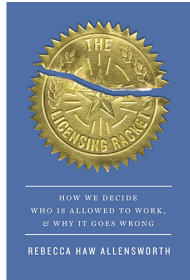


**BOOK JACKET****AUTHOR****BOOK TITLE****ABOUT THE BOOK****ABOUT THE AUTHOR****GENRE**

Allensworth, Rebecca

***The Licensing Racket: How We Decide Who is Allowed to Work, and How it Goes ...***

A bottom-up investigation of the broken system of professional licensing, affecting everyone from hairdressers and morticians to doctors, lawyers, real estate agents, and those who rely on their services.

Rebecca Haw Allensworth is David Daniels Allen Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University Law School. Her work appears in the Atlantic, the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Review of Books.

General Nonfiction



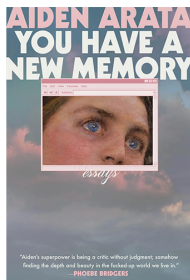
Amaral, Laura Jo

***Madison: Portraits of Our Neighbors***

Internationally recognized photographer Stacie Huckeba and Madison, Tennessee, community volunteer Laura Amaral have partnered to create a photographic art book and living historical document, Madison: Portraits of Our Neighbors. This is a “time capsule” of art as well as a historical document that captures the heart of the people who contribute to the Madison community as it is today, home to a world-class bass player, a nonagenarian cattle farmer, a TikTok celebrity, a singer/songwriter, a mariachi band, the personal photographer for Johnny Cash, a beloved gymnastics coach, model airplane enthusiasts, educators, a fashion designer, a puppet enthusiast, a pastor and outreach worker, an array of artists, small business owners, farmers, and local legends. Beyond a collection of portraits, it's a testament to an enduring urban community, a celebration of the shared human experience, and an opportunity to see our neighbors in their best light. Madison: Portraits of Our Neighbors invites readers to celebrate the tapestry of humanity that weaves through our unique neighborhood.

Laura Jo Amaral is a Madison resident passionate about building community. A lover of books and supporter of original art, she started Lucky Jo Publishing to create beautiful art and photography books. She lives in Neelys Bend with her husband and two daughters. One can find her nearly every day hiking Peeler Park, the crown jewel of Madison, Tennessee.

General Nonfiction



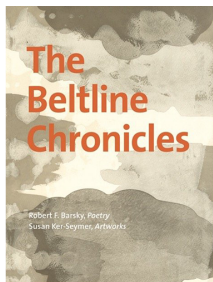
Arata, Aiden

***You Have a New Memory***

An open-hearted interrogation of our digital selves, braiding cultural criticism, memoir, and narrative musings into an exploration of identity, girlhood, media, tech, nature and “finding the depth and beauty in the fucked-up world we live in” from a writer, artist, and influencer (Phoebe Bridgers). YOU HAVE A NEW MEMORY is a deeply human inventory of the digital sphere, a searing analysis of the present and a prescient assessment of the future. In her highly anticipated debut, Aiden Arata brings us raw reportage from the liminal space between online and offline worlds, illuminating how we got here and where to go next.

Aiden Arata is a writer and artist whose writing has appeared in publications including BOMB, NYLON, The Rumpus, The Fanzine, Hobart, and others, as well as NDA: An Autofiction Anthology (Archways Editions 2022). Arata's visual and video work has been featured on platforms including Vice, The Cut, Harper's Bazaar, Mashable, and The Washington Post. You Have a New Memory is her first essay collection. She lives in Los Angeles and on the internet as @aidenarata.

General Nonfiction



Barnette, Martha

*Friends with Words:  
Adventures in Languageland*

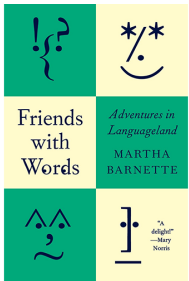
With warmth, a popular radio and podcast host shares her love of language, weaving together linguistic history, regional phrases, the hidden poetry in etymologies, new words, and stories from her life and time on the air Martha Barnette has spent two decades as the co-host of A Way with Words, lauded by Mary Norris in The New Yorker as “a virtual treasure house” and “‘Car Talk’ for Lexiphiles.” Over that time, she’s developed a keen sense of what fascinates people about language. They are curious about etymology and revel in slang, are surprised by regional vocabulary and celebrate linguistic diversity. Idioms both puzzle and delight word lovers, and they are eager to share family neologisms and that weird phrase Grandma always used to say. In Friends with Words, Barnette weaves together all these strands in a clear, informative, highly entertaining exploration of language. Chock-full of anecdotes, humorous asides, new words, trivia, and other lexicological delights, Friends with Words also tells Barnette’s story—from her Appalachian roots through her study of Ancient Greek, and on to the making of a beloved and enduring show. Friends with Words is an expert, good-humored, joyful book.

From the award-winning author of We Ride Upon Sticks and When I’m Gone, Look for Me in the East, a genre-bending novel of literary horror set in Antarctica that explores abandonment, guilt, and survival in the shadow of America’s racial legacy Striker isn’t entirely sure she should be on this luxury Antarctic cruise. A Black film scout, her mission is to photograph potential locations for a big-budget movie about Ernest Shackleton’s doomed expedition. Along the way, she finds private if cautious amusement in the behavior of both the native wildlife and the group of wealthy, mostly white tourists who have chosen to spend Christmas on the Weddell Sea. But when a kayaking excursion goes horribly wrong, Striker and a group of survivors become stranded on a remote island along the Antarctic Peninsula, a desolate setting complete with boiling geothermal vents and vicious birds. Soon the hostile environment will show each survivor their true face, and as the polar ice thaws in the unseasonable warmth, the group’s secrets, prejudices, and inner demons will also emerge, including revelations from Striker’s past that could irrevocably shatter her world. With her signature lyricism and humor,

Quan Barry offers neither comfort nor closure as she questions the limits of the The Beltline Chronicles is an epic poem by Robert F. Barsky, that honors the living history of spaces along the Atlanta Beltline. The poem is accompanied by multimedia full-color artworks by Susan Ker-Seymer, which evoke the layers, textures, and emotions of this powerful pathway. The poem draws inspiration from Lord Byron’s epic adventure poem “Don Juan,” and invokes a broad array of famous literary quests, from Homer’s “The Odyssey” and Dante the Pilgrim’s “Divine Comedy” all the way up to Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland and Toni Morrison’s Paradise. The narrator of the poem is an enthusiastic and sweet poet named George, after George Gordon, Lord Byron. He invokes histories associated with Beltline spaces and takes note of the people he sees along his journey. He also describes existing art installations, performances by Beltline artists (both formal and informal), and emotions stirred by the amazing Beltline environment. By referencing Atlanta’s history, alongside of contemporary stories about the city, George calls attention to issues of social justice and historical memory, while advocating for a more just future inspired by the ambitions associated with Atlanta’s “emerald necklace.” He recalls inspiring writings and utterances by the

Martha Barnette is a longtime journalist, dynamic public speaker, and co-host of the popular radio show and podcast A Way with Words. She holds an undergraduate degree in English from Vassar College, did graduate work in classical languages at the University of Kentucky, and studied Spanish in Costa Rica. Barnette is the author of A Garden of Words, Ladyfingers & Nun’s Tummies, and Dog Days & Dandelions. She lives in San Diego, California.

General Nonfiction



Barry, Quan

*The Unveiling: A Novel*

QUAN BARRY is the author of eight books of fiction and poetry including When I’m Gone, Look for Me in the East; We Ride Upon Sticks, winner of the 2020 ALA Alex Award; and She Weeps Each Time You’re Born. Her most recent poetry collection, Auction, was named one of the five best collections of 2023 by the New York Times. Her first play, The Mytilenean Debate, premiered in 2022. She is the Lorraine Hansberry Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Horror



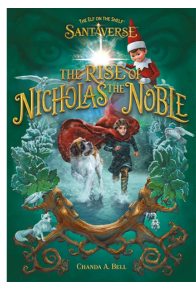
Barsky, Robert

*The Beltline Chronicles*

POETRY: Robert Barsky’s poetic quests began during his undergraduate years under the tutelage of Allen Grossman and Jim Merod, and the spell cast by the Great Books. Captivated by Romantic poets and canonical literary quests, he has since found great inspiration in the higher climes of the French, Italian and Swiss Alps, and in the crevices and crevasses of the everyday. His fictional poet is a perennial flâneur whose love for serendipity’s playful ways continues to drive him towards surprising encounters upon enchanted pathways.

Poetry





Bell, Chanda

*The Elf on the Shelf  
Santaverse: The Rise of  
Nicholas the Noble*

Before there was the Elf on the Shelf there was a young boy named Nicholas. . . . Shipwrecked in the Arctic Tundra, a young Nicholas and his loyal dog, Barry, stumble upon the enchanted and mysterious world of One True North—home to gnomes, fairies, and, of course, magical elves. Nicholas discovers that these special creatures protect a powerful relic known as the Lumistella Stone, a shard of the Christmas star that fell to Earth thousands of years ago. To those who believe, the stone holds the power to spread goodwill and love throughout the universe. But its strength can be extinguished. Gangleri, a powerful force driven by greed and hate, seeks to snatch the Lumistella Stone for his own sinister ambitions. With his army of twisted monsters and beasts known as Lightalfs, Gangleri will launch an attack that will end One True North forever. Now caught in the crosshairs of an ancient prophecy, Nicholas and his new fellowship must battle Gangleri and his army.

Can a little boy find the courage to become the noble hero that One True North—and the rest of the universe—so desperately needs? Only if he chooses to believe. . . .

Chanda A. Bell was once a beloved middle school English teacher. Now she is the visionary founder and co-CEO of the Lumistella Company, home to the international phenomenon The Elf on the Shelf. As the author of The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition and other books from the Santaverse brand, she is often referred to as "Santa's Chief Storyteller." Chanda has brought Santa's world to life with a Netflix partnership, a traveling holiday musical, and the Elf on the Shelf brand Scout Elf character balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Today, more than 25 million homes have embraced her magical Christmas characters. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her family.

Children's



Birdsall, Jeanne

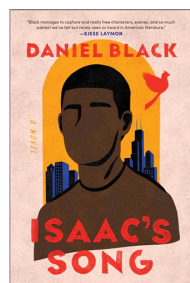
*The Library of Unruly Treasures*

The Borrowers meets Matilda in this funny, winning story of a girl who finds herself an unlikely hero when she stumbles upon a big secret about little creatures. The latest book from the National Book Award winning author of the Penderwicks series. Gwen MacKinnon's parents are dreadful. Truly, deeply, almost impressively dreadful. So Gwen's not upset at all when she's foisted onto her never-before-seen Uncle Matthew for two weeks. Especially when it turns out he has a very opinionated dog named Pumpkin. Things take a turn for the weird when Gwen makes a discovery in the local library. A discovery that involves tiny creatures with wings. And no, they're not birds. They're called Lahdukan. But why can only Gwen and the youngest children, gathered for storytime, see them? The Lahdukan insist that Gwen is destined to help them find a new home. But how can a girl as unwanted, uncourageous, and generally unheroic as Gwen possibly come to the rescue? Pumpkin has a few ideas...

Jeanne Birdsall grew up in the suburbs west of Philadelphia, where she spent most of her time reading and daydreaming. She decided to be a writer when she was ten years old, though she didn't circle back to that idea until she was all grown up and then some. Her first book was The Penderwicks, which won the National Book Award and was a New York Times Bestseller. Four other Penderwicks novels, all of which received glowing accolades and were New York Times bestsellers, followed to round out the series. She is also the author of several picture books and a chapter book.

Jeanne's days involve plenty of time writing, gardening, and chasing around her two mischevious dogs.

Middle Grade



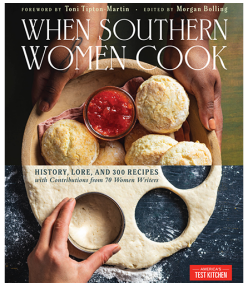
Black, Daniel

*Isaac's Song: A Novel*

The beloved author of Don't Cry for Me and Perfect Peace returns with a poignant, emotionally exuberant novel about a young queer Black man finding his voice in 1980s Chicago—a novel of family, forgiveness and perseverance, for fans of The Great Believers and On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous Isaac is at a crossroads in his young life. Growing up in Missouri, the son of a caustic, hard-driving father, he was conditioned to suppress his artistic pursuits and physical desires, notions that didn't align with a traditional view of masculinity. But now, in late '80s Chicago, Isaac has finally carved out a life of his own. He is sensitive and tenderhearted and has built up the courage to seek out a community. Yet just as he begins to embrace who he is, two social catalysts—the AIDS crisis and Rodney King's attack—collectively extinguish his hard-earned joy. At a therapist's encouragement, Isaac begins to write down his story. In the process, he taps into a creative energy that will send him on a journey back to his family, his ancestral home in Arkansas and the inherited trauma of the nation's dark past. But a surprise discovery will either unlock the truths he's seeking or threaten to derail the life he's fought so hard to claim. Poignant, sweeping and luminously told, Isaac's Song is a return to the beloved characters of Don't Cry for Me and a high-water mark in the career of an award-winning author.

Daniel Black is an author and professor of African American studies at Clark Atlanta University. His books include The Coming, Perfect Peace and They Tell Me of a Home. He is the winner of the Distinguished Writer Award from the Middle-Atlantic Writer's Association and has been nominated for the Townsend Prize for Fiction, the Ernest J. Gaines Award, and the Georgia Author of the Year Award. He was raised in Blackwell, Arkansas, and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Fiction



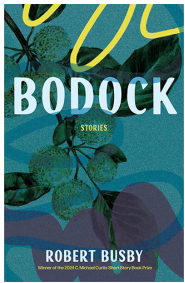
Bolling, Morgan

***When Southern Women Cook: History, Lore, and 300 Recipes***

A first-of-its-kind Southern cookbook featuring more than 300 Cook's Country recipes and fascinating insights into the culinary techniques and heroes of the American South. Tour the diverse history of Southern food through 200+ stories of women who've shaped the cuisine! Shepherded by Toni Tipton-Martin and Cook's Country Executive Editor and TV personality Morgan Bolling, *When Southern Women Cook* showcases the hard work, hospitality, and creativity of women who have given soul to Southern cooking from the start. Every page amplifies their contributions, from the enslaved cooks making foundational food at Monticello to Mexican Americans accessing sweet memories with colorful conchas today. 70+ voices paint a true picture of the South: Emmy Award-winning producer and author Von Diaz covers Caribbean immigrant foodways through Southern stews; food journalist Kim Severson delves into recipes' power as cultural currency; mixologist and beverage historian Tiffanie Barriere reflects on Juneteenth customs including red drink. Consulting food historian KC Hysmith contributes important—and fascinating—context throughout. 300 Recipes—must-knows, little-knowns, and modern inventions: Regional Brunswick Stew, Dollywood Cinnamon Bread, Pickle-Brined Fried Chicken Sandwiches, Grilled Lemongrass Chicken Banh Mi, and Oat Guava Cookies bridge the gap between what Southern cooking is known for and how it continues to evolve. Recipe headnotes contextualize your cooking: Learn Edna Lewis' biscuit wisdom. Read about Waffle House and fry chicken thighs to top light-as-air waffles. Meet Joy Perrine, the "Bad Girl of Bourbon." Covering every region and flavor of the American South, from Texas Barbecue to Gullah Geechee rice dishes, this collection of 300 recipes is a joyous celebration of Southern cuisine and its diverse heroes, past and present.

North Carolina-born Morgan Bolling is Cook's Country Executive Editor of Creative Content, a Cook's Country TV cast member, and a barbecue expert. Together, they aim to amplify the stories of Southern women cooks throughout history.

Cooking



Busby, Robert

***Bodock: Stories***

In 1994, the real Mid-South Ice Storm strikes the fictitious town of Bodock in Claygardner County, Mississippi. In the wake of the storm, what is left unbroken, and what broken things can be rebuilt? Hailed by Maurice Carlos Ruffin as “leaving no feeling untouched,” Robert Busby's debut balances grit with heart, violence with depth, and tragedy with humor. Two siblings survey the damage to their family's orchard after the storm while their rich nephew circles in the hopes of buying up the property. A slacker divorcee drives his ex-father-in-law to his lung transplant surgery. A cop tries to piece his broken family back together in the wake of the loss of his son. In 1816, a farmer's wife plots with an enslaved woman to stop her husband from committing a terrible act. And in a town that is not quite Bodock, a population of ghosts reckon with their unsettled pasts. In the spirit of Brad Watson's *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, *Bodock* traverses time and dimensions to surface the struggles of the everyday. *Bodock: Stories* is the winner of the 2024 C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize.

Robert Busby grew up in the hill country of North Mississippi and has worked as a bandsaw operator, bookseller, copywriter, driving school instructor, powder coater, prep cook, produce clerk, teacher, and satellite television technician. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, he got his MFA in Fiction from Florida International University, and his stories have appeared in *Arkansas Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Footnote*, *Mississippi Noir*, *PANK*, *Pleiades*, *Sou'wester*, *Surreal South*, and others. Currently, he writes, runs, and raises two humans with his wife in Memphis, TN.

Fiction



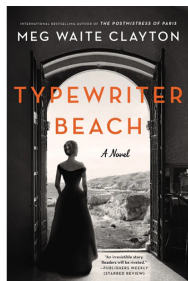
Clark, Julie

***The Ghostwriter: A Novel***

From the instant New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Flight* and *The Lies I Tell* comes a dazzling new thriller. June, 1975. The Taylor family shatters in a single night when two teenage siblings are found dead in their own home. The only surviving sibling, Vincent, never shakes the whispers and accusations that he was the one who killed them. Decades later, the legend only grows as his career as a horror writer skyrockets. Ghostwriter Olivia Dumont has spent her entire professional life hiding the fact that she is the only child of Vincent Taylor. Now on the brink of financial ruin, she's offered a job to ghostwrite her father's last book. What she doesn't know, though, is that this project is another one of his lies. Because it's not another horror novel he wants her to write. After fifty years of silence, Vincent Taylor is finally ready to talk about what really happened that night in 1975.

Julie Clark is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Lies I Tell* and *The Last Flight*, both of which were also #1 international bestsellers and have been translated into more than twenty-five languages. She lives in Los Angeles with her family and a goldendoodle with poor impulse control.

Mystery/Thriller



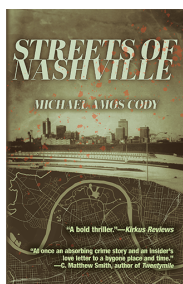
Clayton, Meg Waite

***Typewriter Beach: A Novel***

Set in Carmel-by-the-Sea and Hollywood, *Typewriter Beach* is an unforgettable story of the unlikely friendship between an Oscar-nominated screenwriter and a young actress hoping to be Alfred Hitchcock's new star. 1957. Isabella Giori is ten months into a standard seven-year studio contract when she auditions with Hitchcock. Just weeks later, she is sequestered by the studio's "fixer" in a tiny Carmel cottage, waiting and dreading. Meanwhile, next door, Léon Chazan is annoyed as hell when Iz interrupts his work on yet another screenplay he won't be able to sell, because he's been blacklisted. Soon, they're together in his roadster, speeding down the fog-shrouded Big Sur coast. 2018. Twenty-six-year-old screenwriter Gemma Chazan, in Carmel to sell her grandfather's cottage, finds a hidden safe full of secrets—raising questions about who the screenwriter known simply as Chazan really was, and whether she can live up to his name. In graceful prose and with an intimate understanding of human nature, Meg Waite Clayton captures the joys and frustrations of being a writer, being a woman, being a star, and being in love. *Typewriter Beach* is the story of two women separated by generations—a tale of ideas and ideals, passion and persistence, creativity, politics, and family.

Meg Waite Clayton is the New York Times bestselling author of eight previous novels, including the Good Morning America Buzz Pick and New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice *The Postmistress of Paris*, *The Last Train to London*, and *The Wednesday Sisters*. Her books have been published in twenty-four languages, and have been finalists for the Bellwether Prize (now the PEN Bellwether), the National Jewish Book Award, and the Langum Prize. She also writes for major newspapers and magazines, mentors in the OpEd Project, and is a member of the National Book Critics Circle and the California bar. She lives in California and Connecticut.

**Historical Fiction**



Cody, Michael

***Streets of Nashville***

In *Streets of Nashville*, Ezra MacRae has a nearly encyclopedic knowledge of songs and their writers, and he has moved from the North Carolina mountains to Nashville's Music Row with the dream of becoming part of that songwriting world. Yet just as he is out on the town to celebrate his first good fortune after several years of trying—a staff songwriting contract with an independent music publisher—he witnesses the man who signed on the dotted lines with him gunned down with three others outside his Music Row office. The masked gunman spares Ezra. But why?

Michael Amos Cody was born in the South Carolina Lowcountry and raised in the North Carolina highlands. He spent his twenties writing songs in Nashville and his thirties in school. He's the author of the novel *Gabriel's Songbook* (Pisgah Press) and short fiction that has appeared in *Yemassee*, *Tampa Review*, *Still: The Journal*, and elsewhere. His short story collection, *A Twilight Reel* (Pisgah Press) won the Short Story / Anthology category of the Feathered Quill Book Awards 2022. Cody lives with his wife Leesa in Jonesborough, Tennessee, and teaches in the Department of Literature and Language at East Tennessee State University.

**Mystery/Thriller**



Coleman, Alyssa

***Where Only Storms Grow: A Novel About the Dust Bowl***

For Fans of the *I Survived* series and *The War That Saved My Life*, this gripping middle grade novel is set during one of the most dangerous storms in American history. It's been four years since rain fell on the Oklahoma panhandle and the closeness between the Stanton twins has dried up as much as the land. Howe Stanton has been practicing running away and longs for the family to quit this land of dust where only troubles grow. Despite the scoliosis that causes Joanna Stanton near-constant pain, she isn't ready to give up like her brother. But when Daddy leaves the family behind to find work in California, saving the farm from ruin falls on Howe's unwilling and Joanna's uneven shoulders. To pay the mortgage, Joanna takes a job at the local hospital and discovers purpose in helping others. Howe finds unexpected joy in caring for his father's horse and escapes in a borrowed book. But then a tragedy in town reveals the dust's deadly dangers. With the worst storm of the Dust Bowl bearing down on their home, Howe and Joanna must put aside their differences and work together, or everyone and everything they love will be lost to the dust.

Alyssa Colman is the author of *Where Only Storms Grow*, *The Tarnished Garden*, and *The Gilded Girl*, which won the 2021 Northern Lights Book Award for middle grade fantasy. Publishers Weekly called the story "a thoughtful and imaginative exploration of friendship, internal change, and perseverance" in a starred review. Alyssa lives in northern Virginia with her family.

**Middle Grade**



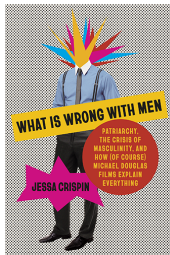
Core, Jennifer

***Tennessee Samplers: Female Education and Domestic Arts, 1800-1900***

Jennifer Core and Janet Hasson's study of samplers—embroideries that are “first attempts at a new technique, color combination, or unusual material”—provides vivid descriptions of this nineteenth-century Tennessee art form in its many varieties. The authors not only catalogue and describe samplers from each of Tennessee's major regions—West, Middle, and East—but also incorporate research on the sampler makers and their families. This research provides fascinating insight into the stitchers, their teachers, and their academies. Including a chapter on female education on the Tennessee frontier and another on embroideries and needlework focused on mourning, the volume draws on oral histories of the embroiderers' descendants, family Bibles, diaries, scrapbooks, cemetery records, and other primary sources. Photos of the samplers are accompanied by detailed descriptions of styles, thread count, materials used, frames, and motifs. Ultimately, the study provides a snapshot of the lives of girls and young women in nineteenth-century Tennessee, including the role of this ornamental art in their education. Providing important historical context on Tennessee education, economy, and domestic life, Core and Hasson describe how embroidery came to be a crucial primary source in revealing the lives of girls and young women during a time when little was recorded about them. This book is an authoritative record of the material culture produced in the daily routine of school rooms. It is for all who see beauty in sometimes-overlooked handiwork and understand the importance of curating, preserving, and analyzing it.

JENNIFER C. CORE is executive director of the Tennessee Historical Society and cofounder and director of the Tennessee Sampler Survey.

History



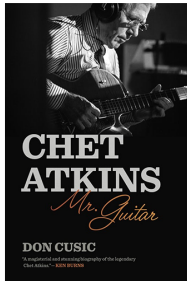
Crispin, Jessa

***What is Wrong with Men? Patriarchy, the Crisis of Masculinity ...***

A hilarious, ambitious work of trenchant cultural criticism that traces the origins of today's crisis of masculinity through . . . Michael Douglas's oeuvre from the eighties and nineties How to be a Man? That question—and all the anxiety, anger, and resentment it stirs up—is the starting point for a crisis in masculinity that today manifests as misogyny, nativism, and corporate greed; gives rise to incels and mass shooters; and leads to panic over the rights of women and minorities. According to Jessa Crispin, it is the most important question of our time, and the answer to it might be found in an unlikely place: the films of Michael Douglas.

JESSA CRISPIN is the author of several books, including *Why I Am Not a Feminist: A Feminist Manifesto*, *The Dead Ladies Project*, and *My Three Dads*. She is the editor and founder of *The Culture We Deserve* as well as host with Nico Rodriguez of TCWD weekly podcast. In 2002, she launched Bookslut.com, one of the first and most treasured literary websites of the era; it ran for fifteen years. She is originally from Lincoln, Kansas, and currently lives in Philadelphia.

