Unmaking the Presidency
Donald Trump's War on the World's Most Powerful Office
by Susan Hennessey and Benjamin Wittes

The definitive account of how Donald Trump has wielded the powers of the American presidency

The extraordinary authority of the U.S. presidency has no parallel in the democratic world. Today that authority resides in the hands of one man, Donald J. Trump. But rarely if ever has the nature of a president clashed more profoundly with the nature of the office. Unmaking the Presidency tells the story of the confrontation between a person and the institution he almost wholly embodies.

From the moment of his inauguration, Trump has challenged our deepest expectations of the presidency. But what are those expectations, where did they come from, and how great is the damage? As editors of the invaluable" (The New York Times) Lawfare website, Susan Hennessey and Benjamin Wittes have attracted a large audience to their hard-hitting and highly informed commentary on the controversies surrounding the Trump administration. In this book, they situate Trump-era scandals and outrages in the deeper context of the presidency itself. How should we understand the oath of office when it is taken by a man who may not know what it means to preserve, protect, and defend something other than himself? What aspects of Trump are radically different from past presidents and what aspects have historical antecedents? When has he simply built on his predecessors' misdeeds, and when has he invented categories of misrule entirely his own?

By setting Trump in the light of history, Hennessey and Wittes provide a crucial and durable account of a presidency like no other.

Author Bio
Susan Hennessey and Benjamin Wittes are executive editor and editor in chief of Lawfare. Hennessey is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and CNN contributor; she was previously an attorney at the National Security Agency. Wittes is senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and author of Law and the Long War and The Future of Violence, among other books.
**Cleanness**
by Garth Greenwell

In the highly anticipated follow-up to his beloved debut, *What Belongs to You*, Garth Greenwell deepens his exploration of foreignness, obligation, and desire. Sofia, Bulgaria, a landlocked city in southern Europe, stirs with hope and impending upheaval. Soviet buildings crumble, wind scatters sand from the far south, and political protesters flood the streets with song. In this atmosphere of disquiet, an American teacher navigates a life transformed by the discovery and loss of love. As he prepares to leave the place he's come to call home, he grapples with the intimate encounters that have marked his years abroad, each bearing uncanny reminders of his past. A queer student's confession recalls his own first love, a stranger's seduction devolves into paternal sadism, and a romance with another foreigner opens, and heals, old wounds. Each echo reveals startling insights about what it means to seek connection: with those we love, with the places we inhabit, and with our own fugitive selves. 

*Cleanness* revisits and expands the world of Garth Greenwell’s beloved debut, *What Belongs to You*, declared an instant classic” by *The New York Times Book Review*. In exacting, elegant prose, he transcribes the strange dialects of desire, cementing his stature as one of our most vital living writers.

**Author Bio**

Garth Greenwell is the author of *What Belongs to You*, which won the British Book Award for Debut of the Year, was longlisted for the National Book Award and was a finalist for six other awards, including the PEN/Faulkner Award and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. A *New York Times Book Review* Editors’ Choice, it was named a Best Book of 2016 by over fifty publications in nine countries, and is being translated into a dozen languages. His fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker, The Paris Review, A Public Space,* and *VICE,* and he has written criticism for *The New Yorker,* the *London Review of Books,* and the *New York Times Book Review,* among others. He lives in Iowa City.
Uncanny Valley
A Memoir
by Anna Wiener

The prescient, page-turning account of a journey in Silicon Valley: a defining memoir of our digital age

In her mid-twenties, at the height of tech industry idealism, Anna Wiener - stuck, broke, and looking for meaning in her work, like any good millennial - left a job in book publishing for the promise of the new digital economy. She moved from New York to San Francisco, where she landed at a big-data startup in the heart of the Silicon Valley bubble: a world of surreal extravagance, dubious success, and fresh-faced entrepreneurs hell-bent on domination, glory, and, of course, progress.

Anna arrived during a massive cultural shift, as the tech industry rapidly transformed into a locus of wealth and power rivaling Wall Street. But amid the company ski vacations and in-office speakeasies, boyish camaraderie and ride-or-die corporate fealty, a new Silicon Valley began to emerge: one in far over its head, one that enriched itself at the expense of the idyllic future it claimed to be building.

Part coming-of-age-story, part portrait of an already bygone era, Anna Wiener's memoir, *Uncanny Valley*, is a rare first-person glimpse into high-flying, reckless startup culture at a time of unchecked ambition, unregulated surveillance, wild fortune, and accelerating political power. With wit, candor, and heart, Anna deftly charts the tech industry's shift from self-appointed world savior to democracy-endangering liability, alongside a personal narrative of aspiration, ambivalence, and disillusionment.

Author Bio

Anna Wiener is a contributing writer to *The New Yorker* online, where she writes about Silicon Valley, startup culture, and technology. Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic, New York, The New Republic*, and *n+1*, as well as in *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2017*. She lives in San Francisco. *Uncanny Valley* is her first book.
The Battle for Perfect Evidence-Based Medicine
by Ben Goldacre

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.
The Black Cathedral
A Novel
by Marcial Gala, translated by Anna Kushner

Haunting and transcendently twisted, this English-language debut from a Cuban literary star is a tale of race, magic, belief, and fate

The Stuart family moves to a marginal neighborhood of Cienfuegos, a city on the southern coast of Cuba. Arturo Stuart, a charismatic, visionary preacher, discovers soon after arriving that God has given him a mission: to build a temple that surpasses any before seen in Cuba, and to make of Cienfuegos a new Jerusalem.

In a neighborhood that roils with passions and conflicts, at the foot of a cathedral that rises higher day by day, there grows a generation marked by violence, cruelty, and extreme selfishness. This generation will carry these traits beyond the borders of the neighborhood, the city, and the country, unable to escape the shadow of the unfinished cathedral.

Told by a chorus of narrators - including gossips, gangsters, a ghost, and a serial killer - who flirt, lie, argue, and finish one another's stories, Marcial Gala's The Black Cathedral is a darkly comic indictment of modern Cuba, gritty and realistic but laced with magic. It is a portrait of what remains when dreams of utopia have withered away.

Author Bio

Marcial Gala was born in Havana in 1965. He is a novelist, a poet, and an architect, and is a member of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba. He won the Pinos Nuevos Prize for short stories in 1999. The Black Cathedral received the Alejo Carpentier Award for novels in 2012 and the Critics Award in 2012. He lives in Buenos Aires and Cienfuegos.

The daughter of Cuban exiles, Anna Kushner was born in Philadelphia and has been traveling to Cuba since 1999. She has translated the novels of Norberto Fuentes, Leonardo Padura, Guillermo Rosales, and Goncalo M. Tavares, as well as two collections of non-fiction by Mario Vargas Llosa. Anna Kushner was born in Philadelphia and first traveled to Cuba in 1999. She has translated the novels of Guillermo Rosales, Norberto Fuentes, Goncalo M. Tavares, and Leonardo Padura.
The American People: Volume 2
The Brutality of Fact: A Novel
by Larry Kramer

In The American People: Volume 2: The Brutality of Fact, Larry Kramer completes his radical reimagining of his country's history. Ranging from the brothels of 1950s Washington, D.C., to the activism of the 1980s and beyond, Kramer offers an elaborate phantasmagoria of bigoted conspiracists in the halls of power and ordinary individuals suffering their consequences. With wit and bite, Kramer explores (among other things) the sex lives of every recent president; the complicated behavior of America's two greatest spies, J. Edgar Hoover and James Jesus Angleton; the rise of Sexopolis, the country's favorite magazine; and the genocidal activities of every branch of our health-care and drug-delivery systems.

The American People: Volume 2 is narrated by (among others) the writer Fred Lemish and his two friends - Dr. Daniel Jerusalem, who works for America's preeminent health-care institution, and his twin brother, David Jerusalem, a survivor of a Nazi concentration camp who was abused by many powerful men. Together they track a terrible plague that intensifies as the government ignores it and depict the bold and imaginative activists who set out to shock the nation's conscience. In Kramer's telling, the United States is dedicated to the proposition that very few men are created equal, and those who love other men may be destined for death. Here is a historical novel like no other - satiric and impassioned and driven by an uncompromising moral and literary vision.

