



PW

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY®

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY.COM

JANUARY 22, 2018

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF TRAVEL PUBLISHING

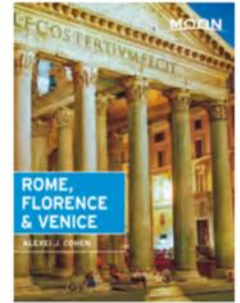
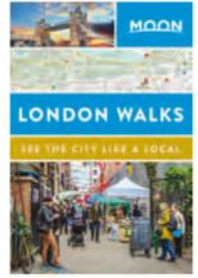
MOON

TRAVEL GUIDES

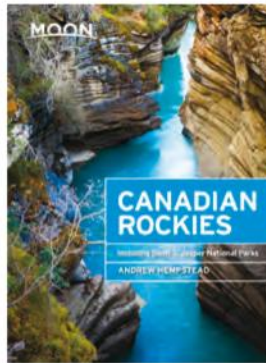
MOON
TRAVEL GUIDES

GUIDING
TRAVELERS
FOR
45 YEARS

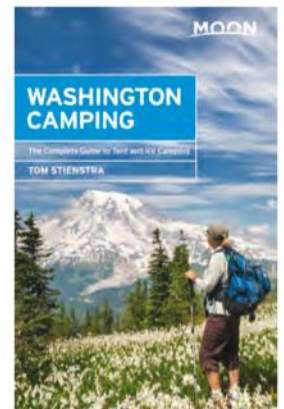
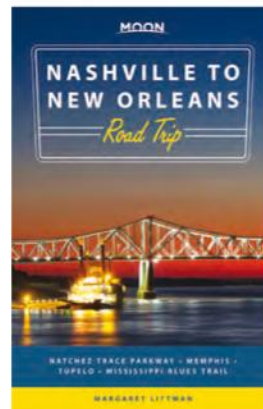
AROUND THE WORLD



ACROSS THE U.S. & CANADA



ON THE ROAD & IN THE OUTDOORS



 **hachette**
BOOK GROUP

AVAILABLE IN TRADE PAPERBACK AND EBOOK
FOR A FULL LIST OF TITLES, VISIT: AVALONTRAVELBOOKS.COM/PW

MOON TRAVEL GUIDES ARE PUBLISHED BY AVALON TRAVEL, AN IMPRINT OF PERSEUS BOOKS, A HACHETTE BOOK GROUP COMPANY.



FEATURES

24 Leaders of the Pack

Three brands that started as scrappy backpacker guides—Lonely Planet, Moon, and Rick Steves—now stand at the top of the world travel guide rankings. What a long, strange trip it's been.

37 Observing the Culture

Meg Wolitzer's new novel, *The Female Persuasion*, takes on women's power and determination in the 21st century.

39-55 BookLife

We talk with Ian Andrew, the winner of the 2017 BookLife Prize.

NEWS

6 Nonfiction Categories Continue to Grow

Print units in juvenile nonfiction were nearly 8% higher in 2017 than in 2016.

7 OR Books Adapts Its Business Model

The indie press launched in 2009 selling direct to consumers; it soon found it needed indie bookstores to survive.

7 'Fire and Fury' Drives January Gains

Sales of Michael Wolff's book helped boost sales 9% higher in the week ended January 14 than in the comparable week last year.

9 Deals

A founding member of the Black Crowes sells his memoir, HC buys Liv Constantine's sophomore novel, a former Verizon CEO takes his business book to Post Hill Press, and more.

10 It's Time for Publishers to Join the Net Neutrality Fight

The FCC's repeal of net neutrality rules has drawn opposition from a range of free speech groups; now it's time for publishers to lend their voice.

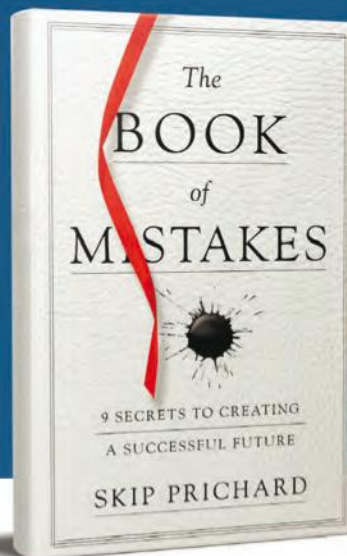
VISIT US ONLINE FOR ADDITIONAL NEWS,
REVIEWS, BESTSELLERS & FEATURES.

 publishersweekly.com

 twitter.com/PublishersWkly

 facebook.com/pubweekly

DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF SUCCESS



Accomplished CEO and business leader Skip Prichard offers a fictional tale of David, a young man who lives a disheartening and stressful life. Everything changes when a mysterious young woman enters David's life and he goes on to meet nine people who have discovered core truths for living a successful and rewarding life. Author Skip Prichard uses real-life wisdom gleaned from a successful and wide-ranging leadership career, from decades of studying leadership psychology, and from over 1,000 interviews with the most successful people in life and business, so you can avoid the most common mistakes that hold people back from becoming successful change agents and leaders. This powerful story is packed with wisdom that will help you discover and follow your personal purpose, push beyond your perceived capabilities, and achieve more than you ever dreamed possible!

**Get Your Copy Today and Begin
Your Journey to Success!**

#TheBookofMistakes

Fodor's Travel

COME WITH US TO DISCOVER
THIS WONDERFUL WORLD



9781640970182



9781640970342



9781640970380

Available through Ingram Publishing Services
For more information, visit ipage or Edelweiss

Fodors.com

Contents

DEPARTMENTS & COLUMNS

18 Religion & Spirituality

In a moribund Christian fiction market, publishers hunt for fresh voices and new genres.

22 Open Book

Louisa Ermelino speaks with Spencer Wise, whose debut novel, *The Emperor of Shoes*, is about a Jewish American who finds revolution and redemption in the world of Chinese shoe factory workers.

88 Soapbox by Carol Weston

An author recounts her close relationship with Sue Grafton.

BESTSELLERS

- Adult Hardcovers **12** ● Adult Paperbacks **13**
- Children's **14** ● Category **15** ● eBooks **16**
- International **17**

REVIEWS

Fiction

- 56 General Fiction
- 60 Mystery/Thriller
- 65 SF/Fantasy/Horror
- 67 Romance/Erotica
- 69 Inspirational
- 69 Comics

Audio

- 78 Fiction
- 80 Nonfiction
- 80 Children's/YA

Children's

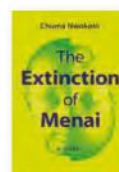
- 81 Picture Books
- 84 Fiction
- 87 Comics
- 87 Nonfiction

Nonfiction

- 71 General Nonfiction



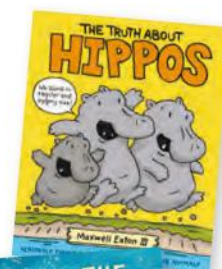
59
Boxed
Review
Fox



60
Boxed
Review *The
Extinction
of Menai*



63
Q&A with
Nova
Jacobs



82
Reviews
Roundup
Animal tales

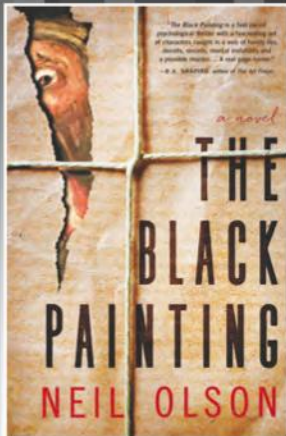
PW Publishers Weekly USPS 763-080 (ISSN 0000-0019) is published weekly, except for the last week in December. Published by PWxyz LLC, 71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1608, New York, NY 10010. George Slowik Jr., President; Cevin Bryerman, Publisher. Circulation records are maintained at ESP 12444 Victory Boulevard, 4th Floor, North Hollywood, CA 91606. Phone: (800) 278-2991 or +001 (818) 487-2069 from outside the U.S. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Publishers Weekly, P.O. Box 16957, North Hollywood, CA 91615-6957. PW PUBLISHERS WEEKLY copyright 2018 by PWxyz LLC. Rates for one-year subscriptions in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank: U.S. \$289.99, Canada: \$339.99, all other countries: \$439.99. Except for special issues where price changes are indicated, single copies are available for \$9.99 US; \$16.99 for Announcement issues. Extra postage applied for non-U.S. shipping addresses. Please address all subscription mail to Publishers Weekly, P.O. Box 16957, North Hollywood, CA 91615-6957. PW PUBLISHERS WEEKLY is a (registered) trademark of PWxyz LLC. Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 42025028. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: IMS, 3390 Rand Road, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 E-mail: pw@pubservice.com. PRINTED IN THE USA.



Introducing Hanover Square Press...

Books to keep you up late reading.

An atmospheric literary mystery revolving around the theft of an infamous masterpiece.



The Black Painting
Neil Olson

“A riveting psychological thriller, a serious dissection of a dysfunctional family and an exploration of the power of art to change lives.”
—Associated Press

Available Now

If a DNA swab could find your soulmate, would you take the test?

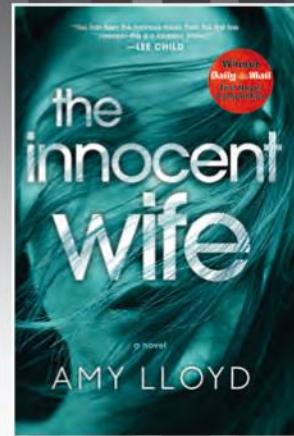


The One
John Marrs

“Like a lengthy episode of the dark TV series *Black Mirror*.”
—Peterborough Telegraph

02.20.2018

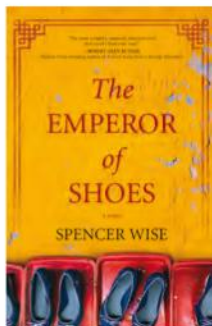
Winner of the *Daily Mail* First Novel Competition



The Innocent Wife
Amy Lloyd

“You can hear the ominous music from the first line onward—this is a fantastic thriller.”
—Lee Child

03.06.2018



The Emperor of Shoes
Spencer Wise

“Part love story, part father-son fable, part dark initiation, this powerful debut novel wonderfully brings into focus the ways we are all interconnected in a complex and global world.”
—Adam Johnson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Orphan Master's Son*

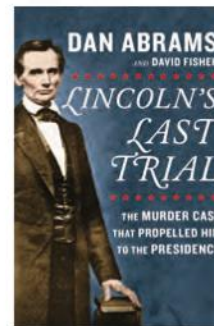
06.05.2018



HANOVER SQUARE PRESS

Coming this Spring.

Learn more at
HanoverSqPress.com



Lincoln's Last Trial
The Murder Case That Propelled Him to the Presidency
Dan Abrams and David Fisher

Dan Abrams, host of *Live PD*, *60 Days In* and ABC News' chief legal affairs anchor, tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's last murder trial—a fascinating court case that played out on the eve of his presidential campaign.

06.05.2018

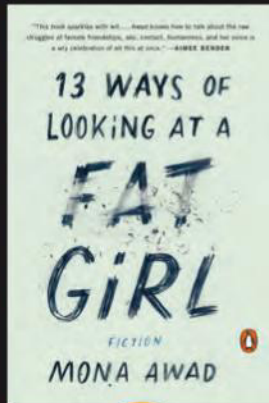
LAST WEEK'S TOP REVIEWS

THE TOP REVIEWS ON PUBLISHERSWEELY.COM LAST WEEK WERE...



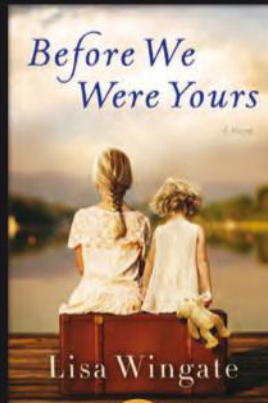
#1

publishersweekly.com/bodyofwater



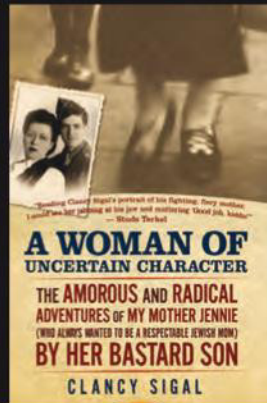
#2

publishersweekly.com/13ways



#3

publishersweekly.com/beforewe



#4

publishersweekly.com/uncertain



#5

publishersweekly.com/playing

From the Newsletters



Tip Sheet

The 10 most anticipated book-to-film adaptations of 2018.

publishersweekly.com/booktofilm

Children's Bookshelf

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, a sequel to the 1995 picture book adaptation *Jumanji*, is a surprise box-office champ.

publishersweekly.com/jumanji



Podcasts Week Ahead

PW senior writer Andrew Albanese discusses why publishers should get involved in the battle now underway to restore net neutrality protections repealed by the FCC last month.

publishersweekly.com/weekahead

More to Come

Calvin Reid visits the Black Comic Book Festival in Harlem to interview Eisner Award-winning scholar Dr. Sheena C. Howard, author of *The Encyclopedia of Black Comics*, about that pioneering reference work and about co-writing *Superb*, a new series featuring a teenage superhero with Down syndrome.

publishersweekly.com/moretocome

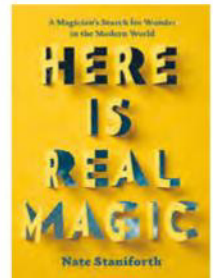


Blogs

ShelfTalker

A bookseller gains a new perspective as a parent volunteer at her son's school.

publishersweekly.com/volunteer



PW Radio

Nate Staniforth discusses his book, *Here Is Real Magic: A Magician's Search for Wonder in the Modern World*. PW editorial director Jim Milliot looks at 2017's bestselling books.

publishersweekly.com/pwradio261



publishersweekly.com/jobzone

Engage Patrons & Reach New Readers With Digital, Year-Round Community Reading Programs



Ready to power up a year-round community reading program?

BiblioBoard's new Community Reading Platform (CRP) makes it easy.

Give every member of your community seamless, unlimited access to hand-curated frontlist eBooks from top publishers:



NO HOLDS

Available to everyone in your geolocated community



ACCESSIBLE

Everyone can read, whether he/she has a library card or not



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Expand library reach with new engagement opportunities for existing and new digital patrons



FRONTLIST EBOOKS

Give everyone in your community access to frontlist eBooks in an unlimited-use model



USAGE DATA

Get insights into how your community is engaging with eBooks through detailed usage data



Visit biblioboard.com/communityreading to set up a free insta-trial. Get a first-hand patron experience by immersing yourself in a customized, digital library that's geolocated for your service area. If you love it, let us know!

Nonfiction Categories Continue to Grow

Print units in juvenile nonfiction were nearly 8% higher in 2017 than in 2016

Figures from NPD BookScan show that publishing's two nonfiction segments posted the largest unit sales increases in 2017, offsetting a decline in adult fiction and a small gain in juvenile fiction.

The juvenile nonfiction category increased the most of any segment in the year (8%), led by the biographies/autobiographies subcategory, in which units were up 26% from 2016. Two books about smart women were instrumental: *Women in Science* topped the subcategory list with 128,000 copies sold, and the children's edition of *Hidden Figures* was second, with approximately 115,000 copies sold. In the social situations/family/health subcategory, which saw a 22% increase from 2016, were more strong women: *She Persisted*, which sold about 250,000 copies, was the #1 title, followed by two American Girl titles that together sold more than 280,000 copies. The 12% gain in the education/reference/language segment was driven in part by *The Pokémon Essential Handbook*, which sold more than 260,000 copies.

In adult nonfiction, unit sales rose 3%, overcoming the significant drop in sales of adult coloring books that led to big declines in the crafts/hobbies/antiques/games and art/architecture/design/photography subcategories. Self-help had the largest unit gain within adult nonfiction; sales were 18% higher than in 2016. *You Are a Badass* had another good year of sales, selling more than 648,000 copies, and *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck* followed, with 557,000 copies sold. The history/law/political science subcategory saw a 13% unit increase. Within history, *Killing England* was #1, selling more than 446,000 copies, and *Hidden Figures* was second, selling more than 417,000 copies. *On Tyranny* was the top-selling political print book last year, selling more than 250,000 copies.

Juvenile fiction sales were about 2% higher than in 2016. Jeff Kinney had two of the three bestselling titles in the year: *The Getaway* was at #1, with more than 992,000 copies sold, and *Double Down* was in third place, with more than 538,000 copies sold. In between those two was *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* Units were 10% lower than in 2016 in the science fiction/fantasy/

UNIT SALES BY CATEGORY (in thousands)

| | 2016 | 2017 | CHANGE |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Adult Nonfiction | | | |
| Art/Architecture/Design/Photography | 9,305 | 7,802 | -16% |
| Biography/Autobiography/Memoir | 23,133 | 23,098 | 0% |
| Business/Economics | 18,047 | 19,374 | 7% |
| Cooking/Entertaining | 16,471 | 17,803 | 8% |
| Computers | 3,808 | 3,648 | -4% |
| Crafts/Hobbies/Antiques/Games | 20,326 | 14,497 | -29% |
| Health/Fitness/Medicine/Sports | 21,694 | 22,780 | 5% |
| History/Law/Political Science | 17,883 | 20,134 | 13% |
| House & Home/Gardening | 2,945 | 2,385 | -19% |
| Humor | 4,488 | 4,581 | 2% |
| Performing Arts | 9,362 | 9,548 | 2% |
| Reference | 34,310 | 38,306 | 12% |
| Religion/Bibles | 40,637 | 41,341 | 2% |
| Self-Help | 12,865 | 15,120 | 18% |
| Travel | 7,585 | 7,476 | -1% |
| General Nonfiction | 30,729 | 33,680 | 10% |
| Total | 273,589 | 281,573 | 3% |
| Adult Fiction | | | |
| Classics | 8,083 | 8,605 | 6% |
| Fantasy | 6,537 | 7,464 | 14% |
| Graphic Novels | 11,938 | 11,328 | -5% |
| Mystery/Detective | 11,225 | 12,099 | 8% |
| Occult/Psychological/Horror | 2,369 | 2,880 | 22% |
| Religion | 4,739 | 4,356 | -8% |
| Romance | 24,989 | 21,492 | -14% |
| Science Fiction | 5,319 | 5,145 | -3% |
| Suspense/Thrillers | 21,901 | 21,839 | 0% |
| Westerns | 1,983 | 1,852 | -7% |
| General Fiction | 39,492 | 40,590 | 3% |
| Total | 140,221 | 139,184 | -1% |
| Juvenile Nonfiction | | | |
| Animals | 5,732 | 6,118 | 7% |
| Biographies/Autobiographies | 4,463 | 5,628 | 26% |
| Concepts | 4,268 | 4,449 | 4% |
| Education/Reference/Language | 8,948 | 10,035 | 12% |
| Games/Activities/Hobbies | 10,849 | 10,116 | -7% |
| History/Sports/People/Places | 13,454 | 14,873 | 10% |
| Holidays/Festivals/Religion | 4,824 | 4,958 | 3% |
| Social Situations/Family/Health | 2,918 | 3,552 | 22% |
| Total | 55,456 | 59,764 | 2% |
| Juvenile Fiction | | | |
| Animals | 10,296 | 12,593 | 22% |
| Classics | 10,258 | 9,607 | -6% |
| Concepts | 9,169 | 9,917 | 8% |
| History/Sports/People/Places | 13,957 | 15,613 | 12% |
| Holidays/Festivals/Religion | 9,974 | 11,190 | 12% |
| Science Fiction/Fantasy/Magic | 52,255 | 47,002 | -10% |
| Social Situations/Family/Health | 23,221 | 26,072 | 12% |
| General Juvenile Fiction | 48,913 | 64,399 | 32% |
| Total | 178,043 | 183,600 | 8% |

SOURCE: NPD BOOKSCAN

magic subcategory—not a bad showing considering the high bar set by the previous year, when *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* sold 4.4 million units. Replacing some of those *Cursed Child* sales last year were a number of Dav Pilkey books and various Potter titles.

Adult fiction unit sales last year fell 1% from 2016. The largest subcategory within adult fiction, general fiction, saw a 3% unit gain from the previous year. *Origin* was the #1 general fiction title, selling more than 746,000 copies, followed by *A Man Called Ove*, which sold more than 634,000 copies. Two adult fiction genres in which print has steadily lost ground to e-books increased unit print sales last year. The most notable was the mystery/detective subcategory, which, after a 10% decline in 2016 from 2015, saw an 8% unit increase in 2017. *Hardcore Twenty-Four* was the genre's top title, with more than 190,000 copies sold. *Fantasy*, which had a 1% unit decline in 2016 from 2015, posted a 14% unit increase, led by the more than 265,000 copies sold of *Norse Mythology*. Graphic novels, which had an 11% increase between 2015 and 2016—the second biggest gain in adult fiction in that year—saw sales fall 5% last year. —Jim Milliot

Independent Publishing

OR Books Experiments, Survives, and Grows

Founded in 2009 by John Oakes and Colin Robinson, OR Books was designed to be a new kind of publisher. Its business model was based on bypassing bookstores, using print-on-demand technology (printing a book only when it has been purchased), and the web to sell its books and e-books directly to consumers.

Although the OR Books model “actually works,” Oakes said, both publishing veterans acknowledge that they have changed their minds about bookstores—especially independent retailers. “A general trade publisher needs independent bookstores; they are essential to our well-being,” Oakes said. Robinson agreed: “Selling direct gives us the ability to publish quickly and the margin is very good, but to reach a wide audience you need to be in stores too.” Bookstore sales now represent 20%–30% of OR Books’ total revenue, and they are growing, Oakes said. E-books, he added, are about a third of most titles’ sales—more for tech books and less for other categories.

Like its cofounders, the OR Books list is focused on “progressive politics and social issues,” Oakes said, noting the two publishers share a delight in releasing “controversial books.” New titles include *Trump U: The Inside Story of Trump University* by Stephen Gilpin; *Samuel Beckett Is Closed*,

The Weekly Scorecard

‘Fire and Fury’ Drives Big Unit Sales Gain

Big sales of *Fire and Fury* by Michael Wolff helped boost sales 9% higher in the week ended Jan. 14, 2018, than in the comparable week in 2017 at outlets that report to NPD BookScan. The book, which sold more than 191,000 copies, generated most of its sales through the retailer and book club channel; fewer than 1,000 copies were sold via the mass merchandiser/other channel. The strong sales performance by *Fire and Fury* meant that unit sales in the adult nonfiction category were 14% higher than in the week ended Jan. 15, 2016. Two Rupi Kaur books, *The Sun and Her Flowers* and *Milk and Honey*, were in second and third place on the adult nonfiction bestseller list, selling nearly 21,000 and more than 18,000 copies, respectively. The juvenile fiction segment also had a solid week, with units up 6% over the comparable week in 2017. Dav Pilkey’s *Dog Man* and *Cat Kid* remained in first place on the category bestseller list, selling nearly 27,000 copies. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets: The Illustrated Edition* by J.K. Rowling and Jim Kay had a strong week, moving into fifth place on the category list with more than 9,000 copies sold. Print unit sales in the juvenile nonfiction segment were 3% higher than in the similar week in 2017. The #1 seller in the category, *The Jesus Storybook Bible Gift Edition* by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago, sold nearly 10,000 copies in its first week on sale. Even the adult fiction category managed a gain: unit sales were 1% higher than in the similar week in 2017. A number of novels enjoyed strong gains week over week, including the two top sellers, *No Middle Name* by Lee Child, which sold almost 25,000 copies, and A.J. Finn’s *The Woman in the Window*, which sold more than 20,000 copies.

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CHANNEL (IN THOUSANDS)

| | JAN. 15, 2017 | JAN. 14, 2018 | CHGE WEEK | CHGE YTD |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Total | 12,292 | 13,408 | 9% | 4% |
| Retail & Club | 10,971 | 12,134 | 11% | 4% |
| Mass Merch./Others | 1,321 | 1,274 | -4% | -1% |

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CATEGORY (IN THOUSANDS)

| | JAN. 15, 2017 | JAN. 14, 2018 | CHGE WEEK | CHGE YTD |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Adult Nonfiction | 5,954 | 6,815 | 14% | 6% |
| Adult Fiction | 2,514 | 2,542 | 1% | -3% |
| Juvenile Nonfiction | 810 | 837 | 3% | 4% |
| Juvenile Fiction | 2,430 | 2,587 | 6% | 5% |

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY FORMAT (IN THOUSANDS)

| | JAN. 15, 2017 | JAN. 14, 2018 | CHGE WEEK | CHGE YTD |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Hardcover | 3,048 | 3,563 | 17% | 9% |
| Trade Paperback | 7,180 | 7,657 | 7% | 2% |
| Mass Market Paperback | 1,025 | 1,014 | -1% | -3% |
| Board Books | 475 | 521 | 10% | 12% |
| Audio | 61 | 49 | -20% | -21% |



SOURCE: NPD BOOKSCAN AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY. NPD'S U.S. CONSUMER MARKET PANEL COVERS APPROXIMATELY 80% OF THE PRINT BOOK MARKET AND CONTINUES TO GROW.

a hybrid work of fiction, memoir, and criticism by Michael Coffey, *PW*'s former co-editorial director; and *Divining Desire: Focus Groups and the Culture of Consultation* by Liz Fetherstone, a popular study of these groups.

OR Books exemplifies a new business model for publishers. Robinson explained that the name is not just an initialism based on the founders' names; it comes from the word *or*, as in, another option for the book business. Robinson added, "It's not just what, but how."

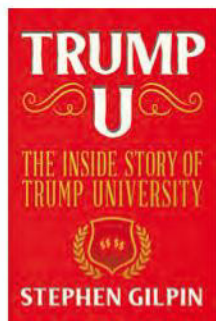
Oakes insisted that direct selling "must be part of a company today," though he thought it was a "crazy idea, when Colin first approached me," to launch OR Books. "But everyone's view on that has changed now."

Indeed, Robinson emphasized that margins on its direct-to-consumer sales are so good they are able to use the money to promote the books heavily online. "And this helps our bookstore sales," he said.

Asked if the house is profitable, Oakes replied, "We're sustainable—and maybe a little better." The house has a full-time staff of about five (not counting the cofounders) with offices on 14th Street in Manhattan. It develops many of its titles in-house, but also accepts submissions from agents. Advances, Oakes said, are modest.

A good sale for an OR title is about 5,000 copies (on the nonreturnable POD titles), Oakes noted. Ten thousand copies is "very good." Among the house's top 10 in sales are *Cyberpunks: Freedom and the Future of the Internet* by Julian Assange, *Program or Be Programmed* by Douglas Rushkoff, and *Inferno (A Poet's Novel)* by Eileen Myles.

At first OR Books offered bookstores a 50% wholesale discount (minimum five copies, payment up front, the books nonreturnable), but "most stores wouldn't do it," Oakes said. But retailer interest in OR titles has grown, and its authors started to complain about a lack of book-



store distribution. "We were about to lose some of our authors over the issue," he noted.

In 2015 the house struck a deal with Charlie Winton, publisher of Counterpoint Books, to release 14 OR Books titles as part of the Counterpoint list and dis-

tribute them to trade bookstores via Publishers Group West. To date, the cobranded partnership, OR Books/Counterpoint Books, has published about 40 titles, and in fall 2018 it will publish 20 titles. In the partnership, OR Books takes care of the editorial side and delivers finished files to Counterpoint, which handles printing and distribution—including returns. The two companies split all revenues after production costs (which include printing and returns) and the authors receive their full royalty payments. OR retains the exclusive right to sell all its titles in POD editions via the OR Books website.

Print copies of the OR Books/Counterpoint titles are sold through the usual bricks-and-mortar and online booksellers. OR Books had a storefront on Amazon at one point, Robinson said, suppressing a smile. That ended abruptly after he published an anti-Amazon story on the *Huffington Post*, he added. "We're

not a fan of Amazon. It's not good for publishers or authors. They're squeezing out the midlist with ever more demands for discounts."

POD technology, both men agreed, has had a revolutionary impact on publishing. "The quality of POD printing has been transformed over the last few years," Oakes noted. "It's very hard to tell what's POD and what's offset."

OR Books uses two POD vendors to print its books and drop ship them directly to consumers and, in some cases, retailers within 36 hours of receiving each order: Bookmobile, a small vendor based in Minnesota, to fulfill U.S. orders and CPI for U.K. and European orders. Both vendors have software that monitors the incoming orders, collects and prints them in batches, and saves excess copies for future orders. "We don't really print one copy at a time," Robinson said.

OR titles are heavily marketed online. Email is important. The house has 60,000 email addresses and Robinson said it uses "videos, memes, and catchy original content of all kinds," adding, "You have to do it" to give books visibility.

"We've learned how tough it is to survive as an indie publisher," Robinson said. "But it's easier now; we know we'll survive. Now we both want OR Books to grow."

—Calvin Reid

Morrison Leaving HarperCollins

Michael Morrison, president and publisher of HarperCollins's U.S. General Books Group, will be leaving the company at the end of the month when his contract expires. In a statement, Morrison, who joined HC in 1999, said, "After 35 years of going to a Manhattan skyscraper every day, I thought it was about time I experienced a different life."

With his departure, Jonathan Burnham will be promoted to president and publisher, Harper, overseeing Harper, Harper Paperbacks, Harper Perennial, Harper Business, Harper Design, Harper Wave, Amistad, Broadside, and Ecco. Liate Stehlik will become president and publisher, William Morrow/Avon, overseeing William Morrow, Avon, Custom House, Dey Street, and Harper Voyager.

According to HC, the new upper management structure will be more closely aligned with HC's global strategy. "As our strategy has shifted towards greater global growth and as we have expanded our trade publishing program across 24 countries and 17 languages, it's imperative that our management organization, roles and responsibilities align with our overall approach," said HC CEO Brian Murray in the statement. Burnham and Stehlik will report to Murray.

—Jim Milliot

Deals

BY RACHEL DEAHL

■ A Crowe Flies to Da Capo

In a North American rights agreement, musician **Steve Gorman** sold his biography *Hard to Handle* to **Ben Schafer** at Da



Gorman

Capo. Gorman, who is a founding member of the band the Black Crowes, is writing the book with **Steven Hyden**. **Anthony Mattero** at Foundry Literary + Media brokered the agreement. The book is set for spring 2019.

■ Wax Does Double at Berkley

Kate Seaver at Berkley bought North American rights to two currently untitled new novels by **Wendy Wax** (the Ten Beach Road series). **Stephanie Kip**



Wax

Rostan at Levine, Greenberg, Rostan represented Wax. Berkley said the first book in the deal, which is slated for June 2019, follows “two estranged best friends who are turning 40 and the wedding that could mend their friendship or end it forever.”

■ Club King Parties with Amazon

For Amazon’s Little A imprint, **Laura Van der Veer** took world rights to **Peter Gatien**’s memoir, *Eye Wide Open: My Rise, Reign, and Fall in New York*



Gatien

Life. A nightclub owner who oversaw some of the top-grossing after-hours spots in the world during the 1970s, ’80s, and ’90s, Gatien, the publisher said, was considered the “king of clubs” during his heyday. Gatien’s career demise was spurred by former

New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani’s crackdown on drugs and nightlife. The push led, the publisher said, to “a nightmarish, decadelong legal assault on his livelihood and freedom.” **Paul Bresnick** at Bresnick Weil Literary Agency and **Meg Thompson** at Thompson Literary Agency represented Gatien.

■ Constantine’s Latest to HC

Liv Constantine, the pseudonym for the writing duo of sisters Lynne and Valerie Constantine, closed a world rights agreement for a currently untitled novel with **Emily Griffin** at HarperCollins. The book is the sisters’ sophomore effort, following *The Last Mrs. Parrish*, which was a bestseller published by HC last year (and which was a Reese Witherspoon Book



Valerie (l.) and Lynn Constantine

Club pick). The publisher said this book follows two estranged friends who come together to solve the brutal murder of one of their mothers. **Bernadette Baker-Baughman** at Victoria Sanders & Associates represented the sisters in the deal.

■ Verizon Chief Sells His Story

Anthony Ziccardi at Post Hill Press acquired **Ivan Seidenberg**’s *Verizon Untethered: An Insider’s Story of Innovation and*



Seidenberg

Disruption. Seidenberg, who is writing the book with **Scott McMurray**, is the former CEO of Verizon and, the publisher said, will share his

“insights into the changing telecommunications industry” in the book. The History Factory brokered the world rights agreement with Ziccardi.

■ Briefs

Rodale Books’ **Allison Janice** took world rights to **Linda Anderson**, **Sonia Banks**, and **Michelle Owens-Patterson**’s *Silent Agreements: How Unspoken Expectations Ruin Our Relationships*. The authors, all



Michelle Owens-Patterson (l.), Linda Close (c.), and Sonia Banks

clinical psychologists, were represented by **Regina Brooks** at Serendipity Literary Agency. Brooks said that her clients call themselves “relationship archaeologists” and that their book “explores the unexpressed assumptions that influence and very often damage our relationships.” The book is slated for fall 2019.

Grace Menary-Windfield at Sourcebooks bought world English rights to **Erica Boyce**’s debut, *The Fifteen Wonders of Daniel Green*. **Eric Smith** at PS Literary, who represented Boyce, said the literary



Boyce

novel is about a man who, while traveling across the country, makes “cropcircles for farmers as part of a society of ‘Circlers.’”

The hero then “finds himself falling for the daughter of a dying farmer, gets drawn into the tangle of her family’s secrets, and has to come to terms with the life he’s been running from.” The novel is set for a spring 2019 release.



President George Slowik Jr.
 Publisher Cevin Bryerman
 Editorial Director Jim Milliot
 V-P, Business Development Carl Pritzkat
 Adult Book Director Louisa Ermelino
 Children's Book Editor Diane Roback
 Executive Editor Jonathan Segura
 Associate Publisher Joe Murray
 Art Director Clive Chiu
 Managing Editor Daniel Berchenko
 News Director Rachel Deahl
 Senior News Editor Calvin Reid
 Associate News and Digital Editor John Maher
 Features Editor Carolyn Juris
 Deputy Reviews Editor Gabe Habash
 Senior Editors Peter Cannon, Mark Rotella
 Senior Reviews Editor Rose Fox
 Reviews Editors Annie Coreno, Alex Crowley,
 Everett Jones, Meg Lemke, Seth Satterlee
 Children's Reviews Editor John A. Sellers
 BookLife Editor Adam Boretz
 Senior Writer Andrew R. Albanese
 Bookselling & International Editor Ed Nawotka
 Senior Religion Editor Lynn Garrett
 Religion Editor Emma Koonse Wenner
 Associate Editor, Children's Books Emma Kantor
 Assistant Editor, Children's Books Matia Burnett
 Assistant Editor Druclilla Shultz
 Associate Art Director Bobby Lawhorn
 Copy Editor Hannah Kushnick
 Senior Marketing Director Krista Rafanello
 Marketing & Events Director Bryan Kinney
 Sales Coordinator Deena Ali
 Marketing/Licensing Director Christi Cassidy
 Director of Special Editorial Projects Craig Morgan Teicher
 Director of Strategic Development Seth Dellon
 Digital Media Coordinator Michael Morris
 Audience Development Coordinator Marian Amo
 V-P, Operations Patrick Turner
 Business Manager Esther Reid
 Director of Operations Ryk Hsieh
 Correspondents:
 New England Alex Green 781-405-5066
 Midwest Claire Kirch 218-310-1867
 South Dennis Abrams 713-416-6823
 West Coast Jason Boog 917-577-6332
 Asia Teri Tan (ttran@publishersweekly.com)
 Contributing Editors Ivan Anderson, Aida Bardales,
 Peter Brantley, Michael Coffey, Sue Corbett,
 Laura Dawson, Liz Hartman, Brian Kenney,
 Daniel Lefferts, Sally Lodge, Heidi MacDonald,
 Daisy Maryles, Shannon Maughan, Marcia Z. Nelson,
 Diane Patrick, Karen Raugust, Sonia Jaffe Robbins,
 Judith Rosen, Wendy Smith, Sybil Steinberg,
 Clare Swanson, Wendy Werris
 Production/Manufacturing Publishing Experts
 Circulation Director Next Steps Marketing
 Web Engineering Mediapolis
 IT Support ACS Int'l
 Interns Nicole Cadavid, Nicole Patrizio,
 Christina Rinaldi, Ann Sanchez

HOW TO REACH US

71 W. 23rd St., Suite 1608, New York, NY 10011
 Phone: 212-377-5500; fax: 212-377-2733;
 email: pw@pubservice.com

To subscribe, change an address, report delivery problems,
 or inquire about back issues, call 800-278-2991 or
 818-487-2069, or fax 818-487-4550.

For inquiries about reprints & permissions,
 email ccassidy@publishersweekly.com

ADVERTISING

Cevin Bryerman 212-377-5703
 Ian Littauer 212-377-5706
 Julia Molino 212-377-5709
 Joseph Murray 212-377-5708
 Shaina Yahr 212-377-2691
 Classifieds/online inquiries:
 Cevin Bryerman 212-377-5703

Editorial

It's Time for Publishers to Join the Fight for Net Neutrality

Supporters of net neutrality marked two important developments last week. It was revealed that 50 senators have committed to a bill that would block the Federal Communications Commission's December repeal of net neutrality rules. In addition, as the *New York Times* reported, more than 20 states have begun a battle in the courts to block the FCC's repeal.

Codified by the FCC in 2015, net neutrality rules were created to keep internet service providers from favoring certain websites or content over others. But, as the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Corynne McSherry explained, the FCC's repeal last month paves the way "for an internet that works more like cable television": a "pay-for-play" system in which content providers could be forced to "negotiate with multiple ISPs to avoid their content being buried, degraded, or even blocked."

Polls and public comments show the move to repeal net neutrality is broadly unpopular. It is also potentially dangerous. In comments to the FCC, a coalition of the nation's top library associations stressed that preserving an open internet is "essential to our nation's freedom of speech." And, in a letter to the FCC, 1,838 members of the Authors Guild demonstrated that American authors also unequivocally recognize the danger of the FCC's action. "As authors, we rely on the Internet to make our voices heard," the guild letter states, concluding that the FCC's repeal of net neutrality protections "will harm the free speech of American writers."

But a key voice remains noticeably absent from the net neutrality debate: publishers. Despite widely expressed concerns that the FCC's action could negatively impact free speech, and in contrast to concerted efforts to preserve net neutrality by others in the pub-

lishing ecosystem (including the library community, authors groups, and dozens of media and public advocacy organizations, including PEN America), the Association of American Publishers has yet to release a single statement on the issue and has taken no formal position.

We recognize that publishers and the AAP have limited resources and must prioritize the issues they choose to take on. However, supporting free speech is one of the AAP's core policy areas. Which is why publishers can no longer sit this one out.

Following the FCC's repeal, restoring net neutrality protections is going to be an uphill political battle. But it is not too late for publishers to stand up for free speech, and to stand with their readers, their authors, and the library community. With the battle headed to Congress, now is the perfect time to make that stand. AAP president and CEO Maria Pallante is widely known for her policy acumen and her relationships in Congress. And as widely recognized champions of free speech, a strong, unified statement from America's book publishers can make a critical difference.

—Publishers Weekly

Call for Information

Feature: Mysteries & Thrillers

Issue: Mar. 26 **Deadline:** Feb. 5

For this feature, we're especially interested in mysteries and thrillers set in developing countries. Sidebar pitches on other category trends are welcome. Pub. dates: April 2018 to March 2019, but please only pitch titles for which you have solid plot information.

Email pitches and links to artwork to features@publishersweekly.com by February 5 and put "Call for Info: Mysteries & Thrillers" in the subject line.

Behind the Bestsellers

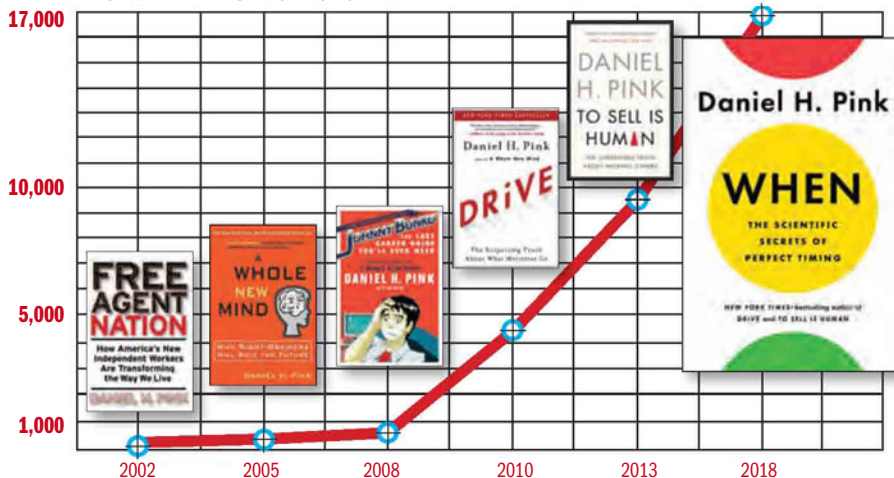
JAN. 8–14, 2018

BY CAROLYN JURIS

How Pink Thinks

The week's biggest debut, *When: The Scientific Secrets of Good Timing* by Daniel H. Pink, is the #10 book in the country. Pink's written several books on work, management, and behavioral science—his most recent two have sold a combined 824K print copies—and each title has had a better first week than the one before.

FIRST-WEEK PRINT UNIT SALES FOR DANIEL H. PINK

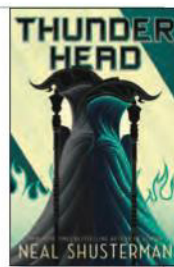


CAREER ARC

Neal Shusterman is the author of numerous series and standalone titles, mostly for young adults. He won the 2015 National Book Award for Young People's Literature for *Challenger Deep*. 2016's

Scythe, a Printz Award finalist that has sold 69K copies in hardcover, launched the Arc of a Scythe series, which is set in a future when humanity has conquered death.

Thunderhead, second in the series, debuts at #7 in children's and YA fiction; it sold twice as many print copies in its first week as its predecessor did. Our starred review said the new book interweaves "heady questions of morality, responsibility, loyalty, and power."



TOP 10 OVERALL

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | UNITS |
|------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|
| 1 | Fire and Fury | Michael Wolff | Holt | 9781250158062 | 191,826 |
| 2 | Dog Man and Cat Kid (Dog Man #4) | Dav Pilkey | Graphix | 9780545935180 | 26,936 |
| 3 | No Middle Name | Lee Child | Dell | 9780399593598 | 24,892 |
| 4 | A Wrinkle in Time | Madeleine L'Engle | Square Fish | 9780312367541 | 24,244 |
| 5 | The Sun and Her Flowers | Rupi Kaur | Andrews McMeel | 9781449486792 | 20,793 |
| 6 | The Woman in the Window | A.J. Finn | Morrow | 9780062678416 | 20,276 |
| 7 | Milk and Honey | Rupi Kaur | Andrews McMeel | 9781449474256 | 18,315 |
| 8 | Wonder | R.J. Palacio | Knopf | 9780375869020 | 17,388 |
| 9 | You Are a Badass | Jen Sincero | Running Press | 9780762447695 | 17,307 |
| 10 | When | Daniel H. Pink | Riverhead | 9780735210622 | 16,963 |



INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY NPD BOOKSCAN. COPYRIGHT © 2018 THE NPD GROUP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Domestic Drama

The reading public's appetite for psychological thrillers continues, with two books in the subgenre debuting on our lists this week.

In *The Wife Between Us* by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen, #8 in hardcover fiction, a woman is obsessed with her ex-husband's new fiancée. Our starred review said the book's "unforgettable twists lead to shocking revelations all the way through the epilogue."

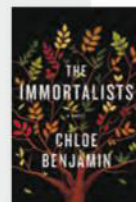
The Perfect Nanny by Leila Slimani, which won the France's Prix Goncourt in 2016, debuts at #18 in trade paper. It begins with the words, "The baby is dead," then backtracks to explain the events leading up to the tragedy.



NEW & NOTABLE

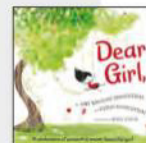
THE IMMORTALISTS

Chloe Benjamin
#5 Hardcover Fiction
Benjamin's second novel (after 2014's *The Anatomy of Dreams*) is an "imaginative and moving family saga," our starred review said, that kicks off in 1969 with four siblings learning the dates of their deaths from a Lower East Side psychic.



DEAR GIRL

Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Paris Rosenthal, illus. by Holly Hatam
#7 Picture Books
Children's book author Amy Krouse Rosenthal, who died in 2017, and Paris, her daughter, offer encouragement to young girls in a book our review called "generally empathetic and up-to-the-minute."



LOVE

Matt de la Peña, illus. by Loren Long
#11 Picture Books
A diverse array of families depict the title concept in situations that aren't always picture-perfect. "People often talk to children about love," our starred review said. "In these pages, they can see and feel what it's like."



