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New Sale May 27, 2015:

BERENICE ABBOTT:
A LIFE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

by Julia Van Haaften

Former photography curator of the NY Public Library and Museum of the City of New York Julia Van Haaften’s BERENICE ABBOTT: A LIFE IN PHOTOGRAPHY, chronicling the long life and invaluable contributions of one of the 20th century’s iconic photographers, who seemed to be part of every significant cultural period, from her early years living in Greenwich Village, photographing Paris in the 1920s and New York City during the Great Depression, pioneering science photography, as well as her saving the work of Eugene Atget.

To: Jill Bialosky at Norton by Ellen Geiger at the Frances Goldin Literary Agency (World English) Translation rts: Matt McGowan mm@goldinlit.com

Proposal available; Ms due May 2016
HELENE WECKER is the author of The Golem and the Jinni, published by HarperCollins in 2013. She received her Bachelor’s in English from Carleton College in Minnesota. After graduating, she worked a number of marketing and communications jobs in Minneapolis and Seattle before deciding to return to her first love, fiction writing. Accordingly, she moved to New York to pursue a Master’s in fiction at Columbia University. She now lives near San Francisco with her husband and daughter.

THE IRON SEASON
The Sequel to The Golem and the Jinni

The eagerly anticipated sequel to The Golem and the Jinni, THE IRON SEASON picks up the story of Chava the Golem and Ahmad the Jinni, still in New York at the outset of World War I. Chava continues to live on the Lower East Side, while Ahmad has moved to Greenwich Village, where he moves among the bohemian set. Their lives are upended when Sophia Winston, the Fifth Avenue heiress with whom the Jinni had a tryst, and who has become a Middle Eastern archeologist friendly with the likes of T.E. Lawrence and Gertrude Bell, returns from an expedition to Syria with the news that the flask carrying the trapped wizard Schaalman has found its way to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She also brings another jinni, this one in human female form, a jinniyeh. Meanwhile, a dangerous trove of mystical books, once owned by Chava’s friend Rabbi Meyer, resurfaces in the unlikeliest of places: a Jewish orphanage on the Upper West Side. These new developments will pose deadly threats to the uneasy peace of Chava and Ahmad.

Against the backdrop of looming war, the parallel rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism, and the explosive growth of the United States as a world power, THE IRON SEASON continues the unlikely love story of the woman made from clay, and the man made from fire.

Previous Publishers:

US&C: HarperCollins
UK: HC/Blue Door
Israel: Miskal
Germany: Hoffman & Campe
Italy: NeriPozza
Norway: Juritzen
Poland: Fabryka
Holland: Dutch Media
France: Laffont

Taiwan: Marco Polo
Indonesia: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama
Spain: Tusquets
Turkey: Dogan
Hungary: Gabo K
Brazil: Darkside
Greece: Psihalos
Albania: Morava
Russia: Azbooka
Czech Rep: Beta

FORTHCOMING/agent: Sam Stoloff
Outline and chapters available 6/15
DAVID SHIELDS is the New York Times bestselling author of fifteen books, including The Thing About Life Is That One Day You’ll Be Dead; Salinger, Reality Hunger, Black Planet, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; Remote, winner of the PEN/Revson Award; and Dead Languages, winner of the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award. His work has been translated into twenty languages.

THAT THING YOU DO WITH YOUR MOUTH
The Sexual autobiography of Samantha Matthews
as told to David Shields

“7 Moving, Must-Read Memoirs Coming Out This Year”—Huffington Post

“Hugely compelling. It should cause at least as much of a ruckus as Kathryn Harrison’s The Kiss.”—Sarah Manguso, author of The Two Kinds of Decay

In That Thing You Do With Your Mouth, actress and voiceover artist Samantha Matthews offers—in the form of an extended monologue, prompted and arranged by David Shields, Matthews’s cousin once removed—a vivid investigation of her startling sexual history. From her abuse at the hands of a family member to her present-day life in Barcelona, where she briefly moonlighted as a dubber of Italian pornography into English, Matthews reveals herself to be a darkly funny, deeply contemporary woman with a keen awareness of how her body has been routinely hijacked and how she has been “formatted” by her early trauma. Her story is a study of her own uneasy relationships with female desire, her tormentors, and her lovers—with whom she seeks out both the infliction and receipt of harm. This book is an attempt, sometimes self-thwarted, to break down barriers: sexual and emotional for Matthews, literary for Shields. For Matthews and Shields both, the only response to the unspeakable is to speak, to do that thing you do with your mouth, as directly and honestly as possible. Their provocative performance refuses neat resolution or emotional pornography; it will have readers raving, raging, celebrating, talking.

“I read this book in a single sitting, powerfully held by its considerable intelligence and vernacular eloquence. It’s compressed and modeled in a very shapely way, fruitfully ambiguous, terrifically strong.”—Jonathan Raban, author of Bad Land

“An insightful, thought-provoking probe into the impulses of sexual desire.”—Kirkus

“Fascinating. Impossible to stop reading.”—Tim Parks, author of Sex Is Forbidden

• World English: McSweeney’s
• Translation: FGLA
• Film: FGLA
• Audio: Recorded Books
• US Publication: June 2015
• Galleys or PDF available
ON IMMUNITY
An Inoculation

Why do we fear vaccines? A provocative examination by Eula Biss, the author of Notes from No Man’s Land, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award

In this bold, fascinating book, Biss investigates the metaphors and myths surrounding our conception of immunity and its implications for the individual and the social body. As she hears more and more fears about vaccines, Biss researches what they mean for her own child, her immediate community, America, and the world, both historically and in the present moment. She extends a conversation with other mothers to meditations on Voltaire’s Candide, Bram Stoker’s Dracula, Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring, Susan Sontag’s AIDS and Its Metaphors, and beyond. On Immunity is a moving account of how we are all interconnected—our bodies and our fates.

