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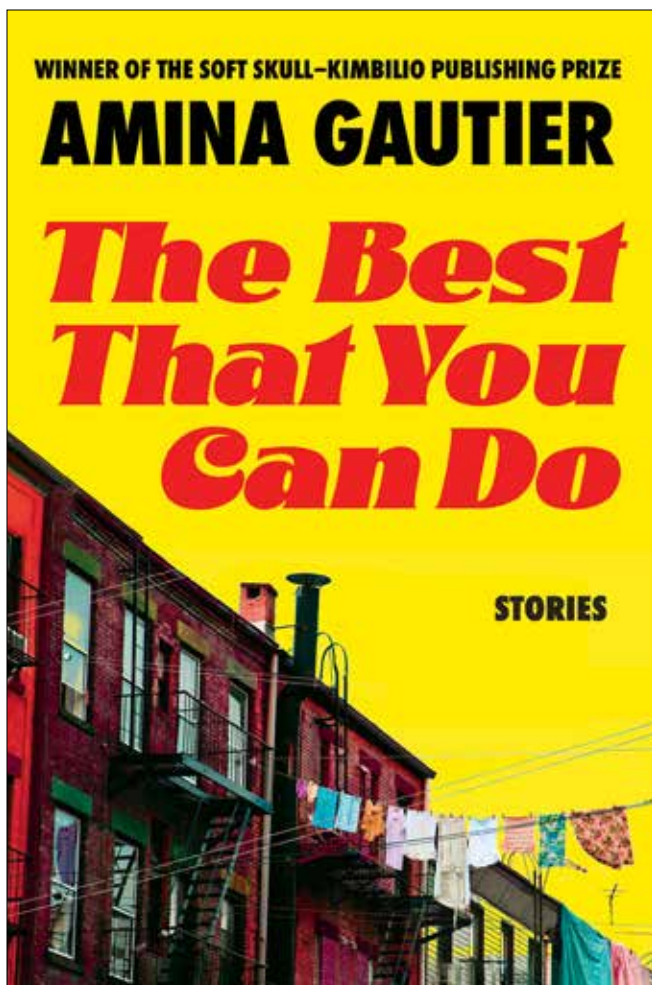
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Author hometown: Brooklyn, NY
 Author residence: Miami, FL
 Photo: Laura Bianchi

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THE BEST THAT YOU CAN DO STORIES

AMINA GAUTIER

SUMMARY

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

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

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

“The Best That You Can Do is another triumph for Amina Gautier. These stories show off the enormous range and versatility we fans have come to expect. In recent years Gautier has been performing ever greater feats of compression and distillation. In her hands, the microfiction or short-short is a jewel box to show off the scintillations of ‘ordinary’ experience, especially childhood experience. This is the luminous everyday, and Gautier’s talent is incandescent.”

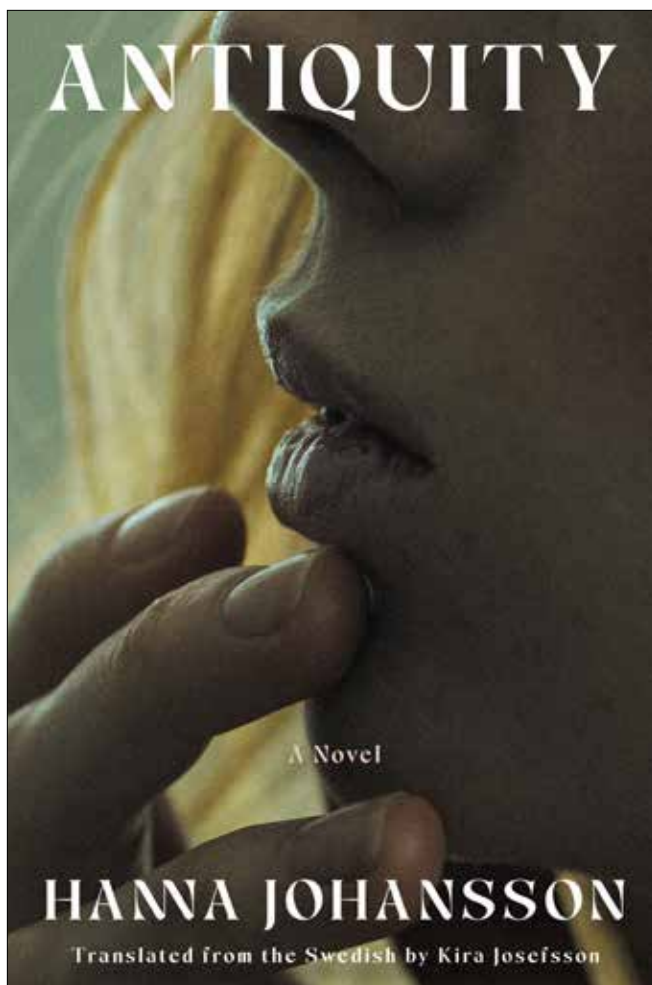
—Michael Griffith, author of *Bibliophilia* and *Trophy*

AUTHOR BIO



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





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Author residence: Stockholm, Sweden

Author Photo: Evelina Boberg

Translator hometown: Stockholm, Sweden

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ANTIQUITY

A NOVEL

HANNA JOHANSSON

TRANSLATED BY KIRA JOSEFSSON

SUMMARY

Elegant, slippery, and provocative, *Antiquity* is a queer *Lolita* story by prize-winning Swedish author Hanna Johansson—a story of desire, power, obsession, observation, and taboo

Antiquity follows its unnamed narrator, a lonely woman in her thirties who becomes enamored of a chic older artist, Helena, after interviewing her for a magazine. Helena invites the narrator to join her in the Greek city of Ermoupoli where she summers with her teenage daughter Olga. At first an object of jealousy, Olga morphs into an object of desire as the pull of Helena is transposed onto her daughter and the prospect of becoming someone's first, if perverse, lover.

With echoes of *Death in Venice*, *Call Me by Your Name*, *The Lover*, and *Lolita*, but wholly original and contemporary, *Antiquity* probes the depths of memory, power, and the narratives that arrange our experience of the world.

“Enthrancing and calamitous, *Antiquity* dreams deeply into the shadows of desire and obsession. A precise and mysterious spell of a book.” —Rachel Yoder, author of *Nightbitch*

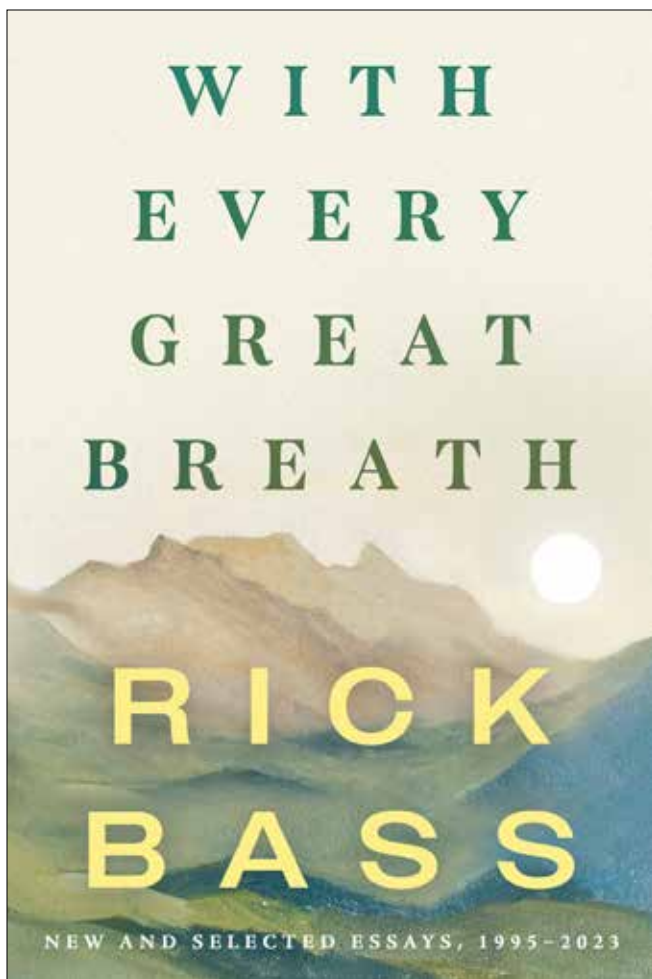
AUTHOR BIO



HANNA JOHANSSON is a Swedish writer and critic who writes on such topics as art, literature, and queer issues. *Antiquity*, her debut novel, won the 2021 Katapultpris and was short-listed for the Borås Tidning Debutant Prize.



KIRA JOSEFSSON is a writer and translator working between English and Swedish. She is the recipient of grants from the PEN/Heim Translation Fund and the Swedish Arts Council. She writes about the intersection of politics, literature, and identity for both Swedish and English-language publications.



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WITH EVERY GREAT BREATH

NEW AND SELECTED ESSAYS, 1995-2023

RICK BASS

SUMMARY

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

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

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

“Durable and authentic . . . A writer who can both frighten and amaze.”
 —Jim Harrison

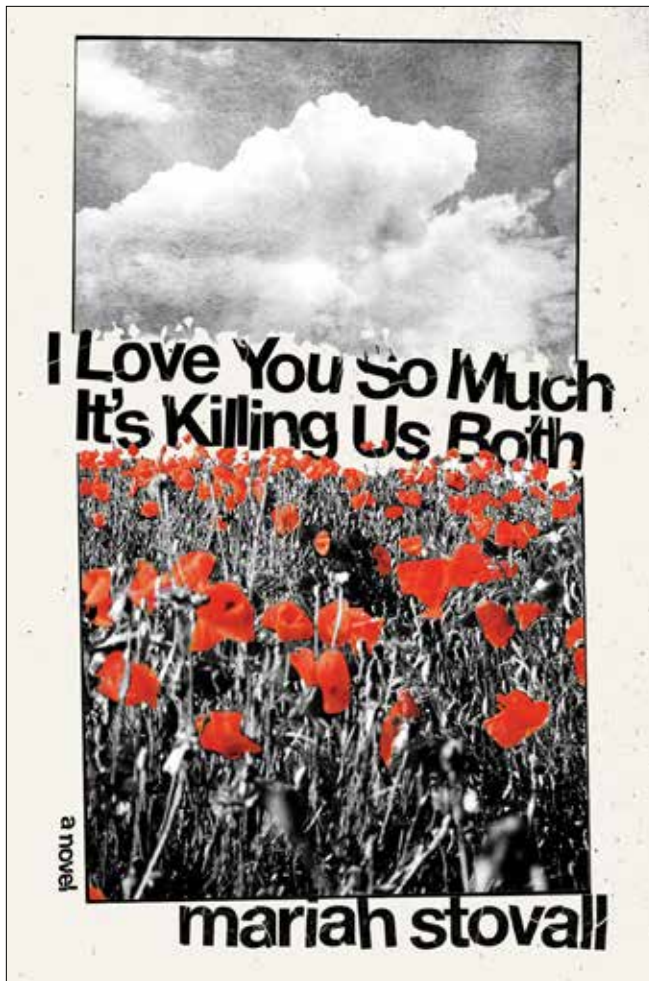
“A seasoned author in full possession of his art and craft.”
 —*Denver Post*

“Probably no American writer since Hemingway has written about man-in-nature more beautifully or powerfully than Rick Bass.”
 —*Dallas Morning News*

AUTHOR BIO



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



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I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT'S KILLING US BOTH

A NOVEL

MARIAH STOVALL

SUMMARY

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

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

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

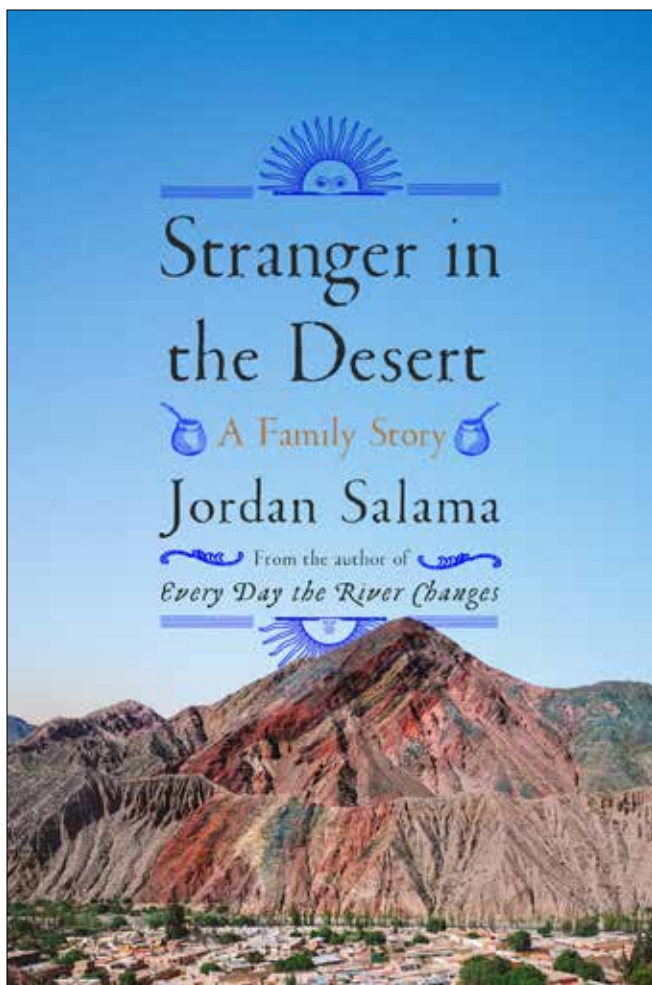
One song at a time, from 1980s hardcore to 2010s emo, the shared and separate contours of each woman's mind come into focus. Will listening to the same old songs on repeat doom Khaki to a lonely life of arrested development? Or will hindsight help her regain her sense of self and pave a healthy path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

AUTHOR BIO



MARIAH STOVALL has written fiction for the anthology *Black Punk Now*, and for *Ninth Letter*, Vol 1. *Brooklyn*, *Hobart*, the *Minola Review*, and *Joyland*; and nonfiction for *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Full Stop*, Hanif Abdurraqib's *68to05*, *The Paris Review*, *Poets & Writers*, and *Literary Hub*. *I Love You So Much It's Killing Us Both* is her

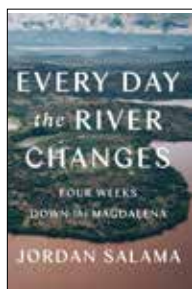
first novel and *24 Hour Revenge Therapy* is her favorite Jawbreaker album. She lives in New Jersey.