General Nonfiction



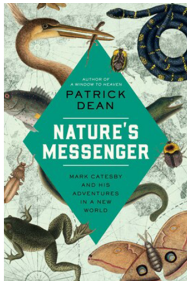
Cusic, Don

**Chet Atkins: Mr Guitar (Music of the American South)**

Chet Atkins was arguably the most influential American guitarist of the twentieth century and, through his work as a recording executive, is often credited as a founder of the Nashville Sound. In Chet Atkins: Mr. Guitar, noted music historian Don Cusic illuminates the legend, detailing Atkins's work as a guitarist, producer, music executive, and guitar designer, while also exploring his roles as mentor, friend, and husband. Born in 1924 in Luttrell, Tennessee, Chester (Chet) Burton Atkins taught himself to play several instruments. A lifelong musician, he started his career playing alongside many other legendary entertainers, such as Red Foley, the Carter Family, Hank Snow, and Eddy Arnold. In the 1950s, as an RCA Victor manager, producer, and musician, Atkins was one of the early architects of the Nashville Sound, which led to the first crossover country-pop hits. He was also there at the beginning of rock and roll and played on the early recordings of Elvis Presley and the Everly Brothers. When the Beatles came to the United States in February 1964, the lead guitarist, George Harrison, was seen on TV playing a Gretsch guitar designed by Chet Atkins. By the end of his life in 2001, Atkins had recorded more than one hundred solo albums; won fourteen Grammys, including a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement, and nine Country Music Association Instrumentalist awards; and was a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame. His innovative playing style has inspired such musicians as Mark Knopfler, George Harrison, Paul McCartney, Earl Klugh, Tommy Emmanuel, Doc Watson, Lenny Breau, and Jerry Reed.

DON CUSIC is a historian of country music and the Curb Professor of Music Industry History and a professor of music business at Belmont University. His many books include *Saved by Song: A History of Gospel and Christian Music* and *The Cowboy in Country Music: An Historical Survey with Artist Profiles*. He served as a consultant on the Ken Burns documentary on country music and has appeared on numerous documentaries and TV shows. In 2022, Cusic was inducted into the Western Music Association Hall of Fame. He lives in Brentwood, Tennessee.

Music



Dean, Patrick

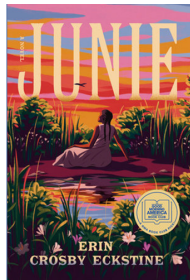
**Nature's Messenger: Mark Catesby and His Adventures in a New World**

A dynamic and fresh exploration of the naturalist Mark Catesby—who predated John James Audubon by nearly a century— and his influence on how we understand American wildlife. In 1722, Mark Catesby stepped ashore in Charles Town in the Carolina colony. Over the next four years, this young naturalist made history as he explored deep into America's natural wonders, collecting and drawing plants and animals which had never been seen back in the Old World. Nine years later Catesby produced his magnificent and groundbreaking book, *The Natural History of Carolina*, the first-ever illustrated account of American flora and fauna. In *Nature's Messenger*, acclaimed writer Patrick Dean follows Catesby from his youth as a landed gentleman in rural England to his early work as a naturalist and his adventurous travels. A pioneer in many ways, Catesby's careful attention to the knowledge of non-Europeans in America—the enslaved Africans and Native Americans who had their own sources of food and medicine from nature—set him apart from others of his time. *Nature's Messenger* takes us from the rice plantations of the Carolina Lowcountry to the bustling coffeehouses of 18th-century England, from the sun-drenched islands of the Bahamas to the austere meeting-rooms of London's Royal Society, then presided over by Isaac Newton. It was a time of discovery, of intellectual ferment, and of the rise of the British Empire. And there on history's leading edge, recording the extraordinary and often violent mingling of cultures as well as of nature, was Mark Catesby. Intensively researched and thrillingly told, *Nature's Messenger* will thrill fans of exploration and early American history as well as appealing to birdwatchers, botanists, and anyone fascinated by the natural world.

Patrick Dean writes on the outdoors and the environment. He has worked as a teacher, a political media director, and is presently the executive director of a rail-trail nonprofit. An avid trail-runner, paddler, and mountain-biker, he lives with his wife and dogs on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, and is the author of *A Window To Heaven*, about the summit of Denali, also available from Pegasus Books.

Outdoors/Nature





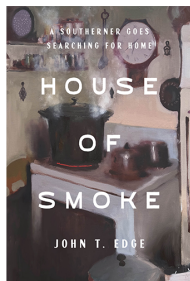
Eckstine, Erin

***Junie: A Novel***

“The richly textured prose quickly pulled me into [Junie’s] treacherous yet magical world.” —Charmaine Wilkerson, New York Times bestselling author of *Black Cake* Sixteen years old and enslaved since she was born, Junie has spent her life on Bellereine Plantation in Alabama, cooking and cleaning alongside her family, and tending to the white master’s daughter, Violet. Her daydreams are filled with poetry and faraway worlds, while she spends her nights secretly roaming through the forest, consumed with grief over the sudden death of her older sister, Minnie. When wealthy guests arrive from New Orleans, hinting at marriage for Violet and upending Junie’s life, she commits a desperate act—one that rouses Minnie’s spirit from the grave, tethered to this world unless Junie can free her. She enlists the aid of Caleb, the guests’ coachman, and their friendship soon becomes something more. Yet as long-held truths begin to crumble, she realizes Bellereine is harboring dark and horrifying secrets that can no longer be ignored. With time ticking down, Junie begins to push against the harsh current that has controlled her entire life. As she grapples with an increasingly unfamiliar world in which she has little control, she is forced to ask herself: When we choose love and liberation, what must we leave behind?

Erin Crosby Eckstine is an author of speculative historical fiction, personal essays, and anything else she’s in the mood for. Born in Montgomery, Alabama, Eckstine grew up between the South and Los Angeles before moving to New York City to attend Barnard College. She earned a master’s in secondary English education from Stanford University and taught high school English for six years. She lives in Brooklyn with her partner and their cats.

**Fiction**



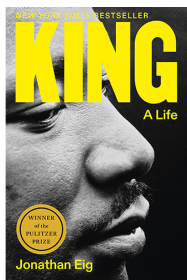
Edge, John T.

***House of Smoke: A Southerner Goes Searching for Home***

The author of *The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South* tells his own story this time. Of growing up in a house wrecked by violence and a South haunted by racism. And of how his search for home led him to find escape and belonging through food. Until he realizes that gathering at table is just one small step toward reckoning. In this unflinching and moving memoir, John T. Edge takes us on a quest for home in a South that has both held him close and pushed him away, as he tries and fails and tries again to rewrite the stories he inherited. Born in a house where a Confederate general took his first breath and the Lost Cause narrative was gospel, troubled by the violence he witnessed as a boy, Edge ran from his past, searching for a newer and better South. As founding director of the Southern Foodways Alliance and a contributor to newspapers and magazines, he told stories that showcased those possibilities. In the process, Edge became one of the most visible and powerful voices in American food...until he found himself denounced by the audience he once guided, faced down the limits of his work, and returned to his origins to find himself once again. Beginning in Georgia and ending in Mississippi, his search spans the Deep South and charts a very American story of the truth telling and soul searching it takes to love your people and your place.

John T. Edge writes and hosts the Emmy Award-winning television show *True South* on the SEC Network, ESPN, Disney, and Hulu. Edge also writes a restaurant column for *Garden & Gun*. His 2017 book *The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South* was named one of the best books of the year by NPR and Publishers Weekly. Edge serves the University of Mississippi as a teacher, writer-in-residence, and director of the Mississippi Lab. And he serves the University of Georgia as a mentor in their low-residency MFA program in narrative nonfiction. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his wife, the artist Blair Hobbs.

**Autobiography/Memoir**



Eig, Jonathan

*King: A Life*

Vividly written and exhaustively researched, Jonathan Eig's *King: A Life* is the first major biography in decades of the civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr.—and the first to include recently declassified FBI files. In this revelatory new portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, the bestselling biographer gives us an intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled human being who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself. He casts fresh light on the King family's origins as well as MLK's complex relationships with his wife, father, and fellow activists. King reveals a minister wrestling with his own human frailties and dark moods, a citizen hunted by his own government, and a man determined to fight for justice even if it proved to be a fight to the death. As he follows MLK from the classroom to the pulpit to the streets of Birmingham, Selma, and Memphis, Eig dramatically re-creates the journey of a man who recast American race relations and became our only modern-day founding father—as well as the nation's most mourned martyr. In this landmark biography, Eig gives us an MLK for our times: a deep thinker, a brilliant strategist, and a committed radical who led one of history's greatest movements, and whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime. It is the winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Biography.

Jonathan Eig is a former senior writer for The Wall Street Journal. He is the New York Times bestselling author of several books, including *Ali: A Life*, *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig*, and *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*. Ken Burns calls him "a master storyteller," and Eig's books have been listed among the best of the year by The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Sports Illustrated, and Slate. He lives in Chicago with his wife and children.

History



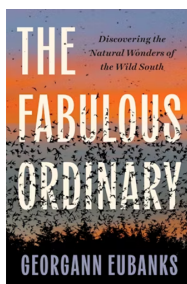
Elliott, Julia

*Hellions: Stories*

From the acclaimed author of *The Wilds* comes an electric story collection that blends folklore, fairy tales, Southern Gothic, and horror, reveling in the collision of the familiar with the wildly surreal. In a plague-stricken medieval convent, a nun works on a forbidden mystic manuscript, pining for Christ's love. During a long, muggy July in rural South Carolina, an adolescent girl finds unexpected power as her family obsesses over the horror film *The Exorcist*. On the outskirts of a Southern college town, a young woman resists the tyranny of a shape-shifting older professor as she develops her own sorceress skills. And at a feminist art colony in the North Carolina mountains, a group of mothers contends with the supernatural talents their children have picked up from a pair of mysterious orphans who live in the woods. With exuberance, ferocity, and astounding imagination, Julia Elliott's *Hellions* jumps from the occult to the comic, from the horrific to the wondrous, presenting earthbound characters who long for the otherworldly.

Julia Elliott is the author of the story collection *The Wilds*, a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, and the novel *The New and Improved Romie Futch* (both from Tin House). Her work has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *Tin House*, *Conjunctions*, and the *New York Times*. She has won a Rona Jaffe Writers' Award, and her stories have been anthologized in *Best American Short Stories* and *Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses*. She teaches English and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina and lives in Columbia with her husband, daughter, and five hens.

Short Stories



Eubanks, Georgann

*The Fabulous Ordinary:  
Discovering the Natural  
Wonders of the Wild South*

Georgann Eubanks offers readers a tour of the seasonal joys of ecosystems in the Southeast. The ordinary destinations and events she explores are scattered across seven states and include such wonders as a half-million purple martins roosting on an island in a South Carolina lake, the bloom of thirty acres of dimpled trout lilies in a remote Georgia forest, gnat larvae that glow like stars on the rock walls of an obscure Alabama canyon, and the overnight accumulation of elaborately patterned moths on the side of a North Carolina mountain cabin. These phenomena and others reveal how plants, mammals, amphibians, and insects are managing to persevere despite pressures from human invasion, habitat destruction, and climate change. Their stories also shine a light on the efforts of dedicated scientists, volunteers, and aspiring young naturalists who are working to reverse losses and preserve the fabulous ordinary that's still alive in the fields, forests, rivers, and coastal estuaries of this essential and biodiverse region.

Outdoors/Nature

	<p>Fatsis, Stefan</p> <p><i>Unabridged: The Thrill of and Threat to the Modern Dictionary</i></p>	<p>From the author of the New York Times bestseller <i>Word Freak</i>, a vibrant, lively, and illuminating journey through the exotic world of Merriam-Webster, dictionaries, and language, at a time of rapid-fire change in the way we create, consume, define, and use words Words are the currency of culture—and never more than today. From selfie to doomscrolling to rizz, our hyper-connected digital world coins and spreads new words with lightning speed and locks them into mainstream consciousness with unprecedented influence. Journalist and bestselling author Stefan Fatsis embedded as a lexicographer-in-training at America's most famous dictionary publisher, Merriam-Webster, to learn how words get into the dictionary, where they come from, who decides what they mean, and how we write and think about them. In so doing, as he recounts in <i>Unabridged</i>, he discovered the history and fascinating subculture of the dictionary and of those who curate and revere “one of the most basic features of our collective humanity.” Fatsis reveals the little-known story of how the brothers George and Charles Merriam acquired Noah Webster's original American dictionary and reshaped the business of language forever. Merriam-Webster became America's most successful and enduring compendium of words, withstanding intense competition and cultural controversies—only to be threatened by the power of Google and artificial intelligence today. Delving into Merriam's legendary archives and parsing its arcane rules, Fatsis learns the painstaking precision required for writing good definitions. He examines how the dictionary has handled the most explosive slurs and the revolutionary change in pronouns. He votes on the annual Word of the Year, travels to the legendary Oxford English Dictionary, and visits the world's greatest private dictionary collection in a Greenwich Village apartment stuffed with more than 20,000 books. Fatsis</p>	<p>STEFAN FATSIS is the author of the New York Times bestseller <i>Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players</i> . He is also the author of <i>A Few Seconds of Panic: A Sportswriter Plays in the NFL and Wild and Outside: How a Renegade Minor League Revived the Spirit of Baseball in America's Heartland</i> . His work also has appeared in the <i>Wall Street Journal</i> , <i>Slate</i> , and <i>Deadspin</i> , and on NPR's <i>All Things Considered</i> . Fatsis lives in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>General Nonfiction</p>
	<p>Fennelly, Beth Ann</p> <p><i>The Irish Goodbye: Micro Memoirs</i></p>	<p>A primarily imagined literary debut of love, despair, and two people's search for belonging in a world literally spinning out of control The acceleration of Earth's spin begins gradually. At first, days are just a few seconds shorter than normal. Awareness of the mysterious phenomenon hasn't reached Tanner, a young man preoccupied with dreams of escaping his tiny Alaskan hometown. One night, desperate to make his mark on the world, he runs away. He lands an unlikely job at CWC, the operator of a network of massive aircraft that orbit the Earth at 30,000 feet, revolutionizing global transportation. Now goods and people can travel anywhere in little more than an hour—you can visit Paris for an evening or order sushi from Japan. But just as Tanner settles into his new life and begins to consider if his feelings for a male colleague might be more than platonic, CWC is shaken by a wave of social unrest and protest. That unrest sweeps up Winnie. A high school outcast in an era of street protests, wild parties, and online savagery, Winnie falls in with a group of teen activists who blame CWC for the planet's acceleration. As days on Earth quicken to twenty-three hours, then twenty, the sun rising and setting ever faster, causing violent storms and political meltdowns, Tanner and Winnie's stories spiral closer together. They meet cynical executives toiling to forestall the crises they created and religious zealots for whom the apocalypse can't come soon enough, lobbyists and lovers all coping in their own ways, and Victor Bickle—the self-aggrandizing TV scientist whose shameful secret will bind Tanner and Winnie's fates... if they can uncover it before the Earth spins so fast that even gravity might lose its grip. Three-hour days. Two-hour days... A propulsive exploration of capitalism, technology, and our place within a system that dwarfs us, <i>Circular Motion</i> is one of the most ingenious debut novels of our time.</p>	<p>Autobiography/Memoir</p>
	<p>Foster, Alex</p> <p><i>Circular Motion: A Novel</i></p>	<p>ALEX FOSTER received his MFA from New York University, where he served as fiction editor of <i>Washington Square Review</i> . He now edits books at Henry Holt and Company and Metropolitan. Previously, he studied economics at the University of Chicago and conducted research for the U.S. government and for the World Bank's Gender Innovation Lab in West Africa. <i>Circular Motion</i> is his first novel.</p> <p>Sci Fi/Fantasy</p>	



Foster, Nick

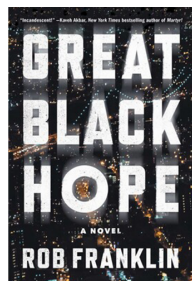
***Could Should Might Don't How We Think About the Future***

An invaluable guide for how to think—and not to think—about the future, from one of the leading futurists of our time. You might not know the name Nick Foster, but after just a moment of googling you'll realize he's been guiding the missions of companies that have been shaping the world you live in. From Sony, Nokia, and Dyson to Google itself, where he was the head of design at Google X, Foster has been at the forefront of innovation for over twenty-five years, but his name might be unfamiliar because until this point, he's been hidden behind countless NDAs.

Could Should Might Don't is Foster's public debut, the first time this much-sought-after designer is free to share his perspectives, explore how other people approach the future, and suggest how we can all improve our thinking about what might lie ahead. But this isn't a book filled with predictions and prophecies, and it makes no assertions about what the future will hold. It's a book that unpacks how we think about the future. Foster has identified Could, Should, Might, and Don't as the four primary mindsets we all adopt when thinking about what's over the horizon, but he doesn't advocate for any one of them. Instead, he explores how humanity has grappled with the concept of the future throughout history, tracing the emergence of distinct schools of thought and exploring the virtues, blind spots, and inevitable shortcomings of each. The book is, in some ways, about the history of the future and the history of the different futures that we have imagined, designed, or projected for ourselves. But most of all, Could Should Might Don't is a no-nonsense appeal to every one of us—whether we're busy creating future ideas or trying to understand them—to radically improve how we think about the future, so we can improve what we leave behind for those who will follow.

Nick Foster is a designer and writer based in Oakland, California. He has spent his career exploring the future for technology companies including Apple, Google, Nokia, Sony and Dyson, and has established himself as a leading figure in the field of Futures Design. In 2021 he was awarded the title 'Royal Designer for Industry' - the highest accolade for a British designer - in recognition of his significant contributions to the discipline. Foster is also an accomplished writer and public speaker, delivering essays, books, talks and lectures to share his thinking with audiences across the globe. He earned his master's degree from London's Royal College of Art in 2001, and in 2018 he was made a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has lived in the United States since 2012, with his wife, Jayne.

**General Nonfiction**



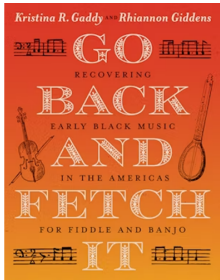
Franklin, Rob

***Great Black Hope: A Novel***

An arrest for cocaine possession on the last day of a sweltering New York summer leaves Smith, a queer Black Stanford graduate, in a state of turmoil. Pulled into the court system and mandated treatment, he finds himself in an absurd but dangerous situation: his class protects him, but his race does not. It's just weeks after the death of his beloved roommate Elle, the daughter of a famous soul singer, and he's still reeling from the tabloid spectacle—as well as lingering questions around how well he really knew his closest friend. He flees to his hometown of Atlanta, only to buckle under the weight of expectations from his family of doctors and lawyers and their history in America. But when Smith returns to New York, it's not long before he begins to lose himself to his old life—drawn back into the city's underworld, where his search for answers may end up costing him his freedom and his future. Smith goes on a dizzying journey through the nightlife circuit, anonymous recovery rooms, Atlanta's Black society set, police investigations and courtroom dramas, and a circle of friends coming of age in a new era. Great Black Hope is a propulsive, glittering story about what it means to exist between worlds, to be upwardly mobile yet spiraling downward, and how to find a way back to hope.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Rob Franklin is a writer of fiction and poetry, and a cofounder of Art for Black Lives. A Kimbilio Fiction Fellow and finalist for the New England Review Emerging Writer Award, he has published work in New England Review, Prairie Schooner, and The Rumpus among others. Franklin lives in Brooklyn, New York, and teaches writing at the School of Visual Arts. Great Black Hope is his first novel.

**Fiction**

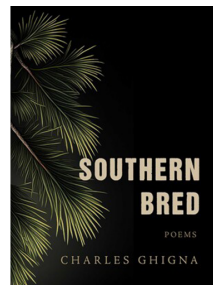


Gaddy, Kristina

***Go Back and Fetch It:  
Recovering Early Black Music  
in the Americas for Fiddle and  
Banjo***

For the first time, this groundbreaking songbook collaboration by music writer Kristina R. Gaddy and Grammy Award winner Rhiannon Giddens makes nineteen examples of early Black Atlantic music accessible and playable for today's musicians, music enthusiasts, and historians. Presenting music from 1687 through the 1860s in modern treble clef and banjo tablature, along with the rich stories behind each song, Gaddy and Giddens take readers on a journey from the Caribbean across the Americas. Immensely readable for amateurs and professionals alike, Go Back and Fetch It explains the significance of early Black Atlantic music and how the patterns of tunings, melodic lines, and lyrics shed light on the impact that Black American music has had on nineteenth-century popular music, early country, old time, and bluegrass. Each tune pairs with an engaging essay on its historical background and how the tune transformed over time, as well as information about the collector. Deeply researched and carefully approached, this essential source restores the roots of Black music to the musical canon.

Music



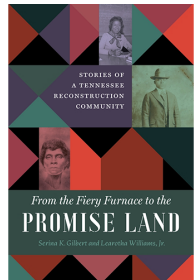
Ghigna, Charles

***Southern Bred: Poems***

Discover the captivating allure of the Deep South through the haunting and powerful verses of one of today's most accomplished poets. Southern Bred is a haunting, powerful collection of gothic poems that captivate and transport the reader into the heart and soul of the Deep South. Each poem offers a glimpse into its mystery and enchantment, drawing you in with a blend of beauty and darkness. In the style of a memoir in verse, it showcases Ghigna's southern soul and his tender, yet piercing language, and affirms his place as one of the finest poets of our time.

Charles Ghigna lives in a tree house in the middle of Alabama. He is the author of over 100 books and has written for The New Yorker, Harper's, Rolling Stone and The Wall Street Journal. Poet-in-residence at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, instructor of creative writing at Samford University, and nationally syndicated feature writer for Tribune Media Services, Ghigna has read his poems at the Library of Congress, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, American Library in Paris, and the International Schools of South America.

Poetry



Gilbert, Serina

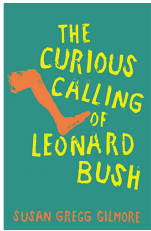
***From the Fiery Furnace to the  
Promise Land: Stories of a  
Tennessee Reconstruction  
Community***

The Promise Land community, a small village west of Nashville, Tennessee was founded after the Civil War by people who had been enslaved at the Cumberland Iron Furnace. These early settlers, who included United States Colored Troops veterans, were able to purchase land and establish Black-owned businesses. This afforded the community a level of stability that defies conventional wisdom about the post-Reconstruction-era South. In time the community encompassed approximately 1,000 acres with more than 50 homes, several stores, three churches, and an elementary school. But by the mid-twentieth century, the community had dwindled to just a handful of families. Now all that remains physically is a church and the old school building. But in the hearts of the descendants of those families, Promise Land remains a vital and thriving community of friends, family, and, albeit virtual, neighbors who continue to support each other. This is the story of this town told through the memories of the people who lived there. Serina Gilbert grew up in the community and is now one of the revered storytellers and story-keepers of Promise Land. Along with historian Lerotha Williams, she is sharing the history of a community that thrived and continues to thrive in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles.

A descendant of original Promise Land settlers, Serina K. Gilbert was born and raised in the community. Like many of her predecessors, she moved away after finishing high school in pursuit of a post-secondary education. Upon graduating from Tennessee State University, she moved to New York City to work for the City's Social Services and Health Departments. From there, she moved on to Howard University in Washington, D.C. where she earned a master's degree in social work. She enjoyed over 35 progressive and diversified years in the field of Social Work before retiring and returning to her home of origin. Since returning to Tennessee, she has led the efforts to preserve the history of the Promise Land Community.

History





Gilmore, Susan

***The Curious Calling of Leonard Bush: A Novel***

When twelve-year-old Leonard Bush loses his leg in a freak accident, he decides to give the amputation a proper burial in the hilltop cemetery of his East Tennessee town. The funeral for Leonard Bush's leg sets off a chain of miraculous—and catastrophic—events, upending the lives of Leonard's rigidly God-fearing mother, June; his deeply conflicted father, Emmett; and his best friend, Azalea, and her mother, Rose, who is also the town prostitute. While the local Baptist minister passes judgment on events and promises dire consequences, the people of this small community on the banks of Big Sugar move together toward awakening.

Susan Gregg Gilmore is the author of the novels *The Curious Calling of Leonard Bush*, *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen*, *The Improper Life of Bezellia Grove*, and *The Funeral Dress*. She has written for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. Born in Nashville, she lives in Tennessee with her husband.

Fiction

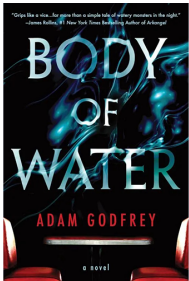


Gobbell, Phyllis

***Prodigal***

It's the Fourth of July, 2000. In a small southern town, fireworks light the sky above the city park, while down the street a smaller flash of light changes everything for nineteen-year-old Connor Burdette. He has just lost the girl he loves. Now, buying beer at the Back Home Market, he becomes an accomplice to a shooting. Out of desperation, he runs. It will take 10 years and a death to bring him back. But it's so hard to come home. His wealthy grandmother's will, leaving her fortune to Connor, only causes tension in the family. The Burdettes are caught in the fierce push and pull of loyalties and deception. And family secrets won't stay buried. Nikki, who is married to Connor's brother Ross, has kept the most powerful secret of all - until her nine-year-old son sustains a serious brain injury and needs blood. PRODIGAL is a modern-day retelling of an age-old story, but unique in the context of a southern family. Connor has to face his past, his cowardice at the market, and his betrayal of his brother. Told by multiple narrators, PRODIGAL is about forgiveness, redemption, and the sacrifice that love demands.