“So well written, it’s unbelievable.” —Bill Gates

"...reads like Joan Didion at her best. If you are yourself a nonfiction author, your initial response to this book might be to decide immediately on another line of work; Biss is that intimidatingly talented." —Washington Post

“This elegant, intelligent and very beautiful book..... On Immunity addresses not only the infections caused by viruses but also those caused by ideas.” —Los Angeles Times

“Subtle, spellbinding.... Sontag said she wrote Illness as Metaphor to ‘calm the imagination, not to incite it,’ and On Immunity also seeks to cool and console. [Biss] advances from all sides, like a chess player, drawing on science, myth, literature to herd us to the only logical end, to vaccinate.”—Parul Sehgal, The New York Times Book Review
REBECCA HENDERSON PALMER has a Ph.D. in pharmacology, writes biotech reports for pharmaceutical research companies by day and historical fiction by night. She has her own blog, rhendersonpalmer.com, where she reviews historical fiction and nonfiction. She is a member of the Historical Novel Society and Central Ohio Fiction Writers.

SAVING HENRY TUDOR
A Novel

In the desperate days near the end of the War of the Roses, in 1485, and the eve of the famous Battle of Bosworth, it is far from certain that Henry VII will win the war and thus begin the famous Tudor line, as he has become gravely ill. In the present day, a mysteriously intact copy of a famous religious Book of Hours, once belonging to Margaret Beaufort, Henry’s mother, finds its way into the hands of Laura Seaton, a struggling history professor on the brink of losing her shot at tenure. Transported back in time, Laura must use all her knowledge of history – and medicine – to save Henry’s life, and her own, or alter the course of history forever. Along the way she is catapulted into notoriety by her medical prowess, arrested for siding against the notorious Richard III, and forced to flee for her life. As well as thrilling fiction, this is an exciting and realistic portrait of Britain in the closing years of the 15th Century.

A novel for fans of Diana Gabaldon and Deborah Harkness, this is historical time-travel fiction at its best. A full manuscript will be available shortly.

• FORTHCOMING/agent: Ellen Geiger
• Ms. Available July
MARTIN DUBERMAN (born 1930) is an American historian, biographer, playwright, and gay rights activist. He is Professor of History Emeritus at the Graduate School of the City University of New York and Lehman College and was the founder and first director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the CUNY Graduate School.

He has written more than twenty books, including ones about James Russell Lowell (a National Book Award finalist), Charles Francis Adams, Sr. (Bancroft Prize winner), Paul Robeson, Stonewall, a biography of Howard Zinn and the memoir Cures: A Gay Man’s Odyssey.

QUEERS/JEWS/GERMANS

Distinguished historian and author of more than 20 works of history and biography, Martin Duberman turns his attention to Germany, in a new book about gay culture in the early decades of the 20th century.

JEWS/QUEERS/GERMANS is about the intersection of Jewish, sexual and national identities in Wilhelmine and Weimar Germany, as personified in the figures of Magnus Hirschfeld, Count Harry Kessler, Walther Rathenau, and Prince Philipp zu Eulenburg. A rich and episodic narrative, set against the backdrop of Kaiser Wilhelm’s impetuous rule, World War I and its aftermath, and the coming of Nazism; it begins with the scandal surrounding the death of munitions magnate Fritz Krupp in 1902, and ends with the death of Harry Kessler in 1937.

A ground-breaking work that will advance our understanding of gay identity as it began to emerge in the Belle Epoque.
NO ONE IS COMING TO SAVE US
A Novel

A modern-era Gatsby story transposed to a small, North Carolina town, where an extended family of middle-class African-Americans struggles to get on with their lives. Ava wants a baby although cannot seem to carry one to term. Husband Henry is depressed and barely surviving the demise of the furniture industry, which has sent production to China and stripped the area of jobs, sending the town into decline. Mother Sylvia tries to keep everyone going while mourning the loss of her only son, while her stray dog of an ex-husband Don hangs around just long enough to stay in the picture. Into this mix comes the newly-wealthy Jay – JJ to Sylvia – who wants to woo childhood sweetheart Ava in the most extravagant way possible – by building a huge mansion overlooking the town. How these people navigate their lives includes both humor, heartbreak and uplift, reworking the F. Scott Fitzgerald classic for a new generation.

STEPHANIE POWELL WATTS is the winner of numerous awards for her short stories including the Whiting Award, the Pushcart Prize and an Ernest Gaines award. She has been included in the Best New Stories from the South, selected by Pulitzer Prize winner Edward Jones, and in Best American Short Stories, edited by Stephen King. She received the Southern Women’s Writers Award for Emerging Writer of the Year. She is currently Assistant Professor of English at Lehigh University.

