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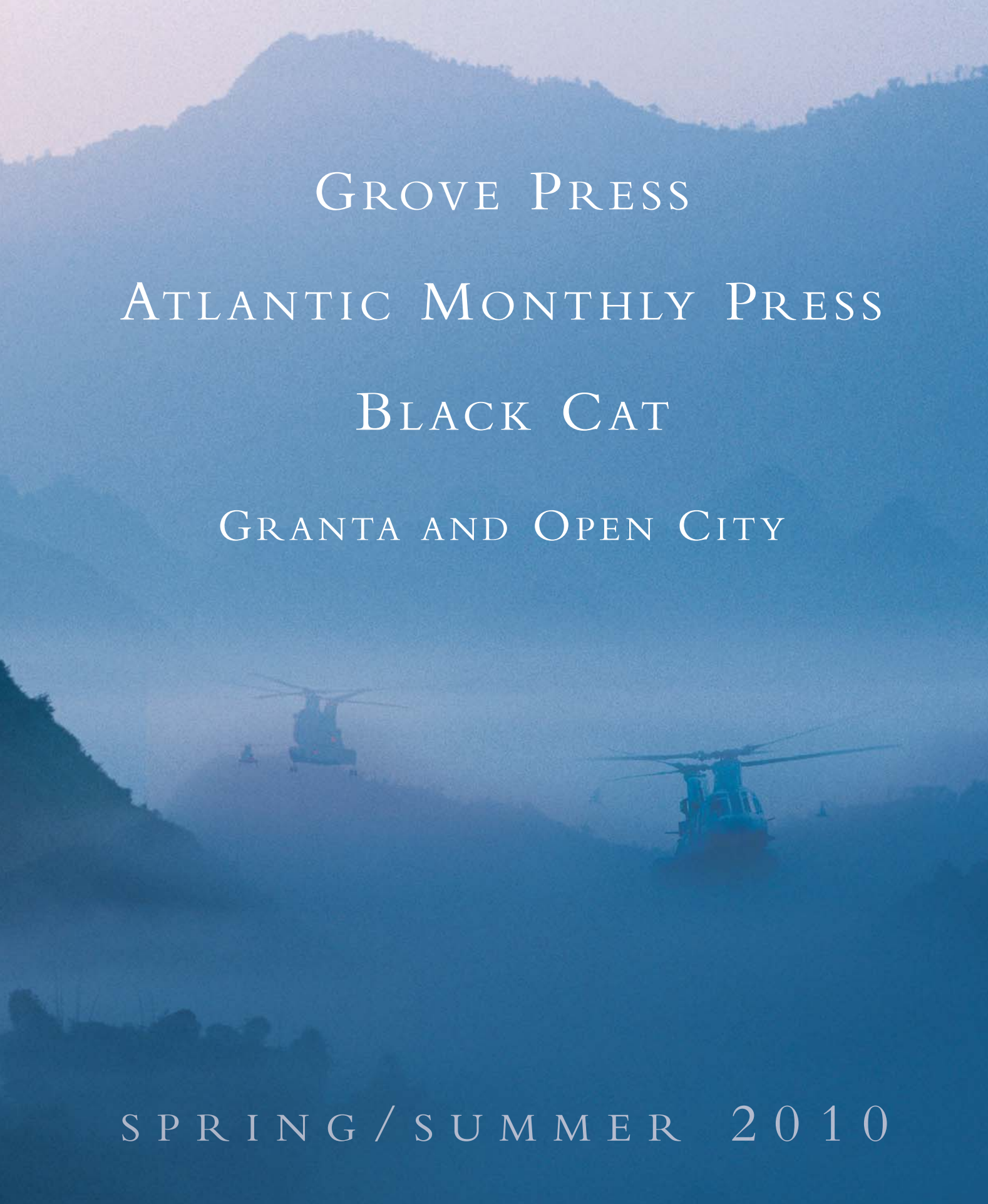

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS

HARDCOVERS

This novel, written by a Marine veteran over the course of thirty years, is a remarkable literary discovery: a big, powerful, timeless saga of men in combat

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

MATTERHORN

A Novel of the Vietnam War

Karl Marlantes

- **Marlantes is a graduate of Yale University and a Rhodes Scholar who went on to serve as a Marine lieutenant in Vietnam, where he was highly decorated**
- ***Matterhorn* will be copublished with El León Literary Arts**

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All other rights: International Creative Management Agency (tel.: 212-556-5600)
Carton quantity: 12
Previous ISBN: 9780979528538
Residence: Woodinville, WA

"*Matterhorn* is one of the most powerful and moving novels about combat, the Vietnam War, and war in general that I have ever read." —Dan Rather

Intense, powerful, and compelling, *Matterhorn* is an epic war novel in the tradition of Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* and James Jones's *The Thin Red Line*. It is the timeless story of a young Marine lieutenant, Waino Mellas, and his comrades in Bravo Company, who are dropped into the mountain jungle of Vietnam as boys and forced to fight their way into manhood. Standing in their way are not merely the North Vietnamese but also monsoon rain and mud, leeches and tigers, disease and malnutrition. Almost as daunting, it turns out, are the obstacles they discover between each other: racial tension, competing ambitions, and duplicitous superior officers. But when the company finds itself surrounded and outnumbered by a massive enemy regiment, the Marines are thrust into the raw and all-consuming terror of combat. The experience will change them forever.

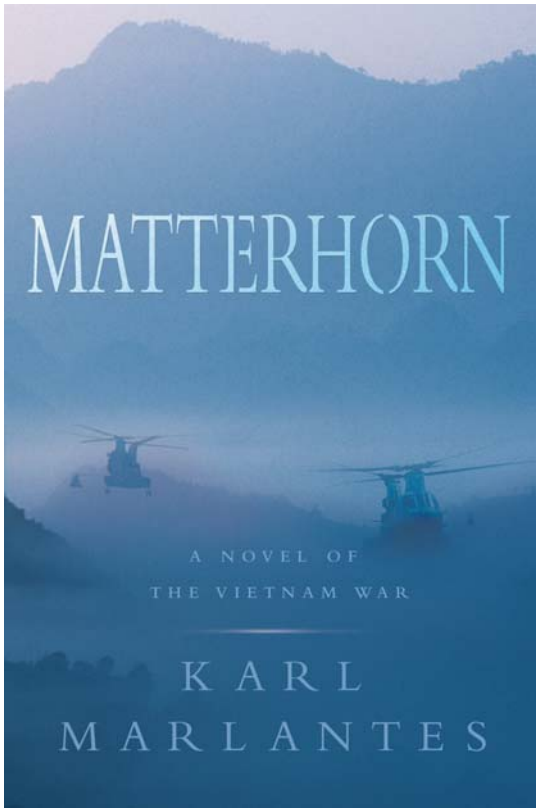
Written by a highly decorated Marine veteran over the course of thirty years, *Matterhorn* is a spellbinding and unforgettable novel that brings to life an entire world—both its horrors and its thrills—and seems destined to become a classic of combat literature.

"Unforgettable . . . A beautifully crafted novel of unrivaled authenticity and power, filled with jungle heroism, crackerjack inventiveness, mud, blood, brotherhood, hatred, healing, terror, bureaucracy, politics, unfathomable waste, and unfathomable love."

—Christina Robb, Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and author of *This Changes Everything*

Excerpt from
MATTERHORN

Mellas ran forward, throwing himself behind rocks, scrambling across exposed patches, and then lunging again for any sort of cover from the fire pouring down on them. All of his being was wound up in his pumping heart and the rapidly rising heat of the blood coursing through his brain and legs. He ran as he'd never run before—with neither hope nor despair. He ran because the world was divided into opposites with his side already chosen for him, his only choice being whether or not to play his part with heart and courage. He ran because fate had placed him in a position of responsibility and he'd accepted the burden. He ran because his self-respect required it. He ran because he loved his friends and it was the only thing he could do to try and end the madness that was killing and maiming them. He ran at the bunker where the grenades from Jake's M-79 were exploding, the bullets from the enemy machine gun slamming through the air to his right, whining like tortured cats, cracking like the bullwhip of death. He ran, having never felt so alone and frightened in his entire life.



A graduate of Yale University and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, KARL MARLANTES served as a Marine in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Bronze Star, two Navy Commendation Medals for valor, two Purple Hearts, and ten air medals. This is his first novel.

PRAISE FOR *MATTERHORN:*

"*Matterhorn* is a terrific, towering novel. Marine Lieutenant Marlantes does for the Vietnam War what Lieutenant Sassoon did for the war in Flanders; what Sergeant Mailer did for the war in the Pacific; what Tenente Hemingway did for the war in Italy. He takes you there, shakes you, and never lets you go. *Matterhorn* will surely take its place on every armchair-warrior's bookshelf, shoulder to shoulder with *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer, The Naked and the Dead,* and *A Farewell to Arms*."

—JON STALLWORTHY, EDITOR, *THE OXFORD BOOK OF WAR POETRY*

"*Matterhorn* ranks up there with the best novels about combat in the green hell of Vietnam. This is a nose-in-the-mud, leeches-in-places-you-don't-want-to-think-about book. A Princeton-educated Marine lieutenant learns the hard way about class, callous brass, and deadly racial hatred. Marlantes writes some of the best leatherneck dialogue you'll ever read."

—JOHN MCCHESNEY, SENIOR CORRESPONDENT, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

"*Matterhorn* is a powerful work of literature and a tribute to those who fought and died. . . . No other novel about Vietnam—including Jim Webb's *Fields of Fire*—does a better job of capturing the essence of what it meant to be a 'grunt' in Vietnam."

—MACKUBIN OWENS, ASSOCIATE DEAN, U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

A rollicking, century-spanning, and extremely entertaining history of baseball cards

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

MINT CONDITION

How Baseball Cards Became an American Obsession

Dave Jamieson

- **There are hundreds of thousands of dedicated baseball-card collectors across the country, and they spend a lot of money on their hobby**
- **From Phoenix, AZ, to Manassas, VA, on almost every weekend during the year a baseball card show is held**

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Carton quantity: 28
Residence: Seattle

When award-winning journalist Dave Jamieson's parents sold his childhood home a few years ago, forcing him to clear out his old room, he happily rediscovered a prized boyhood possession: his baseball card collection. Now was the time to cash in on his "investments," but all the card shops had closed, and eBay was no help, either. Cards were selling there for next to nothing. What had happened? In *Mint Condition,* Jamieson's fascinating history of baseball cards, he finds the answer, and much more.

Picture cards had long been used to advertise household products, but in the years after the Civil War, tobacco companies started slipping them into cigarette packs as collector's items. Cards featuring famous generals and Indian chiefs, flags of all nations, and comely actresses all achieved success with boys, but none were as popular as cards featuring the heroes of the new American pastime. Before long, the cards were wagging the cigarettes, and a century-long infatuation had been born.

In the 1930s, cards helped gum and candy makers survive the Great Depression. In the 1960s, royalties from cards helped transform the baseball players association into one of the country's most powerful unions, dramatically altering the game. In the '80s and '90s, cards went through a spectacular bubble, becoming a billion-dollar-a-year industry before all but disappearing, surviving today as the rarified preserve of fanatical adult collectors and shrewd businessmen.

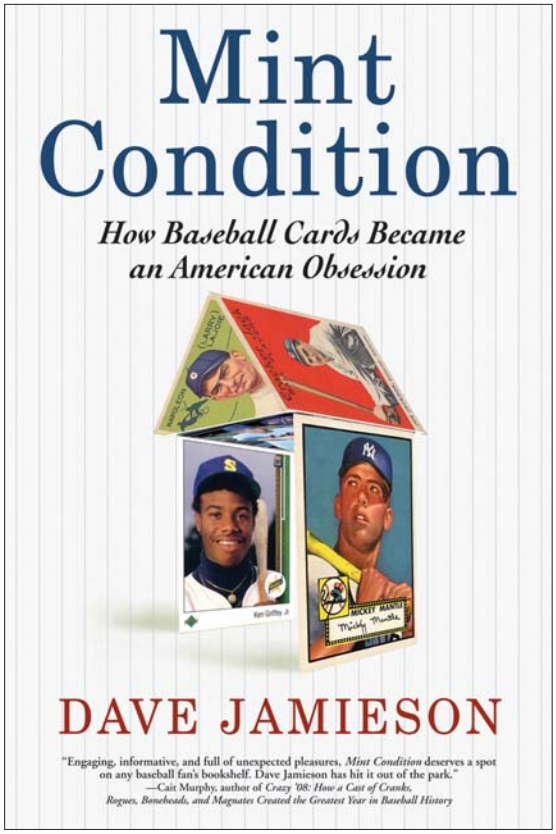
Mint Condition is brimming with colorful characters, from a destitute hermit whose legendary collection resides at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, to Topps's mad genius designer who created the company's most famous card sets, and from a larger-than-life memorabilia specialist whose auction house is under investigation by the FBI to the professional "graders" who rate cards and the "doctors" who secretly alter them. This is an original, captivating history about a tradition dear to millions of Americans.

Excerpt from

MINT CONDITION

The trick to Topps's dominance in the baseball card business was keeping big league players happy. This task fell to the company's young accountant, Sy Berger. His nearly endless expense reports from the 1950s recount one booze-soaked outing after another with the best players in the game. One day it was dinner with Gil Hodges or beers with Willie McCovey, the next it was after-dinner drinks with Phil Rizzuto or Warren Spahn. Looking at his itemized reports, it would seem Berger had the best job in baseball, aside from maybe playing center field for the Yankees.

By 1960 Berger's relentless networking had helped Topps secure cheap contracts from an astonishing 414 of the league's 421 players. Even if they were paid a relative pittance for the rights to their images, the players enjoyed the promotional power of baseball cards. One candy company commissioned a survey that found that 89 percent of American boys collected them, putting baseball cards somewhere between the bicycle and the BB gun on the list of childhood necessities. For a growing number of kids, the pastime of baseball and the pastime of baseball cards had become one and the same.



DAVE JAMIESON has written for Slate, *The New Republic,* and *Washington City Paper,* among others. In 2008, he won the prestigious Livingston Award for Young Journalists. He lives in Washington, D.C., with a closetful of worthless baseball cards, all of them in excellent condition.

The Honus Wagner tobacco card, the most valuable in existence

A 1933 Babe Ruth bubble gum card

One of the first ever baseball cards, from 1869

CARDS COURTESY ROBERT EDWARD AUCTIONS

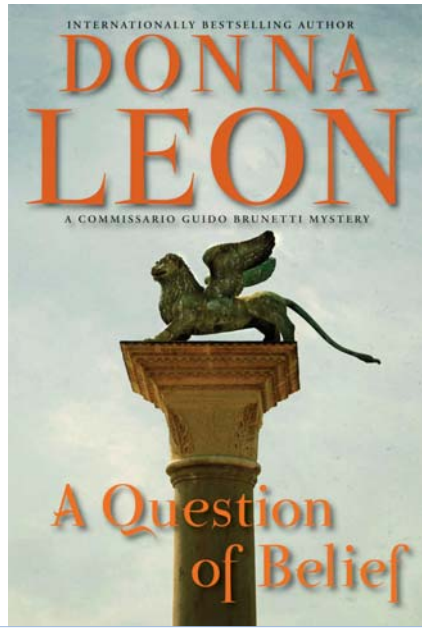
PRAISE FOR *MINT CONDITION:*

"Engaging, informative, and full of unexpected pleasures, *Mint Condition* deserves a spot on any baseball fan's bookshelf. Dave Jamieson has hit it out of the park." —CAIT MURPHY, AUTHOR OF *CRAZY '08*

"*Mint Condition* kept me spellbound and couch-bound for two days. Its pages are redolent of basements, bubble gum, and bachelorhood. They teem with artists, innocents, and charlatans. Dave Jamieson fit a century-and-a-half of Americana on the back of a baseball card, a remarkable achievement."

—STEVE RUSHIN, AUTHOR OF *CADDIE WAS A REINDEER*

*In the nineteenth novel of Donna Leon's "deeply satisfying series" (*The Seattle Times*), Commissario Guido Brunetti tries to help a troubled colleague and solve the murder of a Venetian official involved in a complicated scam.*



A QUESTION OF BELIEF

A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery

Donna Leon

- **Donna Leon was named one of *Time* magazine's 50 Greatest Crime Writers**
- ***About Face* was a *New York Times* (extended), *San Francisco Chronicle, Boston Globe, Washington Post Book World,* National Indie, New England Independent Booksellers Association, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, and Independent Mystery Booksellers Association best seller**

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- ***reading group guide available online at www.groveatlantic.com***
- ***newsletter cooperative advertising available***

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Carton quantity: 32
Residence: Venice

"Brunetti is a marvel: smart, cultured, and dedicated to his work."
—The Washington Post

Donna Leon's sumptuous series of novels featuring the principled, warm-hearted Venetian Commissario Guido Brunetti have won her countless fans, critical acclaim, and international renown as one of the world's best crime writers. In *A Question of Belief,* the nineteenth novel in the best-selling series, Brunetti must contend with ingenious corruption, bureaucratic intransigence, and the stifling heat of a Venetian summer.

With his hometown beset by hordes of tourists and baking under a glaring sun, Brunetti's greatest wish is to go to the mountains with his family, where he can sleep under a down comforter and catch up on his reading of history. But before he can go on vacation, he has police work to do. A folder with court records has landed on his desk, brought by an old friend. It appears that certain cases at the local court—hardly known as a model of efficiency—are being delayed to the benefit of one of the parties. A creative new trick for corrupting the system, perhaps, but what can Brunetti do about it?

At the same time, Brunetti is doing a favor for his colleague, Inspector Lorenzo Vianello. The inspector's aunt has taken a strong interest in astrology and has been regularly withdrawing large amounts of cash from the bank. But she won't listen to her family, and Vianello doesn't know what to do. Brunetti agrees to help. He assigns the Questura's new recruits, who need training in following a suspect through Venice's complicated streets, to see where the money is going.

And just when it looks like Brunetti will be able to get away for his well-earned rest, a shocking, violent crime forces him to shake off the heat and get down to work. *A Question of Belief* is a stellar addition to Leon's celebrated series: atmospheric, packed with excellent characters, and building to an explosive, indelible ending.

DONNA LEON is the author of nineteen novels featuring Guido Brunetti. She has lived in Venice for over twenty-five years.

Excerpt from

A QUESTION OF BELIEF

For the next few days, it appeared that some cosmic governing force had heard Brunetti's wish that a deal be made with the forces of disorder, for crime went on holiday in Venice. The Romanians who played three-card monte on the bridges appeared to have gone home on vacation, or else they had moved their work site to the beaches. The number of burglaries declined. Pickpockets, of course, remained at their posts: they could go on vacation only in the empty months of November and February. Though the heat often drove people to violence, that was not the case this year. Perhaps there was some point where heat and humidity made the effort to throttle or maim too exhausting to be considered.

Whatever the cause, Brunetti was glad of the lull. He used some of his free time to consult more sites that offered spiritual or extra-worldly help to those in need of it. He had read so widely in the Greek and Roman historians that he found nothing strange at all in the desire to consult the oracles or to find some way to decipher the messages of the gods. Whether it was the liver of a freshly killed chicken or the patterns made in the air by a flock of birds, the signs were there for those who could interpret them: all that was necessary was someone willing to believe the interpretation, and the deal was done. Cumae or Lourdes; Diana of Epheses or the Virgin of Fatima: the mouth of the statue moved, and the truth came forth.

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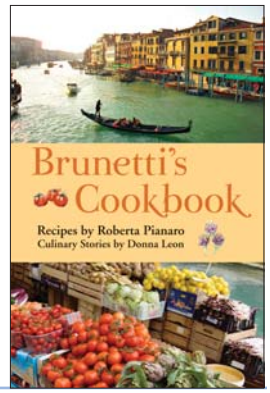
MAY

The delicious meals of Donna Leon's best-selling Commissario Guido Brunetti series come to life in this long-awaited cookbook

BRUNETTI'S COOKBOOK

Recipes by Roberta Pianaro
Culinary stories by Donna Leon
Illustrated by Tatjana Hauptmann



Among their many pleasures, Donna Leon's Commissario Guido Brunetti novels have long been celebrated for their mouth-watering descriptions of food. Multicourse lunches at home with Paola and the children, snacks grabbed at a bar with a glass of wine or two, a quick sandwich during a busy day, or a working lunch at a neighborhood trattoria in the course of an investigation have all delighted Brunetti, as well as Leon's readers and reviewers. And then there's the coffee, the pastries, the wine, and the grappa.

In *Brunetti's Cookbook,* Donna Leon's best friend and favorite cook brings to life these fabulous Venetian meals. Eggplant crostini, orrechiette with asparagus, pumpkin ravioli, roasted artichokes, baked *branzino*, pork ragu with porcini—these are just a few of the over ninety recipes for antipasti, *primi, secondi,* and *dolci*. The recipes are joined by excerpts from the novels, four-color illustrations, and six original essays by Donna Leon on food and life in Venice. Charming, insightful, and full of personality, they are the perfect addition to this long awaited book.

ROBERTA PIANARO is a jeweler, a talented cook, and the best friend of Donna Leon, who has delighted in the fruits of Roberta's kitchen for more than thirty years. She lives in Venice.

$24.95 (Canada: $31.50)
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(CKB047000)
978-0-8021-1947-6

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All other rights: Diogenes Verlag (Zurich, tel.: 411-254-8511)
Carton quantity: 28
Residence: Venice (Pianaro) and Germany (Hauptmann)

The extraordinary story of an all-American girl's conversion to Islam and her ensuing romance with a young Egyptian man, **The Butterfly Mosque** *is a stunning articulation of a Westerner embracing the Muslim world*

© AMBER FRENCH

THE BUTTERFLY MOSQUE

A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam

G. Willow Wilson

- **Rights have been sold in ten countries**
- **Wilson's graphic novel, *Cairo,* was named a Best Graphic Novel of 2007 by *Publishers Weekly,* the *Edmonton Journal/CanWest News,* and *Comics Worth Reading***
- **Wilson is also the author of two comics series: *Air,* which was nominated for the 2009 Eisner Award for Best New Series; and *Vixen,* winner of the 2009 Glyph Comics Fan Award for Best Comic; she is the first Muslim writer to be recognized for either award**
- ***prepublication reading copies available***
- ***6-city tour (New York City • Boston • Chicago • San Francisco • Portland • Seattle)***
- ***author Web site (www.gwillowwilson.com)***
- ***newsletter cooperative advertising available***

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Performance rights: John Hawkins & Associates Inc. (tel.: 212-807-7040)
Carton quantity: 32
Residence: Seattle and Egypt

Twenty-seven-year-old G. Willow Wilson has already established herself as an accomplished writer on modern religion and the Middle East in publications such as *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The New York Times Magazine*. In her memoir, the Colorado-raised journalist tells her remarkable story of converting to Islam and falling in love with an Egyptian man in a turbulent post–9/11 world.

