SPRING 2020
FARRAR, STRAUS, AND GIROUX

This edition of the catalogue was printed on November 12, 2019.

To view updates, please see the Spring 2020 Raincoast eCatalogue or visit www.raincoast.com
Luster
A Novel
by Raven Leilani

Sharp, comic, disruptive, tender, Raven Leilani’s debut novel, Luster, sees a young black woman fall into art and someone else’s open marriage.

Edie is stumbling her way through her twenties—sharing a subpar apartment in Bushwick, clocking in and out of her admin job, making a series of inappropriate sexual choices. She’s also, secretly, haltingly figuring her way into life as an artist. And then she meets Eric, a digital archivist with a family in New Jersey, including an autopsist wife who has agreed to an open marriage—with rules. As if navigating the constantly shifting landscapes of contemporary sexual manners and racial politics weren’t hard enough, Edie finds herself unemployed and falling into Eric's family life, his home. She becomes hesitant friend to his wife and a de facto role model to his adopted daughter. Edie is the only black woman young Akila may know.

Razor sharp, darkly comic, sexually charged, socially disruptive, Luster is a portrait of a young woman trying to make her sense of her life in a tumultuous era. It is also a haunting, aching description of how hard it is to believe in your own talent and the unexpected influences that bring us into ourselves along the way.

Author Bio

Raven Leilani’s work has been published in Granta, McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern, Narrative, Columbia Journal, Conjunctions, The Cut, and New England Review, among other publications. She won Narrative’s Ninth Annual Poetry Contest and the Matt Clark Editor’s Choice Prize, as well as short fiction prizes from Bat City Review and Blue Earth Review. Leilani received her MFA from NYU and is currently the Axinn Foundation Writer in Residence there, as well as fiction editor at Ruminate magazine. Luster is her first novel.
The Double X Economy
The Epic Potential of Women's Empowerment
by Linda Scott

A leading thinker’s groundbreaking examination of women's economic empowerment

For the past fifteen years, the scholar and activist Linda Scott has played a central role in the rise of the women's economic empowerment movement. A coalition made up of activists, multinational corporations, global NGOs, and governments, it arose in the mid-2000s in response to new global data sets that revealed sobering conclusions about women in the economy, namely that gender inequality is a global problem, and that women's economic subordination drags down national economies and fosters global crises, from severe poverty to human trafficking.

In The Double X Economy: The Epic Potential of Women's Empowerment, Scott argues that women's systematic exclusion from economic participation has created an alternate system that she calls the Double X Economy*: having suffered from a consistent list of severe and worldwide economic exclusions applied throughout history, women have been shaped into an entirely different economic practice. Yet while the women's economy, taken as a whole, is restricted and constantly under threat, when empowered it is more careful, cooperative, and focused on long-term outcomes than the economic order under which the world lives now.

Building on the momentum of the female empowerment movements currently mobilizing worldwide, The Double X Economy presents an entirely new conceptual schema for women’s rights based on economic liberty. Accessible and convincing, Scott’s groundbreaking study is an assessment of women’s historic subjugation, a demonstration of how that subjugation has resulted in myriad intractable problems, and a call to action to once and for all place women on an equal footing with men in order to (...)

Author Bio

Linda Scott is the Emeritus DP World Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Oxford and a Senior Consulting Fellow at the Royal Institute for International Affairs. She founded, and is now Senior Adviser to, the Global Business Coalition for Women’s Economic Empowerment and was selected as one of the top 25 Global Thinkers by Prospect (U.K.) in in 2015. Scott works with multinational corporations, international agencies, national governments, and global NGOs designing and testing programs to better include women in the world economy.
This Is Not My Memoir
by Andre Gregory and Todd London

The autobiography-of-sorts of Andre Gregory, an iconic figure in American theater and the star of My Dinner with Andre. This Is Not My Memoir tells the life story of Andre Gregory, iconic theatre director, writer, and actor. For the first time, Gregory shares memories from a life lived for art, including stories from the making of My Dinner with Andre. Taking on the dizzying, wondrous nature of a fever dream, This Is Not My Memoir includes fantastic and fantastical stories that take the reader from wartime Paris to golden-age Hollywood, from avant-garde theaters to monasteries in India. Along the way we meet Jerzy Grotowski, Helene Weigel, Gregory Peck, Gurumayi Chidvilasananda, Wallace Shawn, and many other larger-than-life personalities.

This Is Not My Memoir is a collaboration between Gregory and Todd London who together create a portrait of an artist confronting his later years. Here, too, are the reflections of a man who only recently learned how to love. What does it mean to create art in a world that often places little value on the process of creating it? And what does it mean to confront the process of aging when your greatest work of art may well be your own life?

Author Bio

Andre Gregory has been directing in New York for more than half a century. He has collaborated on film versions of his theater productions with Wallace Shawn, Louis Malle, and Jonathan Demme. The now legendary My Dinner with Andre was created by Gregory, Shawn, and Malle. He is also an actor, writer, teacher, and painter.

Todd London’s books include An Ideal Theater, The Importance of Staying Earnest, and two novels. A past winner of the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism, he was the inaugural recipient of the Visionary Leadership Award for his contributions to the American theater.
A figure with no discernible identity appears in a small, religious town, throwing its inhabitants into a frenzy.

In a small unnamed town in the American South, a church congregation arrives to a service and finds a figure asleep on a pew. The person is genderless, racially ambiguous, and refuses to speak. One family takes the strange visitor in and nicknames them Pew.

As the town spends the week preparing for a mysterious Forgiveness Festival, Pew is shuttled from one household to the next. The earnest and seemingly well-meaning townspeople see conflicting identities in Pew, and many confess their fears and secrets to them in one-sided conversations. Pew listens and observes while experiencing brief flashes of past lives or clues about their origins. As days pass, the void around Pew's presence begins to unnerve the community, whose generosity erodes into menace and suspicion. Yet by the time Pew's story reaches a shattering and unsettling climax at the Forgiveness Festival, the secret of their true nature - as a devil or an angel or something else entirely - is dwarfed by even larger truths. Pew, Catherine Lacey's third novel, is a foreboding, provocative, and amorphous fable about the world today: its contradictions, its flimsy morality, and the limits of judging others based on their appearance. With precision and restraint, one of our most beloved and boundary-pushing writers holds up a mirror to her characters' true selves, revealing something about forgiveness, perception, and the faulty tools society uses to categorize human complexity.

Author Bio

Catherine Lacey is the author of Nobody Is Ever Missing, winner of a 2016 Whiting Award and finalist for the Young Lion's Fiction Award, and The Answers. In 2017, she was named one of Granta's Best Young American Novelists. Her essays and fiction have been published widely and translated into Italian, French, Dutch, Spanish and German. She was born in Mississippi and is based in Chicago.
Men on Horseback
The Power of Charisma in the Age of Revolution
by David A. Bell

An immersive examination of why the age of democratic revolutions was also a time of hero worship and strongmen

The word charisma may trace its origins to ancient Greece, but its meaning has never been fixed in the solid schist of Classical Athens. For Saint Paul, to possess charisma was to be filled with divine grace; for Max Weber, it demonstrated how authority could be wielded successfully in defiance of rules and traditions. The word entered our modern lexicon via the pages of *Fortune* magazine in the 1940s, where it has remained ever since. In *Men on Horseback*, Princeton historian David A. Bell offers a dramatic new interpretation of charisma, arguing that its contemporary resonance is best understood by refracting it through the lives of five extraordinary revolutionaries.

From Corsica’s Pasquale Paoli, a favorite subject of James Boswell, to George Washington; from Toussaint Louverture to his betrayer, Napoleon Bonaparte; and finally to Simon Bolivar, who witnessed the coronation of Napoleon and later sought refuge in newly-independent Haiti: taking these five leaders as his subject, Bell weaves a spellbinding tale of power and its ability to mesmerize.

Ultimately, Bell tells the crucial and neglected story of how leadership was reinvented for a world without kings and queens. If leaders no longer rule by divine right, what underlies their authority? Military valor? The consent of the people? Their own Godlike qualities? Bell’s subjects struggled with this question, and learned from each other as they did so. They were men on horseback who sought to be men of the people; as he shows, modern democracy, militarism (...)

