Miracle Submarine
A Novel
by Angie Kim

A thrilling debut novel for fans of Liane Moriarty and Celeste Ng about how far we'll go to protect our families - and our deepest secrets

My husband asked me to lie. Not a big lie. He probably didn't even consider it a lie, and neither did I, at first . . .

In rural Virginia, Young and Pak Yoo run an experimental medical treatment device known as the Miracle Submarine - a pressurized oxygen chamber that patients enter for therapeutic dives with the hopes of curing issues like autism or infertility. But when the Miracle Submarine mysteriously explodes, killing two people, a dramatic murder trial upends the Yoos' small community.

Who or what caused the explosion? Was it the mother of one of the patients, who claimed to be sick that day but was smoking down by the creek? Or was it Young and Pak themselves, hoping to cash in on a big insurance payment and send their daughter to college? The ensuing trial uncovers unimaginable secrets from that night - trysts in the woods, mysterious notes, child-abuse charges - as well as tense rivalries and alliances among a group of people driven to extraordinary degrees of desperation and sacrifice.

Angie Kim's Miracle Submarine is a thoroughly contemporary take on the courtroom drama, drawing on the author's own life as a Korean immigrant, former trial lawyer, and mother of a real-life "submarine" patient. Both a compelling page-turner and an excavation of identity and the (…)

Author Bio

Location: Great Falls, VA

Angie Kim moved as a preteen from Seoul, South Korea to the suburbs of Baltimore. She attended Stanford University and Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review, then practiced as a trial lawyer at Williams & Connolly. Her stories have won the Glamour Essay Contest and the Wabash Prize for Fiction, and appeared in numerous publications including The New York Times, Salon, Slate, The Southern Review, Sycamore Review, Asian American Literary Review, and PANK. Kim lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and three sons.
Before Talib Kweli became a world-renowned hip hop artist, he was a Brooklyn kid who liked to cut class, spit rhymes, and wander the streets of Greenwich Village with a motley crew of artists, rappers, and DJs who found hip hop more inspiring than their textbooks (much to the chagrin of the educator parents who had given their son an Afrocentric name in hope of securing for him a more traditional sense of pride and purpose). Kweli's was the first generation to grow up with hip hop as established culture—a genre of music that has expanded to include its own pantheon of heroes, rich history and politics, and distinct worldview.

Eventually, childhood friendships turned into collaborations and Kweli gained notoriety as a rapper in his own right. From collaborating with some of hip hop's greatest—including Mos Def, Common, Kanye West, Pharrell Williams, and Kendrick Lamar—to selling books out of the oldest African-American bookstore in Brooklyn, and ultimately leaving his record label and taking control of his own recording career, Kweli tells the winding, always compelling story of the people and events that shaped his own life as well as the culture of hip hop which informs American culture at large.

"If skills sold, truth be told / Lyrically, I'd probably be Talib Kweli." -Jay Z

Notes

Promotion
MCD Preview Edition
National review attention
Print features and profiles
Online features and profiles
Identity-specific media outreach: African American community
Interest-specific media outreach: music, politics
NPR and radio interviews
National TV interviews
Podcast interviews
Author appearances
Social media promotion
Targeted social media advertising
Original piece/interview/feature in FSG's Work in Progress
Blogger and online community outreach campaign
Social media influencer outreach campaign
Partnership with author's online fan base
Goodreads promotion and giveaways
NetGalley promotion

Author Bio
Location: Brooklyn, NY

Talib Kweli is one of the world's most talented and accomplished hip-hop artists. Whether working with Mos Def as one half of Black Star, partnering with the producer Hi-Tek for Reflection Eternal, releasing landmark solo material, or collaborating with Kanye West, Pharrell Williams, Just Blaze, J Dilla, or Madlib, Kweli commands attention by delivering top-tier lyricism, crafting captivating stories, and showing the ability to rhyme over virtually any type of instrumental. In 2011, Kweli founded Javotti Media, "a platform for independent thinkers and doers." Kweli hopes to make Javotti Media into a media powerhouse that releases music, films, and books.
Mothers
Stories
by Chris Power

A remarkable debut* (New Statesman) of unnerving beauty, Chris Power's "extraordinary" (The Sunday Times) short-story collection Mothers evokes the magic and despair of the essential human longing for purpose.

Chris Power's stories are peopled by men and women who find themselves at crossroads or dead ends - characters who search without knowing what they seek. Their paths lead them to thresholds, bridges, rivers, and sites of mysterious, irresistible connections to the past. A woman uses her mother's old travel guide, aged years beyond relevance, to navigate on a journey to nowhere; a stand-up comic with writer's block performs a fateful gig at a cocaine-fueled bachelor party; on holiday in Greece, a father must confront the limits to which he can keep his daughters safe.

Ranging from the remote English moors to an ancient Swedish burial ground to a hedonistic Mexican wedding, the stories in Mothers lay bare the emotional and psychic damage of life, love, and abandonment. Suffused with yearning, Power's transcendent prose expresses a profound ache for vanished pasts and uncertain futures.


"Unsettling . . . These are strange stories, forbidding and unnerving, which need to be read carefully with an ear trained to what isn't being said, what isn't being heard." - Susie Boyt, The Financial Times

"Extraordinary . . . There is an obsessive quality to the best of these stories that makes them feel pregnant with inscrutable meaning . . . It is testament to the depth and distinctiveness of Power's characters that it seems so important to try to understand them, even as they (...)"

Author Bio

Location: London

Unexampled Courage

The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring

by Richard Gergel

How the blinding of Sergeant Isaac Woodard changed the course of America’s civil rights history

On February 12, 1946, Sergeant Isaac Woodard, a returning, decorated African American veteran, was removed from a Greyhound bus in Batesburg, South Carolina, after he challenged the bus driver’s disrespectful treatment of him. Woodard, in uniform, was arrested by the local police chief, Lynwood Shull, and beaten and blinded while in custody.

President Harry Truman was outraged by the incident. He established the first presidential commission on civil rights and his Justice Department filed criminal charges against Shull. In July 1948, following his commission’s recommendation, Truman ordered an end to segregation in the U.S. armed forces. An all-white South Carolina jury acquitted Shull, but the presiding judge, J. Waties Waring, was conscience-stricken by the failure of the court system to do justice by the soldier. Waring described the trial as his baptism of fire,” and began issuing major civil rights decisions from his Charleston courtroom, including his 1951 dissent in Briggs v. Elliott declaring public school segregation per se unconstitutional. Three years later, the Supreme Court adopted Waring’s language and reasoning in Brown v. Board of Education. Richard Gergel’s Unexampled Courage details the impact of the blinding of Sergeant Woodard on the racial awakening of President Truman and Judge Waring, and traces their influential roles in changing the course of America’s civil rights history.

Author Bio

Location: Charleston, SC

Richard Gergel is a United States district judge who presides in the same courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina, where Judge Waring once served. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Judge Gergel earned undergraduate and law degrees from Duke University. With his wife, Dr. Belinda Gergel, he is the author of In Pursuit of the Tree of Life: A History of the Early Jews of Columbia, South Carolina.
The light blinds you; there's a lot you miss by gathering at the fireside.

In the north of England, far from the intrusions of cities but not far from civilization, Silvie and her family are living as if they are ancient Britons, surviving by the tools and knowledge of the Iron Age.

For two weeks, the length of her father's vacation, they join an anthropology course set to reenact life in simpler times. They are surrounded by forests of birch and rowan; they make stew from foraged roots and hunted rabbit. The students are fulfilling their coursework; Silvie's father is fulfilling his lifelong obsession. He has raised her on stories of early man, taken her to witness rare artifacts, recounted time and again their rituals and beliefs—particularly their sacrifices to the bog. Mixing with the students, Silvie begins to see, hear, and imagine another kind of life, one that might include going to university, traveling beyond England, choosing her own clothes and food, speaking her mind.

The ancient Britons built ghost walls to ward off enemy invaders, rude barricades of stakes topped with ancestral skulls. When the group builds one of their own, they find a spiritual connection to the past. What comes next but human sacrifice?

A story at once mythic and strikingly timely, Sarah Moss's *Ghost Wall* urges us to wonder how far we have come from the "primitive minds" of our ancestors.

"I love this book. *Ghost Wall* requires you to put your life on hold while you finish it. It draws you into its unusual world and, with quiet power and menace, keeps you there until the very last page." - Maggie O'Farrell

"[Moss] writes better than anyone I know about the way we live now." - Margaret Drabble

**Author Bio**

Location: Warwickshire, UK

Sarah Moss was educated at Oxford University and is a professor of creative writing at the University of Warwick. Her books include the novels *Cold Earth, Night Waking*, and *Signs for Lost Children*, and the memoir *Names for the Sea: Strangers in Iceland*. 
One Simple Thing
A New Look at the Science of Yoga
by Eddie Stern, foreword by Deepak Chopra

A pragmatic and succinct introduction to the purposes and benefits of yoga - philosophical, physiological, mental, and spiritual - and how practice affects the body/mind to realize those purposes and benefits.

Yoga is reputed to improve our physical and mental health, and to help us become more productive at work, more caring in relationships, and a more responsible contributor to society and inhabitant on this planet. If yoga does accomplish all that - and most practitioners will swear it's true - how exactly does it do it? Believe it or not, there are answers. And they are based in how the human body/mind functions, how we are built and wired, and how what we do can direct and change that. Drawing on modern neuroscience, ancient wisdom, and decades of practice and teaching, Eddie Stern's One Simple Thing explains how what we do affects who we become, and reveals how a steady routine of physical movements, activities, and attitudes are able to transform not just our bodies but our brain functions and emotions, and how we experience life.