Fiction



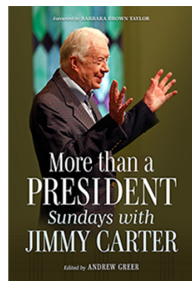
Godfrey, Adam

***Body of Water: A Novel***

For fans of Stephen King's *The Mist* and the HBO hit show *The Last of Us* comes a wildly inventive, sinister thriller following an estranged father and daughter who find themselves trapped in a diner by a living body of water. Don't let the water drag you down... It's been six years since Glen Masters lost his wife in a tragic accident. In hopes of reconnecting with his grieving teenage daughter, Lauren, he decides to take her on a road trip through the Appalachian mountains, where he has fond memories of their past as a family. But what was supposed to be a quick diner pit stop suddenly transforms into a nightmare when armed men stumble in, ranting about a mysterious and deadly "living water" that attacked several people up the road. The story the men spin seems to be the rantings of drunken lunatics, but soon Glen, his daughter, and the other diners find themselves hostages to both the gunmen and the inexplicably terrifying entity. Because there's truly something wrong with the water, and it has no mercy. Panic grows as the diners play witness to a nature-defying being that seeks only to swallow everything in its path. With help nowhere in sight, the group of strangers must work together to devise an escape, and ultimately, Glen will have to face his worst fears to reconcile with the past or risk losing everything. A chilling story from a brand-new voice in fiction, *Body of Water* explores the complicated nature of grief, terror, and the ghosts we must confront to survive.

Adam Godfrey has published numerous short stories spanning the genres of horror, thriller, and science fiction, and is the author of the horror novella *NARCISSUS*. He holds a BA in marketing, MS in cybersecurity, and has worked for the United States Department of Defense as a cybersecurity risk management professional for over twenty-five years. Adam and his family live in Chesapeake, VA.

Horror



Greer, Andrew

***More Than A President:  
Sundays with Jimmy Carter***

Over the course of nearly four decades, thousands of spiritual seekers from around the globe made the unusual pilgrimage to the rural whistlestop of Plains, Georgia, for a remarkable opportunity to glean enduring lessons from Scripture taught by one of the world's most unlikely Sunday School teachers—the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter. In 1981, having been defeated for a second term in the White House, President Carter returned to his hometown of Plains—a humble agricultural community of almost 600 folks nestled inside the quiet pines of Southwest Georgia, where the faith-focused former leader of the Free World began opening the pages of his well-worn Bible for a weekly audience of all kinds of people, from all around the world. Through the open-door hospitality of Maranatha Baptist Church—the Plains congregation Jimmy maintained membership in for his entire post-presidential life, alongside his wife of 77 years, Rosalynn—"Jimmy Carter's Sunday School Class" welcomed crowds of curious folks from a vast variety of faiths, lifestyles, and cultural backgrounds on the search for a once-in-a-lifetime experience to witness a national treasure share his modern insights from ancient Scriptures. Always thoughtful, never pretentious, Carter's folksy lessons illustrate how Scripture-inspired love can reach the world beginning right at home. More Than a President: Sundays with Jimmy Carter is destined to become a treasured edition of transformative truths from one of the most beloved human beings in the world. Also included, selected lessons taught at First Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., during President Carter's four years in the Oval Office.

Author, musician, and filmmaker, Andrew Greer produced the documentary, *Plainspoken*, which released on PBS in 2024 and explores race-related issues in the rural Deep South through the lens of Plains, Georgia—the birthplace and home of former President and First Lady of the United States, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. Carrying on his affinity for sharing stories and inspiring meaningful conversation, Greer has authored two books— *Transcending Mysteries: Who is God, and What Does He Want from Us?* (Thomas Nelson) co-authored with Ginny Owens, and *Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth: Spiritual Conversations Inspired by the Life and Lyrics of Rich Mullins* (Worthy Publishing). When not on the road, Greer splits his time between his homes in Columbia, Tennessee, and Plains, Georgia. Learn more about him: <https://www.andrew-greer.com/home> Link to Plainspoken documentary: <https://www.plainspokenfilm.com/>

General Nonfiction



Hankla, Cathryn

***Return to a Certain Region of  
Consciousness: New and  
Selected Poems***

Cathryn Hankla's RETURN TO A CERTAIN REGION OF CONSCIOUSNESS gathers recent poems with those culled from eleven previous volumes to reveal a mature poet and her journey through more than four decades of subjects, places, selves, and the challenging art of poetry. From moon shots to pandemic ambiguities, like a color wheel of approaches to poetry's mystery and meaning, this book's prose poems, strict syllabics, metrics, and nonce forms of the poet's making pull into a coherent whole, unified not by consistency but by the poet's perceptive imagination. A painter who began as a photographer and filmmaker, Hankla is at home in long poems or haiku, employing close observation, associative collaging, and spinning stories into talismans. This collection samples projects such as GALAXIES and LAST EXPOSURES: A SEQUENCE, as well as volumes of prose poems published twenty years apart and the several books between, telescoping backward to Hankla's earliest works, AFTERIMAGES, praised by William Stafford, and PHENOMENA, her prizewinning launch from University of Missouri Press. The poet's preoccupations include travels, history, domestic life, childhood, family tragedy, love relationships, art, and environmental and personal losses, while the complicated cultural backdrop of Appalachia together with its topography, flora, and fauna forms a through line, a fault line, and a heartline. Hankla remains a steadfast witness and guardian of the region that has shaped her. As Henry Taylor wrote, Hankla's poems drift from a recognizable world "through something like a beaded curtain" to evoke "several of the other worlds that are in this one."

Cathryn Hankla is the author of multiple works in several genres and a visual artist who grew up in Southwest Virginia. Recent publications include IMMORTAL STUFF: PROSE POEMS, NOT XANADU: POEMS, and LOST PLACES: ON LOSING AND FINDING HOME. Hollins University professor emerita of English & Creative Writing, Hankla lives in Roanoke, Virginia. Learn more about her at [www.cathrynhankla.com](http://www.cathrynhankla.com).

Poetry



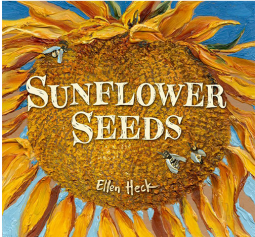
Harrow, Alix

*The Everlasting: A Novel*

From Alix E. Harrow, the New York Times bestselling author of *Starling House*, comes a moving and genre-defying quest about the lady-knight whose legend built a nation, and the cowardly historian sent back through time to make sure she plays her part—even if it breaks his heart. Sir Una Everlasting was Dominion’s greatest hero: the orphaned girl who became a knight, who died for queen and country. Her legend lives on in songs and stories, in children’s books and recruiting posters—but her life as it truly happened has been forgotten. Centuries later, Owen Mallory—failed soldier, struggling scholar—falls in love with the tale of Una Everlasting. Her story takes him to war, to the archives—and then into the past itself. Una and Owen are tangled together in time, bound to retell the same story over and over again, no matter what it costs. But that story always ends the same way. If they want to rewrite Una’s legend—if they want to tell a different story--they’ll have to rewrite history itself.

Alix E. Harrow is the New York Times bestselling author of the Reese Book Club pick *Starling House*, the Hugo Award winning author of *The Ten Thousand Doors of January*, *The Once and Future Witches*, and various short fiction. Her *Fractured Fables* series, beginning with the novella *A Spindle Splintered*, has been praised for its refreshing twist on familiar fairy tales. A former academic and adjunct, Harrow lives in Virginia with her husband and their two semi-feral kids.

Sci Fi/Fantasy



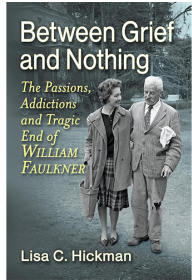
Heck, Ellen

*Sunflower Seeds*

How does an enormous yellow sunflower grow from a tiny striped seed? The kids in Ms. B’s class find out through this exciting spring project. Come see the process from one eager child’s point of view as dusty seeds planted in cups by the windowsill face the challenges of kindergarten, a rainstorm, and deer at dusk. Watch from up close as the seedlings sprout, spiky green buds develop, and flowers bloom. Then, at the end of the summer, find out how many new seeds grew from just one giant sunflower! Let this glowing introduction to the life cycle of a plant—and broadly, to all growth cycles in our lives—inspire you to start a new project with family, friends, or your own classroom.

Ellen Heck is the author/illustrator of *A Is for Bee: An Alphabet Book in Translation*, a Booklist and The New York Times Best of the Year 2022. She is also the illustrator of *Golden Gate: Building the Mighty Bridge*, a Kirkus Best Book of 2024. *Sunflower Seeds* is her third picture book. Her family lives in North Carolina, where they have already planted three more summers of sunflowers from their original seeds—though some years there was more than one for the deer...

Children’s



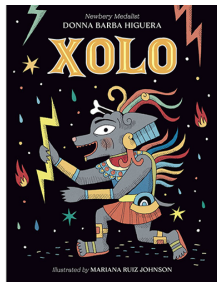
Hickman, Lisa C.

*Between Grief and Nothing: the Passions, Addictions, and Tragic End*

In 1962, William Faulkner left his homestead in Oxford, Mississippi, to travel to the nearby Byhalia sanatorium for alcoholism rehabilitation. Mere hours later, the usual recovery he sought turned tragic. This book traces the sequence of events leading to his initial hospitalization, exploring facets of his emotional instability, mental health, and various addictions. It reveals how Faulkner’s fervent passions shaped both his life and his art; brilliance and madness emerged in equal measure as the author’s substance abuse shaped his reality. Beneath the scholarly facade depicted in photographs was a troubled man entangled in a complex marriage, seeking solace through serial sexual and romantic affairs, perilous pastimes, and the pervasive culture of alcohol abuse. The ultimate truth surrounding Faulkner’s final decline gradually emerges as this book examines previously undisclosed medical details such as patient records, administered medications, and financial statements. Interviews with close associates at the Leonard Wright Sanatorium, the sight of his unexpected death, provide further insights. The text reveals a culture ill-prepared to address mental health crises and identifies the habitual forces that hastened the demise of one of America’s most celebrated authors.

Lisa C. Hickman holds her Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi and is the author of nonfiction books, numerous articles, essays, and book reviews. She has published extensively on the life and work of William Faulkner and Joan Williams.

General Nonfiction



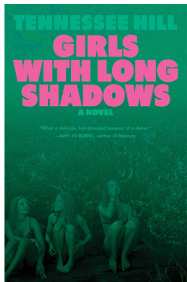
Higuera, Donna Barba

*Xolo*

It is said the mighty feathered serpent god, Quetzalcoatl, helped create the earth. He is the hero who stole back the bones of humanity from the evil god of the Underworld. In his quest to bring humans to the earth, Quetzalcoatl's dog-headed twin brother, Xolotl, was present. Not much is known of Xolotl, the god of lightning, death, and misfortune. A monster. This is what really happened. From Newbery Medalist Donna Barba Higuera and illustrator Mariana Ruiz Johnson comes a singular reimagining of the Aztec myth of the origin of man—and man's best friend—that is nothing short of a modern masterpiece.

Donna Barba Higuera grew up in Central California and now lives in the Pacific Northwest. She has spent her entire life blending folklore with her experiences into stories that fill her imagination. Now she weaves them to write picture books and novels. Donna's first book, *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*, won a Sid Fleischman Award for Humor and a Pura Belpré Honor. Her second novel, *The Last Cuentista*, received the John Newbery Medal and the Pura Belpré Award. It was named one of the Best Books of the Year by the Boston Globe, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Wall Street Journal, and TIME.

Middle Grade



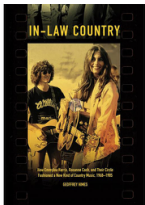
Hill, Tennessee

*Girls with Long Shadows*

With the haunting, romantic voyeurism of *The Virgin Suicides* and the atmosphere and emotional intensity of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, an intoxicating Southern Gothic debut novel about identical triplets whose lives are devastated when their burgeoning desires turn deadly. Identical triplets Baby A, Baby B, and Baby C Binderup were welcomed into the world as their mother was ushered out of it, leaving them nameless and in the care of their Gram, Isadora. Nineteen years later, the triplets work at their Gram's crumbling golf course in Longshadow, Texas, where the ever-watchful eyes of the town observe them serving up glasses of ice-cold lemonade to golfers, swimming in the murky waters of the neighboring bayou, or slipping t-shirts off their sunburnt shoulders in hopes of attracting the kind of attention they are only beginning to understand. Cautious Baby B watches as lustful Baby A and introverted Baby C find matches among the town boys. Even Baby B has noticed that the town's golden boy seems to be intrigued by her, only her. Just as each girl's desire to be seen for herself is becoming fulfilled, a seemingly trivial kiss is bestowed on the wrong sister, leading to a moment of unspeakable violence that will upend the triplets' world forever. Pulsating with menace and narrated with hypnotic lyricism, *Girls with Long Shadows* is an electrifying literary thriller that captures how female teenage angst can turn lethal when insecurities are weaponized and sibling bonds are severed. Tense, lush, and painfully beautiful, it forces us to consider the lengths to which we will go to claim our own personhood.

Tennessee Hill holds an MFA from North Carolina State University. Her work has been featured in *Poetry* magazine, *Best New Poets*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Adroit Journal*, *Arkansas International*, and elsewhere. She is a native of South Texas, where she still lives and teaches with her husband and their dog.

Mystery/Thriller



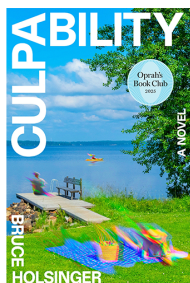
Himes, Geoffrey

*In-Law Country: How Emmylou Harris, Rosanne Cash, and Their Circle Fashioned a New Kind of Country Music, 1968-1985*

Geoffrey Himes explores a previously unnamed movement that helped shape modern country music: In-Law Country. It was a movement of outsiders who would become insiders. Weaving together biography and musical analysis, Himes shows how Emmylou Harris, Rosanne Cash, Rodney Crowell, Ricky Skaggs, Guy Clark, and others changed the sounds and stories of country music forever.

Geoffrey Himes has won numerous awards for writing about music in the *Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, *New York Times*, *No Depression*, *Downbeat*, *Paste*, and many other publications since 1975. His book on Bruce Springsteen, *Born in the U.S.A.*, was published in 2005. He has written liner notes for albums by Rosanne Cash, Merle Haggard, Marty Stuart, and more.

Music



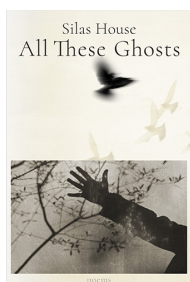
Holsinger, Bruce

***Culpability: A Novel***

A suspenseful family drama about moral responsibility in the age of artificial intelligence. When the Cassidy-Shaws' autonomous minivan collides with an oncoming car, seventeen-year-old Charlie is in the driver's seat, with his father, Noah, riding shotgun. In the back seat, tweens Alice and Izzy are on their phones, while their mother, Lorelei, a world leader in the field of artificial intelligence, is absorbed in her work. Yet each family member harbors a secret, implicating them all in the tragic accident. During a weeklong recuperation on the Chesapeake Bay, the family confronts the excruciating moral dilemmas triggered by the crash. Noah tries to hold the family together as a seemingly routine police investigation jeopardizes Charlie's future. Alice and Izzy turn strangely furtive. And Lorelei's odd behavior tugs at Noah's suspicions that there is a darker truth behind the incident—suspicions heightened by the sudden intrusion of Daniel Monet, a tech mogul whose mysterious history with Lorelei hints at betrayal. When Charlie falls for Monet's teenaged daughter, the stakes are raised even higher in this propulsive family drama that is also a fascinating exploration of the moral responsibility and ethical consequences of AI. Culpability explores a world newly shaped by chatbots, autonomous cars, drones, and other nonhuman forces in ways that are thrilling, challenging, and unimaginably provocative.

Bruce Holsinger is the author of four novels, including *The Displacements* and *The Gifted School*, and many works of nonfiction, most recently *On Parchment: Animals, Archives, and the Making of Culture from Herodotus to the Digital Age* (Yale University Press). His books have been recognized with the Colorado Book Award, the John Hurt Fisher Prize, the Philip Brett Award, the John Nicholas Brown Prize, the Modern Language Association's Prize for a First Book, and others. His essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, and many other publications, and he has been profiled on NPR's *Weekend Edition*, *Here & Now*, and *Marketplace*. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. Holsinger teaches in the department of English at the University of Virginia, where he specializes in medieval literature and modern critical thought and serves as editor of the quarterly journal *New Literary History*. He also teaches craft classes and serves as board chairman for *WriterHouse*, a local nonprofit in Charlottesville.

**Fiction**



House, Silas

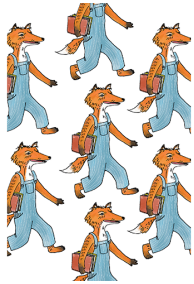
***All These Ghosts: Poems***

A timely and whole-hearted poetry collection by acclaimed author and former Poet Laureate of Kentucky Silas House, including the poem read at Governor Andy Beshear's 2023 inauguration and an interview by Barbara Kingsolver. Silas House is known throughout the South as a quintessential person of letters—a novelist, music journalist, environmental activist, and columnist—and now Poet Laureate of Kentucky. His first full-length collection of poetry blends his Appalachian upbringing with his ongoing relation to the natural world. Poems of praise for community and the collective appear alongside others tinged with nostalgia and grief when House keenly observes the loss of rural America as he once knew it. Returning to his touchstone subjects, Silas recalls wild places, echoes stories from a lingering and living past, and explores an abiding connection to family, friends, and fellow artists.

Silas House is the New York Times bestselling author of eight novels: *Clay's Quilt*, *A Parchment of Leaves*, *The Coal Tattoo*, *Eli the Good*, *Same Sun Here*, *Southernmost*, and *Lark Ascending*. He is a recipient of the 2023 Southern Book Prize, the 2023 Booklist Editors' Choice, two Nautilus Book Awards, the Duggins Prize (the largest award for LGBTQ writers in the nation), and many other honors, including being longlisted for the 2019 Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. In 2023 he became Poet Laureate of Kentucky and was a Grammy finalist for writing and producing the first country music video to feature a gay love story. In 2022 he served as a fiction judge for the National Book Awards. His writing has appeared recently in *Time*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Bitter Southerner*, *Garden and Gun*, and many other leading publications. He is based in Berea, KY.

**Poetry**





Huckeba, Stacie

***Madison: Portraits of Our Neighbors***

Internationally recognized photographer Stacie Huckeba and Madison, Tennessee, community volunteer Laura Amaral have partnered to create a photographic art book and living historical document, *Madison: Portraits of Our Neighbors*. This is a "time capsule" of art as well as a historical document that captures the heart of the people who contribute to the Madison community as it is today, home to a world-class bass player, a nonagenarian cattle farmer, a TikTok celebrity, a singer/songwriter, a mariachi band, the personal photographer for Johnny Cash, a beloved gymnastics coach, model airplane enthusiasts, educators, a fashion designer, a puppet enthusiast, a pastor and outreach worker, an array of artists, small business owners, farmers, and local legends. Beyond a collection of portraits, it's a testament to an enduring urban community, a celebration of the shared human experience, and an opportunity to see our neighbors in their best light. *Madison: Portraits of Our Neighbors* invites readers to celebrate the tapestry of humanity that weaves through our unique neighborhood.

Stacie Huckeba is an award-winning, internationally recognized photographer, writer, public speaker and filmmaker. She most recently served as the Director of Photography for Dolly Parton's bestseller *Behind The Seams: My Life in Rhinestones*. Her pictures have graced the cover of *Marie Claire*, as well as the pages of *Rolling Stone*, *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and others.

General Nonfiction



Huffman, Eddie

***Doc Watson: A Life in Music***

Arthel "Doc" Watson (1923–2012) is arguably one of the most influential musicians Appalachia has ever produced. A musician's musician, Doc grew up on a subsistence farm in the North Carolina mountains during the Depression, soaking up traditional music and learning to play guitar even though he was blind. Rising to fame in the 1960s as part of the burgeoning folk revival scene, Doc became the face of traditional music for many listeners, racking up multiple Grammys and releasing dozens of albums over the course of his long career. Eddie Huffman tells the story of Doc's life and legacy, drawing on extensive interviews and hundreds of hours of archival research. In making the most comprehensive biography of Watson ever, Huffman gives us an affecting and informative portrait of the man they called Doc. Full of fascinating stories—from Doc's first banjo made from his grandmother's cat to the founding of MerleFest—this promises to be the definitive biography of the man and how he came to be synonymous with roots music in America and shows how his influence is still felt in music today.

Music



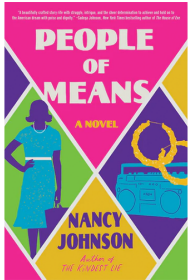
Inman, Robert

***Villages: A Novel***

21-year-old Jonas Boulware has come home to Copernicus, his small southern town, after serving as a medic in the Middle East, where he was severely wounded performing a heroic act. As his body heals, he keeps memories of the trauma at bay. He doesn't remember and doesn't intend to. He is home, trying to figure out who he has become and how he can deal with it. But trauma assails him in Copernicus, too: an abusive father and a mother who bears the burden of a long-ago family scandal. He renews friendships - a high school classmate, a physician/mentor, and the Black owner of a golf course. An instinctual caregiver, Jonas takes in (and falls in love with) a down-on-her-luck young folksinger, he tries to rescue a teenaged boy from his squalid, dangerous home life. But bits and pieces of his wartime trauma intrude in nightmares and flashbacks, until he admits that he suffers from PTSD and must come to grips with it to survive. With help from friends and an unorthodox counselor, he takes steps toward facing his past and moving into his profoundly altered present and future. In doing so, Jonas uncovers secrets from his past that cast new and hopeful light on his new normal.

Robert Inman is a native of Elba, Alabama and a graduate of The University of Alabama with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing. He left a 30-year career in television news in 1996 to devote full time to his writing career. In addition to his work as a novelist, he is the author of six motion pictures for television and eight published stage plays, including two musicals. Two of his motion pictures have been "Hallmark Hall of Fame" presentations. Inman and his wife Paulette live in Franklin, TN. They have two daughters, Larkin Ferris of Wilmington, NC and Lee Farabaugh of Franklin.

Fiction



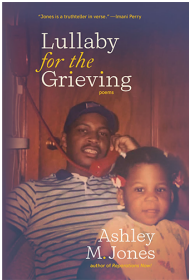
Johnson, Nancy

*People of Means: A Novel*

Two women. Two pivotal moments. One dream for justice and equality. In the fall of 1959, Freda Gilroy arrives on the campus of Fisk University full of hope, carrying a suitcase and the voice of her father telling her she's part of a family legacy of greatness. Soon, the ugliness of the Jim Crow South intrudes, and she's thrust into a movement for social change. Freda is reluctant to get involved, torn between a soon-to-be doctor her parents approve of and an audacious young man willing to risk it all in the name of justice. Freda finds herself caught between two worlds, and two loves, and must decide how much she's willing to sacrifice for the advancement of her people. In 1992 Chicago, Freda's daughter Tulip is an ambitious PR professional on track for an exciting career, if workplace politics and racial microaggressions don't get in her way. But with the ruling in the Rodney King trial weighing heavily on her, Tulip feels called to action. When she makes an irreversible professional misstep as she seeks to uplift her community, she must decide, just like her mother had three decades prior, what she's willing to risk in the name of justice and equality. Insightful, evocative, and richly imagined with stories of hidden history, *People of Means* is an emotional tour de force that offers a glimpse into the quest for racial equality, the pursuit of personal and communal success, and the power of love and family ties.

A native of Chicago's South Side, Nancy Johnson worked for more than a decade as an Emmy-nominated, award-winning television journalist at CBS and ABC affiliates nationwide. A graduate of Northwestern University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she lives in downtown Chicago and manages brand communications for a large nonprofit. Her first book, *The Kindest Lie*, was a Book of the Month Club selection and a Target Book Club pick.

Historical Fiction



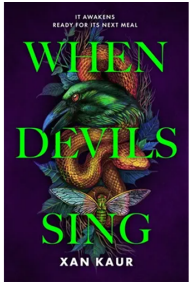
Jones, Ashley M.

*Lullaby for the Grieving: Poems*

In her fourth poetry collection, Jones studies the multifaceted nature of grief: the personal grief of losing her father, and the political grief tied to Black Southern identity. How does one find a path through the deep sorrow of losing a parent? What wonders of Blackness have to be suppressed to make way for "progress"? Journeying through landscapes of Alabama, the Middle Passage and Underground Railroad, interior spaces of loss and love, and her father's garden, Jones constructs both an elegy for her father and a celebration of the sacred exuberance and audacity of life. Featuring poems from her tenure as Alabama's first Black and youngest Poet Laureate, *Lullaby for the Grieving* finds calm in unimaginable storms and attempts to listen for the sounds of healing.

Ashley M. Jones is the Poet Laureate of Alabama (2022-2026). She is the first person of color and the youngest person to hold this position in its 93 year existence. She holds an MFA in Poetry from Florida International University, and she is the author of *Magic City Gospel*, *dark // thing*, and *REPARATIONS NOW!*, which was longlisted for the 2022 PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry. Jones is the founding director of the Magic City Poetry Festival. She is the Associate Director of the University Honors Program at UAB, and she is part of the Core Faculty of the Converse University Low Residency MFA Program. In 2022, she received a Poet Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets.