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Also available
9781646221615

STRANGER IN THE DESERT

A FAMILY STORY

JORDAN SALAMA

SUMMARY

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

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

One story in particular captures his attention: that of his great-grandfather, a Syrian-born, Arabic-speaking Jewish immigrant to Argentina who in the 1920s worked as a traveling salesman in the Andes—and may have left behind forgotten descendants along the way. Encouraged by his grandfather, Jordan goes in search of these “Lost Salamas,” traveling more than a thousand miles up the spine of South America’s greatest mountain range.

Combining travelog, history, memoir, and reportage, *Stranger in the Desert* transports readers from the lonely plains of Patagonia to the breathtaking altiplano of the high Andes; from the old Jewish quarter of Damascus to today’s vibrant neighborhoods of Buenos Aires. It is also a fervent journey of self-discovery as Salama grapples with his own Jewish, Arab, and Latin American identities, interrogating the stories families tell themselves, and to what end.

“Jordan Salama writes with an attentiveness, and a sense of adventure, that many of us might envy; this engaging, intrepid debut promises many more wonders to come. Already he’s shown himself to be a writer with a rare (and inspiring) commitment to giving us the world.”

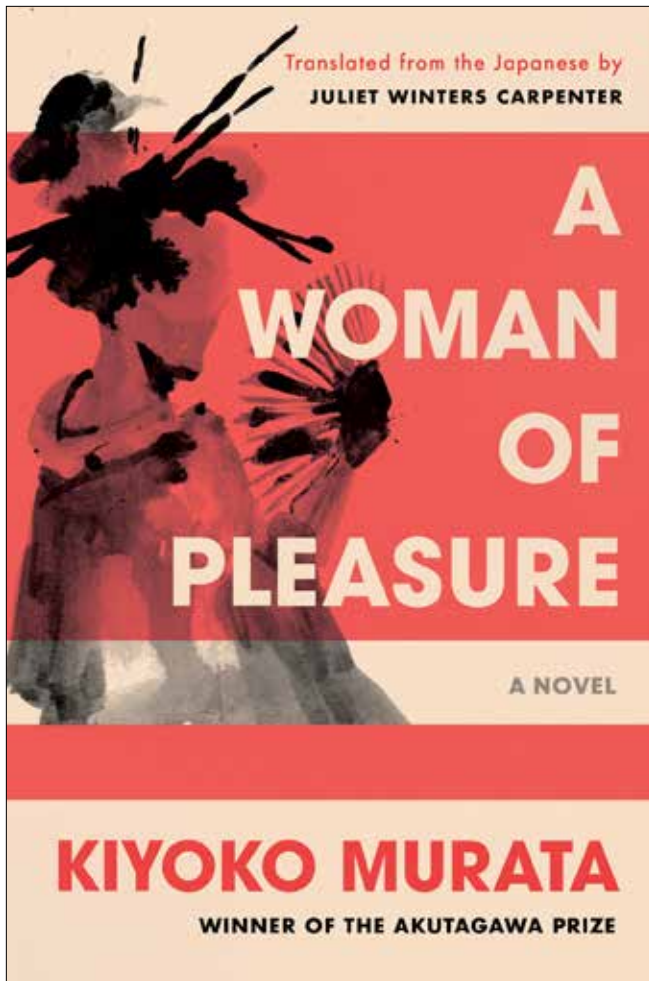
—Pico Iyer, author of *Autumn Light*

“A born journalist.” —John McPhee, *Princeton University News*

AUTHOR BIO



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



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 Author photo: Courtesy of the author

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 Translator photo: Toyota Horiguchi

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A WOMAN OF PLEASURE

A NOVEL

KIYOKO MURATA

TRANSLATED BY
 JULIET WINTERS CARPENTER

SUMMARY

“Even though *A Woman of Pleasure* exposes the brutal life of sex workers, a dynamic optimism runs throughout the book. Only Kiyoko Murata can convey this world.”

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

In 1903, a fifteen-year-old girl named Aoi Ichi is sold to the most exclusive brothel in Kumamoto, Japan. Despite her modest beginnings in a southern fishing village, she becomes the protégée of an oiran, the highest-ranking courtesan at the brothel. Through the teachings of her oiran, Shinonome, Ichi begins to understand the intertwined power of sex and money. And in her mandatory school lessons, her writing instructor, Tetsuko, encourages Ichi and the others to think clearly and express themselves. By banding together, the women organize a strike and walk away from the brothel and into the possibility of new lives.

Based on real-life events in Meiji-era Japan, award-winning and critically acclaimed veteran writer Kiyoko Murata re-creates in stunning detail the brutal yet vibrant lives of women in the red-light district at the turn of the twentieth century—the bond they share, the survival skills they pass down, and the power of owning one’s language.

“The book which fully showcases the craft of a veteran writer.”

—*Tokyo Shimbun*

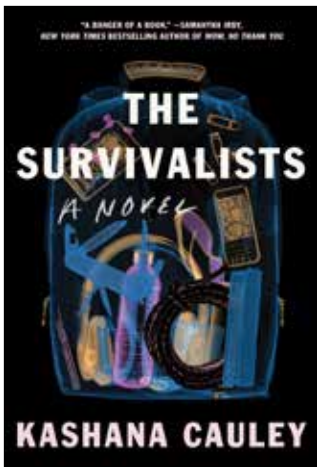
AUTHOR BIO



KIYOKO MURATA has been awarded over ten major literary awards in Japan, including the Akutagawa Prize in 1987. *A Woman of Pleasure* is her first book to be published in English. She lives in Fukuoka, Japan.



JULIET WINTERS CARPENTER is a distinguished translator of Japanese literature whose work has received numerous awards. She lives with her husband on Whidbey Island in Washington State.



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THE SURVIVALISTS

A NOVEL

KASHANA CAULEY

SUMMARY

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

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

AUTHOR BIO

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



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WHEN TRYING TO RETURN HOME

STORIES

JENNIFER MARITZA MCCAULEY

SUMMARY

A *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. A dazzling debut collection spanning a century of Black American and Afro-Latino life in Puerto Rico, Pittsburgh, Louisiana, Miami, and beyond—and an evocative meditation on belonging, the meaning of home, and how we secure freedom on our own terms.

"McCauley writes with a lovely lyricism and musicality, an adroitness of construction that brings a lightness to her heavier subjects. Within a crowded field of collections that explore family, motherhood and identity, this debut makes the case for one more." —Amil Niazi, *The New York Times*

AUTHOR BIO

JENNIFER MARITZA MCCAULEY is a writer, poet, and university professor. She has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Kimbilio, CantoMundo and the Sundress Academy for the Arts. She holds an MFA from Florida International University and a PhD in creative writing and literature from the University of Missouri. The author of the cross-genre collection *SCAR ON/SCAR OFF*, she is an assistant professor of literature and creative writing at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.



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BRUTES

A NOVEL

DIZZ TATE

SUMMARY

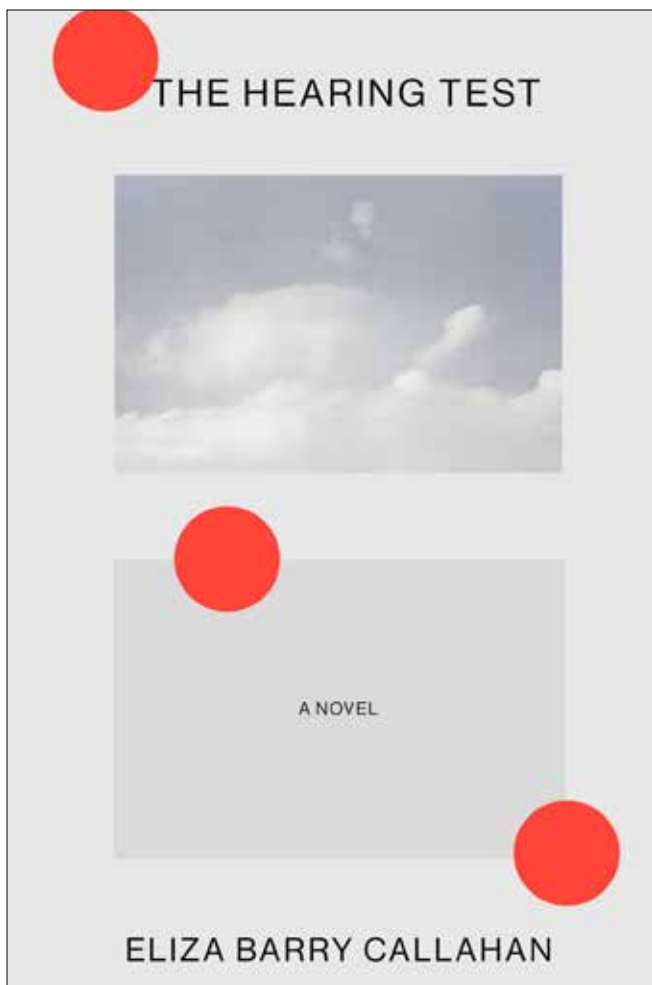
A Belletrist Book Pick. *The Virgin Suicides* meets *The Florida Project* in this wildly original debut—a coming-of-age story about the crucible of girlhood, from a writer of rare and startling talent.

“Elegant . . . *Brutes* feels wonderfully untethered, wild and unpredictable. The novel is an exploration of adolescent trauma and its otherworldly manifestations rather than a retelling of a trope.”

—Danya Kukafka, *The New York Times Book Review*

AUTHOR BIO

DIZZ TATE grew up in Florida and lives in London, U.K. She has had short stories published in *Granta*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Dazed*, *No Tokens Journal*, *Five Dials*, *3:AM Magazine*, among other publications. She was long-listed for the Sunday Times Audible Short Story Award in 2020 and won the Bristol Short Story Prize in 2019. *Brutes* is her first novel.



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Photo: Eliza Soros

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THE HEARING TEST

A NOVEL

ELIZA BARRY CALLAHAN

SUMMARY

A young woman reorients her relationship to the world in the wake of sudden deafness in this mesmerizing debut novel for readers of Rachel Cusk, Clarice Lispector, and Fleur Jaeggy

When the narrator of *The Hearing Test*, an artist in her late twenties, awakens one morning to a deep drone in her right ear, she is diagnosed with Sudden Deafness, but is offered no explanation for its cause. As the specter of total deafness looms, she keeps a record of her year—a score of estrangement and enchantment, of luck and loneliness, of the chance occurrences to which she becomes attuned—while living alone in a New York City studio apartment with her dog.

Through a series of fleeting and often humorous encounters—with neighbors, an ex-lover, doctors, strangers, family members, faraway friends, and with the lives and works of artists, filmmakers, musicians, and philosophers—making meaning becomes a form of consolation and curiosity, a form of survival.