• FORTHCOMING/agent: Ellen Geiger
• Ms. Available Summer 2015
MANDY LEN CATRON, originally from Appalachian Virginia, teaches English and Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

When Mandy Catron’s New York Times “Modern Love” essay, “To Fall In Love With Anyone, Do This,” was publishing in January 2015, it immediately went viral, seen by more than 10 million people.

That piece was a love story. Now Catron, in her debut collection of essays, AGAINST ROMANCE, turns the tables, and asks, why are love stories so powerful? Where do our romantic myths come from, and do we really like where they take us? A blend of memoir, research into neurobiology and social science, and literary investigation, AGAINST ROMANCE will interrogate our most cherished ideas of love and happiness, our Cinderella fantasies and happily ever after’s.
CLANCY SEGAL (born 1926) is an American novelist and screenwriter, author of six previous books. His first autobiographical novel Going Away (1961) was nominated for a National Book Award. After being blacklisted in Hollywood, he arrived as an illegal immigrant in Great Britain; he worked for the BBC, lived with Doris Lessing, and was a part of the Philadelphia Association experiment with R. D. Laing at Kingsley Hall. He returned to the US in the 1980’s, and was one of several co-writers of the screenplay for the 2002 Salma Hayek biopic Frida.” His most recent book is Hemingway Lives! Why Reading Ernest Hemingway Matters Today (OR Books, 2013).

BLACK SUNSET

A poignant, hardboiled and hilarious memoir of Hollywood in the 1950’s. It's the height of the blacklist—atom bomb tests light up the night sky, and everyone is either naming names, or getting named. After being tossed out of Columbia Pictures by Harry Cohn for using the mimeo machine to copy radical leaflets, young leftist Clancy is hired by the debonair, hardboiled agent Mary Baker to be a talent agent, handling mostly B-list screenwriters. Clancy goes from studio to studio, trying to raise the quotes for his clients, helping them dream up endings for their scripts, and stumbling across soundstages ogling the film-star heroes of his childhood. There are memorable encounters with Jack Palance, Peter Lorre, Humphrey Bogart, Barbara Stanwyck, and many others. Meanwhile he moonlights as an agitator, and is constantly dogged by the FBI, until he is finally forced to scram.
TILLIE OLSEN (1912–2007) was an activist, feminist, award-winning author, and teacher who won nine honorary degrees. She is the author of Yonondio: From the Thirties and Silences, and was editor of Mother to Daughter, Daughter to Mother: Mothers on Mothering.

TELL ME A RIDDLE

This best-known work of Tillie Olsen, winner of the O.Henry Award and one of the most iconic feminist writers of the last century, is published in a new edition, together with a never before seen story – “Requa” – and several of her other famous pieces. In “Tell Me a Riddle” and the famous “I Stand Here Ironing,” these stories, as in all of her work, Olsen set a new standard for the treatment of women and the poor and for the depiction of their lives and circumstances. In her hands, the hard truths about motherhood and marriage, domestic life, labor, and political conviction found expression in language of such poetical intensity and depth that its influence continues to be felt today.

[Previous foreign editions: France – Albin Michel; Spain – Anagrama; Italy – Giano Editore]

"Even a century later, Olsen's writing is brilliantly measured and rich in character—a blend that few writers achieve. Coupled with essays by her daughters and granddaughter, Olsen's newest collection is a must-have for any reader."—Portland Book Review

"An excellent volume that will appeal to anyone interested in women's studies, social justice, journalism, and American short stories and fiction."—Erica Swenson, Library Journal
One of the world’s greatest opera companies – the Metropolitan Opera - is the subject of this superb, comprehensive history – the first in 30 years.

Tracing both the tumultuous behind-the-scenes and performance history of this famed institution, opera afficionados Charles and Mirella Affron tell how the Met became and remains a powerful actor on the global cultural scene. Bringing to life the many larger-than-life personalities and iconic singers through the decades, the book also explores the choices and evolution of the repertoire, from the opening bars of Faust to the recent controversial production of Wagner’s Ring cycle. Spanning the decades between the Gilded Age and the age of new media, the story of the Met ends with tipping its hat to the hugely successful Live in HD simulcasts and other 21st century innovations.

Grand Opera’s appeal extends far beyond the large circle of opera enthusiasts, as it explores the Met in the broad context of ever-shifting national and international issues and events.

“A welcome addition to the annals of opera history. Opera fans will feast on the facts and famous figures that fill these pages.” – Library Journal


"An entertaining and serious contextualization of the state of the Metropolitan Opera today, as well as an emotionally and intellectually satisfying read.” – Christian Science Monitor

“This volume tells of a grand operatic melodrama, though played out as often by general managers and unions as by prima donnas.” – Financial Times, BEST BOOKS OF 2014
When Leigh Stein received a call from an unknown number in July 2011, she assumed it was from her ex-boyfriend Jason and let it go to voicemail. He had visited her earlier in the summer on the promise that he had grown into a kinder, more responsible person, only to revert to all of his cruel and manipulative ways. She told herself she was done with him for good this time. When she finally listened to the message it was from Jason’s brother. Jason had been killed in a motorcycle accident. He was 23 years old.