ALL UNIT SALES PER NIELSEN BOOKSCAN EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

Hardcover Frontlist Fiction

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | UNITS |
|------|----|-----|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | The Woman in the Window | A.J. Finn | Morrow | 9780062678416 | 20,276 |
| 2 | 2 | 15 | Origin | Dan Brown | Doubleday | 9780385514231 | 13,537 |
| 3 | 3 | 12 | The Rooster Bar | John Grisham | Doubleday | 9780385541176 | 11,924 |
| 4 | 4 | 18 | Little Fires Everywhere | Celeste Ng | Penguin Press | 9780735224292 | 11,391 |
| 5 | - | 1 | The Immortalists | Chloe Benjamin | Putnam | 9780735213180 | 10,651 |
| 6 | 7 | 18 | Sing, Unburied, Sing | Jesmyn Ward | Scribner | 9781501126062 | 9,719 |
| 7 | 10 | 32 | Before We Were Yours | Lisa Wingate | Ballantine | 9780425284681 | 9,161 |
| 8 | - | 1 | The Wife Between Us | Hendricks/Pekkanen | St. Martin's | 9781250130921 | 8,515 |
| 9 | - | 1 | Blood Fury | J.R. Ward | Ballantine | 9780451475343 | 7,635 |
| 10 | 9 | 10 | The Midnight Line | Lee Child | Delacorte | 9780399593482 | 6,699 |
| 11 | 6 | 2 | Unbound | Stuart Woods | Putnam | 9780735217171 | 6,684 |
| 12 | 8 | 6 | Year One | Nora Roberts | St. Martin's | 9781250122957 | 6,401 |
| 13 | 5 | 2 | Robicheaux | James Lee Burke | Simon & Schuster | 9781501176845 | 5,605 |
| 14 | 13 | 9 | The People vs. Alex Cross | James Patterson | Little, Brown | 9780316273909 | 5,501 |
| 15 | 11 | 3 | The Wanted | Robert Crais | Putnam | 9780399161506 | 4,819 |
| 16 | 15 | 9 | End Game | David Baldacci | Grand Central | 9781455586608 | 4,711 |
| 17 | - | 1 | Operator Down | Brad Taylor | Dutton | 9781101984819 | 4,431 |
| 18 | 12 | 9 | Artemis | Andy Weir | Crown | 9780553448122 | 4,284 |
| 19 | 14 | 6 | The Power | Naomi Alderman | Little, Brown | 9780316547611 | 4,206 |
| 20 | 18 | 7 | Tom Clancy: Power and Empire | Marc Cameron | Putnam | 9780735215894 | 4,170 |

Hardcover Frontlist Nonfiction

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | UNITS |
|------|----|-----|---|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | Fire and Fury | Michael Wolff | Holt | 9781250158062 | 191,826 |
| 2 | - | 1 | When | Daniel H. Pink | Riverhead | 9780735210622 | 16,963 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | The Whole30 Fast & Easy Cookbook | Melissa Hartwig | HMH | 9781328839206 | 16,755 |
| 4 | 7 | 37 | Astrophysics for People in a Hurry | Neil deGrasse Tyson | Norton | 9780393609394 | 16,170 |
| 5 | 22 | 2 | The Super Metabolism Diet | Zincenko/Mayo | Ballantine | 9781524796624 | 11,574 |
| 6 | 4 | 13 | The Wisdom of Sundays | Oprah Winfrey | Flatiron | 9781250138064 | 9,201 |
| 7 | 6 | 13 | Leonardo da Vinci | Walter Isaacson | Simon & Schuster | 9781501139154 | 8,617 |
| 8 | 26 | 5 | The Last Black Unicorn | Tiffany Haddish | Gallery | 9781501181825 | 8,445 |
| 9 | 17 | 3 | Meditation for Fidgety Skeptics | Dan Harris | Random/Spiegel & Grau | 9780399588945 | 7,949 |
| 10 | 25 | 17 | Braving the Wilderness | Brené Brown | Random House | 9780812995848 | 7,710 |
| 11 | 16 | 41 | Make Your Bed | William H. McRaven | Grand Central | 9781455570249 | 7,118 |
| 12 | 9 | 17 | Principles | Ray Dalio | Simon & Schuster | 9781501124020 | 6,962 |
| 13 | 21 | 18 | Anxious for Nothing | Max Lucado | Thomas Nelson | 9780718096120 | 6,763 |
| 14 | 11 | 12 | The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Come and Get It! | Ree Drummond | Morrow | 9780062225269 | 6,469 |
| 15 | - | 3 | Natural Disaster | Ginger Zee | Kingswell | 9781484780428 | 6,371 |
| 16 | 11 | 14 | Grant | Ron Chernow | Penguin Press | 9781594204876 | 6,146 |
| 17 | 2 | 2 | Judgment Detox | Gabrielle Bernstein | North Star Way | 9781501168963 | 6,062 |
| 18 | 14 | 7 | The Essential Instant Pot Cookbook | Coco Morante | Ten Speed | 9780399580888 | 6,058 |
| 19 | 19 | 12 | Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans | Kilmeade/Yaeger | Sentinel | 9780735213234 | 6,034 |
| 20 | 33 | 6 | Extreme Ownership | Willink/Babin | St. Martin's | 9781250183866 | 6,017 |

LW - Last Week WKS - Weeks on List

Mass Market Frontlist

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | UNITS |
|------|----|-----|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | No Middle Name | Lee Child | Dell | 9780399593598 | 24,892 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | Secrets in Death | J.D. Robb | St. Martin's | 9781250123176 | 14,929 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | Any Dream Will Do | Debbie Macomber | Ballantine | 9780399181214 | 11,362 |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | Spring Forward | Catherine Anderson | Berkley | 9780399586347 | 10,547 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | Never Never | Patterson/Fox | Vision | 9781478944782 | 9,568 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | Need to Know | Fern Michaels | Zebra | 9781420140699 | 9,186 |
| 7 | 11 | 2 | The Lost Order | Steve Berry | Minotaur | 9781250058461 | 7,568 |
| 8 | 8 | 3 | An Engagement in Seattle | Debbie Macomber | Mira | 9780778331117 | 7,491 |
| 9 | 13 | 6 | Dangerous Games | Danielle Steel | Dell | 9781101883907 | 6,130 |
| 10 | 7 | 3 | Preacher's Kill | William W. Johnstone | Pinnacle | 9780786040025 | 6,005 |
| 11 | 10 | 3 | Mississippi Blood | Greg Iles | Morrow | 9780062311184 | 5,540 |
| 12 | 9 | 4 | Man Overboard | J.A. Jance | Pocket | 9781501110825 | 5,528 |
| 13 | 12 | 3 | The Pines of Winder Ranch | RaeAnne Thayne | HQN | 9781335016539 | 5,207 |
| 14 | 15 | 3 | Cowboy Country | Linda Lael Miller | HQN | 9781335062963 | 4,980 |
| 15 | 17 | 3 | When We Meet | Nora Roberts | Silhouette | 9780373282494 | 4,931 |
| 16 | 14 | 7 | Dragon Teeth | Michael Crichton | Harper | 9780062473363 | 4,803 |
| 17 | 22 | 4 | 12 Strong (movie tie-in) | Doug Stanton | Pocket | 9781501179952 | 4,366 |
| 18 | 16 | 3 | Man in Control | Diana Palmer | Harlequin | 9781335468192 | 4,266 |
| 19 | 21 | 3 | What Alice Forgot | Liane Moriarty | Berkley | 9780451490445 | 4,138 |
| 20 | 20 | 3 | A Million Little Things | Susan Mallery | Mira | 9780778331155 | 4,100 |

Trade Paperback Frontlist

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | UNITS |
|------|----|-----|--|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | 15 | The Sun and Her Flowers | Rupi Kaur | Andrews McMeel | 9781449486792 | 20,793 |
| 2 | 6 | 2 | The Women in the Castle | Jessica Shattuck | Morrow | 9780062563675 | 12,336 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | Darker | E.L. James | Vintage | 9780385543910 | 12,005 |
| 4 | 8 | 8 | Instant Pot Cookbook | Roy Fisher | CreateSpace | 9781977618771 | 11,135 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | We Were the Lucky Ones | Georgia Hunter | Penguin Books | 9780399563096 | 11,016 |
| 6 | 9 | 46 | Lilac Girls | Martha Hall Kelly | Ballantine | 9781101883082 | 9,744 |
| 7 | 7 | 15 | Instant Pot Miracle | – | HMH | 9781328851055 | 9,356 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | The Whole30 Day by Day | Melissa Hartwig | HMH | 9781328839237 | 8,866 |
| 9 | 19 | 33 | The Official Sat Study Guide, 2018 ed. | – | College Board | 9781457309281 | 8,051 |
| 10 | 10 | 9 | Pachinko | Min Jin Lee | Grand Central | 9781455563920 | 7,940 |
| 11 | 13 | 5 | Call Me by Your Name (movie tie-in) | André Aciman | Picador | 9781250169440 | 7,535 |
| 12 | 12 | 2 | Home Sweet Murder (TV tie-in) | James Patterson | Grand Central | 9781538744819 | 7,303 |
| 13 | 16 | 2 | The Girl Before | J.P. Delaney | Ballantine | 9780425285060 | 6,744 |
| 14 | 11 | 2 | Murder, Interrupted (TV tie-in) | James Patterson | Grand Central | 9781538744727 | 6,695 |
| 15 | 15 | 5 | 16th Seduction | Patterson/Paetro | Grand Central | 9781455542666 | 6,649 |
| 16 | 14 | 40 | The Woman in Cabin 10 | Ruth Ware | Scout | 9781501132957 | 6,502 |
| 17 | 17 | 41 | All the Light We Cannot See | Anthony Doerr | Scribner | 9781501173219 | 6,497 |
| 18 | – | 1 | The Perfect Nanny | Leila Slimani | Penguin Books | 9780143132172 | 6,174 |
| 19 | – | 1 | The Wild Card | Wade King | Dave Burgess Consulting | 9781946444523 | 6,052 |
| 20 | 26 | 2 | The Official Act Prep Guide, 2018 ed. | – | Wiley | 9781119386896 | 5,881 |

Children's & YA Frontlist Fiction

| RANK | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | UNITS |
|------|-----|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | 4 | Dog Man and Cat Kid (Dog Man #4) | Dav Pilkey | Graphix | 9780545935180 | 26,936 |
| 2 | 10 | The Getaway (Diary of a Wimpy Kid #12) | Jeff Kinney | Amulet | 9781419725456 | 14,904 |
| 3 | 46 | The Hate U Give | Angie Thomas | HC/Balzer + Bray | 9780062498533 | 8,040 |
| 4 | 14 | Turtles All the Way Down | John Green | Dutton | 9780525555360 | 7,812 |
| 5 | 16 | Wonder (movie tie-in) | R.J. Palacio | Knopf | 9781524720193 | 7,030 |
| 6 | 13 | Tales from a Not-So-Secret Crush... (Dork Diaries #12) | Rachel Renée Russell | Aladdin | 9781534405608 | 5,554 |
| 7 | 1 | Thunderhead | Neal Shusterman | Simon & Schuster | 9781442472457 | 5,501 |
| 8 | 8 | A Wrinkle in Time (movie tie-in) | Madeleine L'Engle | Square Fish | 9781250153272 | 5,224 |
| 9 | 20 | Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties | Dav Pilkey | Graphix | 9780545935210 | 4,848 |
| 10 | 46 | Everything, Everything | Nicola Yoon | Ember | 9780553496673 | 3,527 |
| 11 | 33 | One of Us Is Lying | Karen M. McManus | Delacorte | 9781524714680 | 3,497 |
| 12 | 2 | The Dragonet Prophecy (Wings of Fire Graphic Novel #1) | Tui Sutherland | Graphix | 9780545942157 | 3,229 |
| 13 | 15 | Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban | Rowling/Kay | Scholastic/Levine | 9780545791342 | 3,148 |
| 14 | 3 | Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked... | Dav Pilkey | Scholastic | 9781338216233 | 2,749 |
| 15 | 7 | Scythe | Neal Shusterman | Simon & Schuster | 9781442472433 | 2,735 |
| 16 | 15 | The Ship of the Dead (Magnus Chase #3) | Rick Riordan | Disney-Hyperion | 9781423160939 | 2,567 |
| 17 | 2 | Batman: Nightwalker | Marie Lu | Random House | 9780399549786 | 2,389 |
| 18 | 1 | The Terrible Two Go Wild | Barnett/John/Cornell | Amulet | 9781419721854 | 2,348 |
| 19 | 15 | Dawn and the Impossible Three (Baby-Sitters Club #5) | Martin/Galligan | Graphix | 9781338067118 | 2,334 |
| 20 | 2 | The Cruel Prince | Holly Black | Little, Brown | 9780316310277 | 2,228 |
| 21 | 3 | The Bad Guys in Intergalactic Gas (The Bad Guys #5) | Aaron Blabey | Scholastic | 9781338189575 | 2,172 |
| 22 | 15 | Wishtree | Katherine Applegate | Feiwei and Friends | 9781250043221 | 2,059 |
| 23 | 2 | Bad Kitty Camp Daze | Nick Bruel | Roaring Brook/Porter | 9781626728851 | 1,953 |
| 24 | 13 | La Belle Sauvage (The Book of Dust) | Philip Pullman | Knopf | 9780375815300 | 1,742 |
| 25 | 23 | Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts 1 and 2 | J.K. Rowling et al. | Scholastic/Levine | 9781338216660 | 1,714 |

Picture Books

| RANK | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | UNITS |
|------|-----|--|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | 152 | First 100 Words | Roger Priddy | Priddy | 9780312510787 | 6,333 |
| 2 | 3 | You! | Sandra Magsamen | Sourcebooks | 9781492619345 | 6,237 |
| 3 | 156 | Love You Forever | Robert Munsch | Firefly | 9780920668375 | 6,199 |
| 4 | 888 | Goodnight Moon | Brown/Hurd | HarperFestival | 9780694003617 | 5,971 |
| 5 | 883 | Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? | Martin/Carle | Holt | 9780805047905 | 5,819 |
| 6 | 823 | The Very Hungry Caterpillar | Eric Carle | Philomel | 9780399226908 | 5,596 |
| 7 | 1 | Dear Girl | Rosenthal/Rosenthal/Hatam | HarperCollins | 9780062422507 | 5,487 |
| 8 | 2 | Llama Llama I Love You | Anna Dewdney | Viking | 9780451469816 | 5,426 |
| 9 | 109 | Giraffes Can't Dance | Andreae/Parker-Rees | Cartwheel | 9780545392556 | 4,501 |
| 10 | 1 | You're My Little Cuddle Bug | Edwards/Marshal | Silver Dolphin | 9781684122585 | 4,321 |
| 11 | 1 | Love | De la Peña/Long | Putnam | 9781524740917 | 4,302 |
| 12 | 2 | I Love You, Stinky Face | McCourt/Moore | Scholastic | 9780439635721 | 4,154 |
| 13 | 126 | Little Blue Truck | Schertle/McElmurry | HMH | 9780544568037 | 4,020 |
| 14 | 51 | On the Night You Were Born | Nancy Tillman | Feiwei and Friends | 9780312601553 | 3,907 |
| 15 | 43 | Dear Zoo | Rod Campbell | Little Simon | 9781416947370 | 3,905 |
| 16 | 2 | Guess How Much I Love You | McBratney/Jeram | Candlewick | 9780763642648 | 3,698 |
| 17 | 2 | I Love You | - | DK | 9781465457639 | 3,667 |
| 18 | 143 | Chicka Chicka Boom Boom | Martin/Archambault | Little Simon | 9781442450707 | 3,604 |
| 19 | 39 | The Pout-Pout Fish | Diesen/Hanna | FSG | 9780374360979 | 3,464 |
| 20 | 2 | I Love You to the Moon and Back | Hepworth/Warnes | Tiger Tales | 9781589255517 | 3,456 |
| 21 | 1 | Love from the Very Hungry Caterpillar | Eric Carle | Grosset & Dunlap | 9780448489322 | 3,411 |
| 22 | 4 | The Wonderful Things You Will Be | Emily Winfield Martin | Random House | 9780385376716 | 3,403 |
| 23 | 3 | Oh, the Places You'll Go! | Dr. Seuss | Random House | 9780679805274 | 3,337 |
| 24 | 10 | Animals | - | DK | 9780756634681 | 3,251 |
| 25 | 380 | Dr. Seuss's ABC | Dr. Seuss | Random House | 9780679882817 | 3,246 |

WKS - Weeks on List

Bio/Autobio

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | FORMAT |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | What Happened | Hillary Rodham Clinton | Simon & Schuster | 9781501175565 | Hardcover |
| 2 | Leonardo da Vinci | Walter Isaacson | Simon & Schuster | 9781501139154 | Hardcover |
| 3 | Option B | Sheryl Sandberg | Knopf | 9781524732684 | Hardcover |
| 4 | The Magnolia Story | Gaines/Gaines | W | 9780718079185 | Hardcover |
| 5 | Grant | Ron Chernow | Penguin Press | 9781594204876 | Hardcover |
| 6 | The Glass Castle | Jeannette Walls | Scribner | 9780743247542 | Trade Paperback |
| 7 | Night | Elie Wiesel | Hill and Wang | 9780374500016 | Trade Paperback |
| 8 | Al Franken, Giant of the Senate | Al Franken | Twelve | 9781455540419 | Hardcover |
| 9 | Promise Me, Dad | Joe Biden | Flatiron | 9781250171672 | Hardcover |
| 10 | Alexander Hamilton | Ron Chernow | Penguin Books | 9780143034759 | Trade Paperback |

Food/Drink

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | FORMAT |
|------|---|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Come and Get It! | Ree Drummond | Morrow | 9780062225269 | Hardcover |
| 2 | The Instant Pot Electric Pressure Cooker Cookbook | Laurel Randolph | Rockridge | 9781623156121 | Trade Paperback |
| 3 | Thug Kitchen | – | Rodale | 9781623363581 | Hardcover |
| 4 | Instant Pot Miracle | – | HMH | 9781328851055 | Trade Paperback |
| 5 | Food, Health, and Happiness | Oprah Winfrey | Flatiron | 9781250126535 | Hardcover |
| 6 | The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Dinnertime | Ree Drummond | Morrow | 9780062225245 | Hardcover |
| 7 | The Keto Diet | Leanne Vogel | Victory Belt | 9781628600162 | Trade Paperback |
| 8 | Air Fry Everything! | Meredith Laurence | Walah | 9780982754047 | Trade Paperback |
| 9 | The Complete Ketogenic Diet for Beginners | Amy Ramos | Rockridge | 9781623158088 | Trade Paperback |
| 10 | Skinnytaste Fat and Slow | Gina Homolka | Clarkson Potter | 9780553459609 | Hardcover |

History/Poli-Sci

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | FORMAT |
|------|---|----------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Killing England | O'Reilly/Dugard | Holt | 9781627790642 | Hardcover |
| 2 | Hidden Figures (movie tie-in) | Margot Lee Shetterly | Morrow | 9780062363602 | Trade Paperback |
| 3 | On Tyranny | Timothy Snyder | Crown/Duggan | 9780804190114 | Trade Paperback |
| 4 | Killers of the Flower Moon | David Grann | Doubleday | 9780385534246 | Hardcover |
| 5 | Killing the Rising Sun | O'Reilly/Dugard | Holt | 9781627790628 | Hardcover |
| 6 | Old School | O'Reilly/Feirstein | Holt | 9781250135797 | Hardcover |
| 7 | Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans | Kilmeade/Yaeger | Sentinel | 9780735213234 | Hardcover |
| 8 | The Zookeeper's Wife (movie tie-in) | Diane Ackerman | Norton | 9780393354256 | Trade Paperback |
| 9 | The Constitution of the United States | – | NCCS | 9780880801447 | Trade Paperback |
| 10 | Rediscovering Americanism | Mark R. Levin | Threshold | 9781476773087 | Hardcover |

Comics

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | FORMAT |
|------|--|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Saga, Vol. 7 | Vaughan/Staples | Image | 9781534300606 | Trade Paperback |
| 2 | Everyone's a Liebn When Ur a Liebn Too | Jomny Sun | Harper Perennial | 9780062569028 | Hardcover |
| 3 | The Walking Dead, Vol. 27 | Robert Kirkman et al. | Image | 9781534300521 | Trade Paperback |
| 4 | Batman: The Killing Joke | Moore/Bolland | DC | 9781401216672 | Hardcover |
| 5 | Tokyo Ghoul, Vol. 1 | Sui Ishida | Viz | 9781421580364 | Trade Paperback |
| 6 | My Hero Academia, Vol. 1 | Kohei Horikoshi | Viz | 9781421582696 | Trade Paperback |
| 7 | Fun Home | Alison Bechdel | Mariner | 9780618871711 | Trade Paperback |
| 8 | The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess, Vol. 1 | Akira Himekawa | Viz | 9781421593470 | Trade Paperback |
| 9 | Watchmen | Moore/Gibbons | DC | 9781401245252 | Trade Paperback |
| 10 | My Favorite Thing Is Monsters | Emil Ferris | Fantagraphics | 9781606999592 | Trade Paperback |



Charts supplied by Apple Inc., copyright 2018 Apple Inc. All rights reserved. iBooks is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

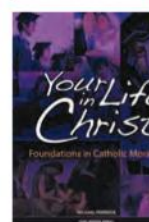
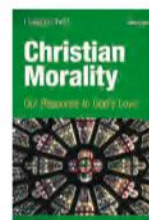
Fiction & Literature

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Little Fires Everywhere | Celeste Ng | Penguin Press | 9780735224308 |
| 2 | Unbound | Stuart Woods | Putnam | 9780735217195 |
| 3 | Before We Were Yours | Lisa Wingate | Ballantine | 9780425284698 |
| 4 | At the Water's Edge | Sara Gruen | Random/Spiegel & Grau | 9780812997897 |
| 5 | The Handmaid's Tale | Margaret Atwood | HMH | 9780547345666 |
| 6 | Call Me by Your Name | André Aciman | FSG | 9780374707729 |
| 7 | The Last Mrs. Parrish | Liv Constantine | Harper | 9780062667595 |
| 8 | The Winter Palace | Eva Stachniak | Bantam | 9780553908046 |
| 9 | The Immortalists | Chloe Benjamin | Putnam | 9780735213197 |
| 10 | Manhattan Beach | Jennifer Egan | Scribner | 9781476716756 |
| 11 | Big Little Lies | Liane Moriarty | Berkley | 9780698138636 |
| 12 | A Gentleman in Moscow | Amor Towles | Viking | 9780399564048 |
| 13 | Milk and Honey | Rupi Kaur | Andrews McMeel | 9781449478650 |
| 14 | Sing, Unburied, Sing | Jesmyn Ward | Scribner | 9781501126093 |
| 15 | America's First Daughter | Dray/Kamoie | Morrow | 9780062347275 |
| 16 | The Mill River Recluse | Darcie Chan | Ballantine | 9780615523774 |
| 17 | The Sun and Her Flowers | Rupi Kaur | Andrews McMeel | 9781449488895 |
| 18 | It | Stephen King | Scribner | 9781501141232 |
| 19 | The Provence Cure for the... | Bridget Asher | Bantam | 9780440338727 |
| 20 | The Great Alone | Kristin Hannah | St. Martin's | 9781250165619 |



Religion & Spirituality

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN |
|------|--|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | Christian Morality | Brian Singer-Towns | Saint Mary's | 9781599825793 |
| 2 | Jesus and the Church | – | Ave Maria | 9781594715389 |
| 3 | Jesus Christ: His Mission and His Ministry | – | Ave Maria | 9781594716256 |
| 4 | The Church | Martin C. Albl | Saint Mary's | 9781599828336 |
| 5 | Jesus Christ: God's Love Made Visible | Carrie J. Schroeder | Saint Mary's | 9781599828299 |
| 6 | Catholic Social Teaching | Brian Singer-Towns | Saint Mary's | 9781599820774 |
| 7 | Your Life in Christ | Michael Pennock | Ave Maria | 9781594714030 |
| 8 | Vocations | Jenna Cooper | Saint Mary's | 9781599825762 |
| 9 | World Religions | Jeffrey Brodd | Saint Mary's | 9781599823294 |
| 10 | Exploring the Religions of Our World | Nancy Clemmons | Ave Maria | 9781594713934 |



Health, Mind & Body

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN |
|------|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck | Mark Manson | HarperOne | 9780062457738 |
| 2 | 28 Days of Clean Eating | – | Sonoma | 9781942411031 |
| 3 | The Happiness Project | Gretchen Rubin | Harper | 9780062474247 |
| 4 | You Are a Badass | Jen Sincero | Running Press | 9780762448319 |
| 5 | Simply Keto | Suzanne Ryan | Victory Belt | 9781628602968 |
| 6 | The Super Metabolism Diet | Zinczenko/Mayo | Ballantine | 9781524796631 |
| 7 | 13 Things Mentally Strong People Don't Do | Amy Morin | Morrow | 9780062358318 |
| 8 | The Secret | Rhonda Byrne | Beyond Words | 9781416554998 |
| 9 | Clean Gut | Alejandro Junger | HarperOne | 9780062075895 |
| 10 | How to Win Friends and Influence People | Dale Carnegie | Simon & Schuster | 9781451621716 |



DECEMBER INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLERS



Popular Fiction Topped December Lists

French readers still have a hankering for WWII fiction. Eric Vuillard's Goncourt Prize–winner *The Agenda*, a historical novel about the Nazi annexation of Austria, remained at #1 at the end of December. Olivier Guez's *The Disappearance of Josef Mengele* fell from the second spot on the list to the third. The nonfiction list, too, retained the same top-selling title as last month: *The Miracle Spinoza*, a hagiography of the Dutch philosopher by Frédéric Lenoir.

German fiction fans embraced *Tyll* in December. The latest novel by perennial bestseller Daniel Kehlmann is a fanciful tale about the eponymous hero's adventures in 17th-century Europe following the Thirty Years' War. The popular thriller writer Sebastian Fitzek had the third-best-selling novel last month with *The Fear of Flying 7A*, about a mentally ill passenger who threatens to crash an airliner. In German nonfiction, readers moved Swiss philosopher Rolf Dobelli's *The Art of the Good Life* to the top position. The book appeared last year in an English translation published by Hachette.

In Spain, Javier Sierra's *The Invisible Fire*, a thriller about the hunt for the Holy Grail, ended last year atop the fiction list. Several of Sierra's books have been published in English translations by Atria. The Spanish nonfiction list remains consumed by books about Catalan politics, with Eduardo Mendoza's *What Is Happening in Catalonia* taking the top spot, followed by the polemic *Against Separatism* by Fernando Savater. —Ed Nawotka

| FRANCE | |
|---|---|
| Fiction | Nonfiction |
| 1 L'ordre du jour The Agenda Eric Vuillard Actes Sud | Le miracle Spinoza The Miracle Spinoza Frédéric Lenoir Fayard |
| 2 Darker Darker E.L. James Jean-Claude Lattès | La vie secrète des arbres The Hidden Life of Trees Peter Wohlleben Les Arènes |
| 3 La disparition de Josef Mengele The Disappearance of Josef Mengele Olivier Guez Grasset et Fasquelle | Sapiens: une brève histoire de l'humanité Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind Yuval Noah Harari Albin Michel |

For the week ended Dec. 30, 2017; used by arrangement with GFK/Livres Hebdo

| GERMANY | |
|--|---|
| Fiction | Nonfiction |
| 1 Tyll Tyll Daniel Kehlmann Rowohlt | Die Kunst des guten lebens The Art of the Good Life Rolf Dobelli Piper |
| 2 Origin Origin Dan Brown Bastei Lübbe | Über den anstand in schwierigen... On Decency in Difficult Times... Axel Hacke Kunstmann |
| 3 Flugangst 7A Fear of Flying 7A Sebastian Fitzek Droemer | Nächste ausfahrt zukunfft Next Exit Future Ranga Yogeshwar Kiepenheuer & Witsch |

For the week ended Jan. 2; used by arrangement with Buchreport

| SPAIN | |
|--|--|
| Fiction | Nonfiction |
| 1 El fuego invisible The Invisible Fire Javier Sierra Planeta | Qué está pasando en Cataluña What Is Happening in Catalonia Eduardo Mendoza Seix Barral |
| 2 Patria Fatherland Fernando Aramburu Tusquets | Contra el separatism Against Separatism Fernando Savater Ariel |
| 3 Eva Eva Arturo Pérez-Reverte Alfaguara | Fugas Escapes James Rhodes Blackie |

For the week ended Jan. 2; used by arrangement with El Cultural



Lynn Garrett

Saving Christian Fiction

In a moribund market, publishers hunt for fresh voices and new genres

No news might be good news for publishers of Christian fiction—or it might just be that there is no big news. Steve Oates, v-p of marketing for Baker Publishing Group’s Bethany House and Chosen imprints, describes the state of the category as “stable” and says: “The marketplace just keeps getting a little tougher all the time, but no one or no direction is really standing out. Where are the new names appearing on the best-seller list? Who is coming out of nowhere in fiction? What is the next big thing?”

Oates has no answers to these questions, but Baker’s fiction imprints continue to offer readers books in reliable genres like romantic suspense, historicals, and, most notably, romances set among the Amish, which have been published by the hundreds and sold in the millions by the industry. Industry watchers keep

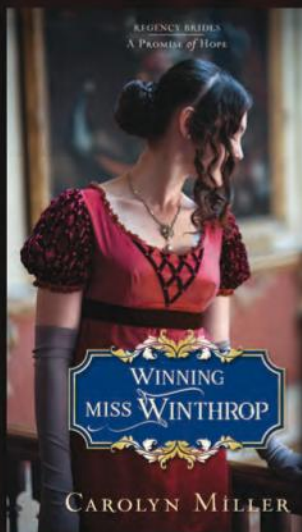
predicting the demise of the genre, but the books still have an audience. “We are definitely still seeing a lot of interest in our Amish novels, and we aren’t doing fewer,” says Andrea Doering, executive editor of Baker’s Revell imprint. “Readers continue to be drawn to the idea of a simpler life and the strong families and communities of the Amish.”

Bethany House has brand-name authors of Amish fiction on its list, including Beverly Lewis, whose stand-alone romance *The Road Home* releases in April. Lewis has sold more than 17 million copies of her books and has charted on the bestseller lists of *PW*, the *New York Times*, and *USA Today*.

Another star is Suzanne Woods Fisher, whose books just



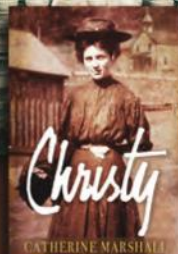
Inspirational Fiction from Best-Selling Authors



978-0-8254-4533-0
970-0-8254-4534-7

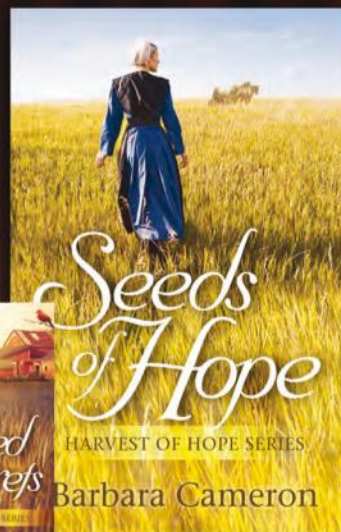


Coming Soon



Available

978-1-68370-134-7
978-1-68370-126-2



Coming Soon

978-1-68370-055-5
978-1-68370-057-9





reached the one-million-copy sales mark. Her newest, *Phoebe's Light* (Feb.), is the first in a new Quaker series, Nantucket Legacy. (Could Quakers be the next big thing?)

Other Amish-themed novels include Thomas Nelson's *The Solace of Water* by Elizabeth Byler Younts (June), who brings a new twist to the genre: set in 1957, the book features two women, one white and Amish and one African-American, who become friends and fight for their freedom—one from racial prejudice, the other from religious constraints.

A more traditional approach is taken by Harvest House, with *The Amish Quilter* by Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould (May). Barbour has two books coming from another Amish-romance star, Wanda Brunstetter—*The Celebration* (Feb.) and *The Hawaiian Discovery* (coauthored with Jean Brunstetter, June). While not a Christian press, Skyhorse

will publish *Home Is Where the Heart Is* by Linda Byler in May. And Gilead Publishing has *Buried Secrets* by Barbara Cameron (Apr.), a tale of an Amish widow's second chance at love.

A Darker Future

While some see the category as stable, others are not as sanguine. Gilead publisher Dan Balow uses the word *flat*, pointing out that “at least a half-dozen Christian publishers of fiction have stopped in the last five years, and the ones that remain are the largest [houses].”

Balow believes “Christian fiction has been struggling primarily because authors have been encouraged to stay creatively narrow for a long time.” He adds, “The business solution is in encouraging author creativity.”

Gilead, just two years old, is among the publishers that have recently entered the fiction fray, despite the category's struggles. It publishes in a range of Christian genres, and one of them looks to the future instead of the past.

“Speculative fiction—science fiction, fantasy, and supernatural genres—is one of the most popular categories of entertainment in the general market,” Balow notes. “More than 100 new feature films or TV shows released in 2017 were either science fiction or fantasy, including the Marvel Comics stories and the new Star Wars movie. A generation of readers have grown up with these types of stories, and we feel there is a market for Christian-friendly themes in these books.”

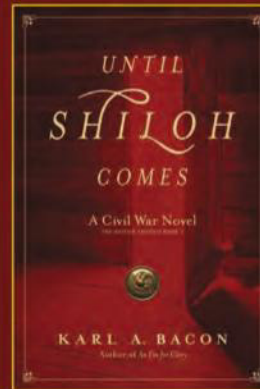
In 2016, Gilead acquired Enclave, a press focused on the speculative genre, and struck a sales and marketing partnership with Kregel, which publishes in a variety of romance genres. “Gilead has brought us books and genres we wouldn't have chosen, that have energized the sales and marketing teams,” says publisher Jerry Kregel.

THE SHILOH TRILOGY

by Award Winning Author Karl A. Bacon

Civil War Fiction

True to History - Touching the Soul



Book 1

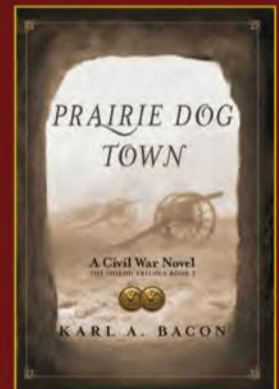
Until Shiloh Comes

A Southern woman is forced to take Stanley Mitchell, a severely wounded Union soldier, into her home as she deals with her own tragedy.

Book 2

Prairie Dog Town

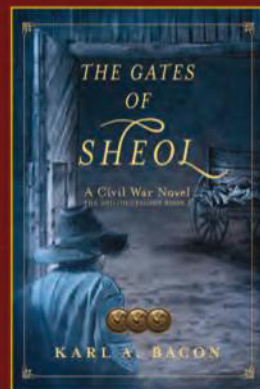
Trapped between North and South, Stanley tries to return to the girl he loves, but first he must endure the terrible siege of Vicksburg.



Book 3

The Gates of Sheol

Stanley faces a daily struggle for survival amid the deadly horrors of Andersonville Prison.



Expertly researched and gracefully written, these novels for ages teen thru adult are a valuable addition to any home school or Christian school curriculum.

Available in softcover and E-book at Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Historical Chronicles Press

www.kbacon.com

Great Reads for Winter Nights



Their Daring Hearts

Sharlene MacLaren

Levi Albright rebelled against his Quaker roots to fight for abolition in the Union army in the first year of the Civil War. Two years later, 19-year-old destitute orphan Josephine Winters, with chopped hair, boy's clothes, and new name, "Snipp," enlists in the Union army out of sheer desperation. Can their friendship survive when her secret comes out?

978-1-62911-930-4 \$14.99



Firestorm

Laura V. Hilton

Just as Bridget Behr is finally settling into friendship, a new life, and maybe even love, a devastating forest fire ravages the county, destroying both land and the Behrs' dreams. Now Bridget and her family must decide: will they leave behind the ashes and start anew in another Amish community? Or will they dare to fight for the future they'd hoped for?

978-1-64123-031-5 \$13.99

Available through Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Brodart, American Wholesale, and Anchor Distributors.

whitakerhouse.com 1.800.444.4484
salesops@whitakerhouse.com



Department | RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

New books coming from Enclave include new volumes from several series set in dystopian worlds, among them *Amber Eyes* by S.D. Grimm (Jan.), the second in the Children of the Blood Moon series, and *Into the Void* by Joshua A. Johnston (Feb.), the second in the Chronicles of Sarco series.

Another newcomer, By the Vine Press—launched in 2014—this year will publish a five-book Christian speculative romance series, Children of the King by Gloria Clover. The first volume, *Washed Under the Waves*, releases in March; the fifth, *Lost in Beauty*, in July.

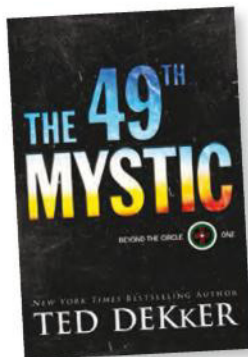
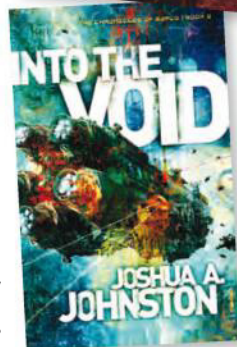
"There is reader interest in edgier and out-of-the-box titles in the Christian market," says editor-in-chief Stephenia McGee. An inspirational science fiction novel, *The Man Who Could Transfuse Time* by Dennis Hensley, comes from By the Vine in April.

Concordia also came late to the fiction game, launching its program in 2014. Its *The Messengers: Revealed* by Lisa M. Clark (May), the third in the Messengers trilogy, is set in a totalitarian future and features rebels determined to preserve and spread the teachings of the Bible. Similarly, *F-S-H-S* by Randy Dockens (Carpenter's Son, June)—described by publisher Larry Carpenter as "futuristic sci-fi—imagine a Christian version of *The Matrix*"—also takes place in a future in which Christianity has been outlawed and an underground group must battle for the Bible.

Baker Publishing imprint Revell's entry into the speculative genre is *The 49th Mystic* by Ted Dekker (May), which portrays characters who live in two worlds and must recover five ancient seals to save themselves from destruction. The author of more than 40 books and winner of many awards, Dekker has sold more than 10 million copies of his books worldwide.

Though it publishes much less fiction than in the past, B&H will release a companion to the allegorical Prince Warriors trilogy, *The Prince Warriors: The Winter War* by Priscilla Shirer, in August. B&H says the trilogy has sold more than 100,000 units since the first book was released in 2016.

As Christian fiction publishers hunt for the next big thing and look for emerging authors, these two genres—one offering tales of a soft-focus past and the other of a harder-edged future—bookend the category. ■





SPOTLIGHT ON

Crossway's *ESV Archaeology Study Bible*

This new edition of the ESV Bible, annotated and illustrated by field-trained archaeologists, locates Scripture in vivid historical context

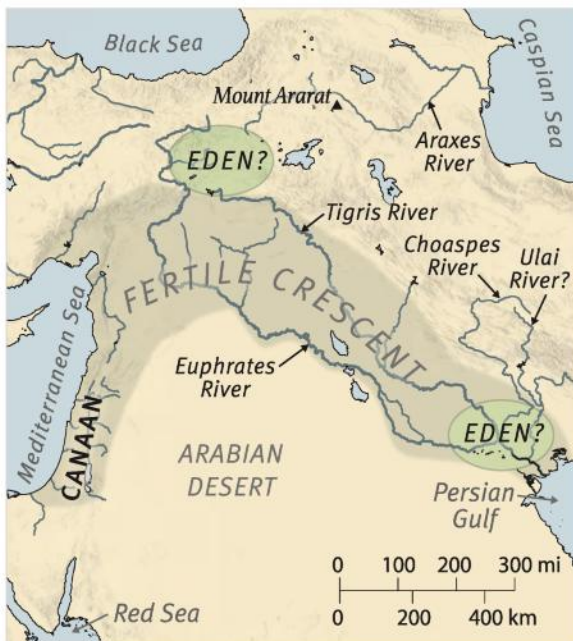
The events of the Bible are set in real, historical places in the ancient Near East, locations in and around what are now Egypt, Iraq, Israel, and Syria. This area was the cradle of civilization, and has in recent centuries been the source of some of the richest and most important archaeological discoveries. The *ESV Archaeology Study Bible*, due out in March from Crossway, brings the deep historical context of archaeology to the timeless world of Scripture, illuminating the beloved ESV text with essays, notes, and hundreds of photographs, maps, and illustrations contributed by field-trained archaeologists. Dane Ortlund, Crossway's executive vice president of Bible Publishing, says the resource provides "a distinctive Bible offering for Christians to see the earthiness and historical embeddedness of the Scripture."

Edited by John Currid, an Old Testament scholar and archaeologist at Reformed Theological Seminary, and David Chapman, professor of New Testament and archaeology at Covenant Theological Seminary, Crossway's *ESV Archaeology Study Bible* is a work six years in the making and a Bible unlike any other. "We were firm in our conviction that the main contributors must be trained field archaeologists, ones who have spent significant time getting their hands dirty," Currid says. To that end, Chapman explains, he and Currid assembled a team of 13 "expert Christian field archaeologists, who were all also capable Bible commentators." According to Chapman, "Every contributor was selected based on his or her years of experience in archaeological fieldwork and in applying archaeology to biblical interpretation. Thus all were drawing on many years of teaching and writing as they read through each biblical book, carefully examining each passage for archaeological connections."

Currid thinks of archaeology and Scripture as naturally complementary: "I don't think the purpose of archaeology is to prove the Bible," Currid says. "The Bible doesn't need to be proven; it stands well enough on its own. The purpose of archaeology is to illuminate the historical background and setting of the biblical narratives. It helps to demonstrate that the biblical accounts truly took place in time and history."



The Galilee Boat: the remains of a boat like one Jesus and his disciples might have used fishing and traveling (© Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com); Below: A map of two possible locations of Eden (David Barrett, © 2008 Crossway)



For instance, few readers probably realize that Genesis takes place in the Middle Bronze Age, which spanned from 2200 to 1550 BC. That context allows the archaeologists who annotated the *ESV Archaeology Study Bible* to provide information such as that Abel's work as "a keeper of sheep" would have yielded milk, skins, and wool but not meat, since, as the accompanying note points out, "animal husbandry did not provide meat for humans at this time." This Bible is full of annotations small and large, such as a map that pinpoints two possible locations for the real Eden, adding a whole new dimension to the story of Adam and Eve.

Looking at the completed Bible, Chapman says, "I am struck by how much more the biblical text is made understandable through notes on such diverse matters as fishing and ancient boats in Galilee, agrarian life, tax collecting, foot washing, stone vessels in Jewish purity law, sectarian divisions, burial techniques, and crucifixion practices."

Chapman believes that "many people will want to make this their main Bible for personal reading and for taking to church" but also sees a loftier purpose for the resource: "As we all grow in our awareness of the cultures that the biblical authors are addressing, we can better comprehend God's revelation to the initial recipients of Scripture. Through this means, we also better understand and apply the Bible in our world today."



Louisa Ermelino

If the Shoe Fits...

A Jewish Bostonian finds revolution and redemption in the world of Chinese shoe factory workers

Spencer Wise is the heir to a shoe-manufacturing dynasty that began five generations ago in New England. Today the family business is about producing goods in China, and, though Wise knows all about shoes, he's chosen not to make them but to write about them.

I first heard about Wise's debut novel, *The Emperor of Shoes*, in the *PW* offices. And if you've followed me at all, you know that a novel set outside of my world, on a subject about which I know nothing (making shoes is not buying shoes—there I have great expertise) is going to get my attention. *The Emperor of Shoes* is the story of a young Jewish American man, Alex Cohen, who takes over his father's shoe factory in Guangdong and encounters the culture, the country, and Ivy, an activist seamstress who wants to unionize the workers being exploited under a corrupt system.

Boston is Wise's hometown, and his father ran the family shoe factory in Amesbury until the 1962 Trade Expansion Act sent manufacturing overseas. Closing the factory in 1972 sent Wise's father overseas as well and began Wise's obsession with his father's travels to Brazil, China, Taiwan, and Yugoslavia. Wise says that he always knew he wanted to write a book that combined the elements that dominated his upbringing. So in 2013 he went to work in the shoe factory in southern China that his father had contracts with. "I lived in the factory, I worked on the line—it was a real apprenticeship."

Wise says he knows how to make a shoe from scratch, and in one of the novel's early drafts, which he showed to Robert Olen Butler, his mentor at Florida State University, he had a 40-page section explaining the process. Butler had a clear opinion: "What makes you think anyone cares?" Wise explained that he was "channeling Melville—that passage in *Moby-Dick* where he describes building a ship?" But he cut the shoe making bit.

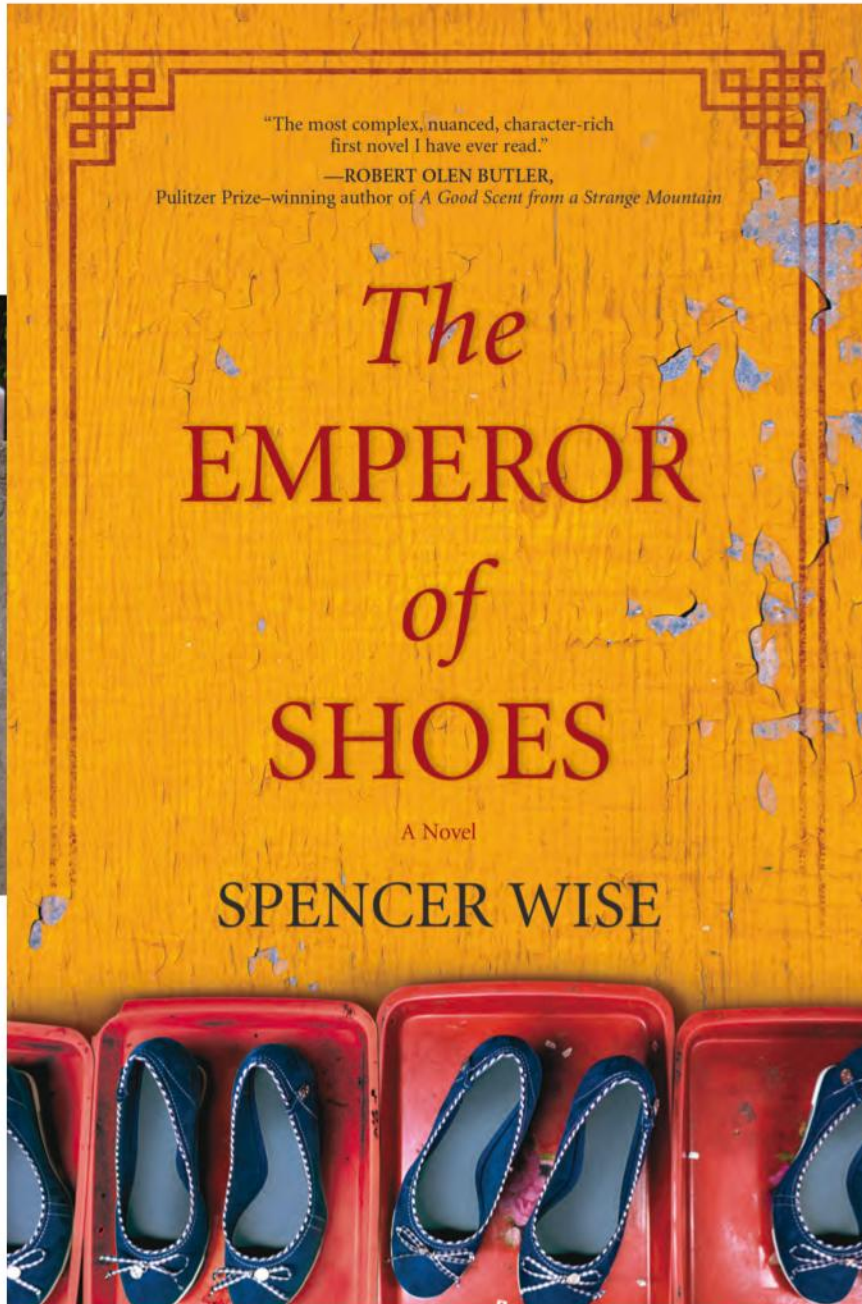
What Wise brings to a story of hot-button issues is a light hand, a mix of sensitive characters, a propulsive plot, and humor. When Alex comes to meet Ivy's grandmother, he brings her "the hopelessly lame present of espadrille heels from the factory," but realizes, "Better I should have given her a head of cabbage."

For Wise, 2013 was about writing, researching, and interviewing people in China. "They accepted me because I was legitimately interested in the culture, and also I think they liked that I was Jewish," he says. "They associate being Jewish with being hard working and successful, and the Chinese find this admirable."



From top: Spencer Wise in China, factory assembly line

Wise had come to Florida State, where he's a visiting lecturer, especially to work with Butler, and fortunately, Wise says, "he liked my writing." More than that, when the manuscript for *Emperor* was finished in early 2016, Butler asked around about young agents looking for new clients. One of them was Duvall Osteen at Nicole Aragi, an agency with an impressive and diverse list of authors; one of three agents at the agency, Osteen had started six years ago as Nicole Aragi's assistant. Butler called



From l.:
Duvall Osteen,
John Glynn

and sent Osteen the book. “I was flattered when Bob called,” she tells me. “He simply said, ‘There’s this kid, and he’s the best in my class.’”

Osteen had previously read a story of Wise’s, “The Farm,” about a Jewish boy from Boston meeting his Southern girlfriend’s parents in Georgia. “I’m from the South, and I still remember this scene at the dinner table where they are saying grace, holding hands, and at the end of the prayer, the father adds, ‘Shalom,’” she says. “I was thinking I should sign this guy up right now. Spencer finds your comfort zones and boots you out of them. I think of him as a less mean Philip Roth.”

She read the manuscript at the end of March 2016, and they started working together. “The novel had so much going for it: father-son relationship, coming of age, romance, and the world of Chinese factory workers, which is a world we never think about.” Despite all that, the novel didn’t sell on its first round out. After revisions, Osteen sent it to only one editor, John Glynn at Hanover Square Press, who told her, “Hold this for me—I’ll get right back to you.”

Hanover is a new imprint under Harlequin’s umbrella, formed in November 2016, with Peter Joseph as editor. Glynn arrived there in April 2017 after five years at Scribner, where he’d worked on an eclectic list of fiction and nonfiction. “It was a dream to get to shape a list from the ground up,” he says about his new gig.

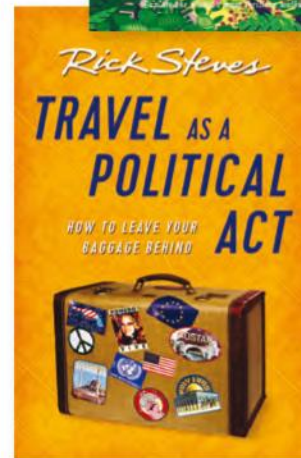
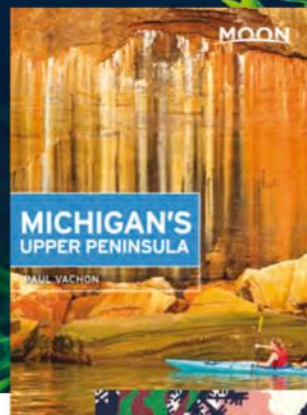
The Emperor of Shoes was Glynn’s first acquisition. He was looking for the perfect book and is convinced he’s found it. “It’s fiction with a pulse,” he says, and “it’s a subject that is underrepresented in fiction—it felt timely and prescient.” (When he received the manu-

script, he had just read about labor practices at a Chinese company that produces Ivanka Trump–branded shoes.) Glynn appreciated the book’s authenticity, that it was anchored by Wise’s experiences of China as a *gweilo* (a Cantonese slang term that literally means “ghost man”).

Glynn bought North American rights in May 2017 for “a modest amount” (Wise was thrilled) and got first serial rights for an excerpt in *Narrative* magazine. The book pubs in June in the U.S. and July in the U.K. with No Exit Press. The publication of *Emperor* is a trifecta of beginnings: a debut novel, a new imprint, and a young agent. The stars converge. ■

Leaders of the Pack

Three brands that started as scrappy backpacker guides—Lonely Planet, Moon, and Rick Steves—now stand at the top of the world travel guide rankings. What a long, strange trip it's been.



By **DAVE HERNDON**

Bill Dalton was a hippie from Massachusetts whose advanced case of wanderlust landed him in Indonesia for six months in the early 1970s. Soon afterward, he jotted down six pages of notes and hand-drawn maps for fellow travelers in a youth hostel, and, as he writes in a 2014 reminiscence titled “The Founding of Moon Publications,” a crusty old journalist from New Zealand told him, “You shouldn’t just give that information away—you should sell it.”