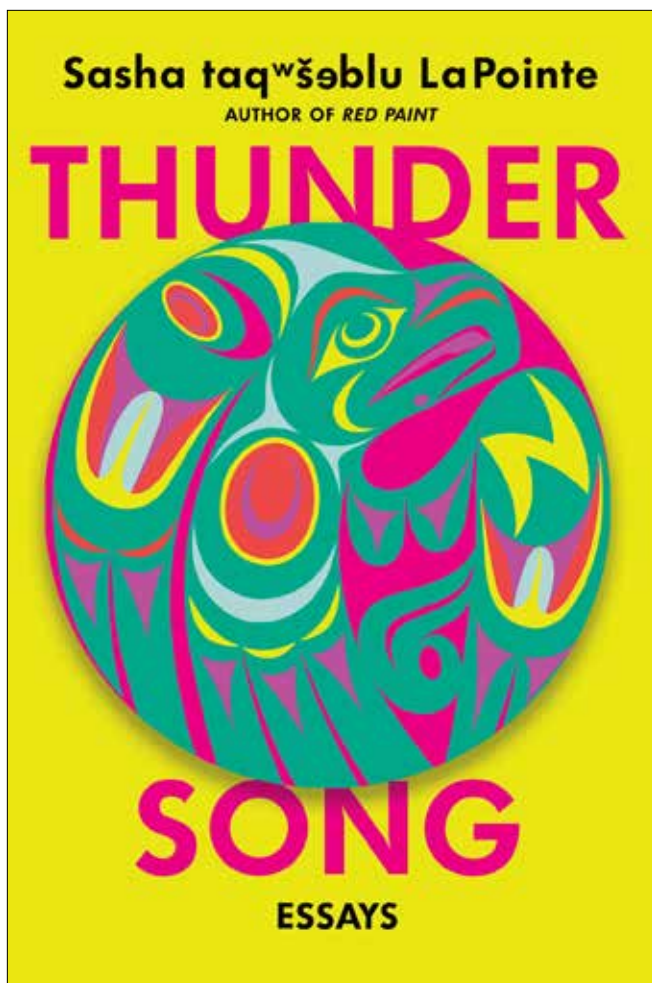
At once a rumination on silence and a novel on seeing, *The Hearing Test* is a work of vitalizing intellect and playfulness which marks the arrival of a major new literary writer with a rare command of form, compression, and intent.

“This debut work by Eliza Callahan is an extraordinary piece of literature, to be read alongside the novels of W.G. Sebald, Rachel Cusk, and Maria Gainza.” —Kate Zambreno, author of *Drift*

AUTHOR BIO



ELIZA BARRY CALLAHAN is a writer and artist from New York, New York. Shortly after receiving her BA from Columbia, where she studied visual art, art history, and poetry, she returned to the university where she received her MFA in writing (2022). Her writing has been published in *frieze*, *The Believer*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *BOMB*. She also writes, performs, and releases music via Los Angeles-based label, ANTI- Records with a record forthcoming in 2023.



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 Photo: Bridget McGee Houchins

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Also available
 9781640095885

THUNDER SONG

ESSAYS

SASHA TAQʷŠƏBLU LAPOINTE

SUMMARY

The winner of the 2023 Pacific Northwest Book Award for her memoir, *Red Paint*, Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe returns with a razor-sharp, clear-eyed selection of essays on what it means to be a proudly queer, indigenous woman in America today

Drawing on a rich family archive as well as the anthropological work of her late great-grandmother, Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe explores themes ranging from indigenous identity and stereotypes to cultural displacement and environmental degradation to understand what our experiences teach us about the power of community, commitment, and conscientious honesty.

Unapologetically punk, the essays in *Thunder Song* segue between the miraculous and the mundane, the spiritual and the physical, as they examine the role of art—in particular music—and community in helping a new generation of indigenous people claim the strength of their heritage while defining their own path in the contemporary world.

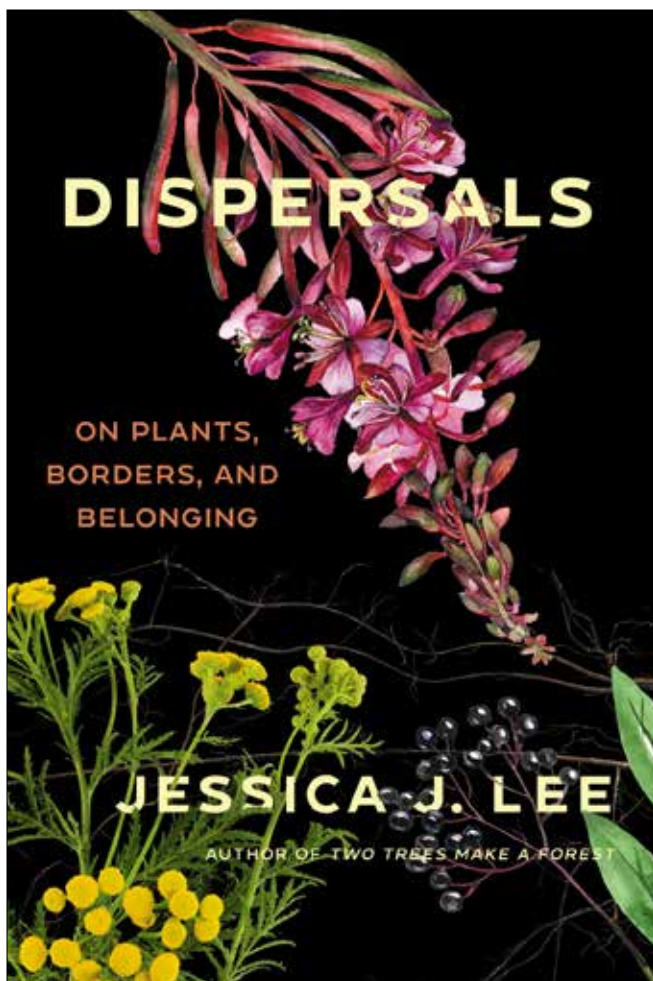
"Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe's essays in Thunder Song are loud, bold, and startlingly majestic. None of Sasha's examinations fail to find truth: page after page, the intersections of family, heritage, history, and music build to countless transcendental moments for the reader, which is not only the magic of this book but a clear testament to Sasha's immense storytelling power. She is a major talent. Thunder Song is masterful and wise, and it will not be forgotten."

—Morgan Talty, author of *Night of the Living Rez*

AUTHOR BIO



SASHA TAQʷŠƏBLU LAPOINTE is a Coast Salish author from the Nooksack and Upper Skagit Indian tribes. She is the author of *Red Paint: The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk*, winner of the Pacific Northwest Book Awards and an NPR Best Book of the year. She received a double MFA in Creative Nonfiction and Poetry from the Institute of American Indian Arts. She lives in Tacoma, Washington.



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Also available
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DISPERSALS

ON PLANTS, BORDERS, AND BELONGING

JESSICA J. LEE

SUMMARY

A prize-winning memoirist and nature writer turns to the lives of plants entangled in our human world to explore belonging, displacement, identity, and the truths of our shared future

A seed slips beyond a garden wall. A tree is planted on a precarious border. A shrub is stolen from its culture and its land. What happens when these plants leave their original homes and put down roots elsewhere?

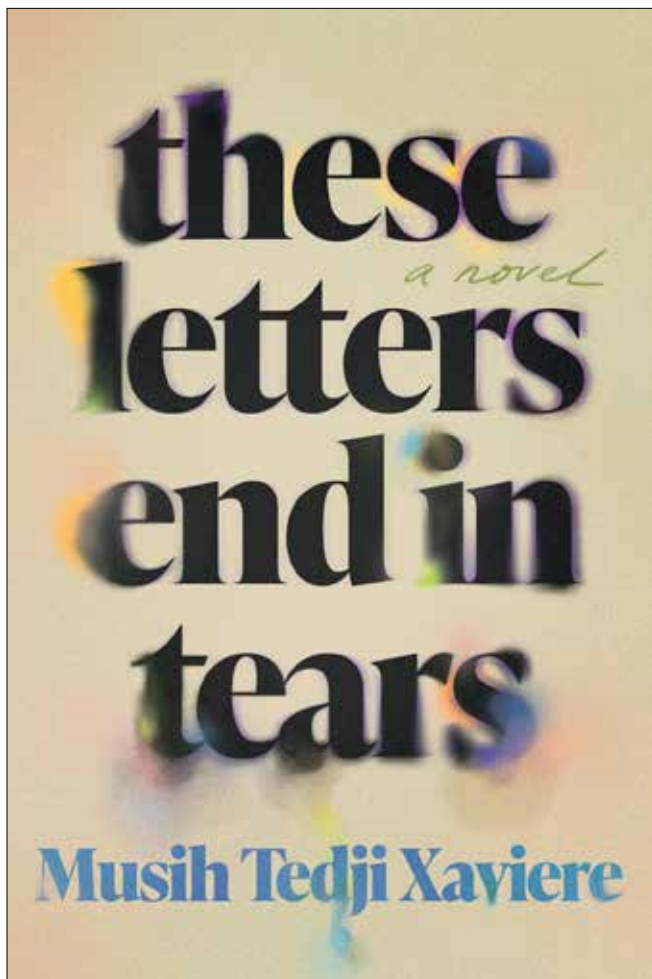
In fourteen essays, *Dispersals* explores the entanglements of the plant and human worlds: from species considered invasive, like giant hogweed; to those vilified but intimate, like soy; and those like kelp, on which our futures depend. Each of the plants considered in this collection are somehow perceived as being 'out of place'—weeds, samples collected through imperial science, crops introduced and transformed by our hand. Combining memoir, history, and scientific research in poetic prose, Jessica J. Lee meditates on the question of how both plants and people come to belong, why both cross borders, and how our futures are more entwined than we might imagine.

AUTHOR BIO



JESSICA J. LEE is a British-Canadian-Taiwanese author, environmental historian, and winner of the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, the Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature, the Banff Mountain Book Award, and the RBC Taylor Prize Emerging Writer Award. She is the author of *Turning*,

Two Trees Make a Forest, and the children's book *A Garden Called Home*, and co-editor of the essay collection *Dog Hearted*. She is the founding editor of *The Willowherb Review* and teaches creative writing at the University of Cambridge. She lives in Berlin.



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Author residence: Kent, England

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THESE LETTERS END IN TEARS

A NOVEL

MUSIH TEDJI XAVIERE

SUMMARY

Set in a country where being gay is punishable by law, *These Letters End in Tears* is the heart-wrenching forbidden love story of a Christian girl with a deviant heart and a Muslim girl leading a double life

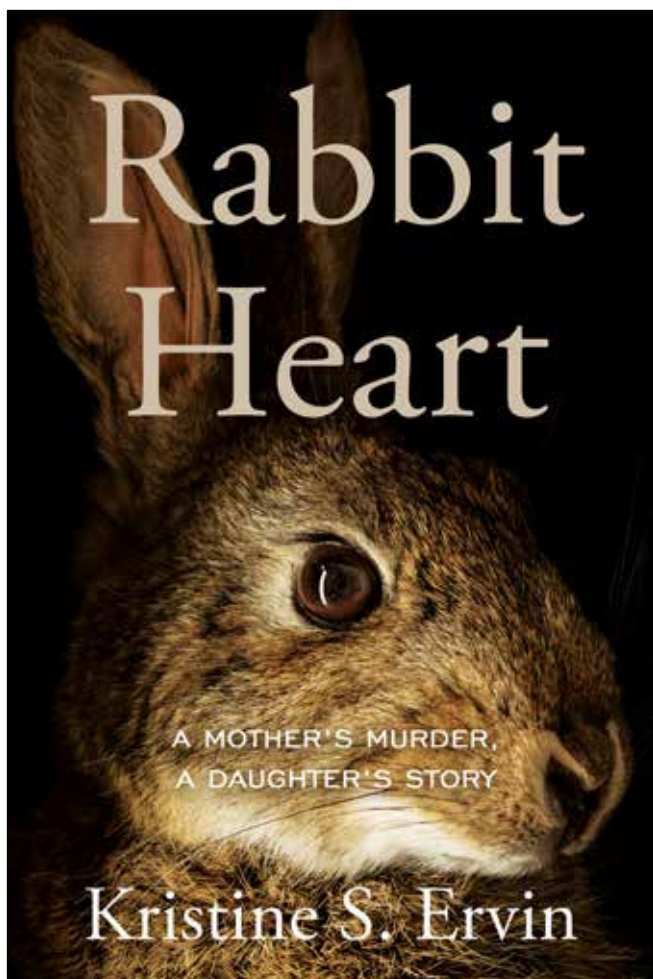
Bessem notices Fatima for the first time on the soccer field—muscular and focused, she's the only woman playing, and seems completely at ease. When Fatima chases a rogue ball in Bessem's direction, she freezes, overwhelmed by the athlete's charm and beauty. But when the two strike up a conversation months later, her inhibitions fall away and a life-changing bond is forged.

Living in Cameroon, a country where same-sex relationships are punishable by law, the odds are stacked against Bessem and Fatima from the start. And when Fatima's older brother, an Islamic extremist, finds out about their affair, he intervenes by physically assaulting them during a police raid at the only gay bar in town. After spending three days in jail, Fatima goes missing without a trace. Bessem is left with only rumors of her whereabouts. Was Fatima banished from the Muslim community? Did she get married off like her family suggests, or are they using these excuses to cover up something sinister?