Jason’s death caused Leigh to recall the tumultuous life they shared together, and to confront the complicated feelings she still had for him. Her new memoir, LAND OF ENCHANTMENT, explores the heartbreaking complexity of falling in love with someone who causes so much pain and why the person hurting you the most can also be the most impossible to walk away from.
MICHELLE KUO is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She has worked in a poverty law clinic in Oakland California, taught writing at San Quentin prison, and clerked for two federal judges in San Francisco. She has published in the New York Times and the Los Angeles Review of Books. She currently lives in France, where her husband teaches history at the American University of Paris.

READING WITH PATRICK

In 2009 Michelle Kuo was in law school, after having spent two years in a very poor part of Arkansas with Teach for America, when to her shock she learned that one of her most promising former students, Patrick Roddy, had killed someone. After visiting Patrick, she made the impulsive decision to stay. At first, she didn't have any idea what she would do there, but visiting Patrick again, realizing that he had lapsed back into illiteracy, she made another impulsive decision and gave him homework. In this way, they recreated their roles as teacher and student, and started reading together, beginning with The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.

READING WITH PATRICK is the story of the seven months Michelle spent teaching Patrick in jail. It's about Michelle's experience as an Asian-American whose parents are dismayed by their daughter's unconventional choices. It's about her loneliness in the Mississippi Delta, and the urban pleasures that pull her guiltily away. It's a meditation on the obligations of the privileged, and how so many in our country are abandoned. Throughout the story Michelle wonders about what she's doing, whether it's crazy and whether it will make any difference for Patrick. But in the end, even though she resists too-easy redemptive stories of teacherly heroism, it really does feel as if her astonishing rescue mission will succeed. We start to think that Patrick's life will really be changed.

Like Reading Lolita in Teheran, it's a book about the redemptive power of reading and literature. Like The Blind Side, it's a book about what can be done for a single talented young person, even after they've been utterly abandoned, if there's enough commitment. Like Pat Conroy's The Water is Wide, it's a book about the dedication of a teacher who travels to one of the poorest parts of the country, and through sheer teacherly energy, finds a way to connect.
ALVARO ENRIGUE was born in Mexico in 1969. He is the award-winning author of five novels and two books of short stories. His first novel La muerte de un instalador won the 1996 Joaquin Mortiz Prize. In 2007, the “Bogota39” project named him one of the most promising Latin American writers of his generation. Enrique’s writing has appeared in the London Review of, n+1, The Believer, Bomb Magazine and his short stories have been widely anthologized.

SUDDEN DEATH: A NOVEL
WINNER OF THE 2013 HERRALDE PRIZE

Álvaro Enrigue... belongs to many literary traditions at once and shows a great mastery of them all. –Carlos Fuentes

In SUDDEN DEATH (MUERTE SÚBITA), Álvaro Enrigue's Herralde prize winning tour de force, the conceit of a game of tennis between Caravaggio and Quevedo presents an allegory for all of Counterreformation Europe's bloody clashes and New World conquest.

When in 1599 the dissolute painter and the poet take to a Roman tennis court, the stakes are uncertain. But as the game proceeds, a number of talismanic objects appear, transporting us from the court to history's grand stage. Like the titular goldfinch in Donna Tartt’s novel, an iridescent scapular around Quevedo’s neck leads us on a detective story across centuries and continents—in this case to conquistador Hernan Cortes’ first contact with the Mayans. In the manner of Umberto Eco’s The Name of the Rose, Enrigue draws on features of the picaresque and magical realism, while cribbing pages from Baroque works of history, literature and philosophy. Unfolding over three sets, the last ending in a game of sudden death, the comedic match around which the narrative is organized reveals a tragedy. The result is a powerful meditation on the nature of conquest, violence, religion, and modernity told through a match in turn playful, bawdy, and outrageous.

Now based in New York, Álvaro Enrigue is one of Latin America’s finest writers at work today. With this dazzling epic he is sure to claim his rightful place as an inheritor of the tradition of Borges and Bolaño.

ENCOUNTERING GOD

*Encountering God* seeks to understand what may be the Bible’s greatest mystery: how ancient Israelites experienced the presence of God. What could biblical texts possibly mean by saying that God actually appeared to people and/or spoke to them? How could this seem plausible to ancient readers? And if there is any truth to such accounts, why do we not apprehend God in the same ways today?

The answer to such questions, Kugel argues, can indeed be discovered; what is required is a combination of recent biblical scholarship (and related disciplines) with a careful, sympathetic examination of the Bible’s own words. Taken together, these open the way to a different understanding of the religious mindset of ancient Israelites, and they likewise pinpoint the gradual change that has removed this ancient way of seeing from the experience of most people nowadays.

*[On How to Read the Bible]: “Awesome, thrilling. . . Kugel aims to prove that you can read the Bible rationally without losing God. A magisterial, erudite, but remarkably witty tour.”* - *New York Times Book Review*

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**JAMES L. KUGEL,** Starr Professor of Hebrew Literature at Harvard University (emeritus), is a specialist in the Hebrew Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls. He is the author of thirteen books, including *The Bible as It Was,* winner of the Grawemeyer Prize in Religion in 2001, *In the Valley of the Shadow,* and *How to Read the Bible,* awarded the National Jewish Book Award for the best book of 2007. A somewhat controversial interpreter of the Bible, he is a popular lecturer and essayist. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and Editor in chief of *Jewish Studies: an Internet Journal.*

**World English:** HMH  
**Translation:** FGLA  
**Film:** FGLA  
**Audio:** HMH  
**US Publication:** March 2016  
**Proposal available**

*Previous publishers:* Batard Presse (France); CLC (Korea); Text (Russia); Via Lettera (Portugal)
ELAINE M. HAYES received her doctorate in music history from the University of Pennsylvania. She’s a magazine writer, editor, and radio producer. She lives in Seattle, Washington.