Author Bio

David A. Bell is the Sydney and Ruth Lapidus Professor in the Era of North Atlantic Revolutions at Princeton University and the author of six previous books, among them *The First Total War* and *Shadows of Revolution*. 
A woman at a crossroads learns the only way to reclaim her life is to help others die

What if Evelyn's whole life has been a mistake? At 37, she's on the verge of divorce and anxiously awaiting everyone she loves dying on her. She combats her existential crisis by avoiding her husband and wandering the freeways of California looking for an escape before discovering a collective of exit guides. Evelyn enrolls in training courses where she learns to provide companionship and a final exit for terminally ill patients looking for a conscious departure. She meets Daphne, a dying woman still full of life; Lawrence, an aging porn king; and Daniel, who seems too young to die, and whom she can't help but fall for. Each client allows her a chance to access her own grief and confront the self-destructive ways she suppresses her pain. When Evelyn travels through the Southwest to an afterlife convention, she must finally face her complicated relationship with her alcoholic father and reckon with her life choices.

*Life Events* is about planning your next phase when you see your past as a failure and your future as an impossible obligation. Sensitively observed and darkly funny, Karolina Waclawiak's breakout novel follows a woman searching for answers and intimacy while facing profound questions about how we live and die today.

**Author Bio**

Karolina Waclawiak is the author of the novels *How to Get into the Twin Palms* and *The Invaders*. Formerly an editor at *The Believer*, she is the executive editor of culture at *BuzzFeed News*. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, The Virginia Quarterly Review, Hazlitt*, and elsewhere.
An in-depth and personal exploration of Scandinavian crime fiction as a way into Scandinavian culture at large

For forty years, Wendy Lesser's primary source of information for three Scandinavian countries - Sweden, Norway, and Denmark - was mystery and crime novels, and the murders committed and solved in their pages. Having never visited the region, Lesser constructed a fictional Scandinavia of her own making, something between a map, a portrait, and a cultural history of a place that both exists and does not exist. Lesser's Scandinavia is disproportionately populated with police officers, but also with the stuff of everyday life, the likes of which are relayed in great detail in the novels she read: a fully realized world complete with its own traditions, customs, and, of course, people. Over the course of many years, Lesser's fictional Scandinavia grew more and more solidly visible to her, yet she never had a strong desire to visit the real countries that corresponded to the made-up ones. Until, she writes, between one day and the next, that no longer seemed sufficient. "It was time to travel to Scandinavia.

With vivid storytelling and an astonishing command of the literature, Wendy Lesser's *Scandinavian Noir: In Pursuit of a Mystery* illuminates the vast, peculiar world of Scandinavian noir - first as it appears on the page, then as it grows in her mind, and finally, in the summer of 2018, as it exists in reality. Guided by sharp criticism, evocative travel writing, and a whimsical need to discover "the difference between existence and imagination, reality and dream," *Scandinavian Noir* is a thrilling (...)

**Author Bio**

Wendy Lesser is the founder and editor of *The Threepenny Review* and the author of a novel and several books of nonfiction, including *Music for Silenced Voices* and *Why I Read*, which garnered rave reviews from coast to coast. She has written for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The London Review of Books*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and other publications. To complete *You Say to Brick*, she received one of the first National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar awards.
Fracture
A Novel
by Andres Neuman, translated by Nick Caistor and Lorenza Garcia

Critically acclaimed, prize-winning author Andres Neuman’s Fracture is an ambitious literary novel set against Japan’s 2011 nuclear accident in a cross-cultural story about how every society remembers and forgets its catastrophes.

An earthquake unnerves Tokyo on March 11, 2011, triggering the Fukushima nuclear disaster - and a tectonic stirring of the collective past. Mr. Yoshiie Watanabe, an aging executive at an electronics company and a survivor of the atomic bomb, feels as though he is a fugitive of his own memory. As the seams of his country threaten to come undone yet again, he braces himself to make the biggest decision of his life.

Meanwhile, four women narrate their own memories of Watanabe to an enigmatic Argentinian reporter investigating his life. Their stories, told in different languages and describing different loves, map a sociopolitical tour of Tokyo, Paris, New York, Buenos Aires, and Madrid, proving that nothing ever happens in one place, that every human event reverberates to the ends of the earth.

Author Bio

Andres Neuman was born in 1977 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and grew up in Spain. He has a degree in Spanish philology from the University of Granada. Neuman was selected as one of Granta’s Best of Young Spanish-Language Novelists and was elected to the Bogota-39 list. Traveler of the Century was the winner of the Alfaguara Prize and the National Critics Prize, Spain’s two most prestigious literary awards.
The Pink Line
Journeys Across the World's Queer Frontiers
by Mark Gevisser

Whether recounting suffering or triumph, Mark Gevisser is a clear-sighted, fearless, and generous guide. - Andrew Solomon

A groundbreaking look at how the issues of sexuality and gender identity divide and unite the world today

More than five years in the making, Mark Gevisser's The Pink Line: The World's Queer Frontiers is a globetrotting exploration of how the human rights frontier around sexual orientation and gender identity has come to divide - and describe - the world in an entirely new way over the first two decades of the twenty-first century. No social movement has brought change so quickly and with such dramatically mixed results. While same-sex marriage and gender transition is celebrated in some parts of the world, laws are being strengthened to criminalize homosexuality and gender nonconformity in others. A new Pink Line, Gevisser argues, has been drawn across the world, and he takes readers to its frontiers.

In between sharp analytical chapters about culture wars, folklore, gender ideology, and geopolitics, Gevisser provides sensitive and sometimes startling profiles of the queer folk he's encountered on the Pink Line's front lines across nine countries. They include a trans Malawian refugee granted asylum in South Africa and a gay Ugandan refugee stuck in Nairobi; a lesbian couple who started a gay cafe in Cairo after the Arab Spring, a trans woman fighting for custody of her child in Moscow, and a community of kothis - "women's hearts in men's bodies" - who run (...)
Natural History
A Novel
by Carlos Fonseca, translated by Megan McDowell

From Carlos Fonseca comes a dazzling, kaleidoscopic epic of art, politics, and hidden realities

Just before the dawn of the new millennium, a curator at a New Jersey museum of natural history receives an unusual invitation from a celebrated fashion designer. She shares the curator’s fascination with the hidden forms of the animal kingdom - with camouflage and subterfuge - and she proposes that they collaborate on an exhibition, the form of which itself remains largely obscure, even as they enter into a strange relationship marked by evasion and elision.

Seven years later, after the death of the designer, the curator recovers the archive of their never-completed project. During a long night of insomnia, he finds within the archive a series of clues to the true story of the designer’s family, a mind-bending puzzle that winds from Haifa, Israel, to bohemian 1970s New York to the Latin American jungle. On the way, he discovers a cast of characters whose own fixations interrogate the unstable frontiers between art, science, politics, and religion: an aging photographer, living nearly alone in an abandoned mining town where subterranean fires rage without end, who creates models of ruined cities; a former model turned conceptual artist - and a defendant in a trial over the very nature and purpose of art; a young indigenous boy who has received a vision of the end of the world. Reality is a curtain, as the curator realizes, and to draw it back is to reveal the theater of obsession.

Natural History is (...)

Author Bio
Carlos Fonseca was born in San Jose, Costa Rica, and spent half of his childhood and adolescence in Puerto Rico. In 2016, he was named one of the twenty best Latin American writers born in the 1980s at the Guadalajara Book Fair, and in 2017 he was included in the Bogota39 list of the best Latin American writers under forty. He is the author of the novel Colonel Lagrimas, and in 2018, he won the National Prize for Literature in Costa Rica for his book of essays, La Lucidez del Miope. He teaches at Trinity College, Cambridge, and lives in London.
An astonishingly nuanced reading of Jane Austen that yields a rare understanding of how to live

About seven years ago, not too long before our daughter was born, Jane Austen became my only author.”

When Rachel Cohen’s father died and shortly before she gave birth to her first child, she turned to Jane Austen to make sense of her new reality. Simultaneously grief-stricken and buoyed by the birth of her daughter, reading Austen became Cohen’s refuge and her ballast. She was able to reckon with difficult questions about mourning, memorializing, living in a household, paying attention to the world, reading, writing, and imagining through the novels.