Poetry



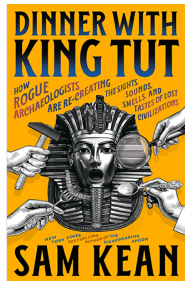
Kaur, Xan

*When Devils Sing: A Novel*

"A true blood-soaked Southern Gothic for the modern age." —Andrew Joseph White, New York Times–bestselling author of *Hell Followed With Us* and *The Spirit Bears its Teeth* Four unlikely allies in a small town investigate a local teen's disappearance, and what they discover festering at the core of their community is far more sinister and ancient than they could've ever imagined. For fans of *She is a Haunting*, *True Detective*, Mexican Gothic, and *Midsommar*. When Dawson Sumter goes missing, all he leaves behind is a smattering of blood in room 4 of the debt-ridden motel owned by Neera Singh's family. Disappearances like this aren't uncommon in the rural Georgia town of Carrion, especially every thirteen years when a periodical cicada brood returns from underground, shrieking their deafening screams. For Neera, Dawson is another reminder that in this corner of the South, the rich only get richer, and the poor—well, nothing good comes their way. Neera sets out to investigate Dawson's whereabouts—if he even still lives—along with three other teens: Isaiah, son of a prominent judge and clandestine true crime podcaster; Reid, son of the wealthiest man in the region; and Sam, estranged daughter of the local hitman. As they find themselves entangled in a messy web of secrets and lies, they discover the riches of the adjacent Lake Clearwater community may have a terrifying source of power dating back to the town's founding and an ancient urban legend about three devils, each more sinister than the next. How deep does the rot go, and can they find a way to escape its reach?

Xan Kaur grew up in rural Georgia, where there were more gnats than people. When not writing, you can find her behind a camera or swimming in the nearest ocean. *When Devils Sing* is her debut novel.

Horror



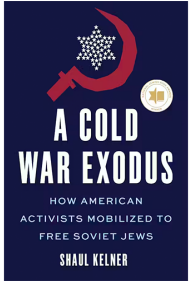
Kean, Sam

*Dinner with King Tut How Rogue Archaeologists Are Recreating the Sights, Sounds*

From “one of America’s smartest and most charming writers” (NPR), an archaeological romp through the entire history of humankind—and through all five senses—from tropical Polynesian islands to forbidding arctic ice floes, and everywhere in between. Whether it’s the mighty pyramids of Egypt or the majestic temples of Mexico, we have a good idea of what the past looked like. But what about our other senses: The tang of Roman fish sauce and the springy crust of Egyptian sourdough? The boom of medieval cannons and the clash of Viking swords? The frenzied plays of an Aztec ballgame...and the chilling reality that the losers might also lose their lives?

Sam Kean is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Bastard Brigade*, *Caesar’s Last Breath* (the Guardian’s Science Book of the Year), *The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons*, *The Violinist’s Thumb*, and *The Disappearing Spoon*. He is also a two-time finalist for the PEN / E. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. His work has appeared in *The Best American Science and Nature Writing*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and the *New York Times Magazine*, among other publications, and he has been featured on NPR’s *Radiolab*, *All Things Considered*, *Science Friday*, and *Fresh Air*. His podcast, *The Disappearing Spoon*, debuted at #1 on the iTunes science charts. Kean lives in Washington, DC.

History



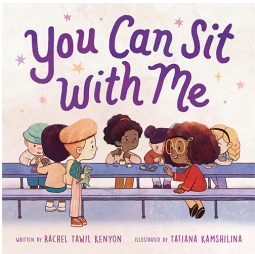
Kelner, Shaul

***A Cold War Exodus: How American Activists Mobilized to Free Soviet Jews***

Reveals the mass mobilization tactics that helped free Soviet Jews and reshaped the Jewish American experience from the Johnson era through the Reagan–Bush years What do these things have in common? Ingrid Bergman, Passover matzoh, Banana Republic®, the fitness craze, the Philadelphia Flyers, B-grade spy movies, and ten thousand Bar and Bat Mitzvah sermons? Nothing, except that social movement activists enlisted them all into the most effective human rights campaign of the Cold War. The plight of Jews in the USSR was marked by systemic antisemitism, a problem largely ignored by Western policymakers trying to improve relations with the Soviets. In the face of governmental apathy, activists in the United States hatched a bold plan: unite Jewish Americans to demand that Washington exert pressure on Moscow for change. A Cold War Exodus delves into the gripping narrative of how these men and women, through ingenuity and determination, devised mass mobilization tactics during a three-decade-long campaign to liberate Soviet Jews—an endeavor that would ultimately lead to one of the most significant mass emigrations in Jewish history. Drawing from a wealth of archival sources including the travelogues of thousands of American tourists who smuggled aid to Russian Jews, Shaul Kelner offers a compelling tale of activism and its profound impact, revealing how a seemingly disparate array of elements could be woven together to forge a movement and achieve the seemingly impossible. It is a testament to the power of unity, creativity, and the unwavering dedication of those who believe in the cause of human rights.

Shaul Kelner is Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Sociology, Vanderbilt University. He is the author of A Cold War Exodus and Tours That Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage, and Israeli Birthright Tourism (winner of the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in the category of Social Science, Anthropology, and Folklore.)

History



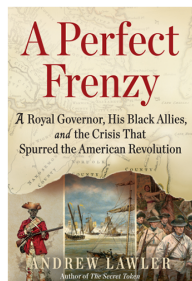
Kenyon, Rachel

***You Can Sit With Me***

If you're worried because you're new and you're not sure what to do, you can sit with me. The simple yet profound gesture of offering someone a place to sit, just as they are, is precisely what some kids need to feel welcomed into a new or overwhelming space. Whether you're at a reading circle, a craft table, or a picnic blanket, it's always time to demonstrate kindness. Filled with endearing characters created by Tatiana Kamshilina, You Can Sit with Me shows the power of one simple offer to not only make one person's day better but lead our whole world toward inclusion and love.

Rachel Tawil Kenyon was born in Brooklyn, New York, and spent her teen years in Hollywood, California. Bringing her diverse experiences with her, she moved with her family to Nashville, Tennessee, where she writes, reads, rows and hikes. Rachel is known in her community for her enthusiasm for working with young children and teenagers. She writes from the heart and encourages the kids she works with to change the world with their words.

Children's



Lawler, Andrew

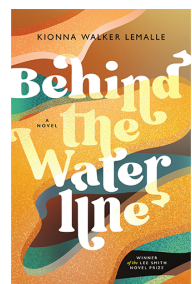
***A Perfect Frenzy, A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis that***

from the nationally bestselling author of *The Secret Token*, the largely untold story of rebellion in Virginia that will forever change our understanding of the American Revolution As the American Revolution broke out in New England in the spring of 1775, dramatic events unfolded in Virginia that proved every bit as decisive as the battles of Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill in uniting the colonies against Britain. Virginia, the largest, wealthiest, and most populous province in British North America, was led by Lord Dunmore, who counted George Washington as his close friend. But the Scottish earl lacked troops, so when patriots imperiled the capital of Williamsburg, he threatened to free and arm enslaved Africans—two of every five Virginians—to fight for the Crown. Virginia's tobacco elite was reluctant to go to war with Britain but outraged at this threat to their human property. Dunmore fled the capital to build a stronghold in the colony's largest city, the port of Norfolk. As enslaved people flocked to his camp, skirmishes broke out. "Lord Dunmore has commenced hostilities in Virginia," wrote Thomas Jefferson. "It has raised our countrymen into a perfect frenzy." With a patriot army marching on Norfolk, the royal governor freed those enslaved and sent them into battle against their former owners. In retribution, and with Jefferson's encouragement, furious rebels burned Norfolk to the ground on January 1, 1776, blaming the crime on Dunmore. The port's destruction and Dunmore's emancipation prompted Virginia's patriot leaders to urge the Continental Congress to split from Britain, breaking the deadlock among the colonies and leading to adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Days later, Dunmore and his Black allies withdrew from Virginia, but the legacy of their fight would lead, ultimately, to Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. *Chronicling these stunning and widely overlooked events in full for the first time*

Behind the Waterline takes readers to the home of a teenager and his grandmother in a New Orleans neighborhood on the eve of Katrina, where there are few resources and little warning of what is about to happen, in this novel that mixes magical realism with reality. When Hurricane Katrina approaches New Orleans, teenaged Eric and his grandmother and many of their neighbors decide to ride out the storm. Kionna Walker LeMalle's masterful debut novel brings her readers, like the rising water, onto Eric's street in the Third Ward, where stranded dogs bark for a time, where neighbors are floating on doors, and where Eric and his grandmother must take refuge in his second floor bedroom. After days of heat, dwindling supplies, and relentless rising water, neighbors begin to disappear and Eric's grandmother, already known as an eccentric, begins to falter. It is then that Eric—in a dream, a hallucination, or something else—discovers a room beyond his closet wall, a place he has never seen. What he discovers inside will send him on a path to discover secrets to survival, bitter progress, and, ultimately, the history of his own people—those he sorely misses and those he never even knew.

Andrew Lawler is author of three books, *Under Jerusalem: The Buried History of the World's Most Contested City*, published in November 2021; *The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke*, a national bestseller, and the widely acclaimed *Why Did the Chicken Cross the World?: The Epic Saga of the Bird that Powers Civilization*. A long-time journalist, he has covered the impact of war on the ancient heritage of Iraq and Afghanistan, the battle over Confederate statues, and archaeological discoveries on six continents. A contributing writer for *Science* and *Archaeology* magazines, his byline has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and many others, and his work has been featured several times in *The Best of Science and Nature Writing*. For more, see [www.andrewlawler.com](http://www.andrewlawler.com).

History



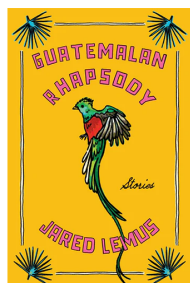
LeMalle, Kionna

***Behind the Waterline: A Novel***

Kionna Walker LeMalle is an executive writer for the University of Houston-Downtown and has taught writers at Houston's Writers in the Schools and Houston Christian University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Xavier University of Louisiana, a Master of Education degree from the University of New Orleans, and her MFA from Houston Christian University. She was born and raised in New Orleans, LA, and lives in Houston, TX, with her family. *Behind the Waterline* is her debut novel.

Fiction





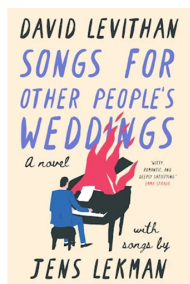
Lemus, Jared

***Guatemalan Rhapsody: Stories***

A vibrant debut story collection—poignant, unflinching, and immersive—masterfully moving between sharp wit and profound tenderness, *Guatemalan Rhapsody* offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of an ever-changing country, the people who claim it as home, and those who no longer do. Ranging from a custodian at an underfunded college to a medicine man living in a temple dedicated to San Simon, the patron saint of alcohol and cigarettes, the characters in these stories find themselves at defining moments in their lives, where sacrifices may be required of them, by them, or for them. In “Saint Dismas,” four orphaned brothers pose as part of a construction crew, stopping cars along the highway and robbing anyone foolish enough to hit the brakes. In “Heart Sleeves,” two wannabe tattoo artists take part in a contest, where one of them hopes to win not only first place but also the heart of his best friend’s girlfriend. And, in “Fight Sounds,” a character who fancies himself a Don Juan is swept up in the commotion of an American film crew shooting a movie in his tiny town, until the economic and sexual politics of the place are turned on their head. Across this collection, Lemus’s characters test their loyalty to family, community, and country, illuminating the ties that both connect us and constrain us. *Guatemalan Rhapsody* explores how we journey from the circumstances that we are forged by, and whether the ability to change our fortunes lies in our own hands or in those of another. Revealing the places where beauty, desperation, love, violence, and hope exist simultaneously, Jared Lemus’s debut establishes him as a major new voice in the form.

Jared Lemus is a writer of short fiction whose stories have appeared in or are forthcoming in *The Atlantic*, *Story*, *The Kenyon Review*, among other places. A Latine writer, Lemus has been a Tin House Scholar and Colgate Writers’ Conference fellow. He holds an MFA from the University of Pittsburgh and is Visiting Writer at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Short Stories**



Levithan, David

***Songs for Other People's Weddings***

From award-winning, bestselling author David Levithan and beloved, acclaimed singer-songwriter Jens Lekman comes a charming, tender novel about an unlucky-in-love wedding singer trying to find the right words to save his relationship. J is an accidental wedding singer. Unlike most wedding singers, he writes an original song for every couple—his way of finding out about the small, strange things that brought them together and the hopeful, vulnerable feelings they’re experiencing. J’s own love life is in a state of flux. His girlfriend is off to New York for work, and as her life grows bigger and busier without him in it, he finds it harder to stick to a happy tune. He doesn’t know whether to encourage the soon-to-be-wed couples or warn them. When complications hit and love is tested, is there any way to sing through all the noise? Combining David Levithan’s deeply observant storytelling and Jens Lekman’s inventive and touching original songs, *Songs for Other People’s Weddings* is a tender, honest novel that tracks love through all its chord changes, never forgetting that the best songs contain the bitter and the sweet, the despair of losing it all and the euphoria of being found.

David Levithan is the author of numerous acclaimed novels, including *The Lover’s Dictionary*, *Every Day*, *Boy Meets Boy*, and *Two Boys Kissing*. His other collaborations include *Nick & Norah’s Infinite Playlist* with Rachel Cohn and Will Grayson, *Will Grayson* with John Green. He can often be found with headphones on, a devoted music listener . . . but it’s safe to say that nobody will ever ask him to sing at a wedding.

**Romance**



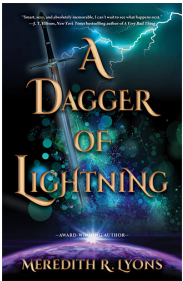
Loving, Denton

*Feller: Poems*

Using the natural world as both mirror and lens, the poems in Denton Loving's third full-length collection of poetry explore themes of connection, longing, and the pursuit of a fully-lived life. They celebrate "the light that enters the woods and cleanses the wound." They seek the sacred order in everything—from the phases of the moon down to the delicate colors of a moth's wings. And yet, they are not cloistered away from the human struggle—whether with nature, with each other, or with the self. Feller envisions our environment and landscape, not as mere backdrop or ornament, but as revelatory forces illuminating the hidden chambers of the self. At once deeply rooted in his Appalachian soil and universally resonant, Feller confirms Loving's position among those rare poets who transmute a sense of place into profound human truth.

Denton Loving lives on a farm near the historic Cumberland Gap, where Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia come together. He is the author of the poetry collections, *Crimes Against Birds* (Main Street Rag), and *Tamp*, (Mercer University Press) which received the 2024 Tennessee Book Award in Poetry and was a finalist for the Weatherford Award in Poetry. He is also the editor of *Seeking Its Own Level*: an anthology of writings about water (MotesBooks). For over a decade, he co-directed the Mountain Heritage Literary Festival at Lincoln Memorial University where he also co-edited *drafhorse*: the literary journal of work and no work. He has received scholarships and fellowships from organizations such as the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, the Eckerd College Writers Conference, and the Key West Literary Seminars. He earned an MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College. He is a co-founder and an editor at EastOver Press and its literary journal *Cutleaf*. His fiction, poetry, essays, reviews, and interviews have appeared in numerous publications including *River Styx*, *CutBank*, *Iron Horse Literary Review* and *The Chattahoochee Review*. [Learn more about him at](#)

Poetry



Lyons, Meredith

*A Dagger of Lightning: A Novel*

Let's get one thing straight: I am not your chosen one. Forty-five-year-old Imogen has always struggled to fit in, never finding her passion in life. And while that may include having cold feet in her impending nuptials, that doesn't mean she's ready to ditch planet Earth—and her entire life—completely. When Imogen is kidnapped by an alien prince in disguise, there's nothing she can do to stop him. He's sidhe—a being with powerful abilities—and he's grown up used to getting what he wants. The prince is convinced Imogen will fall in love with him, and that her new powers, once she's turned sidhe, will help his country win a centuries-old feud. With the help of the prince's much more tolerable brother, Imogen starts to get her feet back under her, but even he can't protect her from those who would use her for her powers. If Imogen can't find a way to fight for herself, she'll become a pawn in a world that has already decided what she's going to be. For readers who enjoy *From Blood and Ash* by Jennifer L. Armentrout, *Faebound* by Saara El-Arifi, and the *Crescent City* series by Sarah J. Maas.

Meredith grew up in New Orleans, collecting two degrees from Louisiana State University before running away to Chicago to be an actor. In between plays, she got her black belt and made martial arts and yoga her full-time day job. She fought in the Chicago Golden Gloves, ran the Chicago Marathon, and competed for team USA in the Savate World Championships in Paris. In spite of doing each of these things twice, she couldn't stay warm and relocated to Nashville. She owns several swords, but lives a non-violent life, saving all swashbuckling for the page, knitting scarves, gardening, visiting coffee shops, and cuddling with her husband and two panther-sized cats. She's a member of International Thriller Writers and Sisters in Crime. *A Dagger of Lightning* is her second novel. Her debut, *Ghost Tamer*, a paranormal suspense, was published in 2023.

Sci Fi/Fantasy



Macy, Beth

***Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America***

from one of our most acclaimed chroniclers of the forces eroding America's social fabric, her most personal and powerful work: a reckoning with the changes that have rocked her own beloved small Ohio hometown Urbana, Ohio, was not a utopia when Beth Macy grew up there in the '70s and '80s, certainly not for her family. Her dad was known as the town drunk, which hurt, as did their poverty. But Urbana had a healthy economy and thriving schools, and Macy had middle-class schoolmates whose families became her role models. Though she left for college on a Pell Grant and then a faraway career in journalism, she still clung gratefully to the place that helped raise her. But as Macy's mother's health declined in 2020, she couldn't shake the feeling that her town had dramatically hardened. Macy had grown up as the paper girl, delivering the local newspaper, which was the community's civic glue. Now she found scant local news and precious little civic glue. Yes, much of the work that once supported the middle class had gone away, but that didn't begin to cover the forces turning Urbana into a poorer and angrier place. Absenteeism soared in the schools and in the workplace as a mental health crisis gripped the small city. Some of her old friends now embraced conspiracies. In nearby Springfield, Macy watched as her ex-boyfriend—once the most liberal person she knew—became a lead voice of opposition against the Haitian immigrants, parroting false talking points throughout the 2024 presidential campaign. This was not an assignment Beth Macy had ever imagined taking on, but after her mother's death, she decided to figure out what happened to Urbana in the forty years since she'd left. The result is an astonishing book that, by taking us into the heart of one place, brings into focus our most urgent set of national issues. Paper Girl is a gift of courage, empathy, and insight. Beth Macy has turned to face the darkness in her family and community.

Beth Macy has won more than two dozen national journalism awards, including a Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard University, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Dopesick, which was made into a Peabody Award-winning series for Hulu. Three of her books have been New York Times bestsellers. She lives in Roanoke, Virginia.

**Autobiography/Memoir**

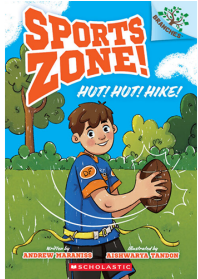


Madden-Lunsford, Kerry

***Werewolf Hamlet***

Kerry Madden has written plays, journalism (Los Angeles Times, Salon, Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Art, and Sierra Club Magazine), and six books including Offsides, a New York Library Pick for 1997, and Writing Smarts, a guide to creative writing published by American Girl. In 2005 she turned her hand to children's literature with Gentle's Holler, the first installment in what became the award-winning Maggie Valley Trilogy, Viking Children's Books. It earned starred reviews in both Kirkus and Publisher's Weekly, was named a "Pick" by both the New York and the Chicago Public Libraries, and was the featured children's book of North Carolina at the National Book Festival. The next book in the trilogy, Louisiana's Song (2007) was equally well received, being named a Bank Street College Book of the Year and a finalist for several other awards. The third installment, Jessie's Mountain, was published in 2008 to strong reviews. Most recently Madden published UpClose Harper Lee as part of Viking's UpClose Series and received a starred Kirkus for this biography. She has taught at the University of Tennessee, Ningbo University in China, UCLA, and elsewhere, and has visited schools across the

**Middle Grade**



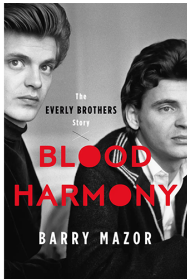
Maraniss, Andrew

***Hut! Hut! Hike! A Branches Book***

Best friends Jasper, Mo, and Ruby try out for the flag football team and learn what it means to be a part of a team in the first installment of this action-packed, fully illustrated early chapter book series! Pick a book. Grow a Reader! This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line, Branches, aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina. Branches books help readers grow! Nine-year-old Jasper is the best football player ever... when he's playing in his living room with his dad. But when he tries out for his town's flag football team, along with his friends Mo and Ruby, he realizes he might not be as skilled as he thought he was. Will Jasper help lead his team to victory in their first game? Or will Coach Sanders keep him on the sideline? Engaging black-and-white artwork appears on every page, and game-time scenes are told through fully-illustrated, graphic novel-style panels. Nonfiction sidebars are also scattered throughout, introducing young readers to sports legends and other fun facts. Kids will learn all about flag football as they read this book, and they won't be able to put it down because of its action-packed, relatable story!

Andrew Maraniss is a New York Times bestselling author of sports nonfiction for teens and adults. The Scholastic Branches series Sports Zone!, illustrated by Aishwarya Tandon, is his first fiction early chapter book series. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife and two young children.

Children's



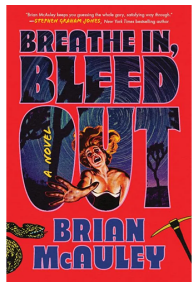
Mazor, Barry

***Blood Harmony: The Everly Brothers Story***

In between the Elvis years and the rise of the Beatles, there was no bigger act than The Everly Brothers. From 1957-1962, they were among the highest selling pop acts in the U.S. In that time, they developed their own brand of rock 'n' roll and gentle pop balladry that leaned heavily on older, close harmony styles of country music singing. "Wake Up, Little Susie," "All I Have to Do Is Dream," "Cathy's Clown," "Let it Be Me," — their hits were legion and their sweet and sour Appalachian-style harmonies influenced everyone from The Beatles to Simon and Garfunkel to the Beach Boys to Crosby, Stills, and Nash. The Everly Brothers—Don and Phil—are inducted members of both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Country Music Hall of Fame, and progenitors of the hybrid Americana roots music format. Blood Harmony: The Everly Brothers Story is the first biography that's focused on the dramatic, complicated relationship of these two famous and strikingly talented brothers, and explores how the evolution of their relationship played out in the much-loved music they created—through some sixty years of performing. Their story is the story of American music, from their rural Kentucky origins to massive international fame, falling out of fashion in the wake of the rise of rock bands and singer-songwriters, and their many comebacks. Blood Harmony is a fitting ode to the brothers who made a huge impact on the modern music scene, celebrating how their creative "blood harmony" evolved to become an entry point into country music for millions around the world.

Barry Mazor is a long-time music and media journalist, and the author of several books, including Ralph Peer and the Making of Popular Roots Music and Meeting Jimmie Rodgers: How America's Original Roots Music Hero Changed the Pop Sounds of a Century. He has also contributed to the volumes Oxford Handbook of Country Music, The Best of No Depression (2005), the Encyclopedia Britannica, The Grove Dictionary of American Music, The Encyclopedia of Country Music, and the Routledge Encyclopedia of the Blues. Mazor has been writing regularly on roots and country music for The Wall Street Journal since 2003, and was previously a senior editor and columnist for the "alternative country" music bible, No Depression magazine. His artist profiles, interviews, essays and music reviews have also appeared in The Oxford American, The Washington Post, the Village Voice, The New Republic, The Nashville Scene, American Songwriter, The Journal of Country Music, Fretboard, and Crawdaddy, among other publications. Mazor was the 2008 winner of The Charlie Lamb Award for Excellence in Country Music Journalism. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Music



McAuley, Brian

*Breathe In, Bleed Out: A Novel*

It's a Midsommar night's Scream in this blood-soaked thriller set at a remote healing retreat from horror author Brian McAuley. Hannah has been running from her demons ever since she emerged from a harrowing wilderness trip without her fiancé. No one knows exactly what happened the day Ben died, and Hannah would like to keep it that way... even if his ghost still haunts her with vivid waking nightmares that are ruining her life. So when her friend group gets an exclusive invitation to a restorative spiritual retreat in Joshua Tree, Hannah reluctantly agrees in search of a fresh start. Despite her skepticism of the strange Guru Pax and his belief in the supernatural world, Hannah soon finds healing through all the yoga, sound baths, and hot springs offered at the tech-free haven. But this peaceful journey of self-discovery quickly descends into a violent fight for self-preservation when a mysterious killer starts picking off retreat attendees in increasingly gruesome ways. As the body count rises and Hannah's sanity frays, she'll have to confront her dark past and uncover the true nature of a ruthless monster hellbent on killing her vibe for good.

Brian McAuley's debut novel *Curse of the Reaper* was named one of the Best Horror Books of 2022 by *Esquire*. His holiday slasher novella *Candy Cain Kills* earned praise from *Kirkus Reviews* for its "sublimely drawn characters," some of whom survived for the sequel, *Candy Cain Kills Again: The Second Slaying*. His next novel *Breathe In, Bleed Out* releases September 2nd, 2025 from Poisoned Pen Press. As a WGA screenwriter, Brian has written everything from family sitcoms (Fuller House) to horror films (Dismissed). He teaches as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Screenwriting at ASU's Sidney Poitier New American Film School. Connect with him on social media @BrianMcWriter

Horror



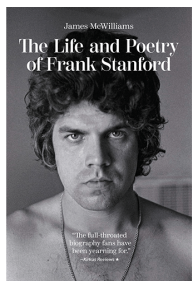
McDade, Peter

*King Cal: A Novel*

Many novels set in the world of rock music depict stardom, debauchery and deceit. King Cal instead focuses on the creative process, the devotion required to choose an uncertain life in music, the inspiration for songwriting and the challenge of making the rent while making art. In the course of one ordinary day, Atlanta fast-food worker Calvin loses his girlfriend, his band and his best friend. Suddenly, everything he had planned to spend the rest of his life doing seems to have flown away. Told with insight, sensitivity and deep respect for what it takes to make a life in music, King Cal concerns a determined young man who starts with little, aims to earn a little more and has to decide whether success, or even clinging to his dream, is worth the sacrifice. Praise for King Cal: "When I am asked by parents of kids who are considering a life in popular music if I would recommend that path, I say that if their child can even imagine doing anything else with their life, they should do that. But if the kid can't conceive of any future but music, I urge them to offer encouragement. Now, I can just tell them to read this book." —Elliot Easton, lead guitarist for the Cars and a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Peter McDade spent fifteen years traveling the highways of America as the drummer in the rock bands Uncle Green and 3 lb. Thrill, releasing a half-dozen albums on various major and independent labels. Raised in New Jersey, he now lives with his family in Atlanta, where he teaches at Clark Atlanta University. King Cal (coming in April 2025) is his third novel, following *The Weight of Sound* (2017) and *Songs By Honeybird* (2022).