Thirteen years later, Bessem is now a university professor leading a relatively quiet life, occasionally, and secretly, dating other women. However, she has never forgotten Fatima. After spotting a mutual friend for the first time in years—the last person who may have seen Fatima—Bessem embarks on a winding journey that will force her to face her worst fears.

AUTHOR BIO

MUSIH TEDJI XAVIERE is a Cameroonian fiction writer based in the UK. Her debut novel, *These Letters End in Tears*, won the 2021 Pontas and JJ Bola Emerging Writer's Prize, and her short stories, "Clever Girl," and "The Great Unification," have appeared in *Odd Magazine* and *The African Union at 20* anthology.



Counterpoint Press
9781640096370
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True Crime - Murder
Rights - World

Author hometown: Oklahoma City, OK
Author residence: Pennsylvania
Photo: Jon Ervin

Publicist: Megan Fishmann
megan.fishmann@counterpointpress.com

RABBIT HEART

A MOTHER'S MURDER, A DAUGHTER'S STORY

KRISTINE S. ERVIN

SUMMARY

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

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

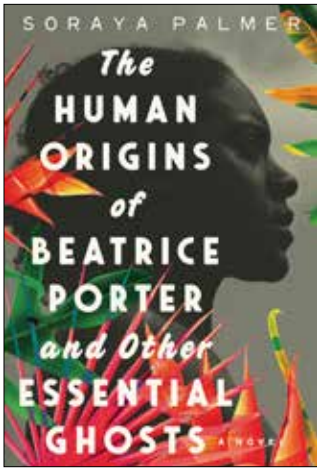
In her mother's absence, Ervin tries to reconstruct a woman she can never fully grasp—from her own memory, from letters she uncovers and the stories of other family members. As more information about her mother's death comes to light, Ervin's drive to know her mother only intensifies, winding its way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

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

AUTHOR BIO



KRISTINE S. ERVIN grew up in a small suburb of Oklahoma City and now teaches creative writing at West Chester University, outside of Philadelphia. She holds an MFA in Poetry from New York University and a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature, with a focus in nonfiction, from the University of Houston.



Catapult
9781646222186
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Trade Paperback Reprint
\$16.95 US/\$23.00 CAN
Fiction - African American &
Black - Women
Rights - US/Canada, Open Mkt

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
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THE HUMAN ORIGINS OF BEATRICE PORTER AND OTHER ESSENTIAL GHOSTS

A NOVEL

SORAYA PALMER

SUMMARY

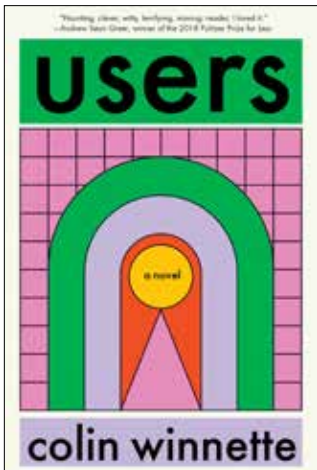
"Mothers never die. Children love to resurrect us in their stories." Folktales and spirits animate this lively and unforgettable coming-of-age tale of two Jamaican-Trinidadian sisters in Brooklyn grappling with their mother's illness, their father's infidelity, and the truth of their family's past.

"This is a book written with the gods of storytelling in mind; it highlights what stories can do—that it's not just the stories that evolve with each telling, but we ourselves who are rearranged too."

—Ingrid Rojas Contreras, *The New York Times Book Review*

AUTHOR BIO

SORAYA PALMER is a Flatbush-born-and-raised writer and licensed social worker who advocates for survivors of gender-based violence who are facing criminal charges related to their abuse. She has been awarded a residency at Blue Mountain Center and interviewed for her work against police brutality, gentrification, and violence in *The New York Times* and *BuzzFeed News*. She lives in New York.



Soft Skull Press
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\$16.95 US/\$23.00 CAN
Fiction - Dystopian
Rights - US/Canada, Open Mkt

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
vanessa.genao@catapult.co

USERS

A NOVEL

COLIN WINNETTE

SUMMARY

A *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. Marrying the philosophical absurdities of life, technology, start-up culture, and family, *Users* is for readers of Ling Ma, Dave Eggers's *The Circle*, and viewers of the hit Apple TV+ original series *Severance*.

"Told in refreshingly unadorned prose that lets Winnette's characters and ideas shine . . . *Users* is not only a book for today or a warning about tomorrow, but a timeless and moving story about fatherhood and one man's yearning for a more meaningful life."

—Jessamine Chan, *The New York Times Book Review*

AUTHOR BIO

COLIN WINNETTE's books include *Coyote*, *Haints Stay*, and *The Job of the Wasp*, which was an American Booksellers Association's Indie Next Pick. Winnette's writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *Playboy*, *McSweeney's*, *The Believer*, and *The Paris Review Daily*. A former bookseller in Texas, Vermont, New York, and California, he is now a writer living in San Francisco.



Catapult
9781646221974
On-Sale Date: 4/2/23
Trade Paperback Original
\$27.00 US/\$35.00 CAN
Fiction - LGBTQ+ - Lesbian
Rights - US/Canada, Open Mkt

Author hometown: Weymouth, MA
Author residence: Washington, DC
Photo: N/A

Publicist: Lena Moses-Schmitt
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A GOOD HAPPY GIRL

A NOVEL

MARISSA HIGGINS

SUMMARY

A poignant, surprising, and immersive read about a young professional woman pursuing an emotionally intense relationship with a married lesbian couple, for readers of Kristen Arnett and Melissa Broder

Helen, a jittery attorney with a self-destructive streak, is secretly reeling from a disturbing crime of neglect that her parents recently committed. Historically happy to compartmentalize—distracting herself by hooking up with lesbian couples, doting on her grandmother, and flirting with a young administrative assistant—Helen finally meets her match with Catherine and Katrina, a married couple who startle and intrigue her with their ever-increasing sexual and emotional intensity.

Perceptive and attentive, Catherine and Katrina prod at Helen's life, revealing a childhood tragedy she's been repressing. When her father begs her yet again for help getting parole, she realizes that she has a bargaining chip to get answers to her past.

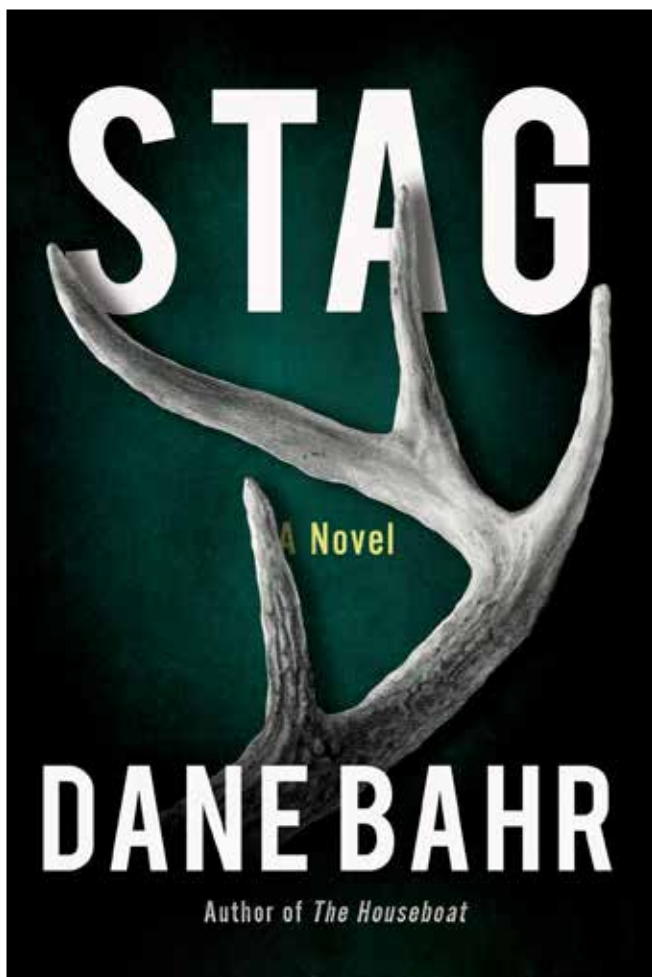
In her exploration of queer domesticity, effects of incarceration on family, and intergenerational poverty, Marissa Higgins offers empathy to characters who don't often receive it, with unsettling results.

"Sometimes I could not believe how easily this book moved from gross-out sadism into genuine sympathy. Totally surprising, totally compelling. I loved it." —Halle Butler, author of *The New Me*

AUTHOR BIO



MARISSA HIGGINS (she/her/hers) is a lesbian writer. *A Good Happy Girl* is her first novel.



Counterpoint Press
 9781640096226
 On-Sale Date: 4/9/24
 Hardcover
 \$27.00 US/\$35.00 CAN
 Fiction - Thrillers - Suspense
 Rights - World

Author hometown: Minneapolis, MN
 Author residence: Bellingham, WA
 Photo: Tøren Bahr

Publicist: Andrea Córdova
andrea.cordova@catapult.co



Also available
 9781640095878

STAG

A NOVEL

DANE BAHR

SUMMARY

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

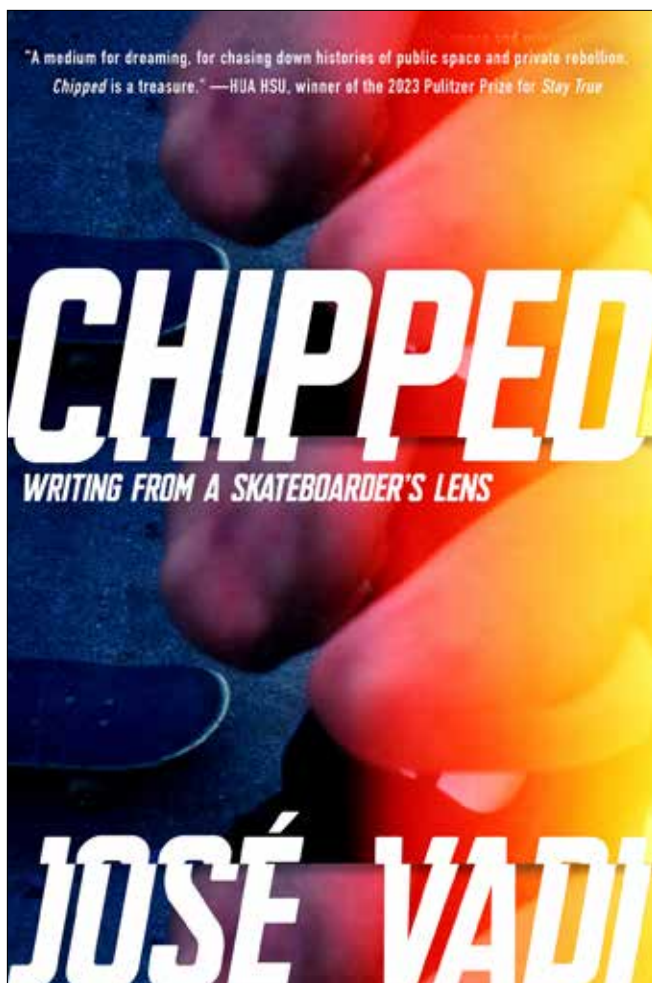
It's 1989 and Amos Fielding, one time sheriff of Oscar, Iowa, is in his early seventies and grieving the recent loss of his wife, Sara. He packs up his few belongings and heads to a ranch in the far northwest corner of Washington state. A destination he justifies by its distance from Oscar and from his years as a sheriff and a life spent witnessing the evil that men do. Eager to escape these painful reminders, Fielding throws himself into the daily chores of a gentleman rancher. But there is evil afoot, as dark as any he faced in Oscar.