Austen Years is a deeply felt and sensitive examination of Cohen’s relationship to Austen, and to her own family, winding together memoir, criticism, and biographical and historical material about Austen herself. And like the sequence of Austen's novels, the scope of Austen Years widens successively, with each chapter following one of Austen's novels. We begin with Cohen in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she raises her small children and contemplates her father’s last letter, a moment paired with the grief and social bonds of Sense and Sensibility and Pride and Prejudice. Later, moving with her family to Chicago, Cohen grapples with her growing children, teaching, and her father’s legacy, all refracted through the denser, more complex Mansfield Park and Emma.

With unusual depth and fresh insight into Austen’s life and literature, and guided by Austen’s mournful and hopeful final novel, Persuasion, Rachel Cohen’s Austen Years is a (...)
Joe Sanderson died in pursuit of a life worth writing about. He was, in his words, a road bum,” an adventurer and a storyteller, belonging to no place, people, or set of ideas. He was born into a childhood of middle-class contentment in Urbana, Illinois and died fighting with guerillas in Central America. With these facts, acclaimed novelist and journalist Hector Tobar set out to write what would become *The Last Great Road Bum*.

A decade ago, Tobar came into possession of the personal writings of the late Joe Sanderson, which chart Sanderson’s freewheeling course across the known world, from Illinois to Jamaica, to Vietnam, to Nigeria, to El Salvador - a life determinedly an adventure, ending in unlikely, anonymous heroism. *The Last Great Road Bum* is the great American novel Joe Sanderson never could have written, but did truly live - a fascinating, timely hybrid of fiction and nonfiction that only a master of both like Hector Tobar could pull off.

**Author Bio**

**Hector Tobar** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and novelist. He is the author of the critically acclaimed, *New York Times* bestseller, *Deep Down Dark*, as well as *The Barbarian Nurseries*, *Translation Nation*, and *The Tattooed Soldier*. Hector is also a contributing writer for the *New York Times* opinion pages and an associate professor at the University of California, Irvine. He's written for *The New Yorker*, *The Los Angeles Times* and other publications. His short fiction has appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *L. A. Noir*, *Zyzzyva*, and *Slate*. The son of Guatemalan immigrants, he is a native of Los Angeles, where he lives with his family.
Life of a Klansman
A Family History with White Supremacy
by Edward Ball

A trenchant exploration of a family's legacy of white supremacy from the National Book Award-winner Edward Ball

Eighty million: this figure, in Edward Ball's estimation, represents the number of Americans with at least one ancestor in the Ku Klux Klan. Yet the stories of these Klansmen - our national Klansmen - remain largely untold. They are white skeletons mouldering in family closets, in the North as well as the South. Now, in this pioneering and punctiliously researched microhistory, the National Book Award-winner Ball (Slaves in the Family) turns his attention back to the subject that brought him to national fame: the mechanisms of white supremacy in America, as understood through the lives of his own ancestors. Life of a Klansman is the story of Polycarp Constant Lecorgne, a carpenter from New Orleans, a member of the White League, a guerilla fighter for the Klan, and the author's great-great-grandfather. Ball takes readers back to a time when Louisiana was on the ragged frontier of Napoleon's former empire - a place where racial lines were occasionally blurred, and where Constant's father Yves even rented his house from a freewoman of color. Life of a Klansman traces Louisiana's tortured racial history, from the Creole caste system to the American Civil War to Reconstruction, when petits blancs like Constant violently rejected what they perceived as an imposed threat to the hierarchy of white and black.

From street battles with the Metropolitan Police to conversations in his aunt's kitchen, Ball examines how the Ku-Klux" (in his family's parlance) has waxed and waned and waxed again in the (...)

Author Bio

Edward Ball is the author of works of nonfiction including Slaves in the Family, which won the National Book Award. Born and raised in the South, he attended Brown University and received his MFA from the University of Iowa before coming to New York and working as an art critic for The Village Voice. He lives in Connecticut and teaches writing at Yale University.
When he graduated from Columbia in 1958, John Giorno was handsome, charismatic, ambitious, and eager to soak up as much of Manhattan’s art and culture as possible. Poetry didn’t pay the bills, so he worked on Wall Street, spending his nights at the happenings, underground movie premiers, art shows, and poetry readings that brought the city to life. An intense romantic relationship with Andy Warhol - not yet the global superstar he would soon become - exposed Giorno to even more of the downtown scene, but after starring in Warhol’s first movie, Sleep, they drifted apart. Giorno soon found himself involved with Robert Rauschenberg and later Jasper Johns, both relationships fueling his creativity. He quickly became a renowned poet in his own right, working at the intersection of literature and technology, freely crossing genres and mediums alongside the likes of William Burroughs and Brion Gysin.

Twenty-three years in the making, and completed shortly before Giorno’s death in 2019, Great Demon Kings is the memoir of a singular cultural pioneer: an openly gay man at a time when many artists remained closeted and shunned gay subject matter, and a devout Buddhist whose faith acted as a rudder during a life of tremendous animation, one full of fantastic highs and frightening lows. Studded with appearances by nearly every it-boy and girl of the downtown scene (including a moving portrait of a decades-long friendship with Burroughs), this book offers a joyous, life-affirming, and sensational look at New York City during its creative peak, narrated in the unforgettable voice of one of its most singular characters.

Author Bio

John Giorno (1936-2019) was a New York-based poet and performance artist and the founder of Giorno Poetry Systems. A longtime member of the lower Manhattan art scene, Giorno was also an AIDS activist and Tibetan Buddhist whose work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, among other institutions.
I Hold a Wolf by the Ears
Stories
by Laura van den Berg

An urgent and unsettling collection of women on the verge from Laura van den Berg, author of The Third Hotel

I Hold a Wolf by the Ears, Laura van den Berg's first story collection since her acclaimed and prizewinning Isle of Youth, draws readers into a world of wholly original, sideways ghost stories that linger in the mouth and mind like rotten, fragrant fruit. Both timeless and urgent, these eleven stories confront misogyny, violence, and the impossible economics of America with van den Berg's trademark spiky humor and surreal eye. Moving from the peculiarities of Florida to liminal spaces of travel in Mexico City, Sicily, and Spain, I Hold a Wolf by the Ears is uncannily attuned to our current moment, and to the thoughts we reveal to no one but ourselves.

In Lizards," a man mutes his wife's anxieties by giving her a La Croix-like seltzer laced with sedatives. In the title story, a woman poses as her more successful sister during a botched Italian holiday, a choice that brings about strange and violent consequences, while in "Karolina," a woman discovers her prickly ex-sister-in-law in the aftermath of an earthquake and is forced to face the truth about her violent brother.

I Hold a Wolf by the Ears presents a collection of women on the verge, trying to grasp what's left of life: grieving, divorced, and hyperaware, searching, vulnerable, and unhinged, they exist in a world that deviates from our own only when you look too close. With remarkable control and transcendent talent, van den Berg dissolves, in the words of the narrator of "Slumberland," "that border between magic and annihilation," and further establishes herself as a defining fiction writer of our time.

Author Bio

Laura van den Berg is the author of the story collections What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us and The Isle of Youth, and the novel Find Me. She is the recipient of a Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Bard Fiction Prize, an O. Henry Award, and a MacDowell Colony fellowship. Born and raised in Florida, she lives in Cambridge, MA, with her husband and dog.
Owls of the Eastern Ice
A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl
by Jonathan C. Slaght

A young field scientist and conservationist tracks the elusive Blakiston's Fish Owl in the forbidding reaches of eastern Russia

The Blakiston's Fish Owl, the largest species of owl on earth, found only in the far northern regions of Russia, Japan, and Korea, is also perhaps the most mysterious. Only a handful of scientists have attempted to study them, but a chance sighting changed the course of Jonathan Slaght's life - sending him on a five-year journey to study these enigmatic creatures.

In Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl, American researcher and conservationist Slaght takes us to the Primoriye region of Eastern Russia, where we join a small team for late-night monitoring missions, on mad dashes across thawing rivers, drink vodka with mystics, hermits, and scientists, and listen to fireside tales of Amur tigers. Most captivating of all are the fish owls themselves: vicious hunters, devoted parents, singers of eerie duets, and irrepressible survivors in a harsh and shrinking habitat.

A rare glimpse into the everyday life of a scientist and the subjects of his deep fascination, Owls of the Eastern Ice is a testament to the determination, creativity, and resolve required by field research and a powerful reminder of the beauty, strength, and vulnerability of the natural world.