Fiction



McWilliams, James

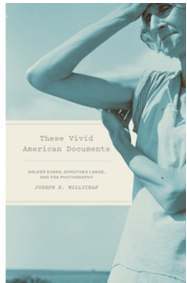
*The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford*

When twenty-nine-year-old Frank Stanford put three bullets in his chest on June 3, 1978, he ended a life that had been inextricably linked with poetry since childhood. Deeply influential but largely unknown outside his corner of the poetry world, this prodigy of the American South inspired a cult following that has kept his reputation and work flickering on the periphery of the American literary tradition ever since. The *Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford* offers for the first time a comprehensive study of Stanford's life and work, introducing to a broad readership poetry that remains both captivating to poets and, in its celebration of everyday experience over academic erudition, accessible to those who rarely read poetry. Stanford's poems range from one line to his 15,283-line epic, *The Battlefield Where the Moon Says I Love You*. The vital thread running through all of his poetry is an ear for language that vies with Walt Whitman in its expansiveness and generosity. Stanford's omnivorous attraction to vernacular, particularly Black and rural vernacular, centered on an admiration for the marginalized and eccentric. Blending the Southern Gothic of Faulkner and O'Connor with a racially egalitarian vision, his poetry thrives on the stories and traditions of the oppressed and forgotten. The themes that preoccupied Stanford's prolific output—language, sex, death, class, geography, commercialism, surrealism, film, race—also preoccupied the poet in his daily life, which was marked by heavy drinking, philandering, mental instability, emotional abuse, and, through it all, an inveterate desire for beauty. Constantly attentive to this tension, biographer James McWilliams traces the short and painfully complicated life of this hidden talent who left a lifetime's worth of poetry that, through its grounding in the mundane, achieved a vision of the transcendent.

James McWilliams is a writer and historian who teaches at Texas State University. His work has appeared in *Oxford American*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The American Scholar*, and *Mississippi Review*.

Poetry





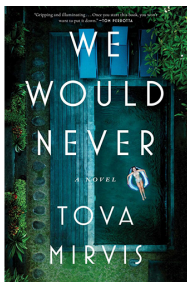
Millichap, Joseph

***These Vivid American Documents: Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, and FSA Photobooks***

The story behind the most iconic American photobooks of the twentieth century. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Farm Security Administration (FSA) funded a now-famous photography project to document and highlight American rural life and its economic challenges. In time, the project launched a genre of works that incorporated photographic evidence and artistic documentation of rural poverty, highlighting the struggles and resilience of the American people during this period. Nearly a century later, these photographs have become largely synonymous with the Great Depression. In *These Vivid American Documents*, Joseph R. Millichap presents an illuminating examination of four photobooks born of this FSA project: Archibald MacLeish and Dorothea Lange's *Land of the Free*; Walker Evans and Lincoln Kirstein's *American Photographs*; Dorothea Lange and Paul Taylor's *An American Exodus*; and James Agee and Walker Evans's *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. Millichap includes in his analysis a curated selection of thirty-two photographs from these four photobooks, showcasing the realities of the social, individual, political, artistic, and economic aspects of that time. Through Millichap's thorough and insightful study, readers will gain a deeper understanding of the significant cultural and historical impact of this photographic project. Examining what are now historical American icons, like Walker Evans's portrait of Allie Mae Burroughs and Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother*, Millichap leans into the intersections, tensions, and meanings that this particular era and medium encapsulate. His close comparison of the documentary and artistic purposes of the photobooks both analyzes how they balance text and imagery and offers a thoughtful study of the photographers and writers who produced them. *These Vivid American Documents* is an illuminating volume for scholars and general readers alike.

JOSEPH R. MILLICHAP is emeritus professor of English at Western Kentucky University. He is the author of *The Language of Vision: Photography and Southern Literature in the 1930s and After*; *A Backward Glance: The Southern Renaissance, the Autobiographical Epic, and the Classical Legacy*; and *Robert Penn Warren, Shadowy Autobiography, and Other Makers of American Literature*.

General Nonfiction



Mirvis, Tova

***We Would Never: A Novel***

No one appears more surprised than Hailey Gelman when she comes under suspicion for the murder of her soon-to-be ex-husband Jonah. Hailey—nicknamed Sunshine by her mother for her bright outlook and ever-present smile—has always tried to do what is expected of her and is regarded as the family peacemaker. But is anyone, including Hailey, who she has always seemed to be? The months leading up to Jonah's death have been fraught, including a bitter separation and a messy custody battle over their young daughter, Maya. When Hailey files a motion to relocate to Florida so she can be near her family, Jonah retaliates and the divorce begins to spiral dangerously out of control. Sherry, Hailey's mother, will stop at almost nothing to keep Jonah from getting what he wants. Nate, Hailey's impetuous and protective older brother, has tried to keep his distance, but he can't stand to see his little sister suffer. And then there's Solomon, the patriarch, who is keeping a secret that threatens the stability and security Sherry has worked so hard to maintain. Soon, they are forced to reckon with who they are as individuals and as a family, and just how far they will go for each other. Inspired by a true story, *We Would Never* is a gripping mystery, an intimate family drama, and a provocative exploration of loyalty, betrayal, and the blurred line between protecting and forsaking the ones we love most.

Tova Mirvis is the author of the memoir *The Book of Separation* as well as three previous novels: *Visible City*, *The Outside World*, and *The Ladies Auxiliary*, which was a national bestseller. Her essays have appeared in numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Real Simple*, and her fiction has been broadcast on NPR. She lives in Newton, Massachusetts, with her family. You can connect with her on her website, [TovaMirvis.com](http://TovaMirvis.com).

Mystery/Thriller



Moehling, Joshua

***A Long Time Gone: A Novel***  
**(Ben Packard, 3)**

"A big thriller with an even bigger heart!" — Lisa Gardner, New York Times bestselling author "Equal parts compelling mystery and riveting family drama...I'd follow its hero, Deputy Ben Packard, anywhere." — Jess Lourey, Edgar-nominated author of The Taken Ones It's time to put the past to rest... Ben Packard was just a boy when his older brother disappeared. Ben watched him walk out the back door of their grandparents' house and into the cold night. His brother was never seen again. Decades later, Deputy Packard finds himself with too much time on his hands. A shooting has him on leave and under investigation, and all he can do is dwell on the past. For the first time in years, new information about his brother has surfaced that may lead them to the location of a body. The midwinter ground is frozen solid. Worse, Packard is cut off from department resources. As he strikes out to finally uncover the truth behind his brother's disappearance, he stumbles on a separate, suspicious death. A tenuous connection exists between the two cases, and as Packard starts to dig, he meets fierce resistance from friends and foes alike who want him to stand down. The winter is long and cold. By the end of it, Packard will risk everything to catch a killer and reveal the shocking truth about his brother.

JOSHUA MOEHLING grew up as an Army brat and moved all over the US and Germany. After attending college in South Dakota and Mankato, MN he moved to Minneapolis and began a career in the medical device industry. AND THERE HE KEPT HER is his first novel.

**Mystery/Thriller**



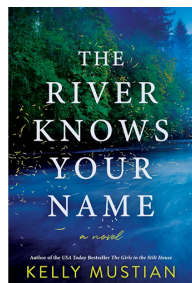
Moore, Carrie

***Make Your Way Home: Stories***

A debut collection of stories set across the American South, featuring characters who struggle to find love and belonging in the wake of painful histories. How can you love where you come from, even when home doesn't love you back? In eleven stories that span Florida marshes, North Carolina mountains, and Southern metropolitan cities, Make Your Way Home follows Black men and women who grapple with the homes that have eluded them. A preteen pregnant alongside her mother refuses to let convention dictate who she names as the father of her child. Centuries after slavery separated his ancestors, a native Texan tries to win over the love of his life, despite the grip of a family curse. A young deaconess, who falls for a new church member, wonders what it means when God stops speaking to her. And at the very end of the South as we know it, two sisters seek to escape North to freedom, to promises of a more stable climate. Artfully and precisely drawn, and steeped in place and history as it explores themes of belonging, inheritance, and deep intimacy, Carrie R. Moore's debut collection announces an extraordinary new talent in American fiction, inviting us all to examine how the past shapes our present—and how our present choices will echo for years to come.

Carrie R. Moore's fiction has appeared in One Story, New England Review, The Sewanee Review, Virginia Quarterly Review, and other publications. A recipient of the Keene Prize and the inaugural writer-in-residence at the Steinbeck Writers' Retreat, she earned her MFA at the Michener Center for Writers. Born in Georgia, she currently resides in Texas with her husband.

**Short Stories**



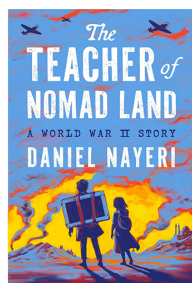
Mustian, Kelly

***The River Knows Your Name: A Novel***

From the acclaimed author of *The Girls in the Stilt House* comes a long-awaited novel both atmospheric and lyrical, a haunting Southern story about memory, family secrets, and fierce and fragile love. For nearly thirty years, Nell has kept a childhood promise to never reveal what she and Evie found tucked inside a copy of Jane Eyre in their mother's bookcase—a record of Evie's birth naming a stranger as her mother. But lately, Nell has been haunted by hazy memories of their early life in Mississippi, years their reclusive mother, Hazel, has kept shrouded in secrecy. Evie recalls nothing before their house on Clay Mountain in North Carolina, but Nell remembers abrupt moves, odd accommodations, and the rainy night a man in a dark coat and a hat pulled low climbed their porch steps with a very little girl—Evie—then left without her. In dual storylines, Nell, forty-two in 1971, reaches into the past to uncover dangerous, long-buried secrets, and Becca, a young mother in the early 1930s, presses ahead, each moving toward 1934, the catastrophic year that would forever link them. From a windswept ghost town long forgotten, to a river house in notorious Natchez Under-the-Hill, to a moody nightclub stage, Evie's other mother emerges from the shadows of Depression-era Mississippi in a story of hardship and perseverance, of betrayal and trust, and of unexpected redemption in a world in which the lines between heroes and culprits are not always clearly drawn.

Kelly Mustian is the USA Today bestselling author of *The Girls in the Stilt House* and *The River Knows Your Name*. She is the recipient of the Mississippi Library Association's 2023 Author Award for Fiction, and *The Girls in the Stilt House* was shortlisted for the 2022 Crook's Corner Book Prize for best debut novel set in the American South. Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals and commercial magazines. Originally from Mississippi, she currently lives in North Carolina.

**Historical Fiction**



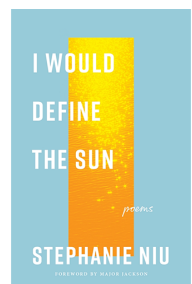
Nayeri, Daniel

***The Teacher of Nomad Land***

1941. The German armies are storming across Europe. Iran is a neutral country occupied by British forces on one side, Soviet forces on another. Soldiers fill the teahouses of Isfahan. Nazi spies roam the alleyways. Babak and his little sister have just lost their father. Now orphans, fearing they will be separated, the two devise a plan. Babak will take up his father's old job as a teacher to the nomads. With a chalkboard strapped to Babak's back, and a satchel full of textbooks, the siblings set off to find the nomad tribes as they make their yearly trek across the mountains. On the treacherous journey they meet a Jewish boy, hiding from a Nazi spy. And suddenly, they are all in a race for survival. Against the backdrop of World War II comes an epic adventure in the faraway places. Through the cacophony of soldiers, tanks, and planes, can young hearts of different creeds and nations learn to find a common language? Master storyteller Daniel Nayeri keeps you on the edge of your seat, uncertain to the very end.

Award-winning author Daniel Nayeri, who was born in Iran and immigrated to Oklahoma as a refugee, captivated readers with his poignant memoir *Everything Sad Is Untrue* (Printz Award Winner) and the epic adventure *The Many Assassinations of Samir*, the *Seller of Dreams* (Newbery Award Honor). A former publisher, editor, and pastry chef, he resides along the East Coast with his family.

**Middle Grade**



Niu, Stephanie

***I Would Define the Sun: Poems***

Stephanie Niu's *I Would Define the Sun*, awarded the 2024 Vanderbilt University Literary Prize, is a collection of poems that declare the impossibility of defining something as immense as the sun while striving toward that impossible act. In an era of planetary collapse, filled with bushfires, bleached coral, and burnout, Niu explores what love can do even through estrangement, even through being together at the end of the world. Recycling and folding language through duplexes, sestinas, and echoing couplets, this collection moves across great distances to include Christmas Island, Chinese-American immigration, and the precarity and abundance of the sea through formal and lyric poetry. Expansive in scope, Niu refits the world into a size "made for [her] hands, [her] human tongue," propelling readers into continuous motion as she searches for home.

Stephanie Niu is a poet and writer from Marietta, Georgia. She is the author of the chapbooks *Survived By: An Atlas of Disappearance* (winner of the 2023 Host Publications Chapbook Prize) and *She Has Dreamt Again of Water* (winner of the 2021 Diode Editions Chapbook Contest). Her work has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *Literary Hub*, *Copper Nickel*, and *Ecotone Magazine*, among other publications. She is the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship for research on Christmas Island's labor history, through which she led youth poetry workshops and published the zine *Our Island, Our Future*. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

**Poetry**



Paeff, Colleen

***Firefly Song: Lynn Frierson  
Faust and the Great Smoky  
Mountain Discovery***

The Leaf Detective meets fireflies in this inspirational nonfiction picture book from Sibert Honoree Colleen Paeff about how one woman proved to scientists that the fireflies she had watched as a young girl put on dazzling and impossibly synchronous nighttime performances. Every year, Lynn spends her summers roaming the forests of the Great Smoky Mountains and watching the fireflies light up the night. As she gets older, she realizes there's something special about these Great Smoky fireflies. Each night they seem to perform a dazzling synchronized light show! She tries to learn more, but scientists tell her that synchronous fireflies don't exist in the western hemisphere. Lynn may not be a scientist, but she wonders like a scientist and pays attention like a scientist. She believes in herself and the silent song of the fireflies. With determination and hard work, Lynn sets out to convince the scientific community that she's right—and to tell the world about the beauty of the firefly show she's seen her entire life.

Fueled by English breakfast tea, a burning curiosity, and a love of research, Colleen Paeff writes from a book-lined office in an old pink house with a view of the Hollywood sign. Visit her online at [ColleenPaeff.com](http://ColleenPaeff.com).

Children's



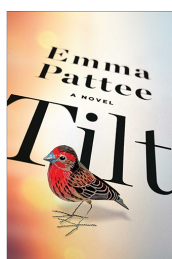
Park, Martha

***World Without End: Essays on  
Apocalypse and After***

When Martha Park's father announces he is retiring from the ministry after forty-two years, she moves home to Memphis to attend his United Methodist church for his last year in the pulpit. She hopes to encounter a more certain sense of herself as secular or religious. Instead, she becomes increasingly compelled by her uncertainty, and grows curious whether doubt itself could be a kind of faith that more closely echoes a world marked by loss, beauty, and constant change. In illustrated essays, *World Without End: Essays on Apocalypse and After* explores the intersections of faith, motherhood, and the climate crisis across the South. From man-made wetlands in Arkansas to conservation cemeteries in South Carolina, from a full-scale replica of Noah's Ark in Kentucky to the reenactment of the Scopes Monkey Trial, Park chronicles the ways the faith in which she was raised now seems like an exception to the rule, exploring this divide with compassion and empathy. For fans of Margaret Renkl and Lisa Wells, *World Without End* considers the ways religion shapes how we understand and interact with the world—and how faith can compel us all to work to save the places we love.

Martha Park is a writer and illustrator from Memphis, Tennessee. She received an MFA from the Jackson Center for Creative Writing at Hollins University, and was the Spring 2016 Philip Roth Writer-in-Residence at Bucknell University's Stadler Center for Poetry. She has received fellowships and grants from the Religion & Environment Story Project, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Economic Hardship Reporting Project. Her collaborative illustrated journalism has been recognized with an EPPY Award for Best use of Data/Infographics and was a finalist for the Institute for Nonprofit News' Insight Award for Visual Journalism. Martha's work has appeared in *Orion*, *Oxford American*, *The Guardian*, *Grist*, *Guernica*, *The Bitter Southerner*, *ProPublica*, and elsewhere.

Autobiography/Memoir



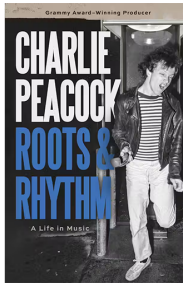
Pattee, Emma

***Tilt: A Novel***

Annie is nine months pregnant and shopping for a crib at IKEA when a massive earthquake hits Portland, Oregon. With no way to reach her husband, no phone or money, and a city left in chaos, there's nothing to do but walk. Making her way across the wreckage of Portland, Annie experiences human desperation and kindness: strangers offering help, a riot at a grocery store, and an unlikely friendship with a young mother. As she walks, Annie reflects on her struggling marriage, her disappointing career, and her anxiety about having a baby. If she can just make it home, she's determined to change her life. A propulsive debut, *Tilt* is a primal scream of a novel about the disappointments and desires we all carry, and what each of us will do for the people we love.

Emma Pattee is a climate journalist and fiction writer. Her work has been published in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and elsewhere. She lives in Oregon.

Fiction



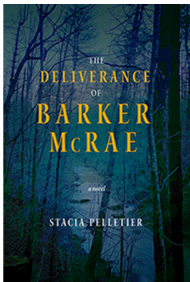
Peacock, Charlie

***Roots and Rhythm: A Life in Music***

A beautifully crafted memoir unveiling the ancestral, musical, and spiritual roots of Grammy Award-winning music producer Charlie Peacock. In this artful memoir, Grammy Award-winning music producer Charlie Peacock flexes his literary chops and gives readers the gritty backstage stories they crave: biographical anecdotes, geeky trivia, and how the hits were written and recorded (from jazz to rock and pop). Threaded throughout is Peacock’s unique ancestral and spiritual story—the roots. Like Coltrane, Dylan, and Bono before him, Peacock reveals a Christ-affection while refusing genres too small for his music.

Charlie Peacock is a billboard chart-topping musical creator, a six-time Grammy Award-winning music producer (Folk, Country, Rock Gospel), and three-time recipient of the Gospel Music Association’s Producer of the Year award (his recordings and productions exceed 25 million albums). Named by Billboard’s Encyclopedia of Record Producers as one of the 500 most important producers in popular music history, Charlie has produced music for film and television and held executive and A&R positions at EMI/Universal and Sony/ATV. Charlie is the founder of the Universal Music Group imprint re:think; founder and director emeritus of the Commercial Music Program at Lipscomb University; and a longtime advocate for social justice, working directly with International Justice Mission, and the ONE Campaign beginning in 2002 when Charlie and wife Andi hosted co-founder Bono in their home, putting the rock-star activist in front of Nashville’s artist community. Charlie is the creator/host of the Apple Top 100 music podcast Music & Meaning, and continues to create his own jazz/improvisational and singer-songwriter recordings, including *Every Kind of Ok*, a full-

Music



Pelletier, Stacia

***The Deliverance of Barker McRae: A Novel***

It’s a wintry April 1833, Watkinsville, Georgia. Fourteen-year-old Barker McRae is stuck living with her odious uncle, militia captain Wiley Wood, as she waits for her father, a Methodist circuit rider, to return. Instead, a stranger arrives. Matthew Higgenbotham, a land lottery messenger who dreams of leaving Georgia, shows up at Wiley’s farm with unexpected news: Barker has won 40 acres in the latest state lottery. His announcement sets in motion an act of unimaginable violence, a harrowing escape, and a cat-and-mouse chase across frontier Georgia during America’s first gold rush and the illegal seizure of Cherokee lands. With Higgenbotham as her reluctant ally, Barker’s mission is clear: escape her uncle and reunite with her father. Or does she need to free herself from both? And what about the troubled aunt she has left behind? Set against the backdrop of the Georgia Gold Rush, alongside the era of Methodist circuit riders and early nineteenth-century evangelists, *The Deliverance of Barker McRae* weaves fiction and meticulously researched history to introduce readers to two travelers, thrown together by luck and duty, on an adventure neither of them wanted. This is a tale about trespass, frontier religion, fathers and daughters, and friendships between unlikely companions. It’s also about what it means to make a moral choice in a profoundly immoral historical moment.

Stacia Pelletier is the author of *Accidents of Providence* and *The Half Wives*, both short-listed for the Townsend Prize for Fiction. She earned an MDiv and a PhD in Religion from Emory University and has been a Keck Foundation Fellow and a Woodruff Fellow. She lives in the north Georgia mountains.

Historical Fiction





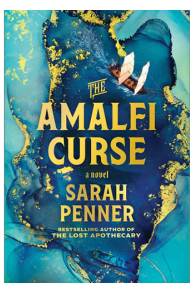
Pelly, Liz

*Mood Machine*

An unsparing investigation into Spotify's origins and influence on music, weaving unprecedented reporting with incisive cultural criticism, illuminating how streaming is reshaping music for listeners and artists alike. Drawing on over one hundred interviews with industry insiders, former Spotify employees, and musicians, Mood Machine takes us to the inner workings of today's highly consolidated record business, showing what has changed as music has become increasingly playlisted, personalized, and autoplayed.

Liz Pelly is a journalist living in New York. Her essays and reporting have appeared in The Baffler, where she is a contributing editor, as well as in The Guardian, NPR, Rolling Stone, Pitchfork, and many other outlets. She frequently speaks about music streaming on radio shows and podcasts, including appearances with The New York Times Popcast, NPR's Morning Edition, and others. Pelly teaches in the recorded music program at New York University, and has spent over a decade involved in all-ages show booking. Learn more at [LizPelly.info](http://LizPelly.info) and follow her on social media @LizPelly.

General Nonfiction



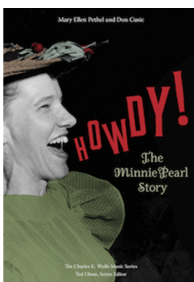
Penner, Sarah

*The Amalfi Curse: A Novel*

Powerful witchcraft. A hunt for sunken treasure. Forbidden love on the high seas. Beware the Amalfi Curse... Haven Ambrose, a trailblazing nautical archaeologist, has come to the sun-soaked village of Positano to investigate the mysterious shipwrecks along the Amalfi Coast. But Haven is hoping to find more than old artifacts beneath the azure waters; she is secretly on a quest to locate a trove of priceless gemstones her late father spotted on his final dive. Upon Haven's arrival, strange maelstroms and misfortunes start plaguing the town. Is it nature or something more sinister at work? As Haven searches for her father's sunken treasure, she begins to unearth a centuries-old tale of ancient sorcery and one woman's quest to save her lover and her village by using the legendary art of stregheria, a magical ability to harness the ocean. Could this magic be behind Positano's latest calamities? Haven must unravel the Amalfi Curse before the region is destroyed forever... Against the dazzling backdrop of the Amalfi Coast, this bewitching novel shimmers with mystery, romance and the untamed magic of the sea.

Sarah Penner is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of The Lost Apothecary and The London Séance Society. Her books have been translated into more than forty languages and her debut, The Lost Apothecary, has sold over one million copies worldwide. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Sarah spent thirteen years in corporate finance and now writes full-time. In her free time, Sarah enjoys hiking, yoga, and cooking. She also sits on the Board of Directors at her local animal shelter, Friends of Strays. Sarah and her husband, Marc, live in Florida. To learn more, visit [SarahPenner.com](http://SarahPenner.com).

Fiction



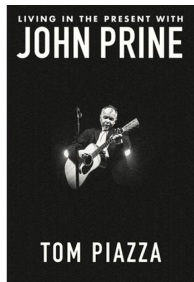
Pethel, Mary Ellen

*Howdy! The Minnie Pearl Story*

Take the backroads, not the highways, Minnie Pearl often said—a sentiment that captures her life's winding, unpredictable journey. Born Sarah Ophelia Colley in 1912, she grew up in Centerville, Tennessee. This small-town upbringing inspired her imagined hometown of Grinder's Switch. During the Great Depression, Sarah moved to Nashville to study theater at the Ward-Belmont School. After graduating, she joined a touring theater company and performed throughout the Southeast. It was on the road, in 1936, that she met and stayed with Mattie Burden. Mattie became the inspiration for Minnie Pearl's iconic persona—a witty country girl known for her signature greeting and straw hat with a dangling price tag. Minnie Pearl's big break came in 1940 when a friend of a WSM radio executive saw her perform and recommended her for the Grand Ole Opry. Her debut marked the beginning of a career that spanned more than fifty years. Garth Brooks later remarked, "When she walked out, everybody waited for the 'How-dee!' It's just two syllables, one word, but every time she said it—it felt like it was just for you." At the Opry, the "Queen of Country Comedy" shared the spotlight with legends like Patsy Cline and Hank Williams. After World War II, she became a mentor and matriarch, befriending a young June Carter and warming up the crowd for Johnny Cash's Opry debut in 1955. Throughout her career, Cannon skillfully balanced her dual roles as Minnie and Sarah. Whether at the Opry, on the road, or on Hee Haw, Minnie remained a trusted friend to female performers like Dolly Parton, Tanya Tucker, and Reba McEntire. As k.d. lang noted, "Minnie understood where country music needed to go and who it needed to embrace. She was a visionary." Rich with 155 historic photographs, this definitive biography covers the many chapters of Sarah Cannon's life. Drawing from archives and interviews with those who knew her, Howdy! The Minnie Pearl

Mary Ellen Pethel is a professor of practice at Belmont University. She is the author of Title IX, Pat Summitt, and Tennessee's Trailblazers: Fifty Years, Fifty Stories and Athens of the New South: College Life and the Making of Modern Nashville.