Author Bio

Larry Kramer is an award-winning playwright and author, and a celebrated public health and gay rights advocate. He wrote the Academy Award-nominated screenplay adaptation of D. H. Lawrence’s Women in Love and rose to further prominence with his bestselling novel Faggots. A pioneering AIDS activist, he cofounded the Gay Men’s Health Crisis in 1982 and founded ACT UP in 1987. Kramer has won numerous awards for his plays and received the 2013 PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award for a Master American Dramatist.
Putin's People
How the KGB Took Back Russia and Then Took On the West
by Catherine Belton

Camilla Bartlett lives in the United States.

Author Bio

Location: London

Camilla Bartlett lives in the United States.

Notes

Promotion
National Publicity
National Advertising
Saltwater
A Novel  
by Jessica Andrews

This luminous” (The Observer) feminist coming-of-age novel captures in sensuous, blistering prose the richness and imperfection of the bond between a daughter and her mother.

It begins with our bodies... Safe together in the violet dark and yet already there are spaces beginning to open between us.

From that first salty, viscous connection, through the ups and downs of a working-class childhood in northern England, the one constant in Lucy's life has been her mother: comforting and mysterious, ferociously loving, tirelessly devoted, as much a part of Lucy as her own skin. Her lessons in womanhood shape Lucy's appreciation for desire, her sense of duty as a caretaker, her hunger for a better, maybe reckless life.

At university, Lucy's background sets her apart from her classmates and London, even as she struggles with the excruciating, slow separation from her mother. Her father goes missing just after she graduates; her shift into adulthood comes with the burden of choosing how much of her father's trouble to take on. When her grandfather dies, she escapes to his tiny house in Donegal, a place where her mother once found happiness. There she will take a lover, live inside art and the past, and track back through her memories and her mother’s stories to make sense of her place in the world.

In "a stunning new voice in British literary fiction" (The Independent) that lays bare our raw, dark selves, Jessica Andrews's debut honors the beauty, complexity, and mixed blessings of daughterhood. Intricately woven in lyrical vignettes, Saltwater is a coming-of-age novel about finding a way forward by looking back.

Author Bio

Jessica Andrews writes fiction and poetry. She has been published by the Independent, Elle, AnOther, Somesuch Stories, Shabby Doll House and Papaya Press, among others. She teaches Literature and Creative Writing classes and is co-editor of literary magazine The Grapevine, which aims to give a platform to under-represented writers. Saltwater is her first novel.
The winner of the 2018 T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry, Three Poems is an exhilarating (London Review of Books) debut of formal height and emotional depth.

Hannah Sullivan’s debut collection is a revelation - three poems of startling intensity, ambition, and length. Though each poem stands apart, their inventive and looping encounters make for a compelling unity. “You, Very Young in New York” is a study of romantic possibility and disillusion in a great American city. “Repeat Until Time” begins with a move to California and unfolds into a philosophical essay on repetition. “The Sandpit After Rain” explores the birth of a child and the loss of a father with exacting clarity. Eliciting comparisons to such poets as Eliot, Pound, Whitman, and Auden, Three Poems explores coming-of-age, motherhood, capitalism, social media, and other contemporary concerns from her unique perspective and exquisite voice.

Author Bio

Hannah Sullivan read Classics at Trinity College, Cambridge, and has a PhD in English and American literature from Harvard University. She also lived in San Francisco for four years and taught as an assistant professor at Stanford University. The Work of Revision was awarded the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize by the British Academy. Three Poems is her debut poetry collection. It received the T. S. Eliot Prize and was short-listed for the Roehampton Poetry Prize, the Costa Poetry Award, and the Ted Hughes Award. She is currently an associate professor of English at New College, Oxford, and lives in London with her husband and two sons.
When It Was Grand
The Radical Republican History of the Civil War
by LeeAnna Keith

A group biography of the activists who defended human rights and defined the Republican Party's greatest hour

In 1862, the ardent abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison summarized the events that were tearing apart the United States: There is a war because there was a Republican Party. There was a Republican Party because there was an Abolition Party. There was an Abolition Party because there was Slavery." Garrison's simple statement expresses the essential truths at the heart of LeeAnna Keith's When It Was Grand. Here is the full story, dramatically told, of the Radical Republicans - the champions of abolition who helped found a new political party and turn it toward the extirpation of slavery. Keith introduces us to the idealistic Massachusetts preachers and philanthropists, rugged Midwestern politicians, and African American activists who collaborated to protect escaped slaves from their captors, to create and defend black military regiments and win the contest for the soul of their party. Keith's fast-paced, deeply researched narrative gives us new perspective on figures ranging from Ralph Waldo Emerson and John Brown, to the gruff antislavery general John Fremont and his astute wife, Jessie Benton Fremont, and the radicals' sometime critic and sometime partner Abraham Lincoln.

In the 1850s and 1860s, a powerful faction of the Republican Party stood for a demanding ideal of racial justice - and insisted that their party and nation live up to it. Here is a colorful, definitive account of their indelible accomplishment.

Notes

Promotion
Bound galley mailing<br>National review attention<br>Print and online features and profiles<br>NPR, radio, and podcast interviews<br>National TV interviews<br>Original author essays and op-eds<br>Author tour<br>Author appearances<br>Social media promotion and targeted advertising<br>Original piece in FSG's Work in Progress<br>Goodreads promotion and giveaways<br>NetGalley promotion

Author Bio

LeeAnna Keith teaches history at the Collegiate School for Boys in New York City. She is the author of The Colfax Massacre: The Untold Story of Black Power, White Terror, and the Death of Reconstruction
The Cactus League
A Novel
by Emily Nemens

An explosive, character-driven odyssey through the world of baseball from Emily Nemens, the editor of The Paris Review

Jason Goodyear is the star outfielder for the Los Angeles Lions, stationed with the rest of his team in the punishingly hot Arizona desert for their annual spring training. Handsome, famous, and talented, Goodyear is nonetheless coming apart at the seams. And the coaches, writers, wives, girlfriends, petty criminals, and diehard fans following his every move are eager to find out why - as they hide secrets of their own.

Humming with the energy of a ballpark before the first pitch, Emily Nemens' The Cactus League unravels the tightly connected web of people behind a seemingly linear game. Narrated by a sportscaster, Goodyear's story is interspersed with tales of Michael Taylor, a batting coach trying to stay relevant; Tamara Rowland, a resourceful spring-training paramour, looking for one last catch; Herb Allison, a legendary sports agent grappling with his decline; and a plethora of other richly drawn characters, all striving to be seen as the season approaches. It's a journey that, like the Arizona desert, brims with both possibility and destruction.

Anchored by an expert knowledge of baseball's inner workings, Emily Nemens's The Cactus League is a propulsive and deeply human debut that captures a strange desert world that is both exciting and unforgiving, where the most crucial games are the ones played off the field.

Author Bio

Emily Nemens is the editor of The Paris Review. She was previously the coeditor of The Southern Review. Her work has been published in Esquire, n +1, The Gettysburg Review, Hobart, and elsewhere.
Rough Ideas
Reflections on Music and More
by Stephen Hough

A collection of essays on music and life by the famed classical pianist and composer
Stephen Hough is one of the world’s leading pianists, winning global acclaim and numerous awards, both for his concerts and his recordings. He is also a writer, composer, and painter, and has been described by The Economist as one of Twenty Living Polymaths."

Hough writes informally and engagingly about music and the life of a musician, from the broader aspects of what it is to walk out onto a stage or to make a recording, to specialist tips from deep inside the practice room: how to trill, how to pedal, how to practice. He also writes vividly about people he's known, places he's traveled to, books he's read, paintings he's seen; and he touches on more controversial subjects, such as assisted suicide and abortion. Even religion is there - the possibility of the existence of God, problems with some biblical texts, and the challenges involved in being a gay Catholic.

Rough Ideas is an illuminating, constantly surprising introduction to the life and mind of one of our great cultural figures.

Author Bio

Stephen Hough, one of the most distinctive artists of his generation, performs with the world’s major orchestras and in recital at the most prestigious concert halls. He has made more than sixty CD recordings and has composed works ranging from solo piano to orchestral. As an author, he has written articles for The Guardian and The Times (London), and he wrote a blog for The Telegraph for seven years. His first novel, The Final Retreat, was published in 2018.
The Exhibition of Persephone Q
A Novel
by Jessi Jezewska Stevens

A triumph of tone and intelligence. Percy Q's perspective is skewed and searching at once, and through her eyes, we see afresh not only New York's post-9/11 landscape but also the world of art, and love, and the process of becoming. - Rivka Galchen, author of Atmospheric Disturbances

Percy is pregnant. She hasn't told a soul. Probably she should tell her husband - certainly she means to - but one night she wakes up to find she no longer recognizes him. Now, instead of sleeping, Percy is spending her nights taking walks through her neighborhood, all the while fretting over her marriage, her impending motherhood, and the sinister ways the city is changing.