When Willow leaves her atheist parents in Denver to study at Boston University, she enrolls in an Islamic Studies course, hopeful that it will help her to understand her inchoate spirituality. As she reads through the teachings and events of the Quran, Willow is astounded and comforted by how deeply this fourteen-hundred-year-old document speaks to who she is, and decides to risk everything to convert to Islam and embark on a fated journey across continents and into an uncertain future.

She settles in Cairo where she teaches English and attempts to submerge herself in a culture based on her adopted religion. And then she meets Omar, a passionate young man with a mild resentment of the Western influences in his homeland. They fall in love, entering into a daring relationship that calls into question the very nature of family, belief, and tradition. Torn between the secular West and Muslim East, Willow—identifiably Western with her shock of red hair, shaky Arabic, and candor—records her intensely personal struggle to forge a "third culture" that might accommodate her own values without compromising them or the friends and family on both sides of the divide.

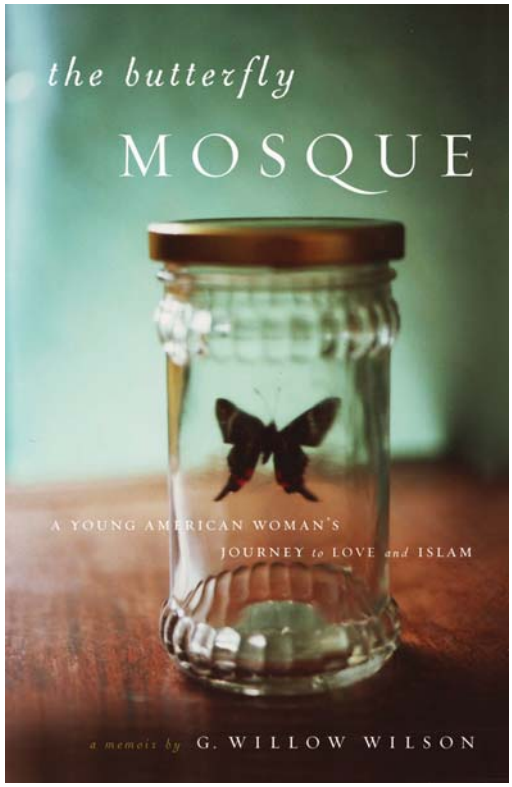
Part travelogue, love story, and memoir, *The Butterfly Mosque* is a brave, inspiring story of faith—in God, in each other, in ourselves, and in the ability of relationships to transcend cultural barriers and exist above the evils that threaten to keep us apart.

Excerpt from

THE BUTTERFLY MOSQUE

It's a strange feeling, praying to your hands, filling the air between them with words. We think of divinity as something infinitely big, but it is also infinitely small—the condensation of your breath on your palms, the ridges in your fingertips, the warm space between your shoulder and the shoulder next to you. I spent hours there with them, these women and girls whose names I couldn't yet keep straight, but who were already my family. They told stories I didn't understand, laughing and weeping by turns. I went back and forth to the kitchen for tissues and glasses of water, or sat silently, hoping they somehow understood what I didn't know how to say.

After that day, whenever I went to a family gathering an arm would slip through mine and pull me away to be kissed and fussed over by the other girls. As I learned more of their language, their conversations would burst colorfully to life: they were articulate, funny, frank, and opinionated about news and politics. Marwa likes to tell the story of my odd entrance into the family: "One day she danced at a wedding, the next she sat through a funeral, and on the third she was one of us," she says, usually with a laugh. And that is how I felt.



G. WILLOW WILSON was born in New Jersey in 1982 and raised in Colorado. Shortly after graduating from Boston University, Willow moved to Cairo, where she converted to Islam. She divides her time between Cairo and Seattle.

ON WILSON'S CONVERSION:

"To me, Muslim and American are inseparable. I am a Muslim and an American. Politically, this is incredibly irritating, but it's not an identity crisis. Philosophically and emotionally, America and Islam are part of who I am. Within me they don't conflict. . . . I imagine a lot of my daily routines and expectations as a Muslim will have to be reimagined to fit into mainstream America. It's my country, though, so I don't mind making compromises for it. . . . Culture goes bone deep, but there is something deeper than bone. It's vital to remember this if you're going to hopscotch between civilizations. I've learned it mostly the hard way, but it's the most valuable lesson I've taken away from my experience as an American Muslim."

—G. WILLOW WILSON

"Being a convert of any variety tends to require that one be at once dangerously curious and a free thinker. Willow is undeniably both of these things. . . . Refusing to deny the truth and comfort that she found in Islam some twenty years into her life, Willow willingly and intentionally dove headfirst into the multifaceted mess that is today's Muslim American experience. . . . She happened to stumble upon the most persecuted religion in her homeland, and upon learning the truth about it, she not only tolerated but respected it. Then she took this one step further when she realized that this faith happened to speak to her on a personal level. She converted."

—MELODY MOEZZI, FROM *WAR ON ERROR*

Award-winning author Lily King's new novel spans three decades in a riveting psychological portrait of a wildly charismatic patriarch as seen through the eyes of his daughter

© DAVID MCLAIN

FATHER OF THE RAIN

Lily King

- ***The Pleasing Hour* was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, a Book Sense 76 selection, and winner of the first Barnes & Noble Discover Award**
- ***The Pleasing Hour* was an alternate for the PEN/Hemingway Award**
- ***The English Teacher* was a *Chicago Tribune* Best Book of the Year, a *Publishers Weekly* Top Ten Best Novel of the Year, and a *People* magazine Critics Choice (4 stars)**
- ***prepublication reading copies available***
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  (Portland, ME • Boston • New York City • Cleveland • Chicago • Minneapolis/St. Paul • Phoenix • Los Angeles • San Francisco • Seattle)
- ***major review coverage***
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- ***reading group guide available online at www.groveatlantic.com***
- ***newsletter cooperative advertising available***

In her most ambitious novel to date, critically acclaimed author Lily King sets her sharply insightful family drama in an upper-middle-class East Coast suburb where she traces a complex and volatile father-daughter relationship from the 1970s to the present day.

When eleven-year-old Daley Amory's mother leaves her father, Daley is thrust into a chaotic adult world of competition, indulgence, and manipulation. Unable to place her allegiance, she gently toes the thickening line between her parents' incompatible worlds: the increasingly liberal, socially committed realm of her mother, and the conservative, liquor-soaked life of her father. But without her mother there to keep him in line, Daley's father's basest impulses and quick rage are unleashed, and Daley finds herself having to choose her own survival over the father she still deeply loves.

As she grows into adulthood, Daley retreats from the New England country-club culture that nourished her father's fears and addictions, and attempts to live outside of his influence. Until he hits rock bottom. Faced with the chance to free her father from sixty years worth of dependency, Daley must decide whether repairing their badly broken relationship is worth the risk of losing not only her professional dreams, but the love of her life, Jonathan, who represents so much of what Daley's father claims to hate, and who has given her so much of what he could never provide.

A provocative and masterfully told story of one woman's life-long, primal loyalty to her father, *Father of the Rain* is a spellbinding journey into the emotional complexities, mercurial contours, and magnetic pull of families.

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Residence: Maine

Also available:

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The Pleasing Hour
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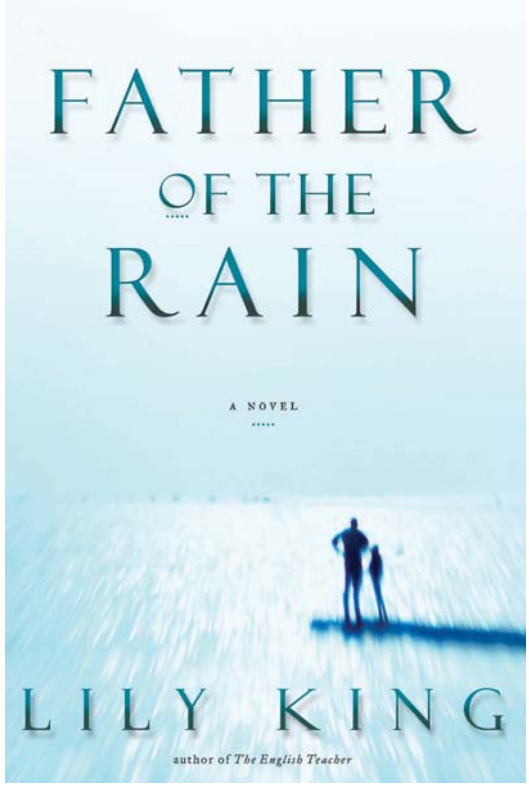
Excerpt from

FATHER OF THE RAIN

My father is singing. He always sings in the car. He has a low voice scraped out by cigarettes and all the yelling he does. His big pointy Adam's apple bobs up and down, turning the tanned skin white wherever it moves. He reaches over and takes the puppy from my lap. "You's a good little rascal. Yes you is," he says in his dog voice, a happy, hopeful voice he doesn't use much on people.

The puppy was a surprise for my eleventh birthday. I chose the ugliest puppy in the shop. My father tried to tempt me with the full-breed Newfoundlands, scooping up the silky black sacks of fur and pressing their heavy heads against my cheek. But I held fast. A dog like that would make leaving even harder. I pushed them away and pointed to the twenty-five dollar wire-haired mutt that had been in the corner cage since winter. My father dropped the last Newfoundland back in its bed of shavings. "Well, it's her birthday," he said with all the bitterness of a boy whose birthday it was not.

Three days ago my mother told me she was going to go live with my grandparents for the summer. We were standing in our nightgowns in her bathroom. My father had just left for work. Her face was shiny from the lotion she put on every morning and night. "I want you to come with me," she said.



LILY KING is the author of two previous novels, *The Pleasing Hour* and *The English Teacher*. A Whiting Award winner and recipient of the 2005 Maine Fiction Award, she lives in Maine with her family.

PRAISE FOR *THE ENGLISH TEACHER:*

"Beautifully written and carefully observed . . . King is a wildly talented writer."
—CLAIRE DEDERER, *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

"King crafts a domestic drama with the adrenalin-fueled beating heart of a thriller, offering readers the best of two traditionally very different worlds."
—*ELLE*

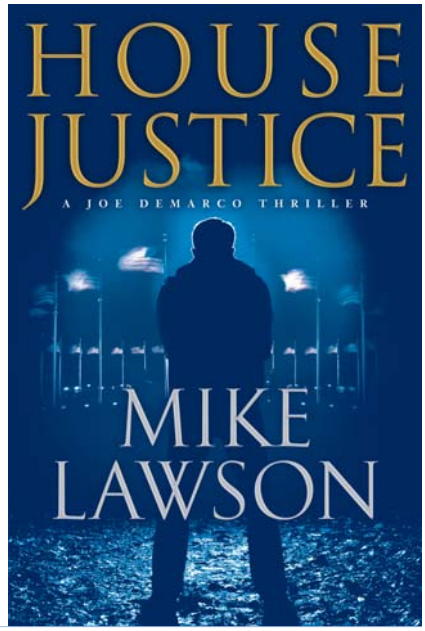
"A satisfying interlude spent in the company of some interestingly complicated characters."
—*PEOPLE* (CRITICS CHOICE, 4 STARS)

PRAISE FOR *THE PLEASING HOUR:*

"Lily King's splendid new novel consists of one beginning after another, all so assured that it's hard to believe the book itself is her debut."
—JACQUELINE CAREY, *THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

"Though she tells lean stories, King can brush lush descriptions with majestic colors and vivid, fleeting pleasures."—WINGATE PACKARD, *THE SEATTLE TIMES*

Joe DeMarco, fixer for the Speaker of the House, is back in the latest novel from "a rising voice in thrillerdom" (Library Journal).



HOUSE JUSTICE

A Joe DeMarco Thriller

Mike Lawson

- ***House Secrets* was an Indie Next List selection**
- **Mike Lawson is well regarded within the mystery and thriller community, and has appeared on numerous panels at both Bouchercon and ThrillerFest**
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U.S. and Canadian rights: Atlantic Monthly Press
All other rights: The Gernert Company (tel.: 212-838-7777)
Carton quantity: 24
Residence: Seattle

"The joy of Lawson's writing is how very well drawn his characters are, how tight and well woven his plots are, and how easy and fluid his writing is. In my opinion, Mike Lawson is truly one of the gifted authors of our time, and if you haven't had the pleasure of reading his Joe DeMarco series, now is a good time to start. Each book stands on its own, which is a testament to the skill of his writing, but as a whole, this is one of the best thriller series out there, bar none." —Fran Fuller, Seattle Mystery Bookstore

In four thrillers starring Joe DeMarco, Mike Lawson has made a name for himself as one of the most insightful and entertaining writers focusing on the dirty dealing in our nation's capital. In his latest, *House Justice,* his everyman hero Joe DeMarco gets roped into what might be his most dangerous and difficult case yet.

The trouble begins with a leak. An American defense contractor goes to Iran to sell missile technology, and the CIA knows all about it thanks to a top spy in Tehran. But the story leaks, a desperate journalist publishes it, and the spy is burned, brutally tortured, and murdered.

The director of the CIA isn't about to let it slide. A valuable asset has been callously sacrificed, and he's going to find out who did it, no matter the cost, no matter how many rules he has to break. DeMarco's boss, Speaker of the House John Fitzpatrick Mahoney has his own reasons to get to the bottom of the leak: he once had a fling with the journalist, and now that she's in jail for not revealing her source, she is threatening to tell-all about their affair unless he helps get her out.

Mahoney dispatches DeMarco, whose job is to appease the journalist and find the source. But he isn't the only one looking. Someone is tailing DeMarco, hoping that the fixer can help him enact revenge. *House Justice* is classic Mike Lawson—fascinating characters, inside-the-beltway intrigue, and a gripping plot packed with surprises.

MIKE LAWSON, a former senior civilian executive for the U.S. Navy, is the author of four previous novels starring Joe DeMarco: *The Inside Ring, The Second Perimeter, House Rules,* and *House Secrets.*

Excerpt from

HOUSE JUSTICE

She remembered the frenzy that had erupted in 2003 when that CIA agent, Valerie Plame, had her cover blown by Scooter Libby—or whoever the hell it really was. A couple of reporters were jailed for contempt for refusing to reveal their sources, and one, a woman who worked for *The New York Times*, spent almost three months in jail for refusing to give up a source. Whitmore didn't know all the details, just that the leak investigation had gone on for months, had involved a gaggle of politicians and prominent journalists, and they came close to getting the vice president before it was all over.

And all that ruckus just for *naming* a spy—not for getting one killed, as her story had done.

She was in a world of trouble.

"Ms. Whitmore," the judge said, "do you understand that I'm going to place you in jail for contempt and that you'll remain there until you agree to cooperate?"

She looked at the judge, directly into his beady eyes, and tilted her chin defiantly. "Yeah, I understand," she said. And then, for the benefit of all the media present, she added, "And you can lock me up forever. I'll never give up a source."

One of the journalists sitting behind her cheered, and she figured that whoever he was, he had to be very young. The rest of the journalists all let out little groans as they wrote down the hackneyed, self-serving quote they would be forced to include in their stories.

Actually, she was petrified of going to jail. She had three addictions: nicotine, alcohol, and pain medication. She'd been taking painkillers ever since she sprained her back five years ago and at work she went outside every half hour to smoke. And at night, *every* night, she drank half a bottle of cheap scotch. Jail was going to be a living hell—and the government was going to do everything it could to make it so.

But she would endure it, by God, she would.

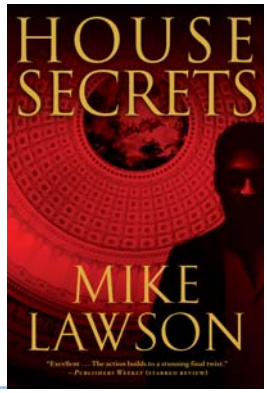
This was the best thing that had happened to her in twenty years.

J U N E

"Intriguing, multidimensional characters . . . an involving plot and plenty of behind-the-scenes political machinations. It all adds up to one of the best thrillers of the year." —*Jeff Ayers,* **Booklist** *(starred review)*

HOUSE SECRETS

Mike Lawson



"Excellent . . . The action builds to a stunning final twist."
—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

In *House Secrets,* DeMarco is sent by Speaker of the House John Mahoney to look into the accidental death of a mediocre newspaper reporter who, in the days before his death, claimed that he had a lead on the biggest political scandal since Watergate. It turns out that the reporter was on the trail of Senator Paul Morelli, the handsome and gifted rising star from New York, considered a shoo-in for his party's presidential nomination. Morelli's past has already been scrutinized and he looks clean, but then why is DeMarco being followed by a pair of thugs who freelance for the CIA?

"*House Secrets* is plotted artfully, written with panache and has a surprise ending—don't cheat and peak—that made me roar with laughter. . . . Lawson inserts enough twists and turns into this book to keep readers guessing how it all resolves right up until the incredibly funny last page."
—John Weisman, *The Washington Times*

"[Lawson is] on his game from the first chapter. . . . As Joe works his inside sources, the reader gets a bird's-eye view of the Washington machinations he thrives on: leverage, an exchange of favors, the shifting layers of loyalty and opportunity. . . . Another solid chronicle of the vagaries of Washington politics and the promises of elected leaders with feet of clay."
—Luan Gaines, Curled Up With a Good Book

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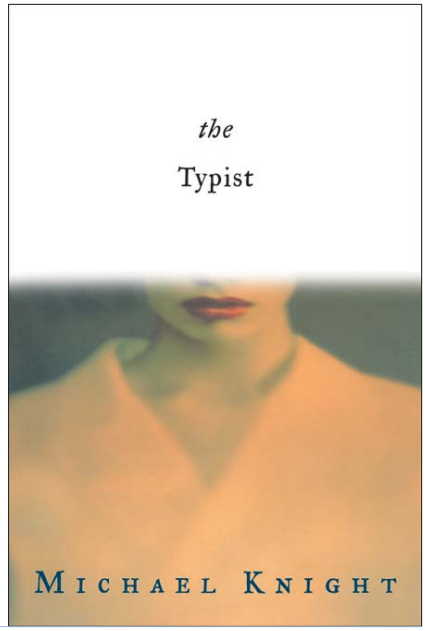
Carton quantity: 56
Previous ISBN: 9780802118851
Residence: Seattle

The most ambitious novel to date from the award-winning Southern writer Michael Knight, about a green young American posted to the strange realm of post–World War II Japan, where his clear-cut Western values are distinctly challenged over the first year of the occupation



THE TYPIST

Michael Knight

- **Knight was awarded the 2005 John Grisham Fellowship for Emerging Southern Writers**
- **Knight's fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker, The Paris Review, GQ, Esquire, Playboy,* and *Oxford American***
- ***prepublication reading copies available***
- ***6-city tour***
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Fiction (FIC019000)
978-0-8021-1950-6
World rights: Atlantic Monthly Press
Performance rights: John Hawkins & Associates Inc. (tel.: 212-807-7040)
Carton quantity: 36
Residence: Tennessee

Rife with the crisp dialogue, complex characters, and stunning economy of language for which Michael Knight's previous work has been praised, *The Typist* chronicles the early, halting rehabilitation of the grisly Pacific theater of the Second World War—specifically occupied Japan, where Western bureaucrats flooded into Tokyo, taking charge of their former enemies.

When Francis Vancleave ("Van") joins the army in 1944, he has every reason to expect his term of service will pass uneventfully. After all, the war is winding down and Van's one singular talent—typing ninety-five words a minute—keeps him off the battlefield and in General MacArthur's busy Tokyo headquarters, where his days are filled with paperwork in triplicate and letters of dictation.

Little does Van know that the first year of the occupation will prove far more volatile for him than for the U.S. Army. Bunked with a troubled combat veteran-cum-black marketer and recruited to babysit General MacArthur's eight-year-old son, Van is suddenly tangled in the complex—and risky—personal lives of his compatriots. As he brushes shoulders with *panpan* girls and Communists on the bustling streets of Tokyo, Van struggles to uphold his convictions in the face of unexpected conflict—especially the startling news that reaches his barracks from his young war bride, a revelation that threatens Van with a kind of war wound he could never have anticipated.

Though grounded in the history of Japan's reconstruction era in the wake of World War II, *The Typist* is unmistakably contemporary in its portrayal of military occupations and of individual experience in an immensely complicated time. At once spare and captivating, it is a book about unlikely kinships, good intentions gone awry, and the many forks in the road to manhood.

Excerpt from
THE TYPIST

"How come you never go to *panpan* girls?"

"I'm married," I said without turning around.

The springs squeaked as Clifford sat up on his bed.

"You're shitting me?" he said. "But you don't wear a ring. Do you? I never seen one. And you don't have any pictures. Have you been hiding pictures of your girl?"

"That's my business."

"It's weird is what it is," he said. "Besides, I know lots of married guys who get a little something now and then. No harm in it. Nobody'll ever know."

We weren't pals exactly but after a few months in close quarters, we were comfortable enough that it was possible to mistake us for real friends. I knew that the letters he wrote to his mother were ironic and affectionate and kind. I knew he was from Baltimore and had a partisan view of his hometown. And I learned he was embarrassed to have come through the war unscathed. Most of the other Honor Guard members could boast of Purple Hearts. He told me this, I suppose, both to impress me and because he had no one else to tell. If I happened to be around while he was preparing for an evening out, wet-combing his hair, splashing on after shave, powdering his feet, he always invited me to tag along though it was understood that the invitation was a courtesy and I was expected to decline.