QUEEN OF BEBOP
The Musical Lives of Sarah Vaughan

A major biography of the jazz and pop legend, the first in over twenty years

Author, music historian, and Sarah Vaughan expert, Elaine M. Hayes, will deliver a definitive and exhaustively-researched biography of an underappreciated but truly great artist, one of the all-time great vocalists. Queen of Bebop will chronicle Vaughan’s childhood in Newark, her unlikely rise to superstardom, her role in developing Bebop, the three husband/managers who squandered her fortune, and her battles with record companies not to be pigeonholed. It will show how Vaughan helped take jazz from the downtown clubs to Carnegie Hall, and into the American canon, and helped break down color barriers in the music industry. It will update and correct the record, place her within the critical cultural context of her times, while elevating her status and recognizing her true influence.

“A singer who sings so good, I want to cut my wrist with a dull blade and let her sing me to death.”— Frank Sinatra
“Dog enthusiasts will flock to this entertaining account of an unlikely canine lover’s ascent into full-fledged member of the neighborhood dog-park club.”—PW

Off the Leash is a group portrait of dog people, specifically the strange, wonderful, neurotic, and eccentric dog people who gather at Amory Park, overlooking Boston near Fenway Park. And it’s about author Matthew Gilbert's transformation, after much fear and loathing of dogs and social groups, into one of those dog people with fur on their jackets, squeaky toys in their hands, and biscuits in their pockets. Gilbert, longtime TV critic at The Boston Globe, describes his reluctant trip into the dog park subculture, as the first-time owner of a stubbornly social Yellow Lab puppy named Toby. Like many Americans, he was happily accustomed to the safe distance of TV viewing and cell-phone web surfing, tethered to the digital leash. But the headstrong, play-obsessed Toby pulls him to Amory, and Amory becomes an exhilarating dose of presence for him. The joyous chaos of wrestling dogs and the park’s cast of offbeat dog owners - the “pack of freaks” - gradually draw him into the here and now. At the dog park, the dog owners go off the leash, too. Dog-park life can be tense. When dogs fight, their owners - such as the reckless Charlotte - bare their teeth at each other, too. Amid the rollicking dog play, feelings tend to surface faster, unedited. But Gilbert shows how Amory is an idyllic microcosm, too, the home of enduring friendships and, as the droll but vulnerable Hayley knows, romantic crushes. Meeting daily, a gathering of dog owners can be like group therapy, or The Office, or a standup concert.

“Gilbert is an adept storyteller, adding just enough intrigue (dog-on-doggie aggression, an attempt at person-on-person romance, the unfortunate realities of humping) to keep the pages turning.”—Publishers Weekly

“Gilbert's book is witty, sweet, and affirming.”—The Boston Globe
**THE GREAT FLOODGATES OF THE WONDERWORLD**

A MEMOIR  
JUSTIN HOCKING

Justin Hocking, like many transplants to the city, doesn’t adapt easily to New York. Surfing Far Rockaway is his escape. There he discovers the NYC surf culture and a colorful circle of friends, both of which prove vital to his sanity, especially in the wake of a traumatic carjacking. But the tides of this memoir pull in more than surfboards. As he ventures further into the dark on his own “night sea journey,” Hocking details his obsessions, from *Moby-Dick* to Scientology’s naval ties, from environmentalism to the Iraq war, and from twelve-step meetings to the film *Basquiat*. *The Great Floodgates of the Wonderworld* is an affecting portrait of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Far Rockaway, Queens, and the swirling tides of big city life.

“This beautiful memoir is beyond cool. A voyage both erudite and affecting.” —Junot Díaz

“As generous as it is smart, as intimate as it is grand, as illuminating as it is dark. With grace and guts, Justin Hocking dares to go where few men have gone before: not only out to sea, but also into the depths of the human heart.” —Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*

“With nearly pitch-perfect tone, Hocking impressively builds around a series of tension-and-release vignettes that roll through the narrative like waves. . . . Hocking’s journey will prove relevant and immediate in its exploration of maturation and experiencing both spiritual collapse and, eventually, renewal.” —*The Boston Globe*
THE GIRL IN THE ROAD
A Novel

A thrilling first novel -- literary speculative fiction, with elements of feminist sci-fi.

The Girl in the Road is set at two different times in the near future, with alternating narrative threads. In 2068, India has become the dominant political power in the world. New energy technologies have been developed, but it's too late to prevent the seas from rising and changing the planet's coastal geography. Meena, a young Indian woman who is wounded and fleeing from a traumatic event she can't remember, decides to escape by walking the Trail, a floating energy-harvesting pontoon bridge that spans the entire Arabian Sea from Mumbai to Djibouti on the east coast of Africa. It’s forbidden to walk on the Trail, but a shadowy underground subculture has emerged, the Walkers.