Amid this alienation - from her husband, home, and rapidly changing body - a package arrives. In it: an exhibition catalog for a photography show. The photographs consist of a series of digitally manipulated images of a woman lying on a bed in a red room. It takes a moment for even Percy to notice that the woman is herself . . . but no one else sees the resemblance.

Percy must now come to grips with the fundamental question of identity in the digital age: To what extent do we own our own image, and to what extent is that image shaped by the eyes of others?

Capturing perfectly the haunted atmosphere of Manhattan immediately after 9/11 - and the simmering insanity of America ever since - Jessi Jezewska Stevens's The Exhibition of Persephone Q is a darkly witty satire about how easy it is to lose ownership of our own selves.

Author Bio

Jessi Jezewska Stevens holds a BA in mathematics from Middlebury College and an MFA in fiction from Columbia University. Her stories and essays have appeared in The Paris Review, Tin House, Guernica, BOMB, and elsewhere. She lives in New York, where she teaches fiction.
Unfinished Business
Notes of a Chronic Re-reader
by Vivian Gornick

One of our most beloved writers reassess the electrifying works of literature that have shaped her life.

I sometimes think I was born reading... I can't remember the time when I didn't have a book in my hands, my head lost to the world around me. *Unfinished Business: Notes of a Chronic Re-reader* is Vivian Gornick's celebration of passionate reading, of returning again and again to the books that have shaped her at crucial points in her life. In nine essays that traverse literary criticism, memoir, and biography, one of our most celebrated critics writes about the importance of reading - and re-reading - as life progresses. Gornick finds herself in contradictory characters within D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, assesses womanhood in Colette's *The Vagabond* and *The Shackle*, and considers the veracity of memory in Marguerite Duras's *The Lover*. She revisits Great War novels by J. L. Carr and Pat Barker, uncovers the psychological complexity of Elizabeth Bowen's prose, and soaks in Natalia Ginzburg, a writer whose work has often made me love life more." After adopting two cats, whose erratic behavior she finds vexing, she discovers Doris Lessing's *Particularly Cats*. Guided by Gornick's trademark verve and insight, *Unfinished Business* is a masterful appreciation of literature's power to illuminate our lives from a peerless writer and thinker who "still read[s] to feel the power of Life with a capital L."

Author Bio

Vivian Gornick's books include *Approaching Eye Level*, *The End of The Novel of Love*, and *The Situation and The Story*. She lives in New York City.
From one of the most lyrically gifted, socially conscious rappers of the past twenty years, Vibrate Higher is a firsthand account of hip-hop as a political force.

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.

Vibrate Higher illuminates Talib Kweli's upbringing and artistic success, but so too does it give life to hip hop as a political force - one that galvanized the Movement for Black Lives, and serves a continual channel for resistance against the rising tide of (...)

**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.

Kweli is the author of Vibrate Higher: A Rap Story
Survival Is a Style

Poems
by Christian Wiman

Survival Is a Style, Christian Wiman's first collection of new poems in six years, may be his best book yet. His many readers will recognize the musical and formal variety, the voice that can be tender and funny, credibly mystical and savagely skeptical. But there are many new notes in this collection as well, including a moving elegy to the poet's father, sharp observations and distillations of modern American life, and rangy poems that merge and juxtapose different modes of speech and thought. The cumulative effect is extraordinary. Reading Survival Is a Style, one has the sense one is encountering work that will become a permanent part of American literature.

Author Bio

Christian Wiman is the author of several books, including a memoir, My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer (FSG, 2013); Every Riven Thing (FSG, 2010), winner of the Ambassador Book Award in poetry; and Stolen Air: Selected Poems of Osip Mandelstam. From 2003 to 2013, he was the editor of Poetry magazine. He currently teaches religion and literature at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School. He lives in Connecticut.
Indelicacy
A Novel
by Amina Cain

A ghostly feminist fable, Amina Cain's *Indelicacy* is the story of a woman navigating between gender and class roles to empower herself and fulfill her dreams.

In a strangely ageless world somewhere between Emily Dickinson and David Lynch" (Blake Butler), a cleaning woman at a museum of art nurtures aspirations to do more than simply dust the paintings around her. She dreams of having the liberty to explore them in writing, and so must find a way to win herself the time and security to use her mind. She escapes her lot by marrying a rich man, but having gained a husband, a house, high society, and a maid, she finds that her new life of privilege is no less constrained. Not only has she taken up different forms of time-consuming labor - social and erotic - but she is now, however passively, forcing other women to clean up after her. Perhaps another and more drastic solution is necessary?

Reminiscent of a lost Victorian classic in miniature, yet taking equal inspiration from such modern authors as Jean Rhys, Octavia Butler, Clarice Lispector, and Jean Genet, Amina Cain's *Indelicacy* is at once a ghost story without a ghost, a fable without a moral, and a down-to-earth investigation of the barriers faced by women in both life and literature. It is a novel about seeing, class, desire, anxiety, pleasure, friendship, and the battle to find one's true calling.

Author Bio

Amina Cain is the author of two collections of short fiction, *Creature* and *I Go to Some Hollow*. Her essays and short stories have appeared in *n+1, The Paris Review Daily, BOMB, Full Stop, Vice*, the *Believer Logger*, and elsewhere. She lives in Los Angeles and is a contributing editor at *BOMB*. 

Farrar, Straus and Giroux
On Sale: Feb 11/20
5 x 7.5 • 176 pages
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Fiction / Literary
Through an act of political violence that tears apart a family's faith and community, S. M. Hulse, the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of *Black River*, crafts a compelling novel that mines the deep rifts that come when the reach of the government clashes with individual freedom.

Jo Faber is packing up the home she and her brother Samuel inherited. For generations, the Fabers have lived near Eden Mine, but Jo and Samuel will be the last. Their family home has been seized by the state through eminent domain.

At the moment she hears the news of the bombing on the radio, Jo knows nothing, but she also knows that something isn't right. The arrival of their friend and unofficial guardian, Sheriff Hawkins, confirms her suspicions. Samuel said he was going to find work. But soon it's clear that he's not gone, but missing - last seen by a security camera near the district courthouse at Elk Fork. And a nine-year-old girl, the daughter of a pastor of a storefront church, is in critical condition.

This isn't the first time Jo and Samuel have seen the ravages of violence visit their family. Last time, they lost their mother and Jo lost her ability to walk. Samuel took care of her, outfitted their barn with special rigging so she could keep riding their mule. But he was never the same, falling in with a separatist group, getting a tattoo he'd flaunt, then spending years hiding. She thought he had finished with (...)
How a Person Became a User
by Joanne McNeil

A concise but wide-ranging personal history of the internet from - for the first time - the point of view of the user

In a shockingly short amount of time, the internet has bound people around the world together and torn us apart and changed not just the way we communicate but who we are and who we can be. It has created a new, unprecedented cultural space that we are all a part of - even if we don't participate, that is how we participate - but by which we're continually surprised, betrayed, enriched, befuddled. We have churned through platforms and technologies and in turn been churned by them. And yet, the internet is us and always has been.

In Lurking, Joanne McNeil digs deep and identifies the primary (if sometimes contradictory) concerns of people online: searching, safety, privacy, identity, community, anonymity, and visibility. She charts what it is that brought people online and what keeps us here even as the social equations of digital life - what we're made to trade, knowingly or otherwise, for the benefits of the internet - have shifted radically beneath us. She is not interested in the fortunes being made or the specific technologies developed, but in the space we have made and the culture we have created. It is a story we are accustomed to hearing as tales of entrepreneurs and visionaries and dynamic and powerful corporations, but there is a more profound, intimate story that hasn't yet been told.