PRAISE FOR MICHAEL KNIGHT:

"Knight's characters remain touchingly human, thanks to his subtle, if sardonic, sense of humor and his essential authorial decency."
—AMANDA HELLER, *THE BOSTON GLOBE*

"Knight's talent is in the details, all the wonderful little moments he hands us along the way."—*USA TODAY*

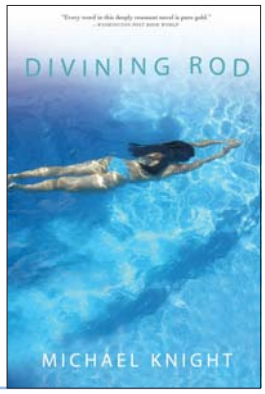
"Michael Knight has the rare power to make a setting breathe, to invest it with a vitality that seems as authentic and intense as the pulse beats of his characters."
—JONATHAN MILES, *THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

"In the lineage of writers such as Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty . . . Knight is without a doubt a writer of considerable talent and promise."—*SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*

"Every word in this deeply resonant novel is pure gold."
—The Washington Post Book World

DIVINING ROD

Michael Knight



Back in print, Michael Knight's debut novel, which won the Fellowship of Southern Writers New Writing Award and the Dictionary of Literary Biography's Best First Novel Award.

After the deaths of his parents, Simon Bell returns to his hometown of Sherwood, Alabama, hoping for a simple, quiet existence. But when he meets Delia Holladay one hot, unmoving summer day, latent needs and desires are suddenly awakened. Delia is young, beautiful, and married. As their emotions deepen, the affair soon slips beyond their control, building to a final reckoning that will leave no one untouched.

Evoking a medley of distinct voices, *Divining Rod* tells a richly layered tale of adultery, love, and murder, as it follows the arc of one fateful romance to its inevitable and heartbreaking conclusion.

"Stunning, precociously wise . . . [An] unexpected treasure."
—John Freeman, *The Boston Phoenix*

"Knight's understated prose gives the book its power, moving slowly, but fully, through the gamut of his characters' emotions. . . . A fresh, formidable talent." **—Mark Luce, *BookPage***

MICHAEL KNIGHT is the author of *Divining Rod; The Holiday Season; Dogfight: and Other Stories; Goodnight, Nobody;* and *The Typist.* His work has appeared in *The New Yorker, Esquire,* and *The Paris Review.* He lives in Tennessee.

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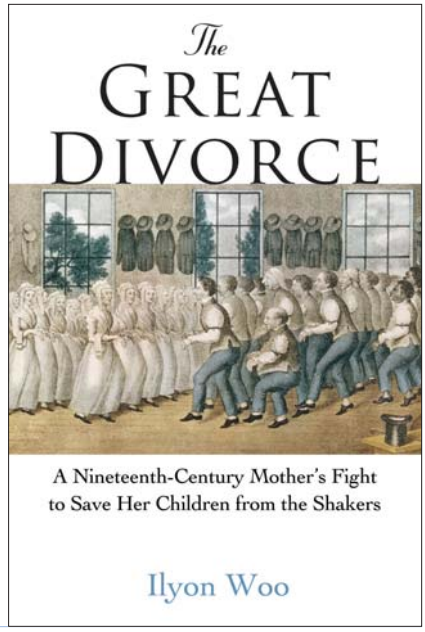
Previous ISBN: 9780452278950
Residence: Tennessee

The unforgettable story of a nineteenth-century mother whose fight to reclaim her children made history and pushed forward the question of women's rights and divorce law in the United States



THE GREAT DIVORCE

A Nineteenth-Century Mother's Fight to Save Her Children from the Shakers

Ilyon Woo

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"Ilyon Woo gives us the unfolding drama of the first and only legislative divorce in the history of New York as part of a larger struggle for civil identity and women's rights. It is not enough to say that this story of Eunice Chapman's fight against injustice is well told. Ilyon Woo tells a story that every American should want to read."—Robert A. Ferguson, George Edward Woodberry Professor of Law, Literature, and Criticism, Columbia University

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Carton quantity: 32
Residence: New York City

"*The Great Divorce* is a superb book—masterfully written, deeply suspenseful, and filled with fascinating facts and insights. American history would be everyone's favorite subject if more historians wrote like this. Woo is a writer to watch." —Debby Applegate, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*

Ilyon Woo's *The Great Divorce* is the dramatic, richly textured narrative history of one of early America's most infamous divorce cases, when a young mother singlehandedly challenged her country's notions of women's rights, family, and marriage itself—all in a bid to win back her kidnapped children.

Eunice Chapman was a remarkable woman by any standards, but especially those of the early 1800s. Petite and strong-willed, her daintiness made her the image of femininity, but her brashness set her apart. Married to an alcoholic, abusive husband, Eunice did her best to raise their three children—but when he left home to join the strange, celibate Shakers, Eunice refused to follow. Enraged, her husband snuck home and abducted the children. Eunice was devastated, but determined to obtain a divorce and be reunited with her children. She mounted an epic three-year legal battle that attracted the notice of such luminaries as Thomas Jefferson and Martin Van Buren, and advanced the question of women's rights in the hearts and minds of many Americans, much as the *Amistad* case would change the debate on slavery two decades later. Eunice eventually won the first and only legislative divorce in her state's history—but instead of waiting for the government to reunite her with her children, she rallied a mob and stormed the Shaker village by torchlight to take them back.

A redemptive story about the power of a mother's love, *The Great Divorce* provides a memorable portrait of a young nation still struggling to define its own values, and of one woman who rewrote the rules to bring her children home.

ILYON WOO has a BA from Yale College and a PhD from Columbia University, and is the recipient of fellowships from the American Antiquarian Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

GROVE PRESS

HARDCOVERS

Shakespeare comes to life in this fascinating history of the bard, the virgin queen, and the secrets at the heart of the Elizabethan age, by an acclaimed historian and expert on the authorship question.

SHAKESPEARE'S LOST KINGDOM

Charles Beauclerk

© LISA M. WILSON

- **Beauclerk is a direct descendant of Edward de Vere—who some believe is the true author of Shakespeare's plays—and served as president of the Shakespeare Oxford Society**

"I am 'a sort of' haunted by the conviction that the divine William is the biggest and most successful fraud ever practiced on a patient world."—Henry James

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Carton quantity: 28
Residence: England

It is perhaps the greatest story never told: the truth behind the most enduring works of literature in the English language, perhaps in any language. Who was the man behind *Hamlet, King Lear,* and the sonnets? What passion, what pain, what love inspired words so powerful that "not marble, nor the gilded monuments / Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme"? In *Shakespeare's Lost Kingdom,* critically acclaimed historian Charles Beauclerk pulls off an enchanting feat, humanizing the bard who for centuries has remained beyond our grasp.

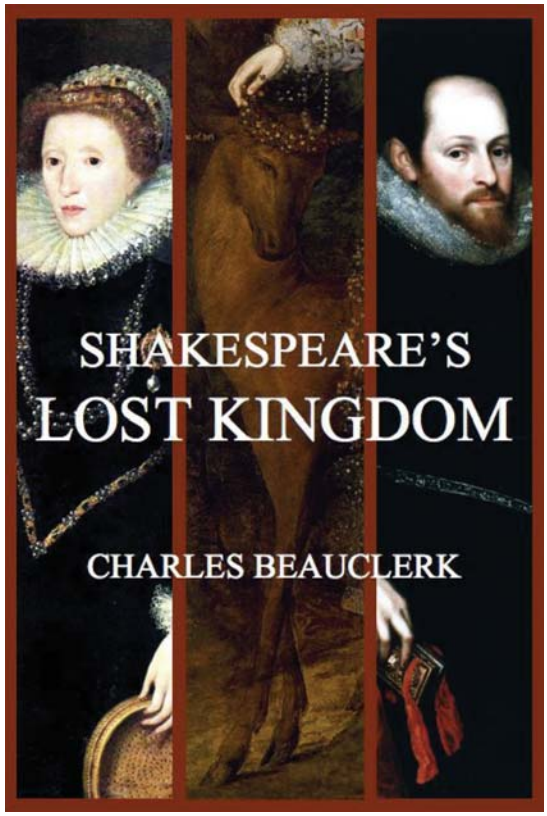
Beauclerk, the founder of the De Vere Society, former president of the Shakespeare Oxford Society, and trustee of the Shakespeare Authorship Trust, has spent more than two decades researching the authorship question. If the plays and poems of Shakespeare were discovered today, he argues, we would see them for what they are—shocking political works written by a court insider, someone whose status and anonymity shielded him from repression in an unstable time of armada and reformation. A satirical writer as trenchant as "Shake-speare" would not have kept his head for long without the monarch's indulgence. But the author's unique status and identity were quickly swept under the rug after his death. The official history—of an uneducated Stratfordian merchant writing in near obscurity, and of a virginal queen married to her country—dominated for centuries.

Shakespeare's Lost Kingdom delves deep into the conflicts and personalities of Elizabethan England as well as into the plays themselves to tell the true story of the "Soul of the Age." From the queen whose sexual escapades threatened to tear the curtain from the royal stage, to the poet whose identity crisis fueled a body of incomparable works, and the controversy that survived both of them, springing up again and again down through the centuries, this is a compelling, convincing history. You'll never look at Shakespeare the same way again.

Excerpt from

SHAKESPEARE'S LOST KINGDOM

In his desire to "catch the conscience" of King Claudius, Hamlet stages a play, *The Mousetrap*, in which he re-creates the circumstances of his father's murder. He is using the theatre to present an alternative version of history, one that so nettles the king and his chief minister that the latter closes down the performance. Through this device, Shakespeare alerts us to the use to which he puts his own plays. In other words, *Hamlet* itself is an Elizabethan *Mousetrap* designed to hold the mirror up to Shakespeare's queen, Elizabeth I. Through its tale of a disinherited prince asserting his royal right by means of the theatre, Shakespeare tells his own story. With this realization, we find ourselves caught up in a political intrigue that demands our participation even today. Suddenly the play becomes thrillingly real. Denmark is England, and we return to the theatre again and again to listen to the agonized promptings of a royal poet, as if vaguely aware that our history has been tampered with.



CHARLES BEAUCLERK is a writer, lecturer, and historian. A direct descendant of Edward de Vere, he is the founder and president of the De Vere Society, and serves as a trustee of the Shakespearean Authorship Trust. He is also the author of *Nell Gwyn: Mistress to a King.*

PRAISE FOR CHARLES BEAUCLERK:

"Beauclerk has not only scandalized professors throughout the English departments of the world's schools and universities, he has thrown down the gauntlet to historians, as well . . . and he has garnered supporters in this long-simmering debate."

—JOHN ROBINSON, *THE BOSTON GLOBE*

"Charles Beauclerk is an engaging, learned, and engrossing speaker. On the subject of Shakespeare, they don't come any better."—WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

"[The authorship question] stands as one of the great undiscovered lands of Shakespearean research, full of resounding insights into the plays we love so well . . . Charles Beauclerk must be one of the most learned speakers on the Earl of Oxford. He is passionate and gracious about his subject."

—MARK RYLANCE, FIRST ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE

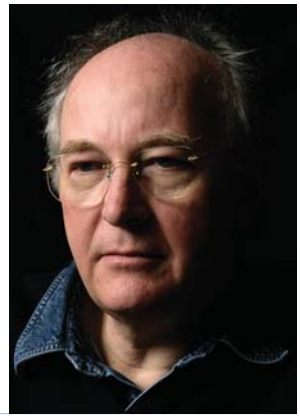
"Charles Beauclerk is eloquent and persuasive in his defense of the thesis that the Earl of Oxford wrote the works of William Shakespeare."

—AMBASSADOR PAUL H. NITZE, THE NITZE SCHOOL, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

In this spellbinding and fiercely subversive retelling of the life of Jesus, a best-selling, award-winning writer reimagines the most influential story ever told

THE GOOD MAN JESUS AND THE SCOUNDREL CHRIST

Philip Pullman



WOLF MARLOH

- **Pullman's acclaimed trilogy, *His Dark Materials,* sold tens of millions of copies and was awarded the Carnegie Medal, *The Guardian* Children's Book Award, and the Whitbread Book of the Year Award**
- **Pullman's previous work has sparked tremendous religious controversy and his books have appeared frequently on banned-book lists. In this novel, Pullman's provocative retelling of Christ's life will generate serious discussion**
- **The September 2009 announcement of the forthcoming publication of *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* generated numerous news stories around the world, including *The New York Times, The Times* (London), *The Guardian,* and *The Telegraph***

"After drawing the ire of religious conservatives with his young adult book trilogy *His Dark Materials,* the author Philip Pullman is again taking on potentially controversial subject matter. His next novel is to be a fictionalized account of the life of Jesus that will differ from the version presented in the New Testament." —Dave Itzkoff, *The New York Times*

The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ is the remarkable new piece of fiction from best-selling and famously atheistic author Philip Pullman. By challenging the events of the gospels, Pullman puts forward his own compelling and plausible version of the life of Jesus, and in so doing, does what all great books do: makes the reader ask questions.

In Pullman's own words, "The story I tell comes out of the tension within the dual nature of Jesus Christ, but what I do with it is my responsibility alone. Parts of it read like a novel, parts like history, and parts like a fairy tale; I wanted it to be like that because it is, among other things, a story about how stories become stories."

Written with unstinting authority, *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* is a pithy, erudite, subtle, and powerful book by a controversial and beloved author. It is a text to be read and reread, studied and unpacked, much like the Good Book itself.

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Phillip Pullman on

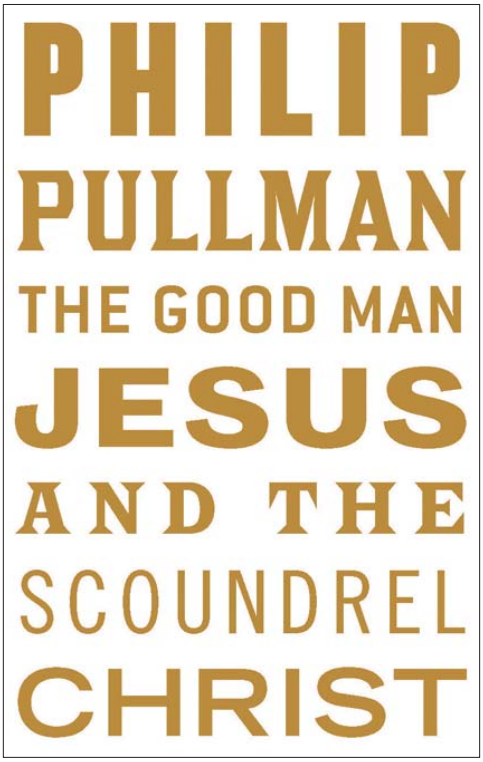
THE GOOD MAN JESUS AND THE SCOUNDREL CHRIST

About six years ago, I had a conversation on the stage of the National Theatre with Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury. In the course of talking about *His Dark Materials,* he said that he was curious to know why, although the story was plainly about a form of the Christian church, there was nothing about Jesus in the book.

I said that he was right, there wasn't, and that I'd deal with Jesus later, in another book.

Well, the time has come. *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* will be published as part of the Canongate Myths series. I've always been fascinated by the two parts of the name of Jesus Christ, and by the difference between them. Another thing that's interested me for a long time is the way in which the Christian church began to formulate its beliefs and establish a canon of scripture: there were many more gospels than four, but why were those four chosen and others left out? When did Paul begin to write his epistles? Was what he said different from what the gospels say? Do the gospels even agree with one another? Was there a difference between Jesus and Christ?

My version of the Jesus story doesn't attempt to solve these questions, but I hope readers will find it interesting.



PHILIP PULLMAN was born in Norwich, England, in 1946. He has won many awards, including the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Book of the Year Award, and his acclaimed trilogy, *His Dark Materials* has been published in thirty-nine languages.

PRAISE FOR *THE GOLDEN COMPASS:*

"Superb . . . All-stops-out thrilling."—*THE WASHINGTON POST*

"Heroic . . . Heart-wrenching . . . A masterpiece that transcends genre: it is a children's book that will appeal to adults, a fantasy novel that will charm even the most hardened realist. Best of all, the author doesn't speak down to his audience, nor does he pull his punches; there is genuine terror in this book, and heartbreak, and betrayal, and loss. There is also love, loyalty, and an abiding morality that infuses the story but never overwhelms it. It's one of those rare novels that one wishes would never end."—AMAZON.COM

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A social history of the tumultuous two years immediately following the First World War in Britain that acted as a hinge between the nightmare of war and the promise of the future, told through the colorful perspectives of all walks of British life

© DAVID O'RORKE

THE GREAT SILENCE

1918-1920: Living in the Shadow of the Great War

Juliet Nicolson

- ***The Perfect Summer* was named one of the best books of 2007 by *The Christian Science Monitor* and was a *Daily Mail* Book Club Choice**
- **Nicolson is the granddaughter of diplomat and historian Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West, and the daughter of author Nigel Nicolson**

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Carton quantity: 28
Residence: London

Drawing on colorful personalities, historic moments, and intimate details, *The Great Silence* is Juliet Nicolson's social history of the two years after the Great War in Britain. Not since Nicolson's best seller, *The Perfect Summer,* have we seen a book that so vividly captures the psyche of a nation at a particular moment in its history.

Armistice Day, November 1918, dawns with elated crowds on the steps of Buckingham Palace. But as the euphoria fades, the carnage that war has left in its wake is revealed.

Slowly, out of Britain's despair emerges new life. For the countless veterans with faces demolished in the trenches, surgeon Harold Gillies brings hope with his miraculous skin-grafting procedure. Women win the vote, skirt hems leap from ankle to thigh, and aristocrats and servants alike forget their troubles at packed dance halls.

The two-year anniversary of the Armistice, at last, brings closure: the remains of a nameless soldier, dug up from a French battlefield and escorted to London in a homecoming befitting a king, are laid to rest in glory in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Westminster Abbey. "The Great Silence," the two minutes observed nationwide in memory of the countless dead, halts city shoppers and rural farmhands alike in silent reverence as Big Ben strikes eleven.

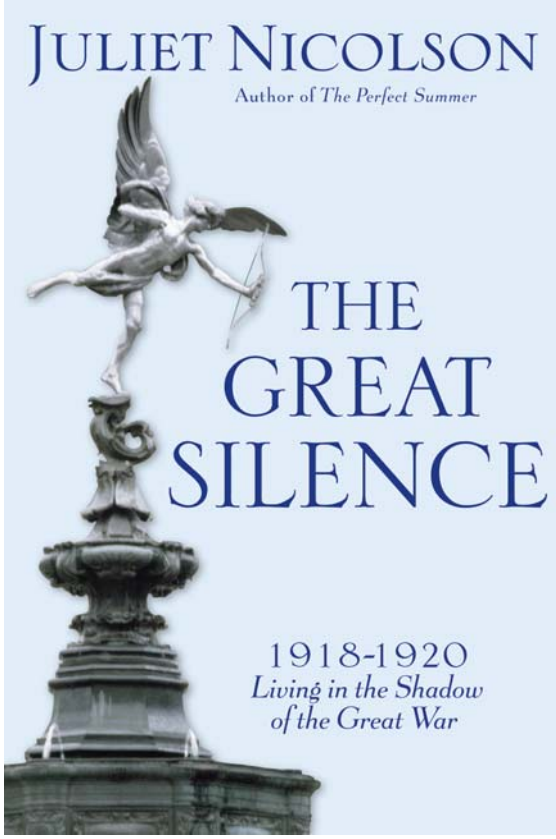
This little-explored slice of history is a fascinating hinge between the Great War and the Jazz Age, and Nicolson crafts her narrative using a lively cast of characters: from an aging butler to the newlyweds Lady Diana Manners and Duff Cooper, from the Prince of Wales to T. E. Lawrence, the real-life Lawrence of Arabia. *The Great Silence* paints a vivid picture of a nation fighting the forces that threaten to tear it apart, and discovering the common bonds that, as it moves into a new era, hold it together.

Excerpt from

THE GREAT SILENCE

There was something that continued to feel incomplete about the celebrations for the observance of the second anniversary of the Armistice. The coffin-like cenotaph was of course empty. There were no plans to fill it and yet its very emptiness emphasized a void.

During the war an army padre called David Railton, guiding an itinerant wartime parish through the middle of the body-thick mud of France, had been deeply moved by the sight of a small fenced garden, which contained in one corner a grave marked by a simple wooden cross. Someone had taken a black pencil and written on the crosspiece the words "An Unknown British Soldier." Could not one of these unidentified men, Railton wondered, serve as a symbol of comfort and courage to the whole armies of people who had no body to bury? The lack of a funeral had denied hundreds of thousands the chance to accept the finality of death. Perhaps one single body could be brought out of the mud of France, never to be identified but to fill the gap left by a father, brother, husband, son, fiancé, lover, uncle, grandfather, friend—a loved one who could be made to symbolize and fill that void. His invisible face could be invested with thousands of familiar faces, all much missed and much loved. The suggestion seemed to offer a retreat from the terrifying emptiness of the tomb, with its attendant silence, and instead an emphasis on the continuing vitality of the common man.



JULIET NICOLSON is the granddaughter of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, and the daughter of Nigel Nicolson. She lives in London and at Sissinghurst Castle, Kent. She is the author of the best seller *The Perfect Summer: England 1911, Just Before the Storm.*

PRAISE FOR *THE PERFECT SUMMER:*

"A beautifully written and engrossing piece of social history . . . *The Perfect Summer* is a splendid example of literary pointillism: fascinating details adding up to an incisive portrait."—MARTIN RUBIN, *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

"An elegiac and atmospheric account of England in the summer of 1911 . . . Wry and unexpectedly informative . . . A cast of interesting characters . . . Lively accounts of aristocratic house parties . . . Vivid passages about the rural poor."—JONATHAN YARDLEY, *THE WASHINGTON POST*

"Sharp and rangy . . . Nicolson sets a lively, theatrical pace and makes good use of recurring characters . . . [There are] many glittering pieces in Nicolson's book."—THOMAS MALLON, *THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

"[*The Perfect Summer*] is a ravishing, ambitious, and extraordinarily intimate portrait of an era whose brilliant ebullience was all the more poignant for its abrupt and violent end." —*VOGUE*

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The Giant of the French Revolution ***tells the story of Danton—visionary leader and tragic hero—in a work*** **The Economist** ***called "a gripping story, beautifully told."***

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

THE GIANT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Danton, A Life

David Lawday

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"*The Giant of the French Revolution* sweeps one along in a gathering flood-tide of rich description, brilliant characterization, subtle political analysis, and breathless suspense. David Lawday has written a masterful, spine-tingling fictional thriller—except every word in this compulsively readable book is true."