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

AUTHOR BIO



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



Soft Skull Press

9781593767556

On-Sale Date: 4/16/24

Hardcover

\$27.00 US/\$35.00 CAN

Sports & Recreation - Skateboarding

Rights - World

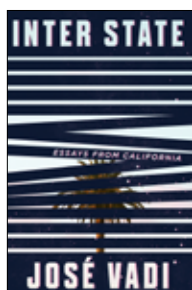
Author hometown: TK

Author residence: Sacramento, CA

Photo: Bobby Gordon

Publicist: Megan Fishmann

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Also available
9781593766955



CHIPPED

WRITING FROM A SKATEBOARDER'S LENS

JOSÉ VADI

SUMMARY

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

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

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

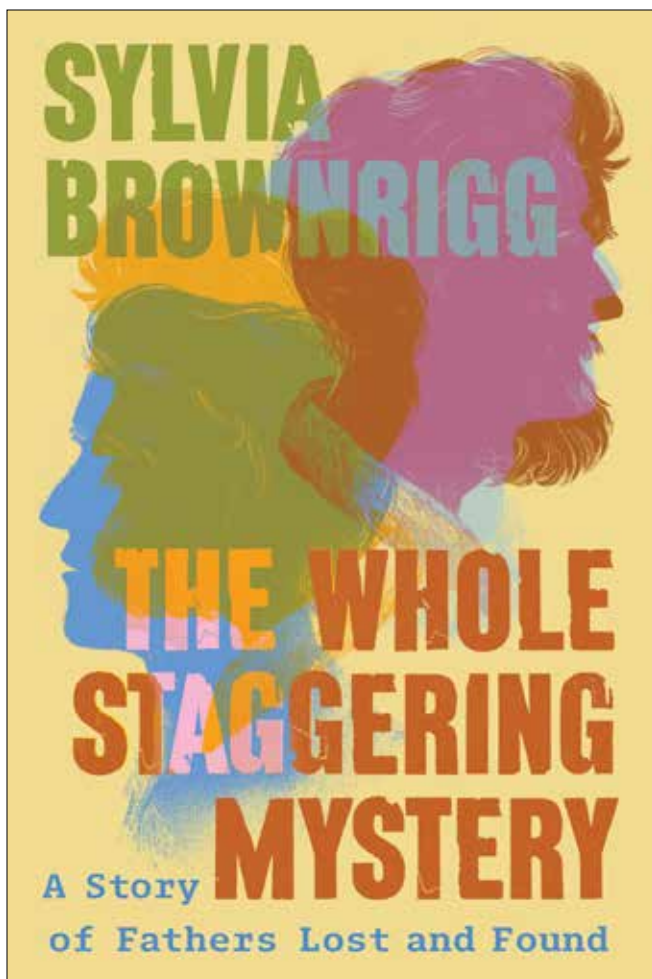
Vadi acts as a "ethnographer on a skateboard," writing, living, and animating an object, likening the board and skate ephemera to the fear of being discarded, wanting to be seen as useful, functional, living. These essays analyze the legacy of seminal texts like *Thrasher Magazine*, influential programming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

"A medium for dreaming, for chasing down histories of public space and private rebellion . . . *Chipped* is a treasure." —Hua Hsu, author of National Book Critic Circle award-winning *Stay True*

AUTHOR BIO



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



Counterpoint Press

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On-Sale Date: 4/23/24

Hardcover

\$27.00 US/\$35.00 CAN

Biography & Autobiography - Personal Memoirs

Rights - World

Author hometown: Mountain View, CA

Author residence: Berkeley, CA

Photo: Claire Lewis

Publicist: Andrea Córdova

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Also available
9781640090545

THE WHOLE STAGGERING MYSTERY

A STORY OF FATHERS LOST AND FOUND

SYLVIA BROWNRIGG

SUMMARY

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

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

Nick, an absent father, was a hippie and would-be Beat writer who lived off the grid in Northern California; Gawen, an earlier absent father, was a well-born Englishman who wrote a Bloomsbury-like novel about lesbian lovers, before moving to Kenya where he died a mysterious death at age twenty-seven. The reputation of suicide shaded his memory.

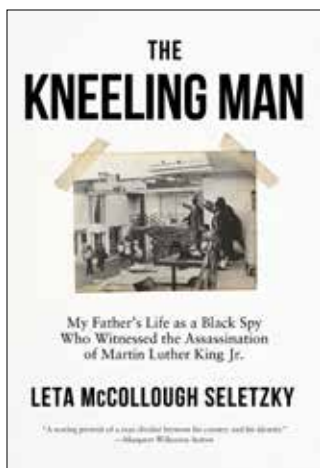
Reconstructing Gawen's short colorful life takes Brownrigg through the first and second world wars, toward the last gasp of the British empire in Kenya; and deep into the California redwoods, where Gawen's son Nick, who had also wanted to write, chose instead to carve out a rugged path in the wilderness, keeping his English past at bay. In the course of her discoveries, Sylvia Brownrigg begins to question omissions of her own fractured childhood after divorce. Combining her own memories with imagined ones of this lost family, she finally makes her own story whole.

AUTHOR BIO



SYLVIA BROWNRIGG is the author of several acclaimed works of fiction: five novels—*Morality Tale*, *The Delivery Room*, winner of the Northern California Book Award, *Pages for You*, winner of the Lambda Award, and *The Metaphysical Touch*—and a collection of stories, *Ten Women Who Shook the World*. Sylvia's works have been included in

The New York Times and *Los Angeles Times* lists of notable fictions and have been translated into several languages. Sylvia's novel for children, *Kepler's Dream*, written under the name Juliet Bell was published in 2012 and turned into a feature film. Sylvia continues to spend time in London where she lived for many years, but now lives with her family in Berkeley, CA.



Counterpoint Press
9781640096417
On-Sale Date: 4/9/24
Trade Paperback Reprint
\$17.95 US/\$24.00 CAN
History - United States - 20th
Century
Rights -World

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
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THE KNEELING MAN

MY FATHER'S LIFE AS A BLACK SPY WHO WITNESSED THE ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

LETA MCCOLLOUGH SELETZKY

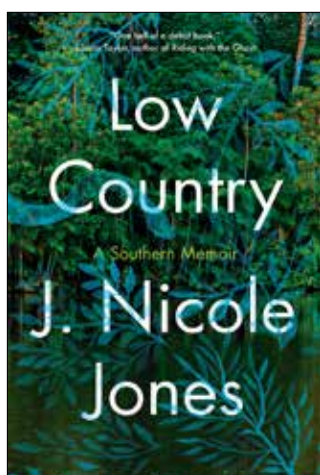
SUMMARY

The intimate and heartbreaking story of a Black undercover police officer who famously kneeled by the assassinated Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr—and a daughter's quest for the truth about her father.

"This untidy, honest, fascinating account compels the reader to reflect on profound questions of loyalty and race . . . All of us want to see our parents as heroes. It is to Ms. Seletzky's great credit that she explores the depths of her father's story with love, hope and critical realism." —*The Wall Street Journal*

AUTHOR BIO

LETA MCCOLLOUGH SELETZKY is a National Endowment for the Arts 2022 Creative Writing Fellow. A litigator turned essayist and memoirist, her work appears in *The Atlantic*; *The New York Times*; *TheGrio*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; *The Washington Post*; and elsewhere. She holds a BA from Northwestern University and a JD from the George Washington University Law School. She grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, and now lives in Walnut Creek, California.



Catapult
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Trade Paperback Reprint
\$16.95 US/\$23.00 CAN
Biography & Autobiography -
Personal Memoirs

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
vanessa.genao@catapult.co

LOW COUNTRY

A NOVEL

J. NICOLE JONES

SUMMARY

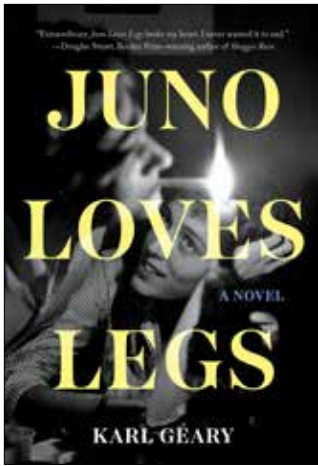
"From horse thieves to hurricanes, from shattered Southern myths to fractured family ties, from Nashville to Myrtle Beach to Miami, *Low Country* is a lyrical, devastating, fiercely original memoir" of one family's changing fortunes in the *Low Country* of South Carolina (Justin Taylor, author of *Riding with the Ghost*).

"The daughter of a country music star explores her roots and even the topography of her native land in this coming-of-age story of a past she's not always proud of." —Zibby Owens, *Good Morning America*

AUTHOR BIO

J. NICOLE JONES received her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Columbia University, and has since held editorial positions at *VICE* magazine and *Vanity Fair*. Her viral essay defending the art of memoir, "Why's Everyone So Down on the Memoir?" was published by the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and *Salon*, and her reviews and other writings have appeared in magazines including *Harper's*. She grew up in South Carolina, and now lives in Brooklyn and Tennessee. Her first book, *Low Country: A Memoir*, was published by Catapult in 2021.

Also available *The Witches of Bellinas* • 9781646221806



Catapult
9781646222209
On-Sale Date: 4/23/24
Trade Paperback Reprint
\$17.95 US/\$24.00 CAN
Fiction - Coming Of Age
Rights - US/Canada, Open Mkt

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
vanessa.genao@catapult.co

JUNO LOVES LEGS

A NOVEL

KARL GEARY

SUMMARY

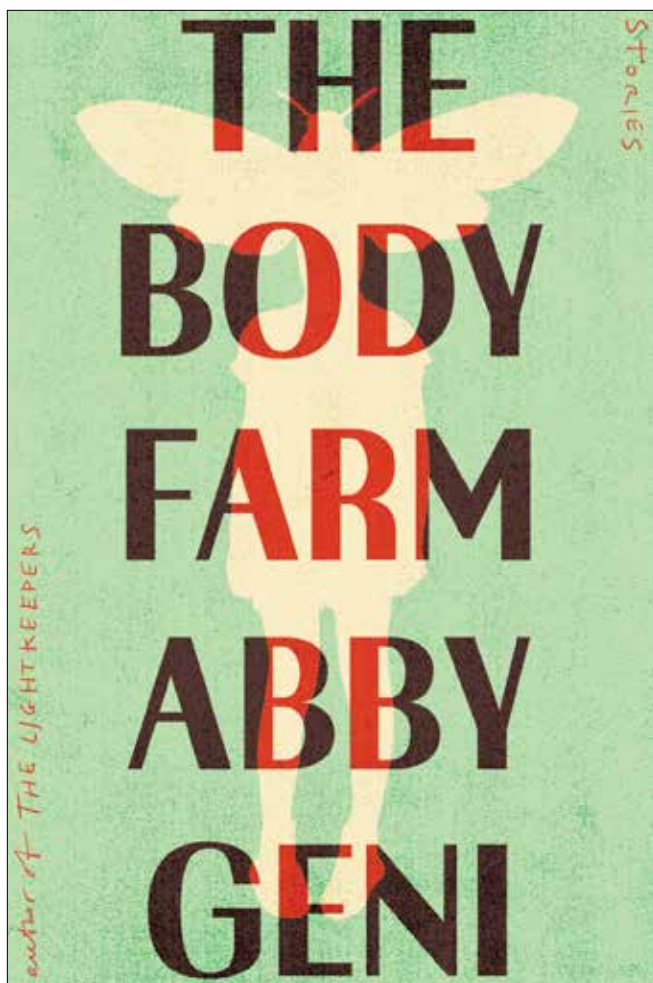
For readers of Sally Rooney and fans of *Shuggie Bain* and *Just Kids*, *Juno Loves Legs* is the epic and heartbreaking story of a young friendship set in working-class Dublin in the 1980s.

"The raw, lilting poetry of Juno's voice provides a series of heartbreaking revelations."

—Ron Charles, *The Washington Post*

AUTHOR BIO

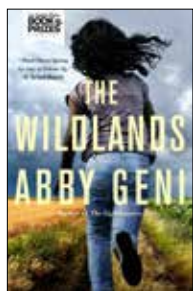
KARL GEARY was born in Dublin and moved to New York's East Village at the age of sixteen. His debut novel, *Montpelier Parade*, was short-listed for numerous awards, including the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Costa First Novel Award, and France's prestigious Prix Femina, and was named an *Irish Times* Book of the Year. He lives in Glasgow.