Dalton mimeographed the pamphlet and sold it in Australia at festivals and flea markets and on the streets of Sydney, displayed on a blanket along with underground gear like pot paraphernalia and Zap comics. He knew he was onto something when it sold 600 copies in three days, and it soon grew into a 36-page booklet.

Around that time, a Brit named Tony Wheeler had just finished a sojourn in Asia with his wife, Maureen. He happened upon Dalton’s motley display on the sidewalk in Sydney’s Kings Cross neighborhood and asked him where he’d gotten it printed. With that, a revolution in guidebook publishing—and along with it, a baby boomer–driven approach to independent travel in unfamiliar places—was born.

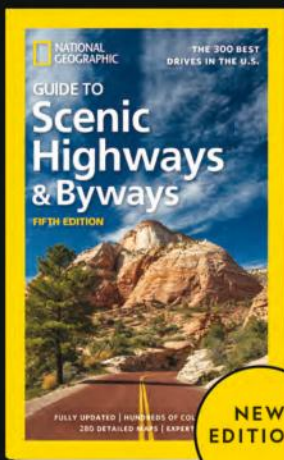
Dalton’s *Indonesia Handbook* eventually expanded to more than 1,000 pages and anchored the company that grew out of it, Moon Publications. Wheeler’s first book, *Across Asia on the Cheap*, launched Lonely Planet. The year was 1973, which makes this the 45th birthday for both brands.

The connections don’t end there. After Dalton set up shop in Chico, Calif., in 1976, a fellow named Rick Steves crashed on his front porch while seeking distribution for his



978-1-4262-1927-6
\$35.00/\$40.00CAN

GEAR UP FOR TRAVEL WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



978-1-4262-1905-4
\$28.00/\$37.00 CAN



978-1-4262-1885-9
\$28.00/\$37.00 CAN



978-1-4262-1883-5
\$25.99/\$34.99 CAN



978-1-4262-1828-6
\$22.99/\$29.99 CAN



978-1-4262-1881-1
\$22.99/\$29.99 CAN

DISTRIBUTED BY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

NatGeoBooks

@NatGeoBooks

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

© 2018 National Geographic Partners, LLC

Meet a Guidebook Author

Carolyn McCarthy, author of more than 40 *Lonely Planet* guidebooks

What can a guidebook offer that a web search can't?

The internet can be an immense resource, but it lacks an intelligent filter. Having a guidebook is the difference between bringing your whole wardrobe on a trip and packing the bare essentials. It's not reading comments from people like your cousin Mildred who leaves the country every six years and just found the cutest café in Paris. It's getting the perspective of the person who has been to 40 cafés in Paris, talked to locals and travelers, and curated that information.

What's a typical day of guidebook research like?

If I'm in a city, I'll go to hotels in the morning, when I can see guests checking out and eavesdrop on their complaints; restaurants at lunch and dinner; and other stuff between. Sometimes a tip leads me on a wild goose chase, which takes up valuable research time but can deliver big dividends in terms of new discoveries or conversations with insightful people. It's both about observing closely and quietly and engaging with people who have intimate knowledge of a place.

What impact have developments like Airbnb and Google Maps had on the role of the guidebook writer?

I think guidebooks can coexist with the sharing economy and companies like Airbnb. Airbnb serves travelers looking for engagement more along the lines of a home stay. Travelers sometimes prefer the privacy, predictability, or services at a hotel. As for map apps, who doesn't benefit from not getting lost? They'll probably lead to guides with fewer maps, which leaves room to add other kinds of content to the books.

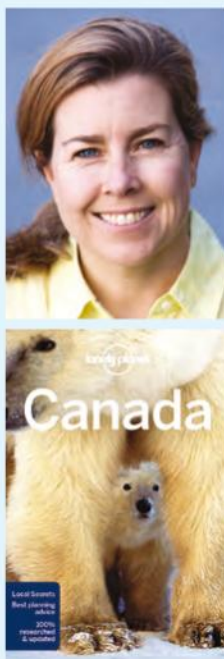
How do you reconcile the desire to share good information with the desire to keep a place secret and not, for lack of a better phrase, ruin it?

In some cases, I keep the secret. Not every place can withstand heavy visitation. Yet, it's interesting—in recent years I've seen a lot of remote areas sitting on the verge of the kind of development, like mining or dams, that's completely invasive. If tourism is introduced responsibly, it can give places a much more sustainable option than going industrial or having locals move to the city for work.

What does it take to be a guidebook author today?

Since your time and resources are always limited, it's really a job for the jack-of-all-trades. One should be adventurous, curious, hard-working, flexible, good-humored, persistent, and detail-oriented. Often it's about preparing for plan B, C, or Z. You also should be able to drive a stick shift, manage sketchy roads, read style manuals, and be game to talk your way out of, or into, anything.

—ALIA AKKAM



nascent publishing effort. Four years later, Steves self-published the handbook *Europe Through the Back Door*, now in its 37th edition.

Today, the erstwhile backpacker bibles are all grown up and clustered at the top of the guidebook heap. During the first three quarters of 2017, the brands that evolved from this bootstraps network were first and second in the world travel guide rankings compiled by Stephen Mesquita for the NPD BookScan Travel Publishing Year Book. Lonely Planet is now part of the NC2 Media portfolio, and Rick Steves and Moon are both published by Perseus imprint Avalon Travel. (DK, Fodor's, and Frommer's rounded out the top five.)

In October 2017 APA, which publishes the glossy Insight guides, acquired Rough Guides, another foundational backpacker line, underlining how valuable this market segment is. Fodor's, too, plans to launch a new line in 2019 that editorial director Doug Stallings says will focus less on hotels and resorts than the publisher's established products do, and more on what he calls "authentic experiences" and "emerging destinations"—buzzy terms that indicate exactly where the action is in the world of guidebook publishing at the outset of 2018.

Are You Experienced?

"We had a passion for flat-out experiences," Steves says, when asked to account for the takeover that he helped set in motion. "That has morphed from hippie-backpacker travel into staying at more palatable hotels, getting cash from ATMs, and taking an Uber to the airport. But the core is experiential, and what the public wants is experiences."

Rick Steves' Europe, a one-man operation in 1976, now has a staff of more than 100 that each year produces more than 50 guidebook editions, plus various public television and radio shows and a syndicated column, and takes 20,000 clients on tours. Though Steves's personal travel horizons have expanded beyond the continent, his guides are still

INSPIRING STORIES FROM PATAGONIA

**COMING
APRIL 2018**

Ten years and over
20,000 miles: Captain
Liz Clark's gripping
memoir of searching
the South Pacific for
surf and self.

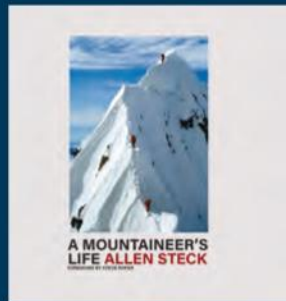
Hardcover
9781938340543



Other bestsellers from Patagonia



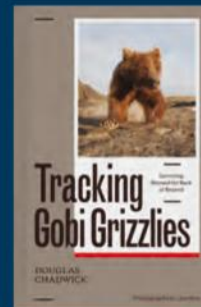
Hardcover
9781938340697



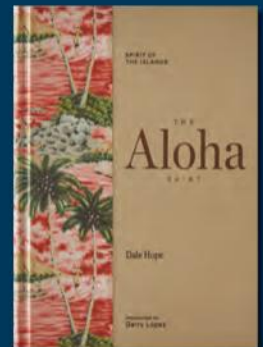
Hardcover
9781938340703



Hardcover
9781938340437;
Paperback
9781938340260



Hardcover
9781938340628



Hardcover
9781938340567

focused on Europe. “I’m lucky my beat sells a lot of books,” he says, and most of those are in print. For the past 18 months, royalties on digital editions of his titles have accounted for around 12% of royalties overall, as e-book sales have been flat while print sales have continued to grow. His guidebook sales altogether, he says, “are better than ever.”

Rick Steves Iceland (Apr.) is a new entry about a destination that’s been wildly popular in recent years. In January 2017, the author told *PW* that he was reluctant to cover the country because he wasn’t feeling that requisite element of passion for the place. But he was encouraged by the enthusiasm of his staff and the realization that the people who go there and love it can’t all be wrong. “I had a supremely good experience there,” he says.

Steves also reckons that, in addition to its inherent appeal, the country benefits from a perception that it’s safe compared to destinations that make the wrong kind of news. Still, he says, “I think you’re more likely to fall off a rock in Iceland than to be killed by a terrorist in Turkey,” and that’s the spirit that animates the new edition of Steves’s *Travel as a Political Act* (Feb.). Previous editions of the title pubbed in 2009 and 2014; the new one has been substantially rewritten to include reported travel essays on fast-changing places like Israel,



Meet a Guidebook Author

Shafik Meghji, who has coauthored and updated more than 30 Rough Guides

Describe your first brush with wanderlust.

As a child, reading about far-flung places like the Himalayas and the Amazon, so different to my home in London, instilled a love of travel and exploration.

What’s a typical day of guidebook research like?

The great pleasure of writing a guidebook is that no two days are exactly the same. Some are spent entirely on buses, trains, boats, planes, cars, or tuk-tuks—or a combination. Most involve reviewing scores of hotels, hostels, and guesthouses; eating and drinking in as many places as possible; checking and then double-checking transport schedules, opening hours, prices, and entry fees; meeting locals, travelers, and contacts; and visiting museums, galleries, national parks, and other attractions. The best days involve hiking a new trail, testing out a tour, or uncovering a new route.

When writing a guidebook, how do you strike a balance between covering the must-sees and leading readers off the beaten path?

I try to judge destinations and attractions on their merits, regardless of how well known they are. There’s a great drive among travel writers, and travelers in general, to constantly find something new, and that’s great. But it can lead to amazing places being neglected simply because they’re popular.

What can a guidebook offer that a web search can’t?

There’s an incredible amount of information available online. Some of it’s really useful, but much of it is partial, paid-for, misleading, or simply incorrect. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed and difficult to know whom to trust. Guidebook writers approach things from an independent perspective, experiencing places firsthand, sifting through masses of information, pulling together everything relevant, and making it all accessible and engaging.

How do you reconcile the desire to share good information with the desire to keep a place secret and not, for lack of a better phrase, ruin it?

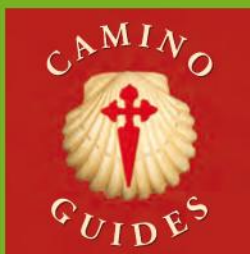
Travel writers have a duty to encourage people to travel in a sensitive, respectful, and positive manner that, as far as possible, maximizes the benefits to the local community and environment. Sometimes this involves advising readers not to visit certain places or indulge in particular activities—climbing Uluru, for example, or going on an exploitative “tribal tour.” Ultimately, I try to inform readers as much as possible so that they can make informed decisions.

What does it take to be a guidebook author today?

Curiosity. Persistence. Flexibility. Stamina. A strong stomach. The ability to sleep in noisy environments on planes, trains, buses, boats, etc. also comes in handy.

—A.A.





The 2018 editions of John Brierley's bestselling CAMINO GUIDES are now available!

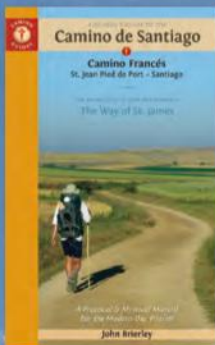
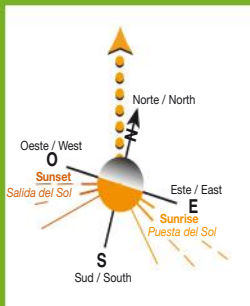
Each guidebook is in full color with:

- Overview route planner
- Daily stage maps with optional routes and color photographs
- Contour guides with elevations
- List of all pilgrim hostels and alternative accommodation
- Town plans showing location of hostels and hotels
- Sun-Compass to aid orientation
- Practical notes on preparation
- Equipment checklist
- Historical notes and places of special interest.

In addition to the physical route there are pointers to:

- the Mystical path with Inspirational quotations and space for Personal reflections
- Self-Review questionnaire to help prepare for the inner journey.

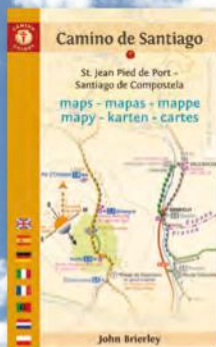
All this designed to fit easily into the pilgrim's pocket with the slimline guides measuring only 4.5" x 7.5". The map books are even lighter as they only contain the daily stage maps, contour guides and town plans.



A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago

ISBN 978-1-912216-00-0

288 pages • \$29.99



Camino de Santiago Maps

ISBN 978-1-912216-03-1

112 pages • \$19.99



A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino Portugués

ISBN 978-1-912216-01-7

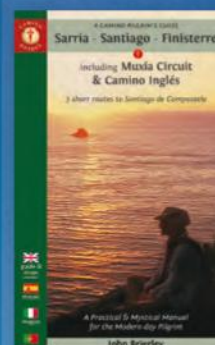
256 pages • \$26.99



Camino Portugués Maps

ISBN 978-1-912216-04-8

112 pages • \$19.99



A Camino Pilgrim's Guide Sarria — Santiago — Finisterre

including:

- Muxía Circuit
- Camino Inglés

ISBN 978-1-912216-02-4

160 pages • \$21.99

Published by



Distributed by



... [Q & A] ...

WITH CRAIG STORTI

About *Why Travel Matters: A Guide to the Life-Changing Effects of Travel*

...
WHY DID YOU WRITE THIS BOOK?

I had to. Travel increases our understanding of our self and the world in ways no other human activity can. What could be more important than advancing such a noble cause?



WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS BOOK?

I want people to be excited by travel, to put down this book and say: I've got to go somewhere. I want them to be so inspired by the opportunities for personal development the book describes that they can't wait to take a trip—and grow.

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK UNLIKE OTHER TRAVEL BOOKS?

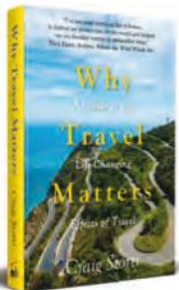
What's original about the book is that it is about the consequences of travel; not about the trip but the *meaning* of the trip; not about the places but the *impact* of the places on the traveler. The other thing that makes it original is the more than 150 quotations from the great travelers and travel writers, from Homer and Gilgamesh on down.

DO YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR OWN PERSONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES IN THIS BOOK?

I do include a few personal anecdotes (from Morocco, India, and Nepal) but to be honest I have chosen to draw more upon the fabulous anecdotes from any number of brilliant travel narratives. I know readers always like to know about the author, so I have added a few bits. But in the end, this book is not about any particular traveler or journey; it's about the effects of the journey.

IF YOU HAD TO PICK THE KEY MESSAGES YOU ARE TRYING TO CONVEY WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

That travel is synonymous with personal growth, that travel undermines ethnocentrism—the origin of intolerance, and that if you're not careful, you will be a tourist and miss out on the life-changing effects of travel. Be a traveler, not a tourist.



Why Travel Matters: A Guide to the Life-Changing Effects of Travel

By: Craig Storti
 ISBN: 9781473670280
 Available: April 17, 2018
 Cloth/Gift, \$24.95



Distributed by: Hachette Book Group

Travel Books

Meet a Guidebook Author

Cameron Quincy Todd, author of a Fodor's Travel guide to New Orleans and a contributor to Fodor's Hotels

Describe your first brush with wanderlust.

I started traveling at a very young age: Central America, the Caribbean, long train trips across France and Germany. I remember asking my mom once why I couldn't have an expensive pair of jeans, and she told me our family didn't spend money on things like that: we went on vacation. When I was 12, she pulled me out of school for three weeks so I could go with a friend's family on a Catholic pilgrimage to Ireland. We weren't Catholic; she just thought I could learn something.



When writing a guidebook, how do you strike a balance between covering the must-sees and leading readers off the beaten path?

I like to follow a rule of thumb one of the Fodor's editors taught me: what would I recommend if this was the traveler's first and last visit to the place, and they only had a weekend to spend there? This rules out any places that don't add to a traveler's overall experience of a destination. I'm careful to evaluate any "musts": Is this overhyped or worth it? Is there a less-well-known alternative that provides a similar experience?



How do you reconcile the desire to share good information with the desire to keep a place secret and not, for lack of a better phrase, ruin it?

The thing is, most places do want more business, and a certain amount of outside visitors can even enhance the atmosphere of a location. I include some local secrets when I'm writing about a place, but I'm careful to present them accurately: if the lines are long, if the address is hard to find, if the service is rough. The goal here is to attract only the types of visitors who will really appreciate such places. My #1 travel pet peeve is when tourists expect a place to adjust to their expectations. This is really how places get ruined. It's fine if a certain trip or experience just isn't for you, but remember that place means something to other people, long before and after your visit.

What does it take to be a guidebook author today?

There's a certain balance between personality and objectivity. Expert, personal opinions are great, but when I'm writing about my hometown I still have to think like a tourist. Would they be able to get here without a car? Is this place worthwhile if it was my first time visiting? Would I enjoy this place if I were older, younger, had kids? Every writer needs to have a handful of local experts or good sources and be able to interact and ask questions on the ground level. The writer has to have a great respect for the destination. There's no room for travel writing that condescends to a location or its people.

—A.A.



Travel Books

Palestine, and Erdoğan's Turkey, and the thorny dynamics that have arisen because of Brexit, Europe's refugee crisis, and the Trump presidency.

Steves is a staunch advocate of conscious, well-informed travel to challenging places where politics are not abstractions but facts of daily life. Firsthand engagement in such places is the antidote, he contends, to the dangerous effects of ignorance and nativism.

"People-to-people travel experiences can be a powerful force for peace," Steves writes in the book, and they have the power to stimulate enlightened activism at home. Debt relief for the developing world, drug policy reform, and affordable housing are among the causes he's embraced as a result of traveling.

Steves says he sees the arc of his career as an educational travel writer's corollary to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. In the '80s he told people how to travel through Europe on a budget. In the '90s he emphasized history, art, and culture. And since 9/11, he says, "my mission has been to bring home empathy for the rest of humanity and help people deal with fear." Look no further than *Travel as a Political Act* for evidence that the backpacker ethos has ripened into a fully mature worldview.

Lonely at the Top

Piers Pickard, Lonely Planet's managing director of publishing, says the brand has succeeded by evolving along with the changes that have made its style of travel increasingly accessible: more and cheaper



flights, the opening of borders, and the democratization of information in which the smartphone plays no small part. "People are more confident than ever to travel," he says.

The Solo Travel Handbook (Lonely Planet, Jan.) speaks to that observation. "Twenty years ago there would have been some dread associated with [traveling alone], but people want to get out there and do it," Pickard says, noting that female empowerment is an important aspect of the book. "If women

NEW SERIES

The new MICHELIN® Green Guide Short Stays series presents the best of a city and beyond for a 24-hour visit, a weekend or longer.

This pocket-size guide helps you do it all with its detailed maps, recommended restaurants and hotels, and respected MICHELIN star-rating system. Includes a detachable map.

| Title | ISBN13 | #Pgs | Price |
|---------------|---------------|------|---------|
| Charleston | 9782067230200 | 192 | \$11.99 |
| London | 9782067230231 | 160 | \$11.99 |
| New Orleans | 9782067230217 | 160 | \$11.99 |
| New York City | 9782067230248 | 192 | \$11.99 |
| Paris | 9782067230224 | 160 | \$11.99 |

Copyright © 2018 Michelin North America, Inc. All rights reserved.

Meet a Guidebook Author

Lebawit Lily Girma, author of Moon guides to Belize and to the Dominican Republic

Describe your first brush with wanderlust.

I grew up overseas [Girma was born in Ethiopia and raised on the Ivory Coast], so travel has always been an inextricable part of my life. But that first brush with wanderlust happened when I was boarding a plane to England at 14 years old. I was heading to my new boarding school in Bournemouth and I remember the adrenaline—a mix of fear and excitement—knowing I was heading to Europe, a new continent, and away from family for the first time. From the ride to the airport to experiencing an international flight and landing in a new place where I now had to speak another language, I was hooked.

What does it take to be a guidebook author today?

Aside from the expected skills of writing concisely, being organized, and being observant, you need to have good social media skills. Instagram and Facebook in particular are a huge part of marketing a destination, with more people searching for travel tips and inspiration online and on these platforms. You should also have decent photography skills. As a guidebook writer, you're expected to help promote the book, and might be asked to share images from the road.

When writing a guidebook, how do you strike a balance between covering the must-sees and leading readers off the beaten path?

I keep an eye out for the unusual places and things to do, but I make sure these are consistent before I include them. I want to know that a year from now this place or activity will still be there and still be amazing. There are no guarantees, but with practice one can almost tell right away what's reliable and what isn't. I try to keep it balanced by including those historic, cultural sights that are too big to leave out, and mentioning a few things that represent the essence of the destination and will remain with the traveler long after he or she has left. I always make sure there are places you wouldn't know of unless you had my book, and that comes from years of living and experiencing the destination.

What can a guidebook offer that a web search can't?

When you only use digital info, it's hard to distinguish what's accurate and what's honest. With guidebooks, you know who the author is, and that author takes a lot of time reviewing places and giving an authentic take on them. As professional travel writers, they have a reputation and thus a vested interest in putting out their best work. They're on the ground, scoping out what's worth telling, and they save travelers hours and hours of online research. Lastly, guidebooks are always available whether or not you have access to wi-fi or the electricity goes out—and that is crucial when you're on the road.

—A.A.



are wondering, 'Can I or can't I?' we want to give them the advice and information they need to give it a go."

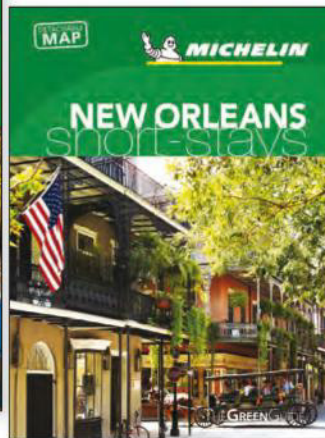
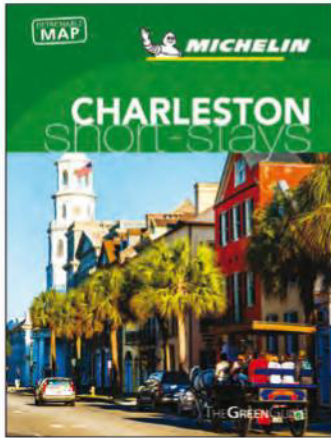
Special interests are also driving travel decisions these days, Pickard says, and Lonely Planet's forthcoming publications follow suit. A widespread decade-long enthusiasm for culinary travel shows no sign of slowing, and Lonely Planet tapped its far-flung network of local experts for August's *Ultimate Eats*, which Pickard describes as a ranking of "the 500 most memorable food experiences in the world, whether it's Noma in Copenhagen or a hole-in-the-wall curry house in Punjab."

Cruising is a travel interest that Pickard acknowledges Lonely Planet would never have covered 30 years ago, but he says the niche has broadened to include more options for exploratory on-shore adventures. In June, the publisher is releasing Cruise Ports guides for Alaska, the Caribbean, and Scandinavia. The last title joins a full menu of existing Lonely Planet products devoted to the region as a whole, its individual countries, and major cities.

"Those countries are at the vanguard of world culture in ways they hadn't been before," Pickard says, pointing to trending interest in their progressive governments, food, design, and lifestyle. Scandinavia also offers opportunities for the kinds of nature travel and city visits that he says have become increasingly in-demand.



Travel Books



In April, Lonely Planet introduces the first two titles in a new line of hardcovers aimed at travelers who are seeking new things to do on return trips to favorite destinations. *Experience Italy* is devoted to a perennially popular destination, and *Experience the USA* responds to a huge surge of interest in the national parks

generated by their 2016 centennial and an observation that American cities have become more interesting to visit in recent years. Pickard attributes the latter to enhanced local food culture and craft brewing scenes, and what he calls “social accommodations” that make “live-like-a-local” experiences easy.

He also notes increased interest in quick trips, a trend that other publishers are taking into account, too. Michelin, for instance, is launching a pocket-sized line called Green Guide Short-Stays in June, with volumes on Charleston, New Orleans, New York City, Paris, and London.

lonely planet

INTRODUCING THE CRUISE PORTS GUIDEBOOK SERIES

GUIDES TO PERFECT DAYS ON SHORE

CRUISE PORTS ALASKA
A GUIDE TO PERFECT DAYS ON SHORE

CRUISE PORTS CARIBBEAN
A GUIDE TO PERFECT DAYS ON SHORE

CRUISE PORTS SCANDINAVIA & NORTHERN EUROPE
A GUIDE TO PERFECT DAYS ON SHORE

CRUISE PORTS
THE BEST SHOPPING, EATING & LOCAL TIPS FOR YOUR DAYS IN PORT

Cruise Ports Alaska
9781787014190 | Jun 2018

Cruise Ports Caribbean
9781787014183 | Jun 2018

Cruise Ports Scandinavia & Northern Europe
9781787014206 | Jun 2018

EXPLORE EVERY DAY. Available on Edelweiss or contact customerservice@lonelyplanet.com.

America First

For all the talk in the American travel milieu about foreign destinations trending, in 2017 domestic trips accounted for 85% of vacation travel by Americans, a 7% gain over the previous year, according to a report by the travel and hospitality marketing company MMGY Global. Forty percent of those were first-time visits, which goes a long way toward explaining why Moon now emphasizes U.S. road trips, regions, states, and mid-market cities. “Moon is focused on trying to give active guidance to readers on how to choose the places that are best for them,” says Avalon Travel publisher Bill Newlin. “Why to go to a place is just as important as how.”

Newlin says that many of the strategic decisions he and his team make are driven in large part by the lack of competition from other major publishers. *Moon Nevada* (June), for instance, is more

SURF'S UP

Print-digital dynamics remain a hot topic in the guidebook sector. Search engine results, once merely a significant aspect of travel planning, are now travelers' #1 source of information when putting together a vacation, according to travel and hospitality marketing company MMGY Global's report “Portrait of American Travelers, 2017–2018.”

Rick Steves' Europe maintains an active online presence, but its namesake questions the general traveling public's reliance on the web: “Are they getting the same value of information out of the internet as from a guidebook?” Several of Steves' competitors are working hard to answer that query in the affirmative.

While Fodor's isn't introducing any new guidebook titles this season, its website is being “expanded and enhanced,” says editorial director Doug Stallings, with content that complements the publisher's print products “but doesn't fit into the guidebook format.” That includes newsy updates, photo essays, and listicles with sticky titles like “Party by the Pool: The 9 Best Hotel Pool Scenes in L.A.” Stallings says the site's Fodor's Hotels component is re-emphasizing its authority as a professional, objective review source, as opposed to what he calls the “reader-generated noise” found on many go-to review sites.

In 2016 Insight Guides started bundling digital products with print purchases, and Agnieszka Mizak, managing director at parent company APA Publications, says the strategy has proven so successful that “all our destinations have either an e-book or app or both.” The publisher is adding destinations—Budapest, Cuba, Iceland, Madrid—to its pocket-size Insight Explore Guides, which include access to a companion e-book download. New additions to the regions and countries roster include *Insight Guides American Southwest* (June) and *Insight Guides Madagascar* (Nov.). Mizak notes that the Insight Guides website includes a booking engine for trip planning to destinations it covers.

Toward the end of 2017, APA, which also publishes Berlitz guides and phrasebooks, added Rough Guides to its portfolio, as a complement to the glossier Insight line. Through the third quarter of 2017, prior to the acquisition, APA ranked sixth and Rough Guides seventh in the NPD BookScan Travel Publishing Year Book's world travel guide rankings. Mizak says the purchase will double APA's reach and revenues.

As part of Lonely Planet's push to grow as a multimedia travel hub, the publisher began partnering with GoPro in April 2017 to add more video to LP's website. Travel media company Skift reports that 63% of consumers consult social channels in vacation planning, and August 2017 saw the launch of Trips by Lonely Planet, an app that allows users to share photos, videos, and commentary as well as gain access to travel information. Lonely Planet's year-old Guides app offers maps, phrasebooks, and local search functionality to a growing number of cities.

But however bright and shiny the rapidly developing world of digital travel content may be, DK Eyewitness Travel publisher Georgina Dee remains a true believer in the core product in this publishing sector, the venerable guidebook. “The play between print and digital is always at the forefront of our minds, but travelers are [already] well served by the digital world,” she says. “Rather than adding to the noise, we're focused on reducing the noise with beautiful, useful books.”

—D.H.



111 PLACES THAT YOU MUST NOT MISS

Guidebooks For Locals And Experienced Travelers

ISBN: 9783740802627/\$19.90

ISBN: 9783740800307/\$19.90

ISBN: 9783740801595/\$19.90

Order from: ACC Distribution • P: 800-252-5231
E: ussales@accpublishinggroup.com

emons: www.111places.com



Meet a Guidebook Author

Russell Maddicks, who is working on his fifth Culture Smart! guide

When writing a guidebook, how do you strike a balance between covering the must-sees and leading readers off the beaten path?

The guides I've written focus more on the experience of being in the country than the nuts and bolts of where to get a coffee or what time the bus leaves to a specific destination. I always include the must-visits but I also include the must-eats, the must-reads, and the top words in the local language that will help you break the ice and, hopefully, tease a grin from the people you meet.

What does it take to be a guidebook author today?

The rise of the food revolution, the like-a-local concept of travel, and the greater cultural awareness of many travellers today mean that travel writers have to bring a greater level of expertise to their books. It's not enough to list the best beaches and most splendid sunsets—I have to be a food writer, understand history, politics, language, and culture, and have an in-depth knowledge of such diverse themes as birdwatching and the etiquette of business meetings. Of course, nobody can know everything so the most important skill of any writer is networking: hooking up with knowledgeable locals who can share their insights with you.

What's the biggest misconception about travel writing?

My friends think I get paid royally to be on holiday and that, when I'm not lazing around on picture postcard beaches or being pampered at luxury spa resorts, my job is an endless round of gourmet meals at top restaurants and boozy fun at cocktail parties. The reality couldn't be more different. There's never enough time to get everything done when on a research trip, and any downtime from a packed itinerary is taken up with writing and research or uploading posts on social media.

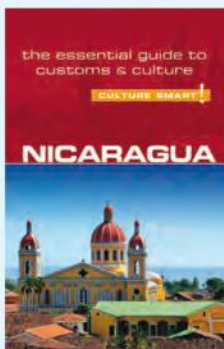
What can a guidebook offer that a web search can't?

The secret, for me, is the author's voice, which cuts through that avalanche of conflicting and confusing content you find online. It's a comfort to have a book in your backpack or briefcase that can help you to quickly find your feet in a foreign country.

What defines great travel writing for you?

A great travel story doesn't have to be based in an exotic corner of a far-flung country, but it does have to conjure up a place: the sights, the smells, the sounds. Nearly all of our most cherished travel memories include a personal interaction with somebody we meet. I'm drawn to writers who can capture that kind of connection and the essential humanity that binds us all together, wherever we're from.

—A.A.



"STARRED REVIEW" TRAVEL GUIDES BY ABBY DENSON

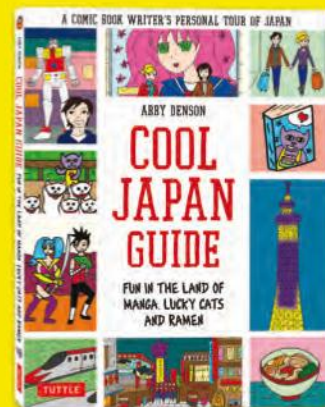


COOL TOKYO GUIDE

978-4-8053-1441-8 \$14.99 flapped pb
AVAILABLE MARCH 2018!

★ "The overall result is a love song to a city and an inspiration for prospective visitors."

—*"Starred Review"*
Booklist



COOL JAPAN GUIDE

978-4-8053-1279-7 \$14.95 flapped pb
AVAILABLE NOW!

★ "Unlike most travel books, this title assures active travelers and the armchair variety alike a delightful time and a very interesting trip."

—*"Starred Review"*
Library Journal

TUTTLE

Available at: ips@ingramcontent.com



MARCH 6, 2018

New York, NY

Register today for the most comprehensive and immersive learning experience on how innovation can grow your publishing business and audience.

Speakers include leaders from:

The New York Times

BuzzFeed FOOD52

Google

Penguin
Random
House

THRIVE
GLOBAL

hachette
BOOK GROUP

Epic
Reads

DO
SOMETHING
.ORG

LENNY

MACMILLAN

CONDÉ NAST

Register today to access the early-bird admission fee
PubTechConnect.com

CONFERENCE PRESENTED BY:

Center for Publishing

Caroline Waxler

Executive Producer
CWaxler@PublishersWeekly.com

Andrea Chambers

Co-Chair
Andrea.Chambers@NYU.edu

Carl Pritzkat

Co-Chair
CPritzkat@PublishersWeekly.com

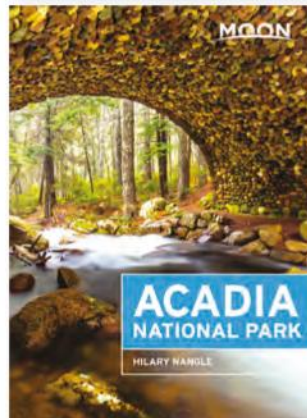
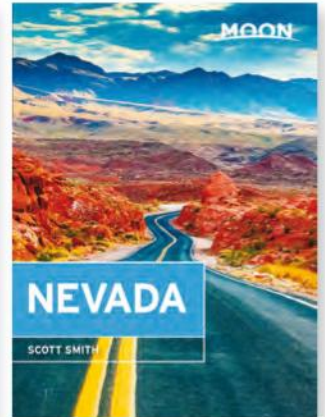
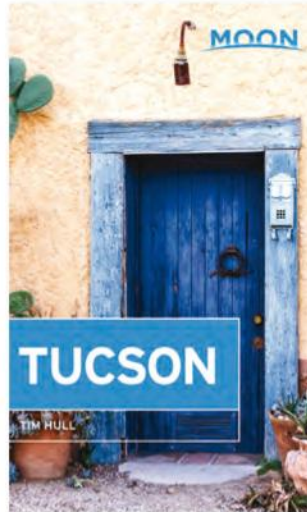
PubTechConnect.com

#PubTechConnect

PREMIER SPONSORS

Westchester
Publishing Services

Penguin
Random
House



about the desert than Las Vegas, and *Moon Tucson* (Aug.) covers the kind of interesting second city the line specializes in. Other forthcoming guides are devoted to Michigan's Upper Peninsula (Apr.), Acadia National Park (May), Washington State's Olympic Peninsula (May), and the Blue Ridge Parkway (June).

Newlin cautions against drawing overarching conclusions about global travel by watching the guidebook publishing trade winds blow. "Tourism as a business is massive; the guidebook industry is less so," he says. He also notes that there's no way to compete with the TripAdvisors and Yelps for on-the-spot travel information. Newlin is another guidebook veteran from the backpacker lineage—he did a boots-on-the-ground edit of *China Off the Beaten Track* (originally published in the U.S. by St. Martin's in 1983), which he calls "the first guide for independent travelers in the modern era" for travel in that country. Having been with Moon since 1990, he has convictions about what accounts for staying power in the field; he reports that Moon has seen 40% growth in net sales and profits in the last five years. "We've evolved with the form," Newlin says. "Plain vanilla is not going to survive in the age of the internet." ■

Dave Herndon is a veteran travel writer and magazine editor who is currently reporting for freelance duty from southwest France.

Observing the Culture

Meg Wolitzer's new novel, *The Female Persuasion*, takes on women's power and determination in the 21st century

BY MICHELE FILGATE

There are ambitious people, and there are people who define ambition. Meg Wolitzer—whose 10th novel, *The Female Persuasion*, will be published by Riverhead in April—is in the second category. Her first novel, *Sleepwalking* (Random House, 1982), was written on a typewriter while she was still an undergraduate. (She graduated from Brown university in 1981.)

A lot has changed since *Sleepwalking* was published. Back then, “you really could imagine yourself with a high collar, sitting in a lidded glass window,” Wolitzer says, sitting on the couch in her book-filled Upper West Side apartment. “I just gave a presentation at the Mount [Edith Wharton’s home], and we went on a tour and saw her library. There’s a photograph of her with her two dogs on her shoulders. They looked like they were a part of her clothes. The idea of imagining yourself sitting with a pen as the night dies, writing, that whole thing has fallen away.”

What hasn’t vanished, however, is a hunger from readers for stories that they can lose themselves in. Wolitzer writes big, immersive novels (she describes her ideal reading experience as wanting to be “marinated in the book”) that tackle themes she can’t stop thinking about through compelling characters. “Pleasure is a word I think about a lot, as opposed to

entertainment,” Wolitzer says. “They are very, very different. We all want to write the kind of book that we want to read. If you put in the things that you are thinking about and create characters who feel like they could live—at least for me, that’s the way I want to write.”



© NINA SUBIN

Author Profile

The Interestings (Riverhead, 2013) deals with envy and creativity, and this latest novel, *The Female Persuasion*, addresses “ideas about misogyny, ideas about power, ideas about feminism,” she says, as well as the political climate we’ve found ourselves in: “a darkening of the moment.” It’s also about “the person you meet who changes your life forever.” She adds: “The title was a North Star for me. It’s a pun, really, because there is a persuasive woman in [the book], and it’s the idea of the slightly icky female persuasion, the coyness of that phrase. It means women, but also how women influence one another. What does it mean to have power in the world? What does it mean to influence people?”

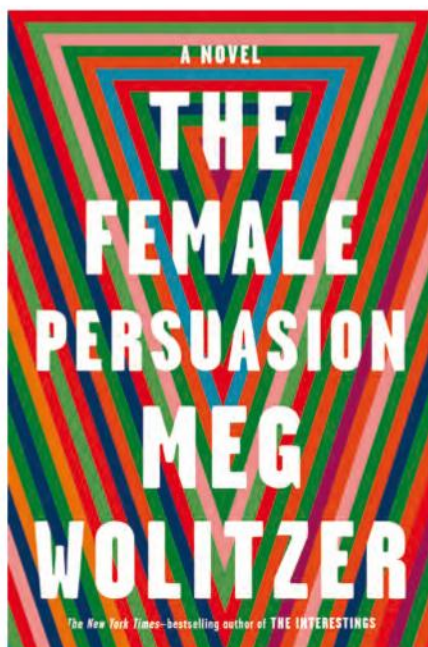
The novel centers around several characters: Greer, a young woman who, during her first semester of college, meets the legendary Faith Frank, author of the book *The Female Persuasion*, “which essentially implored women to see that there was a great deal more to being female than padded shoulders and acting tough”; Greer’s best friend, Zee, a lesbian with a passion for social activism who introduces Greer to Faith’s work; Greer’s boyfriend, Cory; and Faith herself, a sexy-boot-wearing second-wave feminist.

Greer and Cory are described as “twin rocket ships” because of their intelligence and ambition. “They shared a single-mindedness that you couldn’t teach someone; a person had to have it as part of their neurology,” Wolitzer writes. After college, Greer works for Loci, Faith’s speaker forum and charity funded by a venture capitalist; Zee wants to work for Faith, but ends up teaching for a nonprofit in Chicago. Cory, meanwhile, gives up a high-paying consultancy position because of a tragic accident.

“What I wanted to do in the book is look at success and meaning in different lights,” Wolitzer says. “On the one hand, you can go to work for the famous feminist Faith Frank; on the other hand, you can be like Cory and clean houses and take care of your mother and do what has been seen as women’s work, domestic work, and give up your more conventional goals. That’s another life that may really be a valuable one.”

In a story that deals with political content, the characters, not the themes, have to lead the way, Wolitzer notes. “You have to humanize people and give them weird little quirks.” She writes flawed characters (“Imperfection: my specialty!” she says), which makes them feel real.

Hesitant to define her book by a single category, Wolitzer says: “I don’t know if it’s a novel about feminism. There’s a really nice Grace Paley line that Mary Gordon told me: ‘You write like a woman,’ someone said to Paley, and she answered



with, ‘If a horse could write, it would write like a horse. I’m a feminist, so I write like a feminist.’”

The Female Persuasion couldn’t be more timely, as the #MeToo movement calls out men who have abused their power and privilege to take advantage of women, whose accounts of mistreatment have been diminished or disbelieved. Greer’s experience mirrors that of many #MeToo activists: a man sexually assaults her, and she is immediately silenced. “I started thinking about having language for things; it’s not even just about having the right words. Some people are uncomfortable saying what they feel,” Wolitzer says.

Part of Greer’s journey is learning how to speak out. Wolitzer’s journey, too, involved developing a more authoritative voice. “I think my writing changed when

I put *the* in front of my titles,” she says. “It had more command. This is *The Wife*, there is no other, this is the one. Before then my books were *Sleepwalking* and *Surrender, Dorothy*. I didn’t do it on purpose, but I realized it at some point, and it was funny to me.”

In August, Wolitzer published an essay in *Lenny Letter*, the online feminist newsletter created by Lena Dunham and Jennifer Konner, called “Learning to Feel Powerful,” where she talks about the evolution of her own sense of agency. The first moment she remembers feeling some sense of control was at five, when she placed a bunch of magnets in her mouth. As she matured, she drew power from things she excelled at. But in January 2017, she felt the sudden power of objects again while taking part in the Women’s March in D.C. “Our [pink] hats were objects, symbols, shields, and they remain inextricable from everyone’s memory of that day.”

Objects take on a charged significance in Wolitzer’s book, too. Faith’s sexy suede boots and a letter that Zee writes to Faith and entrusts Greer with play significant roles in the novel. Readers, Wolitzer says, “want things that make the world bristle with life. It’s not just the characters who do this. It’s the inanimate objects as well.”

The Female Persuasion is ultimately a realistic and hopeful book. The ideal world so many women envisioned when they voted for Hillary Clinton is something Zee wants, too: “To live in a world of female power—mutual power—felt like a desirable dream to Zee. Having power meant that the world was like a pasture with the gate left open, and that there was nothing stopping you, and you could run and run.” ■

Michele Filgate is a contributing editor at Literary Hub and on the board of the National Book Critics circle.

JANUARY 2018

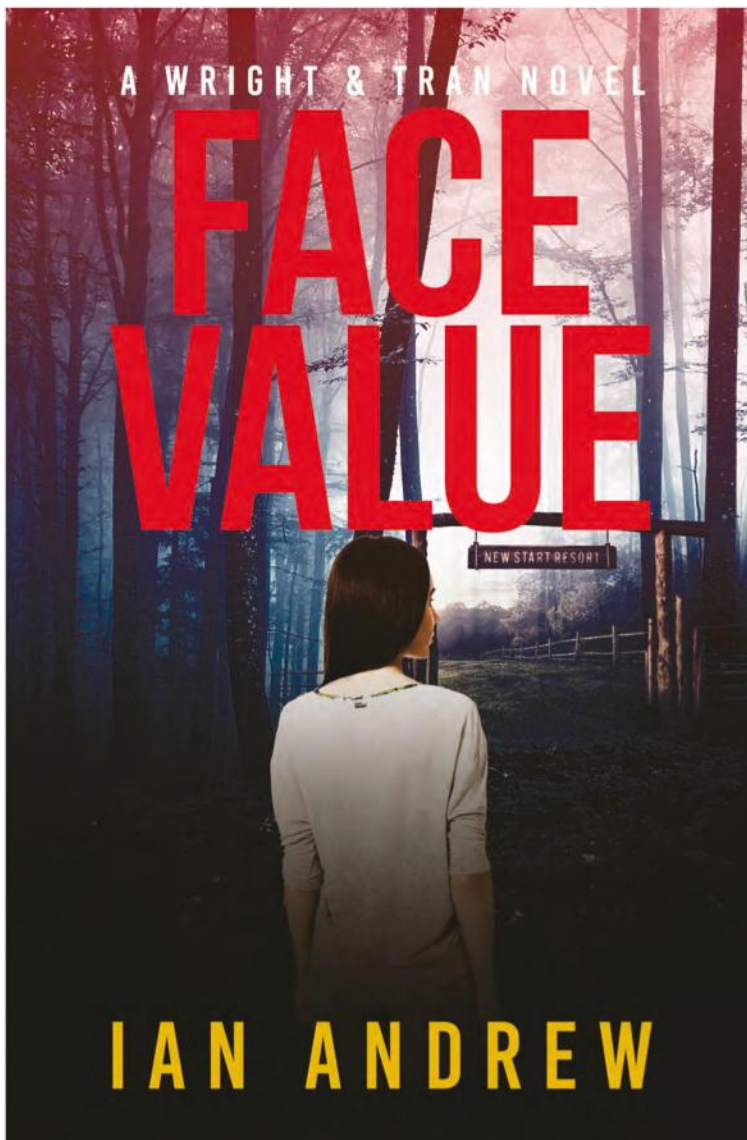
booklife®

— YOUR GUIDE TO SELF-PUBLISHING —

Book Cover Redesign ■ Indie Scouting Report ■

Ask the Editor with Betty Sargent ■

First Lines from BookLife Authors ■ 60 New Titles Listed



A Win For Indie Authors

After embracing self-publishing, Ian Andrew, the winner of the 2017 BookLife Prize, sets his sights on helping other independent authors

BY NICOLE AUDREY SPECTOR

Face Value, Ian Andrew's detective thriller and the winner of the 2017 BookLife Prize, is packed with action and suspense. It's easy to imagine that a first draft was dashed off in a storm of passion, the author seldom pausing to apply edits until after everything was down on paper. But, in fact, Andrew edited the novel section by section as he wrote it, taking contemplative breathers to review and perfect each scene before advancing to the next.

"That constant back-and-forth allows me to tighten the story as I go," Andrew says. "I also like my details and write almost visually, so I have to be cautious that I don't slow the story down too much because of that."

Andrew, who has worked as an intelligence officer specializing in antisubmarine warfare, is also mindful to give readers the grit and adventure they may associate with upper-level military operations. But, most of this stuff is pure fiction.

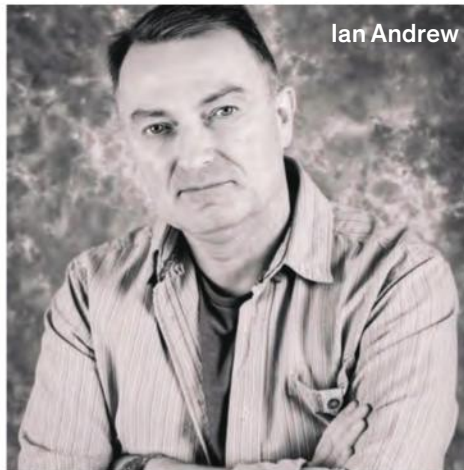
"The majority of real intelligence gathering work is boring, but with a novel you get to leave out all of the humdrum and concentrate on the exciting highlights," Andrew says. "I think being able to use appropriate language and having a handle on the equipment and techniques helps set up believable scenarios."

Writing under a pseudonym from the rural southwest of Western Australia, Andrew self-published *Face Value*, the first of the Wright & Tran series, in 2015, followed by the second in the series, *Flight Path*, in 2016, and the third, *Fall Guys*, last spring. "I went indie in 2014 after I finished my first novel, *A Time to Every Purpose*, [which was] cross-genre, not easy to pigeonhole, and had a religious twist to it," explains the 52-year-old writer. "Also, I wasn't 20 years old and didn't have the luxury of waiting for a decade or more to be 'discovered.' After the fifth rejection letter, I decided to go it alone. When it featured as an Amazon bestseller in not only its genre, but overall in the top 100 Amazon lists, I felt quite vindicated."

Help an Author Out

Andrew also feels a calling to help other authors get their work out there. He's been running Book Reality Experience, a publishing-on-demand service since 2015.

"Having learnt by trial and error how to independently publish a novel, I thought it would be good to run some training courses for other authors wishing to do the same," Andrew says. "After a lot of the training sessions, authors said thanks, but then asked if I could publish it for them. That brought about the Book Reality Experience." Along



with ambitious writing plans (by this time next year he anticipates having the fourth Wright & Tran novel published and the fifth nearly completed), Andrew plans on further building out BRE.

Now for the kangaroo in the room (hey, he's in Australia): what will he make of this BookLife victory? Well, first he'll finish processing the shock of the win.

"Not in the slightest did I think I'd win," Andrew says. "I simply

thought the fact that the competition included a [critique] from the professional reviewers of *Publishers Weekly* was too good to miss. As each round went by and I continued to progress, I became more excited, yet was just happy to have gotten as far as I did. I am honestly not sure what the reality will bring, but I would like to think a major opportunity would be for increased exposure of my novels to a much wider audience."