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One of the Western world's most epic uprisings, the French Revolution brought an end to an absolute monarchy that had ruled for almost a thousand years. And George-Jacques Danton was a driving force behind it. In the first biography of Danton in over forty years, the historian David Lawday reveals the tragic, larger-than-life figure who joined the fray at the storming of the Bastille in 1789 at age twenty-nine and was dead five years later.

Danton's booming voice was a perpetual roll of thunder that excited bourgeois reformers and the mobs alike; his impassioned speeches, often hours long, drove the sansculottes to action and kept the revolution alive at the critical moment when it stumbled and risked collapse. But as the newly appointed minister of justice, Danton struggled to steer the increasingly divided revolutionary government. Working tirelessly to halt the bloodshed of Robespierre's Terror, he ultimately lost his grip, becoming one of its victims. True to form, Danton did not go easily to the guillotine; at his trial, he defended himself with such vehemence that the tribunal hastily approved a gag motion and convicted him before he could rally the crowd in his favor.

In vivid, almost novelistic prose worthy of a Shakespearean tragedy, Lawday leads us from Danton's humble roots deep in France *profonde* to the streets of revolutionary Paris, where this political legend acted on the operatic stage of the revolution that altered Western civilization.

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Excerpt from

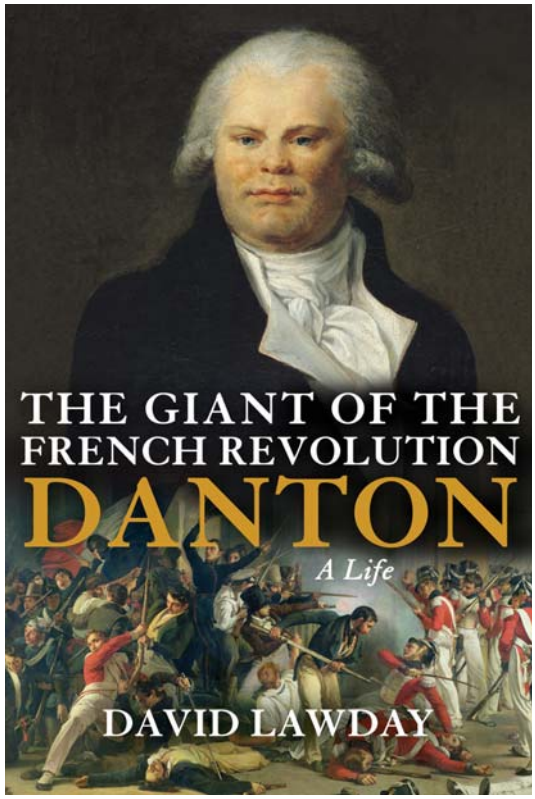
THE GIANT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The enemy was truly within ninety miles of the capital, pincering from two directions, and—considering the weakness of French forces—it was likely that foreign troops would be in Paris in three or four days, a week at most . . . That day Danton was in a truly bullish mood. He felt somehow convinced that the country was capable of saving itself once the spirit was roused; it required blood, sweat, and tears. "Everything burns for the fight," his great voice boomed. The people had a sublime mission. Then, unable to restrain his ardor: "We demand that whoever refuses to serve or to give the *patrie* his arms will be punished by death."

The climax was yet to come. He concluded to thunderous applause, his left hand planted on his hip, the right scything the air with terrible vigor: "The tocsin we shall now ring is not an alarm, it sounds the charge against the enemies of the *patrie*. To vanquish them, gentlemen, we must be bold! Bolder still! Ever bolder! And France is saved."

If ever a single flash of oratory sent volunteers rushing to hold the frontiers with fire in their hearts, this was it. The words were sparks from the anvil of Mars that flew through the capital and provincial cities. "You were sublime," consented Vergniaud, the golden-tongued Girondist oracle, clapping his back.

It was Danton at his best, but also at his impulsive worst. He was sinking deeper into violence himself.



DAVID LAWDAY is a native of London, educated there and at Oxford. He is a writer and journalist who was a correspondent for twenty years with *The Economist,* and author of *Napoleon's Master: A Life of Prince Talleyrand.* He now lives in Paris.

PRAISE FOR *THE GIANT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION:*

"Lawday . . . has brought Danton into full view in an audacious piece of historical writing . . . there is not a better portrait of Danton."

—HUGH MACDONALD, *THE HERALD* (U.K.)

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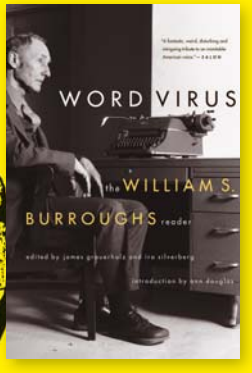

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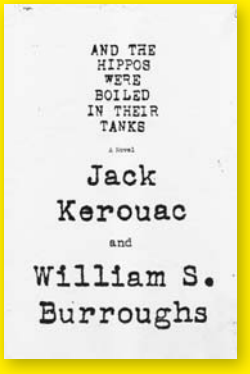

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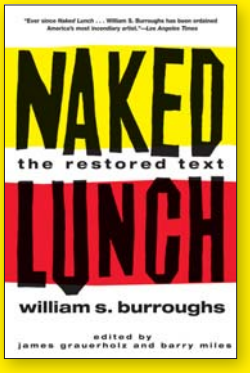

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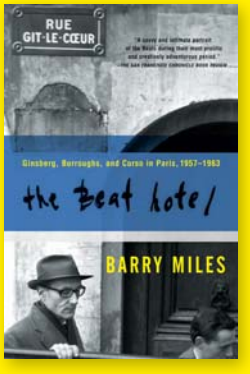

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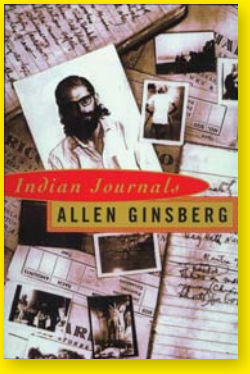

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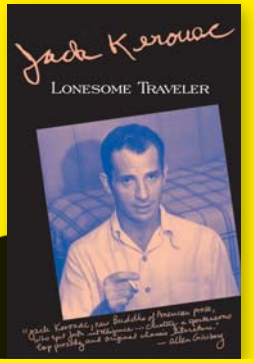

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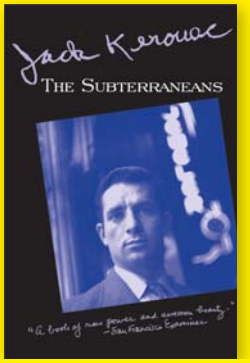

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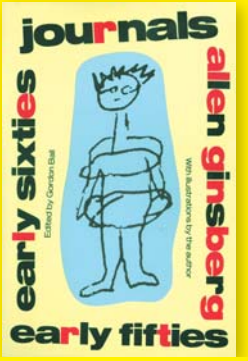

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BLACK CAT

From a major new literary voice, a haunting portrait of two generations of women, the ghosts of Estonia's Soviet occupation, and the cruel realities of contemporary Europe

© TONI HÄRKÖNEN

PURGE

Sofi Oksanen
Translated from the Finnish by Lola Rogers

- ***Purge*** **is the first novel to win Finland's two most prestigious literary awards—the Finlandia and the Runeberg**
- **Rights have been sold in twenty-five countries**

Soon to be published in twenty-five languages, Sofi Oksanen's award-winning novel *Purge* is a breathtakingly suspenseful tale of two women dogged by their own shameful pasts and the dark, unspoken history that binds them.

When Aliide Truu, an older woman living alone in the Estonian countryside, finds a disheveled girl huddled in her front yard, she suppresses her misgivings and offers her shelter. Zara is a young sex-trafficking victim on the run from her captors, but a photo she carries with her soon makes it clear that her arrival at Aliide's home is no coincidence. Survivors both, Aliide and Zara engage in a complex arithmetic of suspicion and revelation to distill each other's motives; gradually, their stories emerge, the culmination of a tragic family drama of rivalry, lust, and loss that played out during the worst years of Estonia's Soviet occupation.

Sofi Oksanen establishes herself as one the most important voices of her generation with this intricately woven tale, whose stakes are almost unbearably high from the first page to the last. *Purge* is a fiercely compelling and damning novel about the corrosive effects of shame, and of life in a time and place where to survive is to be implicated.

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Excerpt from
PURGE

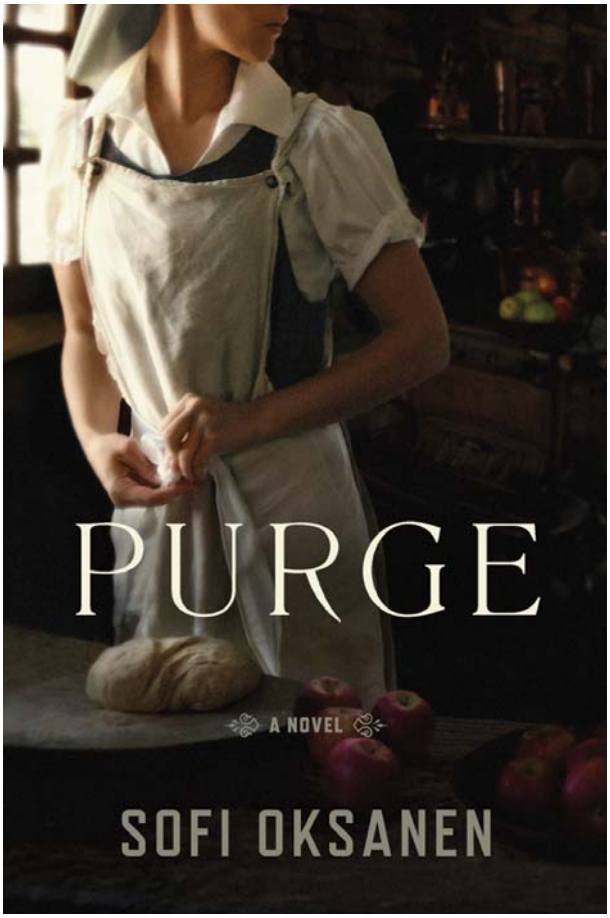
Silence spread dark around her. The night was thickening. She took a few steps and stopped to stand in the yellow light of the lamp in the yard. Crickets were buzzing, the neighbors' dogs barked. The white trunks of the birches shone dimly through the dark. She could see the peaceful fields through the chain-link fence, its mesh like tired eyes.

She inhaled so deeply that she felt a stab in her lungs like ice on a tooth. She had been wrong. The relief took her legs out from under her and she fell onto the steps with a thud.

No Pasha, no Lavrenti, no black car.

She turned her face toward the sky. That must be the Big Dipper. The same Big Dipper that you could see over Vladivostok, although this one looked different. Grandmother had looked at the Big Dipper from this same garden when she was young, the Big Dipper that looks like that one. Her grandmother—she had stood in the same place, in front of this same house, on the same stepping stones. The grass that tickled Zara's foot was her grandmother's touch and the wind in the apple trees was her grandmother's whisper, and Zara felt like she was looking at the Big Dipper through her grandmother's eyes, and when she turned her face back up toward the sky, she felt like her grandmother's young body stood inside hers, and it ordered her to go back inside, to search for a story that she hadn't been told.

Zara felt in her pocket. The photograph was still there.



SOFI OKSANEN is a thirty-two-year-old Finnish-Estonian novelist and playwright. *Purge* is her first novel to appear in English, and the first novel to win Finland's two most prestigious literary awards, the Finlandia and the Runeberg.

PRAISE FOR *PURGE:*

"*Purge* is a breathtaking novel dense with emotion that snares the reader from the very first pages. . . . Moving and horrifying, it leaves you shuddering and gasping for breath."

—*ILKKA* (FINLAND)

"Cruel, compelling, and nuanced, *Purge* vibrates with suspense: unspoken secrets and deeply shameful deeds . . . spread like a web over the book, forcing the reader to go on turning the pages. . . . Vivid, precise, and beautiful."—*HUFVUDSTADSBLADET* (FINLAND)

"The multidimensionality of *Purge* is startling. . . . [The novel] encompasses the grand themes . . . [of] shame, betrayal, guilt, atonement . . . with the complexity and seriousness worthy of them. . . . Oksanen has publicly criticized the trendy nostalgia for the Soviet Union, and those who . . . stick a Lenin pin on their chest without a thought to what they are advertising. With *Purge,* Oksanen doesn't just rap these pin wearers on the knuckles, she hits them with a sledgehammer."

—*TURUN SANOMAT* (FINLAND)

A "witty, thoughtful, and surprisingly tender" (The Independent) *novel about two boys on the far side of trauma and the improbable friendship that grants them both the chance for a new beginning*

JOE SPEEDBOAT

Tommy Wieringa
Translated from the Dutch by Sam Garrett

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- ***Joe Speedboat*** **was the winner of the Ferdinand Bordewijk Prize, the award given to the top authors in Dutch literature**
- **Wieringa is a recipient of Holland's Halewijn Prize and was nominated for the AKO Literature Prize**
- ***Joe Speedboat*** **has sold over 300,000 copies in the Netherlands**
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In *Joe Speedboat*—a sparkling coming-of-age novel that "recalls *The World According to Garp*" (*NRC Handelsblad*) and has sold over 300,000 copies in Holland—the inhabitants of a sleepy rural town are shaken awake by the arrival of a kinetic young visionary, the eponymous Joe.

After a violent farming accident plunges him into a coma for six months, young Frankie Hermans wakes up to discover that he's paralyzed and mute. Bound to a wheelchair, Frankie struggles to adjust to a life where he must rely on family and friends to complete even the simplest tasks. The only body part he can control is his right arm, which he uses obsessively to record all the details of daily life in his town.

But when he meets Joe Speedboat—a boy who blazed into town like a meteor while Frankie slept—everything changes. Joe is a centrifugal force with the touch of a magician and the spirit of a daredevil, and he alone sees the potential strength in Frankie's handicaps. With Joe's help, Frankie's good arm will be used for more that just writing: as a champion arm-wrestler, Frankie will be powerful enough to win back his friends, and maybe even woo P. J., the corkscrew-haired girl who has them all in a tailspin.

Alive and exuberant with the profundities of adolescence, *Joe Speedboat* is the supersonic story of an unlikely alliance and a lightning-quick dash to grow up.

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Excerpt from

JOE SPEEDBOAT

The first time we heard of Joe and his family was when his father's van crashed through the ancestral gabled home of the Maandags. All the way up to its ass in the front room, where son Christof was sitting in front of the tube playing a video game. He never flinched. When he finally looked up, the first thing he saw was a headlight poking like an angry eye through the whirl of dust and debris. Then it gradually dawned on him that there was a truck in his house. The only sound was the *toing-toing* of the video ball bouncing across the screen.

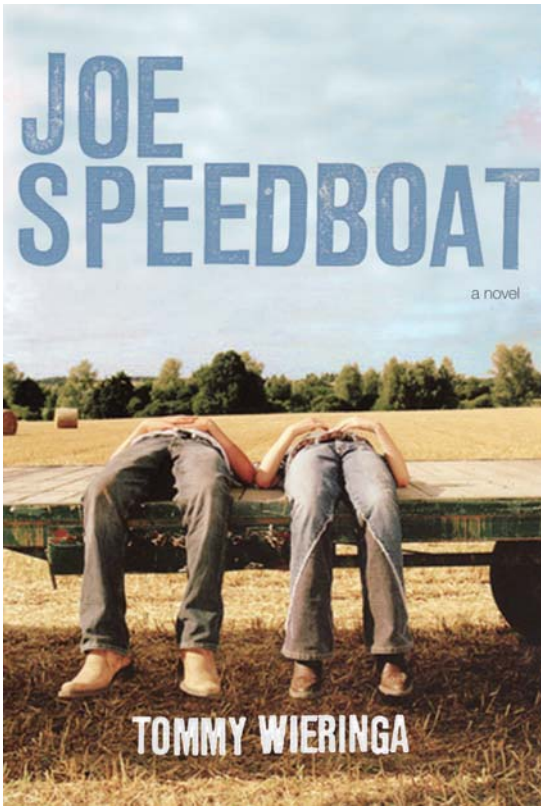
Hanging down over the grille of the van was the torso of a man, his arms dangling limply like a scarecrow fallen from heaven and his lower body pinned inside the cab. He was dead. But there was still movement inside: the door on the passenger side of the cab swung open and the boy Christof saw climbing down was roughly his age, twelve or thirteen. He was wearing a gold lamé shirt, sandals, and knickerbockers. Your parents would have to be slightly bonkers to dress you like that, but he just peered around the room matter-of-factly, the mortar swirling down onto his head and shoulders.

"Hello," Christof said, the joystick still in his hand.

The other boy shook his head, as though something peculiar had occurred to him.

"Who are you?" was all Christof asked him then.

"My name's Joe," the boy said. "Joe Speedboat."



TOMMY WIERINGA was born in 1967 and grew up in the Netherlands and in the tropics. He is the author of two previous novels, one of which won Holland's Halewijn Prize and was nominated for the AKO Literature Prize. This is his first novel to be published in English.

PRAISE FOR *JOE SPEEDBOAT:*

"[*Joe Speedboat*] offers a rewarding journey into the unfamiliar. It is also witty, thoughtful, and surprisingly tender as Frankie comes to realize that he has got a life to live that is still well worth the living."

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"A sparkling bildungsroman . . . that recalls *The World According to Garp*."

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"A brilliant story, beautifully written, striking and captivating not only because of the memorable characters, but because of the surprises that lie in wait at every turn."

—*NEUE ZURCHER ZEITUNG* (SWITZERLAND)

"A book to fall in love with."—*HET PAROOL* (HOLLAND)

"This is such a lovely book, full of eccentricity and charm."—*THE BOOKBAG* (UK)

"A wonderfully eccentric and uproariously funny novel."—*WATERSTONE'S BOOKS QUARTERLY* (UK)

"A breathless, marvelous first novel . . . This is Latin American fiction at its pulpy phantasmagorical finest . . . a literary masterpiece masquerading as a police procedural and nothing else I've read this year comes close."—Junot Díaz

© VESTA MÓNICA HERRERÍAS

THE BLACK MINUTES

Martin Solares
Translated by Aura Estrada and J. P. Pluecker

- ***The Black Minutes* was a finalist for the Rómulo Gallegos International Novel Prize**
- **Solares was a finalist for the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière—France's most prestigious award for crime and detective fiction; recent winners include Deon Meyer and Ian Rankin**
- **Vintage 2 Español is publishing their edition of *The Black Minutes* simultaneously**
- ***prepublication reading copies available***
- ***Solares will participate in the inaugural PEN New Voices Tour (Boston • Albany, NY • New York City • Philadelphia • Pittsburgh • Washington, D.C. • Chicago • Minneapolis/St. Paul • Los Angeles • San Francisco • Portland • Seattle)***
- ***major review coverage***
- ***online features and reviews***
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Carton quantity: 36
Residence: Mexico

A finalist for France's most prestigious award for crime fiction, the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière, and for the distinguished Spanish-language award, the Rómulo Gallegos Prize, Martin Solares's *The Black Minutes* has been published across Europe to great acclaim and rave reviews. Told from multiple perspectives and filled with macabre details and fantastical elements that are interwoven throughout the narrative, *The Black Minutes* is an electrifying and highly original novel from a brilliant new voice.

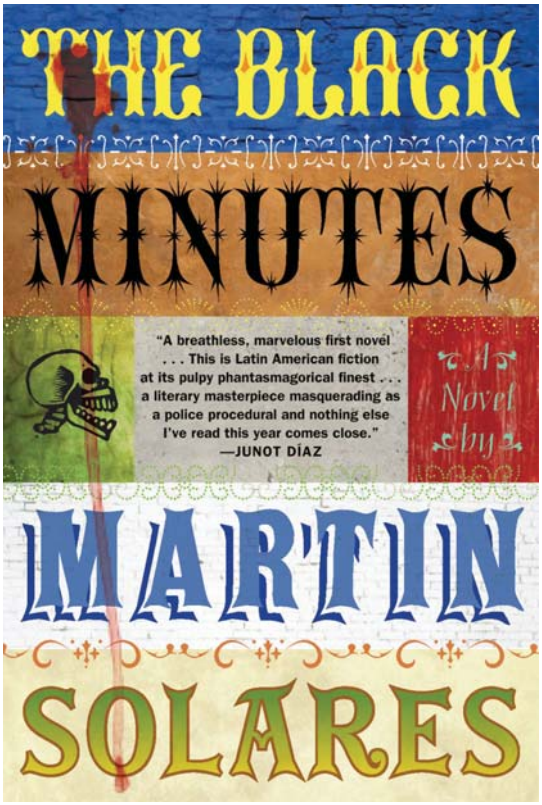
When a young journalist named Bernardo Blanco is killed in the fictional Mexican port city of Paracuán, investigation into his murder reveals missing links in a disturbing multiple homicide case from twenty years earlier. As police officer Ramón "el Macetón" Cabrera discovers, Blanco had been writing a book about a 1970s case dealing with the murder of several young schoolgirls in Paracuán by a man known as el Chacal. Cabrera realizes that whoever killed Blanco wanted to keep the truth about el Chacal from being revealed, and he becomes determined to discover that truth. *The Black Minutes* chronicles both Cabrera's investigation into Blanco's murder and detective Vicente Rangel's investigation of the original el Chacal case. Both narratives expose worlds of corruption, from cops who are content to close the door on a case without true justice to powerful politicians who can pay their way out of their families' crimes.