Author Bio

Eddie Stern became a student of famed yoga instructor Sri K. Pattabhi Jois in 1991. Stern is director of the Ashtanga Yoga New York and Sri Ganesh Temple, and copublisher and editor of Namarama. Deepak Chopra, M.D. is acknowledged as a world leader in establishing a new life-giving paradigm that has evolutionized common wisdom about the crucial connection between mind, body, spirit, and healing. He is the author of nineteen books and more than thirty audio, video, and CD-ROM programs. He has been published on six continents and in dozens of languages. Nearly ten million copies of his books have been sold in the English language alone. Dr. Chopra has established the Chopra Center for Well Being in La Jolla, California, where he serves as educational director.
The Unnamable Present
by Roberto Calasso, translated by Richard Dixon

The strikingly original ninth book in Roberto Calasso's monumental exploration of civilization


Tourists, terrorists, secularists, hackers, fundamentalists, humanists - these are all tribes that inhabit and stir up the unnamable present. But for most everyone else, this is a world that is more elusive than ever before, one that has no style of its own and uses every style,” one that is impossible to grasp in its entirety. This is a world that seems to have no definition or past, but is suddenly illuminated when from behind it the silhouette of history emerges - especially of that period between 1933 and 1945, when the world itself was bent on self-annihilation. W. H. Auden gave the title "The Age of Anxiety" to a long poem set toward the end of the war. Today those voices sound more remote, as if they came from another realm. And though the anxiety hasn't diminished, it no longer predominates. What predominates is something inchoate - and occasionally lethal. *The Unnamable Present* a globe-spanning meditation on how previously recognizable institutions of societal control, terror, history, religion, language, and government have scattered and reformed (…)

Author Bio

Location: Roberto Calasso - Milan, Italy

Roberto Calasso, publisher of Adelphi in Milan, is the author of many books, among them *The Ruin of Kasch, The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony, Ka, K.*, and *Tiepolo Pink*.
In Extremis
The Life and Death of the War Correspondent Marie Colvin
by Lindsey Hilsum

When Marie Colvin was killed by an IED in Homs, Syria, in 2012, at age fifty-six, the world lost one of its most fearless, accomplished, and iconoclastic war correspondents, an eye-patch wearing, party-throwing, and risk-taking female combat reporter who covered the most significant and destructive global calamities of her lifetime. In Extremis: The Life and Death of the War Reporter Marie Colvin, written by Colvin's friend and prizewinning fellow reporter Lindsey Hilsum, is a thrilling and powerful investigation into Colvin's epic life and tragic death.

After growing up in a middle-class Catholic family on Long Island, Colvin got her start working for The Sunday Times, where she was driven with reckless abandon to tell the stories of the victims of the major conflicts of our time. She lost an eye reporting in Sri Lanka at the end of their civil war, interviewed Gaddafi twice, and risked her life covering conflict in Chechnya, East Timor, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. Unsurprisingly, her personal life was as unpredictable as her professional: bold, driven, and complex, she was married multiple times, had many lovers, drank heavily, suffered from PTSD, and refused to be bound by society's expectations for women.

With exclusive access to Colvin's intimate diaries from age thirteen to her death in 2012, interviews with people from every corner of Colvin's extraordinary life, and expert research worthy of Colvin herself, Lindsey Hilsum's In Extremis is a timely and propulsive biography of the foremost war correspondent of her generation.

Praise for Sandstorm

"As well-paced and exciting as it is authoritative, Sandstorm (...)"

Author Bio

Location: London

The Gilded Auction Block
Poems
by Shane McCrae

I'm made of murderers I'm made
Of nobodies and immigrants and the poor
and a whole / Family the mother's
liver and her lungs

In The Gilded Auction Block, the acclaimed poet Shane McCrae considers the present moment in America on its own terms as well as for what it says about the American project and Americans themselves. In the book's four sections, McCrae alternately responds directly to Donald Trump and contextualizes him historically and personally, exploding the illusions of freedom of both black and white Americans. A moving, incisive, and frightening exploration of both the legacy and the current state of white supremacy in this country, The Gilded Auction Block is a book about the present that reaches into the past and stretches toward the future.

Author Bio

Location: New York City

Shane McCrae is the author of five previous books of poetry: 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.
I was puzzled by how I had changed. But I could no longer go back . . .

It is spring. A young woman, left by her husband, starts a new life in a Tokyo apartment. _Territory of Light_ follows her over the course of a year, as she struggles to bring up her two-year-old daughter alone. Her new home is filled with light streaming through the windows, so bright she has to squint, but she finds herself plummeting deeper into darkness, becoming unstable, untethered. As the months come and go and the seasons turn, she must confront what she has lost and what she will become.

At once tender and lacerating, luminous and unsettling, Yuko Tsushima’s _Territory of Light_ is a novel of abandonment, desire, and transformation. It was originally published in twelve parts in the Japanese literary monthly _Gunzo_, between 1978 and 1979, each chapter marking the months in real time. It won the inaugural Noma Literary Prize.

"Fragmented, and rich in dreams and memories, the book is suffused with images of light and water . . . Geraldine Harcourt’s translation subtly conveys the narrator’s precarious grip on reality . . . Spiky, atmospheric and intimate, filled with moments of strangeness that linger in the mind like an after-image on the retina, _Territory of Light_ is not a comforting read, but it will touch women (...)

**Author Bio**

Yuko Tsushima was born in Tokyo in 1947, the daughter of the novelist Osamu Dazai, who took his own life when she was one year old. Her prolific literary career began with her first collection of short stories, _Shaniku-sai_ (Carnival), which she published at the age of twenty-four. She won many awards, including the Izumi Kyoka Prize for Literature (1977), the Kawabata Prize (1983), and the Tanizaki Prize (1998). She died in 2016.

Geraldine Harcourt was awarded the 1990 Wheatland Translation Prize. She is currently working on three books of Yuko Tsushima’s fiction. She lives in Kamakura, Japan.
How to Hide an Empire
A History of the Greater United States
by Daniel Immerwahr

We are familiar with maps that outline all fifty states. And we are also familiar with the idea that the United States is an "empire," exercising power around the world. But what about the actual territories—the islands, atolls, and archipelagos—this country has governed and inhabited?

In *How to Hide an Empire*, Daniel Immerwahr tells the fascinating story of the United States outside the United States. In crackling, fast-paced prose, he reveals forgotten episodes that cast American history in a new light. We travel to the Guano Islands, where prospectors collected one of the nineteenth century's most valuable commodities, and the Philippines, site of the most destructive event on U.S. soil. In Puerto Rico, Immerwahr shows how U.S. doctors conducted grisly experiments they would never have conducted on the mainland and charts the emergence of independence fighters who would shoot up the U.S. Congress.

In the years after World War II, Immerwahr notes, the United States moved away from colonialism. Instead, it put innovations in electronics, transportation, and culture to use, devising a new sort of influence that did not require the control of space. Rich with absorbing vignettes, full of surprises, and driven by an original conception of what empire and globalization mean today, *How to Hide an Empire* is a major and compulsively readable work of history.

Author Bio

Location: Chicago, IL

Daniel Immerwahr is an associate professor of history at Northwestern University and the author of *Thinking Small: The United States and the Lure of Community Development*, which won the Organization of American Historians’ Merle Curti Award. He has written for *n+1*, *The Nation*, *Dissent*, and other publications.
Something happened, she didn't know what, something spun, the world turning, back, back, too fast. She would be sick. Bridget put out a hand to steady herself against the wall.

Bridget has a secret—one she keeps from everyone, even her husband. One that threatens to explode when her childhood music teacher, Carmichael, walks into her dress shop. With him is a young girl on the cusp of adulthood, fresh-faced and pretty. She reminds Bridget of herself at that age, naïve and vulnerable.

Bridget wants him away-away from her, away from that girl. But Carmichael won’t leave her alone, won’t stop stalking her. And Bridget’s not a little girl anymore. When he pushes her too far, she snaps. But what she thought was a decisive act only unravels more insidious threats—more than she could have ever imagined—and from which no one is safe, not even her family.

The bestselling British author Christobel Kent has written yet another thrilling page-turner with a twisted, riveting conclusion. What We Did is a nightmarish, impossible-to-put-down tale of the secrets we keep from our families, of chilling childhood abuse, and of long-awaited retribution.

Praise for Christobel Kent

"Terrifyingly good." - Metro Times

"Truly chilling." - Kirkus Reviews

"She has a rare knack for the eerie." - Bookreporter


Author Bio

Location: Cambridge, UK; Florence, Italy

Christobel Kent grew up in London and Essex, including a stint on the Essex coast on a Thames barge with three siblings and four step-siblings, before reading English at Cambridge. She is the author of The Day She Disappeared, The Loving Husband, and The Crooked House, among other novels. Kent lives in Cambridge with her husband and five children.
Barrett Brown - journalist, hacktivist, troublemaker, face of Anonymous, legend in his own mind - went to prison for four years for leaking intelligence documents. He was released to Trump's America. This is his story.

After four years in prison for obstruction of justice, accessory after the fact, and threatening a federal officer, Barrett Brown is a free man.

