and implement laws, policies, and oversight mechanisms to protect us from tech's insidious threats. To realize AI's transcendent promise, Coleman advocates for inviting a diverse group of voices to develop intelligent machines that place safeguarding human rights among the founding principles of emerging technologies. Ultimately, *A Human Algorithm* is about much more than technology. It is about how our relationships with technology will lead us to redefine human rights and the very meaning of intelligence and consciousness.

FLYNN COLEMAN has worked with the United Nations, the United States federal government, and international corporations and human rights organizations around the world. She has written extensively on issues of global citizenship, the future of work and purpose, political reconciliation, human and civil rights, and innovation and design for social impact. *A Human Algorithm* is her first book. She lives in New York City.

High as the Waters Rise

A Novel

By Anja Kampmann, translated by Anne Posten

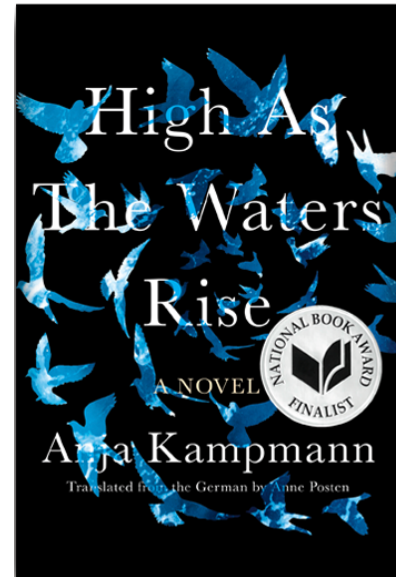
Rights retained: World English

Publication: September 2020

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 320 pages



“The beautiful English-language debut from German poet Kampmann tells the story of a middle-aged oil rig worker’s emotional crisis after the death of his friend . . . As Waclaw digs up memories of his drilling throughout the world—in Morocco, Mexico, and Brazil—he ruminates on generations of workers who must eke out a living by exploiting the earth and its resources. Kampmann captures the visceral uneasiness that arises from second guessing one’s past.” —*Publishers Weekly*

German poet Anja Kampmann’s award-winning debut novel is the dazzling, heartrending story of an oil rig worker whose closest friend goes missing, plunging him into isolation and forcing him to confront his past.

One night aboard an oil drilling platform in the Atlantic, Waclaw returns to his cabin to find that his bunkmate and companion, Mátyás, has gone missing. A search of the rig confirms his fear that Mátyás has fallen into the sea. Grief-stricken, he embarks on an epic emotional and physical journey that takes him to Morocco, Budapest, and Mátyás’s hometown in Hungary, to Malta, Italy, and finally to the mining town of his childhood in Germany. Waclaw’s encounters along the way with other lost and yearning souls—Mátyás’s angry, grieving half sister; lonely rig workers on shore leave; a truck driver who watches the world change from his driver’s seat—bring us closer to his origins while also revealing the problems of a globalized economy dependent on waning natural resources. *High as the Waters Rise* is a stirring exploration of male intimacy, the nature of memory and grief, and the cost of freedom—the story of a man who stands at the margins of a society from which he has profited little, though its functioning depends on his labor.

German poet **ANJA KAMPMANN** was born in Hamburg and resides in Leipzig. *High as the Waters Rise* is her first novel, for which she received the Mara Cassens Prize for best German debut novel and the Lessing Promotion Prize. She was also awarded the Bergen-Enkheim Prize and was nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize and the German Book Prize.

ANNE POSTEN translates prose, poetry, and drama from the German. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, and her translations of authors such as Peter Bichsel, Carl Seelig, Thomas Brasch, and more, have appeared with New Directions, Christine Burgin/The University of Chicago Press, *Music & Literature*, *n+1*, *VICE*, *The Buenos Aires Review*, *FIELD*, *Stonecutter*, and *Hanging Loose*, among other publications. She is based in Berlin.

Craft in the Real World

Rethinking Fiction Writing and Workshopping

By Matthew Salesses

Rights retained: World English

Publication: January 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Catapult (US/English)

Genre: Reference / Writing | 208 pages

“Brilliant. Essential. This book will—and should—change creative writing workshops forever.”

—Joy Castro, author of *Hell or High Water*

“Salesses is clearly a generous instructor, willing to share ideas for syllabus design, grading techniques and writing exercises. He brings to this work many years of experience as a writer and professor, along with palpable frustration at what he has witnessed or endured in these roles . . . *Craft in the Real World* is a significant contribution to discussions of the art of fiction and a necessary challenge to received views about whose stories are told, how they are told and for whom they are intended.”

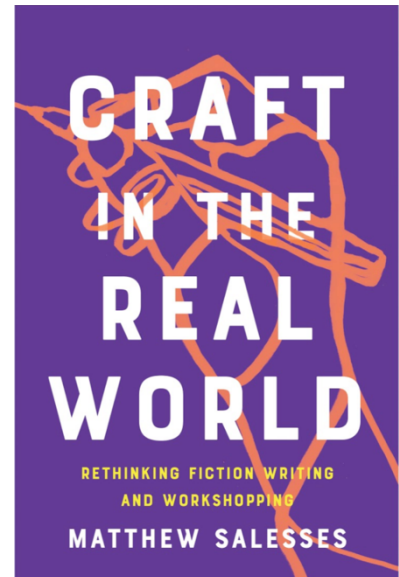
—Laila Lalami, *The New York Times Book Review*

Drawing from examples including *One Thousand and One Nights*, *Curious George*, Ursula K. Le Guin’s *A Wizard of Earthsea*, and the Asian American classic *No-No Boy*, Salesses asks us to reimagine craft and the workshop.