Less unclear is what he'll do with the \$5,000 writing stipend. "Part of it will go on a gift for my wife, Jacki, and part of it will go on a signet ring for me," he says. "I think it's important there are some tactile, material things that I can look to and that will remind me of the award. Most of it will be plowed back into the business of writing and will probably fund a promotional trip back to the U.K. in April."

On a broader note, Andrew is hopeful that this achievement will give a boost to fellow indie crime authors—and perhaps the self-publishing category as a whole. "[Indie] crime thrillers are already an amazingly strong genre, so I don't believe that it needs much in the way of help; however, in the wider indie author world, a high-profile award like this—backed by an industry powerhouse like *Publishers Weekly*, with almost 150 years of history behind it—can't do anything but strengthen the indie author brand," he says. "I honestly do not see that indies and traditional pathways should be pitted against one another. I see it simply that indie offers a new way, new opportunities, and added diversity for the world of books." ■

Nicole Audrey Spector is a writer whose work has appeared in the Atlantic, the New Yorker, and Vogue.

From the Author: Robert D. Finch

GREAT OBJECTIVES

**Power, Fame and Money.
Healthy, Wealthy and
Wise.**

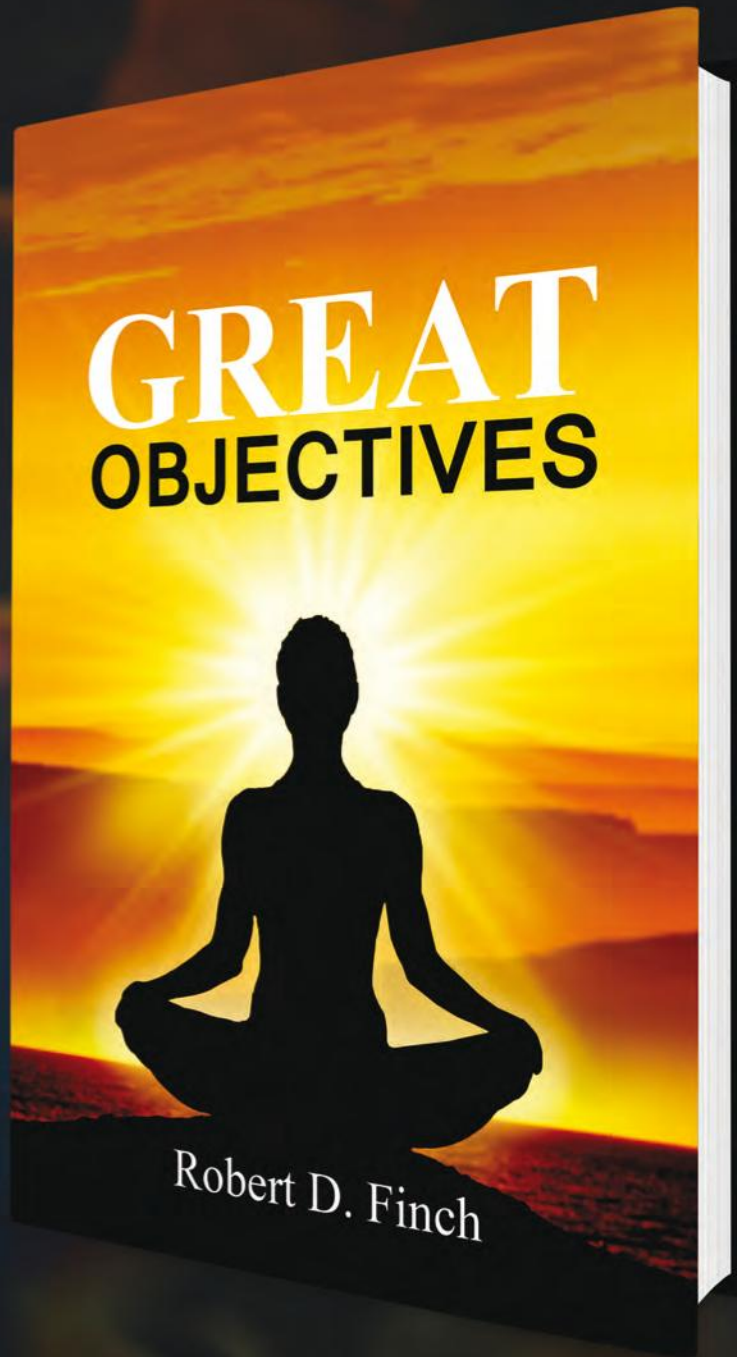
**What is your definition of
Happiness?**

The book discusses the methods of arriving at such plans and weighs some of the ethical and moral problems an

"...helpful to ethicists, students of philosophy and religion and those who are drawn to humanist ethic." The US Review of Books

"...Finch is a reflective soothsayer and reasonable historian..." Pacific Book Review

Get this book in Amazon, Barnes and Noble, PageTurner, Press and Media bookstore, Chapter's Indigo in Canada, Waterstones in UK and Booktopia in AUS and a lot more.



eBook
\$2.99

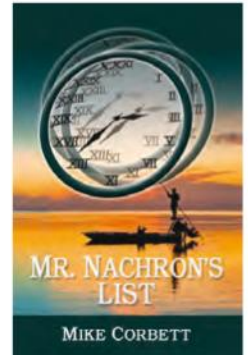
Paperback
\$18.99

Hardcover
\$29.99

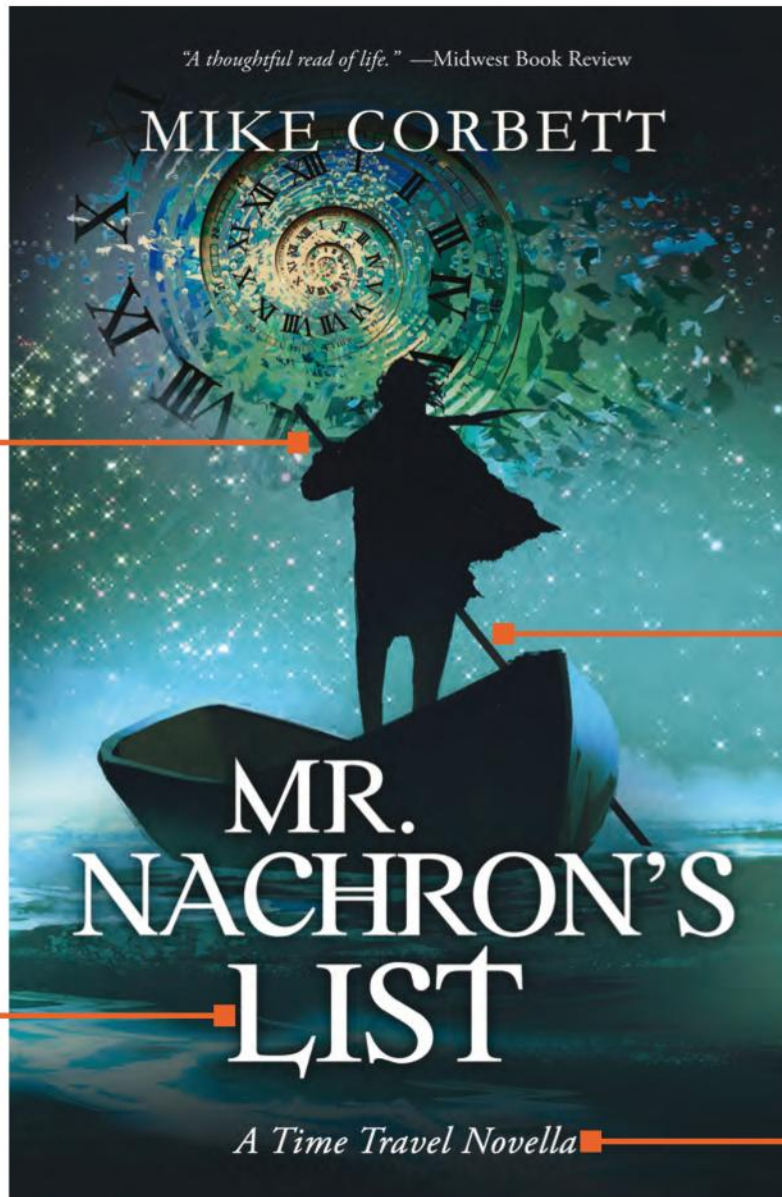
Cover Redesign

This month, Michelle Argyle at Melissa Williams Design reimagines the cover of *Mr. Nachron's List* by Mike Corbett, who praised the new cover and thanked Argyle for “stimulating the part of us that connects eye to brain.”

To submit a book for a free cover redesign, email us at booklifeeditor@booklife.com.



Original Cover



Showcasing the image of the man in the boat reveals the book's main character and its focus.

Replacing the photograph with an illustration gives the cover and the story a more whimsical feel.

Choosing a font that matches the feel of the artwork drives home the fantastical elements of the book in a way that will hook fans of the genre.

The subtitle indicates the book's theme and will appeal to the intended audience.

Spirits watch over Juanita. But who is she? A mystic in love who holds life sacred? Or a ghost-possessed railroad saboteur?



A mystical vision of an airship appears to fifteen-year-old Juanita. The long-dead captain commands her to prevent California's thrown-away people—including young children—from boarding trains to an asylum. That institution's director plots murder to reduce the inmate population. Yet to save innocent lives Juanita must take lives of the corrupt. How can she reconcile her assignment with her belief in the sacredness of all human life? And will she survive to marry her betrothed?

Juanita sets out despite inner trepidation to sabotage the railroad. Her ancestor Billy, the ghost of a steam locomotive engineer, guides her. Then bit by bit, she discovers the gut-wrenching truths all of her ancestors neglected to reveal.

Come visit Juanita's world—an alternate nineteenth-century California—where spirits meet steampunk, where both love and anger emanate from beyond the grave.

2017 Independent Press Award (Steampunk), Kirkus Best Indie Books 2017, Shortlisted for Dante Rossetti Award YA Fiction 2017



"Like Ursula K. Le Guin, Hill pays attention to the anthropology of her invented culture in ways that enrich the story greatly."

-Kirkus Reviews, September 1, 2017

"Steampunk as it should be, with mysticism and adventure, an alternate history that warns about what could happen and a coming of age story that should appeal to teens and adults alike."

-Irene Radford, Author of the Merlin's Descendants Series

"Veteran author, Laurel Anne Hill, adeptly empowers her heroine, Juanita, to go to hell and back in a compelling coming of age story. She'll surprise the reader with uncharted territory delving into the shamanic mysticism of Native American and Mexican cultures. Get ready to barrel down the tracks in this alternate history, 'habanero' steampunk adventure."

*-Elizabeth Crowens, author of Silent Meridian,
First in Category for the Chanticleer Review's 2016 Goethe Award*



www.laurelannahill.com

BUY IT TODAY AT amazon BARNES&NOBLE & Select Retailers!

ISBN (Trade): 978-1-937818-47-0 | ISBN (Hardcover): 978-1-937818-80-7 | Pages: 352 | Publisher: Sand Hill Review Press

The Value of Free

Why it's time to stop complaining that writing is being devalued

BY JANE FRIEDMAN



Jane Friedman

A publishing success story that continues to receive mainstream (and industry) media attention is that of Rupi Kaur's *Milk and Honey*. One wonders how many more profiles can be written of Kaur, though the story offers multiple angles: her work was first self-published, for example, and it's a collection of poetry. Who reads and buys poetry anymore? Young people who use Instagram, it turns out.

Kaur started publishing her work on Tumblr in 2013, then moved to Instagram in 2014. That same year, she self-published a collection of her poetry on Amazon; soon, her popularity caught the attention of a traditional publisher. *Milk and Honey* has now sold more than a million copies and has been on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 52 consecutive weeks.

Do you suppose that Kaur, while she was writing and publishing

her work for free, ever complained that "no one values poetry anymore"? Unlikely. But I hear that complaint about the value of the written word, in some form, every week, from all types of authors who believe literature is being devalued in our culture—whether by Amazon's low prices, the huge quantity of written material now available for cheap or free, or all-you-can-read subscription plans such as Kindle Unlimited.

Early in the digital revolution of media and publishing, I discovered Kevin Kelly's brilliant article "Better Than Free." Kelly explains eight specific contexts in which something is "better than free." Some of the most applicable to writers include personalization (e.g., signed author copies), immediacy (getting something in beta version or as soon as it is released), authenticity (a guarantee of an authorized high-quality version),

accessibility (ease of use or access), and patronage (rewarding the creators we love).

It does little good for writers to complain to their readers or to the industry that their writing isn't properly valued. Piracy isn't something that people will be shamed into abandoning, or that will go away only if we put more effort toward stamping it out. Writers (and publishers, too) receive better rewards for their time and energy when they consider the packaging and context that can be charged for—and that people are happy to pay for.

We see through communities such as Wattpad, Tapas, or China Literature (and through Kaur) that there are readers of literature delivered digitally via mobile apps. Readers may not directly pay for the majority of that content or experience, but writers and publishers can still capture value from tips and donations,

subrights and licensing, advertising, compilations and bundles, and (of course) traditional print sales.

In nonfiction, Instagrammers, bloggers, and podcasters produce volumes upon volumes of free digital content over the course of months and years that can then be curated and winnowed down into a single, cohesive book that people pay for, or into an annual event or online course or community.

When producing something for free, authors are opening the door to new fans. Instead of asking, "Will this cannibalize my sales?" or, "Am I giving too much away?" it's much smarter to ask, "Will this lead to a new reader who will pay for something they

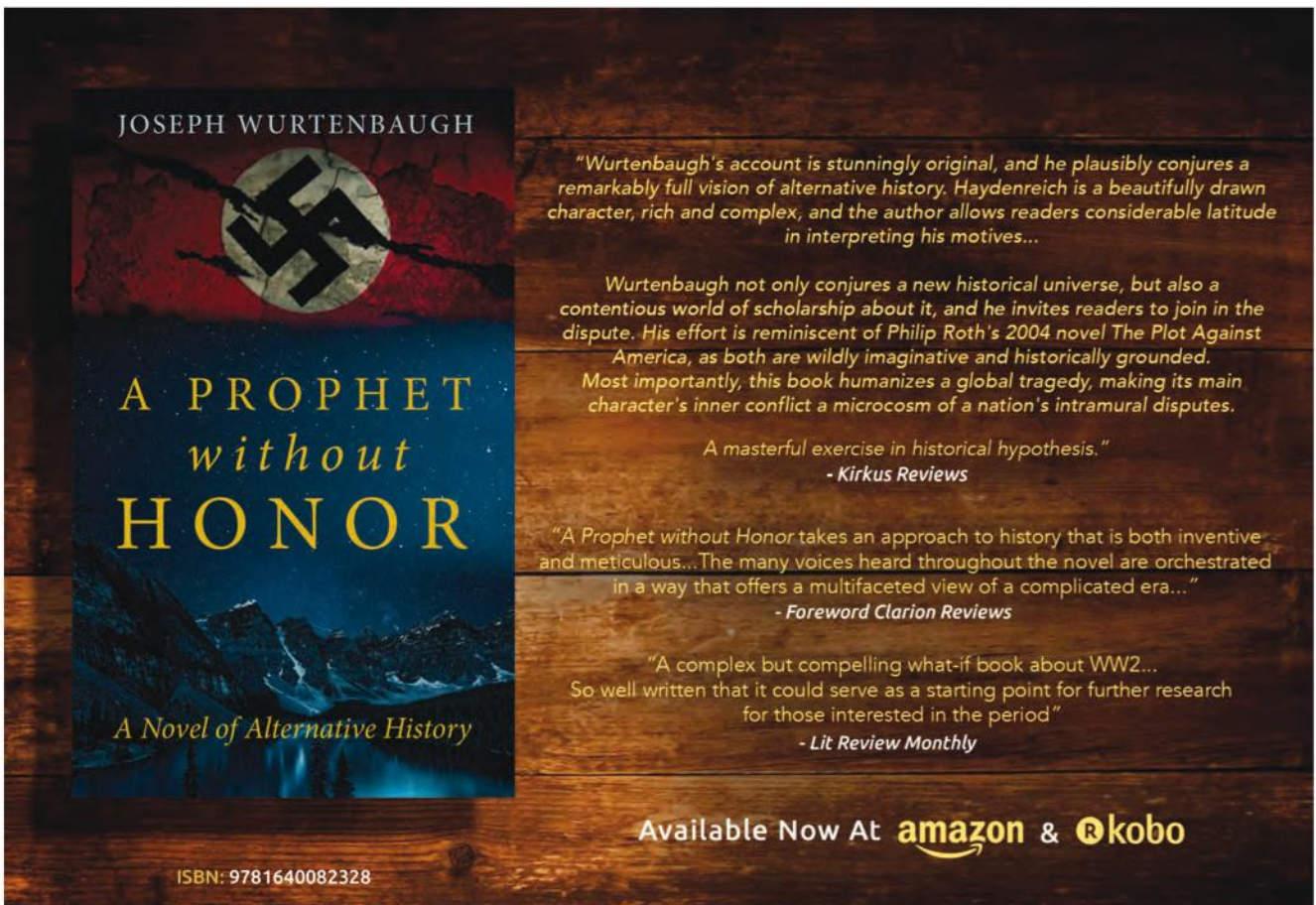
value down the road?"

Many writers meet disappointment when they're only one or two books into a career and find themselves constantly giving their work away because no readership has been developed yet and there is no demand for the work. At such a time, it can feel natural for them to blame readers and believe that their work isn't valued. The truth most likely is that the work doesn't yet hold any market value, or that the author hasn't found the package or context that would offer value worth paying for.

There's no question that market dynamics have changed and the supply of writing in the market today outpaces demand. The traditional value that a writer or publisher has provided—producing

and packaging content or a story between two covers—is only one type of offering on today's consumption spectrum, and not necessarily the most profitable or exciting one. While a book may carry the same appeal and value as it did 100 years ago to a certain segment of the market (particularly those who fetishize reading and books), it ignores a whole other group of readers who could be interested and nurtured if only authors think through what readers value in terms of experience or access. ■

Jane Friedman teaches digital media and publishing at the University of Virginia and is the former publisher of Writer's Digest.



JOSEPH WURTENBAUGH

A PROPHET
without
HONOR

A Novel of Alternative History

ISBN: 9781640082328

"Wurtenbaugh's account is stunningly original, and he plausibly conjures a remarkably full vision of alternative history. Haydenreich is a beautifully drawn character, rich and complex, and the author allows readers considerable latitude in interpreting his motives..."

Wurtenbaugh not only conjures a new historical universe, but also a contentious world of scholarship about it, and he invites readers to join in the dispute. His effort is reminiscent of Philip Roth's 2004 novel The Plot Against America, as both are wildly imaginative and historically grounded. Most importantly, this book humanizes a global tragedy, making its main character's inner conflict a microcosm of a nation's intramural disputes.

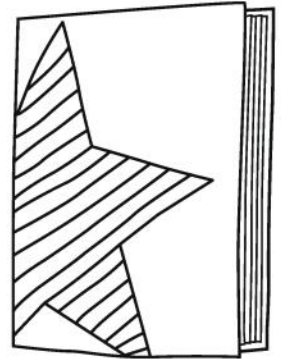
A masterful exercise in historical hypothesis."
- Kirkus Reviews

"A Prophet without Honor takes an approach to history that is both inventive and meticulous...The many voices heard throughout the novel are orchestrated in a way that offers a multifaceted view of a complicated era..."
- Foreword Clarion Reviews

"A complex but compelling what-if book about WW2... So well written that it could serve as a starting point for further research for those interested in the period"
- Lit Review Monthly

Available Now At [amazon](#) & [kobo](#)

Scouting Report



In this month's roundup of the best-reviewed BookLife titles, we highlight a romantic comedy, a mystery, a historical novel, a guide to creative success, and an essay collection about aging and maturity.



★ When They Were Young

STEVEN W. HORN

Synopsis: In this mystery, a gifted photographer discovers the corpse of a girl who went missing months earlier. Tests later reveal the presence of a date-rape drug in her body.

PW's Takeaway: The investigation into Lilly's fate builds toward a powerful, unexpectedly moving conclusion.

Comparable Title: Tony Hillerman's *A Thief of Time*

Sample Line: "Her face was frozen to the icy ground. Her decomposing scalp had slipped forward in wrinkles above the dark sockets of her recessed eyes."

Read the Review:

publishersweekly.com/9780983589488



★ Your New Best Friend

JAYNE DENKER

Synopsis: During a chance encounter with a distraught young woman, 29-year-old real estate agent Melanie Abbott hands out some well-meaning suggestions and soon finds herself in a thriving business as a professional friend, advice giver, and matchmaker.

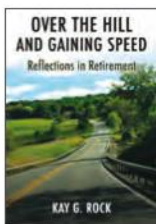
PW's Takeaway: Good intentions go awry in this delicious romantic comedy by Denker.

Comparable Title: Susan Elizabeth Phillip's *Match Me if You Can*

Sample Line: "He kisses me hungrily, like I have the only supply of air he needs to breathe."

Read the Review:

publishersweekly.com/978-1547075386



★ Over the Hill and Gaining Speed

KAY G. ROCK

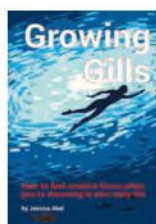
Synopsis: Rock reflects on aging and retirement in

this delightful essay collection.

PW's Takeaway: Though aging can bring its demands, the author shows how the journey can be exciting and invigorating.

Comparable Title: Donald M. Murray's *My Twice-Lived Life*

Read the Review: publishersweekly.com/9781537594002



Growing Gills

JESSICA ABEL

Synopsis: Abel delivers a guide for people who have trouble finishing creative projects.

PW's Takeaway: Abel's tone is straightforward and encouraging as she promotes self-reflection and self-understanding as the keys to productivity.

Comparable Title: Elizabeth Gilbert's *Big Magic*

Read the Review: publishersweekly.com/9781521277874



The Painter's Apprentice

LAURA MORELLI

Synopsis: A story rich in art and love, tempered by sacrifice in

Venice in 1510.

PW's Takeaway: Period detail is woven seamlessly throughout... a vivid, transportive novel.

Comparable Title:

Tracy Chevalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

Read the Review: publishersweekly.com/9781942778929

First Lines

Our monthly look at some of the best first lines from titles by BookLife authors

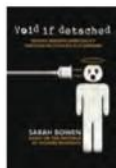
We kick off 2018 with atheist children and funerals for the living. To submit a first line to BookLife, email booklifeeditor@booklife.com.



How the Vortex Changed My Life

PAMELA K. KINNEY

"Some days, a girl just can't get a break."



Void If Detached

SARAH BOWEN

"If cobblers' kids have no shoes, then do preachers' kids have no religion?"



The Inventress

MARY VICTORIA JOHNSON

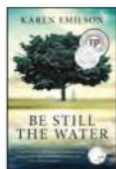
"It's odd, attending the funeral of someone who is still alive."



The Little Green Wagon

M.D. CARTER

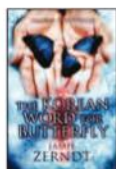
"While caught in Death's grip, the human mind begins to change."



Be Still the Water

KAREN EMILSON

"I have watched old people die, and young ones, too. Most endings are the same so I'd be foolish to expect my passing will be much different."



The Korean Word for Butterfly

JAMIE ZERNDT

"Joe and I were complete frauds."

JOIN
the book-to-film
platform

CINE-BOOKS
READ • LISTEN • WATCH

- give your story a chance to be visualized
- bring your readers an entirely new reading experience
- expand your audience by attracting visual-perceiving people all over the world

Special offer for INDIE AUTHORS:

10,000 cine-books as giveaways for author's book fans

cine-books.com/pw



Ask the Editor

A veteran editor answers
your writing questions

BY BETTY KELLY SARGENT

Dear Editor:

I was recently accused of writing purple prose. What is it, and what can I do about it?
—Beth

According to Wikipedia, “purple prose is prose text that is so extravagant, ornate, or flowery as to break the flow and draw excessive attention to itself.... It

is characterized by the excessive use of adjectives, adverbs, and metaphors.”

This style has been a problem for writers for more than 2,000 years. In about 19 BCE, the Roman poet Horace wrote a letter discussing the art of writing. It was called *Ars Poetica* and contained more than 30 writing suggestions including a warning to stay away from “flashy purple patches.”

The problem with purple prose is it gets in the way of what you are trying to say. It interrupts the flow of your story and shouts, “Look at me; see all the fancy words I can use.” Obviously, this is not good.

What you need to do is learn to spot it, analyze it, and rephrase it. Try to simplify, clarify, and keep your story moving. William Strunk, coauthor of *The Elements of Style*,

puts it this way: “A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences for the same reason a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all sentences short or avoid all detail and treat subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.”

If you concentrate on making every word tell, you’ll never again be accused of writing purple prose.

Betty Sargent

Betty Kelly Sargent is the founder and CEO of BookWorks.

If you have a question for the editor, please email [Betty Sargent](mailto:Betty.Sargent@booklife.com) at booklifeeditor@booklife.com.



Calling all Indie Authors

What can **BookWorks** do for you:

- Help You Find Your Reader
- Post Excerpts from Your Book for Peer Review
- Get a Featured Author Cover Medallion for Your Book
- Chat With Our Experts
- Showcase and Sell Your Books With Direct-to-Retailer Links
- Find the Best Editors, Designers, Illustrators, Marketers, and Publicists in the Business

And that’s just for starters

Let us help you Prepare, Publish and Promote your books. We show you how to make indie publishing easier and, yes it’s true —how to make it *fun*.

JOIN NOW!
bookworks.com



Taps the experience, integrity and authority of *Publishers Weekly* to help indie authors achieve their publishing goals.

- Professional tips, insights and strategies for creating and marketing your book
- Connect and share with other indie authors
- A free and easy way to submit self-published books for review in *Publishers Weekly*

Support for
INDIE AUTHORS
from **Publishers Weekly**

booklife.com



New Titles from Self-Publishers

Booksellers, publishers, librarians, and agents are encouraged to look at the 60 self-published titles below. Each appears with a list of retailers that are selling the book and a description provided by its author. Some of these writers are waiting to be discovered; others have track records and followings and are doing it on their own. If you are a self-published author interested in listing titles in this section, please visit publishersweekly.com/pw-select for more information.

Fiction

Creole Moon the Betrayal

S.T. Holmes. Toplink Publishing. \$10.99 paper (224p), ISBN 978-1-947620-07-0



Amazon, BN.com
Explore the world of fantasy in the Louisiana swamp during the 19th century. George Genoio uncovers a dark side of love and marriage.



The Cruel Romance: A Novel of Love and War

Marina Osipova.
iUniverse. \$20.99 paper (343p), ISBN 978-1-4917-8547-8
Amazon, iUniverse

In World War II, Serafima and Vitya, a young German violinist and a Russian intellectual, rise to the challenge of agonizing moral choices and learn to forgive and love again.



Dear Mom and Dad: You Don't Know Me, But...

Georgia Lee McGowen.
Toplink Publishing.
\$15.99 paper (290p), ISBN 978-1-947938-85-4

Amazon, BN.com

This novel considers the ultimate understanding of God's will for both George and Georgia—a single soul at times divided, at times united—and its unusual conclusion in a story of struggle and self-acceptance.

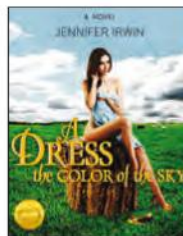
The DeLuca Furlough Brides, Book 1: The Ones They Left Behind



Alan Simon. Alan Simon Books. \$14.95 paper (456p), ISBN 978-0-9994665-1-3; \$3.99 e-book, ASIN B07792YC33
Amazon

In the earliest days of World War II, hundreds of thousands of young American women hastily married their sweethearts before those young men went off to war. This is the story of two of those women.

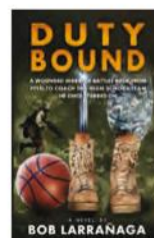
A Dress the Color of the Sky



Jennifer Irwin. Glass Spider Publishing. \$27 hardcover (322p), ISBN 978-0-9990096-5-9
Amazon, BN.com, Books-a-Million, IndieBound, Powells
Prudence Aldrich is

a wife, mother—and sex addict. Her world of deception and adultery is dis-

guised behind the pretense of an ordinary life.



Duty Bound: A Wounded Warrior Battles Back from PTSD to Coach the High School Team He Once Starred On

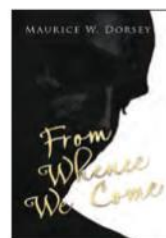
Bob Larrañaga. Robert D. Larrañaga. \$3.99 e-book,

ASIN B078Q9KCH4

Amazon, Bowker, Ingram

Wounded warrior Ron Canfield battles PTSD to coach a racially divided basketball team. With the first game a week away, a racist stalker threatens to strike in the crowded gym.

From Whence We Come



Maurice W. Dorsey.
Xlibris. \$19.95 paper (257p), ISBN 978-1-5434-6291-3

Mauricewdorsey.com

The novel underscores the struggles of an African-American gay man whose mother tells her son she never wanted to have him.

The Last Homecoming

Dan Chabot. CreateSpace. \$16.95 paper (400p), ISBN 978-1-5480-2601-1

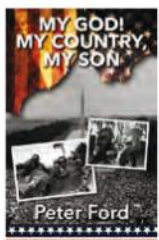
Amazon



Four strangers return to say goodbye to the doomed old house that gave them shelter over the course of 90 years and discover that their safe old refuge is not yet done giving.

My God! My Country, My Son

Peter Ford. Ford Publishing. \$14.95 paper



(154p), ISBN 978-0-692-93842-3

Amazon, BN.com

Sergeant Wanton confronts several battles: with his son, Will; his conscience; and racism. Armed with the word of

God, Will stands against his father with a personal battle. Along the way, they learn several lessons.



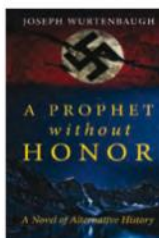
Potlatch: A Comedy

Bruce Hartman. Swallow Tail Press. \$12.95 paper (286p), ISBN 978-0-9889181-9-1

Amazon

Alice Coggins, 24, battles the Potlatch—

a vast conspiracy of conspicuous waste directed by the powers that be to keep her and her fellow millennials from doing anything useful.



A Prophet Without Honor: A Novel of Alternative History

Joseph Wurtenbaugh. G Realist Ink. \$7.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-64008-232-8

Amazon, Kobo

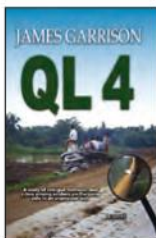
Written in epistolary form, this novel focuses on the one great unrealized opportunity of the 20th century.

QL 4

James Garrison. TouchPoint Press. \$15.99 paper (378p), ISBN 978-1-946920-00-3

Amazon, BN.com

Set in the Mekong delta during the



Vietnam War, this is a tale of intrigue, betrayal, and crime among soldiers on the same side in an unpopular war.

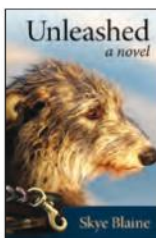


Sardinian Silver

A. Colin Wright. Toplink Publishing. \$11.99 paper (196p), ISBN 978-1-947938-83-0

Amazon, BN.com

To assimilate into the strange and belong to a society different from his own has always been young Englishman Arthur Fraser's desire.



Unleashed

Skye Blaine. Berkana Publications. \$18 paper (324p), ISBN 978-0-9779483-6-9

Amazon

After a rollover car accident in which

Zephyr is pitched from the van and bolts into the wilds of central Oregon, Carolina's, Rowan's, and Zephyr's lives collide with Afghan vet Moss Westbury.

The World Explored, the World Suffered:



The Exeter Lectures

Michael R.D. James. Paragon Publishing. \$12.99 paper (280p), ISBN 978-1-78222-548-5

Amazon

The first volume of a trilogy of philosophical/educational lectures embedded in a fictional narrative of human drama/tragedy.



Poetry

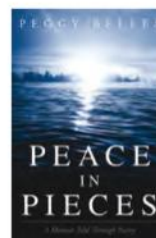
Mom's Poetry

Kathleen Dunleavy. Xlibris. \$15.99 paper (82p), ISBN 978-1-5245-9095-6;

\$4.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-5245-9094-9

Amazon

Throughout her years as a mother, Dunleavy has written poems relevant to her experiences as she moved along the path of her life.



Peace in Pieces: A Memoir Told Through Poetry

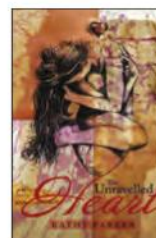
Peggy Belles. Peggy Belles. \$15 paper (102p), ISBN 978-0-692-93656-6

Amazon, BN.com

This is a collection of 41 poems that grapple with the complexity of living. It is a story of trading impenetrable armor for real power and courage in vulnerability.

The Unravelling Heart

Kathy Parker. Balboa Press. \$14.99 paper



(196p), ISBN 978-1-5043-1097-0

AbeBooks, Amazon,

BN.com, Book

Depository, Booktopia,

Kobo

Parker offers a reflection on trauma, abuse, love, loss, and healing. These poems seek to piece together the heart torn by sorrow and empower it.

Mystery/Thriller

The China Connection: A Lieutenant



Morales Mystery

A.J. Basinski. A.J. Basinski. \$2.99 e-book, ASIN B07863PNKF

Amazon

When Lieutenant

Morales is accused of trying to murder his wife, Sun Li, he searches the world for the real attacker.



The Consequence of War

Brian Oldham. Brian Oldham. \$9.95 paper (360p), ISBN 978-0-9994748-1-5

Amazon, Ingram

Elijah McCoy was

trained to kill. He returned from the war in Afghanistan and must overcome his demons or become the monster he fears he may be.



Force of Impact

Bryan Cassidy. CreateSpace. \$16.99 paper (392p), ISBN 978-1-5483-0766-0
Amazon, BN.com
Hired by a horror novelist, tormented L.A.

PI Ethan Carr becomes enmeshed in a conspiracy involving an elite clandestine club of masked members in Hollywood who like to play deadly games.



The Torch Betrayal

Glenn Dyer. TMR Press. \$15.99 paper (345p), ISBN 978-0-9991173-0-9
Amazon, Ingram
When confidential directives for

Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa, go missing, OSS agent Conor Thorn must recover the plans before the Nazis thwart the crucial mission.



Untethered

John Bowie. SilverWood Books. \$13.49 paper (192p), ISBN 978-1-78132-667-1
Amazon, Book Depository
Seeing a case file left

out at her station, an undercover police constable grabs an opportunity: use John Barrie (ex-Special Air Service and nightclub doorman) against her drug-dealing boyfriend.

SF/Fantasy/Horror

Dragons, Kings, and the Blazing Slicklizzard Heart Trees, Book 1: Scindinvian Battles and the Black Magic Draco Ice Dragons

Lynn A. Dalton. Dorrance Publishing. \$18 paper (244p), ISBN 978-1-4809-5236-2
Dorrancebookstore.com



To become a lady, Grace needs the magical Heart Tree, but the tree's help requires an evil heart and blood sacrifice. A fantasy of good and evil, sorcerers and dragons.

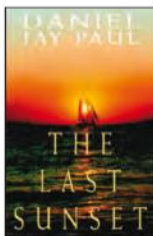


Ghost Bully

Brian Corley. Brian Corley. \$4.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-5323-6218-7
Amazon

The story of a haunting gone wrong for the haunter, or what happens when a ghost unintentionally creates a better ghost. A paranormal coming-of-age story.

Romance/Erotica



The Last Sunset

Daniel Jay Paul. Xlibris. \$31.99 hardcover (240p), ISBN 978-1-4010-3426-9
Amazon, BN.com

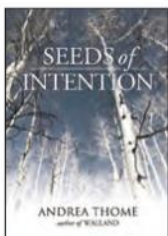
A restless college student discovers new meaning for life and love through friendship with an 83-year-old man confined in a nursing home.

The Sea Wolf: Blood Boon



Melony Malsom. CreateSpace. \$14.99 paper (325p), ISBN 978-1-977779-07-6
Amazon

A pirate captain battles a vampire over possession of a beautiful Irish woman. Taking on her troubled past, he must risk everything to save her.



Seeds of Intention

Andrea Thome. Andrea Thome. \$14.95 paper (312p), ISBN 978-0-9978504-2-0
Amazon, Ingram, Smashwords

Is it more important to have roots or wings? This destination romance, set in the beautiful mountains of Tennessee and Colorado, examines that question.

Sky's the Limit

Elle Aycart. Elle Aycart Productions. \$9.99 paper (342p), ISBN 978-1-981987-44-3; \$3.99 e-book, ASIN B078LFDCGK
Amazon, Apple iBooks, BN.com, Kobo
A contemporary romance about a cosmopolitan girl who ends up "trapped" by accident in a Minnesota town full of doomsday preppers.

Talon (Rise of the Pride, Book 1)

Theresa Hissong. Theresa Hissong. 99¢ e-book, ASIN B01CF3NCA4
Amazon, Apple iBooks, BN.com, Kobo, Smashwords
In the backwoods of Mississippi, a pride of panthers learns how to live among humans after being discovered.

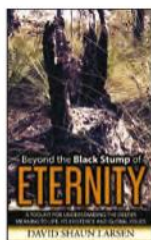
Nonfiction

8 Steps to Starting a Business: How to Quickly Gain the Skills You'll Need

John B. Vinturella. iUniverse. \$20 paper (274p), ISBN 978-1-5320-2152-7; 99¢ e-book, ISBN 978-1-5320-2153-4
Amazon
An entrepreneur for over 40 years, Vinturella explores how to sharpen business skills, identify opportunities, and approach business planning in this guide for entrepreneurs.

Beyond the Black Stump of Eternity: A Toolkit for Understanding the Deeper Meaning to Life, Its Existence and Global Issues

David Shaun Larsen. David Shaun Larsen. \$14.99 paper (354p), ISBN 978-0-648-19971-7; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 978-0-648-



19972-4

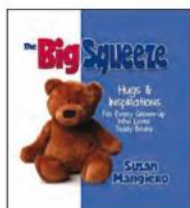
Kobo

First in a series of three, this book interweaves stories from the author's personal journey in life to viewing important global issues through a philosophical, political, and spiritual lens.

The Big Squeeze:

Hugs & Inspirations for Every Grown-Up Who Loves Teddy Bears

Susan Mangiero. Happy Day Press. \$9.95 hardcover (96p), ISBN 978-0-9975023-2-9

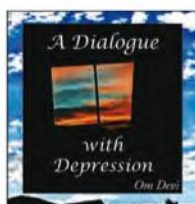


Amazon, Baker & Taylor

Combining photos with motivational messages, this book invites readers to laugh, smile, and

take a happiness vacation from everyday stress.

A Dialogue with Depression: Heart/Mind Disconnect



Om Devi. iUniverse. \$22.99 paper (148p), ISBN 978-1-5320-2890-8; \$3.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-5320-2891-5

Amazon

If she couldn't stop it, would it be enough to try to understand it? Devi shares the journey through her husband's struggle with clinical depression.

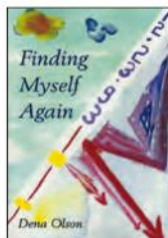


Famous Poets: A Photo Essay

Lawrence Schwartzwald. Oddi Press. \$85 paper (80p), ISBN 978-1-5323-5455-7

Amazon

This collection features photographic portraits of notable poets and photos of artists (Woody Allen, Cindy Crawford, Dustin Hoffman, Courtney Love, and others) reading books of poetry. First edition of 200.



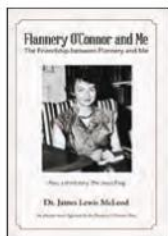
Finding Myself Again

Dena Olson. Dena Olson. \$8 e-book, ASIN B00IFDDGKA
Amazon

Olson writes about her 20-year struggle to reinvent herself after

suffering traumatic brain injury and how she built confidence in a new self.

Flannery O'Connor and Me



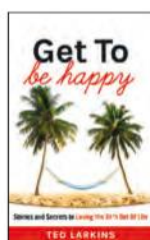
James Mcleod. Xlibris. \$40.31 hardcover (154p), ISBN 978-1-5434-0237-7

Amazon, BN.com

This is the story of the famous Southern writer brilliantly teaching the author at a young age how to write. He passes on some of the knowledge and humor she shared.

Get to Be Happy:

Stories and Secrets to Loving the



Sh*t Out of Life

Ted Larkins. Get To Principle, The. \$14.95 paper (254p), ISBN 978-0-9995140-0-9

Amazon

The author tells of his journey through life,

from meeting Mother Teresa to partying with Bon Jovi to the tragic experiences of the death of his business partner and the loss of his daughter.

Hal Moore on Leadership:

Winning When Outgunned and



Outmanned

Mike Guardia. Magnum Books. \$14.95 paper (168p), ISBN 978-1-5483-0510-9

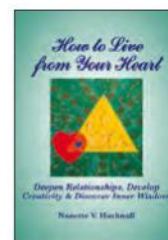
Amazon, BN.com, Books-a-Million

Lessons in leadership from the star of *We Were Soldiers*.

Winning strategies for any leader in any organization—business or military.

How to Live from Your Heart:

Deepen Relationships, Develop Creativity, and Discover Inner Wisdom



Nanette Hucknall. MSI Press. \$16.89 paper (274p), ISBN 978-1-942891-24-6

Amazon

This practical book not only teaches you how to live from your

heart but also provides scads of activities to practice doing so.

It Is About You:

How American Government Works and How to Help Fix It



Deborah Cupples. Delphinium. \$14.95 paper (186p), ISBN 978-0-9996777-0-4

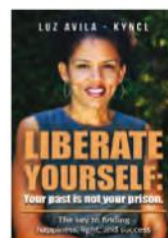
Amazon

A nonpartisan and plain-language guide that covers basics

about American government and includes a copy of the U.S. constitution.

Liberate Yourself:

Your Past Is Not Your Prison



Luz Avila-Kyncl. Luz Avila-Kyncl. \$14.95 paper (282p), ISBN 978-0-9992139-0-2; \$2.99 e-book,

ASIN B074LZZ1Q4
Amazon

This book is about breaking the chain of bad habits, suffering, trauma, and dysfunction.

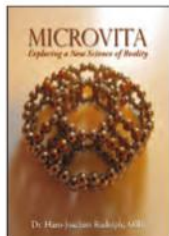
Loving Good Food from the Heart

Doreen Barnett. Xlibris. \$31.99 paper (52p), ISBN 978-1-5144-8068-7; \$3.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-5144-8067-0

Amazon



Barnett has cooked for many. Just by seeing their faces, she can tell how well pleased they are. She wants every bite to fulfill your inner being.

Microvita:**Exploring a New Science of Reality**

Hans-Joachim Rudolph.
AuthorHouse. \$33.99
paper (112p), ISBN 978-
1-5246-9113-4; \$3.99
e-book, ISBN 978-1-
5246-9114-1
Amazon

The book portrays the concept of microvita in a physics framework. It also presents various microvita models and illustrates the material with narratives as well as the author's own experiences.

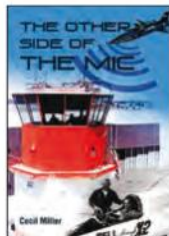
Miss Right for Mr. Right:**A Good Man Is Not Hard to Find**

Lee Speights.
AuthorHouse. \$13.99
paper (108p), ISBN 978-
1-5246-5656-0; \$7.99
e-book, ISBN 978-1-
5246-5655-3
Amazon

This book explores and analyzes women's unique qualities and advises women—and sometimes men as well—on how to find and sustain a successful relationship with someone of the opposite sex.

The Other Side of the Mic

Cecil Miller. Xlibris. \$19.99 paper (278p),



ISBN 978-1-5434-
2618-2; \$3.99 e-book,
ISBN 978-1-5434-
2609-0
Amazon

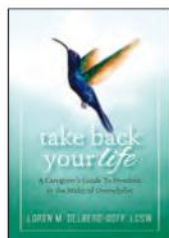
Miller's book is about aviation history and the pilot, and goes behind the scenes of the air traffic controller.

**The Relativistic Rocketeer: Vol. 1**

James M. Essig. Xlibris.
\$39.99 e-book, ISBN
978-1-5245-5346-3
BN.com

The book explores far-ranging techniques for

future relativistic rockets and the notion of converting a baryonic standard model spacecraft into a neutrino-like state.

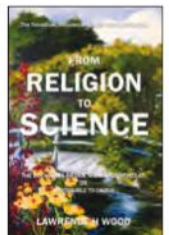
**Take Back Your Life: A Caregiver's Guide to Finding Freedom in the Midst of Overwhelm**

Loren Gelberg-Goff.
Well Within Publishing.
\$14.95 paper (202p),

ISBN 978-0-9994011-0-1

Amazon, Apple iBooks, BN.com, Book Depository, Google Play

Learn to take as good care of yourself as you do of others in your life. Reconnect to a loving connection, stop arguing, and get cooperation from others so you can take back your life.

The Transition, Initiated by Copernicus and Galileo, from Religion to Science: The Beckoning Bridge Many Find Difficult or Impossible to Cross

Lawrence H. Wood.
iUniverse. \$28.99 paper
(444p), ISBN 978-1-
5320-2457-3; \$3.99
e-book, ISBN 978-1-
5320-2458-0
Amazon

Wood introduces the brilliant investigators who resolved the mysterious illusions that formed religion. The solving system termed science led to discoveries that turned supernatural belief to the laws of physics.

The Universe Green Door: Why Are We Here?

Andrey Cherepanov. Andrey Cherepanov.
\$8 paper (96p), ISBN 978-1-973390-04-6
Amazon

This book examines key metaphysical questions such as an origin of the universe, Earth and humanity's place in it, the mystery of evolution, the role of consciousness, and others.

**Children's/YA****Cakewalk**

Neil Ruttenberg, illus. by Abigail Wilson.
Double Dragon Publishing. \$5.39 e-book,



ASIN B077Q7LYPL
Amazon

Two sisters cross an America ravaged by an extraterrestrial ecosystem that threatens to devour Earth and all its occupants.

**GAAK: Groovy Ass Alien Kreaturez**

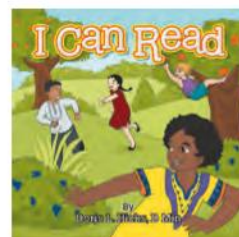
Darryl Hughes, illus. by
Monique MacNaughton.
Brand X Books. \$19.98
paper (244p), ISBN 978-
0-9903936-7-2

Amazon, BN.com, Ingram

Four misfit teens defend their small suburban town and the world from invasion by kooky aliens.

I Can Read

Doris L. Hicks. Xlibris. \$21.99 paper (26p),
ISBN 978-1-5434-2345-7; \$4.99 e-book,

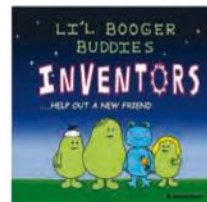


ISBN 978-1-
5434-2346-4
Amazon

This book is designed to help children increase vocabulary, think critically, develop reading skills, and learn the Christian story of God and creation.

Li'l Booger Buddies Inventors Help Out a New Friend

Heather Konet. CreateSpace. \$9.99



paper (26p), ISBN
978-1-979068-
17-8
Amazon

The Li'l Booger Buddies go on a mission in space to find junk for building their inventions. They discover a planet where they use

PW SELECT LISTINGS

their invention skills to help a new friend.



The Little Pine Tree

Ricarda Bush. Ricarda Bush. \$8.65 paper (35p), ISBN 978-1-973408-74-1

Amazon

A young ponderosa pine has grown to

just the right size to become a holiday tree in the Joneses' home.

The Love of a Bingle Lancer



Paul Gullen, illus. by Rachel Korsen. Golden Bell Studios' Polar Press. \$17.95 hardcover (28p), ISBN 978-1-946185-06-8

Amazon

Prince Bandini is on

a quest to show his father that nothing is stronger than the power of true love. A story for dancers, lancers, and romancers.

Peppercorn's Magic:

A Live Stage Comedy or Story Book for Children

Florence Novelli. Florence Novelli. \$8.50



paper (60p), ISBN 978-1-5499-4497-0

Amazon

The jolly old king of Not-at-All and his daughter, the princess, prepare to celebrate the princess's wedding to a handsome young prince.

Presenting Princess Solei on Her First Birthday: The Magic in Her Smile

Shangri-La Durham-Thompson.



AuthorHouse. \$20.99 paper (48p), ISBN 978-1-5246-8853-0; \$4.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-5246-8854-7

Amazon

Narrated in poetry

style, this story emphasizes the lengths we will go to celebrate birthdays, yet the

gift of a simple smile is the greatest gift of all.



Snowy's Adventure

Elaine Souter. Elaine Souter. \$3.99

e-book, ASIN B0782TS7SD

Amazon

One day when the author was taking her little dog, Snowy, for a walk, he had a reaction with a magpie. From then on, she got inspired and started writing about Snowy's adventures.