Author Bio

Jonathan Slaght is the Russia and Northeast Asia Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, where he manages research projects on endangered species and coordinates avian conservation activities along the East Asia-Australasian Flyway from the Arctic to the Tropics. His annotated translation of Across the Ussuri Kay by Vladimir Arsenyev was published in 2016, and his writings, research, and photographs have been featured in The New York Times, The Guardian, the BBC World Service, NPR, Smithsonian Magazine, and Audubon Magazine, among others.
Imperfect Women
A Novel
by Araminta Hall

From the author of Our Kind of Cruelty comes an enthralling, irresistible novel of psychological suspense about three women and the destructive power of buried secrets.

When Nancy Hennessy is murdered, she leaves behind two best friends, a loving husband and daughter, and a secret lover whose identity she took to the grave. Nancy was gorgeous and wealthy, with adoring friends and family - from the outside, her life was perfect. But as the investigation into her death flounders and her friends Eleanor and Mary wrestle with their grief, dark details surface that reveal how little they knew their friend, each other, maybe even themselves.

A gripping, immersive novel about impossible expectations and secrets that fester and become lethal, Imperfect Women unfolds through the perspectives of three fascinating women. Their enduring, complex friendship is the knot the reader must untangle to answer the question: who killed Nancy?

Imperfect Women explores guilt and retribution, love and betrayal, and the compromises we make that alter our lives irrevocably. With the wickedly sharp insights and finely tuned suspense that has drawn her comparisons to Patricia Highsmith and Paula Hawkins, Araminta Hall returns with another page-turning, thought-provoking tour de force.

Author Bio

Araminta Hall has an MA in creative writing and authorship from the University of Sussex, and teaches creative writing at New Writing South in Brighton, where she lives with her husband and three children. She is the author of Our Kind of Cruelty, which was named a best book of 2018 by CrimeReads and Real Simple.
The Deviant's War
The Homosexual vs. the United States of America
by Eric Cervini

From a young Harvard and Cambridge-trained historian, the secret history of the fight for gay rights that began a generation before Stonewall

In 1957, Frank Kameny, a rising astronomer working for the U.S. Military in Hawaii, received a summons to report immediately to Washington, D.C. The Pentagon had reason to believe he was a homosexual, and after a series of humiliating interviews, Kameny - like gay men and women for generations - was promptly dismissed from the military. Unlike many others, though, Kameny fought back. The Deviant's War is the story of what followed. This book is an assiduously researched history of an early champion of gay liberation, one who fought for the right to follow his passion and serve his country in the wake of Joseph McCarthy's Lavender Scare. We follow Kameny as he explores the underground gay scenes of Boston and Washington, D.C., where he formulates his arguments against the U.S. Government's classification of gay men and women as sexual perverts. "At a time when staying in the closet remained the default, he poked and prodded at the hypocrisies of the American establishment, helping to usher in a broader revolution in sexual morals. Based on firsthand accounts, recently declassified FBI records, and forty thousand personal documents, The Deviant's War unfolds over the course of the 1960s, as the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C. - the group Kameny founded - became the first organization to protest the systematic persecution of gay federal employees. It is a story of America (and Washington) at a cultural and sexual crossroads; of shocking, byzantine public battles with Congress; of FBI informants; murder; betrayal; sex; love - and ultimately victory.

Author Bio

Eric Cervini holds a BA from Harvard College and a PhD from the University of Cambridge, where his dissertation focused on the homophile movement in the United States. The Deviant's War is his first book.
Parakeet
A Novel
by Marie-Helene Bertino

Acclaimed author of 2 A.M. at the Cat’s Pajamas Marie-Helene Bertino’s Parakeet is a darkly funny and warm-hearted novel about a young woman whose dead grandmother (in the form of a parakeet) warns her not to marry and sends her out to find an estranged loved one.

The week of her wedding, The Bride is visited by a bird she recognizes as her dead grandmother because of the cornflower blue line beneath her eyes, her dubious expression, and the way she asks: What is the Internet?

Her grandmother is a parakeet. She says not to get married. She says: Go and find your brother.

In the days that follow, The Bride’s march to the altar becomes a wild and increasingly fragmented, unstable journey that bends toward the surreal and forces her to confront matters long buried.

A novel that does justice to the hectic confusion of becoming a woman today, Parakeet asks and begins to answer the essential questions. How do our memories make, cage, and free us? How do we honor our experiences and still become our strongest, truest selves? Who are we responsible for, what do we owe them, and how do we allow them to change?

Urgent, strange, warm-hearted, and sly, Parakeet is ribboned with joy, fear, and an inextricable thread of real love. It is a startling, unforgettable, life-embracing exploration of self and connection.

Author Bio

Marie-Helene Bertino is the author of 2 A.M. at the Cat’s Pajamas and the story collection Safe as Houses. She was the 2017 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Fellow in Cork, Ireland. Her work has received The O. Henry Prize, The Pushcart Prize, The Iowa Short Fiction Award, The Mississippi Review Story Prize, fellowships from MacDowell, Sewanee, and NYC’s The Center for Fiction, and has twice been featured on NPR’s Selected Shorts. Formerly the associate editor of One Story and Catapult, she now teaches at NYU, The New School, and Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. For more information, please visit: www.mariehelenebertino.com.
Henry Kissinger and American Power
by Thomas A. Schwartz

The definitive biography of Henry Kissinger - at least for those who neither revere nor revile him

Over the past six decades, Henry Kissinger has been America's most consistently praised - and reviled - public figure. He was hailed as a miracle worker for his peacemaking in the Middle East, pursuit of détente with the Soviet Union, negotiation of an end to the Vietnam War, and secret plan to open the United States to China. He was assailed from the left and from the right for his indifference to human rights, complicity in the pointless sacrifice of American and Vietnamese lives, and reliance on deception and intrigue. Was he a brilliant master strategist - "the 20th century's greatest 19th century statesman" - or a cold-blooded monster who eroded America's moral standing for the sake of self-promotion?

In this masterfully researched biography, the renowned diplomatic historian Thomas Schwartz offers an authoritative, and fair-minded, answer to this question. While other biographers have engaged in hagiography or demonology, Schwartz takes a measured view of his subject. He recognizes Kissinger's successes and acknowledges that Kissinger thought seriously and with great insight about the foreign policy issues of his time, while also recognizing his failures, his penchant for backbiting, and his reliance on ingratiating and fawning praise of the president as a source of power.

Throughout, Schwartz stresses Kissinger's artful invention of himself as a celebrity diplomat and his domination of the medium of television news. He also notes Kissinger's sensitivity to domestic and partisan politics, complicating - and undermining - the image of the far-seeing statesman who stands above the squabbles of (...)

Author Bio

Thomas A. Schwartz is a Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of America's Germany: John J. McCloy and the Federal Republic of Germany (1991) and Lyndon Johnson and Europe: In the Shadow of Vietnam (2003) as well as numerous articles on various aspects of American foreign relations.
Character
The History of a Cultural Obsession
by Marjorie Garber

A spirited, engaging investigation into the concept of character, an enduring human obsession in literature, psychology, politics, and everyday life

What is character? How can it be measured, developed, or built? Are character traits fixed or changeable? Is character innate, or can it be taught? Since Aristotle’s *Poetics*, philosophers, moralists, artists, and scientists have engaged with the enigma of human character. In its oldest usage, “character” derives from a word for engraving or stamping, yet over time, it has come to mean a moral idea, a type, a literary persona, and a physical or physiological manifestation, observable in works of art or in scientific experiments. It is an ingredient in drama and the focus of self-help books.

As Marjorie Garber explores in *The Character Issue*, character seems more relevant than ever - the term is omnipresent in discussions of politics, sexuality, ethics, morality, and the psyche. But it seems to carry an unusually wide range of meanings, some disconcertingly at odds with others.

Why are “character flaws” of such great interest today, whether in political campaigns, personal relationships, or the biographies (and autobiographies) of famous people, living and dead? What does “character,” in this moral or ethical sense, have to do with the concept of a character in a novel or a play? Are our notions about fictional characters in fact helping to produce our ideas about moral character?

The question of “character” arises in virtually every area of modern life. And in every case, there is the same fundamental tension: between (...)