Bringing together a unique blend of journalism, activism, and personal hubris in My Glorious Defeats, Brown recounts tales of his connection to the hacktivist group Anonymous, of his volatile relationship to the world's most notorious hackers, of the drugs he took and stories he wrote, and of his time in prison. He describes his arrest for his part in attempting to catalog, interpret, and disseminate top-secret documents exposed in an embarrassing lapse in security by the intelligence contractor Stratfor in 2011. And he guides us with hilarious and unapologetic contempt through his charges, trial, and sentencing.

But his story doesn't end with a heavy-handed miscarriage of justice. From prison, Barrett wrote an award-winning column about life behind bars and his compulsion to speak truth to power. Now, he tells us how he's addressing the corrosion of the rule of law and the diminished role of the media under the rule of a demagogue. He has a viable, active plan to harness the collective power of modern tools of communication to promote the public good.

Bold and combative, part Hunter S.

Author Bio

Location: Dallas, TX

Barrett Brown is an award-winning journalist who has written for Vanity Fair, The Huffington Post, The Daily Beast, The Guardian, Vice, New York magazine, The A.V. Club, and The Intercept. In 2016 he won the National Magazine Award in the category of columns and opinion. He was released from federal prison in November 2016 after serving four years. He lives in Dallas with his PlayStation 4, vapor nicotine inhaler, and other ultramodern luxury goods.
Death Is Hard Work
A Novel
by Khaled Khalifa, translated by Leri Price

Khaled Khalifa’s *Death Is Hard Work* is the new novel from the greatest chronicler of Syria’s ongoing and catastrophic civil war: a tale of three ordinary people facing down the stuff of nightmares armed with little more than simple determination.

Abdel Latif, an old man from the Aleppo region, dies peacefully in a hospital bed in Damascus. His final wish, conveyed to his youngest son, Bolbol, is to be buried in the family plot in their ancestral village of Anabiya. Though Abdel was hardly an ideal father, and though Bolbol is estranged from his siblings, this conscientious son persuades his older brother Hussein and his sister Fatima to accompany him and the body to Anabiya, which is-after all-only a two-hour drive from Damascus.

There’s only one problem: Their country is a war zone.

With the landscape of their childhood now a labyrinth of competing armies whose actions are at once arbitrary and lethal, the siblings’ decision to set aside their differences and honor their father’s request quickly balloons from a minor commitment into an epic and life-threatening quest. Syria, however, is no longer a place for heroes, and the decisions the family must make along the way—as they find themselves captured and recaptured, interrogated, imprisoned, and bombed—will prove to have enormous consequences for all of them.

Praise for Khaled Khalifa


"Syria’s most celebrated contemporary novelist . . . [Khalifa’s] writing is superb—a dense, luxurious realism pricked with surprising metaphors." -Robin Yassin (...)

Author Bio

Location: Khaled Khalifa - Damascus, Syria

Khaled Khalifa was born in 1964 in a village close to Aleppo, Syria. He has written numerous screenplays and is the author of four novels, including *In Praise of Hatred*, which was short-listed for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, and *No Knives in the Kitchens of This City*, which won the Naguib
Stanley had known it was a mistake to accept his uncle Lech's offer to apartment-sit in Prague—he'd known it was one of Lech's proposals, a thinly veiled setup for some invasive, potentially dangerous performance art project. But whatever Lech had planned for Stanley, it would get him to Prague and maybe offer a chance to make things right with T after his failed attempt to propose.

Stanley can take it. He can ignore their high jinks, resist being drafted into their evolving, darkening script. As the operation unfolds it becomes clear there's more to this performance than he expected; they know more about Stanley's state of mind than he knows himself. He may be able to step over chalk outlines in the hallway, may be able to turn away from the women acting as his mother and the men performing as his father, but when a man made up to look like Stanley begins to play out his most devastating memory, he won't be able to stand outside this imitation of his life any longer.

Immediately and wholly immersive, Joseph Scapellato's debut novel, *The Made-Up Man*, is a hilarious examination of art's role in self-knowledge, a sinister send-up of self-deception, and a big-hearted investigation into the cast of characters necessary to help us finally meet ourselves.

Praise for *Big Lonesome*


"Scapellato defies genre expectation . . . The trajectory of redemption suggests Flannery (...)"

**Author Bio**

Location: Lewisburg, PA

Joseph Scapellato 's debut story collection, *Big Lonesome*, was published in 2017. He earned his MFA in fiction at New Mexico State University and has been published in *Kenyon Review Online, Gulf Coast, Post Road Magazine*, *PANK, UNSAI*, and other literary magazines. His work has been anthologized in *Forty Stories, Gigantic Worlds: An Anthology of Science Flash Fiction*, and *The Best Innovative Writing*. Scapellato is an assistant professor of English in the creative writing program at Bucknell University. He grew up in
Oblivion Banjo
Selected Poems
by Charles Wright

The selected works of one of our finest American poets

“This is an old man’s poetry,
written by someone who’s spent his life
Looking for one truth.
Sorry, pal, there isn’t one.
- from Ancient of Days”

Over the course of his many collections of poems and decades of work, Charles Wright has built “one of the truly distinctive bodies of poetry created in the second half of the twentieth century” (David Young, Contemporary Poets). Oblivion Banjo, a new selected works spanning his decades-long career - showcases the themes and images that have defined his work: the true affinity between writer and subject, human and nature; the tenuous relationship between description and actuality; and the search for a truth that transcends change and death.

"It's good to be here," Wright tells us. "It's good to be where the world's quiescent, and reminiscent." And to be here - in the pages of Wright's masterful work - is more than good; it's another remarkable gift from the poet around whose influence "the whole world seems to orbit in a kind of meditative, slow circle."

Praise for Charles Wright

"Inside [Wright's] lyric, there resides a world well beyond the ordinary . . . It is the heart and soul that he delivers so eloquently." -Thomas Curwen, Los Angeles Times

Author Bio

Location: Charlottesville, Virginia

Charles Wright is the United States Poet Laureate. His poetry collections include Country Music, Black Zodiac, Chickamauga, Bye-and-Bye: Selected Later Poems, Sestets, and Caribou. He is a winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the National Book Award, the Griffin Poetry Prize, and the 2013 Bollingen Prize for American Poetry. Born in Pickwick Dam, Tennessee in 1935, he currently lives in Charlottesville.
Nobody's Looking at You
Essays
by Janet Malcolm

One of the premier narrative non-fiction writers of her time." - The New Republic


The title piece of this wonderfully eclectic collection is a profile of the fashion designer Eileen Fisher, whose mother often said to her, "Nobody's looking at you." But in every piece in this volume, Malcolm looks closely and with impunity at a broad range of subjects, from Donald Trump’s TV nemesis Rachel Maddow, to the stiletto-heel-wearing pianist Yuju Wang, to "the big-league game" of Supreme Court confirmation hearings. In an essay called "Socks," the Pevears are seen as the "sort of asteroid [that] has hit the safe world of Russian Literature in English translation," and in "Dreams and Anna Karenina," the focus is Tolstoy, "one of literature’s greatest masters of manipulative techniques." Nobody’s Looking at You concludes with "Pandora’s Click," a brief, cautionary piece about e-mail etiquette that was written in the early two thousands, and that reverberates - albeit painfully - to this day.

"Praise for Janet Malcolm

"No living writer has narrated the drama of turning the messy and meaningless world into words as brilliantly, precisely, and analytically as Janet (...)"

Author Bio

Janet Malcolm is the author of many books, including In the Freud Archives, The Journalist and the Murderer, Two Lives: Alice and Gertrude, which won the 2008 PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography, and Forty-One False Starts, which was a New York Times Book Review Notable Book and a finalist for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. She is a frequent contributor to The New Yorker and The New York Review of Books.
From one of the most perceptive, compassionate writers of fiction in America” (Michael Schaub, NPR), a historical saga about love, class, and the past we never escape.

The Peacock Feast opens on a June day in 1916 with Louis C. Tiffany, the eccentric glass genius, dynamiting the breakwater at Laurelton Hall - his fantastical mansion with its columns capped by brilliant ceramic blossoms and the smokestack hidden in a blue-banded minaret - so as to foil the town reclaiming the beach for public use. The explosion shakes both the apple crate where Prudence, the daughter of Tiffany's prized gardener, is sleeping and the rocks behind which Randall, her brother, is playing. Nearly a century later, Prudence receives an unexpected visit from Grace, a hospice nurse and the granddaughter of Randall, who Prudence never saw again after he stowed away on a train to California. Grace arrives with a box of mementos from her grandfather's house - objects that for Prudence release long-repressed memories and bring her to a new understanding of the choices she made in work and love, and what she faces now in her final days.

The Peacock Feast spans the twentieth century and three continents, ricocheting from New York to San Francisco, from the decadent mansions of the Tiffany family to a Texas death-row prison, and from the London consultation room of Anna Freud to a California commune. With psychological acuity and aching eloquence, Lisa Gornick has written a magnificent family drama, an exploration of the meaning of art and the art of dying, and a heartrending portrait of how our (...)
A Piece of Good News
Poems
by Katie Peterson

A rich and challenging new collection from the young award-winning poet

In those days I began to see light under every bushel basket, light nearly splitting the sides of the bushel basket. Light came through the rafters of the dairy where the grackles congregated like well-taxed citizens untransfigured even by hope. Understand I was the one underneath the basket. I was certain I had nothing to say. When I grew restless in the interior, the exterior gave.