Music



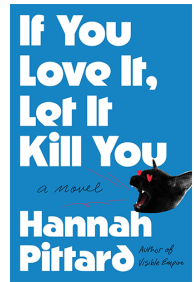
Piazza, Tom

*Living in the Present with John Prine*

In the spring of 2018, Tom Piazza climbed into a 1977 Coupe DeVille with the great singer-songwriter John Prine, taking a Florida road trip that soon evolved into a deep friendship, full of jokes and tall tales over epic meals, afternoons digging around antique malls and record stores, and long nights playing guitar and trading songs. Eventually they decided to write Prine's memoir together, and Prine shared intimate, often hilarious stories of his youth and family in Chicago and Kentucky, his breakthrough into the national spotlight, his riotous early years in the Nashville country scene, and much more. When Prine died suddenly of COVID in April 2020, that unfinished memoir evolved into an intimate narrative of the artist's final years. Piazza offers fans an unforgettable portrait of the beloved musician in his late glory—as a boyish cut-up, an epic raconteur, a great American poet, and most importantly, the good friend his fans have always imagined.

Tom Piazza's books include the nonfiction bestseller *Why New Orleans Matters* and the novels *The Auburn Conference* and *A Free State*. He is a four-time winner of the ASCAP–Deems Taylor Award for Music Writing. He lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Music



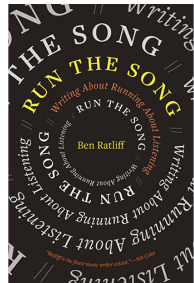
Pittard, Hannah

*If You Love It Let It Kill You: A Novel*

Divorced and childless by choice, Hana P. has built a cozy life in Lexington, Kentucky, teaching at the university, living with her boyfriend (a fellow academic) and helping raise his pre-teen daughter. Her sister's sprawling family lives just across the street, and their long-divorced, deeply complicated parents have also recently moved to town. One day, Hana learns that an unflattering version of herself will appear prominently—and soon—in her ex-husband's debut novel. For a week, her life continues largely unaffected by the news—she cooks, runs, teaches, entertains—but the morning after baking mac 'n' cheese from scratch for her nephew's sixth birthday, she wakes up changed. The contentment she's long enjoyed is gone. In its place: nothing. A remarkably ridiculous midlife crisis ensues, featuring a talking cat, a visit to the dean's office, a shadowy figure from the past, a Greek chorus of indignant students whose primary complaints concern Hana's autofictional narrative, and a game called Dead Body. Steeped in the subtleties and strangeness of contemporary life, *If You Love It, Let It Kill You* is a deeply nuanced and disturbingly funny examination of memory, ownership, and artistic expression for readers of Miranda July's *All Fours* and Sigrid Nunez's *The Friend*.

Hannah Pittard is the author of six books, including the novels *Listen to Me* and *The Fates Will Find Their Way*. She is a winner of the Amanda Davis Highwire Fiction Award, a MacDowell fellow, and a professor of English at the University of Kentucky. She lives with her boyfriend and stepdaughter in Lexington. Much of her family lives nearby.

Fiction



Ratliff, Ben

*Run the Song: Writing About Running About Listening*

"An ecstatic and eccentric blend of criticism, music, autobiography and philosophy that is knowingly caught between genres." —Becca Rothfeld, *Washington Post*

Out the front door, across the street, down the hill, and into Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. This is how Ben Ratliff's runs started most days of the week for about a decade. Sometimes listening to music, not always. Then, at the beginning of the pandemic, he began taking notes about what he listened to. He wondered if a body in motion, his body, was helping him to listen better to the motion in music.

He runs through the woods, along the Hudson River, and into the lowlands of the Bronx. He encounters newly erected fences for an intended FEMA field hospital, and demonstrations against racial violence. His runs, and the notes that result from them, vary in length just as the songs he listens to do: seventies soul, jazz, hardcore punk, string quartets, Éliane Radigue's slow-change electronics, Carnatic singing, DJ sets, piano music of all kinds, Sade, Fred Astaire, and Ice Spice.

*Run the Song* is also the story of how a professional critic, frustrated with conventional modes of criticism, finds his way back to a deeper relationship with music. When stumped or preoccupied by a piece of music, Ratliff starts to think that perhaps running can tell him more about what he's listening to—let's run it, he'll say. And with that, the reader in turn is invited to listen alongside one of the great listeners of our day in this wildly inventive and consistently thought-provoking chronicle of a profoundly unsettling time.

Ben Ratliff is the author of *Every Song Ever* and *Coltrane: The Story of a Sound*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. A former music critic for the *New York Times*, he lives in New York City and teaches at New York University.

General Nonfiction



Reyes, Ruben

*Archive of Unknown Universes*

Cambridge, 2018. Ana and Luis's relationship is on the rocks, despite their many similarities, including their mothers who both fled El Salvador during the war. In her search for answers, and against her best judgement, Ana uses The Defractor, an experimental device that allows users to peek into alternate versions of their lives. What she sees leads her and Luis on a quest through Havana and San Salvador to uncover the family histories they are desperate to know, eager to learn if what might have been could fix what is. Havana, 1978. The Salvadoran war is brewing, and Neto, a young revolutionary with a knack for forging government papers, meets Rafael at a meeting for the People's Revolutionary Army. The two form an intense and forbidden love, shedding their fake names and revealing themselves to each other inside the covert world of their activism. When their work separates them, they begin to exchange weekly letters, but soon, as the devastating war rages on, forces beyond their control threaten to pull them apart forever. Ruben Reyes Jr.'s debut novel is an epic, genre-bending journey through inverted worlds—one where war ends with a peace treaty, and one where it ends with a decisive victory by the Salvadoran government. What unfolds is a stunning story of displacement and belonging, of loss and love. It's both a daring imagining of what might have been and a powerful reckoning of our past.

Ruben Reyes Jr. is the son of two Salvadoran immigrants and the author of *There Is a Rio Grande in Heaven*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and Harvard College, his writing has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *Lightspeed Magazine*, and other publications. Originally from Southern California, he now lives in Brooklyn.

Fiction



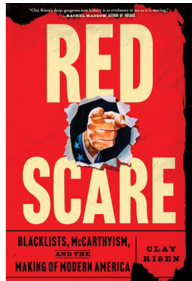
Reynolds, Jason

*Coach*

In this companion to Jason Reynolds's award-winning and New York Times bestselling *Track* series, meet Coach as a boy striving to come into his own as a track star while facing upheaval at home. Before Coach was the man who gave caring yet firm-handed guidance to Ghost, Lu, Patina, and Sunny on the Defenders track team, he was little Otie Brody, who was obsessed with Mr. 9.99 (a.k.a. Carl Lewis) and Marty McFly from *Back to the Future*. Like Mr. 9.99—and his own dad—Otie is a sprinter. Sprint free or die is practically his motto. Then his dad, who is always away on business trips, comes home with a pair of Jordans. JORDANS. Fine as fine can be. Otie puts them on and feels like he can leap to the moon...maybe even leap like Mr. 9.99 when he won the Olympic gold medal in the long jump. But one morning he wakes up to find his brand-new secret weapon kicks are missing—right off his feet! And Otie just might have a fuzzy memory of his dad easing them off as Otie was sleeping, but that can't be right, can it?

Jason Reynolds is a #1 New York Times bestselling author, recipient of the MacArthur Genius Grant, a Newbery Award Honoree, a Printz Award Honoree, a two-time National Book Award finalist, a 2024 MacArthur Fellow, a Kirkus Award winner, a UK Carnegie Medal winner, a two-time Walter Dean Myers Award winner, an NAACP Image Award Winner, an Odyssey Award Winner and two-time honoree, and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors, a Coretta Scott King Author Award, and the Margaret A. Edwards Award. He was also the 2020–2022 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. His many books include *All American Boys* (cowritten with Brendan Kiely); *When I Was the Greatest*; *The Boy in the Black Suit*; *Stamped*; *As Brave as You*; *For Every One*; the *Track* series (*Ghost*, *Patina*, *Sunny*, *Lu*, and *Coach*); *Look Both Ways*; *Stuntboy, in the Meantime*; *Stuntboy, In-Between Time*; *Miles Morales Suspended*; *Ain't Burned All the Bright* (recipient of the Caldecott Honor) and *My Name Is Jason. Mine Too.* (both cowritten with Jason Griffin); *Twenty-Four Seconds from Now...*; and *Long Way Down*, which received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor. His debut

Middle Grade



Risen, Clay

***Red Scare: Blacklists, McCarthyism, and the Making of Modern America***

History

As relevant as it is comprehensive, *Red Scare* tells the story of McCarthyism and the Red Scare—based in part on newly declassified sources—by an award-winning writer of history and New York Times reporter. The film *Oppenheimer* has awakened interest in this vital period of American history. Now, for the first time in a generation, *Red Scare* presents a narrative history of the anti-Communist witch hunt that gripped America in the decade following World War II. The cultural phenomenon, most often referred to as McCarthyism, was an outgrowth of the conflict between social conservatives and New Deal progressives, coupled with the terrifying onset of the Cold War. This defining moment in American history, unlike any that preceded it, was marked by an unprecedented degree of political hysteria. Drawing upon newly declassified documents, journalist Clay Risen recounts how politicians like Joseph McCarthy, with the help of an extended network of other government officials and organizations, systematically ruined thousands of lives in their deluded pursuit of alleged Communist conspiracies. Beginning with the origins of the era after WWI through to its conclusion in 1957, Risen brings to life the politics, patriotism, opportunism, courage, and delirium of those years through the lives and experiences of a cast of towering historical figures, including President Eisenhower, Roy Cohn, Paul Robeson, Robert Oppenheimer, Helen Gahagan Douglas, Richard Nixon, and many more individuals known and unknown. *Red Scare* takes us beyond the familiar story of McCarthyism and the Hollywood blacklists to a fuller understanding of what the country went through at a time of moral questioning and perceived threat from the left, and what we were capable of doing to each other as a result. An urgent, accessible, and important history, *Red Scare* reveals a world you've never fully heard or seen before and you've only dreamed of. . . until now! Step into a world where cocoa isn't just an ingredient but a source of endless creativity, and explore the rich, luxurious depths of chocolate. In *For the Love of Chocolate*, Phillip Ashley Rix, whose skill and innovation have made him a renowned name in the world of chocolatiers, guides you through an inspiring collection of desserts, confections, and drinks that promise to transform your chocolate-making experience—whether you are a beginner or experienced baker. For the Love of Chocolate comes to you from the heart of Memphis, Tennessee, a place as vibrant and soulful as the flavors embedded in every recipe. Each page is a discovery of imaginative flavors, blending tradition with innovation, and ranging from the comfort of Phillip's beloved grandmother's recipes to the thrill of avant-garde creations. The unique mouthwatering creations you can master include: "Bollywood" Cashew Coconut Curry Truffles Turtle Cheesecake Baked French Toast Blue Cheese Shortbread with White Chocolate Drizzle Smoky Chocolate-Covered Orange Cocktail Peanut Butter-Caramel-Cayenne Brownies Black Velvet Cake with Tanghulu "Glass" Strawberries Chocolate Sweet Potato Pie with Brown Sugar Meringue If you're taking your first steps into the delightful world of chocolate desserts or seeking to refine your craft with new, inventive recipes, Phillip's wisdom and creativity are here to guide you. You'll gain a deeper appreciation for what he calls chocistry (the art of making chocolates) and learn about: the history of chocolate, tempering chocolate, chocolate varieties, equipment for working with chocolate, chocolate molds and shells, and fancy finishes. For the Love of Chocolate not simply a cookbook; it's a love letter to the craft of chocolate-making and a gateway to mastering the art of chocolate. Embark on this flavorful journey, empower your culinary skills, and

Clay Risen, a reporter and editor at The New York Times, is the author of *The Crowded Hour*, a New York Times Notable Book of 2019 and a finalist for the Gilder-Lehrman Prize in Military History. He is a member of the Society of American Historians and a fellow at the Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the author of two other acclaimed books on American history, *A Nation on Fire* and *The Bill of the Century*, as well as his most recent book on McCarthyism, *Red Scare*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and two young children.



Rix, Phillip

***For the Love of Chocolate: 80 At-Home Recipes from a Master Chocolatier's Imagination***

Cooking

Phillip Ashley Rix has achieved international acclaim as a renowned luxury chocolatier and is celebrated for his exceptional craftsmanship. He has created premium gifts for Hollywood's elite at the EMMYS®, GRAMMYS®, and OSCARS®, and was named one of America's finest confectioners by Forbes. A finalist on Food Network's *Chopped Sweets*, his "Perfect Turtle" was featured on Oprah's Favorite Things list in 2020. He is the Official Chocolatier for Cadillac, designed chocolates for President Barack Obama, and was a James Beard Awards nominee in 2023 and 2024. His imaginative chocolate factory and home are in Memphis, Tennessee.



Robinson, Shauna

*Lauryl Harper Falls Apart*

For fans of Elyssa Friedland comes a rollicking fall novel from beloved author Shauna Robinson, where the friend who left and the friend who stayed must reunite to save their hometown through the fall festival that once brought them together. Lauryl Harper had a plan. A high achieving, perfectly constructed, eight-year plan. But after a (totally blown out of proportion) mishap at work that plan is put to the test. As punishment for her mistake she is transferred to the Ryser charity department, a branch that just so happens to be located in the hometown she abandoned long ago - and that her powerful corporate employer is responsible for running into the ground. Horrified at the thought of returning and facing those she left behind (one in particular keeps coming to mind), Lauryl quickly comes up with a new plan: impress her boss enough that she's briskly whisked back to her big city life. However, it soon becomes clear that sticking to plans isn't that simple, especially when her ex-best friend enters the charity department demanding they help revitalize the town by bringing back the once-famous Greenstead Apple Festival. Confronted by her past wrongs, Lauryl immediately agrees to host the festival on Ryser's dime, but soon enough Lauryl is swept away in town hijinks, chaotic planning sessions, and a second chance with a childhood friend that shows her why home isn't necessarily a place she has to run from.

SHAUNA ROBINSON writes contemporary fiction with humor and heart. Originally from San Diego, she now lives in Virginia with her husband and their sleepy greyhound. Shauna is an introvert at heart—she spends most of her time reading, baking, and figuring out the politest way to avoid social interaction.

Fiction



Ross, Adam

*Playworld: A Novel*

Griffin Hurt is in over his head. Between his role as Peter Proton on the hit TV show The Nuclear Family and the pressure of high school at New York's elite Boyd Prep—along with the increasingly compromising demands of his wrestling coach—he's teetering on the edge of collapse. Then comes Naomi Shah, twenty-two years Griffin's senior. Unwilling to lay his burdens on his shrink—whom he shares with his father, mother, and younger brother, Oren—Griffin soon finds himself in the back of Naomi's Mercedes sedan, again and again, confessing all to the one person who might do him the most harm. Less a bildungsroman than a story of miseducation, Playworld is a novel of epic proportions, bursting with laughter and heartache. Adam Ross immerses us in the life of Griffin and his loving (yet disintegrating) family while seeming to evoke the entirety of Manhattan and the ethos of an era—with Jimmy Carter on his way out and a B-list celebrity named Ronald Reagan on his way in. Surrounded by adults who embody the age's excesses—and who seem to care little about what their children are up to—Griffin is left to himself to find the line between youth and maturity, dependence and love, acting and truly grappling with life.

Adam Ross is the author of Mr. Peanut, which was selected as one of the best books of the year by The New York Times, The New Yorker, and The Economist . He has been a fellow in fiction at the American Academy in Berlin and a Hodder Fellow for Fiction at Princeton University. He is editor of The Sewanee Review . Born and raised in New York City, he now lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his two daughters.

Fiction



Samuel, Patrick

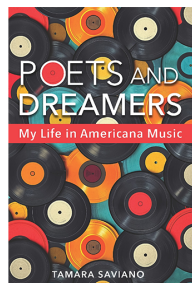
*and another thing: poems*

And Another Thing is an audacious, shape-shifting collection that moves through queer identity, pop culture, desire, and dislocation with sharp wit and restless energy. The poems are tactile and cinematic, layering surreal imagery with the raw textures of memory, lust, and self-interrogation. Tarot figures, cult film references, and intimate confessions collide in a voice that is both wryly detached and deeply visceral. Unapologetically playful yet emotionally precise, And Another Thing is a collection that refuses to settle, slipping between personas and perceptions with an electrifying sense of movement and reinvention.

Patrick Pardee Samuel is the author of And Another Thing (Broken Sleep Books) and the chapbook A Suite of Heads (Ghost City Press). He received an MFA from Columbia College Chicago. Patrick currently lives in Nashville. and in print. Originally from Michigan, Patrick currently lives in Nashville where he works in university press publishing.

Poetry





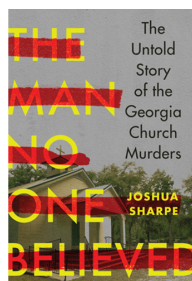
Saviano, Tamara

***Poets and Dreamers: My Life in Americana Music***

Part memoir, part oral history, *Poets and Dreamers: My Life in Americana Music* traces Tamara Saviano's remarkable journey through the rise of the Americana music genre. Spanning more than three decades, Saviano unfolds the story of Americana—country music's bohemian cousin—from her unique perspectives as a journalist, historian, Grammy-winning music producer, filmmaker, and artist emissary. The first woman president of the Americana Music Association and producer of the early Americana Honors and Awards shows at Nashville's storied Ryman Auditorium, Saviano takes readers behind the scenes for some of the most significant moments in Americana history. *Poets and Dreamers* illuminates the exceptional Americana community: an ever-expanding yet close-knit circle of friends and unsung heroes devoted to the success of roots music and its artists. Highlights include interviews with artists and colleagues and memories of special events, concerts, and day-to-day life with singers, songwriters, and musicians. Tender stories recalling Saviano's close relationships with two of her most enduring clients, iconic songwriters Kris Kristofferson and Guy Clark, round out this singular historical work. Including photographs of significant people and moments in Americana music, *Poets and Dreamers: My Life in Americana Music* will entertain and inform a worldwide readership of fans, students, and scholars of Americana and roots music.

TAMARA SAVIANO is the author of *Without Getting Killed or Caught: The Life and Music of Guy Clark*, winner of the Belmont Award, sponsored by the International Country Music Conference. A Nashville music and film producer, she also produced *Beautiful Dreamer: The Songs of Stephen Foster*, which won the 2005 Grammy Award for Best Traditional Folk Album, and the 2020 documentary *Without Getting Killed or Caught*. In 2017, the Texas Heritage Songwriters Association honored Saviano with the Darrell K. Royal Texas Legend Award for her work with Texas songwriters, and in 2020, the Austin Music Awards selected her to receive the Margaret Moser Award, which recognizes women in music.

Music



Sharpe, Joshua

***The Man No One Believed: The Untold Story of the Georgia Church Murders***

"Only very rarely does one of our stories—one of us—change the course of human events. Joshua Sharpe asked the right questions, refusing easy answers." —Anna Quindlen, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and best-selling author The riveting story of a 1985 double murder, a long-overdue investigation, and the fight to exonerate an innocent man. In 1985, a white man walked into a South Georgia church and brutally murdered Harold and Thelma Swain, two pillars of the area's Black community. The killer vanished into the night. For fifteen years, the case remained unsolved. Then authorities zeroed in on Dennis Perry, a carpenter who grew up nearby. Convicted with devastatingly flawed evidence, Perry received a double life sentence. When award-winning journalist and South Georgia native Joshua Sharpe retraces the case, he discovers a winding path of corruption, devastating missteps, and secrets. Driven by the pursuit of the truth, Sharpe's investigation takes him through dusty courthouse archives, down winding dirt roads, and into intense interviews. But he keeps knocking on doors—even after they're slammed in his face. Sharpe uncovers explosive evidence that helps prove Dennis Perry's innocence.

Joshua Sharpe is a print and audio journalist and editor whose stories have helped free two innocent people from life in prison. He is a 2025 Type Media Center Fellow, a 2023–2024 Knight-Wallace Fellow, a Livingston Award winner, and a 2022 and 2023 Pulitzer Prize judge. A native of Waycross, Georgia, he lives in Detroit, Michigan.

General Nonfiction



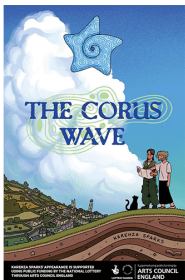
Shrader, Mary

***The Modern Pioneer Pantry: A Complete Guide to Preserving Food***

Fill your pantry, save money, and eat healthier using time-tested methods from Mary Bryant Shrader of the Mary's Nest YouTube channel. There is no better way to preserve food than by using the methods our predecessors used. Canning, preserving, pickling, and drying have been used for centuries to make fresh food last longer and preserve garden harvests. Now, as grocery prices continue to rise, people have realized that these methods, when done properly and safely, can preserve fresh food for months and even years, which means less waste, a well-stocked pantry, and a bounty of delicious and healthy food. Fans of Mary Bryant Shrader's YouTube channel and website love her positive, encouraging approach to teaching complex topics in a way that is both entertaining and richly informative. In her first book, *The Modern Pioneer Cookbook*, Mary shared tips for cooking traditional foods and using simple ingredients to make healthy meals more economically. Now, in *The Modern Pioneer Pantry*, Mary goes in depth and teaches you how to use water-bath canning, pressure canning, pickling, fermenting, freezing, dehydrating, and drying to preserve everything from fruits and vegetables to salads, jams and jellies, pickles, and so much more. In addition to in-depth instruction for each method and over 115 recipes, you'll learn how to use Mary's unique Four Corners Pantry approach to ensure your home will stay well stocked and food will never go bad. You'll also learn how to source inexpensive ingredients, get the most out of your garden (or the produce section at your local supermarkets), and create a pantry that will be a source of pride and also nutrient-rich food for your family. Each chapter also includes a scannable QR code that links to instructional videos on the Mary's Nest website.

Mary Bryant Shrader is the creator of Mary's Nest, a YouTube channel with over one million subscribers devoted to traditional cooking techniques using whole ingredients. In addition to her first bestselling book, *The Modern Pioneer Cookbook*, Mary's in-depth videos have helped thousands of followers on their journeys to creating nutritious and delicious foods. Her gentle, patient approach helps home cooks of all abilities cook simpler and healthier. Mary lives in the Texas Hill Country with her sweet husband, Ted, and their lovable yellow lab, Indy. Their son, Ben, is just a drive away. You can join Mary and her sweet friends @MarysNest.

Cooking



Sparks, Karenza

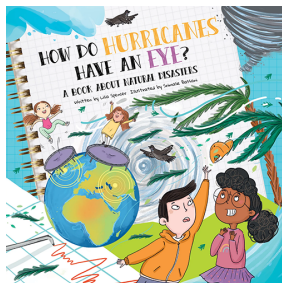
***The Corus Wave***

Karenza Sparks' appearance is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Lorelei is just trying to finish her BA thesis. Then her research into an obscure star-shaped Devonian-era cephalopod fossil drags her into a scavenger hunt that indicates her subject may be hiding some of the central secrets of the universe. Or at least, that's what 19th century polymath Havius Corus thought. Careening through libraries, churches, botanical gardens, and stone circles with her roommate Eddie (and their trusty cat Raisin, who travels with them via backpack), Lorelei explores the puzzles and the mysteries the polymath has hidden from the world . . . unseen in the architecture and the nature all around her. Can Lorelei find the solutions to the secrets of fossil history? And will her thesis advisor think her hard work is a legitimate dissertation topic?

Lorelei, Eddie, and Raisin are on the case!

Karenza Sparks is a multidisciplinary designer, comics creator, animator, and fossil hunter from Cornwall. She has a particular interest in gamification, story telling, interactive experiences, and participatory artworks. Sparks graduated from Kingston school in 2020 and is based in Cornwall. *The Corus Wave* is her first graphic novel.

Fiction



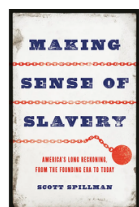
Spencer, Lisa

***How Do Hurricanes Have An Eye? A Book About Natural Disasters***

Have you ever wondered how earthquakes shake the ground or what makes a blizzard different than a snowstorm? Come along on a science adventure to learn all about natural weather events, how and where they form, the science behind them, safety tips and alerts to know if they do, and so much more through diagrams, illustrations, and informative and engaging text. Each of the six questions examined in the book are given a silly answer before the true answer is revealed making this an approachable way to learn nonfiction. Back matter includes a glossary and activities to further learning. Questions answered in the book: • How do hurricanes have an eye? Unlike the eyes we have, this one is calm and in the center of a massive storm! • How do tornados get so strong? High wind speeds up the strength of a tornado. • How do you know how much water is too much water? Too much water means there could be flooding, and not enough water means there could be a drought. • How do earthquakes shake the ground? Tectonic plates bumping against each other can cause the ground to shake. • How do tsunamis form? Underwater earthquakes can create massive waves. • How do blizzards out-snow and out-freeze regular snowstorms? Blizzards require more wind, last longer, and lead to less visibility. About the How Do series: These fully illustrated nonfiction picture books are a great introduction to various STEM topics. Each title includes facts and figures, simple diagrams and hilarious illustrations and is written in a question-and-answer format to encourage readers to ask questions and guess the answers before exploring the science behind the correct answers.