Whisperings

Julie Halliwell, illus. by Andrea Costantine. Off the Porch Press. \$13.95 paper (236p), ISBN 978-0-692-88340-2

Amazon

Archangels have

watched over Earth for millennia with the hope of peace. Peace has remained a dream until three children demand an end to the violence, and the response is earth-shattering.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT MARKETING
YOUR BOOK WITH
PW SELECT VISIT:
BOOKLIFE.COM/
ABOUT-US/
PW-SELECT.HTML

FIZA PATHAN PRESENTS

THE LOVE THAT DARE NOT SPEAK ITS NAME

Available in paperback, hardcover & kindle

THE LOVE THAT DARE NOT SPEAK ITS NAME
short stories

FIZA PATHAN

A collection of twenty-one original short stories, each centered on some aspect of the social, cultural, psychological, and emotional issues facing the LGBTQIA community in the world today.

“

A tender and enlightening collection of stories focused on modern sexuality and related through a diverse cast of characters.

~Foreword Clarion

Buy Now <http://a.co/2KwArTq>

Pages / 428
ISBN / 978-8193290644
ASIN / B077LVRL89
Publisher / Fiza Pathan Publishing

Fiction

Daughter of Aithne

Karin Rita Gastreich. Orb Weaver, \$16 trade paper (386p) ISBN 978-0-9972320-2-8

The first two books of Gastreich's Silver Web fantasy trilogy followed the magic-wielding Eolyn from a childhood with the old witch Ghemena to her adult life as the leader of the magas (female mages) and the queen of Moisehén. She's married to her long-time love, King Akmael, and together they raise their children. When the trusted Ghemena inexplicably kidnaps Eolyn's stepdaughter, Princess Eliasara, dark forces conspiring to destroy Eolyn, Akmael, and the magas seize the opportunity to strike with chaos and death. As the situation grows more dire, Gastreich raises the stakes by restricting Eolyn's magic and keeping most of her allies all but powerless. Eolyn is a standout character, and her desperate and cunning attempts to save her kingdom and family enhance both her development and the prose. Gastreich retains the best elements of love, war, and plotting from her previous books while deepening Eolyn with grief and war-weariness that add to her determination to make peace. Fans of the trilogy won't want to miss this hard-hitting finish.

Earning It

Angela Quarles. Unsealed Room, \$3.99 e-book (161p) ISBN 978-0-9905400-8-3

Quarles's taut little contemporary sets up a steamy affair with a forgivably contrived case of mistaken identity. After a 10-year absence, newly minted sports doctor Pepper Rodgers returns to her hometown of Sarasota, Fla. Even before she hangs out her shingle, an old friend sets her up on a blind date. What harm can come from coffee with a good-looking lawyer named Rick? And the man sitting alone at a table in the Mocha Cabana looks more like a young god. Pepper's just been through an unceremonious breakup and a long dry spell, and just the sight of this guy is arousing. The looker in question is in fact Pepper's high school nemesis, Luke Haas, a retired SEAL, and he sees no harm in pretending to be Rick the lawyer after Pepper mistakes him for the person she's supposed to meet. But the

coffee leads to a delicious quickie and ultimately to the inevitable relationship-killing confession. The tension plays out as Luke's hurling team prepares for international competition. Fans of lightweight fluff will consume this story in a single sitting.

The Emperor and the Spy

Stan S. Katz. Horizon Productions, \$19.95 trade paper (540p) ISBN 978-0-9903349-6-5

Katz's promising debut, a fictional account of real-life American spy Sidney Mashbir, is hobbled by an overwhelming number of editing errors and patches of weak prose. After helping the U.S. settle the conflict with Pancho Villa in 1916, Mashbir takes assignments that send him to New York, to Japan in the interwar years (where he befriends high-level officials, including Emperor Hirohito), and to Australia during WWII to help the war efforts in Southeast Asia. Mashbir is portrayed here as a talented mediator for peace who moves in impressive circles; Charles Lindbergh, generals Pershing and MacArthur, Charlie Chaplin, and F.D.R. all appear. The characterizations of these historical figures are wonderfully conceptualized, though their dialogue can come across as awkward ("Shucks, it's gotten me into a heap of trouble in the past"). Editing problems also proliferate, ranging from typos and formatting inconsistencies to a regrettable overuse of italics and ellipses. Readers who can overlook those flaws will be rewarded with an enthusiastic take on the life of a little-known but influential personality in American history.

The Golden Hour:

A Nora Tierney English Mystery

M.K. Graff. Bridle Path, \$12 trade paper (316p) ISBN 978-0-9908287-8-5

In Graff's fast-paced fourth mystery featuring expat American Nora Tierney (after 2015's *The Scarlet Wench*), Nora, the successful writer of a series of books for children featuring a band of fairies in England's Lake District and the mother of a 10-month-old son, comes to believe that she's being stalked. For help, she turns to her significant other, Det. Insp. Declan Barnes of the Thames Valley CID. Meanwhile, Declan, who has a reputation for successfully solving

serious crimes, lands another baffler after Oxford painting conservator Emma Jevons apparently dies from smallpox. The possible revival of that disease is disturbing enough, but Declan and his colleagues are even more alarmed when the infectious disease specialist raises the prospect that Emma was killed by a genetically modified virus that would be resistant to vaccination. Graff maintains suspense by providing the perspectives of Emma's stalker and "a wealthy Russian megalomaniac." Vivid characterizations complement the solid plotting.

Love, Murder & Mayhem: Cosmic Tales of the Heart Gone Deadly Wrong

Edited by Russ Colchamiro. Crazy 8, \$4.99 e-book (292p) ASIN B072W6GYDL

For this light and breezy collection, Colchamiro (*Crossline*) gathers 15 high-energy and sentimental stories of love, fatal crimes of passion, and paranormal troublemaking. Among several routine terrestrial and interstellar police procedurals, standout stories weave in urban fantasy, time travel, superheroes, and rogue robots. In Colchamiro's own trippy "The Hardwicke Files," an interdimensional PI partners with an arson investigator on the eve of Astropalooza to learn who killed an amorous singer. In Glenn Hauman's short and creepy "Make It Didn't Happen," a teenager receives a message from her future self that warns of an impending attacker. In Patrick Thomas's romantic "As Time Goes By," an ex-con who can manipulate time turns his skills to saving his wife's life. Lois Spangler's melancholy murder investigation, "A Matter of Principle," finds AI detective Dani questioning an older model AI who admits guilt but wants to protect her beloved employer. In "DuckBob: Killer Service," Aaron Rosenberg continues the slapstick adventures of his duck-headed alien abductee, now at the mercy of his literal-minded and murderous automatic house system. Colchamiro's crew provides an entertaining mix of styles for fans of cross-genre SF/F.

Must Love More Kilts

Angela Quarles. Unsealed Room, \$4.99 e-book (202p) ASIN B0753G6P2Q

Quarles returns to late-17th-century

Scotland in the hot and sexy fourth *Must Love* time travel romance (after *Must Love Kilts*). Fiona Campbell, a determined and forthright woman, has travelled back in time to the late 17th century, and thinks that she is destined to fulfill the family legend about a woman named Fiona who saved her ancestor, William Campbell, from a MacCowan warrior bearing a crescent-shaped scar above a Celtic knot on his chest. But Duncan MacCowan, the man she must protect William from, is also her newly handfasted partner. As Fiona and Duncan travel with MacLeod warriors to Dunvegan Castle, the sizzling attraction between them becomes impossible to ignore, and they explore the possibility of making their handfasting into a true marriage. Fiona tries to reconcile her desire to be with Duncan with her duty to her family legend, and Duncan begins to open his heart to the possibility of love. With just the right amount of period detail, scorching sensuality, and a strong, independent heroine, Quarles's latest brings historical Scotland to life.

The Painter's Apprentice

Laura Morelli. *The Scriptorium*, \$19.99 trade paper (406p) ISBN 978-1-942778-92-9

Morelli's second entry in the Venetian Artisans series (following *The Gondola Maker*) is a Renaissance story rich in art and love, yet tempered by sacrifice and hard times during the bubonic plague's siege of Venice in 1510. Lovely, titian-haired Maria Bartolini, daughter of Venice's preeminent gold leaf artisan and a skilled gilder herself, falls in love with Cristiano Bianco, a low-born Saracen gold-beater working in their studio. Maria's father discovers the romance, and she is dispatched to illustrious painter Master Trevisan's workshop to study pigment technique until she can marry within their guild. While helping Trevisan craft gilded, decorative wooden panels for a convent, Maria also keeps a secret and fends off a meddlesome maid and an extortionist boatman. When her old neighborhood is quarantined, Maria loses contact with her family and Cristiano. As the Black Death devastates the city and loved ones are separated, the characters struggle for strength; when the plague begins to lift, Maria at first struggles but eventually finds her calling. Substantive period detail—especially about

gilding technique and the bubonic plague—is woven seamlessly throughout the narrative, resulting in a vivid, transportive novel.

The Road to Alexander

Jennifer Macaire. *Accent Press*, \$12.99 trade paper (368p) ISBN 978-1-78615-467-5

Macaire's imaginative opening entry in the *Time for Alexander* series transports time-traveling journalist Ashley Riveraine back 3,000 years to 333 BCE via a frozen magnetic beam to interview the legendary king and military general Alexander the Great. Ashley loses her ability to return home when Alexander pulls her out of the beam believing she is the goddess Persephone. Alexander is unaware that Ashley is from the future, and she must do or say anything to change history or she will be erased. She soon becomes Alexander's lover (steamy scenes ensue) and a resourceful operator in a society in which people rely on omens, oracles, and gods in everyday life. Alexander's relationships—with his treacherous mother, Olympias, his three wives, and his troops—are reasonably well-developed. The book's most engrossing sequence sees Alexander matching wits with the Persian king, Bessus, while pursuing him in a grueling ride that sees many men and horses die. A loose ending will entice readers to find out what lies ahead in the series.

The Unexpected Resolution: Book 10 of the Jolie Gentil Cozy Mystery Series

Elaine L. Orr. *Lifelong Dreams*, \$8.99 trade paper (264p) ISBN 978-0-9863380-6-9

Orr's family-focused 10th *Jolie Gentil* mystery (after *Holidays in Ocean Alley*) finds sometime sleuth Jolie and her fiancé, Scoobie, preparing for their intimate New Year's Eve wedding in Ocean Alley, N.J. Then Scoobie's long-absent father shows up in the local hospital following a car accident. After the father succumbs to his injuries, Scoobie meets the younger brother he didn't know he had, Terry. As Scoobie and Jolie come to terms with becoming Terry's guardian, Orr touches on such issues from the past as Scoobie's abusive childhood and Jolie's disastrous first marriage. Suspicions that Scoobie's father's death was a homicide arise only in the latter part of the novel,

along with a suspect, but these developments don't create much narrative tension. Though Orr doesn't explore her characters' psychological states in any depth, she successfully delivers a quiet story about unexpected life events and the honest love that binds no matter what.

The Weight

Hubert Crouch. *Serpentine*, \$15 trade paper (366p) ISBN 978-1-548323-96-7

Crouch puts his years as a litigator to good use in his third legal thriller featuring Fort Worth, Tex., attorney Jace Forman (after 2015's *The Word*). Jace is approached by Cal Connors, a prominent colleague who specializes in going after Big Pharma, about representing him in a defamation suit. The magazine *Texas Matters* has published a cover story accusing Connors of paying off an expert witness to file false reports about a medication's side effects. After passing on the opportunity, Jace ends up on the other side, defending the reporter, Leah Rosen, against Connors's claims. Meanwhile, Leah's piece has prompted a federal investigation into her target by an ambitious federal prosecutor, and both Connors and his colleague and daughter, Christine, don't balk at considering murder to protect their interests. Crouch extends the suspense outside the courtroom with the acquittal of a creep, Michael Randazzo, who once abducted and tormented Leah and is now working on an elaborate revenge. Fast pacing and believable characters will make this a treat for fans of Steve Martini.

★ When They Were Young: A Sam Dawson Mystery

Steven W. Horn. *Granite Peak*, \$27.50 (316p) ISBN 978-0-9835894-8-8

A well-crafted plot and flesh-and-blood characters lift Horn's superior third *Sam Dawson* mystery (after 2015's *When Good Men Die*). Sam, a gifted photographer whose images all tell a clear story with "a beginning, a middle, and an end," has had the ill luck to repeatedly make grim discoveries. He makes another one while walking his dog in Wyoming's Medicine Bow National Forest—the frozen corpse of a 12-year-old girl. The coroner's initial verdict is that the child, identified as Lilly Darnell, who went missing in Colorado months earlier, died of

exposure, but further testing reveals the presence of ketamine, a date-rape drug. The prospect that she was abused becomes more likely after Lilly's image appears among the photographs of naked children found in the possession of Oscar Roberts, who has harassed Annie George, Sam's publisher and former significant other. The investigation into Lilly's fate builds toward a powerful, unexpectedly moving conclusion. Fans of regional whodunits will be rewarded.

The Witches of BlackBrook

Tish Thawer. Amber Leaf, \$2.99 e-book (270p) ASIN B00V5MW5C1

Thawer's tale of witch sisters trying to find one another throughout multiple lives doesn't live up to its potential. In 1693 in Ipswich, Mass., Karina is burned at the stake for being a witch. Before she dies, she casts a spell that flings her and her two sisters into the future to be reborn. After 300 years, Karina, now known as Trin Hartwell and living in BlackBrook, N.Y., has found one sister but still searches for the other. Without her, the trio can never regain the power they had in their original lives. After meeting Caris Hardy and her cousin Jason, Trin thinks Caris is the missing sister. However, sinister forces are working to keep them apart. The flashbacks to the 1690s are interesting, but they don't add much to the story. Despite keeping memories of their past lives, the characters are thinly drawn, leaving the reader to rely on awkward exposition drops to understand them. There's no chemistry between the romantic leads, and, though the villain is surprising, the climax has no tension. There's just not much here for readers to sink their teeth into.

Your Ad Ignored Here: Cartoons from 15 Years of Marketing, Business, and Doodling in Meetings

Tom Fishburne. Marketoonist, \$19.95 trade paper (214p) ISBN 978-0-9990703-1-4

Fishburne, who first started doodling as a business school student and now runs a cartoon content studio, selects highlights from 15 years of his single-page cartoons, which poke light fun at life in the meeting-happy, jargon-crazed marketing industry. Fishburne's simple but effective style mimics the daily newspaper strips he idolized in his youth (particularly the Far Side

in framing, if not in editorial content). The gags are of-the-moment jabs at online commerce, such as the worker who discovers his house is on fire because Google is pitching him fire extinguisher ads. Though send-ups of surreal buzz phrases such as "brand laddering" (depicted as a climb from snack chips to world peace) and "growth hacking" may elicit a chuckle of recognition from those in the know, the humor only skates over the essential absurdity of marketing and sales, and none of it cuts deep. Fishburne's collection is ready-made for PowerPoint inserts and may be the year's best gift for a dad who happens to be a sales director and doesn't need another tie; beyond that, it is difficult to imagine an audience for this industry-insider batch of *Dilbert*-lite satire.

★ Your New Best Friend

Jayne Denker. Gemma Halliday, \$11.99 trade paper (304p) ISBN 978-1-5470-7538-6

Good intentions go awry in this delicious romantic comedy by Denker (the Marsden series). During a chance encounter with an upset young woman, 29-year-old real estate agent Melanie Abbott hands out some well-meaning suggestions and soon finds herself in a thriving business as a professional friend, advice giver, and matchmaker. Denker nods to Jane Austen's Emma and George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion with her likable protagonist, who's dubbed Henrietta Higgins by the local paper. Judgmental, self-confident Melanie rises to stardom by bluntly doling out resolute advice to remold the characters in her small Massachusetts seaside town. Denker credibly conveys her fall from grace and the consequences of her inaccurate predictions, along with her inability to examine herself and her insensitivity, which cause heartaches for both Melanie and her clients. The relationship between Melanie and her childhood friend Connacht Garvey strongly parallels that of Austen's Emma and Mr. Knightley; Connacht repeatedly scolds Melanie for her blunders. Her gradual development of self-awareness and determination to repair the damage she's caused are heartwarming. In addition to Melanie's lively first-person narrative, there are a few surprises that keep this sweet story about social graces entertaining.

Nonfiction

Growing Gills:

How to Find Creative Focus When You're Drowning in Your Daily Life

Jessica Abel. Jessica Abel, \$11.99 trade paper (257p) ISBN 978-1-5212-7787-4

Cartoonist Abel (*Trish Trash #2*) delivers a motivating productivity guide for people who have trouble finishing creative projects. Her four-part system is variously designed to help readers define the dilemmas blocking their efforts, learn to build personal paths to project completion, execute plans, and stay on track. Using questions ("What do I have to have done to call it finished?") and exercises ("Take your big project and break it down into action steps") that call for insightful examination of one's desires and habits, Abel discusses numerous reasons for not accomplishing goals. These include emotional causes such as procrastination and anxiety and logistical or organizational factors such as coordinating family, work, and personal responsibilities. The plan of attack is as thorough and astute as the assessment questions, providing practical and detailed actions that target problematic habits. Abel calls on would-be creators to systematically review their productivity, done using "tracking document" spreadsheets, and employ countermeasures against distraction, such as turning off the notifications on their mobile devices. Abel's tone is straightforward and encouraging throughout as she promotes self-reflection and self-understanding as the keys to productivity.

★ Over the Hill and Gaining Speed: Reflections in Retirement

Kay G. Rock. CreateSpace, \$14.95 trade paper (238p) ISBN 978-1-5375-9400-2

Rock, a columnist for the *Bucks County Herald* in Lahaska, Pa., speculates and reflects on the wonders of aging, the splendor of maturity, and the richness of retirement in this delightful collection of columns and original essays. The pieces are infused with a breezy nonchalance, wit, and insightful observations, as when she tours the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, which she observes was "a visceral and evocative process and it reminded me that even in the

heart of autumn or winter, we can still experience spring.” Exploring topics such as how familial relationships deepen as one nears death, the American national character, and how people learn about themselves through celebrations, holidays, and other remembrances, the collection packs a cumulative punch of good cheer. Rock also offers a few tips on how to soak up life’s goodness by prodding readers to “ask yourself questions, listen to your words, listen to your body, read, network, and hibernate” in order to find happiness and success. Though aging can bring its demands, the author shows how the journey can be exciting and invigorating in this wide-ranging collection of winsome short-takes.

A Pocketful of Seeds

Debbie Johnson. Deep River, \$16.99 trade paper (335p) ISBN 978-1-9402-6999-3

A simple premise guides this graceful book from social worker Johnson: every person has been given a pocket full of seeds to plant for positive change. The “seeds” are practical ways of reaching out on a daily basis, and Johnson provides prompts tailored to every day of the year. General topics are offered in alphabetical order. The daily seed challenge follows some thoughts by the author (Scripture is used minimally). Though well-intentioned, some of the daily seeds aren’t very specific in their inspiration: “Show compassion to someone today,” “Get creative in crossing borders,” “Extend a hand.” Others, such as “What are your community’s needs?” or “How can you protect the young and vulnerable in your world?”, seem a bit daunting in their scope and might require more than a day’s devotional time to tackle. Spread among the devotions are thoughts that will inspire readers to make a difference on a daily basis, such as considering where a donation could be made, hugging a loved one, or posting a note to make someone smile. This well-meaning book will uplift any reader searching for daily inspirations.

Practice Makes Purpose

C. Paul Schroeder. Hexad, \$13.95 trade paper (212p) ISBN 978-0-692-83087-1

Schroeder, formerly a Greek Orthodox priest, takes inspiration from “the great spiritual masters of the Egyptian desert” in

this cheery formulation of a simple method for compassionate living. Schroeder sees life as a “dance of differentiation and attachment, autonomy and interdependence,” and views the building of a collaborative human community as “the great human task.” To accomplish this task, he provides six practices: compassionate seeing, heartfelt listening, intentional welcoming, joyful sharing, grateful receiving, and cooperative building. For each chapter, Schroeder explains a teaching, provides a story from his own life that demonstrates an early lack of understanding, presents a mantra to center oneself into the practice, and ends with an example of the practice working successfully. Although he doesn’t probe too deeply into the philosophical underpinnings of his steps, he does ruminate on the universality of his principles—particularly clear are the parallels between Christian prayer and Buddhist meditation as forms of heartfelt listening. Never veering into egotism, this gentle, grateful, and relatable book will serve any readers looking for practical steps toward spiritual fulfillment.

The Stories We Tell:

Classic True Tales by America’s Greatest Women Journalists

Edited by Patsy Sims. Sager Group, \$26.95 trade paper (390p) ISBN 978-0-9980793-1-8

Editor Sims (*Can Somebody Shout Amen!*) assembles the work of 20 writers in this broad anthology of long-form journalism by women. It provides a who’s who of magazine journalism over the past half century with plenty of famous names but few surprises. The anthology includes Joan Didion’s seminal essay “Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream,” about a woman in California convicted of killing her husband, originally published in 1966, as well as Gerri Hirshey’s 1998 profile of blues legend B.B. King for *Rolling Stone* and Susan Orlean’s 2004 profile of Spanish bullfighter Cristina Sánchez for *Outside* magazine. The book skews heavily toward works published in the *New Yorker*, including Melissa Fay Greene’s “Wonder Dog,” Suzannah Lessard’s “The Split,” and a handful of Lillian Ross’s “Talk of the Town” pieces from over the years. In the introduction Sims praises all 20 writers for their “meticulous research and reporting, careful atten-

tion to detail, and talent for choosing the perfect noun or verb,” but she offers little insight into the individual articles or how they relate to the work of women journalists at large. The articles are entertaining but the selection is narrow and there’s no clear message about women or their role in journalism or as journalists.

Walking Through Sunflowers: Through Deepest France on the Road to Compostela

Denise Fainberg. Lulu.com, \$20.99 e-book (282p) ISBN 978-1-312-97197-4

Dehydration, sunburn, exhaustion, and monster blisters populate Fainberg’s emotionless account of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage through France and Spain. After Fainberg and her husband, Patrick, spent over a month walking 300 miles of the Camino de Santiago pilgrim route across Spain to the shrine of St. James the apostle in 2002, they returned in 2003 to walk 500 miles of the French Le Puy branch from Haute-Loire to the Spanish border, a two-month journey. Fainberg dryly recounts their journey, for which they are ill-prepared, lacking proper footwear and food for their vegetarian diet. Fainberg and Patrick walk at different paces, which sparks a debate: is the pilgrimage the walk itself, carried out in quiet prayer, or is it visiting all the holy sites along the way? A surprising dearth of emotional insight leaves only a straightforward diary account of sites seen and people met, with little spiritual contemplation. Fainberg, who frequently takes short cuts on the journey that cut out certain shrines, only briefly explains at the end that “the act of walking, though, itself becomes a form of devotion. Not because it’s painful... but just because.” Fainberg’s enjoyable research into the heritage of the region is the sole saving grace of this poorly organized book.

Children’s/YA

The Many Ways to Say I Love You

Kristy Kurjan, illus. by Tyler Parker. KPO Creative, \$7.95 board book (16p) ISBN 978-0-9860750-3-2

An alligator parent and child serve as guides to different ways to demonstrate

feelings of love. Kurjan's verses sometimes read like they're searching to complete a rhyme ("A wave goodbye.../ A hug hello.../ There are many ways our love can show," she begins), but their reassuring message comes through. Parker's blocky digital illustrations include an array of secondary animal characters: an owl hoots at the moon, and a chef pig and beret-wearing hippo provide international perspective ("'Amore' in Italy.../ 'Je t'aime' in France.../ Love can be expressed through dance"). Aside from a potentially offensive reference to "Eskimo kisses" (performed by a pair of polar bears in parkas), it's a bright, cozy look at verbal and nonverbal expressions of affection. Up to age 3. (BookLife)



Missing Tyler

Tamara Palmer. Santel ePublishing, \$14.95 paper (228p) ISBN 978-1-5428-8470-9

A teenage girl grapples with the unexpected death of her twin brother in Palmer's first novel. Kit Carlin, 15, is a few days away from completing her freshman year at an Atlantic City, N.J., high school when her twin brother, Tyler, is killed in a bicycle accident. Kit and her parents are devastated, and they all seek comfort, but rarely with each other. Kit's father starts spending more time away from home, her mother zones out watching TV and pursues a lawsuit related to Tyler's death, and Kit feels forgotten and invisible as she grieves. Grandma Carlin is one of Kit's few confidantes, along with Tyler's best friend Brandon and Lex, a girl Kit meets at a summer job at the Jewish Community Center. Palmer traces Kit's healing path over the summer, but several characters and their relationships are vaguely developed (it's particularly difficult to get a real sense of who Tyler was), and the discussions of religion, reincarnation, and alcohol abuse never really dig below the surface, resulting in an underwhelming coming-of-age story. Ages 12–up.



Daisy and the Pirates

J.T. Allen. Sumus, \$7.99 paper (216p) ISBN 978-1-5204-0007-5

Eleven-year-old Daisy Tannenbaum must outwit a group of pirates while keeping her family safe in this enjoyable series opener. Daisy is excited to be spending the summer

in Thailand with her archeology professor father, who is excavating a Roman ship, even though her annoying older sister, Clymene, is there, too. After Daisy's mother arrives to pick up the girls, a transportation strike forces the three of them to join her father and grad assistant Helen on a steamer ship transporting the artifact he's dug up. Then pirates hijack the ship, a storm sinks it, and the Tannenbaums wash ashore on a small island. Daisy is steadfast and intelligent, and her casual first-person narration quickly establishes a rapport with readers. Daisy's parents get little development as characters, though, and Clymene is portrayed as a typical selfish older sibling, one who can get surprisingly violent. Despite the dangers presented by brushes with pirates and survival in the wild, the story never feels all that tense, but readers should enjoy watching Daisy's quick thinking in action during her paradise adventure. A sequel, *Daisy in Exile*, is also available. Ages 8–12.



Tillie Heart and Soul

Mary Atkinson. Maine Authors Publishing, \$14.95 paper (160p) ISBN 978-1-63381-108-9

Atkinson introduces a relatable heroine in 10-year-old Tillie, who never knew her father and whose volatile mother is away at a treatment center to get sober. Tillie lives in Massachusetts with her loving gay uncle in a piano factory converted to lofts and artist studios. An avid roller skater, Tillie is eager to take part in the annual skate-a-thon; she also hopes that her mother might be able to attend. After Tillie and her friend Shanelle meet new student Gloria, Tillie becomes increasingly self-conscious about not having a parent around. Atkinson excels at exploring the girls' shifting friendship dynamics and the difficulty of managing expectations when it comes to an unreliable loved one. The conclusion may not surprise many readers, but Tillie's honest voice resonates, and secondary characters, notably Uncle Fred and the surrounding community of artists, are equally genuine. Ages 8–12.



I'll Never See That Cloud Again: The Boy's First Adventure

Daniel Leigh-Brown, illus. by Felipe Luna Lira. CreateSpace, \$12.99 paper (22p) ISBN 978-1-5485-4020-3

A contemplative boy gets an up-close

look at the wonders of the sky in this first book in a planned series from British writer Leigh-Brown. Dismissed as "dim" by his stepfather, the unnamed boy magically assembles a towering structure of objects and buildings that lets him ascend into the heavens: "He scrambled up his toy box, wardrobe, Dad's grandfather clock,/ the car, the shed, the house, the school, his Auntie's office block." From there, he hitches a ride on a passing dirigible, watching as ever-changing clouds take the shapes of various animals and objects, followed by the light shows of sunset and a glowing aurora. The meter of Leigh-Brown's verse is solid, though the rhymes have a tendency to become convoluted or repetitive ("The next cloud looked enormous like a monstrous giant whale"). But Chilean artist Lira's dramatic vistas more than compensate, bringing the boy's journey to vivid, cinematic life. Is it an imaginary journey or a magical one? Either way, it shows how children can find some solace when their families fall short. Ages 4–8.



***PW Select* provides indie authors promotional access to reach and influence the gatekeepers of the publishing industry.**



Enrollment into the *PW Select* program provides indie authors the tools and resources for a successful publishing experience.

Benefits include:

- ✓ Full-color Announcements listing within *PW Select* and *PW*
- ✓ 6-month digital subscription to *PW Select* and *PW*
- ✓ Placement in *PW*'s seasonal database powered by Edelweiss
- ✓ Free subscription to *The PW Select Report*, a semimonthly e-newsletter supporting indie authors.

Where you start after you finish writing your book.

PublishersWeekly.com/PWSelect

Access These Great *PW* Partners



rights@pubmatch



Reviews

Fiction

★ You Think It, I'll Say It

Curtis Sittenfeld. Random House, \$27 (256p)
ISBN 978-0-399-59286-7

In her thoroughly satisfying first collection, Sittenfeld (*Eligible*) spins magic out of the short story form. Bookended by tales concerning the election of Donald Trump, the collection comfortably situates itself in contemporary America, focusing on female protagonists navigating friendships, family, politics, and social media. In "A Regular Couple," a semifamous defense attorney reconsiders her past after she runs into a high school frenemy also honeymooning at the same resort. In "The Prairie Wife," a woman contemplates whether to make public a bombshell revelation that would ruin the image of a lifestyle celebrity she dated as a teen. Another celebrity story, "Off the Record," places a small-time interviewer in the home of an up-and-coming starlet, with explicit instructions to leave her appointment with juicy details on the starlet's recent breakup. And in "Volunteers Are Shining Stars," perhaps the collection's best entry, a young volunteer at a shelter for mothers and children in Washington, D.C., develops a hatred for a new, bubbly volunteer. As in her novels, Sittenfeld's characters are funny and insightful. Reading these consistently engrossing stories is a pleasure. *Agent: Jennifer Rudolph Walsb, WME Entertainment.* (Apr.)

The Chandelier

Clarice Lispector, trans. from the Portuguese by Benjamin Moser and Magdalena Edwards. New Directions, \$26.95 (304p) ISBN 978-0-8112-2313-3

Never before translated into English, Lispector's mysterious second novel tells the story of two siblings and the secrets that bind them together. As children, sensitive Daniel and precocious Virginia live at the parochial Quiet Farm in the principality of Upper Marsh; Daniel keeps a collection of spiders, and Virginia spends her



© JOSEPHINE SITTENFELD

Curtis Sittenfeld's story collection, You Think It, I'll Say It, is funny, insightful, and thoroughly satisfying (reviewed on this page).

time making clay figurines. They witness a drowning and form the Society of Shadows to explore the forest around their home and spy on their sister Esmeralda. As a young adult, Virginia leaves the farm and attempts to fit in with a ravishing crew of aesthetes led by the vain Vicente, who becomes her lover—but her thoughts are always turning back to Daniel, whose engagement breaks Virginia's heart, leading her to question her identity; she wonders if she isn't like the family's chandelier, above everything and swinging first one way, then the other. Told mainly through Virginia's associative, stream-of-consciousness thoughts, which are occasionally interrupted by dialogue and plot developments, the novel clearly precedes Lispector's artistic breakthrough with books like 1964's *The Passion According to G.H.* This is a haunting family fable, and will fascinate those seeking a glimpse at Lispector's genius in development. (Mar.)

★ Memento Park

Mark Sarvas. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$26 (288p) ISBN 978-0-374-20637-6

Sarvas's rich and engaging second novel is worth the decade's wait since his first, *Harry, Revised*. Nearing 40, Matt Santos has an undistinguished but lucrative acting career, a swimsuit-model fiancée, and the confidence of having life figured out. Matt's father, Gabor, a first-generation immigrant with whom he has a distant, contentious relationship, has raised Matt without connection to their Jewish

identity and Hungarian heritage. Then authorities charged with returning Nazi-appropriated artworks notify Matt that a 1925 painting valued at several million dollars, stolen from his family during WWII, may be returned. The usually grasping Gabor refuses to accept the piece—of which Matt knows nothing—or explain its connection with their past; as Matt probes the painting's history and revisits his own religious and family roots for answers, his attraction to restitution attorney Rachel Steinberg and shifting vision of the father he has dismissed as cruel and indifferent throw him into tumult. Sarvas couples a suspenseful mystery with nuanced meditations on father-son bonds, the intricacies of identity, the aftershocks of history's horrors, and the ways people and artworks can—perhaps even must—be endlessly reinterpreted. (Mar.)

The Wild Inside

Jamey Bradbury. Morrow, \$25.99 (304p)
ISBN 978-0-06-274199-8

Set in the dense Alaska wilderness, Bradbury's quiet yet haunting debut novel is equal parts back-to-the-land adventure story and foreboding psychological thriller. Fresh on the heels of her mother's sudden death and an expulsion from school, 17-year-old Tracy spends most of her days hunting and trapping in the forest abutting her family's back-country home and kennel. When a hulking stranger attacks her in the woods, she defends herself and almost kills him—or does she? The plot is slow but gripping: it changes course after a 17-year-old drifter named Jesse answers Tracy's father's ad for a tenant and helps take care of the dogs in preparation for the approaching Iditarod. Though Jesse and Tracy become close in more ways than one, Tracy suspects he's hiding something—especially after she realizes he lied about his past and might be connected to the person who accosted her in the woods. Bradbury builds suspense by keeping Tracy—and the reader—mostly in the dark about what's actually going on until the gruesome reveal at the end. She also adds other elements to keep interests piqued: Tracy's ability to sense her kills' thoughts adds a mystical element to the narrative, and the detailed depiction of

mushing is captivating. It's a unique take on rural noir. *Agent: Michelle Brower, Aevitas. (Mar.)*

Gun Love

Jennifer Clement. Random/Hogarth, \$25 (256p) ISBN 978-1-5247-6168-4

In her excellent fifth novel, Clement (*Prays for the Stolen*) tackles homelessness, America's love affair with guns, and the economic despair of folks living on the dark edge of society. Pearl is a 14-year-old girl living with her mother in an old car next to a crummy trailer park and the town dump in central Florida. The car has been their home since Pearl was born. She and her mother are dreamers ("It doesn't take too long to figure out that dreams are better than life," says her mother), but their dreams don't spare them from tragedy when cop-killing charmer Eli shows up and woos Pearl's mother, coming between mother and daughter. Eli and trailer neighbors Pastor Rex and Ray are in the gun-running business, selling weapons in Texas and Mexico. When

Pearl's small, insular world is shattered by an armed drifter, she starts on a dangerous path that will change the rest of her life. Clement's affecting and memorable novel is also an incisive social commentary that will give readers much to ponder. *(Mar.)*

Paris Metro

Wendell Steavenson. Norton, \$25.95 (384p) ISBN 978-0-393-60978-3

Terrorism arrives on one journalist's doorstep in Steavenson's expansive debut novel. Kit has spent her adult life traveling between difficult places—from Baghdad in 2003 to Kos, Greece, in 2015 to cover the influx of Syrian refugees. Along the way, she falls in love with a charming Iraqi, Ahmed—who may be working for the UN or who may just be untrustworthy—and becomes stepmother to Ahmed's son, known as Little Ahmed. Kit's friends joke about her chronic "bad luck" because she always narrowly misses the opportunity to witness scenes of violence and catastrophe firsthand. But all that changes when, in 2015, having

returned to Paris, Kit first loses a friend in the Charlie Hebdo shootings and later fears that a loved one may have played a role in the November terror attacks. Steavenson, the author of several books of international reporting (*The Weight of a Mustard Seed*, etc.), skillfully writes about the history and politics of global conflicts; the novel's first half, which could almost read like a fictionalized journalistic memoir, is balanced by its far more emotional second half. The false dichotomy of an "us vs. them" divide, the lingering prejudices of a protagonist who once thought herself above such things, the knowledge that solutions are rarely, if ever, tidy—all are wrestled with throughout a novel that powerfully merges the personal and the political. *(Mar.)*

The Fighter

Michael Farris Smith. Little, Brown, \$26 (256p) ISBN 978-0-316-43234-4

The ferocious fourth novel by the author of *Desperation Road* confines itself to a few fraught days in the life of a cage

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF TEEN SUSPENSE ARE HERE AGAIN!"

— A. BATES, AUTHOR OF PARTY LINE AND FINAL EXAM
AULINEBATES.COM

TO OVERCOME HIS INNER DEMONS, BLAKE THOMAS MUST FACE HIS DEEPEST FEAR ...

"A DELIGHTFULLY TWISTED TALE OF SUSPENSE..."

JOHN PEEL, AUTHOR OF THE SHOCKERS SERIES, AND, AS NICHOLAS ADAMS, IOU AND SANTA CLAWS



ISBN-13: 978-1548661182

Available at
amazon

Buy it at
BARNES & NOBLE

BRYCEGIBSONWRITER.COM



fighter on his last legs. Forty-something Jack Boucher, raised by a foster mother in the Mississippi Delta, has reached a crisis point. Subsisting on pain pills washed down with Wild Turkey, he has lost large chunks of his memory, but he knows that his beloved foster mom is dying in a nursing home and that he is on the edge of being killed by loan shark Big Momma Sweet if he doesn't either hand over some cash or take on one last, potentially fatal fight. After a car crash on a back road, Jack's destiny becomes entwined with that of a troupe of outlaw carnies, among them the thoughtful, tattooed Annette, who can't "decide if she was putting together pieces to some fateful puzzle or if she had simply fallen into this man's mess because of her own need." Vivid descriptions never slow the pace of the plot, which moves swiftly toward an inevitable but still surprising climax. As violent as it is poetic, Smith's novel draws the reader in from beginning to end. (Mar.)

Finding Georgina

Colleen Faulkner. Kensington, \$15.95 trade paper (304p) ISBN 978-1-4967-1155-7

A mother finds her daughter who was kidnapped 14 years earlier in the satisfying latest from Faulkner (*What Makes a Family*). Harper Broussard is a New Orleans veterinarian living with her teenage daughter, Jojo, in the ancestral home inherited by her ex-husband, Remy. There have been times over the past 14 years that Harper has believed that she's seen Georgina, her oldest daughter who was kidnapped when she was two, and now she becomes certain a teenage girl working in a local coffee shop is her long-lost daughter. When police question the girl's mother, Sharon Kohen, she confesses to kidnapping Georgina, whom she initially believed was her deceased child and then came to love as if she were her own. While Harper is elated that her daughter has been cared for all these years, she is disturbed that Georgina doesn't remember her and has been going by the

name of Lilla Kohen, the name of Sharon's dead child. Georgina, an intelligent, independent young woman, is devastated by Sharon's betrayal and thrust into the arms of a family she can't recall. Harper struggles with her overprotective nature and her Catholic faith, which is at odds with Georgina's Jewish upbringing. Through multiple points of view, Faulkner crafts a cast of flawed, realistic characters, and the story's intense emotion will resonate with readers. (Mar.)

The Price of the Haircut

Brock Clarke. Algonquin, \$15.95 trade paper (240p) ISBN 978-1-61620-817-2

In his third short story collection, Clarke (*An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England*) offers 11 satirical, sometimes surreal, tales that investigate broken individuals and flawed societal expectations. In the title story, emotionally fragile middle-class white men suffering from bad haircuts debate whether to patronize a racist but affordable barber. In "The Misunderstandings," a family's dysfunctions inadvertently challenge the local restaurant community and its patrons to rethink their assumptions and beliefs. "The Grand Canyon" airs a woman's breathless grievances against her new husband after they honeymoon in a tent near the famous national park. In "What is the



Cure for Meanness?," a teenage son attempts to differentiate himself from his abusive father by giving his mother a series of gifts that only make things worse. The narrator of "Good Night" struggles to accept affection without caustic commentary. In "Our Pointy Boots," soldiers on leave search for relief from the horrors of war in a distant, fond

memory they all share. Clarke's disquieting, droll work reflects humanity like a dark fun house mirror. (Mar.)

Laura & Emma

Kate Greathead. Simon & Schuster, \$25 (352p) ISBN 978-1-5011-5660-1

In Greathead's warmhearted debut novel, spanning 1980 to 1995, Laura, a quiet woman in her early 30s from Manhattan's Upper East Side, attempts to balance her progressive ideals with the lavish lifestyle she lives thanks to a trust fund. After a one-night stand with her brother's friend leads to pregnancy, Laura tries to forge a life for herself and her daughter, Emma, on her own terms—while also staying near home and accepting the help of her old-money family. The supporting characters who come in and out of Laura's life over the years sparkle with idiosyncrasies, especially Laura's mother, Bibs, and Emma's devoted pediatrician. The novel is told in short scenes; major events can happen off the page, as with the death of a loved one, which is revealed by a scene set at the reception held after the funeral. Greathead is a talented writer of detail, particularly in her evocations of New York life—subway sobbing, could-be celebrity sightings, the joy of a favorite grocery store—and specifically of New York's elite—board meetings, private preschool admissions, "the impermeable serenity of a Manhattan courtyard," and the specific difference between an address on 96th and Park and 96th and Lexington. This is a thoughtful novel of trying to find oneself despite an assigned place in the world. *Agent: Amy Williams, the Williams Company.* (Mar.)

The Kremlin Ball

Curzio Malaparte, trans. from the Italian by Jenny McPhee. New York Review Books, \$15.95 trade paper (256p) ISBN 978-1-68137-209-9

Appearing for the first time in English is Malaparte's strange, aimless, and impassioned skewering of the decadence

Our Reviewers

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Danny Adams | Jessica Daitch | Donna Freitas | Juliet Kahn | Jackie Miller | Eugene Reynolds |
| Allen Appel | Kate De Groot | Daphne Grab | Maia Kobabe | Libby Morse | Antonia Saxon |
| Chris Barsanti | Jennifer de Guzman | Krystyna Poray Goddu | Pam Lambert | Julie Naughton | Lelia Taylor |
| Nancy Bloch | Kate Dunn | Sara Grochowski | Anaea Lay | Erica Ruth Neubauer | Kathy Weeks |
| Monique Bos | Stefan Dziemianowicz | Bob Hahn | Erin Levenauer | Dai Newman | Stacy Woodson |
| Mitzi Brunsdale | Lance Eaton | Stephanie Howlett-West | Adam Lipkin | Dionne Obeso | |
| Kristin Centorelli | Maya Fleischmann | Mary M. Jones | Shannon Maughan | Leonard Picker | |
| Leela Corman | Jordan Foster | Michael M. Jones | Sheri Melnick | Gwyn Plummer | |

★ Fox

Dubravka Ugrešić, trans. from the Croatian by Ellen Elias-Bursać and David Williams. Open Letter, \$16.95 trade paper (308p) ISBN 978-1-940953-76-2

Ugrešić's soaring, incisive novel uses the shape-shifting avatar of the fox to explore story-making. The linked narrative structure is reminiscent of her novel *The Museum of Unconditional Surrender*, as an unnamed narrator in exile from the former Yugoslavia struggles with the complications of 21st-century writing. There are six sections, tonally varied save for the inevitable appearance of a fox in each, that cascade together in the thrilling climax, which merges the emotional—the narrator's love for her niece—and the practical—the narrator's disappointing visit to a Holden Caulfield-themed MFA program in Italy (it's named Scuola Holden). Two sections take on the form of essays, with some factual material and some invented by the writer. One examines a Japanese narrative by the Russian writer Boris Pilnyak; the other is a sketch of Dorothy Leuthold, a minor figure in the Nabokov cosmos. Two sections are set in Europe's literary community, as the narrator suffers the minor indignities of life as an "economy-class writer" while she is taught lessons about storytelling by two older women who are each associated with obscure Russian authors named Levin. In the remarkable third section, "The Devil's Garden," the narrator inherits a house in Croatia and forges a surprising connection. "The urge for home is powerful," she writes; "it has the force of primal instinct.... The greatest feat of every emigrant seems to be making a new home." Ugrešić's novel is a wonder; it's essential reading for writers and lovers of writing alike. (Apr.)



and hypocrisy of the "Marxist nobility," the paradoxical haute-proletariat society of 1920s Russia. Readers see Stalin never missing a ballet starring the famed Marina Semyonova, and Trotsky's sister Madame Kamenev and the writer Mikhail Bulgakov meditating on humanity's endless suffering. In Malaparte's telling, the supposed revolutionaries are obsessed with the French fashion designer Schiaparelli, chocolates from "the famous Fuchs of Warsaw," and gossip. While Malaparte's morbid glee in describing Lenin's preserved body as a "precious crustacean" or the revolutionary hero Karakhan as little more than "a fabulous tennis player" is infectious, the numerous French bon mots from Russian party functionaries and German newspaper correspondents mean little to a contemporary reader. Malaparte described this work as "a novel in the Proustian sense," recounting "the tragic sunset of a revolutionary society" before Stalin's purges began in earnest. He is halfway successful;

the tragedy of a utopian ideal betrayed by human foible and vanity is certainly timeless, but, unlike Proust's work, this one doesn't quite recapture a lost time. (Mar.)

Harbor of Spies: A Novel of Historic Havana

Robin Lloyd. Lyons, \$24.95 (320p) ISBN 978-1-4930-3226-6

Lloyd's second novel, after *Rough Passage to London*, is a swashbuckling spy adventure set in 1863 Havana, Cuba, that follows Everett Townsend, an American sea captain arrested for sedition. To gain his freedom, Everett reluctantly agrees to become a blockade runner for a corrupt merchant, supporting the Confederate cause by using his ship to carry contraband war material to the South and return to Havana with valuable cargoes of cotton. This is lucrative but dangerous work; Everett evades blockading Union warships, becomes involved with an old unsolved murder, and discovers British complicity in the Spanish slave trade that

drives the Cuban economy. Disgusted with Spanish brutality toward slaves, Everett agrees to spy for the Union, putting himself in even more peril and leading the story to a climactic escape sequence. Everett's family melodrama and a romance plot are also included, but the real draw is Lloyd's excellent historical detail. (Mar.)

Now the Night Begins

Alain Guiraudie, trans. from the French by Jeffrey Zuckerman. Semiotext(e), \$24.95 (224p) ISBN 978-1-63590-005-7

French film director Guiraudie (*Stranger by the Lake*) focuses on the overlap of violence, power, and rampant sexual desire in his psychologically taxing and deeply disconcerting tale. Forty-year-old Gilles upends a lazy afternoon visit to his neighbors, the 90-something Grampa, his daughter, Mariette, and her teenage granddaughter, Cindy, by taking a sexual fantasy involving Grampa's underwear too far. Before they know Gilles is the culprit, Mariette reports the underwear theft and Gilles becomes the target of gruesome police brutality. As he bumbles through the rest of the summer, making and breaking dates with former lovers and cruising the beach, Gilles struggles with his confusing sexual feelings for Grampa and gives in to Cindy's increasingly brazen advances. In a sudden shift, Gilles witnesses the menacing chief of police drowning a man. The chief attempts to intimidate Gilles and ignites a perplexing all-consuming romance between them, though Gilles worries he only acquiesces to avoid being killed himself. Guiraudie never shies away from any darkness, offering frank, unpleasant descriptions of Gilles's nearly sociopathic desires and dreams but offering little reason for the reader's investment. All but the most steely fans of sadistic thrillers will find the novel too aimless and disturbing. (Mar.)

The Girlfriend

Sarah J. Naughton. Sourcebooks, \$15.99 trade paper (368p) ISBN 978-1-4926-5124-6

In this stirring but unwieldy novel, Naughton (*Tattletale*) introduces two women intent on avoiding and covering up traumatic moments from their pasts. Mags takes time off from her corporate job in Las Vegas to visit her long-

estranged brother, Abe, in London. When she arrives, she learns that Abe is in a coma after a fall down stairs. Immediately, she begins to suspect that the fall was not suicidal (as the police believe) but that his girlfriend, Jody, may be to blame. Naughton alternates chapters between Jody, Mags, and Mira, a neighbor of Abe's. While readers will delight in Mags's nuanced struggle with her emotions regarding her brother and her suspicions of Jody, many sections are clichéd, such as those from the perspective of Mira, who knows more than she's saying. Sections told in third person are scattered throughout the book, amplifying the cat-and-mouse feel of Mags' investigations and muddying the water of what really happened by creating an undercurrent of unreliability. Although the investigation into Abe's fall drives the narrative, the nature of Mags and Abe's past falling-out is a subject of intrigue. Naughton's narrative asks intriguing questions about overcoming past traumas and the desire for revenge, but the twists that come with the answers never quite satisfy. (Mar.)

Hot Mess

Emily Belden. Graydon House, \$15.99 trade paper (416p) ISBN 978-1-525-81141-8

Belden's breezy but shallow behind-the-scenes debut novel set in Chicago's high-end restaurant biz revolves around the escapades of 25-year-old Allie Simon. She's hooked up with charismatic Benji Zane, a chef renowned for his pop-up dinner parties and a former drug addict who's hyped up about the opportunity to run his own restaurant. Allie, blinded by wild sex with her lover, is oblivious to the myriad signs that he is still using and sinks her life savings into the project, believing in him, his sobriety, and their future. When Benji goes AWOL, Allie leaves her job as social media manager for an organic cotton swab company and plunges into the fast-paced restaurant world to save her investment while keeping it a secret that Benji has disappeared. Angela Blackstone, the restaurant's veteran general manager, does great work whipping Allie into shape for the launch upon which their lives depend. All too predictably, romance, phenomenal success, financial independence and self-

revelation provide a tidy ending. The territory the author plumbs in this book is familiar from her memoir, *Eightsixed*: the vagaries of dating, social media, and how one's security can turn on a dime. (Mar.)