Author Bio

Marjorie Garber is the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. She is the author of several books on Shakespeare, including *Shakespeare’s Ghost Writers* and *Shakespeare After All*, as well as of books on cultural topics ranging from dogs and real estate to cross-dressing, bisexuality, the use and abuse of literature, and the place of the arts in academic life. A member of the American Philosophical Society, she was the recipient of a 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship.
Fraternity
Stories
by Benjamin Nugent

In a Massachusetts college town, ancient letters inscribe a dilapidated colonial: Delta Zeta Chi. Cross the litter-strewn lawn and follow the sound of virtual gunfire to find a group of friends shooting the breeze. Among them stands Nutella, the apollonian chapter president; Oprah, the effeminate reader; Five-Hour, Buckhunter, Pizza Hut, and the girl they call God. The house might appear cramped, but the brothers know that to be inside is everything.

Fraternity celebrates the debauched kinship of boys straddling adolescence and adulthood: the drunken antics, elaborate posturing, and solemn confessions that mark their first years away from home. Beneath each tender episode lies the dread of exclusion. The closeted Oprah's hero worship gives way to real longing. A navy veteran advises on new initiation strategies, revealing an uneasy kinship between hazing and torture. And the shadow of assault hovers over every sexual encounter.

Voiced by an off-kilter chorus of the young and desperate to belong, Benjamin Nugent's provocative debut yanks the fraternity door off its hinges, daring us to peer inside with amusement, horror, and also with love.

Author Bio

Bland Fanatics
Essays
by Pankaj Mishra

A wide-ranging, controversial collection of critical essays on the political mania plaguing the West by one of the most important public intellectuals of our time.

Decades of violence and chaos have produced a political and intellectual hysteria ranging from imperial atavism to paranoia about an Islamic threat to Western civilization that has affected even the most liberal of American and British writers.

In Bland Fanatics, Pankaj Mishra examines this hysteria and its fantasists, taking on its arguments and the atmosphere in which it has festered and become influential. In essays that grapple with colonialism, human rights, and the doubling down of liberalism against a background of faltering economies and weakening Anglo-American hegemony, Mishra confronts writers from Jordan Peterson to Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

Featuring a newly written introduction, these essays provide a vantage point from which to look seriously at the current crisis.

Author Bio

Pankaj Mishra is the author of From the Ruins of Empire, Age of Anger, and several other books. He is a columnist at Bloomberg View and writes regularly for The Guardian, the London Review of Books, and The New Yorker. A fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, he lives in London.
Sometimes I Never Suffered
Poems
by Shane McCrae

Spanning religious, historical, and political themes, a new collection from the award-winning poet

I think now more than half
Of life is death but I can't die
Enough for all the life I see

In *Sometimes I Never Suffered*, his seventh collection of poems, Shane McCrae remains a shrewd composer of American stories® (Dan Chiasson, *The New Yorker*). Here, an angel, hastily thrown together by his fellow residents of Heaven, plummets to Earth in his first moments of consciousness. Jim Limber, the adopted mixed-race son of Jefferson Davis, wanders through the afterlife, reckoning with the nuances of America's, as well as his own, racial history. *Sometimes I Never Suffered* is a search for purpose and atonement, freedom and forgiveness, imagining eternity not as an escape from the past or present, but as a reverberating record and as the culmination of time's manifold potential to mend.

Author Bio

Shane McCrae is the author of *In the Language of My Captor*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and the William Carlos Williams Award; *The Animal Too Big to Kill*, winner of the 2014 Lexi Rudnitsky / Editor's Choice Award; *Forgiveness Forgiveness*; *Blood*; and *Mule*. He is the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. He teaches at Columbia University and lives in New York City.
An electrifying, multi-voiced thriller tackling our criminal justice system, from the writer Michael Connelly has called one of our most gifted novelists."

On December 6, 1993, a drug dealer called Scrappy is shot and left for dead on the lawn outside her mother's house in South Central Los Angeles. Augie, a heroin addict, witnesses the whole thing - before he steals all the drugs on her person, as well as the gun that was dropped at the scene. When Augie gets busted, he names local gang members Wizard and Dreamer the shooters.

But only one of them is guilty.

A search of Wizard and Dreamer's premises uncovers the gun that was used in the shooting, and a warrant goes out for their arrest. They know it's a frame-up, but the word from the gang is to keep their mouths shut and face the charges.

With these two off the streets and headed for jail, Dreamer's friend Little, the unlikeliest of new gang members, is given one job: discover how the gun got moved, and why.

Played out in the streets, precincts, jails, and courtrooms of Los Angeles, The System is the harrowing story of a crime - from moments before the bullets are fired, to the verdict and its violent aftershocks - told through the vivid chorus of those involved, guilty, the innocent, and everyone in between.

Author Bio

Ryan Gattis is the author of Kung Fu High School, All Involved, and Safe. His books have received the American Library Association's Alex Award, the Lire Award for Noir of the Year in France, and the First Annual McIntyre's Fine Books Mystery Prize. Gattis lives and writes in Los Angeles, where he is a member of the street art crew UGLARworks and a founding board member of 1888, a Southern California literary arts non-profit.
In Niche: A Memoir in Pastiche, the singer, songwriter, novelist, and cultural critic Momus presents the story of his life, career, and conquests on the margins of multiple music and art scenes.

Nick Currie, AKA Momus - named for the ancient Greek god of mockery, and described by The Guardian as the David Bowie of the art-pop underground - has recorded over thirty albums for labels like 4AD and Creation, published half a dozen works of speculative fiction, and written articles for The New York Times, Wired, ArtForum, Frieze, and The Wire. An unknown band called Pulp once asked him to produce their next album. (He said no.) An unknown band called Of Montreal once invited him to go on tour with them. (He said no.) He's collaborated with fans Vampire Weekend and with the Magnetic Fields' Stephin Merrit; Amanda Palmer covers him regularly in concert. He's had an impression of his penis preserved by the notorious Cynthia Plaster Caster. Maybe you've heard of him. Probably you haven't. This is his story. Or, rather, stories.

Rather than one avuncular tell-all relayed in his own voice, Momus has structured the narrative of his life as a typically atypical mockery of the rock-bio oral history. Instead of using living witnesses, Momus assumes the voices of 217 dead authors and artists and forces them to speak for and about him. From these dramatic monologues - sometimes unreliable, often comical - there gradually emerges a picture of one eccentric star's life across three continents and in his own, remarkable, niche.

Author Bio

Momus, born Nick Currie, is a Scot who makes songs, books, and art. He is the author of six books of speculative fiction and has released over thirty albums, his most recent being Akkordion. Momus lives between Berlin and Paris.
Cool for America
Stories
by Andrew Martin

Expanding the world of his classic-in-the-making debut novel Early Work, Andrew Martin’s Cool for America is a hilarious collection of overlapping stories that explores the dark zone between artistic ambition and its achievement. The collection is bookended by the misadventures of Leslie, a young woman (first introduced in Early Work) who moves from New York to Missoula, Montana to try to draw herself out of a lingering depression, and, over the course of the book, gains painful insight into herself through a series of intense friendships and relationships. Other stories follow young men and women, alone and in couples, pushing hard against, and often crashing into, the limits of their abilities as writers and partners. In one story, two New Jersey siblings with substance-abuse problems relapse together on Christmas Eve; in another, a young couple tries to make sense of an increasingly unhinged veterinarian who seems to be tapping, deliberately or otherwise, into the unspoken troubles between them. In tales about characters as they age from punkshows and benders to book clubs and art museums, the promise of community acts - at least temporarily - as a stay against despair. Running throughout Cool for America is the characters’ yearning for transcendence through art: the hope that, maybe, the perfect, or even just the good-enough sentence, can finally make things right.

Author Bio

ANDREW MARTIN’s stories have appeared in The Paris Review, Zyzzyva, and The Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly, and his non-fiction has been published by The New Yorker, The New York Review of Books, Harper’s, and other publications. He has received fellowships from the UCross Foundation and the MacDowell Colony. Early Work is his first novel.
The Great Indoors
An Inside Journey into How Buildings Shape Our Lives
by Emily Anthes

A fascinating, thought-provoking journey into our built environment
The benefits of nature are well documented. Regular forays into the natural world have been shown to have pronounced, positive effects on our physical and mental health. But how often do any of us get to take a week-long camping trip? The truth is, we spend most of our lives shuttling between homes and offices, schools and hospitals. While this may be an inescapable part of modern life, it also raises the question: What effect do the environments we’ve built for ourselves have on our mental and physical well-being? In this wide-ranging, character-driven book, Emily Anthes takes us on a trip that starts with the microscopic (the surprising array of microbes that share our homes) and ends with the big picture (the Martian architecture that could help humanity survive for many centuries to come). Along the way, she visits a wide range of scientists, architects, and other professionals working on the cutting edge of design—people who are not only aware of how our surroundings shape us, but are working to create buildings that can radically improve our lives. Ranging from operating rooms that decrease human error to schools constructed to enhance learning, and from apartment buildings designed for neurodiverse residents to offices engineered for maximum comfort and efficiency, The Great Indoors is an argument for thoughtful interventions in the built environment and a celebration of the adaptive genius of human beings.