Long one of the most incisive, ferociously intelligent, and widely respected cultural critics online, McNeil here establishes a singular vision of who we are now, tells the stories of how we became us, and (...)
Heir to Mallarmé and the symbolists, godfather to the modernists, Paul Valéry was a poet with thousands of readers and few followers, great resonance and little echo. Along with Rilke and Eliot, he stands as a bridge between the tradition of the nineteenth century and the novelty of the twentieth. His reputation as a poet rests on three slim volumes published in a span of only ten years. Yet these poems, it turns out, are inseparable from another, much vaster intellectual and artistic enterprise: the *Notebooks*.

Behind the published works, behind the uneventful life of the almost forgotten and then exceedingly famous poet, there hides another story, a private life of the mind, that has its record in 27,000 pages of notebooks revealed in their entirety only after his death. Their existence had been hinted at, evoked in rumors and literary asides; but once made public it took years for their significance to be fully appreciated. It turned out that the prose fragments published in Valéry’s lifetime were not what they had been taken to be: they were not after-the-fact musings of an accomplished poet, nor his occasional sketchbook, nor excerpts from his private journal. They were a disfigured glimpse of a vast and fragmentary “exercise of thought,” a restless intellectual quest as unguided and yet as persistent, as rigorous, and as uncontainable as the sea that is so often their subject.

*The Idea of Perfection* shows both sides of Valéry: the craftsman of sublimely refined verse, and the fervent investigator of the limits of human intellect and expression. It intersperses his (...)

**Author Bio**

Location: Paul Valéry - deceased

One of the major figures of twentieth-century French literature, Paul Valéry was born in 1871. After a promising debut as a young symbolist in Mallarmé’s circle, Valéry withdrew from public view for almost twenty years, and was almost forgotten by 1917 when the publication of the long poem *La Jeune Parque* made him an instant celebrity. He was best known in his day for his small output of highly polished lyric poetry, and posthumously for the 27,000 pages of his *Notebooks*. He died in 1945.

Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody was born in Columbus, Ohio. He has translated the work of French and Belgian poets, including Benjamin Fondane, for which he was awarded the Susan Sontag Prize for Translation. He is also the author of two volumes of poetry in French, and has worked as a typesetter, a
My Glorious Defeats
Hacktivist, Narcissist, Anonymous: A Memoir
by Barrett Brown

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 with 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 threatening an FBI agent in a YouTube video and subsequent indictment on twelve federal charges related to the 2011 hack of private intelligence contractor Stratfor. 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. Thompson, part Antonio Gramsci (not really), My Glorious Defeats is part memoir, part manifesto - a roaring indictment of the increasingly powerful and increasingly dangerous cyber (...)
Living Weapon
Poems
by Rowan Ricardo Phillips

Award-winning essayist and poet Rowan Ricardo Phillips presents a
bracing renewal of civic poetry in Living Weapon.

. . . and we’ d do this again
And again and again, without ever
Knowing we were the weapon ourselves,
Stronger than steel, story, and hydrogen.
- from Even Homer Nods"

A revelation, a shoring up, a transposition: Rowan Ricardo Phillips’s Living
Weapon is a love song to the imagination, a new blade of light honed in on
our political moment. A winged man plummets from the troposphere; four
NYPD officers enter a cellphone store; concrete sidewalks hang overhead.

Here, in his third collection of poems, Phillips offers us ruminations on violins
and violence, on hatred, on turning forty-three, even on the end of existence
itself. Living Weapon reveals to us the limitations of our vocabulary, that our
platitudes are not enough for the brutal times in which we find ourselves. But
still, our lives go on, and these are poems of survival as much as they are an
indictment. Couched in language both wry and ample, Living Weapon is a
piercing addition from a “virtuoso poetic voice” (Granta

Author Bio

Rowan Ricardo Phillips is the author of Heaven (FSG, 2015) and The
Ground (FSG, 2012). He is the recipient of a a Whiting Writers’ Award, the
PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, and the GLCA New Writers Award for Poetry,
and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He lives in New York City.
Miss Aluminum
A Memoir
by Susanna Moore

A revealing and refreshing memoir of Hollywood in the 1970s
In 1963 after the death of her mother, seventeen-year-old Susanna Moore leaves her home in Hawai’i with no money, no belongings, and no prospects to live with her Irish grandmother in Philadelphia. She soon receives four trunks of expensive clothes from a concerned family friend, allowing her to assume the first of many disguises she will need to find her sometimes perilous, always valorous way.
Her journey takes her from New York to Los Angeles where she becomes a model and meets Joan Didion and Audrey Hepburn. She works as a script reader for Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson, and is given a screen test by Mike Nichols. But beneath Miss Aluminum’s glittering fairytale surface lies the story of a girl’s insatiable hunger to learn and her anguished determination to understand the circumstances of her mother’s death. Moore gives us a sardonic, often humorous portrait of Hollywood in the seventies, and of a young woman’s hard-won arrival at selfhood.

Author Bio

Susanna Moore is the author of the novels The Life of Objects, The Big Girls, One Last Look, In the Cut, Sleeping Beauties, The Whiteness of Bones, and My Old Sweetheart, and two books of nonfiction, Light Years: A Girlhood in Hawai’i and I Myself Have Seen It: The Myth of Hawai’i. She lives in Hawai’i.
Beyond the Sea
A Novel
by Paul Lynch

The haunting story of two men stranded at sea pushing against their physical and mental limits to stay alive

Based partly on true events, Paul Lynch's haunting and sublime novel Beyond the Sea tells the story of two South American fishermen, Bolivar and Hector, who go to sea before a catastrophic storm. Needing cash, Bolivar convinces his boss to let him fish despite the weather. His fishing partner is nowhere to be found, so he brings Hector, a sullen and inexperienced teenager. The storm arrives, and though the two men survive, they've been blown hundreds of miles out in the Pacific Ocean with little hope for rescue. Coming to terms with their new reality, they are forced to accept their separation from the modern world, their sudden and inescapable intimacy, and the possibilities and limits of faith, hope, and survival. As the days go by, they grapple with the mistakes of their pasts, the severity of their present, and the uncertainty of their future. And though Bolivar and Hector fight to maintain their will to live, nothing in the barren seascape or in their minds promises that they will make it.

Ambitious and profoundly moving, Beyond the Sea explores what it means to be a man, a friend, and a sinner in a fallen world. With evocative prose, Lynch crafts a suspenseful drama that refuses sentimentality or easy answers. Instead, Beyond the Sea is a hard-won and intimate rendering of the extremities of human life, both physical and mental.

Author Bio

Paul Lynch is the author of the novels Red Sky in Morning, The Black Snow, which won France’s Prix Libr’a Nous for Best Foreign Novel, and Grace, which won the Kerry Group's Irish Novel of the Year Award and was a finalist for both the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, and the Saroyan International Prize. He lives in Dublin with his wife and daughter.
Footprints
In Search of Future Fossils
by David Farrier

A profound meditation on climate change and the Anthropocene and an urgent search for the fossils - industrial, chemical, geological - that humans are leaving behind.

What will the world look like in ten thousand years - or ten million? What kinds of stories will be told about us?

In Footprints: In Search of Future Fossils, the award-winning author David Farrier explores the traces we will leave for the very distant future. Modern civilization has created objects and landscapes with the potential to endure through deep time, whether it is plastic polluting the oceans and nuclear waste sealed within the earth or the 30 million miles of roads spanning the planet. Our carbon could linger in the atmosphere for 100,000 years, and the remains of our cities will still exist millions of years from now as a layer in the rock. These future fossils have the potential to reveal much about how we lived in the twenty-first century.

Crossing the boundaries of literature, art, and science, Footprints invites us to think about how we will be remembered in the myths and stories of our distant descendants. Traveling from the Baltic Sea to the Great Barrier Reef, and from an ice-core laboratory in Tasmania to Shanghai, one of the world's biggest cities, Farrier describes a world that is changing rapidly, with consequences beyond the scope of human understanding. As much a message of hope as a warning, Footprints will not only alter how you think about the future; it will change how you see the world today.