The traditional writing workshop was established with white male writers in mind; what we call craft is informed by their cultural values. This bold and original examination of elements of writing—including plot, character, conflict, structure, and believability—also pays close attention to elements of workshop, including the silenced writer and the imagined reader. Matthew Salesses asks questions to invigorate these familiar concepts. He upends Western notions of how a story must progress. How can we rethink craft, and the teaching of it, to better reach writers with diverse backgrounds? How can we invite diverse storytelling traditions into literary spaces?

In the pages of exercises included here, teachers will find suggestions for building syllabi, grading, and introducing new methods to the classroom; students will find revision and editing guidance, as well as a new lens for reading their work. Salesses shows that we need to interrogate the lack of diversity at the core of published fiction: how we teach and write it. After all, as he reminds us, “When we write fiction, we write the world.”

MATTHEW SALETTES is the author of three novels, *Disappear Doppelgänger Disappear*, *The Hundred-Year Flood*, and *I’m Not Saying, I’m Just Saying*, and a forthcoming essay collection. He was adopted from Korea and currently lives in Iowa.



The Elephant of Belfast

A Novel

By S. Kirk Walsh

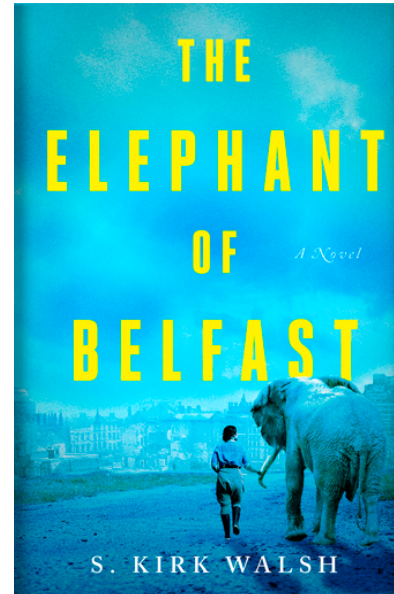
Rights retained: World

Publication: April 2021

Available: Full manuscript

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

Genre: Historical Fiction | 336 pages



“An elephant, a young zookeeper, the city of Belfast, bombings, and an IRA member are the improbable characters in this captivating and intimately felt novel that tells the story of a young woman’s uncommon devotion and courage under fire.”

—Lily Tuck, author of *Sisters* and *The Double Life of Liliane*

“There’s so much life in these pages, life as well as death—we’re in wartime Belfast, dear reader, and the Luftwaffe is dropping bombs—that I couldn’t help but feel changed by the end, experienced. Only the best novels do that, and the very fine *Elephant of Belfast* belongs in that rank.”

—Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk*

“This is historical fiction at its finest—as readers we are transported to the past, yet the themes are timeless. I was drawn in and moved by the lives of Walsh’s characters, which she has rendered with empathy and ingenuity. The ultimate triumph of unlikely love and friendship stayed with me long after I finished reading.” —Nina McConigley, author of *Cowboys and East Indians*, winner of the PEN Open Book Award

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

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

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

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

Future Feeling

A Novel

By Joss Lake

Rights retained: World English

Publication: June 2021

Available: Full manuscript

Publishers: Soft Skull Press (US/English)

Genre: Fiction | 304 pages

“Akin to a queer millennial version of *The Alchemist*, complete with proverbs and personal growth . . . This is a modern allegory with a unique voice—searching, questioning, vulnerable, witty.” —*Kirkus Reviews*



A wildly inventive, delightfully subversive, genre-nonconforming debut novel about illusion, magic, technology, kinship, and the emergent future.

The year is 20__, and Penfield R. Henderson is in a rut. When he's not walking dogs for cash or responding to booty calls from his B-list celebrity hookup, he's holed up in his dingy Bushwick apartment obsessing over holograms of Aiden Chase, a fellow trans man and influencer documenting his much smoother transition into picture-perfect masculinity on the Gram. After an IRL encounter with Aiden leaves Pen feeling especially resentful, Pen enlists his roommates, the Witch and the Stoner-Hacker, to put their respective talents to use in hexing Aiden. Together, they gain access to Aiden's social media account and post a picture of Pen's aloe plant, Alice, tied to a curse: Whosoever beholds the aloe will be pushed into the Shadowlands.

When the hex accidentally bypasses Aiden, sending another young trans man named Blithe to the Shadowlands (the dreaded emotional landscape through which every trans person must journey to achieve true self-actualization), the Rhiz (the quasi-benevolent big brother agency overseeing all trans matters) orders Pen and Aiden to team up and retrieve him. The two trace Blithe to a dilapidated motel in California and bring him back to New York, where they try to coax Blithe to stop speaking only in code and awkwardly try to pass on what little trans wisdom they possess. As the trio makes its way in a world that includes pitless avocados and subway cars that change color based on occupants' collective moods but still casts judgment on anyone not perfectly straight, Pen starts to learn that sometimes a family isn't just the people who birthed you. Magnificently imagined, linguistically dazzling, and riotously fun, *Future Feeling* presents an alternate future in which advanced technology still can't replace human connection but may give the trans community new ways to care for its own.

JOSS LAKE is a trans writer and educator based in New York whose work has been supported by Queens Council of the Arts, Women and Performance Studies Collective, the Watermill Center, and Columbia University. He runs a literary sauna series called Trans at Rest. This is his debut novel.

Co-Agents

Brazil

Villas-Boas & Moss Agency

Baltic States, Central Europe (excl. Poland), Balkan & Southeastern Europe, Eastern Europe (excl. Russia, Belarus, Ukraine)

Livia Stoia Agency

China

CA-Link

Greece

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Japan

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Korea

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Poland

Graal Agency

Russia, Belarus, Ukraine

Anastasia Lester Agency

Spain & Latin America

SalmaiaLit

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The Artemis Agency

Turkey

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Abner Stein