The book is full of dark twists and turns, and populated by a cast of captivating—and mostly corrupt—characters. An alcoholic priest serves as the link between the generations, the only one who knows the truth behind all of the murders. Reporters dig as deep as they can, their trust difficult to gauge, and Rangel finds himself in love with one. Bernardo Blanco and, later, Ramón Cabrera are the only ones who break through the corruption and come to know the whole truth, a truth that unfurls by degrees into a complex and surreal mystery.

Excerpt from

THE BLACK MINUTES

Cabrera kicked the table up into the air. Chávez pulled his hand from behind his back, brass knuckles covering his fist, and brandished it an inch from his face. Cabrera took a step back. While Chávez waved his hand around, Cabrera took the chance to punch him in the jaw, a direct hit as hard as he could, and Chávez fell down face first. He was on the floor, but he wasn't giving up; Cabrera guessed that he was about to jump up and hit him back, but as he started to stand up, he kicked him right on the solar plexus. Unfortunately for Chávez, Cabrera was wearing cowboy boots. Chávez was lifted up, flipped over in the air and fell behind the table. He tried to get up but his legs gave out. It was already too late: Cabrera's pacifist spirit was completely gone. El Beduino and el Gordolobo had to grab him by the arms so he wouldn't kill him: Take it easy, *buey,* take it easy. Ah, now you interrupt me, *pinche pendejo? ¡Ve a chingar a tu madre!* He screamed and pulled himself out of their grip. Then he saw Chávez arch his arm and he felt a pain in his right leg. *¡Hijo de puta!* he spat out. The asshole threw the brass knuckles without even looking and got him square on his shin. Cabrera pushed el Gordolobo off him and he was about to go finish what he had started, but Isela hugged him, bawling: Señor Cabrera, please calm down! When he saw her, he pulled himself together and walked out, gasping for air.



MARTIN SOLARES was born in Mexico. He recently completed a doctorate at La Sorbonne and now lives in Oaxaca. This is his first novel.

PRAISE FOR *THE BLACK MINUTES:*

"Martín Solares's first novel is a dense, warm, and complex noir fiction. But its originality lies elsewhere, in its dreamlike digressions. . . . The confessions of a Jesuit, the brief appearance of a criminology vedette, literary references, all contribute to introducing shifts to the register generating interest and charm."
—*LE TEMPS* (FRANCE)

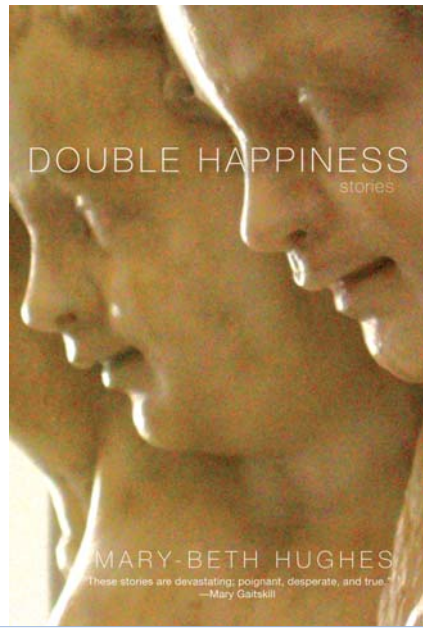
"[Martín Solares's] debut novel is risky business. . . . One of the most ambitious crime novels that Mexico has had to offer since the great works of Paco Ignacio Taibo II."—*TITEL MAGAZIN* (GERMANY)

"Martin Solares's novel is intense and exhilarating, full of violence and action. . . . This first novel by Solares will satisfy—and believe me, to an immense degree—those who enjoy impossible missions and quixotic adventures. Go, go read this splendid novel."—*EL PAÍS* (SPAIN)

"A dark novel, completely enclosing itself inside the parameters of the genre, in which the author shows us an extremely critical glimpse of the police corruption of his country . . . Solares displays an impressive string of situations, and constructs an action-packed plot that never declines. . . . [He] is a true novelist."—*EL MUNDO* (SPAIN)

"The exotic world that boils in *The Black Minutes* is not limited to the rules of the ordinary; the nightmare and the supernatural at times involve the narration and fracture our trust. . . . detective novels that are important are those that are capable of transcending the genre, they survive by their metaphysical implications or for the sharp representation of society that inspires them."— *ABC DE LAS ARTES Y LETRAS*

Celebrated author Mary-Beth Hughes returns with a knockout collection of stories that are by turns "devastating, poignant, desperate, and true" (Mary Gaitskill).



DOUBLE HAPPINESS

Stories

Mary-Beth Hughes

- **First serial rights for "Pelican Song" have been sold to *The Paris Review***
- **Other stories in *Double Happiness* have been published or are forthcoming in literary journals: *St. Ann's Review, The Georgia Review, The Mississippi Review, Ploughshares,* and *A Public Space***
- ***Wavemaker II* was a national best seller, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and a Book Sense 76 Selection**

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- ***major review coverage***
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Carton quantity: 36
Residence: Brooklyn and Rhinebeck, NY

Best-selling and widely acclaimed author Mary-Beth Hughes, "a writer of dexterity and imagination" (*The New York Times Book Review*), delivers a seductive, deeply human, and sophisticated story collection about the universal need to be loved and the complicated imperfections that jeopardize the ties that bind us.

The stories in *Double Happiness* are extraordinary portrayals of the ordinariness of life. By pinpointing those moments of discord when personal needs and morality clash with circumstances beyond our control, Hughes challenges our concepts of responsibility, trust, resilience, and betrayal. In "Pelican Song," a thirty-year-old modern dancer who moonlights as a movie-ticket taker visits her parents' picturesque home only to discover that her stepfather has begun to abuse her too-accommodating mother; "Horse" follows maladjusted honeymooners in Atlantic City whose romantic weekend is saved from emotional catastrophe by a bored horse that refuses to dive from its pedestal into the ocean; and in "Rome," a mini-holiday in New York City turns from shopping sprees and tea at the Plaza to a young girl's sharp discovery of her father's secret life.

With an elegant blend of humor and pathos, Hughes captures the turning points in relationships that make us wonder how well we really know the people we love, and ourselves. Full of improbably paired characters whose differences serve to unearth the vulnerabilities, idiosyncrasies, and compromises that unite and divide us, *Double Happiness* is a revealing meditation on the fragility of contentment and the lengths we must go to in order to sustain it.

PRAISE FOR *WAVEMAKER II*:

"A spectacular splash." **—*Vanity Fair***

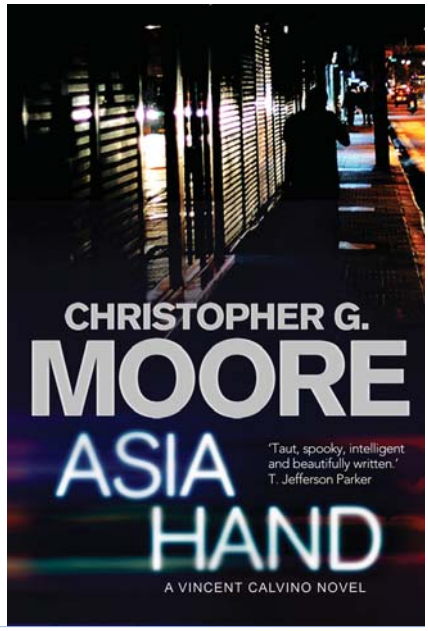
"A brave and deeply moving first novel." **—Lorrie Moore**

"A bone-chilling family drama . . . Pitch perfect . . . Introduces a beautiful new voice in fiction." **—*Time Out New York***

MARY-BETH HUGHES is the author of the best-selling novel *Wavemaker II,* a *New York Times* Notable Book.

JULY

In Bangkok, an American cameraman has the break of his career but winds up dead, and it's up to Vincent Calvino, the expat PI, to find the killers and bring them to justice.



ASIA HAND

A Vincent Calvino Novel

Christopher G. Moore

- **Christopher G. Moore won the Deutscher Krimi Preis, the most prestigious award for crime fiction in German, and the Semana Negra Award in Spain**
- **Christopher G. Moore is well regarded within the mystery and thriller community, and has appeared at Bouchercon**
- ***prepublication reading copies available***
- ***mystery and thriller marketing campaign***
- ***author Web site (www.cgmoore.com)***
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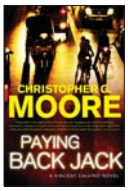

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Carton quantity: 36
Residence: Bangkok

Christopher G. Moore's prize-winning series of Bangkok thrillers featuring Vincent Calvino, a disbarred American lawyer turned PI, have been praised for their captivating plots, engaging characters, and insight into the steamy Thai capital. In *Asia Hand,* the second novel in the series, Bangkok is celebrating Chinese New Year when Calvino's revels are cut short. The body of an American, an acquaintance of Calvino's, has been fished out of the lake in Lumpini Park. Around his neck are a string of wooden amulets, the kind upcountry Thais wear to protect themselves from evil spirits. Only rather than saving Hutton, these have killed him.

A freelance cameraman scraping by on the margins, Hutton had photographed something shortly before his death that he thought would make his career. Now the footage—a shocking execution on the Thai/Burmese border—is running repeatedly on CNN, and the rights to Hutton's life story have been sold to a Hollywood producer. But who killed Hutton and why? When Calvino investigates, he collides with a powerful filmmaker and an experienced old Asia hand who knows the terrain as well as our man in Bangkok. It's all Calvino can do to stay alive, and find out who killed his fellow American.

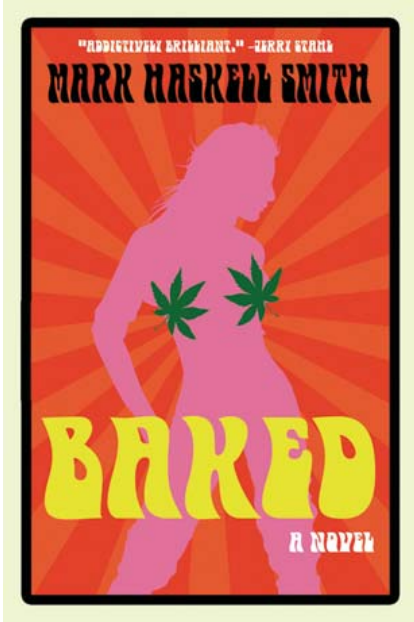
"Calvino is at once in the finest tradition of the lone private detective and a complete original." —Matt Benyon Rees, author of *The Samaritan's Secret*

"Calvino is a worthy successor to Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe and Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer." —*The Nation* (Bangkok)

"The top foreign author focusing on the Land of Smiles, Christopher G. Moore clearly has a firsthand understanding of the expat milieu. . . . Moore is perspicacious." —*Bangkok Post*

CHRISTOPHER G. MOORE is the author of ten novels starring Vincent Calvino, and the winner of the Deutscher Krimi Preis, the most prestigious award for crime fiction in German. He has lived in Bangkok since 1988.

"A laugh-out-loud, thrill-a-minute, tour de force of bad behavior, weirdness, and contemporary illegal commerce. With Baked, *Mark Haskell Smith may just have written his masterpiece."* —*Jerry Stahl*



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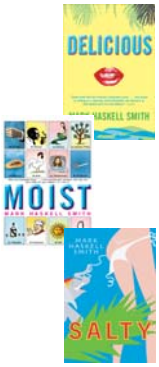

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Residence: Los Angeles

Miro Basinas is an experimental botanist—part mad scientist, part gentleman farmer—who sells his rarefied product to a discerning clientele. Only he's not growing heirloom tomatoes or making organic wine—he's growing weed. And when Miro hits the big time by winning Amsterdam's Cannabis Cup, *cannasseurs* and *ganjaficionados* aren't the only people who want a piece of him and his mind-blowing pot that tastes like mangoes.

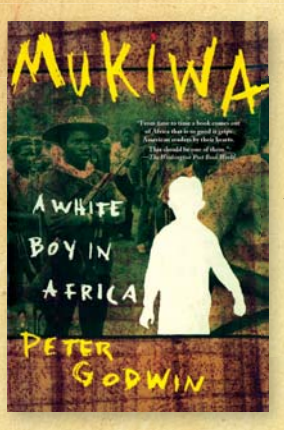
The latest wickedly funny crime novel from Mark Haskell Smith, *Baked* opens with a bang as Miro is cut down by a bullet. A mild-mannered hipster who doesn't know the first thing about revenge—or even who shot him—Miro is soon on a quest to recover his prize invention and to secure his place as the Floyd Zaiger (creator of the pluot) of weed. It's a journey packed with a delicious cast of characters, including a string-theory obsessed cop, a paramedic with a kinky streak, a Mormon missionary struggling to keep his "sap" under control in a city that is the personification of sex, a half-Irish half-Salvadoran drug dealer and his dim-witted associates, the owner of a taco truck, a cougar starlet, and an entrepreneur who wants to turn his medical marijuana Compassion Centers into the Starbucks of pot. *Baked* is a hilarious, rip-roaring romp from a talented, utterly original novelist.

"Haskell Smith writes well, especially about sex and food. . . . Think Elmore Leonard meets Mario Batali."
—Richard Rayner, *Los Angeles Times* on *Delicious*

"Murder, mayhem, marijuana, and Mormons—what more could you ask for in a crime novel? *Baked* grabs you by the sacred underpants and doesn't let up 'til the last page." **—Lisa Lutz, author of *The Spellman Files***

MARK HASKELL SMITH is the author of three previous novels—*Moist, Delicious,* and *Salty*—and an award-winning screenwriter. He lives in Los Angeles, close to the Rambo taco truck.

STORIES FROM AFRICA



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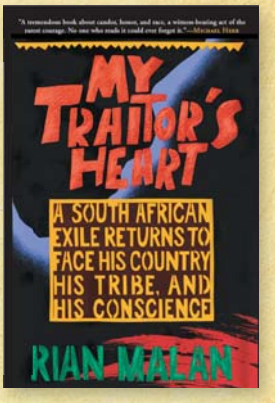

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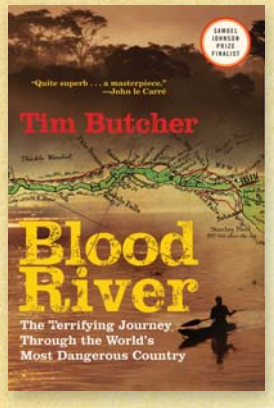

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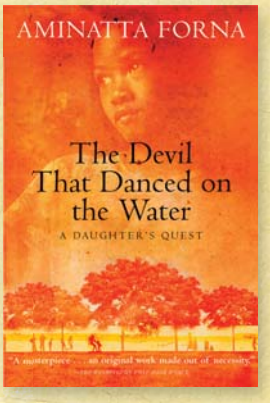

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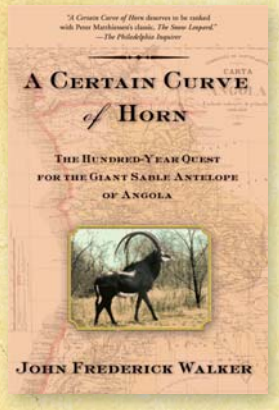

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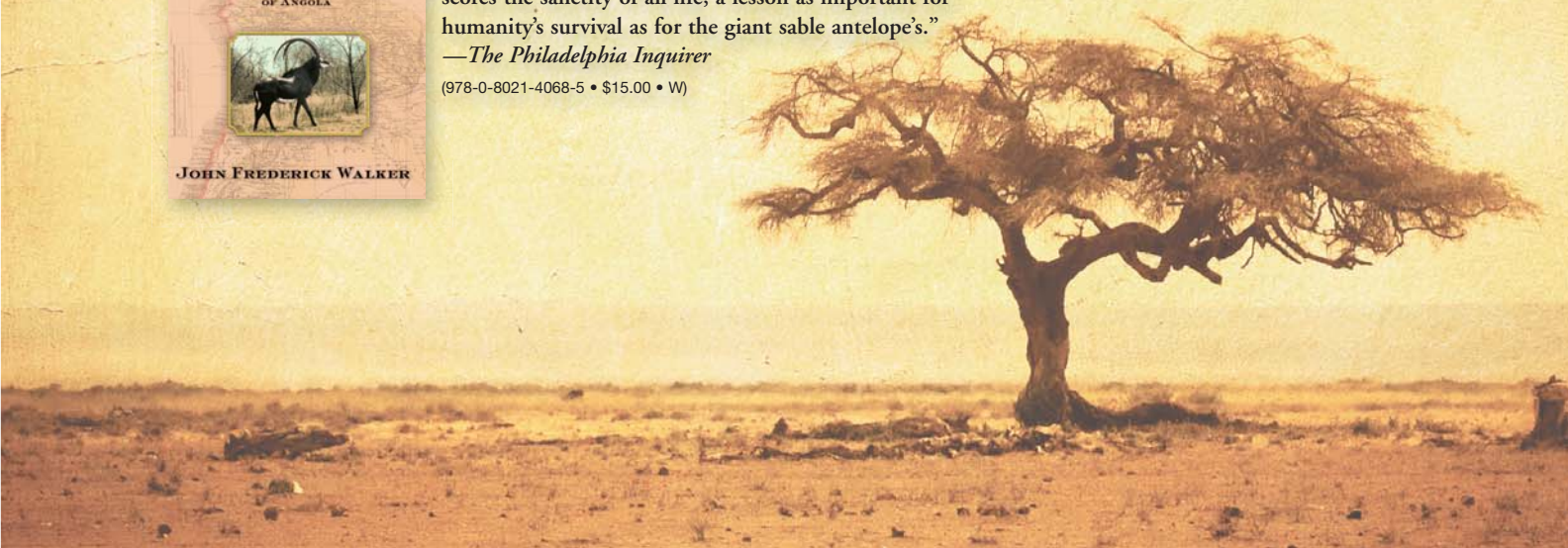

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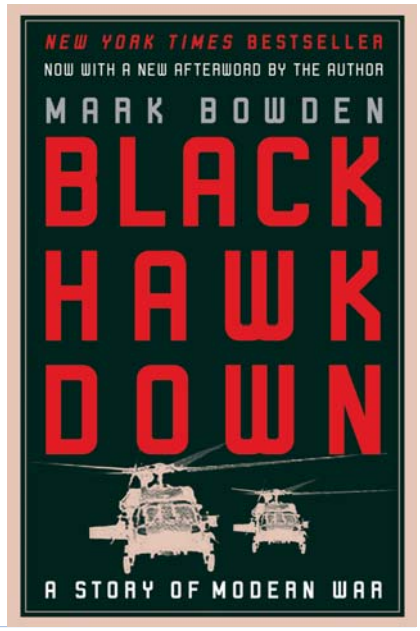

BLACK HAWK DOWN

With a New Afterword by the Author

Mark Bowden

- ***Black Hawk Down*** **was a finalist for the National Book Award and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award. It was also selected as one of Salon's Five Best Books of the Year**
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Residence: Pennsylvania

"In *Black Hawk Down,* author Mark Bowden presents a riveting, minute-by-minute account of the battle, told from the perspective of the soldiers who fought for their lives in the narrow, dusty streets. . . . Bowden focuses . . . on the human drama, producing one of the most gripping and authoritative accounts of combat ever written." **—Kirk Spitzer, *USA Today***

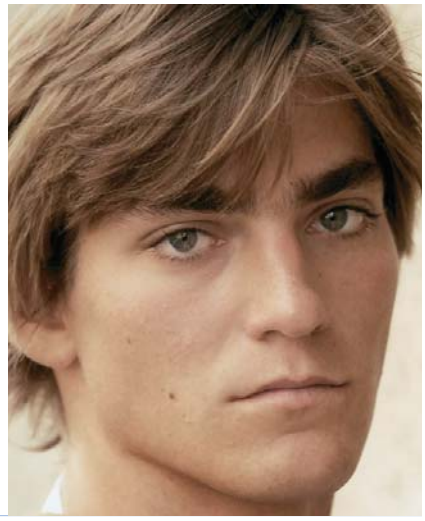
Already a classic of war reporting and now reissued as a Grove Press paperback, *Black Hawk Down* is Mark Bowden's brilliant account of the longest sustained firefight involving American troops since the Vietnam War. On October 3, 1993, about a hundred elite U.S. soldiers were dropped by helicopter into the teeming market in the heart of Mogadishu, Somalia. Their mission was to abduct two top lieutenants of a Somali warlord and return to base. It was supposed to take an hour. Instead, they found themselves pinned down through a long and terrible night fighting against thousands of heavily armed Somalis. The following morning, eighteen Americans were dead and more than seventy had been badly wounded.

Drawing on interviews from both sides, army records, audiotapes, and videos (some of the material is still classified), Bowden's minute-by-minute narrative is one of the most exciting accounts of modern combat ever written—a riveting story that captures the heroism, courage, and brutality of battle.

"A vivid, immediate, and unsparing narrative that is filled with blood and noise. . . . It bears comparison to S.L.A. Marshall's classic account of a battle in Korea, *Pork Chop Hill.*" —Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post*

MARK BOWDEN is the author of seven books, including *The Best Game Ever, Bringing the Heat, Killing Pablo,* and *Guests of the Ayatollah.* He reported at *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for twenty years and now writes for *Vanity Fair, The Atlantic,* and other magazines. He lives in Oxford, Pennsylvania.

"An Expensive Education blends a terse story of international intrigue with a biting satire of Harvard. . . . Smart and sexy and could be the beginning of a franchise."
—Ron Charles, The Washington Post



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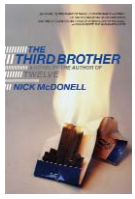


$14.00 (Canada: $17.50)
paperback
5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 304 pp.
Fiction (FIC001900)
978-0-8021-4481-2
U.S. and Canadian rights: Grove Press
All other rights: William Morris Endeavor Entertainment (tel.: 212-586-5100)
Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 978-0-8021-1893-6
Residence: New York City

Now in paperback, Nick McDonell's remarkable third novel, *An Expensive Education,* received rave reviews across the country, drawing comparisons to the works of Graham Greene and John le Carré and earning praise for its careful plotting and authentic depiction of life at Harvard.

Taking off at the troubled intersection of academia and realpolitik and shifting from the elite finals clubs of Harvard College and the manicured lawns of Harvard Yard to Somalia's dusty tracks and East Africa's high-end hotels, it is a story of corruption and love, betrayal and sudden death.