Mystery/Thriller

Our Kind of Cruelty

Araminta Hall. MCD, \$26 (288p) ISBN 978-0-374-22819-4

British journalist Hall (*Everything and Nothing*) makes her U.S. debut with a disturbing psychological thriller. Sometimes there's a fine line between crazy in love and just plain crazy, and for glossy London golden couple Mike Hayes and Verity "V" Walton, it's one that becomes blurrier when, after years of all-consuming passion, V decides she wants something different. Or does she? Investment banker Mike refuses to accept her moving on to advertising tycoon Angus Metcalf at face value, viewing it instead as a new, higher-stakes version of the Crave, their kinky private role-playing game. Hall constructs a suspenseful plot that capitalizes on considerable ambiguity about her characters' motivations, especially the key issue of the extent to which V, a scientist working in AI, might be manipulating Mike. But with the story unfolding through the eyes of the emotionally damaged Mike, who was abused as a boy, readers never learn enough about V and arguably a lot more than they might wish about a narrator whose head is an uncomfortably creepy place to be. Still, Hall is a writer to watch. *Agent: Lizzy Kremer, David Higham (U.K.). (May)*

★ A Necessary Evil

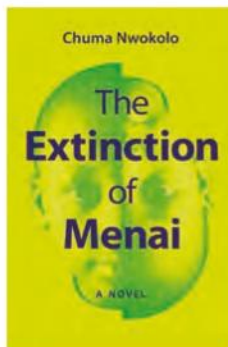
Abir Mukherjee. Pegasus Crime, \$25.95 (384p) ISBN 978-1-68177-671-2

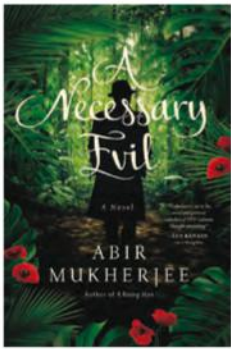
Set in 1920, Mukherjee's impressive sequel to 2017's *A Rising Man* finds Capt. Sam Wyndham, a former Scotland Yard officer, and his astute sidekick, Sgt. "Surrender-Not" Banerjee of the Bengal Police, transporting Crown Prince Adhir Singh Sai, of the small kingdom of Sambalpore, back to the prince's Calcutta hotel after a conference. The royal, who attended boarding school with Surrender-Not, wants his advice about

★ The Extinction of Menai

Chuma Nwokolo. Ohio Univ., \$22.95 trade paper (424p) ISBN 978-0-8214-2298-4

Twins separated at birth discover their true identities and a spiritual leader pursues the ancestral homeland of his "dying nation" in this poignant, thrilling, and funny novel from Nwokolo (*Diaries of a Dead African*). Brothers Humphrey, a London writer, and Zanda, a journalist in Abuja, Nigeria, are Menai, descendants of a Nigerian tribe whose members were, in 1990, subjected by a pharmaceutical company to drug tests that killed thousands. By 2005, only a few dozen Menai remain, and their elderly shaman Mata sets out on a quest to find and be buried in their ancestral Saharan homeland. Meanwhile, a succession of hallucinations and blackouts reveal to both Humphrey and Zanda that they have been living double lives, unbeknownst even to themselves: Zanda has been operating as the anticorruption extremist Badu, while Humphrey lived as Izak for eight years on the Ivory Coast. Badu's co-conspirators smuggle him to Cameroon; and Humphrey heads to Africa to rediscover his forgotten life. But Izak is wanted by the police, too, forcing Humphrey to flee to Lagos, only to be mistaken for his brother and arrested. Zanda is the only one who can clear his name, but he has to return to Nigeria first. The madcap twists and turns that ensue provide a joyful counterpoint to Mata's somber odyssey, and Nwokolo manages to brilliantly distill his branching plot into a singular portrayal of a threatened culture. (Mar.)





notes that were left for him in his rooms. But before he can discuss their contents, a religious procession forces their car to take a detour, placing them in the path of an assassin who

fatally shoots the prince. Sam and Surrender-Not's failure to apprehend the killer only makes things worse, and, though they eventually track the man down, he takes his own life, leaving the investigators still in the dark about his motives. The road to the truth takes them to Sambalpur, a hive of intrigue and suspects. This successful evocation of the Raj in the service of a brilliant whodunit demonstrates that Mukherjee's debut was no fluke. *Agent: Sam Copeland, Rogers, Coleridge & White (U.K.). (Apr.)*

After Anna

Lisa Scottoline. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (352p) ISBN 978-1-250-09965-5

In this nail-biting domestic thriller from Scottoline (*One Perfect Lie*), prominent Pennsylvania pediatric allergist Noah Alderman, a widower, finds love again with Maggie Ippolitti. She adores his son, and they have a happy life. But everything changes when Maggie gets a call from her daughter, Anna, whom she lost custody of when the girl was six months old. Now a high school student, Anna wants to live with her. Maggie is thrilled at a second chance, and Noah is overjoyed for her. But Anna is manipulative, refuses to follow rules, and pits Maggie against Noah. Tensions mount. When Anna is murdered, Maggie is devastated. Not only is her daughter dead, but Noah is convicted of the crime. Noah claims he's innocent, but Maggie doesn't believe him. After Maggie receives a call from Anna's therapist, however, she realizes things aren't what they appear and embarks on a mission to find the truth. Filled with plenty of twists and complex characters, this entertaining story builds to a satisfying conclusion. *Agent: Robert Gottlieb, Trident Media Group. (Apr.)*

Twenty-One Days: A Daniel Pitt Novel

Anne Perry. Ballantine, \$28 (320p) ISBN 978-0-399-17988-4

Set in 1910, bestseller Perry's series kickoff introducing attorney Daniel Pitt fails to impress, in part because Daniel, the son of the stars of the author's Thomas and Charlotte Pitt series (*Murder on the Serpentine*, etc.), is a much less developed character than his parents. After managing to gain an acquittal for a client charged with murder, the inexperienced Daniel aids in the defense of historian Russell Graves, who's on trial at London's Old Bailey for murdering his wife, Ebony. Even though Ebony's face and upper body were "burned to the point of total disfigurement," their 19-year-old daughter, Sarah, was able to identify the body. When Graves is convicted, Daniel has 21 days to find exculpatory evidence before the man's execution. In his search, he encounters a serious moral dilemma. The puzzle's uninspired solution won't shake the faith of Perry fans. They know that she's quite capable of doing better. *Agent: Donald Maass, Donald Maass Literary. (Apr.)*

The Elizas

Sara Shepard. Atria, \$26 (352p) ISBN 978-1-5011-6277-0

At the start of this provocative, if at times predictable, psychological thriller from bestseller Shepard (*Everything We Ever Wanted*), Burbank, Calif., native Eliza Fontaine wakes up in the hospital. Days before, she was fished from the bottom of a Palm Springs resort's swimming pool in what appeared to be her latest suicide attempt. Yet this time, Eliza insists that someone pushed her. Her frustrated family suggests that she's unwell and should check into a facility, but Eliza is certain that she knows the truth and is determined to find out who might have a reason to want her dead. Meanwhile, her debut novel, *The Dots*, about a young girl with a brain tumor and the glamorous aunt who cares for her, is nearing publication. But the more Eliza looks into her past, the more it's apparent there are holes in her memory and it's unclear how much her book of fiction is based on half-remembered history. While the shifts between Eliza's investigation and excerpts from

The Dots can be jarring, Eliza's voice draws readers in, and her unreliable memory creates tension. Gillian Flynn fans will be satisfied. *Agent: Andy McNicol, William Morris Endeavor. (Apr.)*

Warning Light

David Ricciardi. Berkley, \$27 (336p) ISBN 978-0-399-58573-9

Zac Miller, the 28-year-old hero of Ricciardi's gripping first novel and series launch, is on his way to Singapore when one of the engines of the passenger plane he is on fails over Iran. The plane flies into prohibited airspace and lands at an airport in the small city of Sirjan. The Iranians are extremely upset because a secret nuclear facility is just minutes from Sirjan and no Westerners should be anywhere near it. Zac, in tourist fashion, snaps several pictures on the way into the terminal, where he's detained by security personnel. Nominally a technology consultant, Zac is really a CIA strategic weapons analyst, a substitute for the trained field agent who was supposed to be on the airliner. After several bouts of torture, Zac escapes and begins a run across land and sea, displaying plenty of resourcefulness during his dangerous journey. He eventually comes to realize that he's more suited to a career in the field than behind a desk. Thriller fans will look forward to his further adventures. *Agent: Rick Richter, Aevitas Creative Management. (Apr.)*

★ The Big Get-Even

Paul Di Filippo. Blackstone, \$26.99 (302p) ISBN 978-1-5047-8391-0

Set somewhere in the American west, this clever thriller from Di Filippo (*A Palazzo in the Stars*) boasts a sophisticated scam story line. Glen McClinton, who used to be a "young, high-flying legal eagle," landed behind bars after bilking clients of millions. After his release, Glen is directionless until Stan Hasso, a fellow ex-con who might have died of a drug overdose shortly after leaving prison if Glen hadn't been there to intervene, approaches him with a tempting proposition. Stan did time for arson after being betrayed by the man who paid him to torch buildings, real estate mogul Barnaby Nancarrow. Stan proposes a partnership with Glen to fleece Nancarrow out of \$20 million by convincing Nancarrow that he

Selena and her late husband, Ed, owned the Cole Group—a company specializing in kidnap prevention, ransom negotiations, and rescues throughout the world—until Ed's death in a bombing. Dominic may have been closer to members of the Cole Group than anyone has let on. Frustrated by the half-truths and omissions of Selena and those around her, Leah and Finn must examine all the Cole employees and their past missions to find a murderer. Readers will hope these sibling cops return in a sequel. *Agent: Camilla Wray, Darley Anderson Literary (U.K.). (Mar.)*

Glimpse

Jonathan Maberry. St. Martin's, \$26.99 (352p) ISBN 978-1-250-06526-1

New Yorker Rain Thomas, the tormented heroine of this uneven supernatural thriller from bestseller Maberry (*Ghost Road Blues*), had sex for the first time at 15 with 18-year-old Noah, who shipped off to Iraq the next day. She later learned that she was pregnant and that Noah has died in an explosion. Under pressure, Rain gave up their baby for adoption. Years later, she still grieves for Noah and feels guilty about giving up the baby. Then things start to get really bad. She arrives early for a job interview, only to be told that she's almost 24 hours late. Her disorientation at having blacked out and lost an entire day is compounded when she concludes that she hallucinated an encounter with an old woman who gave her a pair of glasses with a crack in one lens that have unusual properties: they allow her to see a boy who looks a lot like Noah. Maberry sympathetically depicts Rain's struggle to maintain her sanity, but familiar genre material, including Rain's battle with an evil figure whose name should not be uttered, soon overshadows the initially moving human story. *(Mar.)*

The Neighbors

Hannah Mary McKinnon. Mira, \$15.99 trade paper (384p) ISBN 978-0-7783-1100-3

Nate Morris has no idea that Liam Jefferson, his new next-door neighbor in Bromley, England, shares an intimate history with his wife, Abby—and neither Abby nor Liam enlightens him in McKinnon's enjoyable if flawed second

[Q&A]

PW TALKS WITH NOVA JACOBS

Math and Murder

In Jacobs's *The Last Equation of Isaac Severy* (Touchstone, Mar.), the title character, a brilliant mathematician, leaves behind cryptic clues to his mysterious death for his granddaughter to solve.

How did you come up with this idea?

The idea of a murder mystery set against a mathematical backdrop had been accumulating in my mind for some time. I had moved to Los Angeles for the film culture, but found myself simultaneously fascinated by the worlds of Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Here was this entire buzzing universe of creativity and mental rigor completely separate from Hollywood, yet just over the hill in Pasadena. I loved the idea of a story set in L.A. in which the entertainment industry didn't even warrant a mention.

What does using mathematics as a central plot element do?

From a plot perspective, the equation of the title is purely a MacGuffin, and could presumably be any treasure that would keep the characters searching, fighting, and tearing their hair out. It's really through the characters and their world, not the plot mechanics, that the mathematics angle sings for me. How does a given character's numerical talents—or lack thereof—shape how they move through life? How does this unifying religion of mathematics affect each member of this family? It just so happens that the math element was roomy enough to allow for a whodunit and some gruesome deaths.

Do mathematicians view the world differently?

I do think so. But then don't we all use our specific areas of expertise to filter our experiences? It just happens that mathematicians—much like artists—experience this filtering in a particularly rarefied and abstract way. In his book *Letters to a Young Mathematician*, Ian Stewart writes that to be a mathematician is to encounter mathematical beauty not only in the interior arena of numbers and symbols but also in the everyday world, like the precise rhythms of a dog's gait or the geometry of birds assembled on a telephone wire. He goes on to say that a mathematician's grasp of the patterns that constitute beauty doesn't diminish its emotional impact, but rather deepens it.

Did your own family dynamics influence the interactions of the Severy family?

I don't come from a mathematical or scientific family, but I do come from a family that at one point or other has been labeled as weird. My parents were aggressively uninterested in fitting in. Much of my childhood was spent roughing it in the woods of Flagstaff and generally feeling separate from my classmates—this at a time before weird was cool. The Severys are not my family, but the flavors of eccentricity and otherness are certainly there.

—LENNY PICKER



© JEREMY HARRIS

novel (after 2016's *Time After Time*). Twenty years earlier, Abby and Liam were in love and planned to move in together, but when a night of drinking resulted in an accident that injured Abby and killed her younger brother, she ended the relationship. Unexpectedly reunited in Bromley, the two confront their attraction to each other as Abby desperately tries to keep her teenage daughter, Sarah, away from Liam's alluring son, Zac. The possibility that Liam, not Nate, might be Sarah's father raises the stakes. Meanwhile, Liam's wife, Nancy, pursues her own agenda. Ultimately, though, the plot falters, and a deus ex machina resolution and late revelation about the long-ago accident feel contrived. This sophomore effort works better as an exploration of personal relationships than a thriller. *Agents: Cassandra Rodgers and Sam Hiyate, Rights Factory (Canada). (Mar.)*

The Stakes

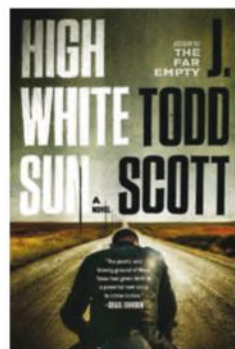
Ben Sanders. Minotaur, \$25.99 (336p) ISBN 978-1-250-14011-1

The NYPD is investigating detective Miles Keller, the hero of this entertaining if sketchy crime novel from New Zealand author Sanders (*Marshall's Law*), for killing Jack Deen, a hit man he believed was targeting his ex-girlfriend, former police informant Lucy Gates. On the side, Miles robs wealthy criminals. His current extracurricular project is intercepting a payoff to a rich and ruthless lawyer playing go-between in an assassination plot. Meanwhile, a rich gangster sends L.A. hired gun Bobby Deen, Jack's cousin, to New York to locate his missing wife, the irresistible and brilliant Nina. Nina just happens to be in the heist business, too, and tempts both Miles and Bobby with her latest scheme. Fast-paced alternating viewpoints—Miles's and Bobby's—challenge the reader to keep track of the complicated plot. Convincing dialogue and unexpected twists help compensate for a surfeit of heists and insufficiently filled-out characters (where Miles lives is never clear). References to New York's "freeways" and subway "carriages" suggest Sanders could have used more editorial direction. Still, fans of Donald Westlake's caper novels will find much to like. *Agent: Dan Myers, Word/Link Literary Agency. (Mar.)*

★ **High White Sun**

J. Todd Scott. Putnam, \$26 (480p) ISBN 978-0-399-17635-7

Scott's superb sequel to 2016's *The Far Empty* combines multifaceted characters with edge-of-the-seat suspense. The savage bludgeoning of river guide Billy Bravo, which obliterated part of his face, leads Texas sheriff Chris Cherry's deputies—veteran Ben Harper and rookie Amé Reynosa—to confront John Wesley Earl, a leader of a vicious prison gang, the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas. Their efforts to find proof linking the ABT to the murder are derailed by a surprising revelation from an FBI agent, making Chris's pursuit of justice even harder. The reverberations of the brutal 1999 murder of Texas Ranger Bob Ford also affect the homicide investigation. Scott excels at presenting the juxtaposition of the horrific and the mundane ("Her daddy had died on a stretch of dirty concrete ten steps from her window, and afterward cops came and got the body and took some pictures and tossed their cigarette butts on the place where he'd drawn his last breath, leaving behind only a yellow chalk outline"). Ace Atkins fans will relish this gritty crime novel. *Author tour. Agent: Carlie Webber, CK Webber Associates. (Mar.)*



Playing with Bonbon Fire: A Southern Chocolate Shop Mystery

Dorothy St. James. Crooked Lane, \$26.99 (352p) ISBN 978-1-68331-468-4

St. James's so-so sequel to 2017's *Asking for Truffle* finds Charity Penn running the Chocolate Box in Camellia Beach, S.C., a store she inherited from her late maternal grandmother, Mabel Maybank, and trying to learn more about her wealthy Maybank relatives. She's also involved in putting together the inaugural Summer Solstice Beach Music Festival. Headlining the fest is the reunion of local band the Embers, but the star attraction is music great Bixby Lewis. When a burned body is discovered by a beach bonfire, Penn fears it's Bixby, but the victim turns out to be Stan Frasier, the disaffected former lead singer for the Embers who had a hit with another group in the 1970s. Penn seizes the chance to play amateur sleuth, but she must contend with police chief Hank Byrd, who warns her not to investigate or interfere. Too much is going on in this farrago of a mystery, but cozy fans will still have fun. *Agent: Jill Marsal, Marsal Lyon Literary Agency. (Mar.)*

Not That I Could Tell

Jessica Strawser. St. Martin's, \$26.99 (320p) ISBN 978-1-250-10788-6

Early in this engrossing domestic thriller from Strawser (*Almost Missed You*), Kristin

Kirkland disappears with her school-age twins. Her soon-to-be ex-husband, Dr. Paul Kirkland, an ob-gyn in Yellow Springs, Ohio, reports them missing. Kristin inherited a \$1 million life insurance settlement when her first husband was killed in a tragic boating accident while she was pregnant with the twins. Has she vanished thinking that her money might be depleted in a divorce settlement, or is something more nefarious taking place? A search of Kristin's computer reveals recent visits to websites advising victims of spousal abuse. Paul, already under some suspicion, comes under intense police scrutiny. As the investigation proceeds, women who socialized with Kristin begin to examine their own lives. Short passages threaded throughout the narrative, presumably written by Kristin, reveal the pain in her marriage and her need to escape before she is murdered. The mysteries of whether Paul is culpable, and, if so, how and whether he will be discovered, make for a taut tale. *Agent: Barbara Poelle, Irene Goodman Literary. (Mar.)*

Illegal Holdings: A Valentin Vermeulen Thriller

Michael Niemann. Coffeetown, \$14.95 trade paper (240p) ISBN 978-1-60381-591-8

Niemann's well-plotted third Valentin Vermeulen thriller (after 2017's *Illicit*

Trade) takes the U.N. investigator with a penchant for getting into trouble to Maputo, Mozambique, where he looks into a fraud case. Global Alternatives, a Swiss foundation set up by hedge-fund billionaire Vincent Portallis, wired \$5 million to Nossa Terra, a development agency, but the money has gone missing. Aisa Simango, the head of Nossa Terra, and her small staff have no explanation, nor does Global's Maputo director or the local bank manager who handled the electronic transfer. In Vermeulen's dogged attempt to figure out the connections between the missing money, Nossa Terra's efforts to supply land to farmers, and the role of Portallis, Vermeulen gets help from his long-distance lover, freelance journalist Tessa Bishonga and a resourceful, sword-wielding young vagabond calling himself KillBill. Niemann provides interesting insights into U.N. bureaucracy, developing countries, and global economics as he demonstrates once again the difference that an honest man can make. (Mar.)



Holy Ceremony

Harri Nykänen, trans. from the Finnish by Kristian London. Bitter Lemon, \$14.95 trade paper (248p) ISBN 978-1-908524-89-8

In Nykänen's complex third mystery featuring Helsinki cop Ariel Kafka to be translated into English (after 2014's *Behind God's Back*), Kafka is summoned to an apartment where the naked corpse of Roosa Nevala, who had a history of psychiatric problems, lies on a sofa, her back adorned with ominous Biblical citations. The case becomes even more bizarre when the medical examiner recognizes her as the same woman who fatally overdosed on sedatives the day before and was brought to his morgue to be autopsied. Kafka is further unsettled when a letter to him is found under Nevala's body, signed by "The Adorner of the Sacred Vault," who refers to a holy ceremony that will end only after an evil dragon is slain. When Nevala's corpse vanishes again, Kafka is called by the thief, who advises him to "follow the signs of fire" to learn the truth. The solution to the subsequent murders that Kafka eventually learns of is particularly clever, and Nykänen is careful to plant the clues to whodunit and why fairly. Readers will look forward to Kafka's next outing. (Mar.)



The Fortunate Brother

Donna Morrissey. Canongate, \$24 (272p) ISBN 978-1-78689-057-3

Shameful secrets abound in Canadian author Morrissey's strong conclusion to her trilogy about the Now family set in rural Newfoundland (after *Sylvanus Now*). Sylvanus Now does a poor job of hiding his drinking from his wife, Addie; Addie has cancer, but won't tell daughter Sylvie; and son Kyle tries to hide all his insecurities from both parents as he continues to mourn his brother, Chris, who was killed by a truck years before. Other residents of the village of Hampden have their secrets. Why does Bonnie Gillard stay with her abusive husband, Clar? Who is newcomer Kate Mackenzie, the guitar playing singer-songwriter whom Kyle likes to visit? Why does elusive Vernon Trapp skulk around the community? When someone fatally stabs Clar, Kyle, who recently confronted him, becomes a suspect, as does Sylvanus. Helpful friends provide fabricated alibis for Kyle and Sylvanus, complicating things for Sergeant MacDuff, the crime's quietly competent investigator. Morrissey's bleak portrait of harsh village life will linger long in the reader's memory. (Mar.)



Déjà Moo: A Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum Mystery

Kirsten Weiss. Midnight Ink, \$15.99 trade paper (360p) ISBN 978-0-7387-5036-1

Santa Claus and a gang of gingerbread men set fire to the San Benedetto, Calif., Christmas Cow in Weiss's chuckle-worthy third Paranormal Museum mystery (after 2017's *Pressed to Death*). And while the burning of the straw cow, a tradition started by Swedish immigrants a century ago, is also an annual event, shooting an arrow into the person guarding the cow—Bill Eldrich, the president of the Dairy Association—is not. When Maddie Kosloski, the proprietor of the town's paranormal museum, and her mom, Fran Kosloski, discover Bill's body on the town's gazebo steps, they're met with kindness by Det. Jason Slate and suspicious hostility by Det. Laurel Hammer. Why would anyone want to kill the guy who was just guarding the cow? And did the tolling of the haunted—some say cursed—cowbells in the museum foretell the murder? Maddie feels com-

pelled to join in when her mom starts snooping, and soon they learn that there's no shortage of possible suspects with a variety of motives. Lots of humor and a good whodunit help make this cozy a winner. A ghost-detecting cat adds to the fun. (Mar.)



Hell Is Naked

Jean and Mary James. Woodcock, \$14.95 trade paper (250p) ISBN 978-0-9848605-6-2

Warren Roberts, the endearingly imperfect hero of this suspenseful whodunit from mother and daughter James, was a member of a Chicago police SWAT team until the physical wear and tear proved too much. Warren must now settle for routine investigative jobs from his PI friend, Bob Caine. His latest assignment, to find 29-year-old Lorraine "Rainy" Wray at the behest of her estranged father, looks like more of the same. Warren finds Rainy easily, on the set of an L.A. film shoot, where he poses as an extra to gain her confidence and her home address. Rainy disarms him with her generosity, providing him with appropriate clothes to wear for the film that belonged to a friend of hers, an extra who fell off a cliff during a shoot. Rainy's revelation that she suspects foul play in her friend's death, followed by an attempt on Warren's life and the execution of Bob in Chicago, plunges Warren into a convoluted mystery. Readers will hope to see more of Warren in a sequel. (BookLife)



SF/Fantasy/Horror

★ The Great God Pan and Other Horror Stories

Arthur Machen, edited by Aaron Worth. Oxford Univ., \$22.95 (448p) ISBN 978-0-19-881316-3

Editor Worth has assembled a connoisseur's collection of the work of legendary Welsh writer Machen (1863–1947), whose weird fiction frequently features characters who pierce the veil of the ordinary and encounter terrifying mysteries and marvels beyond it. In addition to such established classics as "The Great God Pan," about the unholy offspring spawned by a misguided medical experiment, and "The White People," an account of an innocent young girl's indoctrination into a malignant witch

cult, the book's 19 stories include the complete episodic novel "The Three Impostors," whose frame narrative about the clash between materialism and mysticism provide context for the stories usually excerpted from it (notably "Novel of the Black Seal," about an incautious investigator's encounter with a hideous survival from the pagan past). Worth has also harvested a number of sketches from Machen's later collections that are notable for their depictions of ordinary lives touched subtly by the strange. This is a must-have collection of landmark tales of horror. (Apr.)

School for Psychics: Book One
K.C. Archer. Simon & Schuster, \$16 trade paper (368p) ISBN 978-1-5011-5933-6

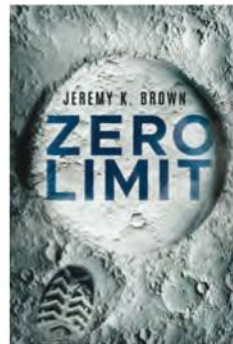
In this earnest, naive paranormal thriller, a group of psychics in training slowly learn that misdirection can be as dangerous as mind control. Teddy Cannon, unsuccessful card shark, is recruited to study at a secretive foundation's academy intended to prepare people with mental gifts for careers in security and law enforcement. It's hard to believe that Teddy and her fellow young adults—some of whom have done police work or had run-ins with the law—would so blithely sign up for a militaristic training program without some skepticism about its motives. After a series of mysterious thefts and disappearances at the academy and a sabotaged obstacle course Teddy barely survives, she decides she wants answers. She convinces some of her fellow students to break into an FBI facility to uncover just who is out to get them, egged on by a jailed psychic connected to Teddy's birth parents. The book has the brio of a first novel, with sudden swings of emotion and outrage that would do a hormonal teenager proud. The pages turn at a rapid pace, but it takes a bit longer than necessary for a veteran poker player to realize that, if she can't spot the sucker at the table, it's her. *Agent: Molly Atlas, ICM.* (Apr.)

★ **Zero Limit**

Jeremy K. Brown. 47North, \$14.95 trade paper (302p) ISBN 978-1-503-94665-1

Up-and-comer Brown's hard SF novel is a nail-biter about a onetime war hero turned underdog forced into trying to save Earth from a planetary cataclysm. Rising

political tensions on Earth strand Caitlin Taggart indefinitely in a city on the moon, separated from her planetside eight-year-old daughter, Emily. When she learns Emily is about to be thrown into the horrible government-run foster care system, Caitlin, desperate to get home quickly, accepts a dangerous asteroid mining job. Then her mining ship crashes into the asteroid and a piece of rock breaks off on a trajectory aimed directly at Earth. Caitlin



is a starkly drawn and sympathetic protagonist who doesn't want to be a hero but rises to every nerve-racking, potentially lethal challenge with a stubbornness that

will make readers cheer through gritted teeth. The situation is constantly bleak, but it's easy to believe she can find a way to save the day. Funny, grim, and technical but not oppressively so, this story of sacrifice born of love, duty, and redemption should appeal to any SF fan. *Agent: Jennifer Lyons, Jennifer Lyons Literary.* (Mar.)

★ **Spirits of the Vasty Deep**

Brian Stableford. Snuggly, \$17.95 trade paper (300p) ISBN 978-1-943813-54-4

In this slow-burning, introspective fantasy from Snuggly publisher Stableford (*The Mirror of Dionysus*), eccentric writer Simon Cannick becomes involved in the mysterious doings of an unusually long-lived family after he inherits a cottage in the small Welsh town of St. Madoc. Simon just wants a quiet place to work on his increasingly esoteric material. However, he quickly catches the interest of the Murdens, an insular clan whose matriarch claims to be well over two centuries old, and soon discovers an unexpected connection to them. As he investigates the family's supposed ties to ancient, mythical sea creatures, Simon begins to suspect his arrival in St. Madoc was no coincidence and that he has a specific role to play in a millennia-old plan. Stableford draws deep on small-town sensibilities and English folklore to craft a gradually unfolding tale that's atmospheric, ambig-

uous, and subtle. He takes a while to reveal the true nature of the supernatural aspect of the story and its ultimate direction, and the focus on character interaction and storytelling makes for a cerebral experience that may leave some readers wishing for a bit more dynamism. (Mar.)

★ **Lake Silence: The World of the Others, Book 6**

Anne Bishop. Ace, \$27 (416p) ISBN 978-0-399-58724-5

The sixth installment of Bishop's paranormal series (after 2017's *Etched in Bone*), set in an alternate upstate New York, constitutes a fresh take on a series concept that had been stalling. It is a standalone thriller, set near a village called Sproing in the Finger Lakes. New to the cast is narrator Vicki DeVine, who, unlike past protagonists, is an ordinary human woman. Recently divorced from an abusive wheeler-dealer, she has come to Lake Silence to renovate the property that constituted her settlement. The Jumble is exactly that: a dilapidated sprawl of buildings, abandoned by humans but not by the world's supernatural predators, the Others. Vicki plans to reopen it as a modest resort until a body is discovered on her land. Abruptly, this unassuming, hesitant woman must cope with a police investigation as well as a conspiracy by developers to seize the Jumble. Many core elements of prior plots are intact, notably the Others' inevitable dominance, which dampens the tension. But the pleasures of these books have always lain in worldbuilding and character growth. Centering these on a woman liberating herself (personally and professionally) from abuse makes this episode unexpectedly timely. *Agent: Jennifer Jackson, Donald Maass Literary.* (Mar.)

★ **Guardian Angels and Other Monsters**

Daniel H. Wilson. Vintage, \$16 trade paper (304p) ISBN 978-1-101-97201-4

Wilson's spectacular first collection brings together 14 original stories that explore artificial intelligence in its many incarnations, sprinkled with horror elements and wielding a decidedly humanistic edge. In "The Nostalgist," an elderly man holds onto the memory of childhood in the best way he knows how. "God Mode" is a poignant tale of memory and

longing surrounding an artificial world. In the heart-wrenching “The Blue Afternoon That Lasted Forever,” a single father and physicist must brace himself and his little girl for a cataclysmic event. In the tragic, disturbing “Special Automatic,” a bullied and abused teen boy uses the implant that controls his seizures to link his mind to a robot he built, giving himself more power than he ever could have dreamed. Also included are stories from the worlds of *Robocalypse* and *The Clockwork Dynasty*. Wilson displays an aching humanity and literary sensibility that will satisfy his fans and win him plenty of new ones. This thoughtful, affecting collection will linger in the thoughts of readers long after the last page is turned. (Mar.)

Romance/Erotica

Lock Nut

JL Merrow. Riptide, \$18.99 trade paper (330p) ISBN 978-1-62649-728-3

Merrow gifts readers with a witty, absorbing fifth Plumber’s Mate mystery (after *Blow Down*), which newcomers to the series will find easy to follow. Tom Paretski’s psychic ability to locate missing objects frequently draws him away from his day job as a plumber in present-day London. In this installment, porn producer Lilah Parrot hires him to find her runaway husband, Jonny, and Tom ropes his private investigator fiancé, Phil, into the case, assuming less mystical skills will be more useful. When the missing man turns up dead, Lilah, who’s suspiciously calm, is certain Jonny’s lover Kelvin murdered him. Tom and Phil set out to find the killer, but a crowd of secretive characters, including Lilah’s first husband, sister, and two children, shatter any hope of a straightforward solution. In between their investigations, the couple struggles to adjust to living together and cope with the stress of wedding planning. Their squabbling but tender dynamic provides counterbalance to the messy entanglements of Lilah’s clan, and the final revelations are genuinely surprising. The British slang is smooth and charming, though some Americans may find it challenging to follow. Fans of mysteries with a minor supernatural tinge and plenty of

tongue-in-cheek humor will enjoy this tricky whodunit. (May)

What Are You Afraid Of?

Alexandra Ivy. Zebra, \$7.99 mass market (364p) ISBN 978-1-4201-4381-2

Ivy’s newest contemporary romantic thriller (following *Pretend You’re Safe*) begins ominously in an isolated cabin in the Rocky Mountains, where Carmen Jacobs has escaped for the Christmas holidays. It’s supposed to be a place to relax and unwind from the year of interviews and appearances following the launch of her bestselling book profiling serial killers. Carmen isn’t expecting any intrusions, so when an express envelope lands on her doorstep she hesitates, but opens it anyway. The disturbing photos that fall out suggest that someone is copying the work of a killer she profiled. She runs to the police, only to be rebuffed. That’s when she turns to Griffin Archer—tech



whiz, part owner of a company specializing in law enforcement software, and serious hottie—hoping that he will take her theory of a copycat killer seriously. Ivy deftly charts a course between gruesome suspense and sudden romance as Carmen and Griff race to solve the whodunit before the predator kills again. *Agent: Evan Marshall, Evan Marshall Agency. (Apr.)*

Come Home to Me

Liz Talley. Montlake Romance, \$12.95 trade paper (368p) ISBN 978-1-5039-0099-8

Talley (the Morning Glory series) packs her latest Southern romantic drama with a satisfying plot and appealing characters. Fifteen years after their high school prom, Summer Valentine, Rhett Bryan, and Hunt McCroy return to Moonlight, S.C., for very different reasons, and discover that they must confront the consequences of their youthful imprudence. Rhett’s gleaming Hollywood life was disrupted when he accidentally ran over a young child. Summer has given up on a

songwriting career and moved home so her teen son, David, can get to know his biological father, Hunt. An injury and subsequent painkiller addiction ended Hunt’s baseball dreams, and now he’s trying to make up for the years he spent ignoring David and hoping to make things right with Summer. Talley reveals detailed backstory by interweaving narratives from past and present. Themes of self-worth are examined through the lives of these complex characters as they reflect on their life experiences. Except for a few instances when the dialogue sounds a little too much like an authorial lecture, the prose is powerful in its understatedness, adding to the appeal of this alluring story. *Agent: Michelle Grajkowski, 3 Seas Literary. (Apr.)*

The Rancher:

Last Chance Cowboys, Book 4

Anna Schmidt. Sourcebooks Casablanca, \$7.99 mass market (352p) ISBN 978-1-4926-1305-3

Schmidt’s enjoyable fourth Last Chance Cowboys historical (after *The Outlaw*) has the unusual backdrop of tensions between cattle ranchers and sheep herders in the late-19th-century Arizona Territory. Beautiful and resilient Nell Stokes is doing her best to survive after unknown assailants killed her husband and left her to take care of their young son, Joshua, and run their sheep ranch alone. When nearby cattle rancher Trey Porterfield tries to befriend the young widow, she’s wary of him, but Trey is unlike the other cattle ranchers Nell has met. Soon she is attracted to the handsome rancher, whose kindness is as seductive as his powerful physique. Unable to resist Nell’s allure and hoping to help end the feud between the ranchers and herders, Trey asks Nell to marry him. After a too-brief period of relationship development, they make mutual declarations of love, and then Schmidt dives into nonstop action as Nell and Trey try to stop the fighting and maintain a solid marriage. Strong, well-developed characters fill the pages of this novel, which highlights both sizzling romance and the trials of the Old West. *Agent: Natasha Kern, Natasha Kern Literary. (Mar.)*

The Marquis and I

Ella Quinn. Zebra, \$7.99 mass market (391p) ISBN 978-1-4201-4516-8

Quinn's smart fourth Worthingtons Regency romance (after *It Started with a Kiss*) continues the tale of the Worthingtons' first society season. When Lady Charlotte Carpenter is kidnapped by someone who plans to sell her to a client of the cunning madam Miss Betsy, Constantine, Marquis of Kenilworth, is the only one on hand to assist her. A carriage chase out of London and a dashing rescue from an inn arouse

their passions, but the moment Charlotte discovers her companion is a man notorious for keeping mistresses, she is committed to a low opinion of him—even when the compromising situation surrounding her kidnapping forces them to claim that they're betrothed. Constantine's dedicated respect for her and thoughtful reflection when challenged show her that he's more than a man who pays for women, and that marrying him wouldn't be so bad. This installment is more tightly plotted than some earlier ones and full of payoffs for longtime readers while

welcoming the new. *Agent: Deirdre Knight and Janna Bonikowski, Knight Agency.* (Mar.)



Maybe This Time

Nicole McLaughlin. St. Martin's, \$7.99 mass market (304p) ISBN 978-1-250-14000-5

McLaughlin's second *Whiskey and Weddings* contemporary (after *Maybe I Do*) starts out sweet but ends on a sour note. Jen Mackenzie is one of the working poor, both fiercely proud and desperate to keep her head above water. She's had a crush on comfortably wealthy TJ Laughlin since

LOVE IN BYGONE DAYS

Three powerful romances explore passion in 19th-century England.

★ **The Sins of Lord Lockwood: Rules for the Reckless, Book 6**

Meredith Duran. Pocket, \$7.99 mass market (368p) ISBN 978-1-5011-3904-8

In Duran's captivating sixth *Rules for the Reckless* novel (after *A Lady's Code of Misconduct*), Liam Devaliant, the fifth Earl of Lockwood, breaks away from the kidnapper who has held and tortured him since his wedding night. When he makes his way home, his headstrong and independently wealthy wife, Anna Winterslow Wallace, is barely ready to see him again, since he stole her heart and then vanished on their wedding night—but she needs an heir. Shame prevents Liam from being honest with Anna about having been kidnapped, and Anna tries to ignore her desire for the husband she thinks abandoned her. While navigating their new relationship, it's hard to keep up pretenses, and when the truth comes out, they join forces to get justice. Duran has created unforgettable characters whose struggles with injustice and emotional and physical pain only bring them closer together. The novel, rich with powerful prose, is an exemplar of second-chance love stories. (Mar.)



★ **What a Difference a Duke Makes**

Lenora Bell. Avon, \$7.99 mass market (384p) ISBN 978-0-06-269248-1

When Mari Perkins, the heroine of this excellent introduction to Bell's Victorian-era *School of Dukes* series, arrives in London, she has two goals: find out about her parentage and secure a job. Edgar Rochester, Duke of Banksford, knows he shouldn't hire the unorthodox spitfire as a nanny. Her beauty alone is too much of a temptation, and he refuses to mimic his father's behavior of assaulting the help. But when she charms his staff, his sister, and more importantly, his twins—Michel and Adele, who have scared away every other governess—he agrees to give her a trial period. A working man himself (in



the burgeoning steam engine field) despite his rank, he appreciates her determination to make it on her own, and her intelligence and wit amplify the beauty he tries so hard to resist. Mari is just as drawn to Edgar, and his softer side and interactions with the children blur the lines between their statuses. The chemistry between the two is spectacular. The many references to *Jane Eyre* are more entertaining Easter eggs than homage; Bell (the *Disgraceful Dukes* series) makes this her own story, piling on plenty of witty dialogue, unconventional characters, and hints of mystery to leave readers both satisfied and eager for the next in the series. *Agent: Alexandra Machinist, ICM.* (Mar.)

★ **No Earls Allowed**

Shana Galen. Sourcebooks Casablanca, \$7.99 mass market (384p) ISBN 978-1-4926-3901-5

Galen's second *Survivors Regency* (after *Third Son's a Charm*) has phenomenal protagonists—a former soldier haunted by those he was unable to save, and an earl's daughter who has left the trappings of nobility behind to care for those less fortunate—who will win readers' hearts. Lady Juliana,



daughter of the Earl of St. Maur, runs a London orphanage, the Sunnysbrooke Home for Boys. She finds it difficult to keep the boys well provided for after the cook leaves, so she tries to care for them herself. Juliana's father is worried for her safety and sends Neil Wraxall, the bastard son of the Marquess of

Kensington, to try to get her to leave the orphanage. Instead, Neil, a former soldier, ends up staying and helping to teach the boys to cook, arranging for repairs on the building, and protecting Juliana from Slag, a local crime lord. Amid the chaos of the boys' antics, Juliana begins to admire handsome and caring Neil, and he is drawn to her beauty and selflessness. Passionate romantic interludes and the marvelous hero and heroine will put this on many keeper shelves. *Agent: Joanna MacKenzie, Nelson Literary.* (Mar.)

high school, but, now that she works for him, she assumes he disdains her and accordingly treats him rudely. In fact, TJ's fallen for her. At first, the way that TJ decides to finally act on his feelings is sweet and patient, and if he's a little overbearing, he means well. Slowly, though, that attitude shifts into near-violent jealousy, possessiveness, and controlling behavior, turning what should be a love story into a surprise horror novel for readers who recognize the hallmarks of abuse. With weak plot resolutions and explicit but lukewarm sex scenes, this novel is an easy pass. *Agent: Sarah Younger, Nancy Yost Literary. (Mar.)*

Bad Bachelor

Stefanie London. Sourcebooks Casablanca, \$7.99 mass market (384p) ISBN 978-1-4926-5517-6

London (*Trouble Next Door*) launches her Bad Bachelors contemporary series with a heartfelt novel that's surprisingly deep despite the whimsical premise. New York PR whiz Reed McMahon loves the ladies but is allergic to commitment. When the dating app Bad Bachelors anoints him their number-one bachelor to avoid, chiding him for his love-'em-and-leave-'em ways, the label soon goes from a minor annoyance to a potential career-killer. His assistant, Kerrie, suggests he rehabilitate his image by providing pro bono PR to a library in need—even though he hates libraries. Gutsy Brooklyn librarian Darcy Greer has been wary of men since catching her fiancé cheating on her just days before their wedding. When Darcy and Reed meet, the chemistry is immediate and explosive. But can two polar opposites attract long-term? London tosses in lots of delicious plot curves—including the identity of the Bad Bachelors founder and the real reason Reed hates libraries—along with achingly flawed characters who'll have readers rooting for their romantic success. Though on the surface this is a quirky match, London's skillful writing and expert characterization carry the day. *Agent: Jill Marsal, Marsal Lyon Literary. (Mar.)*

Inspirational

Beneath a Prairie Moon

Kim Vogel Sawyer. Waterbrook, \$14.99 trade paper (352p) ISBN 978-0-7352-9005-1

Sawyer (*Grace and the Preacher*) weaves

an endearing story of love and discovery set in late-19th-century rural Kansas. After her father's criminal activities diminish her social standing, Abigail Grant loses her fiancé and decides to turn to Bingham's Bevy of Brides in Newton, Mass., for a lifeline. After several failed attempts at marriage she finds herself moved from potential bride to Helena Bingham's assistant. When 16 scrawled, ungrammatical requests for brides are received from men in the same small Kansas town, Abigail and Helena travel to Spiveyville, Kans., to teach the perspective grooms manners. Mack Cleveland, owner of the hardware store, is one of the few men in town who did not request a mail-order bride. Mack is initially suspicious of the ladies, unsure they mean to go through with the deal of bringing the 16 brides. But Helena is a forceful manners instructor and begins to warm to the town. Abigail begins to settle in and, through Helena's guidance, realizes she must rediscover her faith in God in order to get over the hurt of her tumble down the ranks of society. As Abigail becomes accustomed to the dusty town and Mack's wholesome goodness, both take a leap of faith to open up to new possibilities. Sawyer's fans will appreciate this tale of love, faith, and new beginnings. *(Mar.)*

Restored

Kimberly Rae. Narrow Way, \$14.99 trade paper (342p) ISBN 978-1-5440-7154-1

This enjoyable third book in the Broken Series from Rae (*Shredded*) is full of intense emotions, quick scene changes, and elaborate plotting. Slash—the former sex trafficker who shot Grant Henderson at the end of the previous book—is about to be released from prison. Each main character is still coping with the fallout of the shooting and fear about Slash's release: Grant refuses to accept he might not walk again; his fiancée, Jean, is fearful that Grant will never overcome his anger; Candy, a reformed prostitute, metes out tough love to Grant and hopes to get through to Slash (her former boss and tormentor) by giving him a Bible; Champagne, another former prostitute, intends to take Slash down. As Champagne begins to investigate Slash's criminal past, she realizes that the sex

trafficking ring he was part of was much larger than anyone suspected. Though a tendency to deploy plot twists in bursts of dialogue can make following the action difficult, readers of soap-style drama will be pleased. *(BookLife)*

Comics

Terminal Lance Ultimate Omnibus
Maximilian Uriarte. Little, Brown, \$30 (320p)
ISBN 978-0-316-41224-7

In this hefty and frequently hilarious compilation of strips about “the often absurd experience” of being a U.S. Marine, Uriarte (*The White Donkey*) satirizes everything from the endlessly proliferating and sadistically enforced dress code rules to the fury of “Angry Facebook Veterans” bemoaning gays and women in today's corps. Uriarte, who created the strip in 2010 after multiple deployments to Iraq and currently publishes it in *The Marine Corps Times*, aims his humor squarely at his fellow Marines. The acronym-dense three-panel strips are peppered with politically incorrect barracks humor, swearing, and references that will send most POGs (“person other than grunt”) to Google. Sidebar commentary and a character glossary from Uriarte provide context. A winking self-awareness and compassion for the daily drudgery of the grunt's life makes this collection more than a mere peek into a troop's insider experience—he's poised to become a Bill Mauldin for the social media generation. *Agent: Katherine Boyle, Veritas Literary Agency (Apr.)*

Yellow Negroes and Other Imaginary Creatures

Yvan Alagbé, trans. from the French by Donald Nicholson-Smith. New York Review Comics, \$22.95 trade paper (112p) ISBN 978-1-68137-176-4

France's colonial history and current racial tensions underpin this dynamically drawn collection. Expanding on the characters in *The School of Misery* (2013), Alagbé explores themes of disconnection among Africans living in France and the uneasiness the native French feel in their presence. Some pieces provide sharp commentary on the enduring existence of colonial attitudes. “Postcard from

Montreuil” is a straightforward depiction of the occupation of an employment agency by Malian laborers. “Sand Niggers” ties the 1961 Paris massacre of Algerians to the current migrant crisis, then ties it off with a mystical flourish. The more sprawling, Flaubert-inspired title story weaves together the experiences of a white French woman whose father hates her seeing “a black” with her boyfriend’s trouble finding work and security (“pain and pride are two needles under his skin”) and his family’s harassment by a lonely old white man who fought in the African colonial wars. Alagbé’s unstructured storytelling makes as strong an impression as his artwork’s contrast between dramatic black slashes and negative space. His imagery and text together create haunting narratives in which a past of racism and guilt keeps overwhelming the present, and also the reader. (*Apr.*)



Bizarre Romance

Audrey Niffenegger and Eddie Campbell. Abrams ComicArts, \$24.99 (168p) ISBN 978-1-4197-2853-2

A magical-realist kaleidoscope, this volume of romance comics and prose stories, from husband-and-wife team Campbell and Niffenegger veers wildly between whimsy, horror, and the utterly banal. A girl becomes queen of a fantasy realm, only to lose it all in an instant. A man’s attic becomes infested with angels. Fairies levitate ocelots. At its strongest, the book has much to say about the beauty and devastation of seeking companionship in any given human life—the grace and alienation of photography, for example, is memorably captured in a portrait of a 19th-century model’s morning, as she reminisces about a lover while waiting between poses. At its weakest, it relies too much upon cleverness rather than content. Fairies encountered at a bar is charming on its own, and their subsequent manipulation of a patron has potential—but Campbell and Niffenegger end what might have been an intriguing exploration of codependency before it has a chance to go anywhere. Still, taken as a whole, their collaboration is winningly strange, especially in its use of collage; Campbell smashes photography, purposefully sloppy abstraction, and even charac-

ters like Popeye and Nancy together to unique off-kilter effect. Love is a many-splendored thing within these pages—but it is also mightily odd. (*Mar.*)



Total Jazz

Blutch, trans. from the French by Barbara Appleby. Fantagraphics, \$19.99 trade paper (90p) ISBN 978-1-68396-086-7

French cartoonist Blutch explores the history of jazz in this alternately poignant, humorous, and surreal collection of comics originally created for the magazine *Jazzman*. His wordless, expressive black-and-white comics capture the transporting effects of music and depict musicians’ lives. Blutch’s art is best when it is bold, with swaths of black and dense cross-hatching, but loses depth when his trademark scratchy line becomes a scribble. The weakest section is the opening, where the humor doesn’t trans-



late well to the contemporary American cultural context; Blutch may appear racially tone-deaf when he depicts himself as a Native American “brave,”

and pokes fun at his own deep identification with black jazz musicians (“When I put in a CD, I hear myself... I’m Coltrane! I’m Miles Davis!” he proclaims). In the pages that follow, however, where Blutch concentrates on the music and musicians, these comics pay passionate homage to jazz and the revolutionary artists who made history with their instruments and voices. (*Feb.*)



Angelitos

Ilan Stavans and Santiago Cohen. Mad Creek Books, Ohio State Univ., \$17.95 trade paper (128p) ISBN 978-0-8142-5459-2

Set in the mid-’80s, this slim graphic novel follows a college student’s encounters in a poverty-stricken Mexico City neighborhood before and after a devastating earthquake. After the student, nicknamed “El Güerito,” is mugged by homeless youth, a mixture of curiosity and bravery leads him into the slums searching for his stolen notebook. What he finds instead is a shelter run by Padre Chinchá. Based on a

real historical figure, the priest takes battered boys to the hospital, feeds them, and clothes them. He has also been accused of pedophilia. When a boy who snitched on a fellow gang member is found dead, the police seize their chance to arrest Chinchá, given the rumors that surround him. Two of the boys who first attacked El Güerito seek him out, asking for help in freeing their benefactor. When the earthquake hits, the focus on this plot is widened to take in broader tragedies as El Güerito navigates the chaos across the city. The rough, scrawling linework and diagonal panel stacks suit the broken landscape of shantytowns, but they also make following the narrative a challenge, and the simple renderings of facial features becomes repetitive. While the book offers a thoughtful critique of religious hypocrisy and socioeconomic inequality, the poorly executed sequential art doesn’t match its literary ambitions. *Art not seen in color by PW.* (*Jan.*)



The Lie and How We Told It

Tommi Parrish. Fantagraphics, \$19.99 (130p) ISBN 978-1-68396-067-6

In lovingly painted pages of comics art, with black and white intermissions, Australian cartoonist Parrish tells a deceptively simple story of friends grown apart, who run into one another by chance and spend an evening catching up. Cleary and Tim bump into each other at a grocery check-out and reconnect. Over the course of the evening, as much is concealed as is revealed, but what is left at the end is the stark understanding that, at the threshold of adulthood, one person has made emotionally honest choices and the other struggles with his sexuality and with his own heart. Interwoven with this gorgeously colored tale is another, more austere story, an illustrated novella drawn in satisfyingly precise black line, attributed to “Blumf Mcqueen” and dedicated to “pure, unconditional, everlasting love.” This orchestration and interplay of refined visual language is never overworked. Lovers of fine art comics will delight in this worthy discovery. (*Jan.*)



Editor’s note: Reviews noted as “BookLife” are for self-published books received via BookLife, PW’s program for indie authors.