Dense, rich, and challenging, Katie Peterson's A Piece of Good News explores interior and exterior landscapes, exposure, and shelter. Imbued with a hallucinatory poetic logic where desire, anger, and sorrow supplant intelligence and reason, these poems are powerful meditations of mourning, love, doubt, political citizenship, and happiness. Learned, wise, and witty, Peterson explodes the possibilities of the poetic voice in this remarkable and deeply felt collection.

Praise for This One Tree

"No one is going to not know what these poems intend, what they state, and why they exist. They have the rigor of Oppen and a serious eye-level attention to pieces and parts of the chosen subject that give them an analogical edge over pure description. They bring heart and soul back to the poet writing them." -Fanny Howe

Author Bio

Location: Davis, CA

Katie Peterson is the author of three collections of poetry: This One Tree, Permission, and The Accounts. She lives in California and teaches at the University of California, Davis.
Instructions for a Funeral
Stories
by David Means

The O. Henry Prize-winning author David Means presents a collection of harrowing and personal tales in Instructions for a Funeral. Previously appearing in The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Vice, and other publications, the fourteen stories collected here run the gamut from the playful to the private. "The Terminal Artist" skirts reportage in grappling with the revelation that the death of a hospitalized loved one was in fact a murder. "The Tree Line, Kansas, 1934" is a wry anatomy of the moments before an FBI raid goes spectacularly wrong. "The Chair" gives us a clear-eyed look at fatherhood, with all its paradoxes, recriminations, and rewards gloriously intact.

Means's work has earned him comparisons to Flannery O'Connor, Ernest Hemingway, Sherwood Anderson, Denis Johnson, Edgar Allan Poe, Anton Chekhov, and Raymond Carver—but his place in the American literary landscape is fully and originally his own.

Praise for David Means

"David Means is that lucky (and brilliant) writer: a man in full possession of a vision." -Richard Ford


Author Bio

Location: Nyack, NY

David Means was born and raised in Michigan. His Assorted Fire Events earned the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for fiction and The Secret Goldfish was short-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Prize. The Spot was selected as a 2010 Notable Book by The New York Times and won the O. Henry Prize. His first novel, Hystopia, was published in 2016 to wide acclaim and was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. Means's fiction has appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's Magazine, Esquire, The Best American Short Stories, The O. Henry Prize Stories, and numerous other publications. He lives in Nyack, New York, and teaches at Vassar College.
I'm Writing You from Tehran
A Granddaughter's Search for Her Family's Past and Their Country's Future
by Delphine Minoui, translated by Emma Ramadan

Suffering the recent loss of her beloved grandfather and newly committed to a career in journalism, Delphine Minoui decided to visit Iran for the first time since the revolution—since she was four years old. It was 1998. She would stay for ten years.

In the course of that decade, great change comes to both writer and country, often at the same time. Minoui settles into daily life—getting to know her devout grandmother for the first time, making friends with local women who help her escape secret dance parties when the morality police arrive, figuring out how to be a journalist in a country that is suspicious of the press and Westerners. Once she finally starts to learn Persian, she begins to see Iran through her grandfather's eyes. And so it is all the more crushing when the political situation falters. She is caught up in protests and interrogated by secret police; some friends disappear and others may be tracking her movements. She finds love, loses her press credentials, marries, and is separated from her husband by erupting global conflict. Through it all, her love for this place and its people deepens and she discovers in her family's past a mission that will shape her entire future.

Framed as a letter to her grandfather and filled with disarming characters in momentous times, I'm Writing You from Tehran is an unforgettable, moving view into an often obscured part of our world.

"Entirely exceptional. Sensitivity, doubt, and heart each have their part here, so we ourselves enter into the reality of today's Iran, a (...)

Author Bio

Location: Delphine Minoui - Istanbul

Delphine Minoui, a recipient of the Albert Londres Prize for her reporting on Iraq and Iran, is a journalist and Middle East correspondent for Le Figaro. Born in Paris in 1974 to a French mother and an Iranian father, she now lives in Istanbul.

Emma Ramadan lives in Providence, Rhode Island, where she is the co-owner of Riffraff bookstore and bar. She is the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship, an NEA fellowship, and a PEN/Heim Translation Fund grant. Previous translations include the genderless novel Sphinx by Anne Garréta.
In the field of literary history and theory, Franco Moretti is synonymous with innovation. The cofounder of the Stanford Literary Lab, he brought quantitative methods into the study of the novel, enabling a "distant" reading that uses computation to analyze literary production over centuries. But at the same time, he was also teaching undergraduates the history of literature. Knowing Moretti, it's no surprise that he didn't teach the course the accepted way: one author after another, in a long uninterrupted chain. Instead, he put an irregular chessboard in front of his students that was too strange to be taken for granted. Literary history had become a problem, and he offered a solution.

In *Far Country*, Moretti takes these lectures out of the classroom and lets us share in the passion and excitement that comes from radical critique. Unconstrained by genre, Moretti juxtaposes Whitman and Baudelaire, the Western and film noir, even Rembrandt and Warhol, illuminating each through their opposition. With his guidance, we revel in the process of transformation—the earthquakes that shook the "how" of artistic form—and begin to shape a new view of American culture.

Bracing in its insight and provocative in its conclusions, *Far Country* is a critical look at the development of American cultural hegemony.

Praise for Franco Moretti

"It's a rare literary critic who attracts so much public attention, and there's a good reason: few are as hell-bent on rethinking the way we talk about literature." - *The Times Literary Supplement*

Author Bio

Franco Moretti holds the Danily C. and Laura Louise Bell Professorship in the Humanities, Emeritus, at Stanford University, where he founded the Center for the Study of the Novel and the Literary Lab. He is the author of many books, including *Graphs, Maps, Trees, The Bourgeois*, and *Distant Reading*, winner of the 2014 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. He writes regularly for *New Left Review*. Moretti's work has been translated into more than twenty languages. He lives in Switzerland.
Pagan Light
Dreams of Freedom and Beauty in Capri
by Jamie James

A rich, intimate embrace of Capri, which was a magnet for artistic renegades and a place of erotic refuge

Isolated and arrestingly beautiful, the island of Capri has been a refuge for renegade artists and writers fleeing the strictures of conventional society from the time of Augustus, who bought the island in 29 BC after defeating Antony and Cleopatra, to the early twentieth century, when the poet and novelist Jacques d'Adelsward-Fersen was in exile there after being charged with corrupting minors, to the 1960s, when Truman Capote spent time on the island. We also meet the Marquis de Sade, Goethe, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, Compton Mackenzie, Rilke, Lenin, and Gorky, among other astonishingly vivid characters.

Grounded in a deep intimacy with Capri and full of captivating anecdotes, Jamie James's Pagan Light tells how a tiny island served as a wildly permissive haven for people - queer, criminal, sick, marginalized, and simply crazy - who had nowhere else to go.

Praise for The Glamour of Strangeness

"Esoterically learned and always entertaining . . . [Jamie James] may be a blue-chip professional writer (and one with a subtle sense of language and a very good idea of where his reader is), but there's no question that his new book is the work of an amateur in the strictest, most laudable sense: the one who acts, in this case writes, out of love . . . Quite a few readers will, I'm sure, pick up James's book to nourish dreams of escaping the malfunctioning contraption of the homeland." -Joseph O'Neill, The New York Times Book Review

Author Bio

Location: Lombok, Indonesia

Jamie James is the author of The Snake Charmer, Rimbaud in Java, and other books. He has contributed to The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Vanity Fair, and The Atlantic, among other publications. He regularly reviewed art exhibitions and contributed features to The New Yorker and served as the American arts correspondent for The Times (London). He has lived in Indonesia since 1999, and is a recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Grant.
The Twice-Born
Life and Death on the Ganges
by Aatish Taseer

In The Twice-Born, Aatish Taseer embarks on a journey of self-discovery in an intoxicating, unsettling personal reckoning with modern India, where ancient customs collide with the contemporary politics of revivalism and revenge.

When Aatish Taseer first came to Benares, the spiritual capital of Hinduism, he was eighteen, the Westernized child of an Indian journalist and a Pakistani politician, raised among the intellectual and cultural elite of New Delhi. Nearly two decades later, Taseer leaves his life in Manhattan to go in search of the Brahmins, wanting to understand his own estrangement from India through their ties to tradition.

Known as the twice-born - first into the flesh, and again when initiated into their vocation - the Brahmins are a caste devoted to sacred learning. But what Taseer finds in Benares, the holy city of death also known as Varanasi, is a window on an India as internally fractured as his own continent-bridging identity. At every turn, the seductive, homogenizing force of modernity collides with the insistent presence of the past. In a globalized world, to be modern is to renounce India - and yet the tide of nationalism is rising, heralded by cries of Victory to Mother India!" and an outbreak of anti-Muslim violence.

From the narrow streets of the temple town to a Modi rally in Delhi, among the blossoming cotton trees and the bathers and burning corpses of the Ganges, Taseer struggles to reconcile magic with reason, faith in tradition with hope for the future and the brutalities of the caste system, all the while challenging his own myths about himself (...)
A Desert Harvest
New and Selected Essays
by Bruce Berger, introduction by Colum McCann

Occupying a space between traditional nature writing, memoir, journalism, and prose poetry, Bruce Berger's essays are beautiful, subtle, and haunting meditations on the landscape and culture of the American Southwest. Combining new, unpublished essays with selections from his acclaimed trilogy of "desert books" - The Telling Distance, There Was a River, and Almost an Island - A Desert Harvest is a career-spanning selection of the best work by this unique and undervalued voice.