Author Bio

David Farrier teaches at the University of Edinburgh. In 2017, Footprints won the Royal Society of Literature’s Giles St Aubyn Award for Non-Fiction. He lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.
Collected Stories
by Shirley Hazzard, Shirley Hazzard Steegmuller and The Estate of Shirley Hazzard Steegmuller

The collected short fiction of a master prose stylist

Twenty-eight works of short fiction in all, Shirley Hazzard's Collected Stories is a work of staggering breadth and talent. Here, Hazzard's short-story collections, Cliffs of Fall and People in Glass Houses, are presented in their entirety alongside uncollected stories, concluding with two previously unpublished stories found in typescript among her papers. Taken together, Hazzard's short stories are masterworks in telescoping focus, at once surgical and symphonic" (The New Yorker), ranging from quotidian struggles between beauty and pragmatism to satirical sendups of international bureaucracy, from the Italian countryside to suburban Connecticut. In an interview, Hazzard once said, "The idea that somebody has expressed something, in a supreme way, that it can be expressed; this is, I think, an enormous feature of literature." Her stories themselves are a supreme evocation of writing at its very best: probing, uncompromising, and deeply felt.

Author Bio

Shirley Hazzard (1931-2016) was born in Australia, and in early years traveled the world with her parents due to their diplomatic postings. At sixteen, living in Hong Kong, she was engaged by British Intelligence, where, in 1947-48, she was involved in monitoring the civil war in China. Thereafter, she lived in New Zealand and in Europe; in the United States, where she worked for the United Nations Secretariat in New York; and in Italy. In 1963, she married the writer Francis Steegmuller, who died in 1994.

Ms. Hazzard's novels are The Evening of the Holiday (1966), The Bay of Noon (1970), The Transit of Venus (1981) and The Great Fire (2003). She is also the author of two collections of short fiction, Cliffs of Fall and Other Stories (1963) and People in Glass Houses (1967). Her nonfiction works include Defeat of an Ideal (1973), Countenance of Truth (1990), and the memoir Greene on Capri (2000). She lived in New York, with sojourns in Italy.

Shirley Hazzard (1931-2016) was born in Australia, and in early years traveled the world with her parents due to their diplomatic postings. At sixteen, living in Hong Kong, she was engaged by British Intelligence, where, in 1947-48, she was involved in monitoring the civil war in China. Thereafter, she lived in New Zealand and in Europe; in the United States, where she worked for the United Nations Secretariat in New York; and in Italy. In 1963, she married the writer Francis Steegmuller, who died in 1994.


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Fiction / Short Stories (Single Author)

Notes

Promotion
If Men, Then
Poems
by Eliza Griswold

A darkly humorous new collection of poems by the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of Wideawake Field and Amity and Prosperity

If Men, Then, Eliza Griswold's second poetry collection, charts a radical spiritual journey through catastrophe. Griswold's language is forthright and intimate as she steers between the chaos of a tumultuous inner world and an external landscape littered with SUVs, CBD oil, and go-bags, talismans of our time. Alternately searing and hopeful, funny and fraught, the poems explore the world's fracturing through the collapse of the ego, embodied in a character named "I" - a soul attempting to wrestle with itself in the face of an unfolding tragedy.

Author Bio

Eliza Griswold, a Guggenheim fellow, is the author of a collection of poems, Wideawake Field (FSG, 2007) and a nonfiction book, The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam (FSG, 2010), a New York Times bestseller that was awarded the J. Anthony Lukas Prize. She has worked with Seamus Murphy in Africa and Asia for more than a decade. She lives in New York City.
I You We Them
Walking into the World of the Desk Killer
by Dan Gretton

A landmark historical investigation into crimes against humanity and the nature of evil

Sprawling and illuminating, Dan Gretton's *I You We Them* is an unprecedented study of perpetrators of crimes against humanity: the desk killers' who ordered and directed some of the worst atrocities of the last century. From Albert Speer's Nazi complicity to Royal Dutch Shell's role in the murder of the Nigerian activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, Gretton probes the depths of the figure "who, by giving orders, uses paper or a phone or a computer to kill, instead of a gun."

Over the past twenty years, Gretton has interviewed survivors and perpetrators, and poured over archives and thousands of pages of testimony. But *I You We Them* is as much about understanding the psychology of desk killers as it is about the journey Gretton took to do so. He weaves contemplative interludes - walking in the woods, reminiscing about a lost love, considering moral conundrums that have consumed humanity for millennia - between his research and analysis. The result is a genre-bending work steeped as much in historical and psychological illumination as it is in personal reflection.

Synthesizing history, reportage, and memoir, *I You We Them* is a groundbreaking journal of discovery that bears witness, records, and attempts to understand the largest questions before humanity. Gretton leads us on a journey into the heart of darkness that ultimately defies notions of time, location, or identity. "The methods of killing may have changed," he writes, "but the desk killers are still here.

Author Bio

Dan Gretton is a writer, an activist, and a teacher. He studied at the University of Cambridge, where he co-founded the pioneering political arts organization Platform. His work on human rights and peace issues ranges from the antinuclear movement of the 1980s to campaigning against contemporary human rights abuses, and he established the Body Politic program in art and activism at the University of London, Birkbeck. He has worked and shared platforms with Wole Soyinka, Angela Davis, Yinka Shonibare, Tony Benn and William Boyd, among many others. He lives in London.
Pale Colors in a Tall Field
Poems
by Carl Phillips

A powerful, inventive collection from one of America's most critically acclaimed poets.
Carl Phillips's new poetry collection, Pale Colors in a Tall Field, is a meditation on the intimacies of thought and body as forms of resistance. The poems are both timeless and timely, asking how we can ever truly know ourselves in the face of our own remembering and inevitable forgetting. Here, the poems metaphorically argue that memory is made up of various colors, with those most prominent moments in a life seeming more vivid, though the paler colors are never truly forgotten. The poems in Pale Colors in a Tall Field approach their points of view kaleidoscopically, enacting the self's multiplicity and the difficult shifts required as our lives, in turn, shift. This is one of Phillips's most tender, dynamic, and startling books yet.

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.
Like Flies from Afar
A Novel
by K. Ferrari, translated by Adrian Nathan West

Oligarchs gone wild, in a brutal and darkly comic Argentinian noir

Mr. Luis Machi is an unforgettably loathsome and hilarious Argentinian oligarch who made his fortune collaborating with the worst elements of society - parasites, pushers, and secret policemen. He has a cocaine habit, a collection of three hundred ties, ten million dollars in the bank, and a bloody corpse in the trunk of his BMW . . . but as far as the body goes, he's completely innocent. He has no idea who the victim could be, or who among his many, many enemies might be trying to frame him for murder, and he doesn't have much time to find out . . .

The profane and uproarious Like Flies from Afar follows Machi through twenty-four hours of his eventful life - one full day in which to solve this mystery, or at least to make sure he isn't the one to take the fall.

The first novel to appear in English by the subway janitor by night, novelist by day," who began his writing career while an illegal immigrant in the United States, Like Flies from Afar will demonstrate why K. Ferrari is already an award-winning star of international crime fiction. A hardboiled noir thriller, a whodunit, a black comedy, and a filthy catalog of the excesses of wealth, this is a Jim Thompson novel for the globalized world.

Author Bio

K. Ferrari was born in Buenos Aires in 1972. He is the author of three novels, two collections of short fiction, and a book of nonfiction. Ferrari works as a janitor for the Buenos Aires metro at the Pasteur-Amia station on line B. In the 1990s, he was deported from the United States, where he and his wife were trying to find work.

Adrian Nathan West is a writer and literary critic based in Spain. He has translated more than twenty books, among them Rainald Goetz's Insane and Sibylle Lacan's A Father: Puzzle

Notes

Promotion
In this perceptive and provocative essay collection, an award-winning writer shares her personal and reportorial investigation into America’s search for meaning.

When Jordan Kisner was a child, she was saved by Jesus Christ at summer camp, much to the confusion of her nonreligious family. She was, she writes, "just naturally reverent," a fact that didn’t change when she - much to her own confusion - lost her faith as a teenager. Not sure why her religious conviction had come or where it had gone, she did what anyone would do: "You go about the great American work of assigning yourself to other gods: yoga, talk radio, neoatheism, CrossFit, cleanses, football, the academy, the American Dream, Beyonce."

A curiosity about the subtle systems guiding contemporary life pervades Kisner's work. Her celebrated essay "Thin Places" (Best American Essays 2016), about an experimental neurosurgery developed to treat severe obsessive-compulsive disorder, asks how putting the neural touchpoint of the soul on a pacemaker may collide science and psychology with philosophical questions about illness, the limits of the self, and spiritual transformation. How should she understand the appearance of her own obsessive compulsive disorder at the very age she lost her faith?