Lisa Spencer is a long-time broadcast meteorologist at WSMV in Nashville, Tennessee. She earned her master's degree in geography with a concentration in atmospheric science from the University of Memphis as well as a bachelor's degree in broadcast communications. She also obtained a certificate in meteorology from Mississippi State University. Lisa has been recognized nationally by the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. Her career has taken her from TV stations in Memphis, TN, Raleigh, NC, and The Weather Channel. Lisa and her husband Brady have two grown children and a dog.

Children's



Spillman, Scott

***Making Sense of Slavery America's Long Reckoning, from the Founding Era to Today***

An "essential" (James Oakes, author of *The Crooked Path to Abolition*) history of the study of slavery in America, from the Revolutionary era to the 1619 Project, showing how these intellectual debates have shaped American public life. In recent years, from school board meetings to the halls of Congress, Americans have engaged in fierce debates about how slavery and its legacies ought to be taught, researched, and narrated. But since the earliest days of the Republic, political leaders, abolitionists, judges, scholars, and ordinary citizens have all struggled to explain and understand the peculiar institution.

Scott Spillman received his PhD in history from Stanford University. His writing has appeared in the *New Republic*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *n+1*, and *The Point*. He lives in Denver, Colorado.

History



Stevens, Court

***Tell Me Something Good: A Novel***

"This is a writer that understands people down to the bones. Her characters are fallible and hopeful, flawed and loving, and so real they have stayed with me." -- Joshilyn Jackson, New York Times bestselling author "A knockout." -- Booklist Starred Review This is a story of the rich and the very poor. This is a story of an illegal auction with dire consequences. This is a story of murders past and present. This is a story of intertwined relationships and the silent ripples they leave behind, where love becomes a guiding force, revealing the lengths one will go to protect those they cherish. Over twenty years ago, a young hunting guide in rural Kentucky was driving his boat in the early morning mist when his peaceful cruise was cut short by a scene so disturbing, he packed up and moved away. Nine women died early that morning, but it was linked to a similar crime in Texas, so the locals quickly wrote it off as having nothing to do with them. Now, all these years later, when everyone has nearly forgotten about that grisly part of their past, one man's accidental death will bring everything back up to the surface. The locals who knew better can no longer claim it had nothing to do with them, and one woman, desperate to do whatever it takes to save her mother's life, will learn that nearly everyone in her life has been lying to her. In Court Stevens's adult debut, she delves deep into the heart of a community, where some will learn that we don't always live to see the ripples we make, but we must make them all the same.

Court Stevens grew up among rivers, cornfields, churches, and gossip in the small-town South. She is a former adjunct professor, youth minister, and Olympic torchbearer. These days she writes coming-of-truth fiction and is the director of Warren County Public Library in Kentucky. She has a pet whale named Herman, a bandsaw named Rex, and several novels with her name on the spine: *Last Girl Breathing*, *We Were Kings*, *The June Boys*, *Faking Normal*, *The Lies About Truth*, the e-novella *The Blue-Haired Boy*, *Dress Codes for Small Towns*, and *Four Three Two One*. Find Court online at [CourtneyCStevens.com](http://CourtneyCStevens.com); Instagram: [@quartland](https://www.instagram.com/quartland); Facebook: [@CourtneyCStevens](https://www.facebook.com/CourtneyCStevens); X: [@quartland](https://twitter.com/quartland)

Mystery/Thriller



Stratton, L.S.

*In Deadly Company: A Novel*

A twisty, propulsive murder mystery featuring a young executive assistant who realizes the peril of “paying your dues”—and a thrilling and satirical takedown of corporate culture values. A year after a blowout birthday celebration accidentally ended in the death of her nightmare boss, Xander Chambers, Nicole Underwood is setting the public record straight by consulting on a feature film based on the story. But on set, her experiences are persistently sidelined by inappropriate casting and frequent, bizarre script changes. In reality, Xander was a horrible boss and an unfit leader, and on the night he died, Nicole had been asking questions about Xander’s mysterious rise to power. As the cameras roll and her memories of that night replay, she begins to wonder... Could she have been the reason he’s dead in the first place?

L.S. Stratton’s previous thrillers (“Not so Perfect Strangers”, “Do What Godmother Says”) were chosen as one of NPR’s “Books We Love,” and a Book Riot “Best Mystery & Thriller.” With a poignant and satirical voice, her latest is both a “conversation starter” and an unputdownable page-turner.

**Mystery/Thriller**



Sullivan, Archer

*The Witch's Orchard*

A ninth generation Appalachian herself, Archer Sullivan brings the mountains of North Carolina to life in *The Witch's Orchard*, a wonderfully atmospheric novel that introduces private investigator Annie Gore. Former Air Force Special Investigator Annie Gore joined the military right after high school to escape the fraught homelife of her childhood. Now, she’s getting by as a private investigator and her latest case takes her to an Appalachian holler not unlike the one where she grew up. Ten years ago, three little girls went missing from their tiny mountain town. While one was returned, the others were never seen again. After all this time without answers, the brother of one of the girls wants to hire an outsider, and he wants Annie. While she may not be from his town, she gets mountain towns. Mountain people. Driving back into the hills for a case this old—it might be a fool’s errand. But Annie needs to put money in the bank and she can’t turn down a case. Not even one that dredges up her own painful past. In the shadow of the Blue Ridge, Annie begins to track the truth, navigating a decade’s worth of secrets, folklore of witches and crows, and a whole town that prefers to forget. But while the case may have been buried, echoes of the past linger. And Annie’s arrival stirs someone into action.

ARCHER SULLIVAN is a ninth generation Appalachian. She’s moved thirty-seven times and has lived everywhere from Monticello, Kentucky to Manhattan, New York and from Black Mountain, North Carolina to Beverly Hills, California. Her work has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Tough*, *Shotgun Honey*, *Reckon Review*, *Rock and a Hard Place*, and *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2024*.

**Mystery/Thriller**



Sumner, Jamie

*Please Pay Attention*

A girl with cerebral palsy navigates loss, grief, and the aftermath of trauma following a school shooting in a world that wasn’t built for her in this “intimate, lyrical” (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review) novel in verse from Jamie Sumner, the acclaimed author of *Roll with It*. There is a *Before* and an *After* for sixth grader Bea Coughlin. *Before* the shooting at her school that took the lives of her classmates and teacher and *After*, when she must figure out how to grieve, live, and keep rolling forward. But as her community rallies in a tidal wave of marches and speeches and protests, Bea can’t get past the helplessness she felt in her wheelchair as others around her took cover. Through the help of therapeutic horseback riding, Bea finally begins to feel like herself again. And as she heals, she finds her voice and the bravery to demand change.

Jamie Sumner is the author of *Roll with It*, *Time to Roll*, *Rolling On*, *Tune It Out*, *One Kid's Trash*, *The Summer of June*, *Maid for It*, *Deep Water*, *Please Pay Attention*, *Schooled*, and *Glory Be*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other publications. She loves stories that celebrate the grit and beauty in all kids. She is also the mother of a son with cerebral palsy and has written extensively about parenting a child with special needs. She and her family live in Nashville, Tennessee. Visit her at [Jamie-Sumner.com](http://Jamie-Sumner.com). Read more

**Middle Grade**



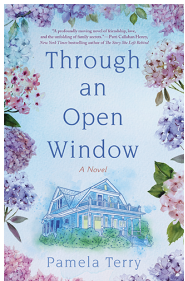
Swift, Serra

***Kill The Beast: A Novel***

The Witcher meets Howl's Moving Castle in this debut original faerie tale of revenge, redemption, and friendship—for fans of T. Kingfisher, Naomi Novik, and cozy fantasy with a dash of gritty adventure. The night Lyssa Cadogan's brother was murdered by a faerie-made monster known as the Beast, she made him a promise: she would find a way to destroy the immortal creature and avenge his death. For thirteen years, she has been hunting faeries and the abominations they created. But in all that time, the one Beast she is most desperate to find has never resurfaced. Until she meets Alderic Casimir de Laurent, a melodramatic dandy with a coin purse bigger than his brain. Somehow, he has found the monster's lair, and—even more surprising—retrieved one of its claws. A claw Lyssa needs in order to forge a sword that can kill the Beast. Alderic is ill-equipped for a hunt and almost guaranteed to get himself killed. But as the two of them search for the rest of the materials that will be the Beast's undoing, Alderic reveals hidden depths: dark secrets that he guards as carefully as Lyssa guards hers. Before long, and against Lyssa's better judgment, an unlikely friendship begins to bloom—one that will either lead to the culmination of Lyssa's quest for vengeance, or spell doom for them both.

Serra Swift lives in Southern California with her husband and their Boston Terrier, Waffles. When she isn't writing, she can usually be found reading or (let's be honest) eating a snack. Kill the Beast is her first novel.

**Sci Fi/Fantasy**



Terry, Pamela

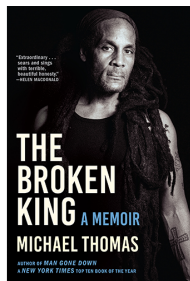
***Through An Open Window: A Novel***

A charming, heartfelt novel about the bonds of family, whether found or foretold, from the author of The Sweet Taste of Muscadines. In the small Southern town of Wesleyan, Georgia, where the air smells of red clay and sea salt, Margaret Elliot has lived a seemingly charmed life—until the recent loss of her beloved husband. Since then, Margaret has been seeing visions of her aunt Edith, the indomitable woman who raised her after her parents died when she was a baby. As these mysterious and undeniable visitations continue, Margaret becomes convinced that Aunt Edith is trying to tell her something important. As she follows the clues that almost magically present themselves, it becomes clear there is a secret from Margaret's past waiting to be uncovered. As Margaret grapples with each new revelation, she also worries about her three grown children. Her stoic and inscrutable eldest daughter, Mouse, continues to struggle with the grief of losing her father. Her son Lawrie, always his mother's favorite, faces life-altering changes that he both longs for and fears—while Tom, Lawrie's twin, must wrestle with the consequences of a work decision that has blown up his entire life. Despite the tensions among the siblings as they argue about how best to support their mother, the whole family is soon embroiled in uncovering the truth the ghost of Aunt Edith is striving to expose. Through an Open Window invites us to see the grace that is so often there in the background, just waiting to be revealed. And reminds us that not even death can keep love from winning out in the end.

A lifelong Southerner, Pamela Terry learned the power of storytelling at a very early age. Terry is the author of The Sweet Taste of Muscadines and the internationally popular blog From the House of Edward, which was named one of the top ten home blogs of the year by London's The Telegraph. She lives in Georgia with her songwriter husband, Pat, and their three dogs, Apple, Andrew, and George. She travels to the Scottish Highlands as frequently as possible.

**Fiction**





Thomas, Michael

*The Broken King: A Memoir*

From the author of *Man Gone Down*—a New York Times Top Ten Book of the Year and winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award—comes a deeply personal memoir of race, trauma, alcoholism, parenting, mental illness and ultimately hope in a portrait of three generations of Black American men. In 2007, Michael Thomas launched into the literary world with his award-winning first novel *Man Gone Down*, a beautiful and devastating story of a Black father trying to claim a piece of the American Dream. Called “powerful and moving . . . an impressive success,” by Kaiama L. Glover on the cover of the New York Times Book Review, Thomas’ debut introduced a writer of prodigious and rare talent. In his long-awaited encore and first work of nonfiction, *The Broken King*, Thomas explores fathers and sons, lovers and the beloved, trauma and recovery, success and failure in a unique, urgent, and timeless memoir. The title is borrowed from T.S. Eliot’s line in “Little Gidding”: “If you came at night like a broken king,” and the work ponders the process of being broken. Akin to Baldwin’s *The Fire Next Time* or Nabokov’s *Invitation of a Beatitude*, Thomas’ memoir unfolds through six powerful, interlocking and overlaying parts focusing on the lives of five men: his father—a philosopher, Boston Red Sox fan, and absent parent; his estranged older brother; his two sons growing up in Brooklyn; and always, heartbreakingly himself. At the center of *The Broken King* is the story of Thomas’ own breakdown, a result of inherited family history and his own experiences, from growing up Black in the Boston suburbs to publishing a prize-winning novel with “the house of Beckett.” Every page of *The Broken King* rings with the impact of America’s sweeping struggle with race and class, education and family, and builds to a brave, meticulous articulation of a creative mind’s journey into and out of madness.

Michael Thomas is the author of the national bestseller *Man Gone Down*, winner of the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and a New York Times Top Ten Book of the Year. His writing has appeared in *A Public Space*, *The New York Times*, and in Ben George’s anthology *The Book of Dads*. He is a professor of English at Hunter College. He lives in Brooklyn.

Autobiography/Memoir



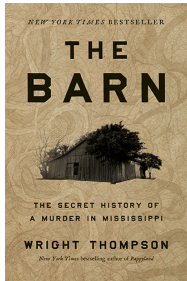
Thomas, Sheree Renée

*Mojorhythm*

“Sheree Renée Thomas gives us a whirlpool of poem and story, a ‘wild and strange’ breed’ of cosmology. . . .”—Tye Himba Jess, author of *Olio*, Pulitzer Prize Winner. The award-winning Sheree Renée Thomas, author of *Nine Bar Blues* returns with a new collection of Hoodoo, fantasy, magic myths, and lore. Meet a spacefaring prophet of the future digging in the crates of earth’s past, follow intrepid ancient body snatchers in search of the elixir of life, fall in love with a shapeshifting, alien goddess intent on the world’s most epic family reunion. Beware of the Candy lady whose sweets hide secrets yet to be seen, and enter a legendary diner whose culinary wares change fates. These tales masterfully speak to the magic and mystery, the rhythms and blues of the soul’s turn through life and beyond. Short stories that invite readers into a world where ancient traditions and futuristic visions collide in a symphony of magic, music, and adventure, tapping into that natural power and rhythms of a natural world that is connected to futuristic technology. These stories explore the supernatural rhythms of music, history, and culture, Hoodoo as an ancient modern spiritual tradition and folklore, the whimsy and horrors of life, and the realms of the impossible. It’s a multigenre strange and wondrous brew.

Sheree Renée Thomas is a twice Hugo Award nominated, Locus Award, and three-time World Fantasy Award-winner. Her work is widely anthologized and appears in *The Big Book of Modern Fantasy*. The author of four collections, including *Mojorhythm*, *Nine Bar Blues: Stories from an Ancient Future*, *Sleeping Under the Tree of Life*, and *Shotgun Lullabies*. Sheree is a co-editor for *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction*, *Trouble the Waters: Tales of the Deep Blue*, and is the editor of the groundbreaking *Dark Matter* speculative fiction anthologies that first introduced W.E.B. Du Bois’s work as science fiction and explored 165+ years of Black Speculative Fiction. In 2023 she was honored with the Octavia E. Butler Award. She is the editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy of Science Fiction* and associate editor of *Obsidian*. Her collaboration with artist Janelle Monáe on the “Timebox Altar(ed)” novelet appears in *The Memory Librarian and Other Stories of Dirty Computer* (HarperVoyager), a New York Times bestseller. Sheree is a Marvel writer, including the novel, *Black Panther: Panther’s Rage* (Titan/Penguin Random House), an adaptation of Don McGregor’s legendary graphic novel, and her

Sci Fi/Fantasy



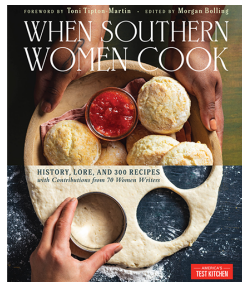
Thompson, Wright

***The Barn: The Secret History of a Murder in Mississippi***

Wright Thompson's family farm in Mississippi is 2.5 miles from the site of one of the most notorious and consequential killings in American history, yet he had to leave the state for college before he learned the first thing about it. To this day, fundamental truths about the crime are widely unknown, including where it took place and how many people were involved. This is no accident: the cover-up began at once, and it is ongoing. In August 1955, two men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, were charged with the torture and murder of the 14-year-old Emmett Till in Money, Mississippi. After their inevitable acquittal in a mockery of justice, they gave a false confession to a journalist, which was misleading about where the long night of hell took place and who was involved. In fact, Wright Thompson reveals, at least eight people can be placed at the scene, which was inside the barn of one of the killers, on a plot of land within the six-square-mile grid whose official name is Township 22 North, Range 4 West, Section 2, West Half, fabled in the Delta of myth as the birthplace of the blues on nearby Dockery Plantation. Even in the context of the racist caste regime of the time, the four-hour torture and murder of a Black boy barely in his teens for whistling at a young white woman was acutely depraved; Till's mother Mamie Till-Mobley's decision to keep the casket open seared the crime indelibly into American consciousness. Wright Thompson has a deep understanding of this story—the world of the families of both Emmett Till and his killers, and all the forces that aligned to place them together on that spot on the map. As he shows, the full horror of the crime was its inevitability, and how much about it we still need to understand. Ultimately this is a story about property, and money, and power, and white supremacy. It implicates all of us. In *The Barn*, Thompson brings to life the small group of dedicated people who have been ignored in the hard-faceted business of whitening the truth to light. *Battling* A first-of-its-kind Southern cookbook featuring more than 300 Cook's Country recipes and fascinating insights into the culinary techniques and heroes of the American South. Tour the diverse history of Southern food through 200+ stories of women who've shaped the cuisine! Shepherded by Toni Tipton-Martin and Cook's Country Executive Editor and TV personality Morgan Bolling, *When Southern Women Cook* showcases the hard work, hospitality, and creativity of women who have given soul to Southern cooking from the start. Every page amplifies their contributions, from the enslaved cooks making foundational food at Monticello to Mexican Americans accessing sweet memories with colorful conchas today. 70+ voices paint a true picture of the South: Emmy Award-winning producer and author Von Diaz covers Caribbean immigrant foodways through Southern stews; food journalist Kim Severson delves into recipes' power as cultural currency; mixologist and beverage historian Tiffanie Barriere reflects on Juneteenth customs including red drink. Consulting food historian KC Hysmith contributes important—and fascinating—context throughout. 300 Recipes—must-knows, little-knowns, and modern inventions: Regional Brunswick Stew, Dollywood Cinnamon Bread, Pickle-Brined Fried Chicken Sandwiches, Grilled Lemongrass Chicken Banh Mi, and Oat Guava Cookies bridge the gap between what Southern cooking is known for and how it continues to evolve. Recipe headnotes contextualize your cooking: Learn Edna Lewis' biscuit wisdom. Read about Waffle House and fry chicken thighs to top light-as-air waffles. Meet Joy Perrine, the "Bad Girl of Bourbon." Covering every region and flavor of the American South, from Texas Barbecue to Gullah Geechee rice dishes, this collection of 300 recipes is a joyous celebration of Southern cuisine and its diverse heroes, past and present.

Wright Thompson is the bestselling author of *Pappyland* and *The Cost of These Dreams*. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his family.

History



Tipton-Martin, Toni

***When Southern Women Cook: History, Lore, and 300 Recipes***

Julia Child Award recipient, journalist, and Cook's Country Editor-in-Chief Toni Tipton-Martin is the force behind the James Beard and IACP Award-winning book *Jubilee* as well as *The* *Jemima Code* and the newly released *Juke Joints, Jazz Clubs & Juice*.

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Cooking



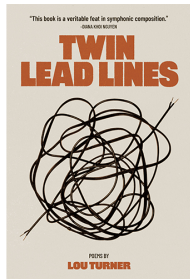
Toarmino, Rachelle

*Hell Yeah!*

"Hell Yeah is viral in the social neon ... Toarmino's got it." —Nick Sturm "Rachelle Toarmino is a very gifted poet, and Hell Yeah is a stunning collection ... Assured, restless, generous, loving, funny, plaintive, and high-octane." —Peter Gizzi "Commonplace, profound, and vibrant, these poems sing into the wild gap between our earthly selves and the wider world to prod at the interval between knowing and not knowing." —Hoa Nguyen "What a fantastic book this is! I want everyone who loves poetry to read it!" —C.A. Conrad Hell Yeah, Rachelle Toarmino's highly anticipated second collection of poems, is an intimate, ecstatic examination of the wonders of common speech. As automatic and wholehearted as a hell yeah between friends, the poems interject into various sites of the interpersonal—from a work email and doctor's office to a long-distance call and Yahoo! Answers rabbit hole—to measure the strange, mundane, and ancient ways we relate and respond to one another. In an alternating rhythm of logic and lyric, doubt and doubling down, Toarmino regifts plain and inherited language to arrive at a theory for familiarity and something like faith: how we know what we know and why we share what we know. With curiosity, generosity, oddball intellect, and charm, Hell Yeah captures that gut impulse to feel yes, say so, and sing it.

Rachelle Toarmino is a poet from Niagara Falls, New York. She is the author of the poetry collections Hell Yeah and That Ex, as well as several chapbooks, most recently My Science, winner of the 2024 Sixth Finch Chapbook Contest. Her work has appeared in Poets.org, Literary Hub, Electric Literature, American Poetry Review, Bennington Review, Southeast Review, The Slowdown, and Omnidawn, which awarded her its 2024 Single Poem Broadside Prize. She earned her MFA in poetry at UMass Amherst, where she received an Academy of American Poets Prize. She is also the founding editor in chief of the literary publishing project Peach Mag and the creator and lead instructor of Beauty School, an independent poetry school. She lives in Buffalo.

Poetry



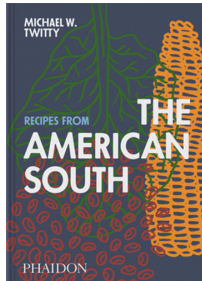
Turner, Lauren

*Twin Lead Lines*

"These meticulously lyrical poems serve not only as auto-ethnographic lenses through which we can see both Little Jimmy Dickens being examined, but also the person doing the looking and the listening..." —Diana Khoi Nguyen, author of Root Fractures and Ghost Of "This is a book that demands to be read and reread." —Paige Lewis, author of Space Struck Twin Lead Lines, the remarkably original debut from poet and musician Lou Turner, is born of overlaps: those of ancestry and chosen family, of show business and DIY paths of artmaking, and of listening deeply to others and oneself. Turner's distant cousin and Grand Ole Opry legend Little Jimmy Dickens plays a role in the poems as part-muse, part-foil, and full lode star -- not flawless, but bright -- for the poems to orient around as Turner maps her own voice and calling to artmaking. Dickens is Turner's partner in one of many of the duets played throughout Twin Lead Lines; along with a book-length series of anagram couplets, the twin-lead wire used to transmit radio signals, and the twin lead style of guitar playing made popular by Dickens' band. Turner deftly moves between traditional and invented forms in these poems, which -- like a country song -- are by turns funny and searching.

Lou Turner is a writer and musician (Styrofoam Winos, Ryan Davis & the Roadhouse Band) based in Nashville, TN. She holds an MFA in poetry from Randolph College and is the author of the chapbook Shape Note Singing (VA Press, 2021) as well as the editor of Quarter Notes, a literary magazine with a musical ear. Turner was a 2023 recipient of a solo artist residency from The Cabins, as well as a recipient of a Nashville Metro Arts Thrive Grant. The 2024 winner of The Porch Prize in Poetry, recent poems have appeared in OEI's Aural Poetics issue, Voicemail Poems, The Continental Review, EcoTheo, and elsewhere. Turner's latest solo record Microcosmos (SPINSTER) was named a Best Album of 2022 by NPR Music's Ann Powers. Twin Lead Lines -- called "a veritable feat in symphonic composition" by Diana Khoi Nguyen -- is her first book.

Poetry



Twitty, Michael

***Recipes from the American South***

A home cook's guide to one of America's most diverse – and delicious – cuisines, from James Beard Award-winning author and culinary historian Michael W. Twitty 'Our cuisine, with its grits and black-eyed peas, crab cakes, red rice, and endless variations on the staple foods of the region, casts a spell that, if you're lucky, gets passed down with snapping string beans at the table and chewing cane on the back porch.' – Michael W. Twitty In the introduction to this groundbreaking recipe collection, acclaimed historian Michael W. Twitty declares, 'No one state or area can give you the breadth of the Southern story or fully set the Southern table.'

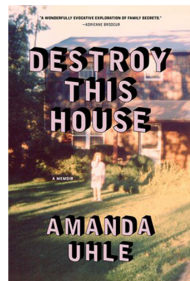
To answer this, *Recipes from the American South* journeys from the Louisiana Bayou to the Chesapeake Bay, showcasing more than 260 of the region's most beloved dishes. Across more than 400 pages, Twitty explores the broad culinary sweep that Southern history and its many cultures represent. Recipes for breads and biscuits, mains and sides, stews, sauces, and sweets feature insightful headnotes and clear, step-by-step instructions. Home cooks will discover both iconic dishes and lesser-known specialties: Chicken and Dumplings, She-crab Soup, Red Eye Gravy, Benne Seed Wafers, Hummingbird Cake, and Mint Juleps appear alongside Shrimp Pilau, Chorizo Dirty Rice, Sumac Lemonade, and Cajun Pig's Ears Pastry. A masterful storyteller, Twitty enriches his extensive recipe collection with lyrical, deeply researched essays that celebrate the region's "multicultural gumbo" of influences from immigrants from across the globe.

Vibrant food photography adds further color to the fascinating narrative. Expansive, authoritative, and beautifully designed, *Recipes from the American South* is a classic cookbook in the making.

Michael W. Twitty is an acclaimed culinary historian, and author of the two-times James Beard Award-winning book *The Cooking Gene*, as well as

*Rice and Kosher* . He has written for many publications and been featured throughout print and broadcast media, including the *Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, PBS, and NPR's *The Splendid Table*. He has given over 500 public talks and appeared in numerous series, including *Taste the Nation* and *High on the Hog*.