Forty years earlier, in 2026, a slave girl named Mariama flees her home in Mauritania after witnessing the rape of her mother. She finds refuge in a truck caravan headed across the Sahara, which is carrying a mysterious cargo. Mariama addresses her story to the person she calls Yemaya, a young woman who joins the caravan in Dakar and takes Mariama under her wing. Increasingly Mariama becomes obsessed with Yemaya, seeing her as a goddess, as they journey across Africa towards Ethiopia. But when they finally arrive in Addis Ababa, Yemaya disappears. Mariama never recovers from this abandonment, but keeps Yemaya in her, even as she grows up, goes to university, takes part in growing anti-Indian protests, and falls in love with a young Indian doctor. The two stories alternate, with Meena travelling west, and Mariama travelling east. But it is only at the end, in a stunning climax, that we understand how closely the two stories parallel each other, and how Meena and Mariama are linked.

"The Girl in the Road" is a new sensation, a real achievement."—The Wall St. Journal

“It's transfixing to watch Monica Byrne become a major player in SF: so sharp, so focused and so human. Glorious stuff.” —Neil Gaiman, author of The Ocean at the End of the Lane
COLIN ASHER’s writing and reporting have appeared in over two dozen publications, including The Believer, Los Angeles Review of Books, Boston Globe, and The American Prospect. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Cushing Niles Dolbeare Award for magazine reporting for his feature in the San Francisco Chronicle Magazine. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

NEVER A LOVELY SO REAL
A Biography of Nelson Algren

Examining the work and life of a master of American naturalism—with cameos by Bellow, Wright, Hemingway, de Beauvoir—Colin Asher reclaims Nelson Algren as a literary treasure

Expanded from his article in The Believer, Colin Asher reclaims the life and work of a forgotten master of American naturalism. Remembered as the lover of Simone de Beauvoir chronicled in The Mandarins and the first winner of the National Book Award for The Man With the Golden Arm, Algren was a writer whose eye for the quotidian injustices, cruelties, and heartbreak of America’s scorned and forgotten produced some of the greatest novels of the twentieth century. In his depictions of Chicago slums, replete with bookies, tough guys, whores, and junkies, Algren—along with contemporaries Agee, Trumbo, Bellow, Wright, and Hemingway—came to define the American aesthetic in the postwar period.

In Never a Lovely So Real, Asher grafts the life and work of Nelson Algren onto the larger canvas of the American century, from the Depression to McCarthyism to the numbing apathy that emerged post ‘68. Most importantly however, Asher presents a critical reinterpretation of Algren’s work and champions the late Algren as an unsung innovator of literary nonfiction. To all his tasks Asher brings an incisive intelligence and the gifts of a keen observer. In Never a Lovely So Real Asher offers a portrait of Algren that is also a portrait of America; a chronicle of the depths of one writer’s commitment to his craft and his conscience.

• US&C: W.W. Norton
• UK & Translation: FGLA
• Film: FGLA
• Proposal available
• Publication: 2016
Brian Evenson is the recipient of three O. Henry Prizes as well as an NEA fellowship. He has authored ten books of fiction. In 2009 he published the novel *Last Days*, which won the American Library Association's award for Best Horror Novel of 2009, and the collection *Fugue State*, both of which were on *Time Out New York*'s best books of 2009 list. His novel *The Open Curtain* (Coffee House Press) was a finalist for an Edgar Award and an IHG Award. His work has been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese and Slovenian. Brian directs Brown University's Literary Arts Program. Other books include *The Wavering Knife* (which won the IHG Award for best story collection), *Dark Property*, and *Altmann's Tongue* (Knopf). He has translated work by Christian Gailly, Jean Frémon, Claro, Jacques Jouet, Eric Chevillard, Antoine Volodine, and others.

“There is not a more intense, prolific, or apocalyptic writer of fiction in America than Brian Evenson.”—George Saunders

“Brian Evenson is one of the treasures of American story writing, a true successor both to the generation of Coover, Barthelme, Hawkes and Co., but also to Edgar Allan Poe.”

—Jonathan Lethem
THE LAST DAYS OF CALIFORNIA
A Novel

A compelling, humorous, and utterly engaging debut novel

When most families take a road trip to California it ends in a visit to Disneyland or to far-away relatives. When Jess's family takes a road trip to California, it ends in the Rapture.

At least that's the plan when they leave their hometown of Montgomery, Alabama equipped with matching t-shirts announcing, “King Jesus Returns!” and bundles of educational tracts to hand out to non-believers.

At 14 years old, Jess isn't quite sure what to make of all this. Unlike her beautiful and rebellious older sister Elise, who scorns everything about them, Jess has always accepted her parents' evangelical beliefs. This pilgrimage is different. Before they left, Jess discovered that not only had her father just lost his job; Elise is also pregnant. Over the next four days Jess questions her faith in God, her parents, and herself as she struggles to keep Elise's secret and wonders whether her family will survive even if the Rapture doesn't come.

Miller's voice is both fierce and compassionate. Her cutting, deadpan sense of humor belies sympathy for characters whose delusions are a necessary protection against circumstances they feel powerless to change.