Counterpoint Press
 9781640096264
 On-Sale Date: 5/7/24
 Hardcover
 \$27.00 US/\$35.00 CAN
 Fiction - Short Stories (single author)
 Rights - World

Author hometown: Evanston, IL
 Author residence: Illinois
 Photo: Maia Rosenfeld

Publicist: Megan Fishmann
 megan.fishmann@counterpointpress.com



Also available
 9781640092570

THE BODY FARM

STORIES

ABBY GENI

SUMMARY

The long-awaited new book from the critically acclaimed author of *The Lightkeepers* and *The Wildlands*: an intense and insightful collection that examines life in decay to celebrate the horrors and joys of inhabiting our bodies

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

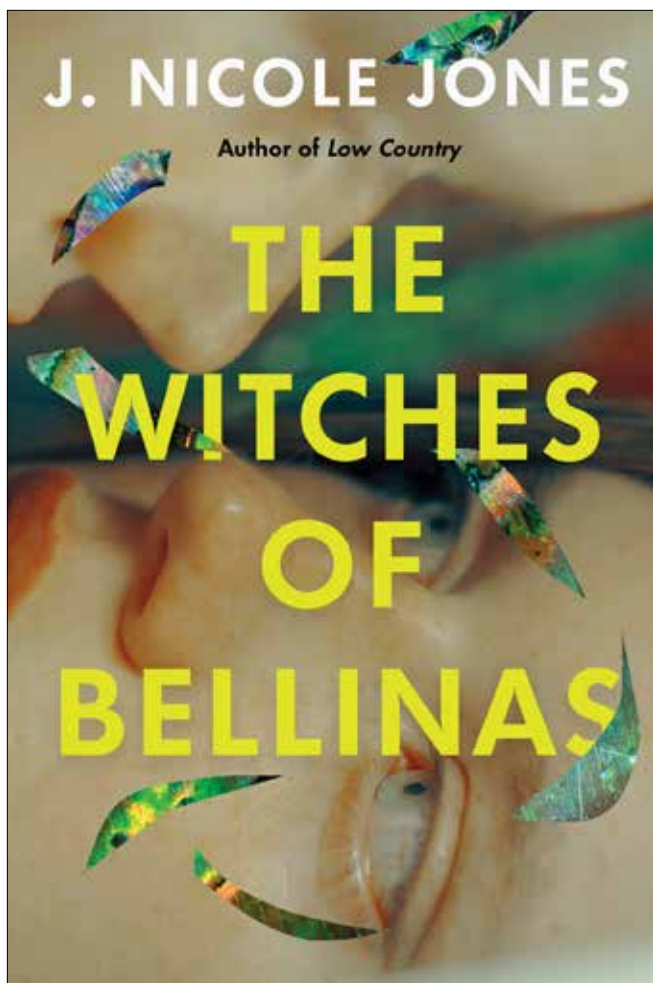
An etymologist solves cold cases and upholds a sense of justice by studying the decay of corpses in a field and the insect life they develop. A caregiver obsesses over a stained-glass lampshade to deal with the elegiac losses of Alzheimer's. A sister with webbed fingers highlights the strangely relatable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

The Body Farm displays Abby Geni's great capacity to take us into the lives and experiences of others to scrutinize the physical self: birth, childhood, transition, mental health, trauma, aging, illness, love, sex, and death.

AUTHOR BIO



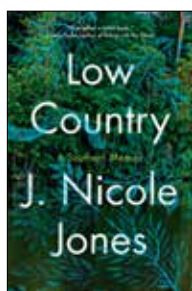
ABBY GENI is the author of *The Lightkeepers*, winner of the 2016 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award for Fiction and the inaugural Chicago Review of Books Award for Best Fiction, *The Wildlands*, a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize, and *The Last Animal*, an Indies Introduce Debut Authors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



Catapult
9781646221806
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Hardcover
\$27.00 US/\$35.00 CAN
Fiction - Occult & Supernatural
Rights - World

Author hometown: Charlotte, NC
Author residence: Brooklyn, NY
Photo: Ben Bromley

Publicist: Andrea Córdova
andrea.cordova@catapult.co



Also available
9781646221233



THE WITCHES OF BELLINAS

A NOVEL

J. NICOLE JONES

SUMMARY

A dreamy California Gothic about a woman who moves to the mysterious town of Bellinas to save her marriage, only to be swept up in a hostile coven of blonde women and their too-blue-eyed babies

Three days ago, Tansy Black's husband was murdered. She's been hiding in a one-room schoolhouse ever since, hoping to write the story of how she came to the suspiciously perfect Bellinas before the good townspeople come to persecute her for the secrets she could reveal.

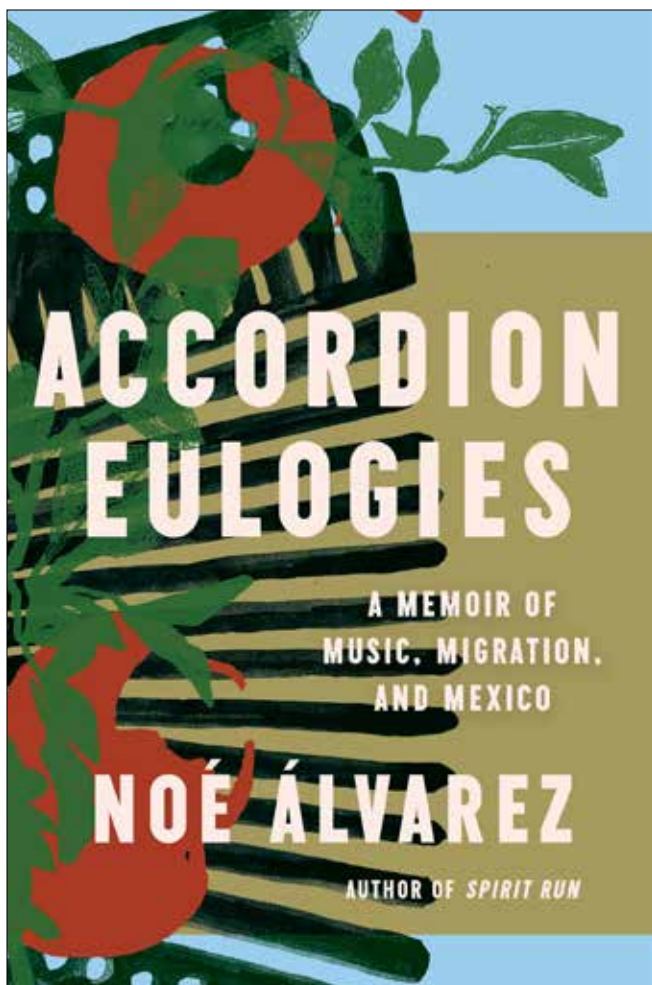
Months prior, Tansy and her husband had arrived as newlyweds from New York, upending their lives to join this reclusive community helmed by Guy's cousin, a retired supermodel, and her billionaire tech mogul husband. In the tradition of the uber-rich, they've found "purity" in the coastal village they now own; they renounce the outside world, they enact their own rules about what to eat, how to live. And they're hiding something darker—something sinister.

Although skeptical of what Bellinas has to offer, Tansy is desperate to save her already-fragile marriage, the one source of seeming solidity marked by tragedy and isolation. And as desperate, lonely women have throughout ages, she wants to believe in a beautiful lie: the façade of community, family, wellness, and bliss.

AUTHOR BIO



J. NICOLE JONES received her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Columbia University, and has since held editorial positions at *VICE* magazine and *Vanity Fair*. Her viral essay defending the art of memoir, "Why's Everyone So Down on the Memoir?" was published by the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and *Salon*, and her reviews and other writings have appeared in magazines including *Harper's*. She grew up in South Carolina, and now lives in Brooklyn and Tennessee. Her first book, *Low Country: A Memoir*, was published by Catapult in 2021.



Catapult

9781646220892

On-Sale Date: 5/28/24

Hardcover

\$27.00 US/\$35.00 CAN

Biography & Autobiography - Cultural, Ethnic & Regional -

Hispanic & Latino

Rights - World

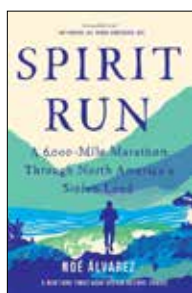
Author hometown: Yakima, WA

Author residence: Burien, WA

Photo: Nate Gowdy

Publicist: Lena Moses-Schmitt

lena.moses-schmitt@counterpointpress.com



Also available

9781646220533

ACCORDION EULOGIES

A MEMOIR OF MUSIC, MIGRATION, AND MEXICO

NOÉ ÁLVAREZ

SUMMARY

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

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

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

AUTHOR BIO



NOÉ ÁLVAREZ is the author of *Spirit Run*. He was born in the desert and raised in the weeds.



Counterpoint Press
9781640096431
On-Sale Date: 5/7/24
Trade Paperback Reprint
\$TK.95 US/\$TK.00 CAN
Fiction - Small Town & Rural
Rights - US/Canada, Open Mkt

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
vanessa.genao@catapult.co

YOU ARE HERE

A NOVEL

KARIN LIN-GREENBERG

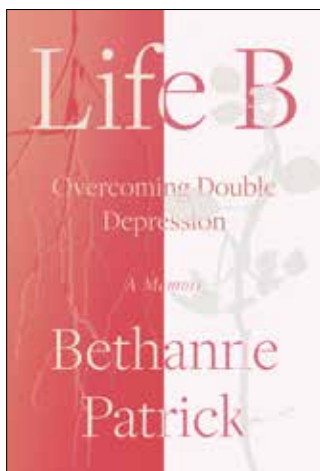
SUMMARY

A Sarah Selects/Amazon Pick of the Month. As a once-bustling mall prepares to shut its doors for the final time, the residents of an upstate New York town must reckon with a shocking act that forces them to reevaluate who they are in this “remarkable study of ordinary people’s extraordinary inner lives” (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review).

“Like Elizabeth Strout’s *Olive Kitteridge*, the charm of Lin-Greenberg’s engaging story lies in the sweetness of the characters’ everyday lives.” —Becky Meloan, *The Washington Post*

AUTHOR BIO

KARIN LIN-GREENBERG is a Chinese American, award-winning writer whose debut collection, *Faulty Predictions*, won the Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction and won gold in Foreword Reviews’s INDIE Award in the Short Story category. Her second collection, *Vanished*, was the winner of the Prairie Schooner Raz-Shumaker Book Prize in Fiction. She is the recipient of fellowships from MacDowell, the Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts, and the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop. Her short story “The Sweeper of Hair,” the basis of this novel’s opening chapter, was a finalist for the Nelson Algren Literary Award and was published in the *Chicago Tribune*. Lin-Greenberg is an associate professor in the English Department at Siena College in upstate New York.



Counterpoint Press
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Publicist: Vanessa Genao
vanessa.genao@catapult.co

LIFE B

OVERCOMING DOUBLE DEPRESSION

BETHANNE PATRICK

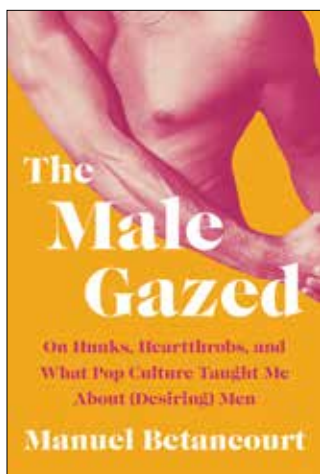
SUMMARY

A bracing and fresh look at a lifelong struggle with depression and mental illness.

“A compassionate look back at her lifelong mental health issues and how she finally came to the other side, this memoir will help families and partners of anyone struggling—and anyone struggling themselves.” —Zibby Owens, *Good Morning America*

AUTHOR BIO

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



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THE MALE GAZED

ON HUNKS, HEARTTHROBS, AND WHAT POP CULTURE TAUGHT ME ABOUT
(DESIRING) MEN

MANUEL BETANCOURT

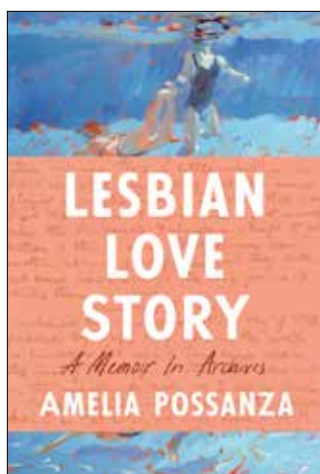
SUMMARY

Featuring deep dives into thirst traps, drag queens, Antonio Banderas, and telenovelas—all in the service of helping us reframe how we talk about (desiring) men—this insightful memoir-in-essays is as much a coming of age as a coming out book.

“The Male Gazed, by the queer Colombian writer and film critic Manuel Betancourt, is a smart, refreshing essay collection on the subject, and deals directly and honestly with the paradoxes surrounding the topic of men . . . It’s delightful, and perhaps cathartic, to see Betancourt turn the tables on masculinity by returning its gaze . . . Readers are sure to leave with a useful lens through which they can give masculinity a second look.” —John Paul Brammer, The New York Times Book Review

AUTHOR BIO

MANUEL BETANCOURT is a queer Colombian culture writer and film critic. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *BuzzFeed Reader*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Film Quarterly*, *Los Angeles Review of Books* and *GQ Style*, among others. Manuel is the author of *Judy Garland’s Judy at Carnegie Hall* (Bloomsbury Press, 2020), and a contributing writer to the Eisner Award-nominated graphic novel series, *The Cardboard Kingdom* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2018 & 2021).



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LGBTQ+
Rights - World

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
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LESBIAN LOVE STORY

A MEMOIR IN ARCHIVES

AMELIA POSSANZA

SUMMARY

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

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

AUTHOR BIO

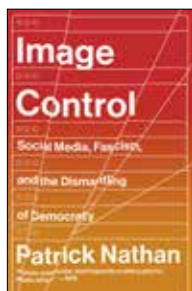
AMELIA POSSANZA, a full-time book publicist and part-time writer, currently lives in Brooklyn with her cat. Her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *BuzzFeed*, *Electric Literature*, *The Millions*, and NPR’s *Invisibilia*. *Lesbian Love Story* is her first book.