Author Bio
EMILY ANTHES is a freelance science journalist. Her work has appeared in Seed, Scientific American Mind, Discover, Slate, Good, New York, and the Boston Globe. She has a master's degree in science writing from MIT and a bachelor's degree in the history of science and medicine from Yale, where she also studied creative writing. She is the author of Frankenstein's Cat: Cuddling Up to Biotech's Brave New Beasts. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.
Twenty-Two Minutes of Unconditional Love
A Novel
by Daphne Merkin

A harrowing, compulsively readable novel about breaking free of sexual obsession

No one found Howard Rose interesting, that is, but me."

Judith is an ambitious book editor in her late twenties living and working in New York City. Inexperienced with romantic love, she works hard, sees a small group of friends, and visits Dr. Munch, her beloved therapist, on whom she is dependent. Three weeks after her therapist's death, Judith reluctantly attends a cocktail party. Her life changes the instant she meets Howard Rose, a charismatic and commanding lawyer thirteen years her senior with whom she becomes sexually obsessed.

Swept off her feet, everything she does is now about Howard: He calls her at work, instructs her on what to wear to dinner, and takes control of her body and sexuality with complete ownership. Judith becomes dependent on the push-pull of their sexual entanglement and on Howard's attention and approval, convinced she's found the man of her dreams. Until, that is, she understands he's the man of her nightmares: hostile, reckless, and manipulative, he seems intent on obliterating any sense of self and autonomy that Judith possesses. Escaping Howard's grasp - and her own perverse enjoyment of being under his control - becomes her mission.

Narrated by a Howard-free Judith years later, Daphne Merkin's Twenty-Two Minutes of Unconditional Love charts the persistent hold our pasts have on us. Stylistically varied and punctuated by provocative ruminations on love, family, sex, gender (…)

Author Bio

DAPHNE MERKIN's writing frequently appears in The New York Times, Bookforum, Departures, Travel + Leisure, W, Vogue, Tablet Magazine and other publications. She is a former staff writer for The New Yorker and The New York Times and a regular contributor to ELLE. Merkin has taught writing at the 92nd Street Y, Marymount College, and Hunter College. Her previous books include Enchantment, which won the Edward Lewis Wallant Award for best novel on a Jewish theme, and two collections of essays, Dreaming of Hitler and The Fame Lunches, which was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. She lives in New York City.
The Vapors
A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America’s Forgotten Capital of Vice by David Hill

The incredible true story of America’s original - and forgotten - capital of vice

Back in the days before Vegas was big, when the Mob was at its peak and neon lights were but a glimmer on the horizon, a little Southern town styled itself as a premier destination for the American leisure class. Hot Springs, Arkansas was home to healing waters, Art Deco splendor, and America’s original national park - as well as horse racing, nearly a dozen illegal casinos, countless backrooms and brothels, and some of the country’s most bald-faced criminals.

Gangsters, gamblers, and gamines: all once flocked to America’s forgotten capital of vice, a place where small-town hustlers and bigtime high-rollers could make their fortunes, and hide from the law. The Vapors is the extraordinary story of three individuals - spanning the golden decades of Hot Springs, from the 1930s through the 1960s - and the lavish casino whose spectacular rise and fall would bring them together before blowing them apart.

Hazel Hill was still a young girl when legendary mobster Owney Madden rolled into town in his convertible, fresh off a crime spree in New York. He quickly established himself as the gentleman Godfather of Hot Springs, cutting barroom deals and buying stakes in the clubs at which Hazel made her living - and drank away her sorrows. Owney's protege was Dane Harris, the son of a Cherokee bootlegger who rose through the town's ranks to become Boss Gambler. It was his idea to build The Vapors, a pleasure palace more (…)

Author Bio

David Hill is a writer from Hot Springs, Arkansas. His work has appeared regularly in Grantland, and has been featured in The New Yorker, The New York Times, GQ, and New York magazine, as well as on This American Life. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and three children, where he serves as the vice president of the National Writers Union.
An urgent examination of statins, the drugs at the heart of debates on evidence-based medicine and of the malign influence of Big Pharma
Statins are the single most commonly prescribed class of drugs in the developed world. They're taken by more than 100 million patients, with millions more people being offered them every year. We know that statins do some good. But we don't know how big the benefits are. We don't know which statins are the best. We don't know how common the side effects are. We don't give clear information to patients, so they are deprived of their right to make informed decisions about the trade-off between benefits, inconvenience, and risk. All this can be fixed with a few simple changes that weld big data onto the heart and art of medicine.
In Statins, drawing on his own research, Ben Goldacre gives patients the tools they need to make their own decisions. Along the way he explores industry misdeeds; the nocebo effect, the evil twin of the placebo effect, where side effects are caused by the power of fear alone; and the differences in patients' desire for treatment and doctors' failures to empathize with this. With his characteristic wit and energy, Goldacre exposes the flaws in modern medicine and maps out the future it deserves.

Author Bio

Ben Goldacre is a doctor and writer. His first book Bad Science was an international bestseller, and has been translated into twenty-five languages. He lives in London.
Here Is the Sweet Hand
Poems
by francine j. harris

The poems in Here Is the Sweet Hand explore solitude as a way of seeing. In particular, the speakers in francine j. harris' third collection explore the mystique, and myth, of female loneliness as it relates to blackness, aging, landscape and artistic tradition. The speakers in these poems are often protagonists. Against the backdrop of numerous American cities and towns, and in a time of political uncertainty, they are heroines in their quest to find logic through their own sense of the world.

The poems here are interested in the power of observation. But if there is authority in the individual versus the collective, Here is the Sweet Hand also poses questions about the source of that power, or where it may lead.

As in her acclaimed previous collections, harris' skillful use of imagery and experimentation with the boundaries of language set the stage for unorthodox election commemoration, subway panic, zoomorphism, and linguistic battlefields. From poems in dialogue with the artistry of Toni Morrison and Charles Burnett to poems that wrestle with the moods of Frank Stanford and Ty Dolla $ign, the speakers in this book signal a turn at once inward and opening.

Author Bio

francine j. harris is the author of play dead, winner of the Lambda Literary and Audre Lorde Awards and a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her first collection, allegiance, was a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery and PEN Open Book Awards. Originally from Detroit, she has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the MacDowell Colony, and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Houston.
In Analogia, technology historian George Dyson presents a startling look back at the analog age and life before the digital revolution - and an unsettling vision of what comes next.

In 1716, the philosopher and mathematician Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz spent eight days taking the cure with Peter the Great at Bad Pyrmont in Saxony, seeking to initiate a digitally-computed takeover of the world. In his classic books, Darwin Among the Machines and Turing's Cathedral, Dyson chronicled the realization of Leibniz's dream at the hands of a series of iconoclasts who brought his ideas to life. Now, in his pathbreaking new book, Analogia, he offers a chronicle of people who fought for the other side - the Native American leader Geronimo and physicist Leo Szilard, among them - a series of stories that will change our view not only of the past but also of the future.

The convergence of a startling historical archaeology with Dyson's unusual personal story - set alternately in the rarified world of cutting-edge physics and computer science, in Princeton, and in the rainforest of the Northwest Coast - leads to a prophetic vision of an analog revolution already under way. We are, Dyson reveals, on the cusp of a new moment in human history, driven by a generation of machines whose powers are beyond programmable control.

Includes black-and-white illustrations

Author Bio

George Dyson, a dual citizen of the United States and Canada, is an independent historian of technology whose subjects have included the development (and redevelopment) of the Aleut kayak (Baidarka, 1986), the evolution of artificial intelligence (Darwin Among the Machines, 1997), a path not taken into space (Project Orion, 2002), and the transition from numbers that mean things to numbers that do things in the aftermath of World War II (Turing's Cathedral, 2012)
A crucial guide to life before - and after - Tinder, IVF, and robots

What will happen to our notions of marriage and parenthood as reproductive technologies increasingly allow for newfangled ways of creating babies? What will happen to our understanding of gender as medical advances enable individuals to transition from one set of sexual characteristics to another, or to remain happily perched in between? What will happen to love and sex and romance as our relationships migrate from the real world to the Internet? Can people fall in love with robots? Will they? In short, what will happen to our most basic notions of humanity as we entangle our lives and emotions with the machines we have created?