Wasteland architecture, mountaintop astronomy, Bach in the wilderness, the mind of the wood rat, the canals of Phoenix, and the numerous eccentric personalities who call the desert their home all come to life in these fascinating portraits of America's seemingly desolate terrains.

Praise for Bruce Berger

"There's geology, natural history, religion, desert rats, environmental issues, Mexican politics, music and adventure. There's disappointment and maturity and, above all, humor . . . Berger is clearly guided by the inner lizard that lives within all desert-lovers-scurrying in and out of crevices, basking upon rocks in the sun." - Los Angeles Times

"With his naturalist's eye and poet's sensibility, Bruce Berger has written a book that will stick to the reader like cholla. Environmental witness-bearers are many, but precious few are those who can write this well." - Ted Conover

Author Bio

Location: Colum McCann - New York

Bruce Berger grew up in suburban Chicago. A poet and nonfiction writer, he is best known for a series of books exploring the intersections of nature and culture in desert settings. The first of these, The Telling Distance, won the 1990 Western States Book Award and the 1991 Colorado Book Award. His articles and essays have appeared in The New York Times, Sierra, Orion Magazine, Gramophone, and numerous literary quarterlies; his poems have appeared in Poetry, Barron's, Orion Magazine, and various literary reviews in the United States, Scotland, and India, and have been collected in Facing the Music.
The Light Years
A Memoir
by Chris Rush

_The Light Years_ is a joyous and defiant coming-of-age memoir set during one of the most turbulent times in American history.

Chris Rush was born into a prosperous, fiercely Roman Catholic, New Jersey family. But underneath the gleaming mid-century house, the flawless hostess mom, and the thriving businessman dad ran an unspoken tension that, amid the upheaval of the late 1960s, was destined to fracture their precarious facade.

His older sister Donna introduces him to the charismatic Valentine, who places a tab of acid on twelve-year-old Rush’s tongue, proclaiming: This is sacrament. You are one of us now.”

After an unceremonious ejection from an experimental art school, Rush heads to Tuscon to make a major drug purchase and, still barely a teenager, disappears into the nascent American counterculture. Stitching together a ragged assemblage of lowlifes, prophets, and fellow wanderers, he seeks kinship in the communes of the west. His adolescence is spent looking for knowledge, for the divine, for home. Given what Rush confronts on his travels - from ordinary heartbreak to unimaginable violence - it is a miracle he is still alive.

_The Light Years_ is a prayer for vanished friends, an odyssey signposted with broken and extraordinary people. It transcends one boy’s story to perfectly illustrate the slow slide from the optimism of the 1960s into the darker and more sinister 1970s. This is a riveting, heart-stopping journey of discovery and reconciliation, as Rush (…)
Thomas and Beal in the Midi
A Novel
by Christopher Tilghman

A young interracial couple escapes from Maryland to France in 1894, living first among artists in the vibrant Latin Quarter of Paris, and then beginning a new life as winemakers in the rugged countryside of the Languedoc.

Twenty-three years after the publication of his acclaimed novel Mason’s Retreat and six years after The Right-Hand Shore, Christopher Tilghman returns to the saga of the Mason family in Thomas and Beal in the Midi.

Thomas Mason and his wife, Beal, have run away to France, escaping the disapproval of both their families. The drama in this richly textured novel proceeds in two settings: first in Paris, and then in the Languedoc, where Thomas and Beal begin a new life as winemakers. Beal, indelible, beautiful, and poised, enchants everyone she meets in this strange new land, including a gaggle of artists in the Latin Quarter when they first arrive in Paris. Later, when they’ve moved to the beautiful and rugged Languedoc, she is torn between the freedoms she experienced in Paris and the return to the farm life she thought she had left behind in America. A moving and delicate portrait of a highly unusual marriage, Thomas and Beal in the Midi is a radiant work of deep insight and peerless imagination about the central dilemma of American history - the legacy of slavery and the Civil War - that explores the many ways that the past has an enduring hold over the present.

Praise for The Right-Hand Shore


Author Bio

Location: Charlottesville, VA

Christopher Tilghman is the author of two short-story collections, In a Father’s Place, and The Way People Run, and two novels, Mason’s Retreat and Roads of the Heart. Currently the director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Virginia, he and his wife, the writer Caroline Preston, live in Charlottesville, Virginia.
When Aida Hernandez was born in 1987 in Agua Prieta, Mexico, the nearby U.S. border was little more than a worn-down fence. Eight years later, Aida's mother took her and her siblings to live in Douglas, Arizona. By then, the border had become one of the most heavily policed sites in America.

Undocumented, Aida fought to make her way. She learned English, watched *Friends*, and, after having a baby at sixteen, dreamed of teaching dance and moving with her son to New York City. But life had other plans. Following a misstep that led to her deportation, Aida found herself in a Mexican city marked by violence, in a country that was not hers. To get back to the United States and reunite with her son, she embarked on a harrowing journey. The daughter of a rebel hero from the mountains of Chihuahua, Aida has a genius for survival—but returning to the United States was just the beginning of her quest.

Taking us into detention centers, immigration courts, and the inner lives of Aida and other daring characters, *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez* reveals the human consequences of militarizing what was once a more forgiving border. With emotional force and narrative suspense, Aaron Bobrow-Strain brings us into the heart of a violently unequal America. He also shows us that the heroes of our current immigration wars are less likely to be perfect paragons of virtue than complex, flawed human beings who deserve justice and empathy all the same.

**Author Bio**

Location: Walla Walla, WA

Aaron Bobrow-Strain is a professor of politics at Whitman College, where he teaches courses dealing with food, immigration, and the U.S.-Mexico border. His writing has appeared in *Believer, The Chronicle of Higher Education Review, Salon*, and *Gastronomica*. He is the author of *White Bread: A Social History of the Store-Bought Loaf* and *Intimate Enemies: Landowners, Power, and Violence in Chiapas*. In the 1990s, he worked on the U.S.-Mexico border as an activist and educator. He is a founding member of the Walla Walla Immigrant Rights Coalition in Washington State.
Mr. Straight Arrow
The Career of John Hersey, Author of Hiroshima
by Jeremy Treglown

Few are the books with as immediate an impact and as enduring a legacy as John Hersey's *Hiroshima*. First published as an entire issue of *The New Yorker* in 1946, it was serialized in newspapers the world over and has never gone out of print. By conveying plainly the experiences of six survivors of the 1945 atomic bombing and its aftermath, Hersey brought to light the magnitude of nuclear war. And in his adoption of novelistic techniques, he prefigured the conventions of New Journalism. But how did Hersey—who was not Japanese, not an eyewitness, not a scientist—come to be the first person to communicate the experience to a global audience?

In *Mr. Straight Arrow*, Jeremy Treglown answers that question and shows that *Hiroshima* was not an aberration but was emblematic of the author's lifework. By the time of *Hiroshima*’s publication, Hersey was already a famed war writer and had won a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. He continued to publish journalism of immediate and pressing moral concern; his reporting from the Freedom Summer and his exposés of the Detroit riots resonate all too loudly today. But his obsessive doubts over the value of his work never ceased. *Mr. Straight Arrow* is an intimate, exacting study of the achievements and contradictions of Hersey's career, which reveals the powers of a writer tirelessly committed to truth and social change.

Praise for V. S. Pritchett

"Treglown is an enthusiastic and scrupulous biographer." - *The New Yorker*

"Anyone who admired Pritchett's writing will find Treglown's book astute, incisive . . . and extremely valuable." -Richard Ford

Author Bio

Location: London

Jeremy Treglown is an award-winning writer and critic. His previous books include *Franco's Crypt* (FSG, 2013) and biographies of Roald Dahl, Henry Green, and V. S. Pritchett. A former editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, he has taught at Oxford, University College London, Princeton, and the University of Warwick, and has written for *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. He lives in London.
More like a poetic biographical essay on a fictional person than a novel, *The Cook* is a coming-of-age journey centered on Mauro, a young self-taught cook. The story is told by an unnamed female narrator, Mauro's friend and disciple who we also suspect might be in love with him. Set not only in Paris but in Berlin, Thailand, Burma, and other far-flung places over the course of fifteen years, the book is hyperrealistic—too the point of feeling, at times, like a documentary. It transcends this simplistic form, however, through the lyricism and intensely vivid evocative nature of Maylis de Kerangal's prose, which conjures moods, sensations, and flavors, as well as the exhausting rigor and sometimes violent abuses of kitchen work.

In *The Cook*, we follow Mauro as he finds his path in life: baking cakes as a child; cooking for his friends as a teenager; a series of studies, jobs, and travels; a failed love affair; a successful business; a virtual nervous breakdown; and—at the end—a rediscovery of his hunger for cooking, his appetite for life.

Praise for *The Heart*

"[The Heart] is an unusual and often-ravishing novel. . . . Ms. de Kerangal's long, rolling sentences pulse along in systolic thumps, each beat punctuated by a comma; they're packed with emotional intensity and florid imagery, and they've been superbly translated by Sam Taylor."—Jennifer Senior, *The New York Times*

**Author Bio**

Location: Maylis de Kerangal - Paris, France; Sam Taylor - Texarkanna, TX

Maylis de Kerangal is the author of several novels in French, including *Naissance d’un pont* (published in English as *Birth of a Bridge*, winner of the Prix Franz Hessel and Prix Médicis in 2010). She has also published a story collection, and a novella, *Tangente vers l’est* (winner of the 2012 Prix Landerneau). In 2014, *Réparer les vivants* was published to wide acclaim and won the Grand Prix RTL-Lire and the Student Choice Novel of the Year from France Culture and Télérama. Its English translation, *The Heart* (FSG, 2016), was one of *The Wall Street Journal*’s Ten Best Fiction Works of 2016 and was the winner of the 2017 Wellcome Book Prize. She lives in Paris, France.