“Rarely, if ever, have we seen young American womanhood painted in such a raw and honest and heartbreaking way.” - Los Angeles Review of Books

“Miller has created a narrator worthy of comparison with those of contemporaries such as Karen Thompson Walker and of greats such as Carson McCullers.” - Publishers Weekly, Starred Review


MARY MILLER’s work has appeared in journals and anthologies, including McSweeney's, Oxford American, Tin House, and The Rumpus. Her short story collection Big World was published in 2009 by Short Flight and will soon go into its third printing. She is currently a James A. Michener Fellow in Fiction at the University of Texas at Austin, where she serves as editor-in-chief of Bat City Review.

- World English: W.W. Norton
- Germany: Metrolit
- Italy: Clichy
- Other translation: FGLA
- Film: Co-Agented by UTA
- Audio: W.W. Norton
- US publication: February 2014
- Book or PDF available
WHAT MAKES OLGA RUN?

The Mystery of the Ninety-Something Track Star who is Outpacing Time; and What She Can Teach Us About How to Live Longer and Happier Lives

When Olga Kotelko first stepped onto the running track at age 77, she wasn’t expecting much. She’d retired at 65 from a career as a teacher in Vancouver; she’d played a little recreational softball, but she’d never been an athlete. No one knew she was about to break every record in the book.

But that’s what she did. In the 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, 4 x 100 relay, hammer throw, javelin, shot put, discus, long jump, high jump, and triple jump, Olga (who is now 94) has gone on to set 23 new world records for her age category.

Now Canadian journalist Bruce Grierson has set out to learn what makes Olga tick. Following her to Masters Circuit track events, and tagging along as she allows herself to become the subject of scientific scrutiny, Grierson explores not only the secret to Olga’s astonishing abilities, but what practical lessons we can learn ourselves, about how to stay healthy as we age.

A warm and inspiring story about achieving our full potential.

"While this book provides an accessible overview of the current science on aging, its charm comes from the tale of a woman who refuses to hang up her track shoes, and the younger man she inspires." — The New York Times

"Entertaining, informative, and surprisingly moving." — The Boston Globe
The word "socialism" is one of the most misunderstood terms in the US, more potent, as the recent presidential campaign proved, as a term of derision than as a meaningful system of ideas to draw upon. Nothing could be more un-American.

With essays by 32 leading thinkers and writers, *Imagine* reclaims the word by reimagining our society:

Capitalism: The Real Enemy by **Paul Street**; The Future Will Be Ecosocialist by **Joel Kovel**; A Democratically Run Economy Can Replace the Oligarchy by **Ron Reost**; The Shape of a Post-Capitalist Future by **Rick Wolff**; Law in a Socialist USA by **Michael Steven Smith**; Alternatives to the Present System of Capitalist Injustice by **Mumia Abu-Jamal** and **Angela Davis**; Socialism Is the Highest Expression of Human Rights by **Ajamu Baraka**; Personal, Emotional, and Sexual Life Without Capitalism by **Harriet Fraad** and **Tess Fraad Wolff**; A Woman’s Workday in a Socialist U.S.A. by **Renate Bridenthal**; Dignity, Respect, Equality, Love by **Blanche Wiesen Cook**; How Queer Life Might Be Different in a Socialist U.S.A. by **Leslie Cagan** and **Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz**; Drugs in a Society Where People Care About Each Other by **Steven Wishnia**; Immigration: Immigrant Workers Point the Way to a Better World by **Juan Gonzalez**; Welfare in a New Society: An End to Intentional Impoverishment and Degradation by **Frances Fox Piven**; Food for All: Creating a Socially Sustainable Food System by **Arun Gupta**; The Right to Housing by **Tom Angotti**; Socialized Medicine Means Everyone Gets Care, Regardless of Whether They Have Money by **Dave Lindorff**; Teach Freedom! by **William Ayers**; Imagining Art After Capitalism by **Mat Callahan**; Prometheus Completely Unbound: What Science and Technology Could Accomplish in a Socialist America by **Clifford D. Conner**; First-Class News: The Media in a Socialist U.S.A. by **Fred Jerome**; Imagine the Angels of Bread by **Martin Espada**; We Be Reading Marx Where We From: Socialism and the Black Freedom Struggle by **Kazembe Balagun**; You Are the Light of the World: Speech Via Mic Check at Occupy Wall Street by **Joel Kovel**; The Working-Class Majority by **Michael Zweig**; Where Does Occupy Wall Street Go From Here? A Proposal by **Michael Moore**; How to Achieve Economic Democracy in the United States by **Clifford D. Conner**; The Capitalist Road: From Chinese Sweatshops to Detroit’s Decay by **Dianne Feeley**; Thanksgiving 2077: A Short Story by **Terry Bisson**
HELENE WECKER currently lives near San Francisco. She has an MFA from Columbia. The Golem & the Jinni is her first novel.

THE GOLEM AND THE JINNI
A Novel

The Golem and the Djinni, an immigrant saga that combines elements of Jewish and Arab folk mythology, is the story of two magical creatures who arrive separately in New York in 1899. The Golem is a woman created by an aged dabbler in the dark kabbalistic arts to be the wife of a man who then dies at sea, leaving her unmoored and adrift as the ship comes into New York harbor; the Djinni is a man, trapped by a wizard in a copper flask and released accidentally by a Syrian tinsmith in lower Manhattan.