Mike Teak has a classic Harvard profile. But only on the surface. He's a twenty-five-year-old scholar/athlete from an upper-class family who was recruited by his godfather to work for a U.S. intelligence agency. On a covert mission in a Somali village, he delivers cash and cell phones to Hatashil, a legendary orphan warrior turned rebel leader. It's a routine assignment until, minutes after they meet, the village is decimated by a missile assault, and although Mike escapes, his life is changed forever.

Echoing across continents, the assault disrupts professor Susan Lowell's orderly existence. Beautiful, happily married, and the mother of two, she has just won a Pulitzer Prize for her book celebrating Hatashil. Also shaken is Lowell's student, David Ayan, who was born in the targeted village a world away from Harvard's most exclusive final club, the Porcellian, which is courting him and Jane, the smart, risk-taking daughter of East Coast money who's sleeping with him.

David Ayan struggles with his identity and Susan Lowell struggles against rumors about her relationship with Hatashil, who has been accused of ordering the village massacre. But it is Mike Teak who faces a deadly struggle—because when he discovers a horrific conspiracy he immediately realizes that he has become expendable, with nowhere to run and no one to trust. Until the very last minute.

PRAISE FOR *AN EXPENSIVE EDUCATION:*

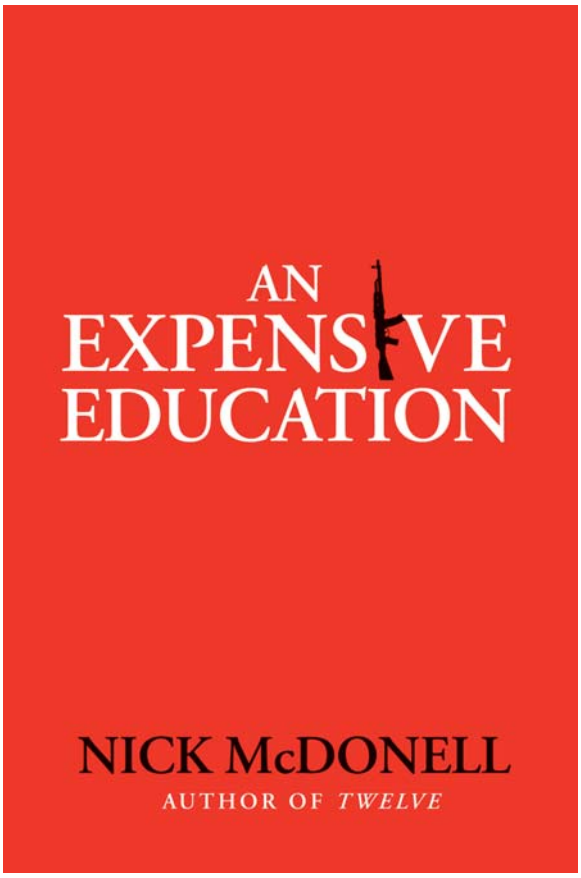
"Part college novel and part spy thriller in the tradition of Graham Greene and John le Carré, *An Expensive Education* encompasses global, national, and campus politics, showing the way the biggest agendas are sometimes set on the smallest stages. McDonell writes about hot topics with a cool head, and his riveting novel should fuel an emotional response from readers."—*BOOKLIST* (STARRED REVIEW)

"McDonell's third novel . . . introduces a spy who could have easily walked off the pages of le Carré's better works. . . . Teak is the most attractive fictional spy in quite some time . . . one hopes this isn't [his] only appearance."
—*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*

"McDonell's dark, relentlessly readable new novel swings back and forth between Harvard and Africa, and in both cases the education is indeed expensive . . . The twenty–something author keeps his smart, ambitious, self-absorbed characters at arm's length, doling out understanding and compassion to them while withholding real affection. A novel for the head more than the heart, but so very intelligent that for a certain kind of reader it will be catnip."
—*KIRKUS REVIEWS* (STARRED REVIEW)

"At twenty-five, McDonell is delivering on his literary promise. *An Expensive Education* is an adult novel, albeit not too grown-up. There are nods to Graham Greene, but the book struck me as more like what an early Bret Easton Ellis novel might be like if Ellis believed in plots. . . . McDonell has mastered the mechanics of genre without losing his literary hipness."—*THE OREGONIAN*

"Unerringly entertaining . . . McDonell skips from Washington to Nairobi as easily as he crosses the river between Cambridge and Boston, usually by means of short chapters and skillful cuts. . . . [His protagonist Teak] is more Holden Caulfield than James Bond: the spy in quarterlife crisis. And it's the juxtaposition of his cold-blooded training and soulful moping that gives the book its charm."
—*THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*



NICK McDONELL was born in 1984 in New York City. He is the author of two previous novels, *Twelve* and *The Third Brother,* and has reported for *Harper's* and *Time* from Sudan and Iraq.

"McDonell continues his streak with a suspenseful, Graham Greene–inspired third effort . . . it's clear this young writer has only begun to show where his prodigious storytelling will take us."—*PEOPLE*

"For decades, the intersection of the Ivy League and the CIA has made for good storytelling. But most of these are august tales of the Cold War, told from the wise, occasionally stuffy viewpoint of an old master. Now the twenty-five-year-old McDonell—who burst onto the literary scene at seventeen with his novel *Twelve*—has enlivened the genre with *An Expensive Education.* . . . Tempered by some hilarious insider glimpses of Harvard life, *An Expensive Education* is terrific, a thriller noir that's difficult to put down or forget. A–."—*ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY*

"[A] treat of a book . . . As with almost all of O'Rourke's work, it's easy reading, and he's just as good, if not better, at cracking wise about cars and driving as he is about liberal politics."
—The Dallas Morning News

DRIVING LIKE CRAZY

Thirty Years of Vehicular Hell-bending, Celebrating America the Way It's Supposed to Be—With an Oil Well in Every Backyard, a Cadillac Escalade in Every Carport, and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Mowing Our Lawn

P. J. O'Rourke

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- ***Driving Like Crazy* appeared on the *New York Times* extended best seller list**
- **O'Rourke has been writing about cars for *Car & Driver, Automobile,* and *Rolling Stone* for over three decades**
- **O'Rourke is a regular guest on NPR's *"Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me!"***

- ***targeted automotive press and media campaign***
- ***author Web site (www.pjorourke.com)***
- ***newsletter cooperative advertising available***
- ***also available in audio from Brilliance (ISBN: 9781423396710)***

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Humor, Transportation (Cars) (HUM000000)
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Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 978-0-8021-1883-7
Residence: New Hampshire

Published on the day General Motors declared bankruptcy, *Driving Like Crazy* became a *New York Times* best seller and received rave reviews and extensive media coverage, including appearances by P. J. on *The Daily Show, Real Time with Bill Maher,* and *Hardball with Chris Matthews.*

Driving Like Crazy celebrates cars and author P. J. O'Rourke's love for them, while chronicling the golden age of the automobile in America. O'Rourke takes us on a whirlwind tour of the world's most scenic and bumpiest roads in trouble-laden cross-country treks, from a 1978 Florida-to-California escapade in a 1956 special four-door Buick sedan to a 1983 thousand-mile effort across Mexico in the Baja 1000 to a trek through Kyrgyzstan in 2006 on the back of a Soviet army surplus six-wheel-drive truck. For longtime fans of the celebrated humorist, the collection features a host of O'Rourke's classic pieces on driving, including "How to Drive Fast on Drugs While Getting Your Wing-Wang Squeezed and Not Spill Your Drink," about the potential misdeeds one might perform in the front (and back) seat of an automobile; "The Rolling Organ Donors Motorcycle Club," which chronicles a seven-hundred-mile weekend trip through Michigan and Indiana that O'Rourke took on a Harley Davidson alongside *Car & Driver* publisher David E. Davis, Jr.; his brilliant and funny piece from *Rolling Stone* on NASCAR and its peculiar culture, recorded during an alcohol-fueled weekend in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1977; and an hilarious account of a trek from Islamabad to Calcutta in Land Rover's new Discovery Trek.

Driving Like Crazy, which includes thirty years of O'Rourke's journalism on automobiles and a number of original pieces, is a brilliant addition to the literature of cars. A collection that captures O'Rourke's passion for automobiles and their place in America, this is the ideal book for longtime readers of O'Rourke and the many people out there who, like the author himself, are hopeless car fanatics.

PRAISE FOR *DRIVING LIKE CRAZY:*

"With the car industry under attack, both socially and economically, it is pleasing to read O'Rourke's trenchant analysis of all the good things the automobile has brought to American society, even as his tongue is firmly planted in cheek. . . . A great book for summer reading; thumbing through it elicits a laugh at almost any point." ***—LIBRARY JOURNAL***

"Libertarian satirist P. J. O'Rourke has built a best-selling career by celebrating his own politically incorrect intemperance. So it's only fitting that he's devoted some of his best writing to that gaudy metaphor for excess, the gas-guzzling muscle car . . . The collapse of the auto industry makes the book poignantly timely." ***—SMART MONEY***

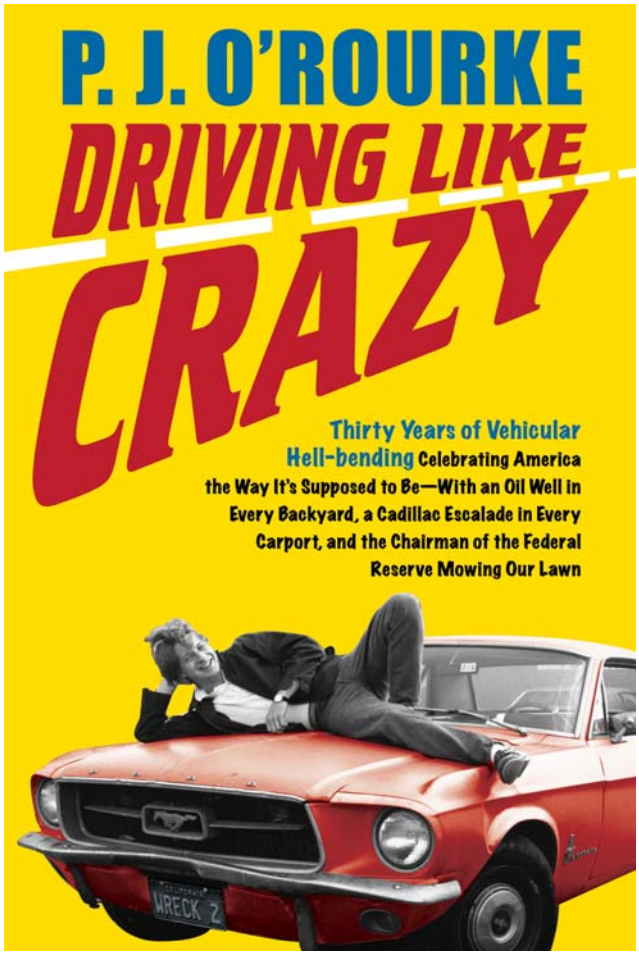
"Car buff or not, all dads can enjoy satirist P. J. O'Rourke's ode to the American automobile." ***—THE DAILY BEAST***

"An insightful look not just at the American love affair with cars, but also at one man's changing outlook on life, all of it fast-paced and over the top . . . Even readers who know nothing about cars and motorcycles will appreciate the joy and hilarity of this book." ***—BOOKLIST***

"*Driving Like Crazy* isn't just a bound collection of greatest hits. P.J. has written new lead-ins to each story that offer fresh meat even for those who think they've read it all before. . . . This book is a must read." ***—AUTOMOBILE MAGAZINE***

"Reading O'Rourke can be like being dragged over a rocky field by a runaway ox on crystal meth—a wild and bumpy ride. His is a cartoonish vision of life, unapologetically if not joyously puerile, with enough hyperbolic volatility pumped into every paragraph to explode the *Hindenburg* all over again. . . . For the automotive Walter Mittys of the world, who dream of an outlaw life on the road and identify more with the peace disturbers than the peacemakers, it's definitely something worth keeping under the pillow."

—BRUCE McCALL, *THE GLOBE AND MAIL*



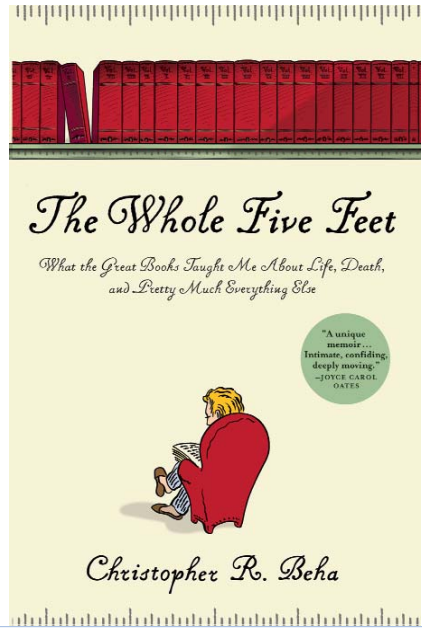
P. J. O'ROURKE is the author of twelve books, including *Parliament of Whores* and *Give War a Chance,* both of which were #1 *New York Times* best sellers.

"Never in neutral, O'Rourke offers laughter on wheels." ***—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY***

"Readers looking for insights and laughs will not be disappointed by *Driving Like Crazy.* . . . [It] is a ride worth taking, even for readers who don't know an oil pan from a frying pan." ***—THE WASHINGTON TIMES***

"This book is a monument to slash-and-burn living, glorifying old cars whose miles-per-gallon ratings read like shoe sizes and indulgent off-road races conducted in fragile terrain. The thing is, you'll hardly hear the cries of the rare lizards and cactuses being ground to extinction under O'Rourke's tires because you'll be laughing too hard." ***—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW***

"Disarming . . . Unpretentious . . . The Whole Five Feet *reads like a charming college syllabus, written by a warm-hearted professor, who through a mutual love of books has inexplicably become one of your closest friends and confidants."*
—The Portland Mercury



THE WHOLE FIVE FEET

What the Great Books Taught Me About Life, Death, and Pretty Much Everything Else

Christopher R. Beha

- ***The Whole Five Feet* was an Indie Next List selection**

"[In the Harvard Classics, Beha] finds comfort in the fact that these writers faced the same dilemmas, pains, and sources of hope he finds today. The result is a thought-provoking, tender, compelling read that is part memoir, part ode to the power of great books."—*The Oregonian*

"To say this is an important book (and it is) is possibly to undersell its overriding virtue—that it is a sheer blast to read."—Heidi Julavits

- ***author Web site (www.thewholefivefeet.com)***
- ***newsletter cooperative advertising available***

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5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 272 pp.
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All other rights: Brick House Literary (tel.: 212-675-5556)
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Residence: New York City

In *The Whole Five Feet,* Christopher Beha turns to the great books for answers after undergoing a series of personal and family crises and learning that his grandmother had used the Harvard Classics to educate herself during the Great Depression. The result is a smart, big-hearted, and inspirational mix of memoir and intellectual excursion that "deftly illustrates how books can save one's life" (Helen Schulman).

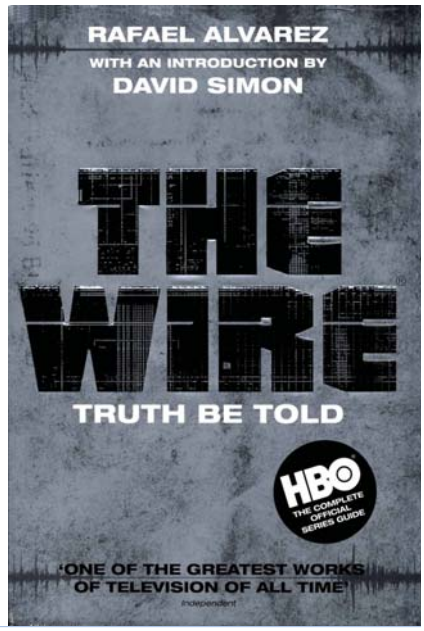
"Winning . . . Intensely felt . . . Beha is shtick-free and serious of mind. . . . Without making grandiose claims, this book serves as a guide to today's perplexed, reflexively ironic reader, an inducement to think seriously without apologizing and feel deeply without hedging. . . . It demonstrates how and why to read seriously." ***—San Francisco Chronicle***

"'In much wisdom is much grief,' counsels the book of Ecclesiastes, and in Christopher R. Beha's tender intellectual memoir [of reading the Harvard Classics], we find plenty of both. . . . Life intruded rudely on Beha's sabbatical, and he rose to the occasion by writing an unexpected narrative that deftly reconciles lofty thoughts and earthy pain. In doing so, he makes an elegant case for literature as an everyday companion no less valuable than the iPod." ***—The New York Times Book Review***

"An elegant and honest memoir . . . Beha is a clear-sighted writer, who has accomplished exactly what [longtime Harvard president Charles] Eliot would have wanted: He found repose and strength of mind in those who express things more elegantly than we, in our Twittering, blog-filled age, ever can." ***—Bookforum***

CHRISTOPHER R. BEHA is an assistant editor at *Harper's*. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review, The Believer, Tin House,* and elsewhere. He lives in New York City.

The definitive guide to one of the greatest television shows ever made



THE WIRE

Truth Be Told

Rafael Alvarez
Introduction by David Simon

"Not the usual coffee-table photo book, but something substantial, complex, honest, challenging, revealing, funny, and also unprecedented, and unique—a book, in other words, worthy of *The Wire*."—Tony Kushner

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$19.95
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6 x 9 1/4, 608 pp.
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Previous ISBN: 9780743497329
Residence: Los Angeles

When *The Wire* premiered in the summer of 2002, many were surprised that HBO would take on a cop show, one of network television's favorite genres. But this was no average show; *The Wire* started with a cops-and-criminals tale and spun out from there, weaving together complex stories and complicated characters from the projects and the docks, city hall and the public schools, into a sprawling, textured portrait of an American city in decline. Widely regarded as one of the greatest television shows ever, if not the greatest, *The Wire* is often called a novel-as-television, a Dickensian masterpiece.

The Wire: Truth Be Told is the ultimate companion for the show's passionate fans who tuned in religiously each Sunday and have scooped up the DVD box sets. Essays from writers David Simon, George Pelecanos, Laura Lippman, William F. Zorzi, and others join interviews with the show's creators, overviews of each of its five seasons, and entertaining summaries of all sixty episodes. Above all, *The Wire: Truth Be Told* offers a captivating behind-the-scenes look at the show, from the struggle to get it on the air, to the response from Baltimore's residents and politicians, and to the fascinating true stories and real life inspiration behind favorite scenes and characters. Lavishly illustrated with hundreds of photos, this is a must-have book and a fitting guide to, and celebration of, a monumental show.

"*The Wire* will knock the breath out of you . . . literary television that broadens the mind and blows the heart open . . . a beautiful, brave series."
—Virginia Heffernan, *The New York Times*

"The breadth and ambition of *The Wire* are unrivaled . . . taken cumulatively over the course of a season—any season—it's an astonishing display of writing, acting, and storytelling that must be considered alongside the best literature and filmmaking in the modern era."
—Tim Goodman, *San Francisco Chronicle*

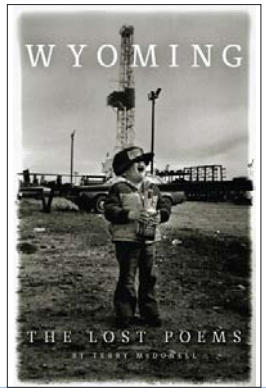
RAFAEL ALVAREZ, a staff writer for *The Wire,* was born in Baltimore in 1958. He was a reporter at *The Baltimore Sun* for twenty years.

Wyoming (The Lost Poems) ***introduces a sharp new voice that rings true in image and narrative, from the boomtowns of Wyoming to the after-hours clubs of downtown Manhattan.***

WYOMING

The Lost Poems

Terry McDonell



Wyoming (The Lost Poems) is a run of poems written and put away in the 1970s. It is the work of a writer who began as a student of poetry but who became a journalist, novelist, and screenwriter. None of the poems have been published previously or submitted anywhere for publication.

It is a collection of exploding imagination and acute observation. Love, sex, betrayal, redemption . . . tossed like dice on uniquely American landscapes. With the first poem you wonder where Terry McDonell has been; by the last you are shocked by his answers.

Praise for *California Bloodstock:*

"The twisted truth about where California came from . . . a rare original piece of work." — Hunter S. Thompson

"*Califorina Bloodstock* is most stylisly composed, in the cool, nihilistic matter of Joan Didion and Thomas McGuane." —Edward Abbey

"*California Bloodstock* is an oyster of a book, salty and delicious; a pearl-handled, silver-barreled derringer of a book, elegant and snappy; a medicine rattle of a book, mystic and a little spooky. I was sickened, delighted, and very impressed." —Tom Robbins

TERRY McDONELL is an editor and writer who lives in New York City. He is the author of the novel *California Bloodstock.*

$14.00 (Canada: $17.50)
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5 1/4 x 8 1/4, 64 pp.
Poetry (POE005010)
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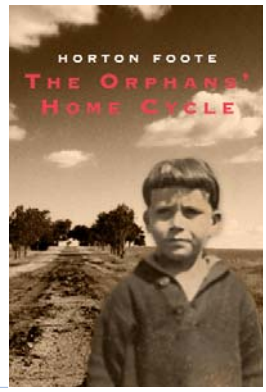
Carton quantity: 64
Residence: New York City

"These plays, with their unswerving human truths, are formidable creations." —Eudora Welty

THE ORPHANS' HOME CYCLE

Horton Foote



Horton Foote has been described as "America's Chekhov," and this is no more evident than in his masterful three-part drama *The Orphans' Home Cycle.* In these nine plays we follow Horace Robedaux, a modest man, on an odyssey of the heart as he journeys through the formative years of his childhood to courtship, marriage, and eventually forms a family of his own.

Beginning at the turn of the twentieth century, Part One, or "The Story of a Childhood" (*Roots in a Parched Ground, Convict,* and *Lily Dale*) follows Robedaux in his formative years. In Part Two, "The Story of Marriage" (*The Widow Claire, Courtship,* and *Valentine's Day*), we experience the married life of Robedaux and his new wife. Finally, in Part Three, "The Story of a Family" (*1918, Cousin,* and *The Death of Papa*), we follow the family from the turmoil of World War I toward hope in the future of their family and country. *The Orphans' Home Cycle* is a journey of everyday events that affect our lives—the living, dying, working, and loving—and a panoramic and penetrating portrait of American society.