Sam Taylor has written for *The Guardian, Financial Times, Vogue*, and *Esquire*. He translated Maylis de Kerangal's *The Heart*, as well as the award-
Grievous
A Novel
by H. S. Cross

St. Stephen's Academy, Yorkshire, 1931. A world unto itself, populated by boys reveling in life's first big mistakes and men still learning how to live with the consequences of their own. It is a cloistered life, exotic to modern eyes, founded upon privilege, ruled by byzantine and often unspoken laws, haunted by injuries both casual and calculated. Yet within those austere corridors can be found windows of enchantment, unruly love, and a wild sort of freedom, all vanished, it seems, from our world.

As a work of literary time travel, H. S. Cross's This Age of Grace stands with the novels of Patrick O'Brian and L. P. Hartley in allowing readers to breathe the air of another era. Told from a variety of viewpoints—including that of the unhappy housemaster John Grieve—This Age of Grace takes us deep inside the crucible of St. Stephen's while retaining a clear-eyed, contemporary sensibility, drawing out the urges and even mercies hidden beneath the school's strict, unsparing surface. The academy may live by its own codes, but as with the world around it—a world that must ultimately be faced—it already contains everything necessary to either shape its people or tear them apart.

Praise for Wilberforce

"For Anglophiles, seekers, and those who enjoy the insular world of C. P. Snow's Strangers and Brothers novels and the haunting power of Julian Barnes' The Sense of an Ending."—Jen Baker, Booklist

Author Bio

Location: Brooklyn, NY

H. S. Cross was born in Grosse Point, Michigan. She was educated at Harvard and has taught at Friends Seminary, among other schools. Her debut novel, Wilberforce, was published by FSG in 2015.
Mother Is a Verb
An Unconventional History
by Sarah Knott

In *Mother Is a Verb*, a highly original interpretation of mothering, the writer, feminist and historian Sarah Knott weaves a tale that begins with her own story, as she grapples with whether to have a child, before expanding into maternity in other places and times. Knott structures the book to mirror the phases of pregnancy and early mothering, and covers everything from miscarriage to late-night feedings, from morning sickness to evolving terminologies. Though her own story is ever-present—we feel the baby on her hip, always at her side—Knott uses her present moment as a means of exploring the past, drawing on techniques from literary nonfiction and feminist maternal theory's embrace of anecdote. She builds a trellis of tiny scenes of mothering, using diaries, letters, reports, court records, conduct guides, clothing, and objects, as well as her own experiences. In so doing, Knott creates an unexpectedly moving and visceral depiction of mothering, past and present, as both a shared and an endlessly various human experience. Mothering, in her hands, is bodily but not merely biological.

Author Bio

Sarah Knott grew up in England. Educated at Oxford University, she is now a professor of history at Indiana University and the mother of two small children. She is the author of *Sensibility and the American Revolution* and numerous articles on the histories of women, gender, and emotion. Knott has served as an editor of *The American Historical Review*, the American Historical Association's flagship journal, and sits on the editorial board of *Past and Present*. She is a member of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.
Native Country of the Heart
A Memoir
by Cherrie Moraga

Native Country of the Heart: A Mexican American Geography is, at its core, a mother-daughter story. The mother, Elvira, was hired out as a child by her own father to pick cotton in California’s Imperial Valley. The daughter, Cherrie L. Moraga, is a brilliant, pioneering, queer Latina feminist. The story of these two women, and of their people, is woven together in an intimate memoir of critical reflection and deep personal revelation.

As a young woman, Elvira left California to work as a cigarette girl in glamorous late-1920s Tijuana, where an ambiguous relationship with a wealthy white man taught her life lessons about power, sex, and opportunity. As Moraga charts her mother’s journey—from impressionable young girl to battle-tested matriarch to, later on, an old woman suffering under the yoke of Alzheimer’s—she traces her own self-discovery of her gender-queer body and Lesbian identity, as well as her passion for activism and the history of her pueblo. As her mother’s memory fails, Moraga is driven to unearth remnants of the Mexican-American diaspora and an American story of cultural loss.

Poetically wrought and filled with insight into intergenerational trauma, Native Country of the Heart is a reckoning with white American history and a piercing love letter from a fearless daughter to the mother she will never lose.

Praise for Cherrie L. Moraga

"[Giving Up the Ghost] is an emotionally haunting encounter that asks us as women to look back over our shoulders and face the unforgettable. Cherrie L. Moraga drums up the pulse of the past in all of us.

Author Bio

Cherrie L. Moraga is a writer and an activist. A cofounder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, Moraga coedited the highly influential volume This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color in 1981. A former Artist-in-Residence at Stanford, Moraga was recently appointed a professor in the Department of English at UC-Santa Barbara, where, with her artistic partner Celia Herrera Rodriguez, she will institute Las Maestras Center for Chicana and Indigenous Thought and Art Practice. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Theatre Playwriting Fellowship Award and a Rockefeller Fellowship for Literature.
The Dolphin Letters
by Elizabeth Hardwick and Robert Lowell, edited by Saskia Hamilton

The Dolphin Letters offers an unprecedented portrait of Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Hardwick during the last seven years of Lowell's life (1970 to 1977), a time of personal crisis and creative innovation for both writers. Lowell's controversial sonnet sequence, The Dolphin (for which he used Hardwick's letters as a source), and Hardwick's Sleepless Nights were written during this period. Centered on the letters they exchanged with each other and with other members of their circle-writers, intellectuals, friends, and publishers, including Elizabeth Bishop, Caroline Blackwood, Mary McCarthy, and Adrienne Rich-the book has the narrative sweep of a novel, telling the story of the dramatic breakup of their twenty-one-year marriage and their extraordinary, but late, reconciliation. Lowell and Hardwick are acutely intelligent observers of marriages, children, and friends, and of the feelings that their personal crises gave rise to.

The Dolphin Letters, masterfully edited by Saskia Hamilton, is a debate about the limits of art-what occasions a work of art, what moral and artistic license artists have to make use of their lives as material, what formal innovations such debates give rise to. The crisis of Lowell's The Dolphin was profoundly affecting to everyone surrounding him, and Bishop's warning to Lowell-"art just isn't worth that much"-haunts.

Author Bio

Location: Robert Lowell - Deceased

Elizabeth Hardwick (1915-2007) was a literary critic, a novelist, and one of the founders of The New York Review of Books. She is the author of Sleepless Nights and two other novels, a biography of Herman Melville, and four collections of essays, including Seduction and Betrayal: Essays on Women in Literature.

Robert Lowell (1917-1977) was the renowned and controversial author of many books of poetry, including Day by Day (FSG, 1977), For the Union Dead (FSG, 1964), and Life Studies (FSG, 1959).

Saskia Hamilton is the author of three books of poetry, including Corridor, named one of the best poetry books of 2014 by The New Yorker and The New York Times Book Review. She is the editor of The Letters of Robert Lowell and coeditor of Words in Air: The Complete Correspondence Between Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell. She teaches at Barnard College.
An expanded edition of the Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of poetry

I have sat and listened to too many
words of the collaborating muse,
and plotted perhaps too freely with my life,
not avoiding injury to others,
not avoiding injury to myself-
to ask compassion . . . this book, half fiction,
an eelnet made by man for the eel fighting
my eyes have seen what my hand did.

Winner of the 1973 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, Robert Lowell's *The Dolphin* was controversial from the beginning: many of the poems include the letters that Lowell's wife, the celebrated writer and critic Elizabeth Hardwick, wrote to him after he left her for the English socialite and writer Caroline Blackwood. He was warned by many, among them Elizabeth Bishop, that art just isn't worth that much." Nevertheless, these poems are a powerful document of an impulsive love, and a moving record of Lowell's change from one life and marriage in America to a new life on new terms with a new family in England, rendered with the stunning technical power and control that Lowell was so celebrated for. This new edition includes, following the 1973 edition, scans of the pages of Lowell's original manuscript, giving us a look into the brilliant and complicated mind of one of our most beloved and distinguished poets.

Author Bio

Robert Lowell (1917-77) was the renowned and controversial author of many books of poetry, including Day by Day, *The Dolphin*, and *History*. FSG also published his *Collected Prose* in 1987.

The Nocilla Trilogy
Nocilla Dream, Nocilla Experience, Nocilla Lab
by Agustín Fernández Mallo, translated by Thomas Bunstead

In the middle of the Nevada desert stands a solitary poplar tree covered in hundreds of pairs of shoes. Farther along Route 50, a lonely prostitute falls in love with a collector of found photographs. In Las Vegas, an Argentine man builds a peculiar monument to Jorge Luis Borges. On the run from the authorities, Kenny takes up permanent residence in the legal non-place of Singapore International Airport, while the novelists Enrique Vila-Matas and Agustín Fernández Mallo encounter each other on an oil rig.