Intellectually curious and emotionally engaging, the essays in Thin Places manage to be both intimate and expansive, illuminating an unusual facet of American life, as well as how it reverberates with the author’s past and present preoccupations.

Author Bio

Active Measures
The Secret History of Disinformation and Political Warfare
by Thomas Rid

This revelatory and dramatic history of disinformation traces the rise of secret organized deception operations from the interwar period to contemporary internet troll farms.

We live in the age of disinformation - of organized deception. Spy agencies pour vast resources into hacking, leaking, and forging data, often with the goal of weakening the very foundation of liberal democracy: trust in facts. Thomas Rid, a renowned expert on technology and national security, was one of the first to sound the alarm. Even before the 2016 election, he warned that Russian military intelligence was carefully planning and timing a high-stakes political campaign to disrupt the democratic process. But as crafty as such so-called active measures have become, they are not new.

The story of modern disinformation begins with the clash between communism and capitalism after the Russian Revolution, which would come to define the Cold War. In Active Measures, Rid reveals startling intelligence and security secrets from materials written in more than ten languages across several nations, and from interviews with current and former operatives. He exposes the disturbing yet colorful history of professional, organized lying, revealing for the first time some of the century's most significant operations - many of them nearly beyond belief. A White Russian ploy backfires and brings down a New York police commissioner; a KGB-engineered, anti-Semitic hate campaign creeps back across the Berlin Wall; the CIA backs a fake publishing empire, run by a former Wehrmacht U-boat commander that produces Germany's best jazz magazine. Rid tracks the rise of leaking, and shows how spies began to exploit emerging (…)

Author Bio

Thomas Rid is a professor at Johns Hopkins University. He testified on disinformation in front of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.
Man of My Time
A Novel
by Dalia Sofer

From the bestselling author of *The Septembers of Shiraz*, the story of an Iranian man reckoning with his capacity for love and evil

Set in Iran and New York City, *Man of My Time* tells the story of Hamid Mozaffarian, who is as alienated from himself as he is from the world around him. After decades of ambivalent work as an interrogator with the Iranian regime, Hamid travels on a diplomatic mission to New York, where he encounters his estranged family and retrieves the ashes of his father, whose dying wish was to be buried in Iran. Tucked in his pocket throughout the trip, the ashes propel him into a first-person excavation - full of mordant wit and bitter memory - of a lifetime of betrayal, and prompt him to trace his own evolution from a perceptive boy in love with marbles to a man who, on seeing his own reflection, is startled to encounter a beautiful, indignant thug.” As he reconnects with his brother and others living in exile, Hamid is forced to reckon with his past, with the insidious nature of violence, and with his entrenchment in a system that for decades ensnared him.

Politically complex and emotionally compelling, *Man of My Time* explores variations of loss - of people, places, ideals, time, and self. This is a novel not only about family and memory but about the interdependence of captor and captive, of citizen and country, of an individual and his or her heritage. With sensitivity and strength, Dalia Sofer conjures the interior lives of the "generation that had borne and inflicted what could not be undone.

Author Bio

Dalia Sofer is the author of the national bestseller *The Septembers of Shiraz*, winner of the PEN/Robert Bingham Prize, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, long-listed for the Orange Prize, and a *New York Times* Notable Book. It was published in sixteen countries. Sofer is a recipient of a Whiting Award, and her work has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Believer*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere. She was born in Tehran, Iran, and moved to the United States with her family as a child.
Serious Noticing
Selected Essays, 1999-2019
by James Wood

The definitive collection of literary essays by *The New Yorker*’s award-winning longtime book critic

Ever since the publication of his first essay collection, *The Broken Estate*, in 1999, James Wood has been widely regarded as a leading literary critic of the English-speaking world. His essays on canonical writers (Gustav Flaubert, Herman Melville), recent legends (Don DeLillo, Marilynne Robinson) and significant contemporaries (Zadie Smith, Elena Ferrante) have established a standard for informed and incisive appreciation, composed in a distinctive literary style all their own.

Together, Wood’s essays, and his bestselling *How Fiction Works*, share an abiding preoccupation with how fiction tells its own truths, and with the vocation of the writer in a world haunted by the absence of God. In *Serious Noticing*, Wood collects his best essays from two decades of his career, supplementing earlier work with autobiographical reflections from his book *The Nearest Thing to Life* and recent essays from *The New Yorker* on young writers of extraordinary promise. The result is an essential guide to literature in the new millennium.

Author Bio

James Wood is a staff writer at *The New Yorker* and Professor of the Practice of Literary Criticism at Harvard University. He is the author of *How Fiction Works*, as well as two essay collections, *The Broken Estate* and *The Irresponsible Self*, and a novel, *The Book Against God*
The Silver Swan
In Search of Doris Duke
by Sallie Bingham

A bold portrait of Doris Duke, the defiant and notorious tobacco heiress who was perhaps the greatest modern woman philanthropist

Don't touch that girl, she'll burn your fingers," the FBI director J. Edgar Hoover once said about Doris Duke, the inheritor of James Buchanan Duke's billion-dollar tobacco fortune. During her life, she would be blamed for scorching many, including her mother (whom she sued) and various ex-lovers. She established her first foundation when she was twenty-one; cultivated friendships with the likes of Jackie Kennedy, Imelda Marcos, and Michael Jackson; flaunted interracial relationships; and adopted a thirty-two-year-old woman she believed to be the reincarnation of her deceased daughter. Even though Duke was the subject of constant scrutiny, little beyond the tabloid accounts of her behavior has been publicly known. In 2012, when eight hundred linear feet of her personal papers were made available, Sallie Bingham set out to uncover the truth of the tobacco heiress's life. She found a spectacular character forged in the Jazz Age who not only was an early war correspondent but was also a surfer, an environmentalist, a collector of Islamic art, and a businesswoman who tripled her father's fortune. This spirited and perceptive biography dissects the stereotypes that have defined Duke's story while confronting those disturbing questions that cleave to her legacy. The Silver Swan chronicles one of the great underexplored lives of the twentieth century and the very archetype of a modern woman.

"Bingham writes with an austere and unerring knowledge of what it is to be human and transgressive." -Paula Fox, author of Desperate Characters

Author Bio

Location: Santa Fe, NM

Sallie Bingham is the author of numerous books-most notably her memoir Passion and Prejudice (Knopf, 1989), but also several novels, four story collections, three poetry collections, and several plays produced off-Broadway and regionally. She was book editor for The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Kentucky, has been a director of the National Book Critics Circle, and is the founder of The Kentucky Foundation for Women. She has received fellowships from Yaddo, McDowell Colony, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.
The Celestial Hunter
by Roberto Calasso, translated by Richard Dixon

The eighth part of Roberto Calasso's monumental series on the primal forces of civilization

The eighth part of Roberto Calasso's singular work in progress that began in 1983 with The Ruin of Kasch, The Celestial Hunter is an inspired and provocative exploration of mankind's relationship with myth, the divine, and the idea of transformation.

There was a time, even before prehistory, when man was simply a defenseless animal. The gods he worshiped took the form of other beasts or were the patterns of the stars he saw above him each night in the sky, which he transformed into figures and around which he created stories. Soon, however, man learned to imitate the animals that attacked him and he became a hunter. This transformation, Calasso posits, from defenseless victim to hunter was a key moment, the first step on man's ascendance to power. Suddenly the notion of the hunter became fundamental. It would be developed over thousands of years through the figures that became central to Greek mythology, including the constellations. Among them was Orion, the celestial hunter, and his dog, Sirius.

Vivid and strikingly original, and expertly translated from the Italian by Richard Dixon, The Celestial Hunter traces how man created the divine myths that would become the cornerstones of Western civilization. As Calasso demonstrates, the repercussions of these ideas would echo through history, from Paleolithic to modern times. And they would be the product of one thing: the human mind.

Author Bio

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

Notes

Promotion
St. Ivo
A Novel
by Joanna Hershon

Over the course of a weekend, two couples reckon with the long-hidden secrets that have shaped their families, in a charged, poignant novel of motherhood and friendship.

It's the end of summer when we meet Sarah, the end of summer and the middle of her life, the middle of her career (she hopes it's not the end), the middle of her marriage (recently repaired). And despite the years that have passed since she last saw her daughter, she is still very much in the middle of figuring out what happened to Leda, what role she played, and how she will let that loss affect the rest of her life.