HORTON FOOTE (1916–2009) had a distinguished career in American theater, film, and television that spanned more than seventy years. In addition to *The Orphans' Home Cycle,* his plays include *The Trip to Bountiful* and *The Young Man from Atlanta*—for which he won the Pulitzer Prize. His screenplays include *To Kill a Mockingbird,* which won an Academy Award, *Tender Mercies,* and *Baby the Rain Must Fall.*

$16.00 (Canada: $20.00)
paperback original
5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 528 pp.
Drama (DRA001000)
978-0-8021-4498-0

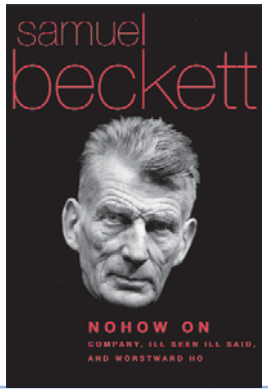
U.S. and Canadian rights: Grove Press
All other rights: International Creative Management Agency (tel.: 212-556-5600)
Carton quantity: 28

"This is the most wonderful prose I have ever read by [Beckett]—sleek, ironic, gloom-cadenced, self-dissolving—and perhaps the most wonderful prose I have ever read."
—Los Angeles Times

NOHOW ON

Company, Ill Seen Ill Said, and Worstward Ho

Samuel Beckett
Introduction by Stanley Gontarski



The New York Times Book Review once said that "In Beckett's fiction, every other word serves to snap the reader back to consciousness." Collected here in one volume, these three novels, which are among the most beautiful and disquieting of Samuel Beckett's later prose works, come together with the powerful resonance of his famous *Three Novels: Molloy, Malone Dies, The Unnamable*. As Bob Halliday wrote in *The Washington Post,* "If *Company* corresponds to *Malone Dies, Worstward Ho* is the new *Unnamable* . . . . Read in its proper context as the most intense statement yet of its author's vision, this work focuses to a pinpoint one of the great sensibilities in modern world literature."

In *Company,* a voice comes to "one on his back in the dark" and speaks to him, describing significant moments in life, and yet we are told it is all a fable, memories or figments devised or imagined for the sake of company. *Ill Seen Ill Said* focuses attention on an old woman in a cabin who is part of the objects, landscape, rhythms, and movements of an incomprehensible universe. And in *Worstward Ho,* Beckett explores a tentative, uncertain existence in a world devoid of rational meaning and purpose. Here is language pared down to its most expressive, confirming Beckett's position as one of the great writers of our time.

$14.00 (Canada: $17.50)
paperback
5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 144 pp.
Fiction (FIC019000)
978-0-8021-4446-1

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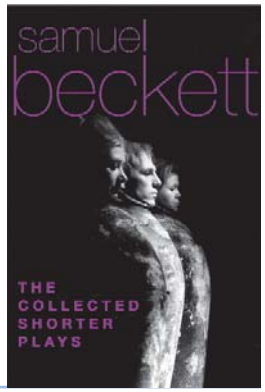
Previous ISBN: 978-0-8021-3426-4

*"Beckett stalks after men on their way out. . . . His plays and novels (*Molloy, Murphy*) are metaphors of modern man's spiritual bafflement."*—Time

THE COLLECTED SHORTER PLAYS

Samuel Beckett



Samuel Beckett, the great minimalist master and winner of the 1969 Nobel Prize for Literature, produced some of his most widely praised work for the stage in the form of the short play. This complete and definitive collection of twenty-five plays and "playlets" includes Beckett's celebrated *Krapp's Last Tape, Embers, Cascando, Play, Eh Joe, Not I,* and *Footfalls,* as well as his mimes, all his radio and television plays, his screenplay for *Film,* his adaptation of Robert Pinget's *The Old Tune,* and the more recent *Catastrophe, What Where, Quad,* and *Night and Dreams.*

"Beckett reduces life, perception, and writing to barest minimums: a few dimly seen, struggling torsos; a hopeless intelligence compulsively seeking to come to terms, in rudimentary yet endlessly varied language, with the human condition they represent. Within these extraordinary limitations, Beckett's verbal ability nonetheless generates great intensity." ***—Library Journal***

SAMUEL BECKETT (1906–1989), one of the most important writers in twentieth-century literature and drama, was born in Foxrock, Ireland, and attended Trinity University in Dublin. In 1969, Beckett was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature and was commended for having "transformed the destitution of man into his exaltation."

$16.95 (Canada: $21.50)
paperback
5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 320 pp.
Drama (DRA003000)
978-0-8021-4438-6

U.S. and Canadian rights:
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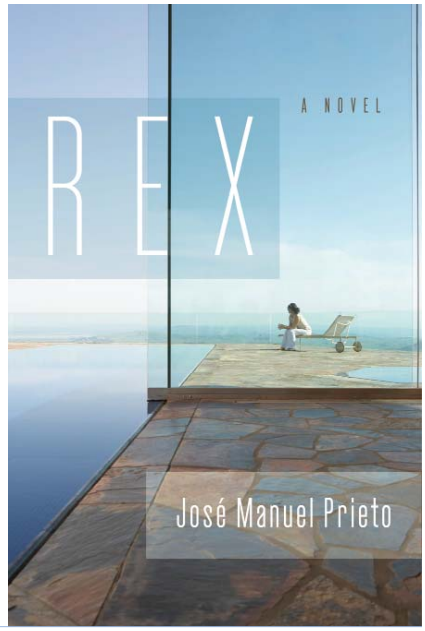
Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 978-0-8021-5055-4

MAY

"Grand literary trompe l'oeil . . . the most glittering example of literary play to have emerged in recent memory . . . Rex is radiant with energy."
—*Art Winslow,* Los Angeles Times



REX

A Novel

José Manuel Prieto

- **Prieto has been the recipient of fellowships, grants, and awards from Sistema Nacional de Creadores, the Santa Maddalena Foundation, and the Florencia and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation**

Also available:

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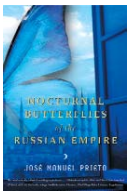

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Now in paperback, José Manuel Prieto's *Rex* is a sexy, zany, and sophisticated literary game rife with allusions to Proust and Borges, set in a world of wealthy Russian expats and mafiosos who have settled in western Europe.

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Rex is an unforgettable achievement: an illusory, allusive gem of a novel that confirms José Manuel Prieto as one of the most talented writers of his generation.

"In Prieto, frivolity is a serious matter, and in that sense he mines the same territory as Nabokov. . . . Prieto's vision of Vasily as king swallows up the second half of the book and seems truly rapturous."
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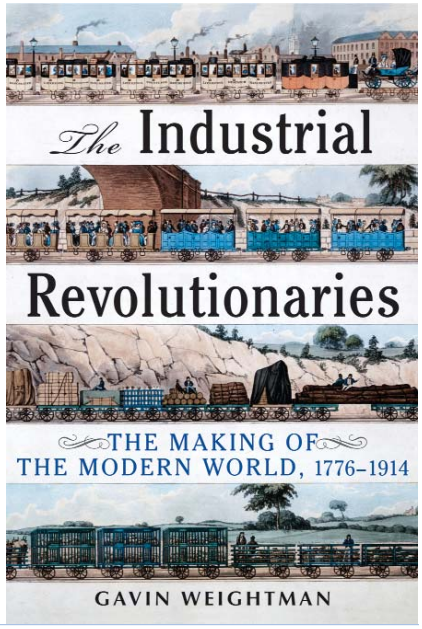
"[A] Nabokovian puzzle . . . A shimmering Fabergé egg of a novel."
—Kirkus Reviews

Born in Havana in 1962, JOSÉ MANUEL PRIETO lived in Russia for twelve years and has translated the works of Joseph Brodsky and Anna Akhmatova into Spanish.

"[An] engaging survey . . . Weightman expertly marshals his cast of characters across continents and centuries, forging a genuinely global history that brings the collaborative, if competitive, business of industrial innovation to life."
—Stephen Mihm, **The New York Times Book Review**



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Praised in hardcover, Gavin Weightman's sweeping history of the industrial revolution shows how, in less than one hundred and fifty years, an unlikely band of scientists, spies, entrepreneurs, and political refugees took a world made of wood and powered by animals, wind, and water, and made it into something entirely new, forged of steel and iron, and powered by steam and fossil fuels. Weightman weaves together the dramatic stories of giants such as Edison, Watt, Wedgwood, and Daimler, with lesser-known or entirely forgotten characters, including a group of Japanese samurai who risked their lives to learn the secrets of the West, and John "Iron Mad" Wilkinson, who didn't let war between England and France stop him from plumbing Paris. Distilling complex technical achievements, outlandish figures, and daring adventures into an accessible narrative that spans the globe as industrialism spreads, *The Industrial Revolutionaries* is a remarkable work of original, engaging history.

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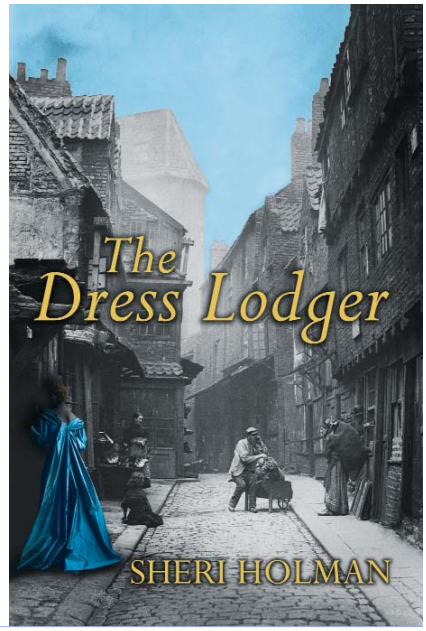
—Drew DeSilver, *The Seattle Times*

"Swirling with seers, savants, and sorcerers of the mechanical age, every page of this epic saga will dazzle even the most technologically jaded reader."
—William J. Bernstein,
author of *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World*

GAVIN WEIGHTMAN is a social historian with a special interest in the origins of modern society. His books include the best-selling *London's Thames, The Frozen Water Trade,* and *Signor Marconi's Magic Box.*

MAY

"[Reminiscent] of Wuthering Heights *. . . or the novels of Dickens . . . With prose that's limber and vivid. . . . [Holman has] an outstandingly generous and fertile imagination."* —The New York Times Book Review



THE DRESS LODGER

Sheri Holman

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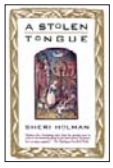

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Residence: Brooklyn

The Dress Lodger, a cunning historical thriller charged with a distinctly modern voice, is the book that launched Sheri Holman into best-sellerdom. With over 300,000 copies sold and a consistent top "Reader's Circle" performer for Ballantine, it was superbly reviewed, chosen as a *New York Times* Notable Book, and nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

In Sunderland, England, a city quarantined by the cholera epidemic of 1831, Gustine, a defiant fifteen-year-old beauty in an elegant blue dress rented from her pimp-landlord, sells her body to feed her only love: a fragile baby boy. When she meets surgeon Henry Chiver, who has recently been implicated in the Burke and Hare killings, in which beggars were murdered so the corpses could be sold for medical research, Gustine begins working for him by securing cadavers for his ill-equipped anatomy school. It is a gruesome job that will soon threaten the very things she's working so hard to protect.

"Remarkable . . . A dazzling narrative that pulses with irony, ribald humor, and heartbreaking tragedy." —***People* (Book of the Week)**

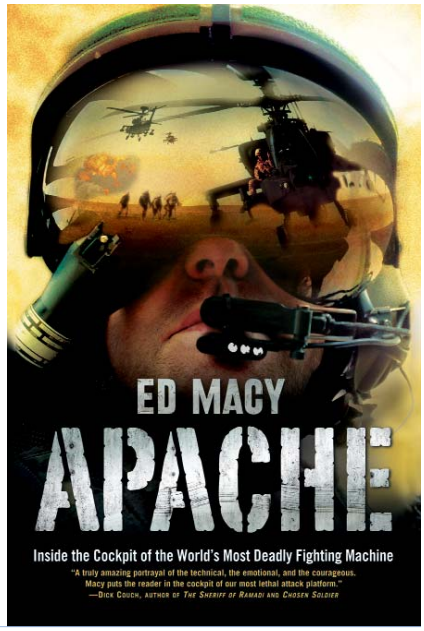
"Potent historical fiction . . . Beautifully written . . . A rich read with a Dickensian kick and a moral to be told." —***USA Today***

"Seamlessly crafted . . . As unsettling as it is brilliant."
—***The Washington Post Book World***

"Part medical thriller, part Greek tragedy, and wholly rewarding."
—***Milwaukee Journal Sentinel***

SHERI HOLMAN grew up in rural Virginia and now lives with her husband and three children in Brooklyn, New York. She is also the author of the novels *A Stolen Tongue* and *The Mammoth Cheese,* which was short-listed for the Orange Prize for Fiction and named a *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Publishers Weekly* Book of the Year. She is currently at work on her fourth book.

"A truly amazing portrayal of the technical, the emotional, and the courageous. Macy puts the reader in the cockpit of our most lethal attack platform." —*Dick Couch, author of* The Sheriff of Ramadi *and* Chosen Soldier



APACHE

Inside the Cockpit of the World's Most Deadly Fighting Machine

Ed Macy

- **Upon its U.K. publication, *Apache* debuted at # 2 on the *Sunday Times* best-seller list**
- **For the rescue mission depicted in *Apache,* Macy was awarded the Military Cross**

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"Macy is the real deal. Nobody could write that powerfully about combat, or emotionally about the men fighting with him, unless he has been at the gunship's controls. A fantastic, totally exhilarating roller-coaster read."
—Sergeant Major Dan Mills, author of *Sniper One*

Apache is the incredible true story of Ed Macy, a decorated Apache helicopter pilot, that takes you inside the cockpit of the world's most dangerous war machine. A firsthand account of the exhilaration and ferocity of war, *Apache* chronicles a rescue mission involving a stranded soldier in Afghanistan in 2007.

Ed Macy had always dreamed of a career in the army, so when the British Army Air Corps launched its attack helicopter program, Ed bent every rule in the book to make sure he was the first to sign up to fly the Apache—the deadliest, most technically advanced helicopter in the world and the toughest to fly.

In 2007, Ed's Apache squadron was dispatched to Afghanistan's notorious Helmand Province with the mission to fight alongside and protect the men on the ground by any means necessary. When a marine goes missing in action, Ed and his team know they are the Army's only hope of bringing him back alive. *Apache* is Macy's story—an adrenalin-fueled account of one of the most daring actions of modern wartime, and a tale of courage, danger, and comradeship you won't be able to put down.

"*Apache* is a fantastic read that puts you right in the middle of the combat zone."
—Jack Coughlin, author of *Shooter: The Autobiography of the Top-ranked Marine Sniper*

ED MACY left the British Army in January 2008 after twenty-three years of service. He had amassed a total of 3,930 helicopter flying hours, 645 of them inside an Apache. Macy was awarded the Military Cross for his courage during the Jugroom Fort rescue—one of the first ever in Army Air Corps history. *Apache* is his first book.

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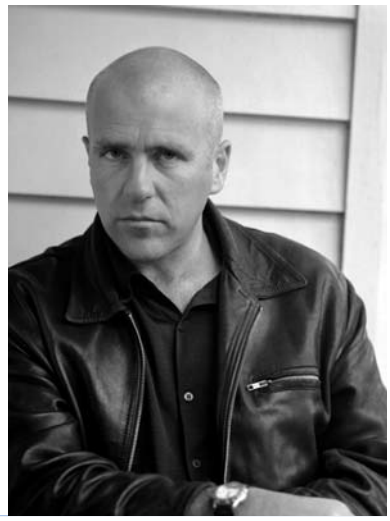
Residence: England

"An exquisite, profoundly moving, intricately structured meditation about the desire for human connection in its many forms . . . Flanagan is incapable of writing a dull or stock character: He is empathic in flashes of lightning."
—Jon Fasman, Los Angeles Times



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WANTING

A Novel

Richard Flanagan

- ***Wanting* was an Indie Next List selection, a finalist for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Fiction**
- ***The Unknown Terrorist* was named a *Washington Post Book World* 100 Best Books of 2007**
- ***The Unknown Terrorist* was long-listed for the International Dublin IMPAC Award**
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Residence: Tasmania

A *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice, internationally acclaimed, and profoundly moving, Richard Flanagan's *Wanting* is a stunning tale of colonialism, ambition, and the lusts and longings that make us human. Now in paperback, it links two icons of Western civilization through a legendarily disastrous arctic exploration, and one of the most infamous episodes in human history: the colonization of Tasmania.

In 1841, Sir John Franklin and his wife, Lady Jane, move to the remote penal colony of Van Diemen's Land, now Tasmania. There Lady Jane falls in love with a lively aboriginal girl, Mathinna, whom she adopts and makes the subject of a grand experiment in civilization—one that will determine whether science, Christianity, and reason can be imposed in the place of savagery, impulse, and desire.

A quarter of a century passes. Sir John Franklin disappears in the Arctic with his crew and two ships on an expedition to find the fabled Northwest Passage. England is horrified by reports of cannibalism filtering back from search parties, no one more so than the most celebrated novelist of the day, Charles Dickens. As Franklin's story becomes a means to plumb the frozen depths of his own life, Dickens finds himself falling in love with a young actress.

Richard Flanagan is one of our most inventive international literary voices, and *Wanting* transforms a tale of the past into a moving meditation on the ways in which desire—and its denial—shape all our lives.

"Dense and fascinating . . . mid-nineteenth-century London comes alive, as indeed does Dickens himself. . . . Through [Flanagan's] fiction, flat, conformist portraits of individuals become rich and three-dimensional, new witnesses provide fresh testimony about the past, and Tasmania's silences resound with voices." —William Boyd, *The New York Times Book Review*

PRAISE FOR *WANTING:*

"A haunting and powerful story . . . Mr. Flanagan does a magical job of conjuring his native Tasmania as it must have appeared to English settlers. . . . And he enlivens his discursive narrative with some dazzling set pieces."—MICHIKO KAKUTANI, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

"Action and voices and dreams and hints all swirl in a blunt yet lyrical style utterly [Flanagan's] own. . . . a remarkable book that shivers in the heart long after the last page."
—BRIAN DOYLE, *THE OREGONIAN*

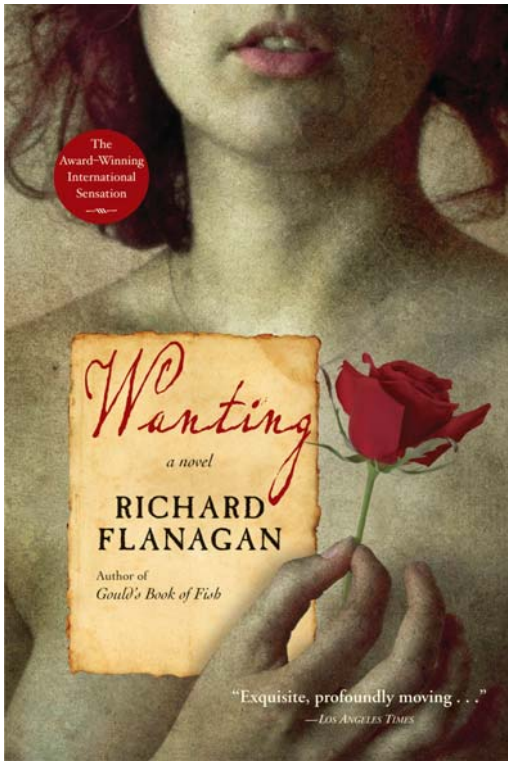
"A harrowing reckoning of 'the way we say no to love'. . . . This is a captivating tale of cruelty and disappointment, but *Wanting* periodically flashes forward to another equally engaging story in England, a jungle of a different kind, brought to life with the same lurid and startling detail [as Tasmania].'"
—RON CHARLES, *THE WASHINGTON POST*

"In dense, poetic prose, Flanagan characterizes something that exists across human experience, above and beyond historical particulars and cultural differences: 'The way we are denied love. And the way we suddenly discover it being offered to us, in all its pain and infinite heartbreak.'"—GILES FODEN, *THE GUARDIAN*

"As always, Flanagan's prose is beautifully crafted, at once elegant and astonishing. This is Flanagan's most accessible work to date, and it should draw new fans. Highly recommended."
— KELSY PETERSON, *LIBRARY JOURNAL* (STARRED REVIEW)

"Dickens would have applauded Flanagan's style. . . . His prose pounds on with locomotive force, the narrative twists into shapes heavy with symbolism and foreboding. This is no literary anaesthetic; *Wanting* shakes us rudely from our stupors, wakes us up to history. There can be no author more passionate or unfettered than Flanagan."
—STELLA CLARKE, *THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD*

"Richard Flanagan's *Wanting* reminds us that he is one of the most exciting novelists working anywhere, full stop."
—KEVIN RABALAIS, *THE AGE* (AUSTRALIA)



RICHARD FLANAGAN is the author of four novels acclaimed around the world including *Gould's Book of Fish,* winner of the Commonweath Prize. Most recently, he cowrote the screenplay of Baz Luhrmann's film *Australia.* He lives in Tasmania.