Cooking



Uhle, Amanda

***Destroy This House***

For fans of *The Glass Castle* and *The Liars' Club*, a tender, heartbreaking, and hilarious memoir chronicling the challenges of growing up with a desperately scheming father, a mother plagued by an acute hoarding disorder, and parenting parents while seeking independence. The Long family's love was fierce, their lifestyle bizarre, and their deceptions countless. Once her parents were gone, Amanda Uhle realized she was closer to them than anyone else, yet she found herself utterly confounded by the lives they had led.

Amanda Uhle writes about culture, politics, and civil rights for *The Washington Post*, *Politico Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Newsweek*.

Uhle is coeditor of the *I, Witness* series of first-person stories by youth activists, former director of the 826michigan youth writing and tutoring program, and cofounder, with Dave Eggers, of the International Congress of Youth Voices. Their work with youth writing organizations worldwide is documented in *Unnecessarily Beautiful Spaces for Young Minds on Fire*. Uhle is the publisher and executive director of McSweeney's, an independent nonprofit publisher of distinctive books and magazines.

Autobiography/Memoir



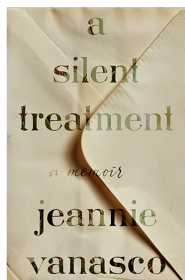
Uhles, Mary

***The Flock We Found***

Mostly Baby Bird worries when Papa Bird comes home. Sometimes he comes home too loud, or too quiet, or too . . . different. When all the birds in the tree decide to host a field day, Baby Bird hatches a plan. If he can win field day, Papa Bird will come home happy . . . right? With the help of Mama and all his neighbors, Baby Bird flies highest, builds a practically perfect nest, and catches the fastest worm! And Papa Bird doesn't even notice. Baby Bird is devastated. Was all his hard work for nothing? Mama and all his neighbors help him to understand that he is surrounded by love. And what's more—he found a flock who will always support him. This is a story of found family and encouragement for any kid with a parent who may not be able to be fully present in their lives. Includes a reader's note by Ellen Braaten, PhD, with more information on the effect on children living in unpredictable homes and ways to help them cope.

Mary Reaves Uhles is a picture book author, illustrator, and former animator whose recent illustration credits include *Counting on Naamah* and *Let's Pop, Pop, Popcorn*. She lives with her family in Nashville, Tennessee.

Children's



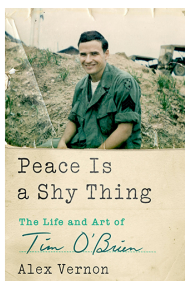
Vanasco, Jeannie

***A Silent Treatment: A Memoir***

“A Silent Treatment confronts both the complexity of family and the quandary of capturing a family’s shapeshifting and perplexing love, their truthful and devoted love, in the amber of memoir.” —Megha Majumdar She did it to my dad, though. They used the silent treatment on each other, she explained, because they didn’t want to say something they’d regret. What does she want to say now that she’d regret? Jeannie Vanasco’s mother starts using the silent treatment not long after moving into the renovated apartment within Jeannie’s home. The silences begin at any perceived slight. Her shortest period of silence lasts two weeks. Her longest, six months. As Vanasco guides us through her mother’s childhood, their shared past, and the devastating silence of their present, she paints a layered, complicated portrait of a mother and daughter looking, failing, and—in big and small ways—succeeding to understand each other. In the margins of her research, at her kitchen table with her partner, in phone calls to friends, and in delightful hey google queries, Vanasco explores the loneliness and isolation of silence as punishment, both in her own life and beyond it, and confronts her greatest fear: that her mother will never speak to her again. From the acclaimed author of Things We Didn’t Talk About When I was a Girl and The Glass Eye, Jeannie Vanasco’s A Silent Treatment is a searingly honest and lasting testament to the power of all things left unsaid.

Jeannie Vanasco is the author of the memoirs Things We Didn’t Talk About When I Was a Girl and The Glass Eye . Born and raised in Sandusky, Ohio, she lives in Baltimore and is an associate professor of English at Towson University.

**Autobiography/Memoir**



Vernon, Alex

***Peace is a Shy Thing: the Life and Art of Tim O'Brien***

The first literary biography of Tim O’Brien, the preeminent American writer of the war in Vietnam and one of the best writers of his generation, drawing on never-before-seen materials and original interviews. "Vietnam made me a writer." —Tim O’Brien Featuring over one hundred interviews with family, friends, peers, and others—not to mention countless exchanges with Tim O’Brien himself—Peace is a Shy Thing provides a nearly day-by-day, gripping account of O’Brien’s thirteen months as an infantryman in Vietnam and gives equal diligence to reconstructing O’Brien’s writing process. This meticulously researched biography explores the life and journey that turned O’Brien into a literary icon and a household name. It includes an unpublished short story about O’Brien from a college girlfriend, documentation of his comical involvement with the Washington Post’s coverage of Watergate, and a 1989 attic exchange between American and Vietnamese writers on the eve of the publication of O’Brien’s most beloved book, The Things They Carried, years before the two countries normalized relations. Peace is a Shy Thing is as much a history of the era as it is a story of O’Brien’s life, from his small-town midwestern mid-century childhood, to winning the National Book Award and his status as literary elder statesman. A story which Vernon, a combat veteran of the Persian Gulf War and a literary scholar trained by officers and professors of the Vietnam era, is uniquely suited to tell.

From Prairie Village, Kansas, Alex Vernon graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (the only literature major in his class of over a thousand), served in combat as a tank platoon leader in the Persian Gulf War, and earned a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The recipient of an Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Book Award and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, he is the M.E. & Ima Graves Peace Distinguished Professor of English at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. This is his eleventh book.

**General Nonfiction**





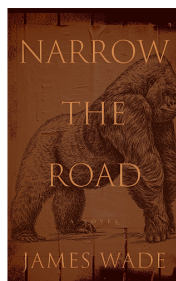
Wade, E.J.

***The Devil's Pulpit and Other Mostly True Scottish Misadventures***

On the heels of a global pandemic, two post-menopausal Appalachian women, one black, one white, abandoned hearth, home, and spouses shrugging in dubious wonderment to live and study abroad together in a university flat along Scotland's River Ayr. Poet E.J. Wade and author Karen Spears Zacharias roamed from the depths of Finnich Glen to the outcroppings of Dunure Castle. Sometimes wishing they'd been raised by Buddhist Monks instead of by foul-mouthed chain-smoking Appalachian mothers, these two University of the West of Scotland grad students embraced the wandering spirits of their matriarchal ancestors and left no ScotRail ticket unused. In Glasgow's Sloans Ballroom, as musicians reimaged the compositions of writer and abolitionist Ignatius Sancho, they danced a cèilidh. Along Edinburgh's High Street, Wade performed a salsa. Hiking past windsurfers and golfers, they went in search of fairies and unearthed magical moments. They snuzzled Highland coos in Stranraer and stood gap-mouthed before the Falkirk Kelpies. THE DEVIL'S PULPIT & OTHER MOSTLY TRUE SCOTTISH MISADVENTURES is part travelogue, part memoir, part poetry, and in outlandish Scottish storytelling tradition, a wee bit of winging it. Somewhere along Scotland's northermost tip to its southernmost brigs, they forged a friendship that defies generations of racial animosity. At its heart, this collection is the rediscovery of friendships first formed through studying and mucking about.

E.J. (Ellen) Wade is an award-winning poet whose work has been published in the ANTHOLOGY OF APPALACHIAN WRITERS, Women Speak, Salvation South, and Callaloo Literary Journal. A four-time National Endowment of the Humanities Teacher Institute winner, she holds an EdD in Disability and Equity in Education from National Louis University, an MA in Appalachian Studies from Shepherd University, and an MA in Creative Media Practice from the University of the West of Scotland.

Historical Fiction



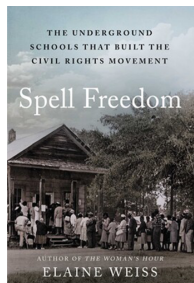
Wade, James

***Narrow the Road: A Novel***

In this gripping coming-of-age odyssey, a young man's quest to reunite his family takes him on a life-altering journey through the wilds of 1930s East Texas, where both danger and opportunity grow as thick as the pines. With his father missing and his mother gravely ill, William Carter is struggling to keep his family's cotton farm afloat in the face of drought and foreclosure. As his options wane, William receives a mysterious letter that claims to know his father's whereabouts. Together with his best friend Ollie, a mortician-in-training, William sets out to find his father and bring him home to set things right. But before the boys can complete their quest, they must navigate the labyrinth of the Big Thicket, some of the country's most uncharted, untamed land. Along the way they encounter eccentric backwoods characters of every order, running afoul of murderers, bootleggers, and even the legendary Bonnie and Clyde. But the danger is doubled when the boys agree to take on a medicine show runaway named Lena, eliciting the ire of the show's leader, the nefarious conman Doctor Downtain. As William, Ollie, and Lena race to uncover the clues and find William's father, Downtain is closing in on them, readying to make good on his violent reputation. With the clock ticking, William must decide where his loyalties lie and how far he's willing to go for the people he loves. From award-winning author James Wade, *Narrow the Road* is a riveting exploration of a young man's hard-won coming-of-age and the courageous ways a person can forge a singular path in the face of overwhelming adversity. Alive with grit and tenderness, this is an unforgettable story of the power of friendship to sustain us through loss, betrayal, and devastating consequence.

James Wade is the award-winning author of *Hollow Out the Dark*, *Beasts of the Earth*, *All Things Left Wild*, and *River, Sing Out*. He is the youngest novelist to win two Spur Awards from the Western Writers of America, and a recipient of the MPIBA's prestigious Reading the West Award. His work has appeared in *Texas Highways*, *Writers' Digest*, and numerous additional publications. James lives and writes in the Texas Hill Country with his wife and children.

Autobiography/Memoir



Weiss, Elaine

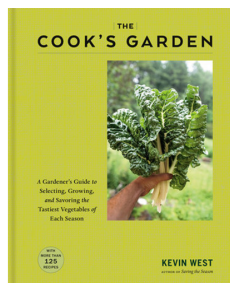
***Spell Freedom: The Underground Schools that Built the Civil Rights Movement***

The acclaimed author of the “stirring, definitive, and engrossing” (NPR) *The Woman’s Hour* returns with the story of four activists whose audacious plan to restore voting rights to Black Americans laid the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement. In the summer of 1954, educator Septima Clark and small businessman Esau Jenkins travelled to rural Tennessee’s Highlander Folk School, an interracial training center for social change founded by Myles Horton, a white southerner with roots in the labor movement. There, the trio united behind a shared mission: preparing Black southerners to pass the daunting Jim Crow era voter registration literacy tests that were designed to disenfranchise them. Together with beautician-turned-teacher Bernice Robinson, they launched the underground Citizenship Schools project, which began with a single makeshift classroom hidden in the back of a rural grocery store. By the time the Voting Rights Act was signed into law in 1965, the secretive undertaking had established more than nine hundred citizenship schools across the South, preparing tens of thousands of Black citizens to read and write, demand their rights—and vote.

Simultaneously, it nurtured a generation of activists—many of them women—trained in community organizing, political citizenship, and tactics of resistance and struggle who became the grassroots foundation of the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King called Septima Clark, “Mother of the Movement.” In the vein of *Hidden Figures* and *Devil in the Grove*, *Spell Freedom* is both a riveting, crucially important lens onto our past, and a deeply moving story for our present.

Elaine Weiss is an award-winning journalist, author, and public speaker. In addition to *Spell Freedom*, she is the author of *Fruits of Victory: The Woman’s Land Army of the Great War*; and *The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Elaine lives with her husband in Baltimore, Maryland. Find out more at [ElaineWeiss.com](http://ElaineWeiss.com).

History



West, Kevin

***The Cook's Garden***

From the critically acclaimed author of *Saving the Season* comes an accessible, comprehensive, and inspiring guide to growing your own garden and incorporating homegrown produce into everyday cooking—no matter how much or how little space you have. For Kevin West, the surest path to a successful garden leads through the kitchen door. And preparing for a fantastic meal of homegrown vegetables—the kind of meal that leaves you not only satisfied, but grateful—is just what he wants to help you learn to do. In *The Cook’s Garden*, West gives readers the tools and confidence they need to grow food for their own meals. From gardening basics and advice on harvesting, to delicious recipes showing how to make the best use of produce in any season—including primers on freezing surplus vegetables, making pantry staples such as canned tomatoes, and effectively using stored produce—this book promises to inspire anyone, even if their growing plot is as small as a window box in a city apartment. West’s erudite yet practical guide is interwoven with meditations on the beauty, poetry, and spirituality inherent in growing and preparing one’s own food. *The Cook’s Garden* guides readers through jumpstarting their gardens and revolutionizing their kitchens—while also nourishing their minds and souls.

Kevin West comes from East Tennessee farmers and Smoky Mountain settlers, country people with generations of commitment to growing delicious food. He is the author of *Saving the Season: A Cook’s Guide to Home Canning, Pickling, and Preserving* and also coauthored *The Grand Central Market Cookbook* and contributed to *Edna Lewis: At the Table with an American Original*. He lives the Berkshires, in rural western Massachusetts.

Cooking



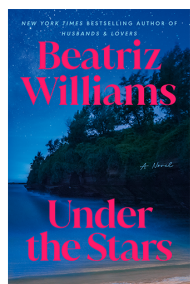
Williams, Andrea

*Inside the Park*

From Andrea Williams, the bestselling author of *We Are Family* with LeBron James, comes *Inside the Park*, the story of a young baseball fan's misadventures after getting locked inside a pro baseball stadium on the eve of the biggest game of the season. In this all-new, hilarious, action-packed middle grade tale, Timothy "Pumpsie" Strickland, a baseball-loving twelve-year-old, is about to step up to the plate for the biggest swing of his life. Pumpsie needs a win. Or to be more precise, he needs the Nashville Wildcats to win. Pumpsie's been waiting his entire life—twelve whole years!—for his favorite team to make it to the playoffs. And this year—finally!—they're just one win away. But when Pumpsie accidentally gets trapped in Lookout Field the night before the last game of the season, with only a lost dog named Campy for company, he may have accidentally stumbled into the best night of his life. For a baseball fan like Pumpsie, using the pro batting cages, running the bases, playing with the public address system, eating all the concession-stand junk food he can find is a dream come true . . . until he realizes he's not alone in the stadium. Foul plots are brewing beneath Lookout Field, and now it's on Pumpsie to swallow his fears, gum up his courage, and swing for the fences if he wants to save the Wildcats' postseason chances. *Inside the Park* is a fun-filled, action-packed slice of wish fulfillment that's perfect for fans of Mike Lupica and Tim Green or any kid who's ever closed their eyes and imagined stepping up to the plate with the game tied and the season on the line.

Andrea Williams is an author, journalist, and editor. Though she currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and four children, Andrea's heart will always remain in her hometown of Kansas City, Missouri.

Historical Fiction



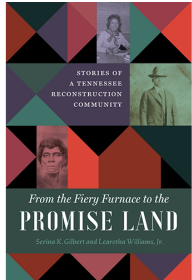
Williams, Beatriz

*Under the Stars: A Novel*

When a daughter and her famous mother return to Winthrop Island to confront their complicated past, they discover a secret trove of paintings that connect them to a mysterious woman who vanished on a luxury steamship two centuries earlier. From the New York Times bestselling author of *Husbands & Lovers* comes an epic tale of family legacy, love, and truths that echo down generations. Audrey Fisher has struggled all her life to emerge from the shadow of her famous mother by forging a career as a world-class chef. Meredith Fisher's glamorous screen persona disguises the trauma of the tragic accident that haunts her dreams. Neither woman wants to return to the New England island they left behind and its complicated emotional ties, but Meredith has one last chance to sober up and salvage her big comeback, and where else but discreet, moneyed Winthrop Island can a famous actress spend the summer without the intrusion of other people? Until Audrey discovers an old wooden chest among the belongings of her estranged bartender father, Mike Kennedy, and the astonishing contents draw the women deep into Winthrop's past and its many secrets...attracting the interest of their handsome neighbor, Sedge Peabody. How did a trove of paintings from one of America's greatest artists wind up in the cellar of the Mohegan Inn? And who is the mysterious woman portrayed on every canvas? On a stormy November night in 1846, Providence Dare flees Boston and boards the luxury steamship *Atlantic* one step ahead of the law....or so she believes. But when a catastrophic accident leaves the ship at the mercy of a mighty gale, Providence finds herself trapped in a deadly game of cat and mouse with the one man who knows her real identity—the detective investigating the suspicious death of her employer, the painter Henry Irving. As the *Atlantic* fights for her life and the rocky shore of Winthrop Island edges closer, a desperate Providence searches for her chance to escape...before the

Beatriz Williams is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of *Husbands & Lovers* and many other novels, including four novels in collaboration with bestselling authors Karen White and Lauren Willig. A graduate of Stanford University with an MBA in finance from Columbia University, Beatriz has won numerous awards for her fiction, which has been translated into more than a dozen languages. Beatriz lives near the Connecticut shore with her husband and four children.

Middle Grade



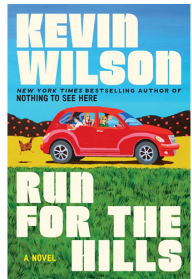
Williams, Leroy R.

***From the Fiery Furnace to the Promise Land***

The Promise Land community, a small village west of Nashville, Tennessee was founded after the Civil War by people who had been enslaved at the Cumberland Iron Furnace. These early settlers, who included United States Colored Troops veterans, were able to purchase land and establish Black-owned businesses. This afforded the community a level of stability that defies conventional wisdom about the post-Reconstruction-era South. In time the community encompassed approximately 1,000 acres with more than 50 homes, several stores, three churches, and an elementary school. But by the mid-twentieth century, the community had dwindled to just a handful of families. Now all that remains physically is a church and the old school building. But in the hearts of the descendants of those families, Promise Land remains a vital and thriving community of friends, family, and, albeit virtual, neighbors who continue to support each other. This is the story of this town told through the memories of the people who lived there. Leroy R. Williams Jr. grew up in the community and is now one of the revered storytellers and story-keepers of Promise Land. Along with historian Leroy Williams Jr., she is sharing the history of a community that thrived and continues to thrive in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles.

Leroy Williams Jr. is a professor of African American, Civil War and Reconstruction, and Public History at Tennessee State University and coordinator of the North Nashville Heritage Project. He is the co-editor of I'll Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites (also published by Vanderbilt University Press).

History



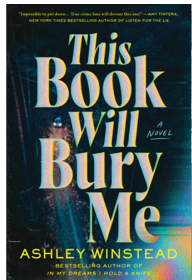
Wilson, Kevin

***Run for the Hills: A Novel***

An unexpected road trip across America brings a family together, in this raucous and moving new novel from the bestselling author of Nothing to See Here. Ever since her dad left them twenty years ago, it's been just Madeline Hill and her mom on their farm in Coalfield, Tennessee. While it's a bit lonely, she sometimes admits, and a less exciting life than what she imagined for herself, it's mostly okay. Mostly. Then one day Reuben Hill pulls up in a PT Cruiser and informs Madeline that he believes she's his half-sister. Reuben—left behind by their dad thirty years ago—has hired a detective to track down their father and a string of other half-siblings. And he wants Mad to leave her home and join him for the craziest kind of road trip imaginable to find them all. As Mad and Rube—and eventually the others—share stories of their father, who behaved so differently in each life he created, they begin to question what he was looking for with every new incarnation. Who are they to one another? What kind of man will they find? And how will these new relationships change Mad's previously solitary life on the farm? Infused with deadpan wit, zany hijinks, and enormous heart, Run for the Hills is a sibling story like no other—a novel about a family forged under the most unlikely circumstances and united by hope in an unknown future.

Kevin Wilson is the New York Times bestselling author of five novels, including Now Is Not the Time to Panic, Nothing to See Here, and The Family Fang, as well as two story collections. His work has received the Shirley Jackson Award and been selected as a Read with Jenna book club pick. He lives in Sewanee, Tennessee, with his wife and two sons.

Mystery/Thriller



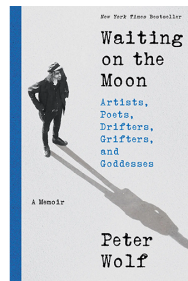
Winstead, Ashley

***This Book Will Bury Me: A Novel***

From bestselling author Ashley Winstead comes a chilling psychological thriller that explores the dark heart of digital obsession, collective grief, and what happens when murder becomes entertainment. After losing her father, college student Jane Sharp finds solace—and purpose—in the strange intimacy of online true crime forums. Among armchair detectives and anonymous sleuths, she becomes someone new: sharp-eyed, fast-thinking, celebrated. But when the brutal deaths of three college girls in Delphine, Idaho spark a viral frenzy, Jane and her online friends become part of the investigation. This time, they aren't just watching from behind a screen. This time, they're in it. But every clue uncovers more contradictions. The town seems scripted, the police too polished, and the killer always one step ahead. As Jane inches closer to the truth, she begins to suspect they've walked into something far more dangerous than a mystery. Now, one year later, Jane is ready to tell the true story. What she's about to reveal will change everything. Perfect for fans of Gillian Flynn, *This Book Will Bury Me* is a gripping confessional of digital justice, dangerous fame, and the price of being seen. Tense, emotional, and thought-provoking, *This Book Will Bury Me* is more than a thriller—it's a warning. For anyone who's ever binged a crime doc, shared a theory, or chased justice from their phone, Jane's confession will haunt you long after the final line.

Ashley Winstead is an academic turned novelist with a Ph.D. in contemporary American literature. She lives in Houston with her husband, two cats, and beloved wine fridge. You can find her at [www.ashleywinstead.com](http://www.ashleywinstead.com).

Fiction



Wolf, Peter

***Waiting on the Moon Artists, Poets, Drifters, Grifters, and Goddesses***

In the tradition of classic collections of observations and musings such as Christopher Isherwood's *I Am a Camera* and Truman Capote's *The Dogs Bark*, *Waiting on the Moon* is a treasure trove of vignettes from a legendary musical figure whose career spans more than six decades and is still going strong. Peter Wolf grew up in the Bronx, a child of "fellow travelers" whose artistic inclinations influenced both his love of music and his initial desire to become a painter. Stories of his loving and sometimes eccentric parents complement scenes depicting a very young Bob Dylan as he arrived on the Greenwich Village folk scene. Reflections on Wolf's studies in Boston—where he shared an apartment with David Lynch—are braided with accounts of first love, an untraditional literary education, and early musical influences such as Muddy Waters. After Wolf joined the J. Geils Band as their front man and his musical fame grew, he rubbed shoulders with other notables who left significant impressions on him, including members of the Rolling Stones, Sly Stone, Tennessee Williams, Alfred Hitchcock, and Van Morrison. Wolf's marriage to Faye Dunaway is presented in a clear yet balanced and nuanced light. Told with gentle humor and often heart-rending poignancy, the word portraits in *Waiting on the Moon* provide a revealing glimpse of artists, writers, actors, and musicians as they work—the creative forces that drive them to achievement; the demons they battle; the patterns of their human relationships. They are meant to inspire not only empathy but also admiration. Like Isherwood, Wolf remains "a camera with its shutter open."

Peter Wolf, born in the Bronx in 1941, became a rock 'n' roll convert at the age of eleven after attending an Alan Freed revue that included performances by Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, and others. Although at first, he aspired to a career as a painter and studied at the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts, he experienced a life-changing epiphany after jumping onstage with a band of fellow art students at a loft party forming one of Boston's early rock bands, the Hallucinations. Shortly thereafter, Wolf secured a job as an all-night DJ on the fledgling FM radio station WBCN, where he adopted the persona of the "Woofa Goofa" and spun obscure rock 'n' roll and early rhythm and blues. His encyclopedic musical knowledge came in handy when he and some like-minded Boston players formed the J. Geils Band, much of whose early repertoire was drawn from Wolf's vast record collection. In 1970 the band was signed by Jerry Wexler for Atlantic Records where they went on to release nine influential albums and earned a reputation as one of rock's most exciting live acts. In 1979 they were signed by EMI America topping the charts world-wide with their hit songs "Freeze Frame," "Love Stinks," and "Centerfold." With the

Autobiography/Memoir



Young, Jessica

Children's





Zacharias, Karen Spears

***The Devil's Pulpit and Other  
Mostly True Scottish  
Misadventures***

On the heels of a global pandemic, two post-menopausal Appalachian women, one black, one white, abandoned hearth, home, and spouses shrugging in dubious wonderment to live and study abroad together in a university flat along Scotland's River Ayr. Poet E.J. Wade and author Karen Spears Zacharias roamed from the depths of Finnich Glen to the outcroppings of Dunure Castle. Sometimes wishing they'd been raised by Buddhist Monks instead of by foul-mouthed chain-smoking Appalachian mothers, these two University of the West of Scotland grad students embraced the wandering spirits of their matriarchal ancestors and left no ScotRail ticket unused. In Glasgow's Sloans Ballroom, as musicians reimagined the compositions of writer and abolitionist Ignatius Sancho, they danced a cèilidh. Along Edinburgh's High Street, Wade performed a salsa. Hiking past windsurfers and golfers, they went in search of fairies and unearthed magical moments. They snuzzled Highland coos in Stranraer and stood gap-mouthed before the Falkirk Kelpies. THE DEVIL'S PULPIT & OTHER MOSTLY TRUE SCOTTISH MISADVENTURES is part travelogue, part memoir, part poetry, and in outlandish Scottish storytelling tradition, a wee bit of winging it. Somewhere along Scotland's northernmost tip to its southernmost brigs, they forged a friendship that defies generations of racial animosity. At its heart, this collection is the rediscovery of friendships first formed through studying and mucking about.

Karen Spears Zacharias is an American writer whose work focuses on women and justice. She holds an MA in Appalachian Studies from Shepherd University and an MA in Creative Media Practice from the University of the West of Scotland. A Georgia native, she lives at the foot of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. Learn more about her at [www.karenzach.com](http://www.karenzach.com).

**Autobiography/Memoir**