These are just a few of the narrative strands that make up Fernández Mallo’s Nocilla Trilogy - Nocilla Dream, Nocilla Experience, and Nocilla Lab. A landmark in contemporary Spanish literature, and full of references to indie cinema, collage, conceptual art, practical architecture, the history of computers, and the decadence of the novel, the trilogy presents us with a hidden and exhilarating cartography of contemporary experience.

"Few Spanish narrators possess a poetics as coherent and explicit as Fernández Mallo’s. Strange and outlandish in sensibility, he has a transgressive force that affects the very nature of what we mean by ‘novel.”’ - J. A. Masoliver Ródenas, La Vanguardia

"The most original and powerful author of his generation in Spain.” - Mathias Enard, author of Compass

Author Bio

Location: Agustín Fernández Mallo - Spain

Agustín Fernández Mallo was born in La Coruña, Spain, in 1967. Before devoting himself full-time to his fiction and poetry, he worked for many years as an experimental physicist. His collected poems were published in Spain in 2012.

Thomas Bunstead has translated Enrique Vila-Matas, Aixa de la Cruz, Eduardo Halfon, Yuri Herrera, and Rodrigo Fresán. His own writing has appeared in The Times Literary Supplement, The Paris Review Daily, and The Independent on Sunday
Rag
Stories
by Maryse Meijer

A man, forgotten by the world, takes care of his deaf brother while euthanizing dogs for a living. A stepbrother so desperately wants to become his stepsibling that he rapes his girlfriend. In Maryse Meijer’s decidedly dark and searingly honest collection Rag, the desperate human desire for connection slips into a realm that approximates horror.

Meijer’s explosive debut collection, Heartbreaker, reinvented sexualized and romantic taboos, holding nothing back. In Rag, Meijer’s fearless follow-up, she shifts her focus to the dark heart of intimacies of all kinds, and the ways in which isolated people’s yearning for community can breed violence, danger, and madness. With unparalleled precision, Meijer spins stories that leave you troubled and slightly shaken by her uncanny ability to elicit empathy for society’s most marginalized people.

Praise for Heartbreaker

“Meijer’s unerring knack for finding the pure shape of a story . . . marks her as something quite rare. Her stories captivate in the way that urban legends do, splicing the sensational into the fearfully mundane. Even as they subvert the expectations of various relationships, the stories don’t feel new. They feel lived in, re-discovered, like old stories being told for the first time in a long time.” - Michael Deagler, The Rumpus

Author Bio

Location: Chicago, IL

Maryse Meijer is the author of the story collection Heartbreaker (FSG, 2016), which was one of Electric Literature’s 25 Best Short Story Collections of 2016. Her work has appeared in Meridian, Portland Review, Washington Square Review, Indiana Review, and actual paper. She lives in Chicago.
BEFORE: In Bristol's center lies the Croft, a digital no-man's-land cut off from the surveillance, Big Data dependence, and corporate-sponsored, globally hegemonic aspirations that have overrun the rest of the world. Ten years in, it's become a center of creative counterculture. But it's fraying at the edges, radicalizing from inside. How will it fare when its chief architect, Rushdi Mannan, takes off to meet his boyfriend in New York City—now the apotheosis of the new techno-utopian global metropolis?

AFTER: An act of anonymous cyberterrorism has permanently switched off the Internet. Global trade, travel, and communication have collapsed. The luxuries that characterized modern life are scarce. In the Croft, Mary—who has visions of people presumed dead—is sought out by grieving families seeking connections to lost ones. But does Mary have a gift or is she just hustling to stay alive? Like Grids, who runs the Croft's black market like personal turf. Or like Tyrone, who hoards music (culled from cassettes, the only medium to survive the crash) and tattered sneakers like treasure.

The world of Infinite Detail is a small step shy of our own: utterly dependent on technology, constantly brokering autonomy and privacy for comfort and convenience. With Infinite Detail, Tim Maughan makes the hitherto-unimaginable come true: the End of the Internet, the End of the World as We Know It.

Author Bio

Tim Maughan is an author, a journalist, and a features writer who uses both fiction and nonfiction to explore issues around cities, class, culture, globalization, technology, and the future. His work regularly appears on the BBC and in Vice and New Scientist.
Happiness Is a Choice You Make
Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old
by John Leland

A New York Times Bestseller!

An extraordinary look at what it means to grow old and a heartening guide to well-being, Happiness Is a Choice You Make weaves together the stories and wisdom of six New Yorkers who number among the oldest old—those eighty-five and up.

In 2015, when the award-winning journalist John Leland set out on behalf of The New York Times to meet members of America's fastest-growing age group, he anticipated learning of challenges, of loneliness, and of the deterioration of body, mind, and quality of life. But the elders he met took him in an entirely different direction. Despite disparate backgrounds and circumstances, they each lived with a surprising lightness and contentment. The reality Leland encountered upended contemporary notions of aging, revealing the late stages of life as unexpectedly rich and the elderly as incomparably wise.

Happiness Is a Choice You Make is an enduring collection of lessons that emphasizes, above all, the extraordinary influence we wield over the quality of our lives. With humility, heart, and wit, Leland has crafted a sophisticated and necessary reflection on how to "live better"—informed by those who have mastered the art.


"John Leland's practical, powerful insights into the rich experiences of the 'oldest old' can guide all of us to (...)"

Author Bio

John Leland is a reporter at The New York Times, where he wrote a yearlong series that became the basis for Happiness Is a Choice You Make, and the author of two previous books, Hip: The History and Why Kerouac Matters: The Lessons of On the Road (They're Not What You Think). Before joining the Times, he was a senior editor at Newsweek, editor in chief of Details, a reporter at Newsday, and a writer and editor at Spin magazine.
What has restlessness been for?"

In *Wild Is the Wind*, Carl Phillips reflects on love as depicted in the jazz standard for which the book is named - love at once restless, reckless, and yet desired for its potential to bring stability. In the process, he pitches estrangement against communion, examines the past as history versus the past as memory, and reflects on the past's capacity both to teach and to mislead us - also to make us hesitate in the face of love, given the loss and damage that are, often enough, love's fallout. How "to say no to despair"? How to take perhaps that greatest risk, the risk of believing in what offers no guarantee? These poems that, in their wedding of the philosophical, meditative, and lyric modes, mark a new stage in Phillips's remarkable work, stand as further proof that "if Carl Phillips had not come onto the scene, we would have needed to invent him. His idiosyncratic style, his innovative method, and his unique voice are essential steps in the evolution of the craft" (Judith Kitchen, *The Georgia Review*).

"[ *Wild is the Wind* is] as haunting and contemplative as the torch song for which the collection is named . . . [Phillips] startles readers afresh with his talent for transcendent metaphor leavened by rueful humor . . . Skillfully balancing philosophical discourse and linguistic pleasure, Phillips's much-admired capacity for nimble syntax unfurls like a sail, 'each time, more surely.'" - *Publisher's Weekly* (starred review)

**Author Bio**

Carl Phillips is the author of several books of poetry, including *Silverchest*, a finalist for the International Griffin Prize, and *Double Shadow*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. He is also the author of *The Art of Daring: Risk, Restlessness, Imagination*. Phillips teaches at Washington University in St. Louis.
The Consciousness Instinct
Unraveling the Mystery of How the Brain Makes the Mind
by Michael S. Gazzaniga

The father of cognitive neuroscience illuminates the past, present, and future of the mind-brain problem.

How do neurons turn into minds? How does physical "stuff" - atoms, molecules, chemicals, and cells - create the vivid and various worlds inside our heads? The problem of consciousness has gnawed at us for millennia. In the last century there have been massive breakthroughs that have rewritten the science of the brain, and yet the puzzles faced by the ancient Greeks are still present. In The Consciousness Instinct, the neuroscience pioneer Michael S. Gazzaniga puts the latest research in conversation with the history of human thinking about the mind, giving a big-picture view of what science has revealed about consciousness.

The idea of the brain as a machine, first proposed centuries ago, has led to assumptions about the relationship between mind and brain that dog scientists and philosophers to this day. Gazzaniga asserts that this model has it backward - brains make machines, but they cannot be reduced to one. New research suggests the brain is actually a confederation of independent modules working together. Understanding how consciousness could emanate from such an organization will help define the future of brain science and artificial intelligence, and close the gap between brain and mind.

Captivating and accessible, with insights drawn from a lifetime at the forefront of the field, The Consciousness Instinct sets the course for the neuroscience of tomorrow.

Mr. Gazzaniga does a better job of tackling the problem [of how neural activity gives rise to consciousness] than innumerable philosophers and neuroscientists before him . . . [He] displays a rare ability to combine (...) 

Author Bio

Michael S. Gazzaniga is the director of the SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the president of the Cognitive Neuroscience Institute, the founding director of the MacArthur Foundation's Law and Neuroscience Project, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Sciences. He is the author of many popular science books, including Tales from Both Sides of the Brain. He lives in California.
Two Sisters
A Father, His Daughters, and Their Journey into the Syrian Jihad
by Asne Seierstad, translated by Sean Kinsella

The riveting true story of two sisters’ journey to the Islamic State and the father who tries to bring them home

Two Sisters, by the international bestselling author Asne Seierstad, tells the unforgettable story of a family divided by faith. Sadiq and Sara, Somali immigrants raising a family in Norway, one day discover that their teenage daughters, Leila and Ayan, have vanished - and are en route to Syria to aid the Islamic State. Seierstad's riveting account traces the sisters' journey from secular, social democratic Norway to the front lines of the war in Syria, and follows Sadiq's harrowing attempt to find them.