Enter a mysterious stranger on a train, an older man taking the subway to Brooklyn who sees right into her. Then a mugging, her phone stolen, and with it any last connection to Leda. And then an invitation, friends from the past and a weekend in the country with their new, unexpected baby.

Over the course of three hot September days, the two couples try to reconnect. Events that have been set in motion, circumstances and feelings kept hidden, rise to the surface, forcing each to ask not just how they ended up where they are, but how they ended up who they are.

Unwinding like a suspense novel, Joanna Hershon's St. Ivo is a powerful investigation into the meaning of choice and family, whether we ever know the people closest to us, and how, when someone goes missing from our lives, we can ever let them go.

Author Bio

Joanna Hershon is the author of four novels, Swimming, The Outside of August, The German Bride and A Dual Inheritance. Her writing has appeared in Granta, The New York Times, One Story, The Virginia Quarterly Review, and two literary anthologies: Brooklyn Was Mine and Freud's Blind Spot. She is an adjunct assistant professor in the Creative Writing department at Columbia University and lives in Brooklyn with her husband, painter Derek Buckner, their twin sons and daughter.
The Better Half
An Argument for the Genetic Superiority of Women
by Sharon Moalem

A groundbreaking book that reveals the biological and historical evidence that women are stronger than men

Here are some facts: Women live longer than men. Women have stronger immune systems. Women are less likely to suffer from developmental disabilities, are more likely to see the world in a wider variety of colors, and are better at fighting cancer. Women are simply stronger than men at every stage of life. But why?

This question haunted Dr. Sharon Moalem throughout various stages of his career - when he was working with premature babies in the neonatal intensive care unit, when he was recruiting older adults for neurogenetic studies, when he was tending to HIV-positive children in Thailand. He didn't understand why males consistently failed to thrive. And it wasn't until a wise colleague suggested he flip the question and ask himself why females thrived that things started to click into place.

With clear, lively prose that weaves together original research, case studies, and diverse examples - from the behavior of honeybees to the fate of the Donner party - and bolstered by experiences drawn from his personal life and his medical practice, Moalem's The Better Half shows us how genetic females triumph over males at every life stage when it comes to resiliency, intellect, physiological stamina, and immunity. He argues persuasively that this new knowledge can help us move away from the male-centric, one-size-fits-all approach to drug trials and dosages and toward a more nuanced approach to the treatment of everything from (...)

Author Bio

Sharon Moalem, MD, PhD, is an award-winning scientist, physician, and New York Times-bestselling author. He is a world-renowned expert in genetics and rare genetic conditions whose clinical research led to the discovery and description of two new rare genetic conditions. Dr. Moalem has served as an associate editor for the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease and is the cofounder of two biotechnology companies.

He has been awarded more than twenty-five patents worldwide for his inventions in human health and biotechnology. His scientific work led to his discovery of a first-in-class member of a novel type of antibiotic compound that addresses the paucity of available drugs for superbug infections caused by microorganisms such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

His work brings together evolution, genetics, biology, and medicine. He is also the author of the New York Times-bestseller Survival of the Sickest, as well as
Everything Is Under Control
A Memoir with Recipes
by Phyllis Grant

A gorgeous, raw, and riveting memoir-in-pieces about food, family, and opportunities both taken and missed
Phyllis Grant's *Everything Is Under Control* is a memoir about appetite - as it comes, goes, and refocuses its object of desire. With sparse, affecting prose, and an unsparing eye toward her, and her environment's, darkest corners, Grant's story follows the sometimes smooth, sometimes jagged, always revealing contours of her life: from her days as a dancer struggling to find her place at Juilliard, to her experiences in and out of four-star kitchens in New York City, to falling in love with her future husband and leaving the city after 9/11 for California where her children are born. All the while, a sense of longing roils in each stage as she moves through the headspace of a young woman longing to be sustained by a city, to a mother now sustaining a family herself.

Written with the raw transparency of a diarist, *Everything Is Under Control* is an unputdownable series of vignettes followed by tried-and-true recipes from Grant's table - a heartrending yet unsentimental portrait of the highs and lows of young adulthood, motherhood, and a life in the kitchen.

**Author Bio**

Phyllis Grant is an IACP finalist for Personal Essays/Memoir Writing and a three-time *Saveur* Blog Awards finalist for her blog, *Dash and Bella*. She has cooked in world-renowned restaurants, including Nobu, Michael's, and Bouley. Her essays and recipes have been published in a dozen anthologies and cookbooks, including *Best Food Writing* in both 2015 and 2016. Her writing has been featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *The New York Times, Saveur, The Huffington Post, Time, San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Salon*. She lives in Berkeley, California, with her husband and two children.
Take Me Apart
A Novel
by Sara Sligar

A young archivist's obsession with her subject's mysterious death threatens to destroy her fragile grasp on sanity, in a riveting debut novel of psychological suspense

When the famed photographer Miranda Brand died mysteriously at the height of her career, it sent shock waves through Callaluma, California. Decades later, old wounds are reopened when her son, Theo, hires the ex-journalist Kate Aitken to create an archive of his mother's work.

From Miranda's vast maze of personal effects, Kate pieces together a portrait of a vibrant artist buckling under the pressures of ambition, motherhood, and marriage. As the summer progresses, Kate navigates vicious local rumors and her growing attraction to the enigmatic Theo, all while unearthing the shocking details of Miranda's private life. But Kate has secrets of her own, and when she stumbles across a diary that may finally resolve the mystery of Miranda's death, her curiosity starts to spiral into a dangerous obsession.

With breathtaking and haunting imagery, Take Me Apart paints a vivid picture of two magnetic young women, separated by years, but bonded by shared struggles. Sara Sligar draws readers into a web of secrets and lies, alternating between the present and the past and revealing the truth about Miranda's death through the objects she left behind. A brilliant take on art, illness, and power, from a fresh, seductive new voice in suspense.

Author Bio

Sara Sligar teaches English and creative writing at the University of Southern California and holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania. Her writing has been published in Public Books, McSweeney's, Quartz, and other outlets. Take Me Apart is her first novel.
The Boatman’s Daughter
A Novel
by Andy Davidson

A lush nightmare” (Paul Tremblay) of a supernatural thriller about a young woman facing down ancient forces in the depths of the bayou

Ever since her father was killed when she was just a child, Miranda Crabtree has kept her head down and her eyes up, ferrying contraband for a mad preacher and his declining band of followers to make ends meet and to protect an old witch and a secret child from harm.

But dark forces are at work in the bayou, both human and supernatural, conspiring to disrupt the rhythms of Miranda’s peculiar and precarious life. And when the preacher makes an unthinkable demand, it sets Miranda on a desperate, dangerous path, forcing her to consider what she is willing to sacrifice to keep her loved ones safe.

With the heady mythmaking of Neil Gaiman and the heartrending pacing of Joe Hill, Andy Davidson spins a thrilling tale of love and duty, of loss and discovery. The Boatman’s Daughter is a gorgeous, horrifying novel, a journey into the dark corners of human nature, drawing our worst fears and temptations out into the light.

Author Bio

Andy Davidson holds an MFA in fiction from the University of Mississippi. In 2017 his debut novel, In the Valley of the Sun, was nominated for the Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel, This Is Horror’s Novel of the Year, and the Edinburgh International Book Festival’s First Book Award. Born and raised in Arkansas, he makes his home in Georgia with his wife and a bunch of cats.
The Dominant Animal
Stories
by Kathryn Scanlan

A collection of innovative and ambitious short stories from a visionary young literary artist

In *The Dominant Animal* - Kathryn Scanlan's adventurous, unsettling debut collection - compression is key. Sentences have been relentlessly trimmed, tuned, and teased for maximum impact, and a ferocious attention to rhythm and sound results in a palpable pulse of excitability and distress. The nature of love is questioned at a golf course, a flower shop, an all-you-can-eat buffet. The clay head of a man is bought and displayed as a trophy. Interior life manifests on the physical plane, where characters - human and animal - eat and breathe, provoke and injure one another.

With exquisite control, Scanlan moves from expansive moods and fine afternoons to unease and violence - and also from deliberate and generative ambiguity to shocking, revelatory exactitude. Disturbances accrue as the collection progresses. How often the conclusions open - rather than tie - up. How they twist alertly. *No mercy*, a character says - and these stories are merciless and strange and absolutely masterful.