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Rights - World

Author hometown: Minneapolis, MN
Author residence: Minneapolis, MN
Photo: Michael O'Laughlin

Publicist: Lena Moses-Schmitt
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Also available
9781640095540

THE FUTURE WAS COLOR

A NOVEL

PATRICK NATHAN

SUMMARY

A dazzling novel about making art, desire, and the inextricable link between the personal and the political set against the decadence of post-war Los Angeles, for readers of Garth Greenwell and Eve Babitz

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

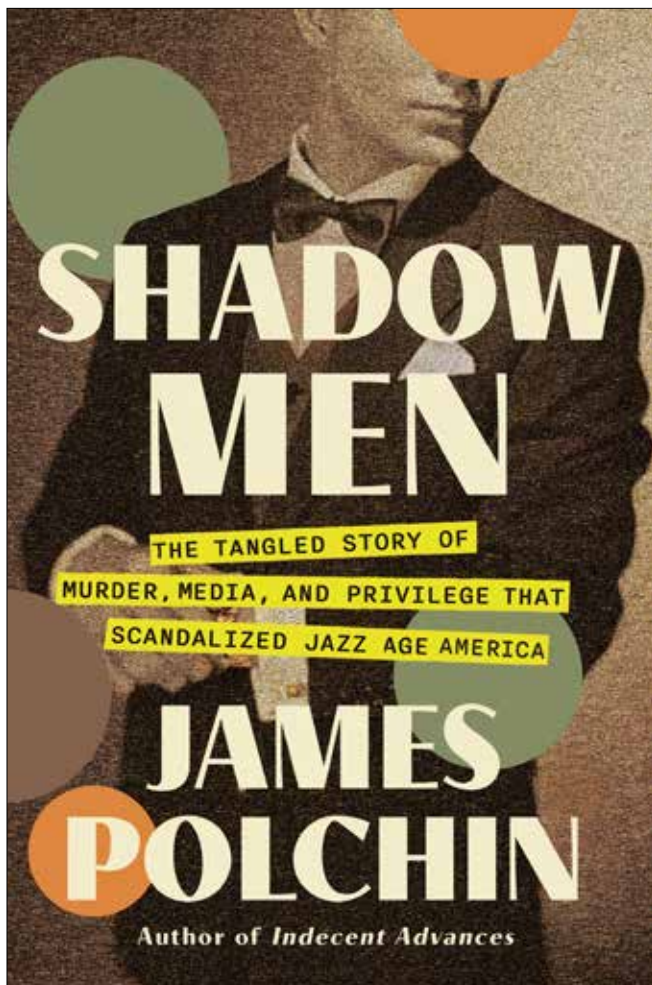
What this lifestyle hides behind, aside from the monsters on the screen, are the monsters dwelling closer to home: this endless bacchanalia covers a gnawing hole shelled wide by the horror of the war they’d thought they left behind. Beneath his newfound relationships lie the pernicious forces of the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

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

AUTHOR BIO



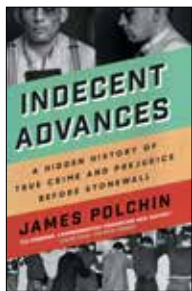
PATRICK NATHAN is the author of *Image Control* and *Some Hell*, a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. His short fiction and essays have appeared in *The New Republic*, *American Short Fiction*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Baffler*, and elsewhere. He lives in Minneapolis.



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 Author residence: New York, NY
 Photo: Greg Salvatori

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Also available
 9781640093874

SHADOW MEN

MURDER, BLACKMAIL, AND POLITICAL SCANDAL
 IN THE JAZZ AGE

JAMES POLCHIN

SUMMARY

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

On the morning of May 16, 1922, the body of a young man was found on a desolate road near the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County, a suburb of New York City. Killed by a single bullet to the chest, the victim was nineteen-year-old Clarence Peters and his murder soon went from local story to national scandal.

The day after Peter's was identified, Walter S. Ward, the thirty-one-year-old millionaire heir of the Ward Baking Company, whose factory in Brooklyn produced the iconic fluffy loaf known as Wonder Bread, issued a statement through his attorney admitting that he was the one who committed the murder. This confession only added to the mystery. Ward claimed to have run afoul of the "shadow men," those who entrapped others in compromising positions and then blackmailed them to remain silent.

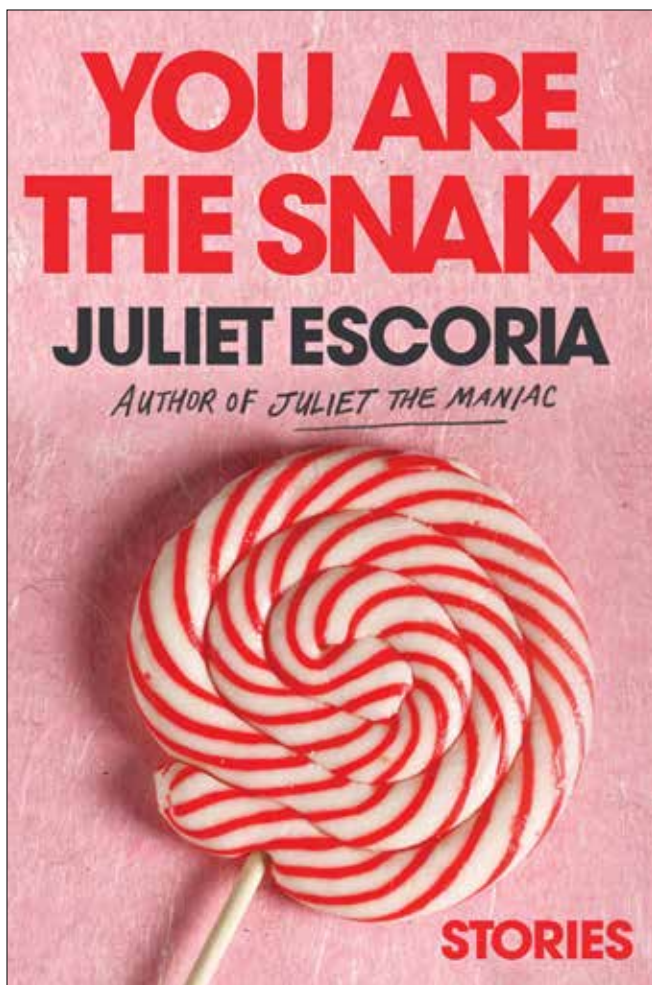
In *Shadow Men: Blackmail, Murder, and a Sensational Scandal at the Dawn of the Jazz Age*, James Polchin tells the story of a diverse cast of characters who either by choice or circumstance were drawn into the case, from minor figures such as small town butchers and shoemakers in Massachusetts, and Black doormen and maids in Harlem, to the well-known and powerful, like the New York State governor and future presidential candidate Al Smith, Joseph Medill Peterson, the ambitious editor of *New York Daily News*, and even the British detective writer Arthur Conan Doyle.

In placing the queer aspects of this crime within a host of complex social tensions in the 1920s about class privilege, criminality, and the growing power of the press to define ideas of private life and public reputation, *Shadow Men* reckons with the elusive nature of crime stories themselves—what they reveal and what remains hidden.

AUTHOR BIO



JAMES POLCHIN, Ph.D., is the author of *Indecent Advances*, a finalist for the Edgar Award. A Clinical Professor at New York University, he lives in New York City with his husband, the photographer Greg Salvatori, and a Labrador named Albert.



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 Author residence: Beckley, WV
 Photo: Saja Montague

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YOU ARE THE SNAKE

STORIES

JULIET ESCORIA

SUMMARY

From the celebrated author of *Juliet the Maniac* comes a collection of previously unpublished stories concerned with girlhood, family, and urge, reminiscent of Mary Gaitskill and Laura Vandenberg

In *You Are the Snake*, we peer into the life of a community college student, the life of an abusive grandmother is imagined, and a young woman takes up gardening. Escoria's characters are trying their best, or they aren't, as they bump against the boundaries of society's expectations.

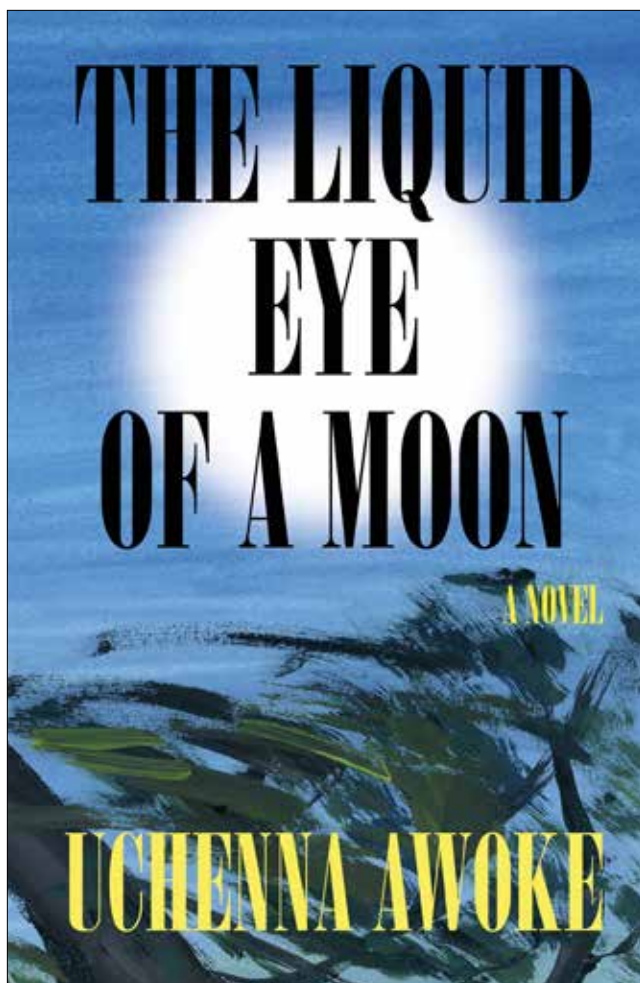
Exploiting the form of the short story in a voice entirely her own, *You Are the Snake* resists easy moralizing by subverting our expectations of how narrative functions. While Escoria plumbs the depth of girlhood and new womanhood, she leaves room for oddness, impulse, and yearning. Each story contains its own world, be it the suburbs of California or the mountains of West Virginia, but taken as a whole, this collection is expanding and challenging, corrupting expectations about what women can be and what they can write.

Juliet Escoria's writing has been called "vivid," "fantastic," "sharp," and "singularly honest," and this collection delivers the "charged eloquence" of her previous work, in addition to the maturity and style of a new format—the short story—which is a dream fit for her "electricity that pulsates from within the prose."

AUTHOR BIO



JULIET ESCORIA is the author of the novel *Juliet the Maniac*, which was named a "best of" book by *Nylon*, *Elle*, *BuzzFeed*, and others, and was shortlisted for the VCU Cabell First Novelist Prize. She also wrote the poetry collection *Witch Hunt* and the story collection *Black Cloud*, which were both listed in various best of the year roundups. Her writing can be found in places like *Prelude*, *VICE*, *The Fader*, *BOMB*, and *The New York Times*, and has been translated into many languages. She was born in Australia, raised in San Diego, and currently lives in West Virginia, where she teaches English at a community college.



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Author hometown: Nsukka, Nigeria
Author residence: Fayetteville, AR
Photo: Marc Ohrem-Leclef

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THE LIQUID EYE OF A MOON

A NOVEL

UCHENNA AWOKE

SUMMARY

A Nigerian *Catcher in the Rye*, Uchenna Awoke's masterful debut breaks the silence about a hidden and dangerous contemporary caste system

Fifteen-year-old Dimkpa dreams of the day his father will be made village head. He will return to school and maybe even go on to university; his mother will no longer have to break her back foraging wild food to sell at market; they will have the money to build a fine tomb for his aunt Okike; and his family's status as ohu ma, the lowest Igbo caste, won't matter anymore. But when his father is passed over for a younger man, breaking tradition, Dimkpa realizes that he must make his own fate.

Journeying from his small village in rural Nigeria, to Lagos, Awka, and home again, Dimkpa learns that no money is easy money, that superstition runs deep, that knowledge is power, and that sometimes it is better to live in the present than to always be chasing a future just out of reach.

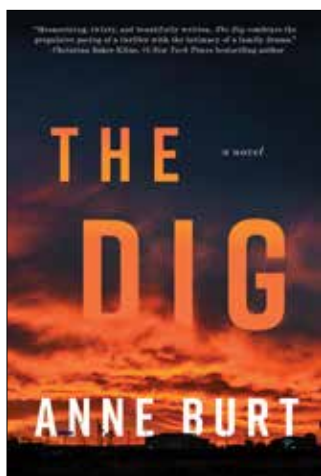
The Liquid Eye of a Moon is by turns hilarious and poignant, capturing all the messiness of adolescence, and the difficulty of making your own way in a world that seeks to oppress you.