Employing the same mastery of narrative suspense she brought to The Bookseller of Kabul and One of Us, Seierstad puts the problem of radicalization into painfully human terms, using instant messages and other primary sources to reconstruct a family's crisis from the inside. Eventually, she takes us into the hellscape of the Syrian civil war, as Sadiq risks his life in pursuit of his daughters, refusing to let them disappear into the maelstrom - even after they marry ISIS fighters. Two Sisters is a relentless thriller and a feat of reporting with profound lessons about belief, extremism, and the meaning of devotion.

Book of the Week, The Times

"Two Sisters is a modern tragedy. And a universal one - the sisters, like any other young person, were seeking purpose and meaning." - Anthony Lloyd, The Times

"Meticulously documented . . . Complex and compelling . . . This is a tale fluently told, and a thriller as well, about two young girls who left Norway one evening and were last heard (...)"

Author Bio

Asne Seierstad is an award-winning Norwegian journalist and writer known for her work as a war correspondent. She is the author of The Bookseller of Kabul, One Hundred and One Days: A Baghdad Journal, and Angel of Grozny: Inside Chechnya. She lives in Oslo, Norway.

Sean Kinsella is from Dublin. He has translated a variety of books by Norwegian writers such as Kjell Askildsen, Tore Renberg, and Stig
In this crackling memoir, the journalist and novelist Michael Idov recounts the tempestuous years he spent living alongside - and closely observing - the media and cultural elite of Putin's Russia. After accepting a surprise offer to become the editor in chief of GQ Russia, Idov and his family arrive in a Moscow still seething from a dubious election and the mass anti-Putin rallies that erupted in response. Idov is fascinated by the political turmoil but nonetheless finds himself pulled in unlikely directions. He becomes a tabloid celebrity, acts in a Russian movie with Snoop Dogg, befriends the members of Pussy Riot, punches an anti-Semitic magazine editor on the steps of the Bolshoi Theatre, sells an autobiographical sitcom pilot that is later changed into an anti-American farce, and writes Russia's top-grossing domestic movie of 2015. Meanwhile, he becomes disillusioned with the splintering opposition to Putin and is briefly attracted to a kind of jaded Putinism lite - until Russia's invasion of Ukraine thoroughly changes his mind.

In Dressed Up for a Riot, Idov writes openly, sensitively, and stingingly about life in Moscow and his place in a media apparatus that sometimes undermined but more often bolstered a state system defined by cynicism, corruption, and the fanning of fake news. With humor and intelligence, he offers a close-up glimpse of what a declining world power can become.


"Idov is fascinating and extremely funny and (...)"

Author Bio

Michael Idov is a staff writer for New York magazine and a frequent contributor of Russian-language columns and criticism to major Moscow publications. Ground Up is his first novel.
Hunting the Truth
Memoirs of Beate and Serge Klarsfeld
by Beate Klarsfeld and Serge Klarsfeld, translated by Sam Taylor

In this dual autobiography, the Klarsfelds tell the dramatic story of fifty years devoted to bringing Nazis to justice.

They were born on opposite sides of the Second World War: Beate grew up in the ruins of a defeated Weimar Germany, while Serge, a Jewish boy in France, was hiding in a cupboard when his father was arrested and sent to Auschwitz. They met on the Paris Metro and fell in love, and became famous when Beate slapped the face of the West German chancellor - a former Nazi - Kurt Georg Kiesinger.

For the past half century, Beate and Serge Klarsfeld have hunted, confronted, prosecuted, and exposed Nazi war criminals all over the world, tracking down the notorious torturer Klaus Barbie in Bolivia and attempting to kidnap the former Gestapo chief Kurt Lischka on the streets of Cologne. They have been sent to prison for their beliefs and have risked their lives protesting anti-Semitism behind the Iron Curtain in South America and in the Middle East. They have been insulted and exalted, assaulted and heralded; they've received honors from presidents and letter bombs from neo-Nazis. They have fought relentlessly not only for the memory of all those who died in the Holocaust but also for modern-day victims of genocide and discrimination across the world. And they have done it all while raising their children and sustaining their marriage.

Now, for the first time, in Hunting the Truth, a (...)
The Burning Shores
Inside the Battle for the New Libya
by Frederic Wehrey

A riveting, beautifully crafted account of Libya after Qadhafi.

The death of Colonel Muammar Qadhafi freed Libya from forty-two years of despotic rule, raising hopes for a new era. But in the aftermath, the country descended into bitter rivalries and civil war, paving the way for the Islamic State and a catastrophic migrant crisis.

In a fast-paced narrative that blends frontline reporting, analysis, and history, Frederic Wehrey tells the story of what went wrong. An Arabic-speaking Middle East scholar, Wehrey interviewed the key actors in Libya and paints vivid portraits of lives upended by a country in turmoil: the once-hopeful activists murdered or exiled, revolutionaries transformed into militia bosses or jihadist recruits, an aging general who promises salvation from the chaos in exchange for a return to the old authoritarianism. He traveled where few Westerners have gone, from the shattered city of Benghazi, birthplace of the revolution, to the lawless Sahara, to the coastal stronghold of the Islamic State in Qadhafi’s hometown of Sirt. He chronicles the American and international missteps after the dictator’s death that hastened the country's unraveling. Written with bravura, based on daring reportage, and informed by deep knowledge, The Burning Shores is the definitive account of Libya’s fall.

The essential text on the country’s disintegration . . . The last days of [Ambassador Chris Stevens], a humane and fearless diplomat, are vividly recounted." - Dexter Filkins, New York Times Book Review

"Impartial and engrossing, this is (...)"

Author Bio

Frederic Wehrey is a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His writing on Libya has appeared in the New Yorker, the Atlantic, the New York Times, and other publications. A U.S. military veteran with tours across the Middle East, he holds a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University. His first book, Sectarian Politics in the Gulf, was chosen as a Best Book on the Middle East" by Foreign Affairs magazine. Born and raised in southern California, he now lives in Washington DC.
Building and Dwelling
Ethics for the City
by Richard Sennett

A preeminent thinker redefines the meaning of city life and charts a way forward.

Building and Dwelling is the definitive statement on cities by the renowned public intellectual Richard Sennett. In this sweeping work, he traces the anguished relation between how cities are built and how people live in them, from ancient Athens to twenty-first-century Shanghai. He shows how Paris, Barcelona, and New York City assumed their modern forms; rethinks the reputations of Jane Jacobs, Lewis Mumford, and others; and takes us on a tour of emblematic contemporary locations, from the backstreets of Medellin, Colombia, to the Google headquarters in Manhattan. Through it all, he laments that the closed city* - segregated, regimented, and controlled - has spread from the global North to the exploding urban agglomerations of the global South. As an alternative, he argues for the "open city," where citizens actively hash out their differences and planners experiment with urban forms that make it easier for residents to cope. Rich with arguments that speak directly to our moment - a time when more humans live in urban spaces than ever before - Building and Dwelling draws on Sennett's deep learning and intimate engagement with city life to form a bold and original vision for the future of cities.

*No one knows more than [Sennett] about cities and the efforts that have been made over the past two centuries to order and plan them to make them more liveable for their inhabitants. It is this eternally problematic relationship between the city's form - buildings, streets, highways, transport networks - and the quality of collective life it can offer (...)

Author Bio

Richard Sennett is the author of The Craftsman, The Fall of Public Man, and The Corrosion of Character. He teaches urban studies at the London School of Economics and at Harvard University, and is a senior fellow in Columbia University's Center for Capitalism and Society. For thirty years, he has directed projects under the auspices of the UN that aim to guide urban development in the twenty-first century.
A biography of Vittoria Colonna, a confidante of Michelangelo, the scion of one of the most powerful families of her era, and a pivotal figure in the Italian Renaissance.

Ramie Targoff's *Renaissance Woman* tells of the most remarkable woman of the Italian Renaissance: Vittoria Colonna, Marchesa of Pescara. Vittoria has long been celebrated by scholars of Michelangelo as the artist's best friend - the two of them exchanged beautiful letters, poems, and works of art that bear witness to their intimacy - but she also had close ties to Charles V, Pope Clement VII and Pope Paul III, Pietro Aretino, Queen Marguerite de Navarre, Reginald Pole, and Isabella d'Este, among others. Vittoria was the scion of an immensely powerful family in Rome during that city's most explosively creative era. Art and literature flourished, but political and religious life were under terrific strain. Personally involved with nearly every major development of this period - through both her marriage and her own talents - Vittoria was not only a critical political actor and negotiator but also the first woman to publish a book of poems in Italy, an event that launched a revolution for Italian women's writing. Vittoria was, in short, at the very heart of what we celebrate when we think about sixteenth-century Italy; through her story the Renaissance comes to life anew.

Vittoria Colonna's name has always been there, hovering in the wings, but with Ramie Targoff's vibrant, timely study *Renaissance Woman*, she comes into the spotlight. [In] Targoff's hands the bits of Colonna's puzzle fit together beautifully. Here is a woman capable (...) 

**Author Bio**

Ramie Targoff is a professor of English, the cochair of Italian studies, and the Jehuda Reinharz Director of the Mandel Center for the Humanities at Brandeis University. She is the author of *Common Prayer: The Language of Public Devotion*, *John Donne, Body and Soul*, and *Posthumous Love: Eros and the Afterlife in Renaissance England*. She lives with her husband and son in Cambridge, Massachusetts.