Nonfiction

Jell-O Girls: A Family History

Allie Rowbottom. Little, Brown, \$28 (288p)
ISBN 978-0-316-51061-5

In this intimate and intriguing debut memoir, Rowbottom explores the lives of the women in her family, specifically her mother and grandmother, members of the family that once owned the Jell-O company. She evaluates 100-plus years of Jell-O's marketing campaigns through a feminist lens, exploring how Jell-O presented itself as a quick and easy dessert solution for white, middle-class women who, at the turn of the century, found themselves alone in the kitchen without "maids and nannies and cooks." Rowbottom describes Jell-O's early campaigns ("Teaching women, it turns out, was a tenet of Jell-O's marketing... Jell-O, so pliable, so good, teaching them how to mold themselves to match it, pliable and good") and provides a history of food's role in the American imagination—including the low-calorie-food trend and later ad campaigns that sold Jell-O based on nostalgia. At the same time, Rowbottom explores how the women in her own family negotiated the social constructs of the times and within the family business: her grandmother Midge gave up her own aspirations to write when she had children; later, her mother Mary's health complaints were ignored and dismissed as "hysterical" by doctors, resulting in a late cancer diagnosis. Throughout, Rowbottom asserts that a curse afflicted her family: "The curse was patriarchy." Though Rowbottom's focus on the "curse" sometimes distracts from the narrative, her memoir offers a fascinating feminist history of both a company and a family. (July)

Making Oscar Wilde

Michèle Mendelssohn. Oxford Univ., \$24.95 (304p) ISBN 978-0-198-80236-5

Mendelssohn (*Henry James*), a professor of English at Oxford, peripatetically, and not quite satisfyingly, reexamines Oscar Wilde's self-mythologization, reinvention, and rise to celebrity, mostly in terms of Wilde's 1882 speaking tour of the United States. Straining to broaden the focus from Wilde's own career to a



In *Milk*, Mark Kurlansky offers a cultural history of the ubiquitous beverage (reviewed on p.72).

larger cultural context, Mendelssohn emphasizes how the author was caught up in the racial, ethnic, and class anxieties roiling a post-Civil War America full of newly arrived immigrants, many from Wilde's native Ireland. After describing Wilde's early life and university career, the book shifts focus to the then-little-known 27-year-old Wilde's time crisscrossing the U.S. talking about the Aesthetic art movement that he so flamboyantly represented. Though Wilde would paint the tour as a success, in fact he often found himself the subject of mockery and hostile scrutiny. Mendelssohn argues that Wilde nevertheless learned twin lessons in perseverance and showmanship that served him in good stead in writing the plays that would subsequently secure his fame. Mendelssohn's study never quite settles, as it tries to meld biography with an expansive cultural history filtered through the lens of Wilde's visit and interactions. Nonetheless, there is much to ponder in Mendelssohn's analysis, whether one agrees with it or not, and it will hopefully inform future discussions of Wilde. (July)

Ursula K. Le Guin: Conversations on Writing

David Naimon. Tin House, \$14.95 trade paper (150p) ISBN 978-1-941040-99-7

Originating in three interviews that

short-story author Naimon conducted with SF stalwart Le Guin (*The Found and the Lost*) for the radio show *Between the Covers*, this book is an enlightening conversation about the writing process. Both authors adopt the tone of artisans discussing their craft, and each's delight at debating with a like-minded professional is evident throughout. Le Guin stresses the importance of knowing grammatical rules, arguing that to write "anything, you've got to have the tools to make it." Naimon, clearly well versed in Le Guin's work, connects their discussion of language to her novels *The Dispossessed*, about an "anarchist utopia" with no possessive pronouns, and *The Left Hand of Darkness*, about an alien race without any fixed gender. Le Guin picks her words and subjects carefully, expositing boldly on writing as an inherently political act (an insight she traces back to George Orwell) and on Margaret Atwood's discomfort with labeling her work *science fiction*, while shutting down conversations on subjects she feels less able to speak to, such as self-publishing. Her expansive knowledge of the SF genre provides, most strikingly, a sharp perspective on how its female practitioners have too often been forgotten in favor of their male contemporaries. Her rapport with Naimon results in an exchange that is both informative and charming. (July)

Because I Come from a Crazy Family: The Making of a Psychiatrist

Edward M. Hallowell. Bloomsbury, \$28 (416p) ISBN 978-1-63286-858-9

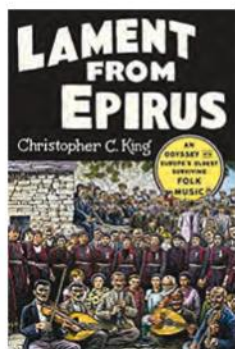
Psychiatrist Hallowell (*Driven to Distraction*) handily illustrates in this entertaining memoir the adage that people go into psychiatry because they want to understand themselves and their families. Hallowell grew up in the Boston area in a family afflicted by the "triad of alcoholism, politesse, and mental illness." His father, who was later diagnosed as bipolar, wasn't the same after he returned from WWII with PTSD, his mother was an alcoholic, and his brother suffered from bipolar disorder and alcoholism. Hallowell fondly recalls studying at Exeter, where he embraced creative writing and developed a love of literature; his heady days at Harvard; and his years in medical school at Tulane. After he decided

to specialize in child psychiatry, he learned about ADD and eventually established himself as an expert in the disorder. Hallowell asserts that he works on himself morally and spiritually and believes that he has achieved a “fairly good outcome as far as character is concerned.” While the narrative moves too quickly at times, Hallowell is earnest in his assessments about his search for his life’s calling. (June)

Lament from Epirus: An Odyssey into Europe’s Oldest Surviving Folk Music

Christopher C. King. Norton, \$29.95 (272p) ISBN 978-0-393-24899-9

An obscure European musical tradition rebukes the sterility of modern culture according to this bombastic appreciation-cum-jeremiad. King, a musicologist and record collector, travels to Epirus, a region



straddling northwestern Greece and southern Albania, to savor its unique folk music, which combines droning back-grounds with almost atonal violin and clarinet noodlings, in a style that aficionados concede can feel like “ear torture” to the unaccustomed. The music’s nonconformity is a virtue, King contends, making it a paragon of localism and authenticity comparable only to Mississippi Delta blues for its rootedness in its terroir and defiance of bland commercial aesthetics. King soaks up the Epirotic folkways, dancing at sometimes-raunchy village festivals and quaffing anise-flavored moonshine. He relates stories of Ottoman atrocities and legends of the area’s musicians, meanwhile arguing that folk music performs a crucial social “healing” function. King’s evocations of Epirus and Epirotic music—its haunting forlornness, “the heavy despair of the clarinet and the sad avian mimicry of the violin”—are vivid and engaging. Unfortunately, his sour attacks on all other music—from classical (“lofty but groundless”) to big band (“vacuous, mediocre and sucking”) to pop

advice giving via 16 different practitioners spanning over three centuries, from late-17th-century London publisher John Dunton through 21st-century “life coach” Martha Beck. While cautioning that some of the advice discussed is “extreme, outdated, or downright insane” (such as 19th-century diet guru William Alcott’s strict no-tomatoes rule), Weisberg stresses that her subjects were essentially well-intentioned, and not charlatans or hypocrites. Intriguingly, the book highlights trends over time, including the emergence of secular advice givers from the late 17th to mid-19th century, the domination of the 20th by either self-styled “confidants” or credentialed experts, and the current trend of striking a balance between approachability and professionalism. Weisberg describes the distinctive traits of her book’s subjects, such as Ben Franklin’s use of pseudonyms, columnist Dorothy Dix’s combination of sympathy with tough love, and astrologer Joan Quigley’s direct line to the Reagan White House. Both those devoted to and bemused by self-help literature will profit from this insightful look into an ever-relevant and changing facet of American society. (Apr.)

(“vacuous tripe” shading to “sinister noise”)—can make his praise of folk culture feel like snobbery. Nevertheless, folk music historians and enthusiasts will find much of interest in this well-researched book. *Photos.* (May)

Milk: A 10,000-Year Food Fracas

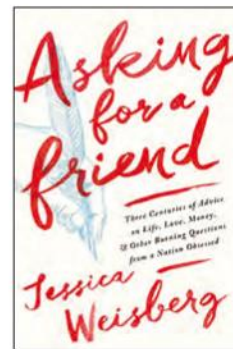
Mark Kurlansky. Bloomsbury, \$29 (384p) ISBN 978-1-63286-382-9

Kurlansky’s entertaining, fast-paced history of milk exhibits his usual knack for plumbing the depths of a single subject (*Cod, Salt*). He shares a series of anecdotes on the evolution of milk’s production and consumption, as well as on its roles in various cultures, such as in ancient Greece—according to Greek mythology, the goddess Hera formed the Milky Way galaxy when she spilled milk while breastfeeding Heracles, and each drop became a star. Many Sumerian stories involve the search for a reliable milking animal, and Hindu creation myths tell of the god Vishnu creating the universe by churning a sea of milk. Kurlansky points out that every milk-drinking culture searched for the animals that provided the best source of milk—mares, pigs, reindeer, donkeys, camels—but that the most important issue for each culture was finding which milk-producing animals could be domesticated easiest. By the 16th century, the Netherlands had become the dairying center of Europe; the Dutch and others brought cows with them to America, and by 1629 cows outnumbered people in the Virginia colony. He ranges over the history of making milk safe, the ongoing debate between the benefits of raw milk versus pasteurized milk, and the growth of large, industrialized dairy farms. Kurlansky’s charming history of milk brims with excellent stories and great details. (May)

Asking for a Friend: Three Centuries of Advice on Life, Love, Money, and Other Burning Questions from a Nation Obsessed

Jessica Weisberg. Nation, \$27 (320p) ISBN 978-1-56858-534-5

Self-help books may seem especially ubiquitous today, but as journalist Weisberg writes in her winning debut, the “American self-help empire has been sprawling aggressively for decades.” She recounts the evolution of professional

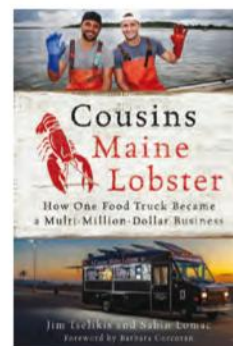


advice giving via 16 different practitioners spanning over three centuries, from late-17th-century London publisher John Dunton through 21st-century “life coach” Martha Beck. While cautioning that some of the advice discussed is “extreme, outdated, or downright insane” (such as 19th-century diet guru William Alcott’s strict no-tomatoes rule), Weisberg stresses that her subjects were essentially well-intentioned, and not charlatans or hypocrites. Intriguingly, the book highlights trends over time, including the emergence of secular advice givers from the late 17th to mid-19th century, the domination of the 20th by either self-styled “confidants” or credentialed experts, and the current trend of striking a balance between approachability and professionalism. Weisberg describes the distinctive traits of her book’s subjects, such as Ben Franklin’s use of pseudonyms, columnist Dorothy Dix’s combination of sympathy with tough love, and astrologer Joan Quigley’s direct line to the Reagan White House. Both those devoted to and bemused by self-help literature will profit from this insightful look into an ever-relevant and changing facet of American society. (Apr.)

Cousins Maine Lobster: How One Food Truck Became a Multi-Million-Dollar Business

Jim Tselikis and Sabin Lomac. St. Martin’s, \$26.99 (288p) ISBN 978-1-250-12217-9

Tselikis and Lomac come across as thoroughly likable storytellers in this account of how they transformed from business neophytes, with a half-baked idea to relive their Maine childhoods, into the founders of a



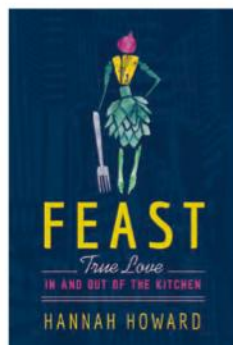
recognizable food-truck brand. The cousins, who pitched their food-truck business on *Shark Tank*, provide entertaining, hard-earned lessons for would-be entrepreneurs and fans of their lobster rolls alike. They write with zeal about their brand and their devotion to Barbara Corcoran, the “shark” who became their mentor. But the book successfully avoids being an extended commercial for their company or a retelling of their appearance on the popular TV show. Though they continually remind readers of their naïveté when they started and strong work ethic, the lessons that flow from their experience—how to decide when to franchise, the dos and don’ts of adding a bricks-and-mortar presence—are valuable. Their passion for the “Maine way” permeates the book, revealing the deep connection they have with their beloved state, as well as insight into the insular culture of its lobster industry. The authors’ story is more personal and idiosyncratic than those related in many other traditional CEO bios and titles about start-ups. *Kirsten Neubaus, Foundry Literary + Media. (Apr.)*

Feast: True Love in and out of the Kitchen

Hannah Howard. Little A, \$24.95 (252p) ISBN 978-1-5039-4257-8

Howard, a writer who also mentors women recovering from eating disorders, unflinchingly shares her lifelong struggles with food and eating disorders. Experiencing anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive eating throughout her youth, Howard used food and

her weight as she posits many women do: to measure her self-worth, her willpower, her place in the world. “You can’t see an eating disorder,” she writes. “Thin people, fat people, normal people have this thing. We look like you.” As a freshman at Columbia University in 2009, Howard began a hostess job at the upscale Manhattan restaurant Picholine—where her food issues crested, and she became “fascinated by the emergence of my own hipbone, the



concave scoop above my clavicle.” She moved from one food-related job to another, first as a server at a wine and cheese bar in Manhattan, then as a chain-steak-house management trainee in Los Angeles. Howard also lays bare a string of what she describes as bad choices that she made relating to men, such as dating one of her bosses—a much older, married chef—when she was a minor. Those in recovery from substance abuse will recognize themselves throughout this honest memoir; for those without addiction issues, this story offers a painful glance into the lives of those who suffer. *(Apr.)*

How Women Rise: Break the 12 Habits Holding You Back from Your Next Raise, Promotion, or Job

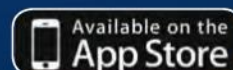
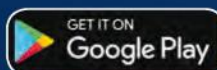
Sally Helgesen and Marshall Goldsmith. Hachette, \$28 (256p) ISBN 978-0-316-44012-7

Goldsmith (*What Got You Here Won't Get You There*) and Helgesen, a women’s leadership coach and former CEO of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., deliver a tiresomely downbeat guide to everything women are doing wrong in the workplace. In this diluted rehash of Goldsmith’s previous book, which highlighted



PW IN YOUR POCKET

NEWS. UPDATES.
AND MORE.

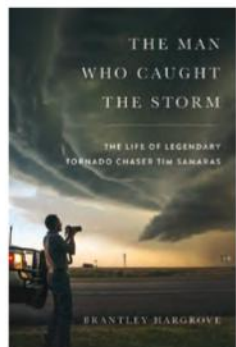


mistakes people make at work, he and Helgesen attempt to outline the habits that keep women from reaching their goals. All the usual suspects appear, such as women being reluctant to claim achievements, expecting achievements to be noticed spontaneously, overvaluing expertise, failing to make early alliances, and expecting perfection of themselves. There's little new in the book, and the presentation is unpleasantly scolding; the authors focus heavily on the tired trope that in order to be more successful, women should behave more like men. In a particularly clumsy move, the book relies heavily on examples that relate to diets and clothes. Women readers looking for ways to succeed and thrive in the workplace are unlikely to find much of value here. (Apr.)

The Man Who Caught the Storm: The Life of Legendary Tornado Chaser Tim Samaras

Brantley Hargrove. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (320p) ISBN 978-1-4767-9609-3

In this insightful biography, journalist Hargrove charts the interests and achievements of tornado chaser Tim Samaras, who died in a tornado with his 24-year-old son in 2013. Readers familiar with Discovery Channel's *Storm Chasers* will be familiar with Samaras, and with help from Samaras's family, friends, and colleagues, Hargrove paints a complete picture of the engineer while providing lessons on the science behind tornadoes—"one of the most awesome expressions of force in the natural world." As a boy in 1960s



Colorado, Samaras was fascinated with *The Wizard of Oz*: "He couldn't take his eyes off the tornado as it roped over the fields toward Dorothy and Toto." Samaras

would grow up to track tornados alongside older, more practiced scientists and meteorologists. Eventually, he chased tornados throughout the Midwest and Southwest. Hargrove describes the camaraderie that storm chasers can build over

time, the "intimate proximity" that develops when "chasing across states with the same group in the same vehicle." Hargrove not only skillfully presents Samaras's life story but also the collective story of a storm-chasing subculture. (Apr.)

To Play Again: A Memoir of Musical Survival

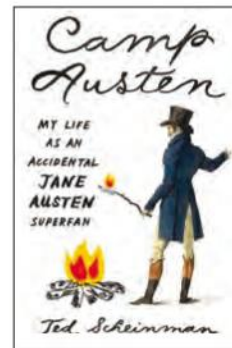
Carol Rosenberger. She Writes Press, \$16.95 trade paper (256p) ISBN 978-163152-326-7

Concert pianist Rosenberger shares the powerful story of her struggle to perform despite her physical disability. In 1955, at age 21, Rosenberger developed paralytic polio just as she was about to begin her life as a professional stage musician. Until that moment, the Detroit-born musician had been driven by a consuming passion for the piano; thereafter she faced the possibility that agonizing pain and dead nerves would end her career before it started. Rosenberger tells of spending nearly a decade in intensive recovery, getting treatment in Europe and then in the U.S. Polio had wrecked her confidence and left her unmoored in the music world. She began teaching students and playing for friends and family, and slowly built up her strength and confidence. With tremendous effort and practice, Rosenberger came up with adaptive techniques that enabled her to perform; in 1970 she made her debut tour, performing throughout the U.S. and Europe. She hid her disabilities so well that the managers who sent her on her first tour had no idea that she'd had polio. Rosenberger has written a moving and at times heartbreaking chronicle of her achievements, offering inspiration and hope to those confronted with the seemingly insurmountable. (Apr.)

Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan

Ted Scheinman. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$14 trade paper (160p) ISBN 978-0-86547-821-3

In this lively debut, Scheinman expertly captures the most memorable moments from the year and a half that he spent "in the world of Jane Austen fandom." The son of an Austen scholar, Scheinman "half willingly and half accidentally" found work at a four-day conference called Jane Austen Summer Camp, where he learned the rules of a worldwide



"secret society" of Jane Austen fans—known simply as Janeites—whose enthusiasm for novels such *Pride and Prejudice* is "passionate to the point of obsession." He

describes meetings of the Jane Austen Society of North America, where "hundreds of superfans congregate to dispute interpretations, share recipes... and argue with the finest scholars in the world." Constantly taking notes "like an embedded reporter," Scheinman observed the "thrilling and disarming" fellowship shared by scholars and laypeople and realized that Austen is "the rare sort of author who makes possible this unaccustomed exchange between academics and civilians." This is a loving and often humorous tribute to the Janeites of the world. (Mar.)

The CEO Next Door: The 4 Behaviors That Transform Ordinary People into World-Class Leaders

Elena L. Botelho and Kim R. Powell, with Tahl Raz. Currency, \$28 (288p) ISBN 978-1-101-90649-1

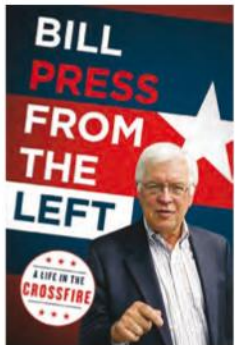
"You, too, are a CEO. At least, you could be," declare leadership advisers Botelho and Powell in this encouraging guide to developing the skills of a successful CEO, no matter one's background. Their book argues that though the word *CEO* tends to be associated with famous leaders such as Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, in reality regular people can attain the same abilities and mind-set. Having coached over 300 CEOs, the authors recall being inspired by the "unlikely" ones—unprepossessing, laconic, perhaps without much formal education or experience, like Don Slager, president and CEO at Republic Services. Botelho and Powell had to ask themselves if these people just got lucky or if everyone else is wrong about the characteristics that make a great CEO. Working from a data set of 17,000 leadership assessments to build the "CEO Genome Project," they identify four qualities as key: confident

decision-making, getting others on board with one's plans, a reputation for reliability, and adaptability. Giving over plenty of space to reflections, questions, and worksheets, the authors guide readers through developing these characteristics and applying them to different organizations. Botelho and Powell have created a thought-provoking look at successful leadership without the typical bluster. *Agent: Lorin Rees, Rees Literary Agency.* (Mar.)

From the Left: A Life in the Crossfire

Bill Press. St. Martin's/Dunne, \$27.99 (288p)
ISBN 978-1-250-14715-8

In this breezy memoir Press, former cohost of CNN's *Crossfire* and *Spin Room*, recounts the many hats he's worn in his career, among them Catholic seminarian, environmental activist, political candidate, campaign director (including for Jerry Brown's quixotic 1976 presidential bid), and journalist. Press reveals a knack for being in the right place at the right time; for instance, during a visit to Nicaragua in 1986, he received an early tip-off about the Reagan administration's secret arms supplies to the Contras. He comes across as a broad-minded personality; despite his leftist perspective, he admires John McCain and was personally friendly with Pat Buchanan. Press is generally a clear writer and fine raconteur, though at times he is frustratingly cryptic, as when he describes persuading Governor Brown to adopt his "California Urban Strategy" but doesn't give more than a superficial explanation of what it entailed. In praising Bernie Sanders, Press lapses into hyperbole, such as in confidently predicting that Sanders, had he been the Democratic nominee, would have won the 2016 presidential race. Press's account of his life to date will instruct and provide encouragement to his fellow embattled progressives. (Mar.)



Get Money: Live the Life You Want, Not Just the Life You Can Afford

Kristin Wong. Hachette, \$16.99 trade paper (320p) ISBN 978-0-316-51565-8

Personal-finance writer Wong provides thorough if uninspired advice for college graduates entering the world of work and money—and for their worried parents. Having grown up broke, Wong speaks eloquently about how intricately a person's financial and emotional life are interconnected; the emotions involved, and not just the finances, must be managed in order to make any progress. Many people, she writes, just don't understand how money really works, which explains why so many Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Getting control over one's money ups the motivation to save, get out of debt, and stick to a budget; to that end, she walks readers through the basics of setting financial goals and writing a budget, developing a frugal mind-set, figuring out the intricacies of credit and taxes, paying off debt, and investing retirement dollars. Wong shines in her encouraging direction to figure out financial priorities to accomplish personal goals, but the financial information itself is fairly stale in both style and execution. This combination results in a sturdy but overfamiliar approach to a much-covered subject. (Mar.)

A Perilous Path: Talking Race, Inequality, and the Law

Sherrilyn Ifill et al. New Press, \$19.99 trade paper (128p) ISBN 978-1-62097-395-0

A symposium on racial injustice and law in the U.S. after the 2016 presidential election, convened in celebration of the establishment of NYU Law School's Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law, unfolds here as a smoothly flowing but less-than-revelatory conversation. Anthony C. Thompson, the center's faculty director, moderates a panel composed of Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Loretta Lynch, former U.S. attorney general; and Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative. Each expert, steeped in their office's history, articulates the various roles of federal, state, and local governments in combating discrimination. Their dialogue is at times extemporaneous and warm, reflecting shared expe-

rience between the speakers, as when Thompson recalls, "Loretta was a great ally as we moved forward on the Civil Rights front." However, the many fleeting references to both current events and past historical touchstones, including Jim Crow, residential redlining, and civil rights protests, assume more prior knowledge than many readers will possess. Eschewing moralizing, the speakers opt instead for practical suggestions for combating inequality and finding hope in Americans' renewed interest in politics. It's unclear who the book would most appeal to; the length suggests novices, who will be lost with no context, but the lack of depth will be disappointing to scholars. (Mar.)

★ The Pleasure Shock: The Rise of Deep Brain Stimulation and Its Forgotten Inventor

Lone Frank. Dutton, \$28 (320p) ISBN 978-1-101-98653-0

Science writer Frank (*My Beautiful Genome*) takes a deep dive into the work of a controversial "pioneer by accident," psychiatrist Robert G. Heath, whose use of electrode stimulation to the brain's "pleasure center" to treat schizophrenia and depression in the 1950s and '60s horrified and fascinated academia, the CIA, and the U.S. Senate. This wide-ranging, thoughtful exploration of Heath's complicated legacy combs through documents, film footage, and interviews with Heath's colleagues, his son, and a patient.



It begins with the treatment of patient B-19, a gay man who was supposed to be cured with electrodes and a prostitute; when Heath died in 1999, his work was largely judged by that perverse episode: "It seems as if he had a vision of something of which he could not clearly see the contours—quite simply because science had not yet reached far enough and the tools were still primitive." Though Heath's work has been discredited, he began an approach that's getting a new look from psychiatry and industry,

ONLINE NOW

www.publishersweekly.com

FICTION

Into the Fire Elizabeth Moon. Del Rey, ISBN 978-1-101-88734-9, Feb.

Long Shot Kelly Jamieson. Loveswept, ISBN 978-0-399-59443-4, Feb.

The Wedding Date Jasmine Guillory. Berkley, ISBN 978-0-399-58766-5, Feb.

Hidden Depths: A Vera Stanhope Mystery Ann Cleeves. Minotaur, ISBN 978-1-250-13517-9, Jan.

Neogenesis Sharon Lee and Steve Miller. Baen, ISBN 978-1-4814-8278-3, Jan.

Tribute Act: A Porthkennack Contemporary Joanna Chambers. Riptide, ISBN 978-1-62649-684-2, Jan.

Slip B.A. Tortuga. Dreamspinner, ISBN 978-1-63533-801-0, Dec.

NONFICTION

This Is M. Sasek: The Extraordinary Life and Travels of the Beloved Children's Book Illustrator Olga Cerná, Pavel Ryška, and Martin Salisbury, trans. from the Czech by Martina and Stuart Nicholson. Universe, ISBN 978-0-7893-3427-5, Feb.

A Place for All People: Life, Architecture, and the Fair Society Richard Rogers, with Richard Brown. Canongate, ISBN 978-1-78211-693-6, Jan.

Rescuing Retirement: A Plan to Guarantee Retirement Security for All Americans Teresa Ghilarducci and Tony James. Columbia Univ., ISBN 978-0-231-18564-6, Dec.

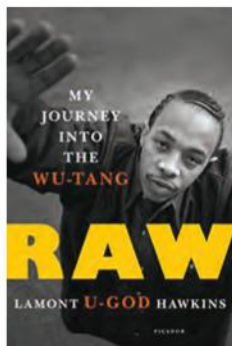
making one psychosurgeon's assessment particularly poignant: "You are a hero until you are not." Frank has written an excellent, balanced portrait of an inventive psychiatrist with a complicated legacy.

Agent: Peter Tallack, the Science Factory. (Mar.)

★ **Raw:**

My Journey into the Wu-Tang Lamont "U-God" Hawkins. Picador, \$26 (304p) ISBN 978-1-250-19116-8

"I don't consider myself an ex-drug dealer or an ex-criminal," rapper Hawkins writes in this sage, fast-paced memoir. "I consider myself to be an experienced fucking person who went through a lot of hell to come out right and get where I am today." Hawkins, a member of the Wu-Tang Clan, describes New York during the less glamorous (and more dangerous) 1970s through the early 1990s, when lived with his single mother in a



crack-ravaged Staten Island neighborhood; he dealt drugs as a teenager, eventually running a mini-empire. During this time, Hawkins and his friend Method Man honed their rap skills. They joined other determined, songwriters to form the Wu-Tang Clan. Along the way, Hawkins spent a year in prison for drug possession and, sometime after, was admitted to a mental institution after he was found wandering around his neighborhood in a bathrobe ("Maybe one of my girlfriends poisoned me"); he became a father and later dated Janet Jackson, on whom he had had a crush as a kid. Hawkins is a wonderful storyteller who spares no detail (he writes of using plastic wrap as a prophylactic), and his willingness to share his wisdom in nonsaccharine terms yields an inspirational coming-of-age story. *Agent: Marc Gerald, United Talent Agency. (Mar.)*

★ **The Rebounders: A Division I Basketball Journey**

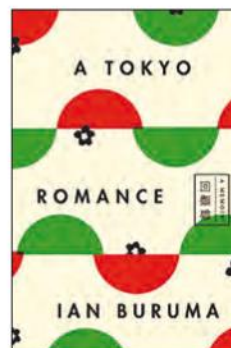
Amanda Ottaway. Univ. of Nebraska, \$29.95 (304p) ISBN 978-0-8032-9684-8

In this charming though uneven memoir, Ottaway recalls her four years as a scholarship player, beginning in 2008, on Davidson College's women's basketball team. She shares stories of her emotional and physical toil during the season, dealing with a coaching staff that breeds discord ("I believed that coach Katz loved us in her way. I just didn't think she knew how to show us... her competitiveness came off as plain old hurtful"), stressing over her meager playing time, and realizing that she and her teammates are simply university "merchandise." Ottaway relishes details—a strength coach boasts calves as "wide as cereal boxes"—and her description of the financial burden families face when a player gets injured is eye-opening. Throughout, she includes stories of her former teammates alongside those of her own struggles, a technique that works to varying degrees: while it offers glimpses into the

broader world of college sports, it distracts from the narrative. Ottaway is certainly an affable and trustworthy guide but readers will be left wanting more. *Agent: Laurie Abkemeier, DeFiore and Co. (Mar.)*

★ **A Tokyo Romance: A Memoir** Ian Buruma. Penguin Press, \$26 (256p) ISBN 978-1-101-98141-2

New York Review of Books editor Buruma reflects on his immersion in the artistic underworlds of late 1970s Tokyo in this lucid, engrossing memoir. A bored university student from the Netherlands, Buruma was intrigued by the exotic Japan of film and stage and moved to a country caught between dizzying economic growth and the student uprisings that followed. On his way to artistic maturity, Buruma befriended gay expat aesthetes, fashion photographers, Buto dancers, and underground theater troupes, his fluent Japanese providing access to milieus few Westerners ever encountered. Throughout the narrative, readers learn nearly as much about Buruma's occasional male lovers as they do about a Japanese girlfriend he lived with (and later married). Bisexual and half "Anglo-German-Jewish," Buruma had always felt remote from his Dutch countrymen, and he felt even more displaced



among the Japanese. Of course, it was exactly his difference that made him intriguing to the fiercely tribal artistic enclaves he explored; as Buruma freely admits, having John Schlesinger (*Midnight Cowboy*) for an uncle proved quite helpful in encounters with luminaries such as film directors Jūrō Kara, Akira Kurosawa, and Shūji Terayama. Yet even as this far-from-typical gaijin enjoyed the benefits of his ambiguous status, he came to understand that he would never be fully accepted. Buruma makes the archetypal quest for home in a foreign land both uniquely personal and deeply illuminating. *Agent: Andrew Wylie, the Wylie Agency. (Mar.)*



Global Kids Connect Breakfast Series

SOUNDS LIKE OPPORTUNITY: THE NEW WORLD OF AUDIO

January 25 | 8:00 - 11:00 AM | New York, NY



TAVIA GILBERT

Producer, Writer and Narrator

2017 Winner — Best Female Narrator Audie Award



AMANDA D'ACERNO

Executive Vice President
and Publisher, Penguin
Random House Audio



CECILIA DE LA CAMPA

Executive Director,
Global Licensing and
Domestic Partnerships,
Writers House



MARY ANN NAPLES

Vice President and
Publisher, Disney Book
Group



ANDY BOWERS

Chief Content Officer,
Panoply Media



HEATHER ALEXANDER

Executive Editor, Kids'
Original Content,
Audible Originals

Publishers Weekly and the Bologna Children's Book Fair present "Sounds Like Opportunity: The New World of Audio," **the first-ever gathering of audiobook publishers, agents, podcasters, platforms and brands** sharing their expertise on creating audio experiences for kids, teens and families.

On January 25th in NYC, this exclusive discussion will delve into what children's book publishers, editors, rights professionals, marketers and producers need to know to capitalize on consumer interest in audio storytelling: the art and science of audio adaptation, the global audiobook outlook, the possibilities of audio originals, and insights from experimentation with next-generation audio storytelling: Alexa Skills, Google Assistant experiences, audio apps.

The program allows ample time for Q&A — join the conversation!

REGISTER TODAY: PublishersWeekly.com/gkc18series

Presented By



Premier Sponsor



Audio

Fiction

Bonfire

Krysten Ritter, read by Karissa Vacker.

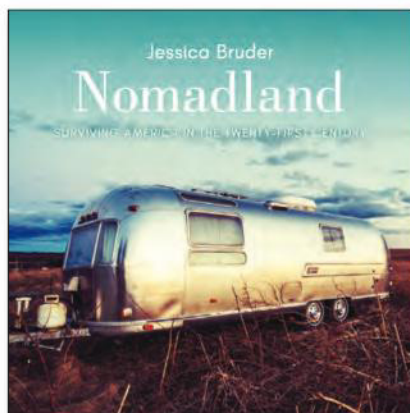
Random House Audio, unabridged, 7 CDs, 9 hrs., \$40 ISBN 978-1-5247-7896-5

Actress Ritter's first novel is a smartly crafted thriller in which dedicated environmental lawyer Abby Williams travels from Chicago to her hometown of Barrens, Ind., as part of a team investigating the environmental harm of Optimal Plastics, the town's main employer. Abby is searching for evidence of Optimal's unhealthy practices and answers to questions from her past, primarily what happened to her best frenemy from high school, Kaycee Mitchell, who went missing just after graduation a decade ago. Reader Vacker's rendition of a strong-willed but otherwise-fragile young woman trying to do her job while struggling with memories from a painful past is convincing. Just as impressive is her handling of other characters past and present, including snarky mean girls from Abby's high school days, the sullen present-day townsfolk, and her once cold and impersonal father now in the throes of Alzheimer disease. Vacker is especially effective in the novel's most dramatic and suspenseful chapter, when Abby faces what seems like certain death at the hands of a killer. The result is a stirring audiobook. *A Crown Archetype hardcover. (Nov.)*

Strange Weather: Four Short Novels

Joe Hill, read by multiple narrators. Harper Audio, unabridged, 13 CDs, 15 hrs., \$44.99 ISBN 978-0-06-269445-4

Hill's follow up to 2016's *The Fireman* is a quartet of suspenseful novellas, narrated in this production by four familiar, well-chosen actors. Actor Wil Wheaton portrays, in "Snapshot," a nerdy yet heroic Silicon Valley teen who tries to save an elderly neighbor from a sinister bully whose Polaroid Instant Camera erases memories. "Aloft" casts actor Dennis Boutsikaris as a reluctant novice skydiver who, trying to impress a young woman, falls into a cloud so solid it floats him away, then begins breaking apart. In



Voice actor Karen White captures the camaraderie of the group of 21st-century nomads who are the focus of Bruder's sociological study (reviewed on p. 80).

"Rain," actor Kate Mulgrew portrays an assortment of Coloradans trying to cope with storms that send crystal shards to Earth; the story's protagonist is a woman trying to stay alive while traveling from Boulder to Denver to care for her late girlfriend's family. In "Loaded," Stephen Lang turns in two excellent performances: a roaring portrayal of an embittered small-town Florida mall cop as he transforms into a homicidal maniac, and a nuanced, subdued portrayal of the cop's *bête noire*, a soft-spoken, maternal newswoman. The stories are intriguing on their own, but the readers raise them to a higher level of entertainment. *A Morrow hardcover. (Nov.)*

The Rooster Bar

John Grisham, read by Ari Fliakos. Random House Audio, unabridged, 8 CDs, 10.5 hrs., \$45 ISBN 978-0-399-56499-4

Grisham's latest focuses on three law students—Mark Frazier, Todd Lucero, and Zola Maal—who, shaken by the suicide of their law school pal, Gordy Tanner, take stock of their student loan debts and dim job prospects. They decide to drop out and practice law without a license, and to scam the rich man profiting from their tuitions and loans. The author uses the resulting inventive and intriguing yarn to illuminate for-profit law schools, massive student debt, and harsh, family-destroying U.S. immigration policies (ICE sends Zola's parents and older brother back to their native Senegal) without letting commentary overwhelm the novel's entertainment value. His style is breezy and upbeat, as is reader Fliakos's. The veteran actor reads the novel with a voice that accurately

reflects the roller-coaster emotions of the three young protagonists. He also smartly captures their differing personalities—Mark's self-confident, outgoing persona that can't quite mask his fear of failure; Todd's pragmatic pessimism; and Zola's desperation, which overcomes her hesitancy about joining the team. Fliakos's strong performance is both enjoyable and affecting. *A Doubleday hardcover. (Oct.)*

Deep Freeze

John Sandford, read by Eric Conger.

Penguin Audio, unabridged, 8 CDs, 10 hrs., \$40 ISBN 978-0-525-49734-9

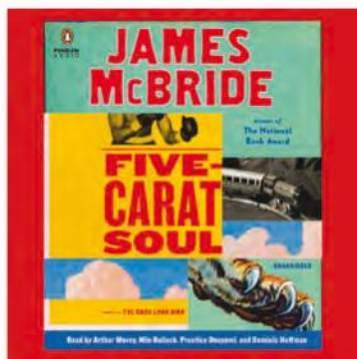
Actor Conger shines as Sandford's protagonist Virgil Flowers, a lawman with a strong sense of humor. The agent of Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension doesn't just have the gift of gab, he sees past the gruesome aspects of his investigations to their absurd elements and reacts accordingly. In Virgil's 10th outing, he is sent to the unfriendly town of Trippton, where the corpse of the town's wealthiest woman (who has been murdered) has been plucked from the nearby Mississippi River. Meanwhile, the governor gives Virgil an additional assignment: locate and arrest a woman who's been manufacturing obscene Barbie dolls. But workers in the impoverished town have become dependent on the sexy dolls' sales and prove to be as dangerous as the murderer. Reader Conger has a crisp, resonant voice, and he smoothly conveys Virgil's air of bemusement and the sarcastic edge that appears when he's forced to deal with deceitful suspects and his merrily duplicitous boss, John Duncan. He plays the self-absorbed murderer, identified early on, as weak and depressed, and the others in the town of Trippton, such as Virgil's gruff good-natured pal Johnson Johnson, with specificity. All the characters are as carefully vocalized by Conger as they are developed by Sandford in this satisfying audiobook. *A Putnam hardcover. (Oct.)*

Origin

Dan Brown, read by Paul Michael. Random House Audio, unabridged, 15 CDs, 18 hrs., \$50 ISBN 978-0-7393-1929-1

The fifth outing for Harvard symbology professor Robert Langdon's combines Brown's typical mix of sinister religious fanaticism and old-fashioned adventure

tropes, but most of the fun this time comes from the author's creative ideas for futuristic technology. The best of these is Winston, a beyond-the-cutting-edge artificial intelligence created by Edmond Kirsch, a former student of Langdon's. After Kirsch is murdered, minutes before disclosing a world-shaking discovery about the origin of life, Winston supplies Langdon with background information, advice, and, when needed, life-saving escape tips. Reader Michael gives Winston a wry British voice (more Hugh Grant than Anthony Hopkins) and a charming attitude that easily qualifies him as the novel's most entertaining character. When circumstances quiet Winston for much too long, the book turns dull. The rather stiff-sounding Langdon and his companion, Ambra Vidal, the "future queen of Spain," rush breathlessly from Madrid to Bilbao to Barcelona, trying to uncover Kirsch's secret discovery while simultaneously avoiding a loony religious hit man and the police, who believe they killed Kirsch. But it's only when Winston returns, with his all-knowing yet likeable voice, that the energy and vitality of the story once again match the plot's relentless activity. That's no fault of actor Michael, who admirably keeps up with Brown's pace throughout. *A Doubleday hardcover. (Oct.)*



★ Five-Carat Soul

James McBride, read by multiple narrators. Penguin Audio, unabridged, 8 CDs, 9 hrs., \$35 ISBN 978-0-525-49796-7

Four talented actors bring to life the zany characters in the excellent audio edition of McBride's story collection. In "The Under Graham Railroad Box Car Set," Arthur Morey conveys the apoplectic confusion of an antique toy salesman when a poor black preacher offers to gift him a

train set—believed to have belonged to Robert E. Lee—that he knows is worth millions. In "The Five-Carat Soul Bottom Bone Band," Nile Bullock perfectly captures the rhythmic speech of Butter, one of a group of teenaged boys whose band practices above a Chinese restaurant in a predominantly African-American town called The Bottom. Prentice Onayemi is equally masterly in the other stories about young men stuck at the bottom of society. Veteran voice actor Dominic Hoffman gives a consummate performance as the zoo animals who communicate telepathically with each other and with humans in the wonderful, whimsical, and surprising "Mr. P and the Wind." This is one of the best audiobooks of 2017. *A Riverhead hardcover. (Oct.)*

From a Certain Point of View (Star Wars)

Renée Ahdieh et al., read by multiple narrators. Random House Audio, unabridged, 14 CDs, 15 hrs., \$45 ISBN 978-0-451-48621-9

A stylistically diverse group of authors commemorate the 40th anniversary of the original *Stars Wars* film with this anthology of short stories about minor characters from the film. The collection assembles big-name authors from the realms of comics (Kieron Gillen, Matt Fraction), sci-fi (Nnedi Okorafor, Ken Liu), young adult literature (Elizabeth Wein, Sabaa Tahir), and Star Wars fiction (John Jackson Miller, Claudia Gray). Fittingly, the audiobook brings in highly acclaimed actors, including audiobook veterans (January LaVoy, Jonathan Davis) and celebrities (Neil Patrick Harris, Jon Hamm). While the pairings between actor and story are adequate, the overall production is more noteworthy for its high-quality sound design. Each story is enlivened by background music and an array of sound effects (alien noises or the shuffling footsteps of soldiers marching in line add atmospheric detail to the narration). Loyal listeners of the Star Wars franchise audiobooks will agree that this is one of the best yet. *A Del Rey hardcover. (Oct.)*

In the Midst of Winter

Isabel Allende, read by Dennis Boutsikaris, Jasmine Cephas Jones, and Alma Cuervo. S&S Audio, unabridged, 9 CDs, 10.5 hrs., \$34.99 ISBN 978-1-5082-4195-9

The audiobook of Allende's latest novel

employs the vocals of three actors with mixed results. Actor Boutsikaris is a master of tempo, and her well-tempered reading here keeps listeners fastened to the story. Jones and Cuervo, on the other hand, tend to enunciate too carefully, obstructing Allende's rhythms and causing listeners to focus on individual words rather than the story as a whole. That said, the three actors convincingly portray the three protagonists of Allende's story, all of whom cross paths in Brooklyn. Each is scarred by experiences related to the Latin American political landscape of the 1970s: NYU professor Richard Bowmaster is a human rights scholar who has worked in Brazil; his tenant, Lucia Maraz, is a visiting professor from Chile; and Evelyn Ortega is an undocumented immigrant from Guatemala who crashes into Richard's car while driving her employer's Lexus on a snowy day. The book includes a somewhat awkward mixture of light romantic comedy and heavy personal and political tragedies—the Pinochet years, the terror of MS-13, the plight of immigrants, and the hideous business of sex slavery in the U.S. The readers are sweet in the romantic parts, but Allende's minute descriptions of violent personal and political events are harder to follow. *An Atria hardcover. (Oct.)*

The Best Kind of People

Zoe Whittall, read by Cassandra Campbell. Random House Audio, unabridged, 9 CDs, 11.5 hrs., \$40 ISBN 978-0-525-49412-6

Campbell is a seasoned narrator with a lovely, lilting tone who creates easily recognized voices and mannerisms for the diverse characters in Whittall's latest. Joan's husband George is universally admired as an upstanding member of his community, as perpetual teacher of the year, and as a hero who saved his daughter and other children from a gun-wielding maniac. Then, suddenly, George lands in jail. He is alleged to have sexually abused more than one of the girls in his daughter's high school class. Campbell hooks listeners in the gruesome swings between denial and rage experienced by George's wife, Joan, his daughter, Sadie, and his son, Andrew. At times the characterization of Joan sounds too whiny for a character who otherwise comes across as a strong woman. Nevertheless, Campbell

carries listeners convincingly and sympathetically through each family member's struggle to come to terms with George's culpability. *A Ballantine hardcover. (Sept.)*

Nonfiction

★ **Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century**

Jessica Bruder, read by Karen White. HighBridge Audio, unabridged, 8 CDs, 10 hrs., \$34.99 ISBN 978-1-6816-8718-6

Actor White engages listeners in Bruder's sociological study of a group of low-income, mostly white elderly Americans who travel from job to job in RVs to avoid the cost of a permanent home. These are men and women in their 60s, 70s, and even 80s who consider themselves not homeless but houseless, having lost their homes or opted to ditch their mortgages, taxes, and repair bills. Listeners will feel as if they are right there in Bruder's passenger seat, traveling with her to RV campsites, researching, and sharing grief and friendship with the "workampers." Among the people profiled is 64-year-old Linda May, who lives in a tiny trailer she calls the Squeeze Inn—"yeah, there's room, squeeze in"—and works as a "host" in trailer camps registering newcomers, repairing RVs, and cleaning toilets all day. She then heads to Amazon warehouses for long, exhausting night shifts sorting packages. White's friendly voice and easygoing conversational rhythm embeds listeners in the misery but also the camaraderie of these under-the-radar 21st-century nomads. *A Norton hardcover. (Oct.)*

Unqualified

Anna Faris, read by the author. Penguin Audio, unabridged, 6 CDs, 6.5 hrs., \$40 ISBN 978-1-5247-7880-4

Faris—actress, producer, and host of the *Anna Faris Is Unqualified* podcast—narrates this lighthearted mix of autobiography and ruminations on love and relationships. As narrator, Faris projects the down-to-earth persona that fans of her character on the sitcom *Mom* would expect, with whimsy mixed with grit. The podcast elements take on a conversational tone, with audience shout-outs and asides, while the memoir portions seem

more like a traditional author-read audiobook production. The anecdotes from her marriage to actor Chris Pratt (which ended just before the book's publication) shift confusingly between past and present tense in the audiobook. But this ties into a recurring theme of Faris's narrative: that complete closure in matters of the heart doesn't really exist. The audiobook will likely be of greatest interest to fans of Faris's podcast, rather than finding a broader audience. *A Dutton hardcover. (Oct.)*

Leonardo Da Vinci

Walter Isaacson, read by Alfred Molina. S&S Audio, unabridged, 14 CDs, 17 hrs., \$49.99 ISBN 978-1-5082-4198-0

Screen, television, and stage actor Molina (*Raiders of the Lost Ark, Not Without My Daughter*), elegantly narrates Isaacson's sweeping biography of Leonardo da Vinci. Molina effortlessly navigates Italian place names and surnames, and there is a sharp intelligence throughout his performance, as he joins Isaacson in peeling back the layers of a man whose surviving notebooks are crammed with fantastic designs but only contain tantalizing hints of a personal life. Isaacson manages to piece together chronologically the artist's life from his apprenticeship at age 14 in Florence under Andrea del Verrochio to his death in France in 1519, focusing primarily on his evolution as an artist. Isaacson reads the foreword and the conclusion, in which he ruminates on the legacy of an artist whose trail of unfinished projects vastly outnumbered his completed works. The only hiccup in this excellent audio production is that the nearly 150 illustrations mentioned throughout are available in PDF form but are not easily accessible for those listening on the go. Still, it's a great performance by Molina and a pleasure to listen to. *A Simon & Schuster hardcover. (Oct.)*

Children's/YA

Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians

Brandon Sanderson, read by a full cast. GraphicAudio, adapted, 5 CDs, 6 hrs., \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-62851-444-5

This first of a series of young adult fan-

tasy novels, originally published in 2007, makes excellent use of cinematic music and digital sound effects. Multiple actors voice the central characters, who are oddly named after famous prisons: there's the 13-year-old protagonist Alcatraz Smedry, his grandfather Leavenworth, best friends Sing and Quentin, and Bastille, a strong, clever, angry, and thoroughly obnoxious girl who tags along. They are fighting the "evil librarians" who are attempting to take over the world. Alcatraz, struggling with his irresolution and lack of confidence, has, like the other members of his family, an unusual talent: in his case, the ability to destroy whatever he touches. This is evoked with lots of loud and suggestive sound effects during the big battle scenes. The production includes 17 actors, most of whom seem to have very minor roles, but their variety and a remarkably good musical score contribute to the jolly mood of violent mayhem. Ages 9–up. *A Scholastic hardcover. (Dec.)*

Elizabeth and Zenobia

Jessica Miller, read by Shiromi Arserio. Tantor Audio, unabridged, 4 CDs, 4.5 hrs., \$34.99 ISBN 978-1-5414-1196-8

Actor Arserio's crisp narration of Miller's middle grade novel captures the moody atmosphere of its gothic setting and the endearing nature of the friendship between its two protagonists. Mixing elements of ghost story and coming-of-age tale, the story follows a young, timid girl named Elizabeth, who, after being abandoned by her mother, moves with her distracted scientist father into his childhood home, an empty mansion called Withering House. Lonely and unable to attract her dad's attention, Elizabeth finds companionship in Zenobia, a snarky friend who no one else can see. As Elizabeth and Zenobia roam the mansion, they detect ghosts and spirits that Elizabeth's father and the stoic housekeeper dismiss as figments of Elizabeth's imagination. Arserio reads the tale in low and mysterious tones that add intrigue and suspense. The book balances gruesome, spooky elements with the friendly banter between Elizabeth and Zenobia; Arserio's narration provides the right proportions of tension and humor. Ages 9–13. *An Amulet hardcover. (Sept.)*

Children's/YA

Picture Books

This Is the Nest That Robin Built

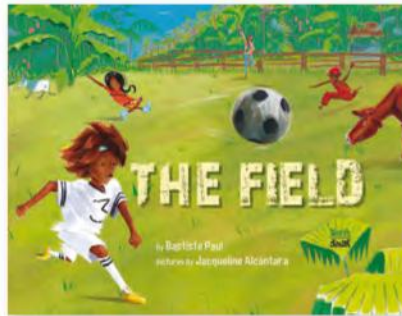
Denise Fleming. Beach Lane, \$17.99 (32p)
ISBN 978-1-4814-3083-8

Like a fresh spring breeze, Fleming's cumulative tale celebrates a favorite symbol of the season, a robin's nest. Beginning with a squirrel "who trimmed the twigs, not too big,/ that anchor the nest that Robin built," Fleming (*5 Little Ducks*) introduces several animals that provide the materials the bird needs to craft the resting spot for her "eggs, brittle and blue." The verse is saturated with alliteration and internal rhymes ("This is the *mouse*/ who gathered the weeds, dotted with seeds,/ that bind the mud, soft not soupy,/ that plasters the straw, rough and tough..."), and the collage illustrations gain bold, mottled textures from the varied printmaking techniques Fleming used to treat the paper before assembling them. When the nestlings, "tufted and pink," finally arrive, a foldout spread reveals all of the work that went into the nest; small vignettes show Robin combining twigs, string, straw, mud, and more to put it together. Fleming's nature scenes pulse with electric shades of green, highlighting the hive of activity that precedes the arrival of a newborn (or three). Ages 2–8. (Mar.)