In *The Virgin and the Plow*, former Barnard College president Debora Spar offers an incisive and provocative account of how technology has transformed our intimate lives in the past, and how it will do so again in the future. Surveying the course of history, she shows how marriage as we understand it resulted from the rise of agriculture, and that the nuclear family emerged with the industrial revolution. In their day, the street light, the car, and later the pill all upended courtship and sex. Now, as we enter an era of artificial intelligence and robots, how will our deepest feelings and attachments evolve?

In the past, the prevailing modes of production produced a world dominated by heterosexual, mostly-monogamous, two-parent families. In the future, however, these patterns are almost certain to be reshaped, creating entirely new norms for sex and romance, and for the construction of (...)
Inventory
A Memoir
by Darran Anderson

A lyrical memoir and family history told through four generations of fathers and sons in Northern Ireland

A smuggler and a deserter, Darran Anderson's grandfather skirted the Second World War on the fringes of legality. Anderson's father survived the height of the political violence in Northern Ireland, and Anderson came of age during the final years of the Troubles. As a young man fighting for direction in a country upended by years of civil war, Anderson found himself lost in the midst of hedonism, division, and isolation. To find a way to exist in the world, he felt compelled to leave his home town of Derry, Ireland.

But the mysterious disappearance of Anderson’s cousin forces him back to his city, and, in turn, its history. Searching, in the present day, for his cousin's body along the Foyle River, Anderson examines how his grandparents lost their lives in the same river. As he continues to search, his father and uncle by his side, Anderson uncovers tales and mythologies in the surroundings, forgotten writings, anecdotes, and accounts, piecing together these lives as he moves down the river. Through a private microcosm, the fate of an entire city (and a larger story about Ireland) is sensitively and cinematically told.

Exploring a landscape that changes with the river from nautical to urban to rural, and replete with stories of heartache, revolution, and redemption, Inventory is a gripping and moving affirmation of how we can emerge from tragedy with renewed hope and a deeper awareness of who we are.

Author Bio
Darran Anderson is the author of Histoire of Melody Nelson (2013) and Imaginary Cities (2015), the latter of which was named a Best Book of 2015 by The Guardian, The Financial Times, the New Scientist, and the Irish Independent. The former co-editor of literary publications including The Honest Ulsterman, 3: AM Magazine, and Dogmatika, Anderson is a highly sought after lecturer, reader, and cultural critic. He was born in Derry, Ireland.
Selected Poems
by Joseph Brodsky, edited by Ann Kjellberg

Selected works from the Nobel Laureate
To mark the Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky's eightieth birthday, FSG is publishing a new paperback, Selected Poems, edited and introduced by the poet's literary executor, Ann Kjellberg. This edition includes poems translated by Derek Walcott, Richard Wilbur, and Anthony Hecht, as well as poems written in English or translated by the author himself. Selected Poems allows the reader to survey Brodsky's tumultuous life and illustrious career and revisit his most notable and poignant work as a poet.

Author Bio

Part social epic, part punk-rock thriller, writer/filmmaker Virginie Despentes’s Vernon Subutex trilogy continues the Man Booker International Prize shortlisted sprawling tale of an ex-record shop clerk’s celebrity fortunes and misfortunes.

Rock star Alex Bleach might be dead, but he has a secret. It’s a secret that concerns several people, but the only person who can unlock it is Vernon Subutex, former record shop proprietor turned homeless messiah and guru, last seen hallucinating and feverish on a bench. He has tapes of Alex that will shake the world. The hunt is on, and the wolves are closing in.

Meanwhile, the cast of lovers and killers in Vernon’s orbit is in violent disarray. Aicha wants to know the truth behind the death of her mother, the porn star Vodka Satana. And if she finds the bastards responsible, she wants to make them pay, whatever Celeste thinks of her plan. Celeste wants Aicha to get a grip and stop hanging around with Subutex’s gang of disciples. The Hyena wants to find the Bleach tapes. She wants to untangle her complicated feelings about Anais, her boss’s assistant. And speaking of her boss, she does not want Laurent Dopalet to discover how badly she has double-crossed him. Big-shot producer Laurent Dopalet wants the Hyena to find and destroy the Bleach tapes. He wants to forget he ever knew Vodka Satana. He wants people to stop graffitiing his apartment with ludicrous allegations. Above all, he wants people to understand: NONE OF THIS IS HIS FAULT.

---

**Author Bio**

Virginie Despentes is a writer and filmmaker. She worked in an independent record store in the early ‘90s, was a sex worker, and published her first novel, Baise Moi, when she was twenty-three. She adapted the novel for the screen in 2000, codirecting with the porn star Coralie Trinh Thi. Upon release, it became the first film to be banned in France in twenty-eight years. Despentes is the author of more than fifteen other works, including Apocalypse Baby, Bye Bye Blondie, Pretty Things, and the essay collection King Kong Theory.

Frank Wynne has translated the work of many authors including Michel Houellebecq, Boualem Sansal, Frederic Beigbeder, and the late Ivorian novelist Ahmadou Kourouma. He won the International IMPAC Literary Award with Houellebecq for The Elementary Particles.
Talking Animals
A Novel
by Joni Murphy

A fable for modern times, Joni Murphy's Talking Animals features a human-less world run by an animal kingdom facing the same natural disasters, encroaching apocalypses, and existential crises that keep everyone from a good night's sleep.

Parrots own cafes and lemurs run the espresso machines. Badgers tend bar, raccoons write for The Post, and a racehorse is mayor. There are dogs on Wall Street and cats on Broadway. Sea creatures are viewed with fear and disgust. Maybe a big wall should be built to keep them out. It's New York City, nowish. No big deal.

Alfonzo is an alpaca. His hip friend Mitchell is a llama. They both work at City Hall and are trying to navigate the great furry city collapsing around them. Partly to meet girls, and partly out of a sense that the world might be ending around them, these lowly city employees embark on an unlikely mission to take down the corrupt system selling the city out from beneath its real inhabitants. Their journey soon leads them to the Sea Front, a clandestine group that could as easily be a hive of dangerous radicals as an inspirational liberation movement.

This world without humans teems with creatures stuck in frustrating jobs and surrounded by crumbling infrastructure and worsening environmental catastrophes. Talking Animals is Animal Farm by way of Annie Hall by way of The Sixth Extinction. At once delicate and urgent, it is a contemporary allegory about community and capitalism, art and protest, the physical and emotional devastation of global warming, and the elemental struggle to change one's life.

Author Bio

Joni Murphy is a writer from New Mexico who lives in New York. Her debut novel Double Teenage was published in 2016. It was named one of The Globe and Mail's 100 Best Books of 2016.
The Unreality of Memory
And Other Essays
by Elisa Gabbert

A literary guide to life in the pre-apocalypse, The Unreality of Memory collects profound and prophetic essays on the Internet age’s media-saturated disaster coverage and our addiction to viewing and discussing the world’s ills.

We stare at our phones. We keep multiple tabs open. Our chats and conversations are full of the phrase Did you see?” The feeling that we’re living in the worst of times seems to be intensifying, alongside a desire to know precisely how bad things have gotten - and each new catastrophe distracts us from the last.

The Unreality of Memory collects provocative, searching essays on disaster culture, climate anxiety, and our mounting collective sense of doom. In this new collection, acclaimed poet and essayist Elisa Gabbert explores our obsessions with disasters past and future, from the sinking of the Titanic to Chernobyl, from witch hunts to the plague. These deeply researched, prophetic meditations question how the world will end - if indeed it will - and why we can’t stop fantasizing about it.

Can we avoid repeating history? Can we understand our moment from inside the moment? With The Unreality of Memory, Gabbert offers a hauntingly perceptive analysis of our new ways of being and a means of reconciling ourselves to this unreal new world.