Author Bio

Kathryn Scanlan lives in Los Angeles. Her stories have appeared in *NOON, Fence, American Short Fiction, Tin House, Caketrain*, and *The Iowa Review*, among other publications.
Diary of a Drag Queen
by Crystal Rasmussen and Tom Rasmussen

A cocktail-spitting, norm-pinching dive into everyday queer life in the twenty-first century - a hilarious, moving memoir

Life's a drag . . . Why not be a queen?
When you peel off the sequins and lashes, wipe away the lipstick and mascara, open your heart and your eyes - what does the life of a drag queen really look like? Crystal (and Tom) Rasmussen tell all in this outrageous, raunchy, moving, naked (in more ways than one) memoir about life on and off the stage.

Born into a loving working-class family in northern England, Crystal finds her way to London, to a coveted, soul-crushing job in New York fashion, and back again. Searching for good sex, good stories, and the one," she shags men of all kinds from all sorts of platforms, sells cider to tourists, and performs with her college drag band, DENIM. She learns about true love from her mum and falls in love with her best friend. Charting her day-to-day adventures over the course of a year, we encounter tucks, twists, and unfiltered sexy bits, heinous overspending, body shame and self-love, and endless nights sprinting from snag to snafu in a full face of makeup.

In these pages the previously unspeakable becomes the everyday and the celebrated, and Crystal makes sure we feel every single thing along the way. A full-hearted, full-throated, full-disclosure portrayal of the queer experience that makes you (...)

Author Bio

Crystal Rasmussen is a global superstar in her mind and a regular columnist at Refinery29. Look up the term Global Phenomenon" and you will find a picture of Crystal's face. Living in overdraft since the Wall Street Crash of 1929, Crystal forms one fifth of DENIM, the drag supergroup, and is adored for her lazy demeanor and her powerful falsetto.

Tom Rasmussen is a journalist and queer performer. When not in drag, they are a regular contributor at The Independent, Dazed & Confused, i-D, LOVE Magazine, and Refinery29. Their work has also been featured in the Guardian, VICE, Broadly, Tank, and The Gay Times and they were named an LGBT trailblazer by The Dots and one of the voices of now for i-D. Tom also forms half of the radical queer punk band ACM.
You Will Never Be Forgotten
Stories
by Mary South

In this provocative, bitingly funny debut collection, people attempt to
use technology to escape their uncontrollable feelings of grief or rage or
despair, only to reveal their most flawed and human selves.

An architect draws questionable inspiration from her daughter’s birth defect. A
content moderator for the world’s biggest search engine, who spends her
days culling videos of beheadings and suicides, turns from stalking her rapist
online to following him in real life. At a camp for recovering internet trolls, a
sensitive misfit goes missing. A wounded mother raises the second
incarnation of her child.

In You Will Never Be Forgotten, Mary South explores how technology can
both collapse our relationships from within and provide opportunities for
genuine connection. Formally inventive, darkly absurdist, savagely critical of
the increasingly fraught cultural climates we inhabit, these ten stories also find
hope in fleeting interactions and moments of tenderness. They reveal our
grotesque selfishness and our intense need for love and acceptance, and the
psychic pain that either shuts us off or allows us to discover our deepest
reaches of empathy. This incendiary debut marks the arrival of a perceptive,
idosyncratic, instantly recognizable voice in fiction - one that could only
belong to Mary South.

Author Bio

Mary South is a graduate of Northwestern University and the MFA program in
fiction at Columbia University, where she was chosen for a Henfield
scholarship. For many years, she has worked with Diane Williams as an editor
at the literary journal NOON. She is also a former intern in The New Yorker’s
fiction department and a Bread Loaf work-study fellow. Her writing has
appeared in The Believer, The Collagist, Conjunctions, Electric Literature,
NewYorker.com, NOON, and Words Without Borders. The writer Maile Meloy
awarded her story Not Setsuko an honorable mention in the Zoetrope: All
Story fiction contest. She lives in New York.
The Gilded Auction Block
Poems
by Shane McCrae

An incisive new collection of poetry on political and contemporary themes

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.

Shane McCrae is a shrewd composer of American stories . . . He is a prospector for speech rhythms, collecting his material wherever he can. But American attics are full of old boxes of diaries and letters; and testimony, no matter how arresting, is not itself poetry. What makes McCrae’s compositions so ingenious are their marvels of prosody and form, learned from the English Renaissance poems that he read in libraries when he was just starting out. The result is beautifully up-to-date, old-fashioned work, where the dignity of English meters meets, as in a mosh pit, the vitality - and often the brutality - of American speech.” - Dan Chiasson, The New Yorker

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.
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.

Currency, as both coin of the realm and concept of exchange (…)

Author Bio

Katie Peterson is the author of the poetry collections: This One Tree, Permission, and The Accounts. She lives in California and teaches at the University of California, Davis.
One Simple Thing
A New Look at the Science of Yoga and How It Can Transform Your Life
by Eddie Stern

A pragmatic and succinct introduction to the purposes and benefits of yoga - philosophical, physiological, mental, and spiritual

Yoga is reputed to improve our physical and mental health, and to help us become more productive at work, more caring in relationships, and more responsible contributors to society. 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

Mother Tongue
An American Life in Italy
by Wallis Wilde-Menozzi, foreword by Patricia Hampl

A probing and poetic examination of language, food, faith, and family attachment in Italian life through the eyes of an American who moved with her husband and family to Parma

In the 1980s, the American writer Wallis Wilde-Menozzi moved permanently with her Italian husband and her daughter to Parma, a sophisticated city in northern Italy, where he became a professor of biology. Her search for rootedness in the city that was to be her home introduced her to complexities in her identity as she migrated into another language and looked for links beyond the joys of Verdi, Correggio, and Parmesan cheese, which visitors have rightly extolled for centuries. The local resistance to change perceived as individualistic led Wilde-Menozzi to explore the pull and challenge of difference and discover the backbone she needed for artistic freedom.

In *Mother Tongue*, Wilde-Menozzi offers stories of far-sighted lives, remarkable Parma men and remarkable women, including the Renaissance abbess Giovanna Piacenza, the fighting Donella Rossi Sanvitale, and her own indefatigable mother-in-law. Framed with a new introduction by the author, and a new foreword by Patricia Hampl, this classic on diversity and tolerance, family, faith, and food in Italy and the United States is at once timeless and timely, a large, beautiful window into the intelligent, literate, reflective life of Italy” (Shirley Hazzard)

Author Bio

Wallis Wilde-Menozzi lives in Parma, Italy, where for decades she has observed Italian life and participated in its dialogues. Her memoir, *Mother Tongue: An American Life in Italy*, was published in 1997 by North Point Press to critical acclaim.
New Collected Poems
by Marianne Moore

A landmark definitive edition of one of our most innovative and beloved poets

The landmark oeuvre of Marianne Moore, one of the major inventors of poetic modernism, has had no straight path from beginning to end; until now, there has been no good vantage point from which to see the body of her remarkable work as a whole. Throughout her life Moore arranged and rearranged, visited and revisited, a large majority of her existing poetry, always adding new work interspersed among revised poems. This makes sorting out the complex textual history that she left behind a pressing task if we mean to represent her work as a poet in a way that gives us a complete picture. New Collected Poems offers an answer to the question of how to represent the work of a poet so skillful and singular, giving a portrait of the range of her voice and of the modernist culture she helped create.

William Carlos Williams, remarking on the impeccable precision of Moore’s poems, praised the aesthetic pleasure engendered when pure craftsmanship joins hard surfaces skillfully.” It is only in New Collected Poems that we can understand her later achievements, see how she refashioned her earlier work, and get a more complete understanding of her consummate craftsmanship, innovation, and attention to detail. Presented and collected by Heather Cass White, the foremost scholar of Moore’s work, this new collection at last allows readers to experience the untamed force of these dazzling poems as the author first envisioned them.

“

A fresh perspective on the legacy of Marianne Moore . . . In this new volume, White, a professor at the University of Alabama, presents what she believes to (...) 

Author Bio

Marianne Moore (1887-1972) was an American poet, critic, editor, and translator, greatly admired for her formal innovations and her startling vision. Her poetry received many honors, including the Dial Award, the National Book Award, the Pulitzer Prize, and the Bollingen Prize. Her poetry books include Observations and New Collected Poems