★ A Busy Creature's Day Eating: An Alphabetical Smorgasbord

Mo Willems. Hyperion, \$17.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-368-01352-9

G is for gluttony (ok, "gravy," technically) in Willems's madcap abecedary, built around a youngster who devours everything in sight, then suffers the consequences. Purple, wide-eyed, and resembling a cross between a monkey, dog, and Muppet, the young creature explodes out of bed and into an alphabetical meal of "Apples! Berries! Cereal!" It isn't pretty: Granny Smiths and strawberries go flying, and the creature dives face-first into its cereal bowl. The text is limited to whatever the creature is eating at the moment (and the accompanying alphabet letter), and Willems captures each moment in fre-



Paul and Alcántara make their children's book debut with a celebration of the game of soccer, set on a Caribbean island (reviewed on this page).

netically cartooned vignettes and larger scenes. Soon, food isn't enough: "Jacket! Kilt! Lunch Box!" (Hilariously, the creature dumps the food out of the lunch box before devouring it.) Queasiness follows (just in time for Q), and parental consolation is required: V is for "vomit," a much tidier affair than all of the eating that precedes it. There are a lot of laughs in this feeding frenzy, but just as much tenderness in the final scenes, which poignantly reflect the ABCs of TLC. Ages 3–5. Agent: Marcia Wernick, Wernick & Pratt. (Mar.)

Dreaming of You

Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, illus. by Aaron DeWitt. Boyds Mills, \$17.95 (32p) ISBN 978-1-62979-212-5

"When they sleep what do animals see?" That's the question driving VanDerwater's lullaby of a picture book, which moves from animal to animal, describing dreams that just so happen to involve readers who may be settling down for the night themselves. Well-crafted, undulating rhymes cover 10 animals in total, and although the animals' dreams often involve exploration and play, the mood always remains restful: "Turtles are dreaming of cool, muddy beds./ Turtles are dreaming of learning to run./ Turtles are dreaming of basking with you/ on a rock in a river in hot summer sun." Working in mixed media, DeWitt combines watery portraits of chipmunks, frogs, fish, and fireflies with crisply collaged backdrops and charcoal-like flourishes of added detail. VanDerwater's repeated second-person references are all but certain to have readers imagining themselves in the animals' frolics ("Horses are dreaming of you telling secrets/ into long ears as you nuzzle their faces"). It's a

lovely bedtime sendoff for animal-loving children that will leave them with ample imaginative fodder for their own dreams. Ages 3–6. Author's agent: Elizabeth Harding, Curtis Brown. Illustrator's agency: Wernick & Pratt. (Mar.)

The Piano

Juha Virta, illus. by Marika Maijala. Gibbs Smith, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-4236-4926-7

Originally published in Finland, this cheerful domestic adventure introduces an overalls-wearing girl named Filippa who lives in a hip town populated by anthropomorphic animals. After a piano mysteriously appears in front of Filippa's house (in the opening scene, readers watch it sail out the back of a van), she is eager to play it. But her friend André, a donkey, grabs it to use as extra seating at his café (a mobile coffee cart, really), and her pal Snoozy the cat takes a nap inside of it. An annoyed Filippa storms off to play her harmonica, which attracts the attention of a certain pianist whose instrument has gone missing. Virta creates an appealing setting for future books, a friendly town where humans and animals alike sip coffee and play jazz music together. But it's Maijala's bold and splashy illustrations that captivate. Colored in bright shades of yellow, peach, sea green, and sky blue, her scenes brim with energy and quirky details: Filippa is building homemade birdhouses when readers first meet her, and the pianist's bench is a can of pickled cucumbers. Ages 3–8. (Mar.)

The Field

Baptiste Paul, illus. by Jacqueline Alcántara. NorthSouth, \$17.95 (32p) ISBN 978-0-7358-4312-7

A boisterous and unfettered love of *futbol* is at the heart of this energetic picture book from debut talents Paul and Alcántara, set on an unspecified Caribbean island. Alcántara's kinetic illustrations reflect the joy and camaraderie that the game brings to the young players: two twins walk in lock-step to set up a goal made from bamboo shoots, the children are forced to clear the field of cows before the game can begin, and players slip and slide dramatically as a storm sets in. Paul's punchy, declarative text clearly communicates that the players won't be hindered by stubborn livestock,

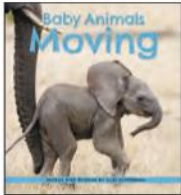
ANIMAL WONDERS

Animal-themed picture books help inspire a love of the wild.

Baby Animals Moving

Suzi Eszterhas. Owlkids (PGW, dist.), \$16.95 (24p) ISBN 978-1-77147-299-9

In this companion to *Baby Animals Playing*, wildlife photographer Eszterhas features 12 species of young animals. An orangutan clings to its mother's fur, warthog piglets run through the grass, and a joey travels in its mother's pouch. Eszterhas pairs the photographs with playful descriptions: "Hold on tight! A cute koala hitches a ride on Mom's back. By the time she turns one she will climb trees all by herself." In another photo, a sea otter pup snuggles up to his mother as she swims on her back ("What a cozy way to travel!"). In a closing spread, Eszterhas includes additional photos and insights into her process: "I had to climb high up a tree in the rain forest of Costa Rica to snap a photo of this sleepy baby and its mom," she writes about two sloths. Eszterhas's respect and affection for her subjects shines through in her dynamic, expertly framed images. Ages 3–6. (Mar.)



Yodel the Yearling

Mary Holland. Arbordale, \$17.95 (32p) ISBN 978-1-60718-448-5

In this light wildlife primer, naturalist and photographer Holland focuses on a family of black bears. One-year-old "Yodel," his two siblings, and their mother wake from "a long winter's nap." Photographs show the cubs as they clean their fur, chew on sticks, and play in their forest nook ("They roll around with their mouths open, grabbing each other's fur. Sometimes they look like they are mad at each other, but they are just having fun"). When the cubs' mother leaves to find food, the cubs climb up into a "babysitter tree" ("Here they will be safe from any danger while she's gone"). The photographs offer an intimate perspective on the bears and less of a sense of their surrounding environment. Back matter provides bear-related learning activities, including a closer look at the foods bears eat, and black bear signs like tracks and marking trees. Ages 3–8. (Feb.)

Bird Builds a Nest

Martin Jenkins, illus. by Richard Jones. Candlewick, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-0-7636-9346-6

In this kickoff to the First Science Storybook series, author and biologist Jenkins follows a bird as it builds its nest, but his real goal is to explore the concepts of force and gravity (which are discussed in an introductory note to parents). Drab shades of rust, brown, and pale blue-green lend a sense of calm to Jones's flattened and slightly



abstracted mixed-media images. The bird constructs its nest by pushing and pulling twigs together, then fills it with "softer things" such as feathers and grass: "Can you guess what it's waiting for? Eggs!" Closing questions invite readers to revisit the book with the concepts of pushing and pulling in mind: "Can you find some places in the book where Bird pushes something?" It's a neat way for readers to see science fundamentals at work in nature. Ages 4–6. (Feb.)

A Mammal Is an Animal

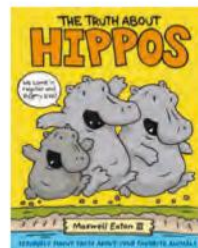
Lizzy Rockwell. Holiday House, \$17.95 (40p) ISBN 978-0-8234-3670-5

In this gently illustrated companion to *A Bird Is a Bird*, a father takes his son and daughter on a walk with their dog through the farm and woodland near their home. As they explore, Rockwell introduces the characteristics of mammals (such as having a skeleton and spine, being warm-blooded, and breathing air) and asks readers whether certain animals meet the criteria: "A ladybug is an animal. A ladybug has body parts that are hard. But is a ladybug a mammal? No!" Animals that do fit the bill include humpback whales, harbor seals, white-headed capuchin monkeys, and African elephants. While readers may need clarification that not all of the featured animals share a habitat—and don't all live in places like the area the characters are exploring—they'll learn plenty about the ways that animals are categorized and classified. Ages 4–7. (Feb.)

★ The Truth About Hippos

Maxwell Eaton III. Roaring Brook/Porter, \$15.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-62672-667-3

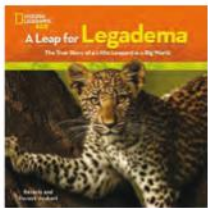
A girl learns about pygmy and common hippos from the animals themselves in this irreverent and very funny series opener. Eaton's concise narration serves as a kind of straight man to the animals' plucky one-liners and commentary. "A common hippo can weigh as much as four cows," he notes, as an accompanying cartoon shows a lollipop-licking hippo sitting opposite four cows on a seesaw. "This doesn't feel safe," says one of the cows. "It's not," quips the girl, who's also on the seesaw. A subplot has a hippo calf trying to find its mother, and Eaton mischievously undercuts their happy reunion with details about threats facing hippos ("We were having a moment," complains the mother hippo). Kids who need convincing that learning can be fun need look no further for proof. Also available: *The Truth About Bears*. Ages 4–8. Agent: Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary Studio. (Feb.)



**A Leap for Legadema:
The True Story of a Little Leopard in a Big World**

Beverly and Dereck Joubert. National Geographic Kids, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-4263-2973-9

The Jouberts—husband-and-wife photographers, conservationists, and National Geographic explorers-in-residence—document their time spent filming a young leopard and her mother, Tortilis, in the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Sharp



photographs depict quiet moments between Legadema and Tortilis, as the mother leopard protects and cares for her cub: “Each day that Legadema’s mother was playing with her, she was teaching her how to be a big leopard.” The Jouberts capture the threats

inherent in the “noisy, chirping, squeaking, trumpeting, belching, roaring Eden” of the leopards’ sub-Saharan home, most dramatically when Legadema and her mother are nearly attacked by a lion. It’s a straightforward but gripping portrait of leopards in the wild and a young animal developing into a capable, independent adult. Ages 4–8. (Feb.)

The Seal Garden

Nicholas Read, photos by Ian McAllister. Orca, \$19.95 (32p) ISBN 978-1-4598-1267-3

This third title in the My Great Bear Rainforest series features striking underwater photographs of seals, sea lions, and otters. A powerful storm has come to the Great Bear Sea, and the marine animals have retreated to their underwater sanc-



tuary, where rocks protect them from larger predators. Filled with pink, red, yellow, and green seaweed, the seal garden is aptly named, and McAllister’s photos of seals peering above the waterline and sea lions lounging on rocks are equally compelling.

Read builds a sense of the lurking dangers awaiting seals outside the garden—orcas “patrol the garden like police”—and concludes by evoking a sense of the broader ecosystem that the series explores: “It’s the way of life in the Great Bear Sea, where every animal, no matter how big or small, has a place to live and a role to play.” Ages 5–8. (Mar.)

Meet My Family! Animal Babies and Their Families

Laura Purdie Salas, illus. by Stephanie Fizer Coleman. Millbrook, \$19.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-5124-2532-1

In a tender celebration of family, more than 20 baby animals describe the ways the adults in their lives care for them. A baby beaver has lived in one home for all of its life, but an orangutan infant gets a new nest each night: “I never know where I’ll be,

but I always know she’ll be right beside me.” Coleman shows the animal families interacting in sunny, collage-like digital illustrations, emphasizing different habitats through variations in color and texture. Salas also makes some allusions to nontraditional human families: “Two dads are what I’ve got!” says a penguin chick; “I’ve never met my dad,” states a raccoon kit. In a fitting conclusion, a final spread shows groupings of four human families, including single parents, a Muslim family, and two mothers with their children. Ages 5–9. (Mar.)

★ **Rodent Rascals: From Tiny to Tremendous—
21 Clever Creatures at Their Actual Size**

Roxie Munro. Holiday House, \$17.95 (40p) ISBN 978-0-8234-3860-0

Writing with warmth and enthusiasm, Munro celebrates the biodiversity of rodents. She introduces 21 rodents in all, ranging from the house mouse to the naked mole rat, and describes each creature with casual wonder: “Bushy-tailed wood rats or pack rats love to collect bright shiny things, such as keys, bottle caps, and jewelry,” and the African giant pouched rat can be trained to sniff out land mines and detect tuberculosis in labs. Because the animals are drawn to scale, readers get a clear sense of their relative sizes. The world’s largest rodent, a capybara, fills a page with its head and nose alone; the smallest, the pygmy jerboa, occupies just a page corner. Munro blends naturalism with a hint of personality for each rodent, accentuating the positive attributes of an underappreciated group of animals. Ages 6–10. (Feb.)

★ **The Sockeye Mother**

Brett David Huson, illus. by Natasha Donovan. Highwater, \$23 (32p) ISBN 978-1-55379-739-5

Writing in lyrical prose, Huson, who belongs to the Gitksan Nation, honors the sockeye salmon as a resource and potent symbol within Gitksan culture: “Little does this small sockeye fry know that its life cycle not only nourishes the people and other beings along the watersheds, it is the whole reason the forests and landscapes exist.” He describes the



journey of a young sockeye from the river to the Pacific and back again to spawn, incorporating (and defining) vocabulary words related to salmon ecology, including *semelparous* (“breeding only once in a lifetime”) and *keystone species*. Donovan, a member of the Métis Nation of British Columbia, incorporates masklike images into her dynamic spreads, as well as motifs of flowing currents, plumes of campfire smoke, grasses, and tree bark. Huson eloquently conveys the fragile interconnectedness of the natural world and the moral imperative to protect it. Ages 10–14. (Mar.)

downpours, slippery mud, or beckoning mamas; they overcome each obstacle together, as a team. Paul moves casually between English and Creole; definitions are included, but the meanings are generally spelled out (“*Ou byen?* You okay? *Mwen byen.* I’m good”). The children’s elongated, exaggerated movements create an almost constant sense of motion in Alcántara’s vividly colored paintings, and their enthusiasm for *futbol* is infectious. Ages 4–8. *Author’s agent: Karen Grencik, Red Fox Literary. Illustrator’s agent: Adriana Dominguez, Full Circle Literary.* (Mar.)



★ **Hello Lighthouse**

Sophie Blackall. Little, Brown, \$18.99 (48p) ISBN 978-0-316-36238-2

Painted with the featherlight touch that distinguishes Caldecott Medalist Blackall’s work, this graceful account of a lighthouse keeper’s life celebrates a lost era. While it was lonely and sometimes dangerous, watching the lighthouse was monastic in its simplicity: “He tends the light and writes in the logbook.” The lighthouse keeper readies his home for the arrival of his wife, who nurses him when he falls ill; then he helps her as she gives birth to their first child. Soon the family receives word that the lighthouse is to be fitted with a mechanical light, and their idyll comes to a serene end. Many spreads, delicate as painted porcelain, depict the lighthouse amid the breaking waves and changing life of the ocean. Seals bask, whales pass, and the aurora borealis flickers overhead. Repeated images of circles echo the lighthouse’s circular rooms, from vignettes framed with nautical rope to a breath-taking sequence of the lighthouse-keeper’s wife walking through her labor, each moment like the hand on the face of a clock. It’s a jewel of a creation and a gift to those who dream of retreat. Ages 4–8. *Agent: Nancy Gallt, Gallt + Zacker Literary.* (Apr.)



★ **In a Small Kingdom**

Tomie dePaola, illus. by Doug Salati. Simon & Schuster, \$17.99 (48p) ISBN 978-1-4814-9800-5

It is long ago, in a place “along an ancient road.” The beloved old king has died, and the young prince is chosen to assume the throne. Though the prince is young and shy—and not much older than some in this book’s target audience—he is thoughtful and gentle. “All agreed that

the kingdom would be in good hands,” writes dePaola. But the legendary imperial robe has gone missing, and everyone in the kingdom believes this “remarkable garment” gives the king magical powers to protect them. An evil plot is afoot—can it be thwarted? Debut illustrator Salati, a former Sendak fellow, works with the assurance of a seasoned pro; his illustrations, rendered in delicately textured pencil and earth-toned digital color, combine an old-fashioned sense of setting and



character with a contemporary approach to casting (the kingdom is matter-of-factly multicultural, and the king’s chief counselor is a woman).

With its themes of ingenuity, generosity, and the enduring power of community, the story is a lovely and pointedly relevant tribute to those who truly confer legitimacy on any leader: the people. Ages 4–8. *Author’s agent: Doug Whiteman, Whiteman Agency.* (Apr.)



How the Finch Got Its Colors

Annemarie Riley Guertin, illus. by Helena Pérez García. Familius, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-945547-77-5

In an alternative to traditional great flood narratives, the Earth’s “stark and gray” landscape and animals are transformed by a deitylike rainbow that appears after 11 days of rain. The ruler of the bird kingdom, Great Bird, “was tired of his stone-gray colors and wished to be a beautiful color,” and Rainbow gives him golden feathers. Other birds follow suit, and Rainbow’s colors are eventually exhausted, leaving the Gouldian finch gray. In a final act, Rainbow gives the finch a bit of color from all of the other birds. Spanish illustrator García’s vibrant bird portraits are well suited to the folkloric tone that first-time author Guertin brings to the tale (“With one swift kiss from Rainbow, Parrot shimmered like an emerald”), but the underlying story isn’t entirely satisfying. Giving “the colors of dirt, clay, and stone” a negative association is somewhat off-putting—particularly with so many striking black, brown,

and gray birds in the world—as is the idea of being desperate to change the color of the skin (or feathers) one is in. Readers will, however, readily identify with the feeling of being left out. Ages 5–8. (Mar.)



Mela and the Elephant

Dow Phumiruk, illus. by Ziyue Chen. Sleeping Bear, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-58536-998-0

Phumiruk (*Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines*) takes readers to the country of her birth in an instructive contemporary fable about kindness, set in a village in Northern Thailand. A girl named Mela sets off to explore the nearby banks of the Ping River, refusing to bring along her younger brother. “What will you give me if I take you?” she asks, but he has nothing. The decision comes back to bite her after she’s swept away by the current and winds up far from home. Mela meets a crocodile, leopard, and monkeys, who ask her the same question she asked her brother when she requests their assistance. She offers them her belongings, which they take—and then abandon her. Eventually, an elephant arrives to help and deliver the book’s central message that “kindness needs no reward.” It’s not a subtle story, but it’s still a potentially useful tool for conversations about generosity, and Chen’s digital artwork, rendered in an array of creamy greens, brings the verdant setting to life. Ages 7–8. *Author’s agent: Deborah Warren, East-West Literary. Illustrator’s agent: Mela Bolinao, MB Artists.* (Mar.)



Fiction

Elle of the Ball

Elena Delle Donne. Simon & Schuster, \$16.99 (160p) ISBN 978-1-5344-1231-6

Donne—a professional basketball player, youth coach, and author of the memoir *My Shot* (which publishes simultaneously)—taps into her knowledge of the game and her insight into aspiring players in this first book in the Hoops series. As basketball season opens, Elle Deluca has skyrocketed to a height of six feet and outgrown her clothes; she now towers over the seventh-grade boys, including her ballroom dancing partner for the upcoming cotillion. Rather than boosting her confidence as a basketball player, Elle’s growth causes high anxiety:

"I grew ten feet overnight and became a total klutz," she says, and she suspects that her coach has assigned her to the demanding position of starting center because of her stature, rather than her skill. While avoiding melodrama, Donne humorously portrays Elle's adjustment to her changing body and her increasing self-confidence and positivity. Play-by-play basketball action, friendship subplots, and the inspiration Elle draws from her older sister (who is deaf and blind and has autism and cerebral palsy) round out this engaging novel. Ages 8–12. *Agent: Jennifer Keene and Erin Kane, Octagon. (Mar.)*

Ice Wolves

Amie Kaufman. Harper, \$16.99 (352p)
ISBN 978-0-06-245798-1

In this lively first book in the Elementals trilogy, orphaned twins who have grown up as street thieves are separated for the first time when their shapeshifting abilities manifest. Twelve-year-old Anders becomes an ice wolf, and his sister, Rayna, transforms into a scorch dragon—a traditional enemy of the wolves. After Rayna is stolen away by other dragons for their own purposes, Anders is invited to attend the Ulfar Academy, a school dedicated to training ice wolves to guard their land against dragon attacks. Anders just wants to learn enough to locate and rescue his sister, but the more he bonds with his new friends and delves into his special abilities, the more he wonders if there's something else to the conflict between ice and fire. In her first solo novel, Kaufman (*Unearthed*) conjures an intriguing world with memorable, diverse characters. Although the backstory isn't entirely fleshed out, and some of the twists are predictable, the premise is solid, backed up by an enticing blend of magic, action, and excitement. Ages 8–12. *Agent: Tracey Adams, Adams Literary. (Mar.)*

Love, Penelope

Joanne Rocklin, illus. by Lucy Knisley. Amulet, \$16.99 (240p) ISBN 978-1-4197-2861-7

Ten-year-old Penelope Bach's journal to her yet-to-be-born baby sibling forms the basis of Rocklin's touching novel. Penelope's entries, each beginning "Dear You," offer advice and reveal her own growth over nine months. A resident of Oakland, Calif., Penelope has two

mothers and passionately roots for the Golden State Warriors. Peppered with basketball trivia, the storyline coincides with the Warriors's 2015 championship run—even non-fans will be swept up in the excitement of their winning season. Penelope faces challenges, some self-made—such as when she claims Native American heritage for a school project (only her nonbiological mother is Ohlone)—and some forced on her, including the homophobia her family endures. Rocklin (*Fleabrain Loves Franny*) also touches on racial prejudice: Penelope, who is white, initially reacts insensitively when her best friend's older brother, who is black, is pulled over and treated unfairly by a police officer. Rocklin's novel deals honestly with the ways even the best friends and parents can disappoint, creating numerous genuine and moving moments. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 8–12. *Author's agent: Erin Murphy, Erin Murphy Literary. Illustrator's agent: Holly Bemiss, Susan Rabiner Literary. (Mar.)*

The Parker Inheritance

Varian Johnson. Scholastic/Levine, \$16.99 (352p) ISBN 978-0-545-94617-9

After her parents divorce, 12-year-old Candice Miller begrudgingly moves with her mother from Atlanta to the small town of Lambert, S.C., for the summer. In the attic of Candice's late grandmother's house she finds a letter addressed to her grandmother, which promises treasure to the city if the letter's puzzle can be solved. Candice then learns that her grandmother's efforts to do so years earlier cost her both her reputation and her job as the first African-American city manager in Lambert. Candice digs into the mystery along with Brandon, an 11-year-old neighbor who is being bullied. The two bookworms have just a few months to find the fortune and repair Candice's grandmother's legacy, and they come to discover how racism has poisoned the town over the years. It's a gripping mystery, and the plot shifts smoothly between Candice's present-day story and flashback sections that reveal Lambert's history of injustice. Johnson (*To Catch a Cheat*) addresses important issues gracefully, particularly having the freedom to live a life of one's choosing and the long-lasting effects of

discrimination. Ages 8–12. *Agent: Sara Crowe, Pippin Properties. (Mar.)*

★ The Sky at Our Feet

Nadia Hashimi. Harper, \$16.99 (304p)
ISBN 978-0-06-242193-7

Hashimi (*One Half from the East*) addresses the plight of undocumented immigrants while taking readers on a glorious, madcap race through Manhattan. Twelve-year-old Jason Riazi, the novel's guileless narrator, has just learned that although he is an American citizen, his mother is not, having overstayed her student visa. When he sees her being taken away by two official-looking men, he assumes that she is being sent back to Afghanistan, and he boards a train from New Jersey to Penn Station, hoping to use a partial street address to locate his Auntie



Seema. A concussion lands him in the hospital, where he meets the delightfully smart-mouthed Max, a self-proclaimed genius who is hooked up to a slew of wires. Both

strangers to New York City, they escape the hospital together and are soon navigating the subways, the annual marathon, and the Central Park Zoo while being pursued by frantic adults. A winsome supporting cast, snappy dialogue, and nonstop adventures just shy of fantastic make this a thought-provoking, heart-warming page-turner. Ages 8–12. *Agent: Sarah Heller, Helen Heller Agency. (Mar.)*

Wizard for Hire

Obert Skye. Shadow Mountain, \$17.99 (416p) ISBN 978-1-62972-412-6

In this offbeat series opener, a young man searches for his parents with the aid of a self-proclaimed wizard, a resourceful girl, and a talking mechanical raven. Ever since his scientist parents were abducted seven years ago, 14-year-old Ozzy Toffy has grown up alone in their remarkably well-stocked cabin in the Oregon woods, living on expired canned food and learning from the books they left behind, with Clark the raven as his only com-

panion. When Ozzy grows curious about the outside world, he attempts to reassimilate into a society he barely knows, which inspires him to hire the wizard Labyrinth (also known as Rin) to help him find out what happened to his parents. Ozzy's seven-year solo survival requires suspension of disbelief, but Skye (*Mutant Bunny Island*) wisely keeps Rin's nature ambiguous—is he magical or delusional?—while playing up the theme of found family. The juxtaposition of weird science and dodgy magic is sometimes awkward but nevertheless successful, thanks to the tongue-in-cheek humor Skye weaves throughout the story. Ages 10–14. *Agent: Laurie Liss, Sterling Lord Literistic.* (Mar.)

Blue Window

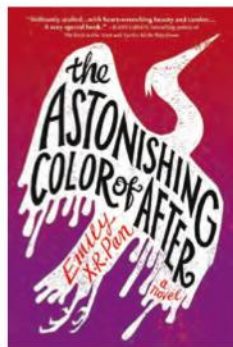
Adina Rische Gewirtz. Candlewick, \$18.99 (576p) ISBN 978-0-7636-6036-9

The style of Gewirtz's fantasy trades on the classic: five siblings fall through a mysterious window into another world and must find their way home; along the way, they meet cryptic characters with names like “the Genius,” “the Guide,” “Master Watcher,” and “Shepherdess.” A third-person narrative moves among Susan, Max, Nell, Kate, and Jean as they wander about, confused and frightened, trying to get their bearings in a bleak and frightening world. The siblings stand out for their smooth skin and striking beauty, which endanger them almost constantly. Though the children develop special powers (Susan can summon the wind in times of need, for example), the narrative lacks momentum. The children are unmoored, and even the strange school where Nell learns the dark history of this world isn't an adequate tether to anchor the narrative. The siblings spend the bulk of the book stumbling about, trying to understand where they are and why the people are so strange, moving through a series of events that never quite coalesces into a cohesive fantasy. Ages 10–up. (*Apr.*)

★ **The Astonishing Color of After**
Emily X.R. Pan. Little, Brown, \$18.99 (480p)
ISBN 978-0-316-46399-7

In the wake of her mother's suicide, 15-year-old Leigh travels from the U.S. to Taiwan, where she hopes to come to terms with the tragedy while getting to know the maternal grandparents she has never

met. Convinced that her mother has been reincarnated as a great red bird and eager to understand what happened, Leigh looks for symbols and meaning in the world around her; a stack of incense sticks grants her visions that allow insight into her mother's past and family history. At the same time, flashbacks illuminate Leigh's complicated relationship with her best friend Axel, whom she kissed the day her mother died. Pan's emotionally



charged debut is a compelling exploration of grief and the insidiousness of depression. Her narrator, an artist by nature, sees the world through a colorful, complicated lens, and

the novel is steeped in its Taiwanese setting. The subtlety and ambiguity of the supernatural elements place this story in the realm of magical realism, full of ghosts and complex feelings and sending an undeniable message about the power of hope and inner strength. Ages 12–up. *Agent: Michael Bourret, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret.* (Mar.)

The Continent

Keira Drake. Harlequin Teen, \$19.99 (320p)
ISBN 978-1-335-47493-3

A privileged young woman struggles to survive after being stranded in unfamiliar, hostile territory. Aspiring mapmaker Vaela Sun has grown up in the nation of the Spire, in a culture that has abolished war. For her 16th birthday, her parents take her on an airship tour of the Continent, where the rival Xoe and Aven'ei peoples appear determined to wipe each other out. When the airship is destroyed, Vaela's only hope is to make a new life among the Aven'ei until she can get home. As she assimilates into their society and falls for handsome Noro, she adopts a new goal: persuade the Spire to intervene and end the war. Drake's debut novel comes with a controversial pedigree, having been substantially revised following early criticism of the depiction of the cultures of the Continent. That aspect is improved, but Drake still offers a predictable romance coupled with a “shel-

tered protagonist goes native” storyline; in one scene, Kaela gleefully attempts to introduce indoor plumbing to the Aven'ei, only to discover she has no idea how it works, either. The worldbuilding and premise have potential, but the story falls short in execution. Ages 12–up. *Agent: Jim McCarthy, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret.* (Mar.)

**Pirate Queen:
Book of the Navigator**

H.N. Klett. Raven Rock, \$14.99 paper (264p)
ISBN 978-0-9979699-0-0

Klett confidently balances several genre elements—fantasy, SF, steampunk, and more—in his debut novel, first in a planned series. Hailey Heartstone is the daughter of a well-to-do merchant sea captain, and she spends most of her time with her father on the high seas, learning everything there is to know about ship-board life. Upon becoming a teenager, Hailey's usefulness as a navigator gives way to her family's desire for her to become a proper young lady and take her place in a society that preaches that the way to salvation is through bettering one's station, marrying well, and adhering to the doctrines espoused by the Church of the Ancients. Hailey's thirst for knowledge becomes her downfall after she discovers a powerful book that communicates with her—and that the Church and Crown are eager to possess. What follows is a perilous journey into the lands of pirates and a fated quest for the truth. Equal parts thought exercise, rollicking adventure, and cautionary tale, Klett's novel should captivate readers with its simple yet elegant language and the slow unspooling of mysteries and revelations. Ages 12–up. (*BookLife*)

★ **The Poet X**

Elizabeth Acevedo. HarperTeen, \$17.99 (368p) ISBN 978-0-06-266280-4

Harlem sophomore Xiomara Batista isn't saintly like her virtuous twin brother. And her tough exterior—she's always ready to fend off unwelcome advances and unkind words—hides questions and insecurities. As her confirmation nears (after two failed attempts), Xiomara begins to voice her uncertainties about the Catholic faith and patriarchal piety pressed on her by her mother and the church. Both intrigued and disgusted

by the advances of her peers and older men, she begins a secret relationship with her lab partner Aman, who seems interested in more than her curves (“who knew words,/ when said by the right person,/ by a boy who raises your temperature,/ moves heat like nothing else?”). Xiomara pours her innermost self into poems and dreams of competing in poetry slams, a passion she’s certain her conservative Dominican parents will never accept. Debut novelist Acevedo’s free verse gives Xiomara’s coming-of-age story an undeniable pull, its emotionally charged bluntness reflecting her determination and strength. At its heart, this is a complex and sometimes painful exploration of love in its many forms, with Xiomara’s growing love for herself reigning supreme. Ages 13–up. *Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (Mar.)*

Comics

Mega Robot Bros

Neill Cameron. Scholastic/Fickling, \$8.99 trade paper (96p) ISBN 978-1-338-18595-9

When not fighting over comics, brothers Alex and Freddy attempt to have an ordinary childhood in a future London. But, because they are sentient robots, normality escapes them: whether they are visiting the museum or attending a royal birthday celebration, they inevitably end up fighting evil robots run amok. Their adoptive parents want to keep things quiet, but secrecy becomes increasingly impossible with each incident. Eventually, older brother Alex is drafted into RAID, a military robot team, in an attempt to capture Robot 23, who seems obsessed with the brothers. Cameron delivers an energized and goofy romp featuring siblings whose relationship is equal parts bickering, rivalry, and camaraderie—just like that of many human brothers. The action is balanced with a good dose of humor, as when Freddy rescues a trio of animal droids only to get stuck dealing with an ape that speaks French, a barking triceratops, and a penguin that only quotes Sartre. The vivid colors capture the optimistic and light mood of the SF adventure, which features a diverse cast and lots of quippy banter. Ages 8–12. *(Mar.)*

Sci-Fu

Yehudi Mercado. Oni, \$12.99 trade paper (144p) ISBN 978-1-62010-472-9

In 1980s Brooklyn, eighth-grader Wax may be respected for his DJ skills (and, with his flattop and track suit, he looks the part), but his raps leave something to be desired. After Wax’s spinning attracts extraterrestrial attention, he’s transported to the futuristic city of Discopia along with his friend Cooky, his crush Polly, and his family. Wax quickly learns the art of Sci-Fu, a mixture of music and martial arts, from Kabuki Snowman, just one of many odd creatures they encounter. In a series of musical confrontations reminiscent of the Scott Pilgrim stories, Wax must fight the Five Deadly Dangers before taking on giant robot Choo Choo. Mercado has created a visually delicious adventure that does its best to imbue a visual medium with the power of sound. Mercado uses onomatopoeia and visual-



ized sound waves to emphasize that this is an aural adventure; color-coded speech balloons help readers keep track of who is spitting rhymes. His caricatured figures and dynamic layouts, coupled with a neon palette and graffiti flourishes, make for an entertaining story with a little something for everyone: hip-hop, tech-driven action, and romance. Ages 9–12. *(Mar.)*

Nonfiction

★ Curiosity:

The Story of a Mars Rover

Markus Motum. Candlewick, \$22.99 (56p) ISBN 978-0-7636-9504-0

The Mars rover *Curiosity* narrates her own story in Motum’s handsome and engaging children’s book debut, from her construction in a clean lab in California to her multistage launch into space and landing on the red planet: “years of testing were needed to make sure everything would work correctly the first time. After all, if something were to go wrong

on Mars, no one could come and fix me.” Motum’s mixed-media illustrations cleverly recall art popular during the infancy of space travel—muted colors and spare, geometric patterns compose often-diagrammatic illustrations. One close-up details the rover’s many parts: “Just like you, I have a shoulder, elbow, and wrist.” With one of its cameras resembling a large eye, *Curiosity* appears lifelike, almost E.T.-esque, in keeping with the first-person narrative. The book’s large trim size and expansive scenes work in tandem to evoke the vastness of star-filled skies and reddish Martian landscapes. Originally published in the U.K., this accessible look at interplanetary exploration will appeal to a broad range of young space enthusiasts. A glossary and timeline of Mars missions is included. Ages 8–12. *(Mar.)*

Claiming My Place:

A True Story of Defiance, Deception and Coming of Age in the Shadow of the Holocaust

Planaria Price, with Helen Reichmann West. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$17.99 (272p) ISBN 978-0-374-30529-1

Price’s rendering of West’s mother’s early life reads like suspenseful historical fiction, telling a rarely heard side of the Jewish experience during WWII. Barbara Reichmann, born Sura Gitla “Gucia” Gomolinska in 1916, described to Rice, in sensory detail, her prewar Jewish childhood in a town in central Poland, followed by the tense war years living in Poland, Germany, and Switzerland as a Polish-Catholic girl named Basia. Reichman’s education, fluency in Polish, and fair hair and coloring allowed her to pass as a non-Jew while many of her friends and family suffered through or died during the Holocaust. Writing from an engrossing first-person perspective, Price makes Guacia/Basia a fully dimensional character, tracing her development from taking her heritage and faith for granted to becoming a leader in the youth Zionist movement at age 13. She left the organization at 18, realized that she might survive the war by hiding her identity. Family, friendships, and romance give poignancy to this unique coming-of-age story, which is further enhanced by maps, photos, a glossary, and an afterword. Ages 12–up. *(Mar.)*

“When I was 42, Knopf bought my first novel, and I called Sue before I called my mom.”

Sue Grafton, Woman of Letters

An author recounts her close relationship with her longtime friend

BY CAROL WESTON

As E.B. White said, “It’s not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer.” Sue Grafton was the big sister I never had: encouraging when I needed courage, honest when I needed truth, and funny.

We met in Columbus, Ohio, in 1981. I was 24 and writing for magazines; she was 40 and writing for film and TV. I read that she was giving a talk, so I looked up her number and called. Days later, we were meeting every morning to run laps around Schiller Park.

Sue told me she’d just finished a novel and handed me a box with a stack of typewritten pages. The title? *A Is for Alibi*. She knew my dream was to write a novel, too.

When I moved away, we began trading letters every two weeks. Sue called them “wall-to-walls”—sheets of paper full of words, no margins. Hers often ended: “Love, love, love, love, love!” After Sue died, I found the trove and started rereading.

She’d found a new jogging partner and wrote, “I’m always talking about Carol this and Carol that. I miss you so much!” and “I gnaw my nails over *B*.... Some days I think it’s fine and other days I think it’s shit.”



Weston (l.) and Sue Grafton in Louisville, Ky., on Grafton’s 68th birthday.

My dad died, and Sue wrote, “I always feel that it is a compliment to grieve deeply.” In 1983, she got a word processor, a Fortune 32:16, and opined: “Looks like NASA Ground control in our office now.”

Harper & Row bought my first book, *Girtalk: All the Stuff Your Sister Never Told You*. “I can just picture you and Rob dancing around the house like nuts,” Sue wrote. “Truly, life doesn’t present us with that many moments to celebrate and it’s nice to go all out when they come. I’m really proud of you and I won’t tell a soul that you’re not really as humble and loveable and modest as you pretend to be. Don’t tell on me either.”

In 1985, Sue came to Manhattan to attend the Edgar Awards. She and her husband Steve slept on our sofa. (Twenty-four years later, she would be named a grand master at the Edgars.) Before fame and fortune, Sue even cat-sat for us. “Chanda slept on my neck, my shoulder, in my armpit, on my face,” she wrote. Two paragraphs later: “Can you believe

I’m writing you half a page on the feeding of your cat?”

Sue taught me that “hand-wringing” is part of the writing process; that two-millimeter calligraphy pens are ideal for signings; that, if you position yourself in the middle of a group photo, no one can cut you out. And that you need backbone: she and Steve teased me for having baked cookies for my editor; they informed her editor that Holt had better get behind *E Is for Evidence* because it was going to be a bestseller. (Holt did. It was.)

Soon emails replaced letters, and Sue and I phoned on birthdays.

When I was 42, Knopf bought my first novel, *The Diary of Melanie Martin*, and I called Sue before I called my mom. In 2013, after a long, painful rut, my new agent sold *Ava and Pip*. Sue wrote, “You are da bomb!... What agonies you’ve been through!... Go get ‘em, champ! I am sooo proud of you!!!” She posted on Facebook: “GRANDPARENT ALERT... My grandkids love the Ava Wren series.... If the author doesn’t continue the series, I’ll extract my revenge in blood.” (My Amazon numbers spiked.)

On December 14, I emailed about the wildfires near Montecito, Calif., where she lived. She replied: “Our house is still on mandatory evacuation. Wish us luck!”

My last words to her: “Luck Luck Luck Luck Luck Luck!!!!!!”

Two weeks and one day later, she passed away. I called Steve. “It’s so weird,” I sobbed. “It’s taking over Twitter! The whole world loved Sue. But not like we did.”

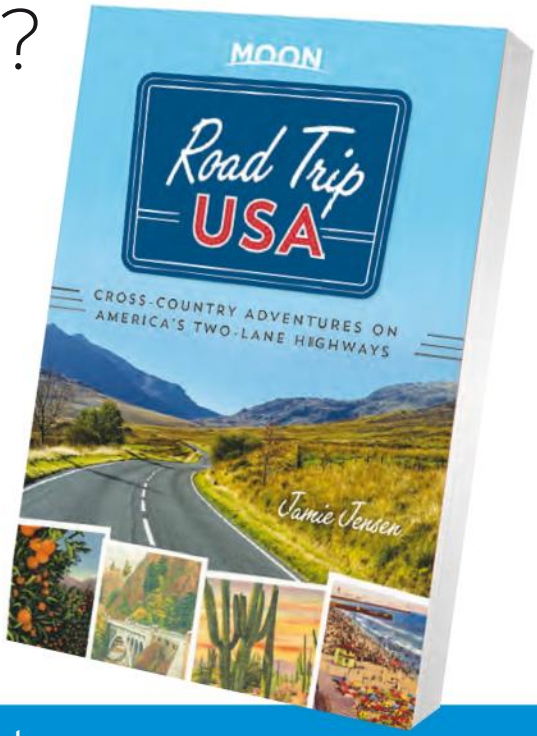
Carol Weston is the author of 16 books; the latest is Speed of Life (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2017).

TO SUBMIT AN ESSAY FOR THE SOAPBOX COLUMN, EMAIL SOAPBOX@PUBLISHERSWEEKLY.COM.

Are you ready to go?



Criss-cross the country on classic two-lane highways with this **new edition**.
Over 500,000 copies sold.



ROAD TRIP USA
JAMIE JENSEN, 8TH EDITION
TRADE PAPER | 5.375" x 8.375"
P: 978-1-64049-384-1
E: 978-1-64049-385-8
US \$29.99 | CAD \$38.99
ON SALE 3/20/18

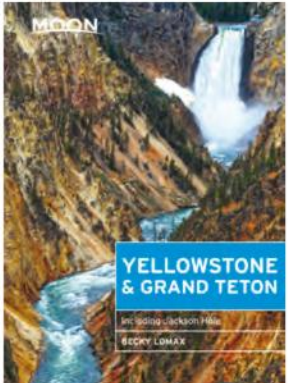
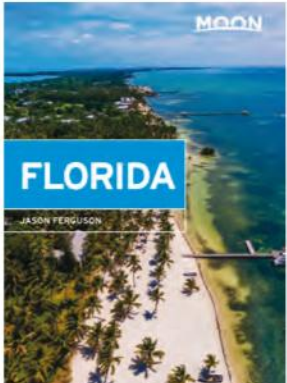
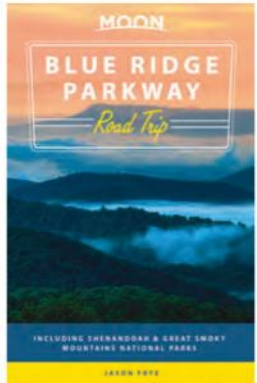
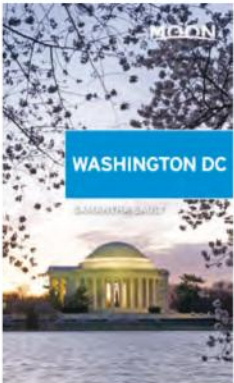
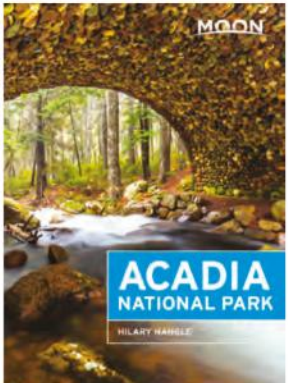
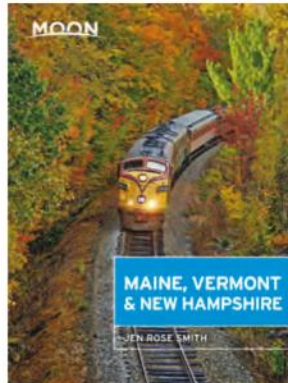
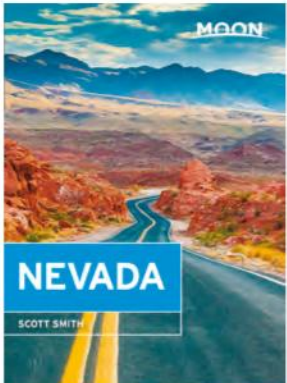
For adventure close to home or across the country, Moon has more in-depth coverage of the U.S. than any other travel publisher.

STATE & REGIONAL GUIDES

NATIONAL PARKS

CITY GUIDES

ROAD TRIPS





NEW
GUIDE

Rick Steves Iceland
978-1-63121-813-2 | \$19.99
ON SALE MARCH 27



Rick Steves[®]

“ICELAND IS IRRESISTIBLE,
from its Europe-with-a-twist Viking heritage to its rugged, jaw-dropping “land of ice and fire” outdoors, where you can soak in a simmering lava-rock spa, savor tasty high-latitude cuisine, and share a sunset with friendly puffins.



AVAILABLE IN TRADE PAPERBACK AND E-BOOK

GET A FULL LIST OF TITLES AT AVALONTRAVELBOOKS.COM/PW

Rick Steves is published by Avalon Travel, an imprint of Perseus Books, a Hachette Book Group company.