Includes black-and-white illustrations

Author Bio

Beowulf
A New Translation
by Maria Dahvana Headley

A new, feminist translation of Beowulf by the author of the much-buzzed-about novel The Mere Wife

Nearly twenty years after Seamus Heaney's translation of Beowulf - and fifty years after the translation that continues to torment high-school students around the world - there is a radical new verse translation of the epic poem by Maria Dahvana Headley, which brings to light elements that have never before been translated into English, recontextualizing the binary narrative of monsters and heroes into a tale in which the two categories often entwine, justice is rarely served, and dragons live among us.

A man seeks to prove himself as a hero. A monster seeks silence in his territory. A warrior seeks to avenge her murdered son. A dragon ends it all. The familiar elements of the epic poem are seen with a novelist's eye toward gender, genre, and history - Beowulf has always been a tale of entitlement and encroachment, powerful men seeking to become more powerful, and one woman seeking justice for her child, but this version brings new context to an old story. While crafting her contemporary adaptation of Beowulf, Headley unearthed significant shifts lost over centuries of translation. This is a translation for the twenty-first century, to be released in 2019 alongside the paperback of Headley's novel The Mere Wife.

Praise for The Mere Wife

"The most surprising novel I've read this year. It's a bloody parody of suburban sanctimony and a feminist revision of macho heroism. In this brash appropriation of the Anglo-Saxon epic, Headley swoops from comedy to tragedy, from the drama of brunch to the horrors of war." -Ron Charles, The Washington Post

Author Bio

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Maria Dahvana Headley is a #1 New York Times -bestselling author and editor. Her novels include Magonia, Aerie, and Queen of Kings, and she has also written a memoir, The Year of Yes. With Kat Howard, she is the author of The End of the Sentence, and with Neil Gaiman, she is co-editor of Unnatural Creatures. Her short stories have been shortlisted for the Shirley Jackson, Nebula, and World Fantasy Awards, and her work has been supported by the MacDowell Colony and by Arte Studio Ginestrelle, where the first draft of The Mere Wife was written. She was raised with a wolf and a pack of sled dogs in the Alaskan wilderness and now lives in Brooklyn.
In this brief, intense, gemlike book, equal parts extended autobiographical essay and prose poem, Joseph Brodsky turns his eye to the seductive and enigmatic city of Venice. A mosaic of forty-eight short chapters - each recalling a specific episode from one of his many visits there (Brodsky spent his winters in Venice for nearly twenty years) - *Watermark* associatively and brilliantly evokes one city's architectural and atmospheric character. Brodsky writes in *Watermark* that water stores our reflections for when we are long gone." This reissued edition of one of Brodsky's most important titles, on the occasion of the late Nobel laureate's eightieth birthday, allows the reader to visit the canals of Brodsky's Venice and rediscover the reflection of the writer himself.

"We read *Watermark* enraptured by its gallant attempt to distill a precious meaning from life's experience - to make a spot on a globe a window into universal circumstance, and to fashion of one's personal chronic tourism a crystal whose factes reflect an entire life, with exile and ill health glinting at the edges of planes whose direct glare is sheer beauty." - John Updike, *The New Yorker*

"Praising Venice and its architecture as a triumph of the visual, the Nobel laureate uses his visits there as a touchstone to meditate on life's unpredictability, and on the appetite for beauty, death, myth, and modern art . . . In his wayward forays amid canals, streets, and cathedrals barnacled with saints, the eternal Venice shimmers through the fog, battered yet resplendent." - *Publishers Weekly*

"Brodsky's description of his 'version of Paradise' has all the vividness and associative brilliance of a lyric poem . . . *Watermark* is a gracefully idiosyncratic work, one that obliquely mingles the(...)"

**Author Bio**

Less Than One
Selected Essays
by Joseph Brodsky

This collection of essays thrusts Joseph Brodsky - previously known more for his poetry and translations - into the forefront of the Third Wave" of Russian emigre writers. Originally published the year before Brodsky received the Nobel Prize in Literature, Less Than One includes intimate literary essays and autobiographical pieces that evoke the daily discomfort of living under tyranny. His insights into the works of Dostoevsky, Mandelstam, and Platonov, as well as the non-Russian poets Auden, Cavafy and Montale are brilliant; Seamus Heaney said of Brodsky's treatment of one of Auden's most famous poems, "There will be no greater paean to poetry as the breath and finer spirit of all human knowledge than Brodsky's line-by-line commentary on 'September 1, 1939.'"

Less than One, which won a National Book Critics Circle Award, was Brodsky's first published work of prose, and "if there's an essential essay collection . . . it's this one" (The Guardian). This edition, reissued to mark Brodsky's eightieth birthday, allows the reader to delve into the Nobel laureate's mastery of language, through both his analysis of great works and his own brand of descriptive dissent, at a pivotal point in his career.


Author Bio

On Grief and Reason
Essays
by Joseph Brodsky

On Grief and Reason collects the essays that Joseph Brodsky wrote between his reception of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1987 and his death in January 1996. The volume includes Brodsky's Nobel lecture; essays on the condition of exile, the nature of history, the art of reading, and the notion of the poet as an inveterate Don Giovanni; his Immodest Proposal" for the future of poetry, written when he was serving as Poet Laureate of the United States; a consideration of the poetry of Robert Frost; his searching estimations of Hardy, Horace, and Rilke; an affecting memoir of Stephen Spender; and a moving meditation on the figure of Marcus Aurelius. The essays, composed in Brodsky's distinctive, idiomatic English, are inventive and alive.

The Nobel laureate, himself branded a "pseudo-poet in velveteen trousers" by Soviet authorities and expelled from his home country in 1972, writes boldly of the poet's place in society: "By failing to read or listen to poets, a society dooms itself to inferior modes of articulation - of the politician, or the salesman, or the charlatan - in short, to its own. It forfeits . . . its own evolutionary potential . . ." This edition, reissued on the occasion of the late author's eightieth birthday, prompts the reader to consider Brodsky's words with renewed contemplation of the current state of literature and the society in which we read it.

English. But then perhaps the Russians hadn't expelled a great poet so much as exposed us to one of their virulent personality cults. Yet Brodsky's essays are interesting. Composed in a rather heroically determined English, clumsily phrased and idiomatically challenged, they are still inventive and alive. There are suggestive analyses of favorite poems by Hardy, Rilke, and Frost in this book, and (…) 

Author Bio

Mosses and Lichens
Poems
by Devin Johnston

A new collection from the author of Traveler

Not days of anger
but days of mild congestion,
infants of inconstant sorrow,
days of foam in gutters,
blossoms and snow
mingling where they fall,
a spring of cold profusion.

If a rolling stone gathers no moss, the poems in Devin Johnston's Mosses and Lichens attend to what accretes over time, as well as to what erodes. They often take place in the middle of life's journey, at the edge of the woods, at the boundary between human community and wild spaces. Following Ovid, they are poems of subtle transformation and transfer. They draw on early blues and rivers, on ironies and uncertainties, guided by enigmatic signals: an orange blaze that marks no trail." From image to image, they render fleeting experiences with etched precision. As AngeMlinko has observed of Johnston's work, "Each poem holds in balance a lapidary concision and utter lushness of vowel-work," forming a distinctive music.

Author Bio

Born in 1970, Devin Johnston spent his childhood in North Carolina. His poetry books include Traveler and Far-Fetched, and his prose includes Creaturely and Other Essays. He works for Flood Editions, an independent publishing house, and teaches at Saint Louis University in Missouri.
One Lark, One Horse
Poems
by Michael Hofmann

A new collection of poems by Michael Hofmann - his first in twenty years
Michael Hofmann, renowned as one of our most brilliant critics and translators, is also regarded as among our most respected poets. Hofmann's status - he is the author of one of the definitive bodies of work of the last half-century" (The Times Literary Supplement) - is all the more impressive for his relatively concentrated output. One Lark, One Horse is his fifth collection of poems since his debut in 1983, and his first since Approximately Nowhere in 1999. It is also one of the most anticipated gatherings of new work in years. In style, his voice is as unmistakable as ever - sometimes funny, sometimes caustic; world-facing and yet intimate - and this collection shows a bright mind burning fiercely over the European and American imaginations. The poet explores where he finds himself, geographically and in life, treating with wit and compassion such universal themes as aging and memory, place, and the difficult existence of the individual in an ever-bigger and more bestial world. One Lark, One Horse is a remarkable assemblage of work that will delight loyal readers and enchant new ones with Hofmann's approachable, companionable voice.

Author Bio

Michael Hofmann is a poet and frequent contributor to The New York Times Book Review, and is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost translators of works from German to English. He lives in London.