AUTHOR BIO



UCHENNA AWOKE lives and writes in Nsukka, Nigeria. His short stories have appeared in *Transition*, *Elsewhere Lit*, *Trestle Ties*, *Oyster River Pages*, *The Evergreen Review*, and other places. He received fellowships from MacDowell and the Vermont Studio Center in 2017 and 2019 respectively. He is an Artist Protection Fund

Fellow and the inaugural Arkansas International Writer-at-Risk Residency Fellow, currently living in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He is also a 2019 Graywolf Africa Prize finalist. *The Liquid Eye of a Moon* is his debut novel.



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Rights -World

Publicist: Vanessa Genao
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THE DIG

A NOVEL

ANNE BURT

SUMMARY

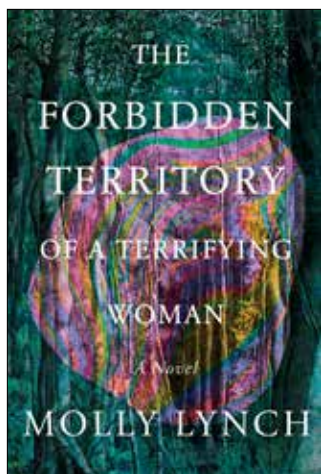
When Sarajevo-born siblings Antonia and Paul join a wealthy Midwestern family in the 1990s, a series of events with deadly consequences is set in motion. Now, with her career on the line and her brother missing, Antonia must race against the clock to confront long-buried family secrets.

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

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

AUTHOR BIO

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



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THE FORBIDDEN TERRITORY OF A TERRIFYING WOMAN

A NOVEL

MOLLY LYNCH

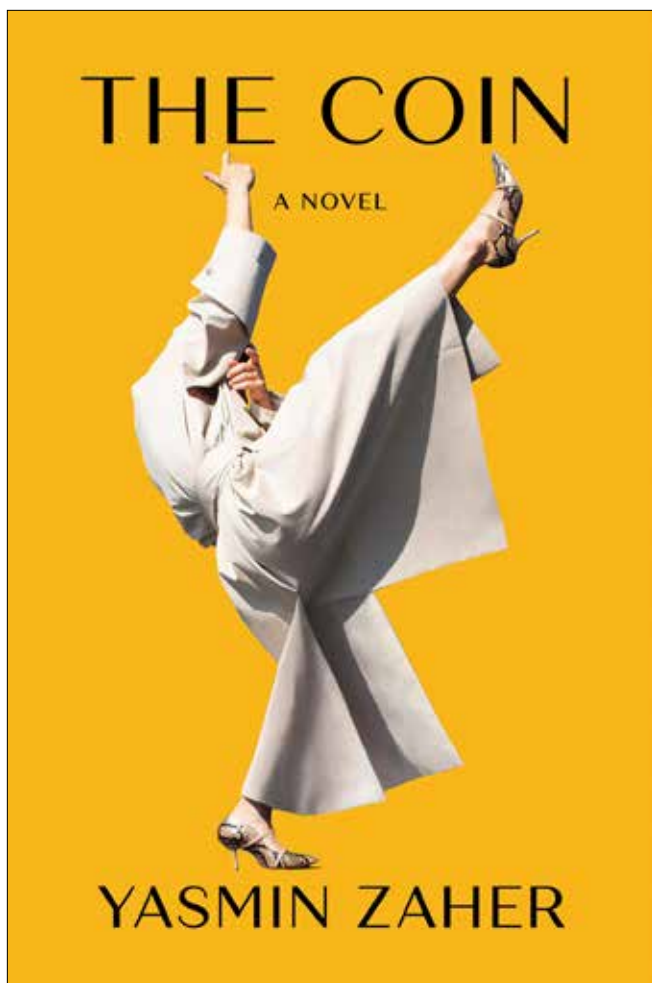
SUMMARY

Fates and Furies meets *Melancholia* in this ominous and absorbing debut novel about marriage and motherhood in a time of ecological collapse, as mothers around the world begin to mysteriously vanish from their homes.

"[A] meditative climate-crisis thriller . . . It is not a spoiler to say that capitalism is running amuck, and through Ada's disappearance, Lynch's sharp eye takes us into dark territories of metamorphosis that seem otherworldly but are, terrifyingly, here." —Robert Sullivan, *Vogue*

AUTHOR BIO

MOLLY LYNCH grew up on the west coast of Canada and lived in Ireland as a teenager. She worked in Dublin, Cork, Manchester and Malaga before moving to Montreal to study literature. She's spent time in Syria, Lebanon and Turkey and moved to Baltimore where she earned an MFA from the Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars. She now teaches creative writing at the University of Michigan.



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Author hometown: Jerusalem
Author residence: Paris, France
Photo: Morgane Vie

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THE COIN

A NOVEL

YASMIN ZAHER

SUMMARY

A bold and unabashed novel about a young Palestinian woman's unraveling, far from home, as she gets caught up in a scheme reselling Birkin bags

The Coin follows a Palestinian woman as she pursues a dream that generations of her family have failed at: to live and thrive in America. She teaches at a school for underprivileged boys in New York, where her eccentric methods cross conventional boundaries. She befriends a homeless swindler and the two participate in a pyramid scheme reselling Birkin bags, the value of which "increases, year by year, regardless of poverty, of war, of famine." The juxtaposition of luxury and the abject engulfs her as she is able to con her way to bag after bag, preoccupied by the suffering she knows of the world.

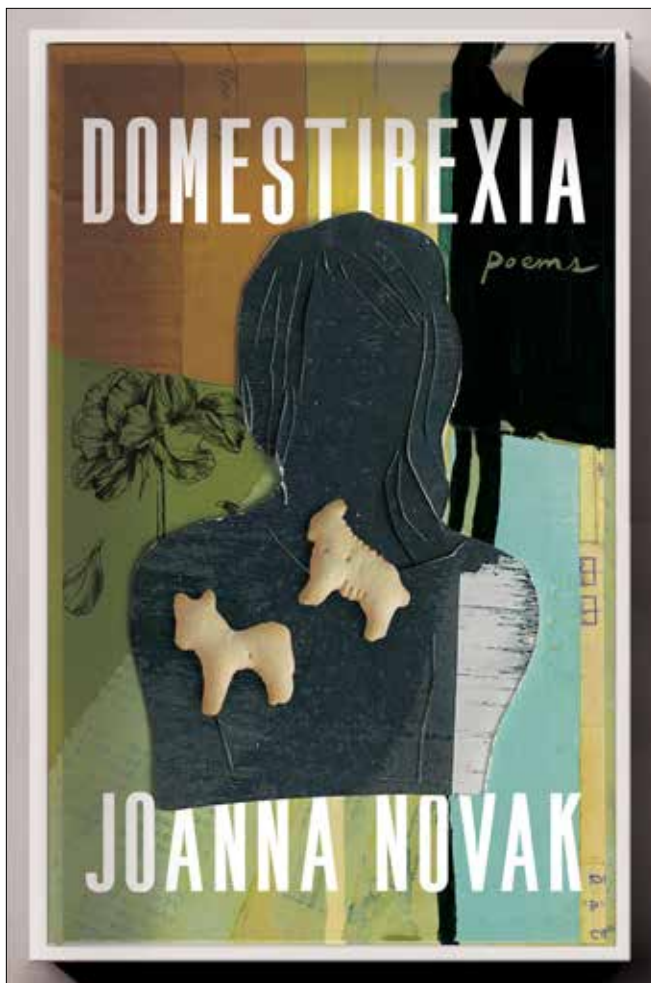
Eventually, her body and mind go to war. America is stifling her—her willfulness, her sexuality, her ideology. In an attempt to regain control, she becomes preoccupied with purity, cleanliness and self-image, all while drawing her students into her obsessions. In an unforgettable denouement, her childhood memories converge with her feelings of existential statelessness, and the narrator unravels spectacularly.

Enthralling, sensory, and uncanny, *The Coin* explores materiality, nature and civilization, class, homelessness, sexuality, beauty—and how oppression and inherited trauma manifest in every area of our lives—all while resisting easy moralizing. Provocative and original, humorous and inviting, *The Coin* marks the arrival of a major new literary voice.

AUTHOR BIO



YASMIN ZAHER is a Palestinian journalist and writer born in 1991 in Jerusalem. *The Coin* is her first novel.



Soft Skull Press

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Poetry - Subjects & Themes - Family

Rights - World

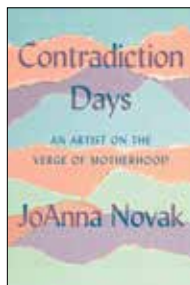
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Photo: Falyng Huang

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Also available

9781646220762



DOMESTIREXIA

POEMS

JOANNA NOVAK

SUMMARY

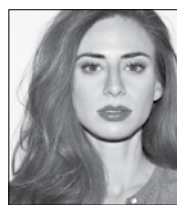
A poetry collection contorting the idea of home away from being a site of comfort and nourishment by coaxing the reader to think about domesticity in knotty new ways

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

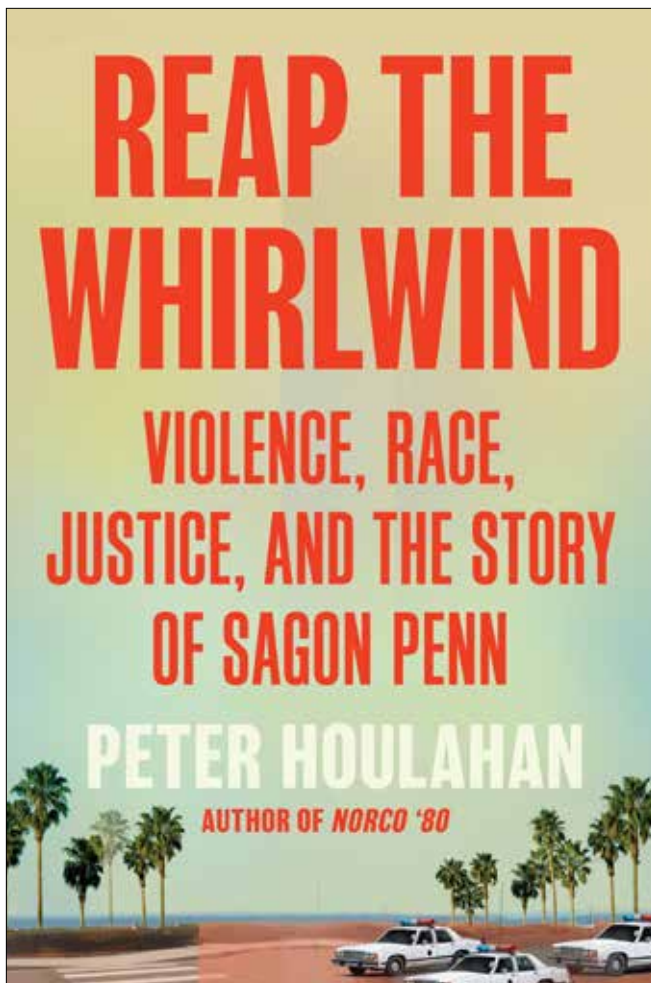
Home can be a space of both resistance and discomfort that one desires or takes pleasure in enjoying. Rote notions of home and the domestic are reimagined in these poems as estranging, excessive, and populated by unknowable characters. Exploring themes of family, sacrifice, disease, death, money, cooking,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

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

AUTHOR BIO



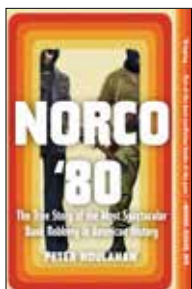
JOANNA NOVAK’s memoir *Contradiction Days* was published by Catapult in July 2023. Her short story collection *Meaningful Work* won the Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Contest and was published by FC2. She is the author of the novel *I Must Have You* and three books of poetry: *New Life*; *Abeyance*,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



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Author hometown: Long Beach, CA
 Author residence: Ridgefield, CT
 Photo: Olivia Houlahan

Publicist: Megan Fishmann
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Also available
 9781640093881

REAP THE WHIRLWIND

VIOLENCE, RACE, JUSTICE, AND THE TRUE STORY OF
 SAGON PENN

PETER HOULAHAN

SUMMARY

The first major interrogation of the largely forgotten story of a young Black man in 1980s San Diego who, during an undeserved and racially motivated arrest, killed a police officer

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

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

AUTHOR BIO



PETER HOULAHAN is an author, freelance writer, and book review contributor. His work has appeared in *CrimeReads*, *Salon*, *L.A. Magazine*, *Police1*, *Hearst*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Daily Mirror*, and the *Orange County Register*. His first book *Norco '80: The True Story of the Most Spectacular Bank Robbery in American History* was

a finalist for the Edgar Award, the Hammett Prize, and Macavity Award. The book has been chosen as a *New York Times* summer pick, a best book of the year by NPR, *The Wall Street Journal*, and Amazon, and a Gold Standard selection by the Junior Library Guild. *Norco '80* has been produced as a multi-episode podcast by LAist/Futuro Studios.

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