The narrative traces their respective journeys, as they explore the strange human city. The Golem is besieged by human desires and wishes, which she can feel tugging at her; the Djinni is aggravated by human dullness. But they both work to make at least a temporary place for themselves in this new world, and develop tentative relationships. The two of them meet about a third of the way into the novel; it is not exactly a romance, and at first they are hostile and suspicious, but they end up forming a strong bond, since only they can recognize each other for what they truly are.

This is a marvelous and absorbing work of fiction, a combination of historical novel and magical fable. With threads from Yiddish and Middle Eastern literature, it belongs in a tradition of contemporary Jewish writing that draws on folk and pop cultural materials, like Michael Chabon’s Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay and other works of magical realism.

"...This impressive first novel manages to combine the narrative magic of “The Arabian Nights” with the kind of emotional depth, philosophical seriousness and good, old-fashioned storytelling found in the stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer.”
- The New York Times

"Wecker’s storytelling skills dazzle...[an]intoxicating fusion of fantasy and historical fiction."-Entertainment Weekly
RUTU MODAN first graphic novel, Exit Wounds, won the prestigious Eisner Award for best graphic novel in 2008. She has done comic strips for the Israeli newspapers Yedioth Aharonot and Ma’ariv and illustrations for The New Yorker, Le Monde, The New York Times and many other publications. Modan currently lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.

THE PROPERTY

A hilarious, poignant story of family squabbling, confused identity, and combative romance

85-year-old Regina travels back to Warsaw from Israel for the first time since 1939, to reclaim the family apartment, lost during the war. Travelling with her is her 30-year-old granddaughter Mica. Once in Warsaw, Regina begins to act strangely, pouting and sending Mica on wild goose chases. Secretly Regina is less interested in the family apartment than in the man who occupies it: Roman, her Polish sweetheart, with whom she tried to run away when she was young. After her parents packed her off to Palestine, alone and pregnant, she had never seen Roman again. Now she is summoning her courage to meet him once more. Meanwhile Mica dreams of the money a Warsaw apartment might bring. She takes up with a young Polish artist who makes his living guiding Jewish groups to Holocaust sites, and they begin a light-hearted romance while they try to figure out where the apartment is, and who rightfully owns it. At the end, everyone meets in a cemetery on the Day of the Dead, the Polish holiday when people gather at the graves of their families. In this beautiful candlelit scene, secrets are revealed, and romances are rekindled.

*Winner of the 2014 Eisner Award

Recent backlist:

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- Other translation
- Film: FGLA
- Books available
- US publication: May 2013
THE SEED UNDERGROUND
A Growing Revolution to Save Food

In this enchanting narrative—part memoir, part botany primer, part political manifesto—Ray, author of the acclaimed *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, and lately returning to her childhood obsession with farming, has a mission: to inspire us with her own life to “understand food at its most elemental... the most hopeful thing in the world. It is a seed. In the era of dying, it is all life.” Ray is inspired by the eccentric, impassioned, generous characters she visits and interviews, gardeners and farmers who populate the quietly radical world of seed savers, from Vermonter Sylvia Davatz, self-proclaimed “‘Imelda Marcos of seeds,’” to the more phlegmatic Bill Keener of Rabin Gap, Ga., who gives Ray two 20-inch cobs of Keener corn, grown by his family for generations, as well as Greasy Back beans and some rotten Box Car Willy tomatoes to save for seed. Despite the book’s occasional tendency toward polemic, avid gardeners will relish recognizing their idiosyncratic, revolutionary sides in its pages, and it’s likely to strike a spark in gardening novices. Even couch potatoes will be enthralled by Ray’s intimate, poetically conversational stories of her encounters with the “lovely, whimsical, and soulful things [that] happen in a garden, leaving a gardener giddy.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“If I get to feeling a little blue about our prospects, I’m liable to reach down one of Janisse Ray’s books just so I can hear her calm, wise, strong voice. This one’s my new favorite; a world with her in it is going to do the right thing, I think.” —Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org

“What a dream of a book—my favorite poet writing about my favorite topic (seeds)....If books can move you to love, this one does.” —Gary Paul Nabhan, editor of *Renewing America’s Food Tradition*

**THE FIRST TWENTY MINUTES**

Surprising Science Reveals How We Can Exercise Better, Train Smarter, Live Longer

A cutting-edge prescription for exercise by the New York Times Phys Ed columnist

At one point or another, nearly every person who works out wonders: am I doing this right? Which class is best? Do I work out enough?

Answering those questions and more, *The First Twenty Minutes* helps both weekend warriors dedicated to their performance and readers who simply want to get and stay fit gain the most from any workout. With the latest findings about the mental and physical benefits of exercise, personal stories from scientists and laypeople alike, as well as research-based prescriptions for readers, Gretchen Reynolds shows what kind of exercise—and how much—is necessary to stay healthy, get fit, and attain a smaller jeans size.

Inspired by Reynolds’s wildly popular Phys Ed column for *The New York Times*, this book explains how exercise affects the body in distinct ways and provides the tools readers need to achieve their fitness goals, whether that’s a faster 5K or staying trim.

“Gretchen Reynolds writes the Phys Ed column in the New York Times, and her book is an informative and entertaining review of current science about exercise and fitness, with good, commonsense recommendations that cut through confusing, often conflicting research on the subject…. Armed with the information in this book, readers will be inspired and motivated to reassess their habitual exercise programs and make positive changes” – *PW*
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