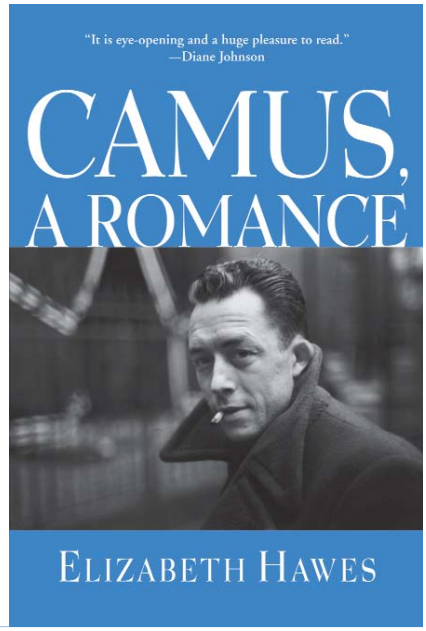
"Flanagan sets his novel in the wilds of nineteenth-century Tasmania and evokes its inhabitants with exquisite precision. . . . An entirely unified meditation on desire, 'the cost of its denial, the centrality and force of its power in human affairs.'"—*THE NEW YORKER*

"One of the best books of the year"
—*THE TIMES* (LONDON)

"Flanagan . . . turns [the] bones of history into a beautifully realized rumination on love, desire, and the tortured history of his native land. It's a tricky thing to pull off . . . but Flanagan does it with grace."—BRUCE BARCOTT, *OUTSIDE*

"Flanagan skillfully combines several partially known historical events to create complex and riveting fiction. . . . An ingenious, thoughtful, and potent demonstration of this assured author's imaginative versatility."
—*KIRKUS REVIEWS* (STARRED REVIEW)

A story of Camus's achievements and a love letter from a reader to her favorite author, **Camus, a Romance** *is a lustrous affair of the mind and heart*



CAMUS, A ROMANCE

Elizabeth Hawes

"What Hawes does brilliantly is bring to life Camus the human being . . . a delicately perceptive text." —Wendy Smith, *Los Angeles Times*

Albert Camus is best known for his contribution to twentieth-century literature. But who was he, beneath the trappings of fame? *Camus, a Romance* reveals the French-Algerian of humble birth; the TB-stricken exile editing the war resistance newspaper *Combat;* the *pied noir* in anguish over the Algerian War; the Don Juan who loved a multitude of women. These form only the barest outlines of Camus's life, which Elizabeth Hawes chronicles alongside her own experience following in his footsteps. *Camus, a Romance* is at once biography and memoir—wrought with passion and detail, it is the story not only of Camus, but of the relationship between a reader and a most beloved writer.

"A beautiful memoir of a life-long obsession . . . a rich and vivid portrait of Camus himself." —Benjamin Moser, *Harper's*

"A rich hybrid of biography, literary criticism, intellectual history, and memoir . . . [an] intriguing, multifaceted portrait." —Heller McAlpin, *The Washington Post*

"A statement about reading and its long-lasting effect on a reader's sponge-like psyche . . . a fascinating spin on the mere biographies others produce." —David Finkle, The Huffington Post

"[A] memoir of literary obsession—that aesthetic wreck at the intersection of biography, confession, literary criticism, travelogue, love letter, and detective story." —Sam Anderson, *New York*

ELIZABETH HAWES is the author of *New York, New York: How the Apartment House Transformed the Life of the City, 1869–1930.* A former staff member at *The New Yorker,* she has written for *The New York Times Magazine, The Nation,* and other publications.

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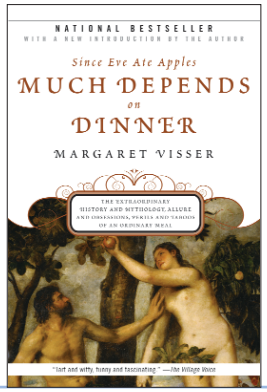
Residence: New York City and Martha's Vineyard

Now available as a paperback reissue with a new introduction by the author, **Much Depends on Dinner** *is a witty, wise, and spirited look at the surprising stories behind the simplest American meal*

MUCH DEPENDS ON DINNER

The Extraordinary History and Mythology, Allure and Obsessions, Perils and Taboos of an Ordinary Meal

Margaret Visser



A staple of the food-writing genre that prefigured the current locavore and foodist movements by almost two decades, Margaret Visser's *Much Depends on Dinner* is a delightful and intelligent history of the food we eat, and a cornucopia of incredible details about the ways we do it.

Presented as a meal, each chapter of *Much Depends on Dinner* represents a different course or garnish, which Margaret Visser handpicks from the most ordinary American dinner: corn on the cob with butter and salt, roast chicken with rice, salad dressed in lemon juice and olive oil, and ice cream. Visser tells the story behind each of these foods and in the course of her inquiries reveals some unexpected treats: the history of Corn Flakes; the secret behind the more dissatisfactory California olives (they're picked green, chemically blackened, and sterilized); and the fact that, in Africa, citrus fruits are eaten whole, rind and all.

For food lovers of all kinds, this intelligent and unexpectedly funny book is a treasure of information that sheds light on one of our favorite pastimes: eating.

Born in South Africa, MARGARET VISSER is the author of many books, including *The Rituals of Dinner* and the forthcoming *The Gift of Thanks.* She is the recipient of many accolades and awards, including the International Association of Culinary Professionals' Literary Food Writing Award.

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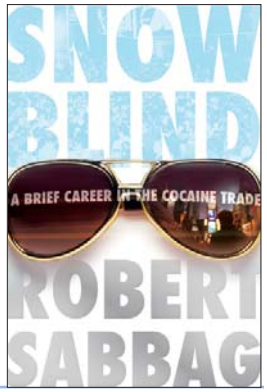
A newly updated and repackaged edition of "one of the best books about drugs ever written" (Robert Stone)

SNOWBLIND

A Brief Career in the Cocaine Trade

Robert Sabbag



Robbert Sabbag's *Snowblind,* the true story of an American smuggler whose intricate, ingenious scams made him a legendary figure in the cocaine world of the late sixties and early seventies, is a modern classic. In this "witty, intelligent, fiercely stylish, drug-induced exemplary tale" (*Los Angeles Times*), Sabbag masterfully traces Zachary Swan's Roman-candle career, from his first forays into smuggling marijuana to his jaunts to Colombia to buy pure cocaine, and his ever more elaborate plans to outwit the police and customs officials. Updated by the author and featuring a newly designed cover, this captivating portrait of a dashing antihero and enthralling look at a turbulent age is sure to reach a new generation of readers.

"A triumphant piece of reporting." ***—The New Yorker***

"An immensely entertaining book." ***—Newsweek***

"A flat-out ballbuster. It moves like a threshing machine with a fuel tank full of ether." **—Hunter S. Thompson**

"One of the first books about the cocaine trade and it is still among the best." **—Norman Mailer**

ROBERT SABBAG is the best-selling author of the drug smuggling classics *Snowblind* and *Smokescreen,* and the definitive book on the U.S. Marshals, *Too Tough to Die.* His journalism appears in numerous magazines, among them *Rolling Stone,* to which he is a regular contributor.

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Residence: Cape Code, MA

"Full of tenderness and looming menace . . . Gripping . . . Meticulous . . . Keep writing novellas, Josh Weil, because you write very good ones. You think on it, and we'll watch."
—Anthony Doerr, The New York Times Book Review

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THE NEW VALLEY

Josh Weil

- **Josh Weil was named a 2009 National Book Award "5 Under 35" selection**
- **A *New York Times* Editors' Choice**
- **Author interview featured on the *New York Times* blog "Paper Cuts"**
- **Weil's fiction has appeared in *Granta, StoryQuarterly, New England Review,* and *Glimmer Train,* among others**
- **Josh has been a regular contributor to *The New York Times* and has written essays and features for *Guernica, Poets & Writers,* and *Orion***

- ***author Web site (www.joshweil.com)***
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Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 978-0-8021-1891-2
Residence: New York City

"I was captivated and moved by each of these finely made novellas. The quiet, mostly ordinary lives of the characters who populate *The New Valley* shine with a strange and intense luminosity that is at times heartbreaking, at other times triumphant. There is a magic and gentle beauty in this book that makes me remember why I had always wanted to be a writer."
—Tim O'Brien

The three linked novellas that comprise National Book Award "5 Under 35" and Fulbright winner Josh Weil's masterful debut bring us into America's remote and often unforgiving backcountry, and delicately open up the private worlds of three very different men as they confront love, loss, and their own personal demons.

Set in the hardscrabble hill country between West Virginia and Virginia, *The New Valley* is populated by characters striving to forge new independent lives in the absence of those they have loved. Told in three varied and distinct voices—from a soft-spoken middle-aged beef farmer struggling to hold himself together after his dad's suicide; to a health-obsessed single father desperate to control his reckless, overweight daughter; to a mildly retarded man who falls in love with a married woman intent on using him in a scheme that will wound them both—each novella is a vivid, stand-alone examination of Weil's uniquely romanticized relationships. As the men battle against grief and solitude, their heartache slowly leads them all to commit acts that will bring both ruin and salvation.

Written with a deeply American tone, focused attention to story, and veneration for character, *The New Valley* is a tender exploration of resilience, isolation, and the deep, consuming ache for human connection. Weil's empathetic, meticulous prose makes this is a debut of inescapable power.

PRAISE FOR *THE NEW VALLEY:*

"Stark and haunting . . . [Weil] creates a deeply human landscape that delivers great beauty."
—*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY* (STARRED REVIEW)

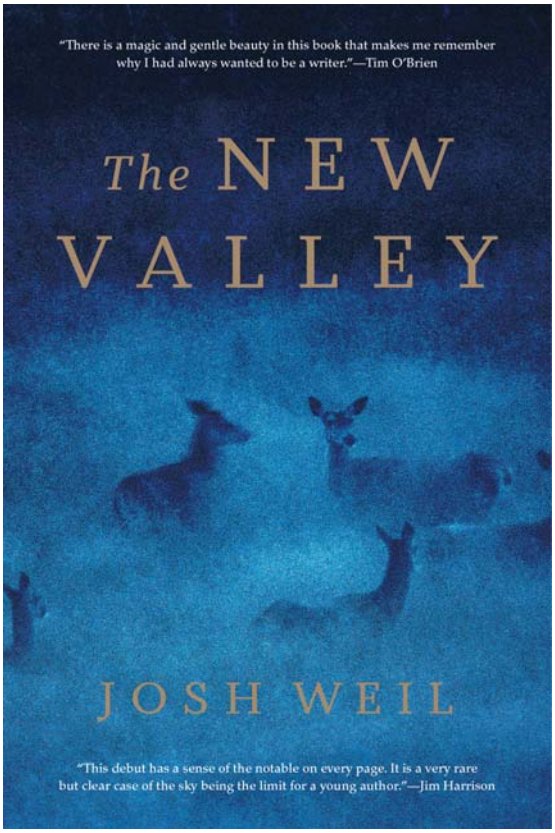
"In these three beautiful novellas, the sky above and the soil below bear witness to stories so elemental and stunningly intricate that they seem carved from hickory. Weil carefully roots out these men from their hiding places, watching over his flock of lost souls with unbounded empathy. . . . It's hard sculpting beauty out of so much mud. Writing about plain-mouthed, flawed, of-the-earth characters requires understanding, much compassion, and a kind heart. . . . [Weil] gives voice to those without, to those entombed on forgotten hillsides, to those orphaned and tending calves and tractors, reminding us that no matter how isolated, how lonely, tender hearts burn everywhere, they burn bright, and they burn on."—DON WATERS, *THE BELIEVER*

"Powerful, masterful, haunting, and utterly unique."
—ROBERT GOOLRICK, AUTHOR OF *A RELIABLE WIFE*

"Weil's prose is quiet and assured. . . . These stories are real heartbreakers, ringing true with loss and loneliness. . . . Finely crafted . . . Unforgettable."
—SUSAN LARSON, *THE TIMES-PICAYUNE* (NEW ORLEANS)

"Josh Weil's debut book, *The New Valley*, has a sense of the notable on every page. This is the very rare but clear case of the sky being the limit for a young author."—Jim Harrison

"Critics claiming that American short fiction is on life-support should sample the healing elixir of Josh Weil's breakout collection. In this mesmerizing debut, Weil offers up three razor-sharp novellas. . . . Readers will find glimpses of Bobbie Ann Mason's depictions of the small-town poor mixed with Annie Proulx's evocative landscape language. . . . [Weil's] writing is understated [and] as strong as steel."
—CODY CORLISS, *THE CHARLESTON GAZETTE*



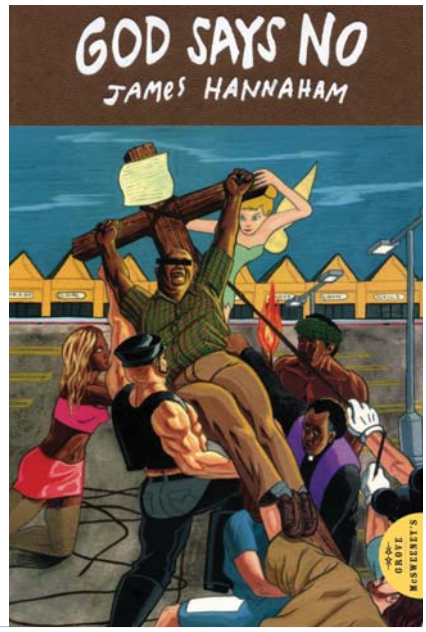
JOSH WEIL received his MFA as a Jersey Fellow at Columbia University. His fiction has appeared in *Granta, Story Quarterly,* and *New England Review,* among other journals. Weil divides his time between New York City and a cabin in rural southwestern Virginia.

"[A] stellar debut collection of novellas, each a tender anthem to a starkly unforgiving Virginia countryside and the misguided determination of its most forsaken residents. . . . Weil limns a rugged emotional landscape every bit as raw and desolate as the land that inspired it, delivering an eloquent portrait of people who defiantly cling to a fierce independence."
—CAROL HAGGAS, *BOOKLIST*

"Absolutely and utterly devastating . . . Weil's major talent—and it is major—lies in making the gears and levers of the book operate seamlessly."—JAMES SCOTT, *THE RUMPUS*

"Josh Weil is a terrific young writer. His sense of what is crucial and dramatic makes his stories deeply alive."—JOHN CASEY

"James Hannaham's God Says No *introduces a groundbreaking new American voice: a writer of spectacular sentences who has trained his sights on a world that has hardly been touched by literary fiction. Topical and ambitious, disturbing and hilarious,* God Says No *is everything a person could ask of a first novel."*
—Jennifer Egan, author of Look at Me *and* The Keep



GOD SAYS NO

James Hannaham

"A tender, funny tour of a mind struggling to do the right thing. A revelatory and sympathetic guide to a misunderstood world."
—Steve Martin, author of *Shopgirl* and *Born Standing Up*

Gary Gray marries his first girlfriend, a fellow student from Central Florida Christian College who loves Disney World as much as he does. They are nineteen, God-fearing, and eager to start a family, but a week before their wedding Gary goes into a rest-stop bathroom and lets something happen. *God Says No* is his testimony—the story of a young black Christian struggling with desire and belief, with his love for his wife and his appetite for other men, told in a singular, emotional voice. Driven by desperation and religious visions, the path that Gary Gray takes—from revival meetings to out life in Atlanta to a pray-away-the-gay ministry in Memphis, Tennessee—gives a riveting picture of how a life like his can be lived, and how it can't.

"This novel is an absolute original. Gary Gray's search for wholeness and acceptance is a heartfelt (and often very funny) plea for all men (and women) to be embraced just as they are. A wonderful debut."
—Martha Southgate, author of *Third Girl from the Left*

"*God Says No* is a book that was desperate to be written but well out of reach. And then James Hannaham came along and wrote it, with the kind of care, wit, sympathy and fury that the book deserved. A truly daring first novel."
—Jim Lewis, author of *Why the Tree Loves the Ax*

JAMES HANNAHAM received an MFA from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas. He lives in Brooklyn and teaches at the Pratt Institute.

$14.00
paperback
5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 304 pp.
Fiction (FIC019000)
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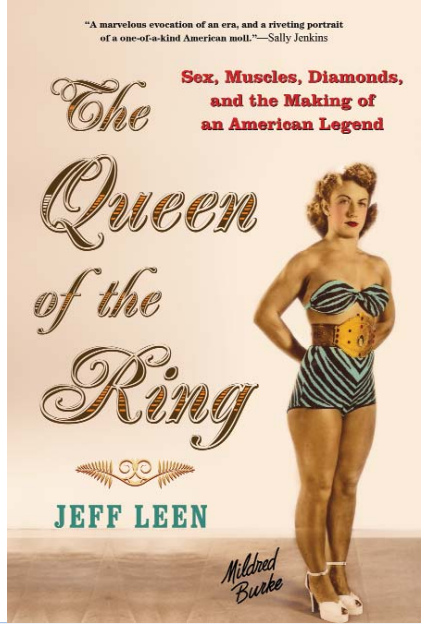
All other rights: Sterling Lord Literistic, Inc. (tel.: 212-780-6050)
Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 9781934781401
Residence: Brooklyn, NY

In the tradition of Seabiscuit *and* Cinderella Man, The Queen of the Ring *is the fabulously detailed and wonderfully implausible story of a 5' 2" woman who, against unimaginable odds, rose from the ashes of the Great Depression to conquer the American wrestling world*



THE QUEEN OF THE RING

Sex, Muscles, Diamonds, and the Making of an American Legend

Jeff Leen

- **Mildred Burke regularly fought and beat male wrestlers, and was the Women's World Wrestling Champion for over two decades**
- **The 1940s and '50s were the golden age of wrestling, when attendance increased 850%, women comprised 60% of the audience, and Burke earned as much as Joe DiMaggio**
- **A major celebrity in her day, Burke moved freely among senators and celebrities**
- **Burke is a legendary Bettie Page–like figure, and Madonna is among her most fervent admirers**

"An all-American story of a woman who rises above her downtrodden circumstances to make something of herself." ***—The New York Times***

The Queen of the Ring is the story of Mildred Burke, the longest reigning champion of female wrestling. In this in-depth account, Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Jeff Leen pulls back the curtain on a forgotten era when a petite midwesterner used her beauty and brawn to dominate America's most masculine sport.

At only five feet two, Mildred Burke was an unlikely candidate for the ring. A waitress barely scraping by on Depression-era tips, she saw her way out when she attended her first wrestling match. When women were still struggling for equality with men, Burke regularly fought—and beat—male wrestlers. Rippling with muscle and dripping with diamonds, she walked the fine line between pin-up beauty and hardened brawler.

An unforgettable slice of Americana, *The Queen of the Ring* captures the golden age of wrestling, when one gritty, glamorous woman rose through the ranks to take her place in athletic history.

"Leen can deliver gripping scenes . . . a rewarding read, an untold tale that completely deserves the telling." ***—St. Petersburg Times***

"In a class by itself. A serious history of one of this country's goofiest pastimes . . . one senses that [Leen has] left no stone unturned in researching Burke's story." ***—The Washington Post***

"You won't be disappointed . . . Leen has [Burke's] story pinned to the mat." ***—USA Today***

JEFF LEEN is a managing editor for *The Washington Post,* where his work has helped win six Pulitzer Prizes. The author of *Kings of Cocaine: Inside the Medellin Cartel,* he lives in Maryland.

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5 1/2 x 8 1/4, 368 pp.
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All other rights: Gail Ross Literary Agency (tel.: 202-328-3282)
Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 978-0-8021-1882-0
Residence: Washington, D.C.

"The Big One *is to competitive fishing what* Friday Night Lights *was to high school football—a book that uses sport as a mainline to the heart of a diverse community.*"
—News & Record *(Greensboro, NC)*

© TOM GRALISH

THE BIG ONE

An Island, an Obsession, and the Furious Pursuit of a Great Fish

David Kinney

- ***The Big One*** **was selected by the** ***New York Post*** **as "Required Reading" and by the Daily Beast as "Recommended Reading"**
- **A national competition that has been running for over sixty years, the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby attracts thousands of participants each year**
- **Film rights sold to DreamWorks in a major deal**
- **The paperback edition will feature a question and answer section with the author**

- ***targeted sports press and media campaign***
- ***Internet/blog campaign***
- ***author Web site (www.davidkinney.net)***
- ***newsletter cooperative advertising available***

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16 black-and-white photographs and map
Sports (Fishing) (SPO014000)
978-0-8021-4476-8
World rights: Grove Press
Performance rights: Larry Weissman Literary, LLC (tel.: 917-886-0928)
Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 978-0-8021-1890-5
Residence: New Jersey

"[Kinney] is a journalist who takes up his story with an enthusiasm that more closely resembles that of an embedded war correspondent. Many of the individuals he encounters are colorful, their salty stories more so, and he uses graceful prose to bring them together into a lively account. . . . [A] revealing look at the lives that Vineyarders lead during the 'off season.'"
—The Wall Street Journal

Published to rave reviews in hardcover and purchased by DreamWorks in a major film deal, *The Big One* is a spellbinding and richly atmospheric work of narrative journalism in the tradition of *Friday Night Lights.* Here is the story of a community—Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts—and a sporting event—the island's legendary Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby—that is rendered with the same depth, color, and emotional power of the best fiction. Among the characters, we meet: Dick Hathaway, a crotchety legend who once caught a bluefish from a helicopter and was ultimately banned for cheating; Janet Messineo, a recovering alcoholic who says that striped bass saved her life; Buddy Vanderhoop, a boastful Native American charter captain who guides celebrity anglers like Keith Richards and Spike Lee; and Wyatt Jenkinson, a nine-year-old fishing fanatic whose mother is battling brain cancer. At the center of it all is five-time winner Lev Wlodyka, a cagey local whose next fish will spark a storm of controversy and throw the tournament into turmoil.

Much more than just a book for fishing enthusiasts, *The Big One* is an exhilarating story of passion and obsession—and a powerful testament to the dreams that keep us all going.

"Who knew a book about a fishing tournament could be so damn compelling?"
—Deadspin

PRAISE FOR *THE BIG ONE:*

"Fabulous . . . Unforgettable . . . *The Big One* had me on the edge of my seat, kept me up nights, and turned out to be one of the best books I've ever read." —*THE STAR-LEDGER* (NEWARK)

"*The Big One* is a rollicking true story of a grand American obsession. You don't have to be a fisherman to relish David Kinney's marvelous account of the annual striper madness on Martha's Vineyard, or his unforgettable portraits of the possessed. It's a fine piece of journalism, rich with color and suspense."—CARL HIAASEN

"A terrific book . . . Everyone should read one book about fishing as sports competition. This is that book."—*THE SPORTING NEWS*

"Fish fan or not, you will find the narratives and characters in *The Big One* rich and intriguing and weird and wonderful. A great read and a great tale."—SUSAN ORLEAN

"Marvelous . . . Funny, weird, compelling . . . [Kinney] is a master. . . . A fascinating, crisply written book."—*THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER*

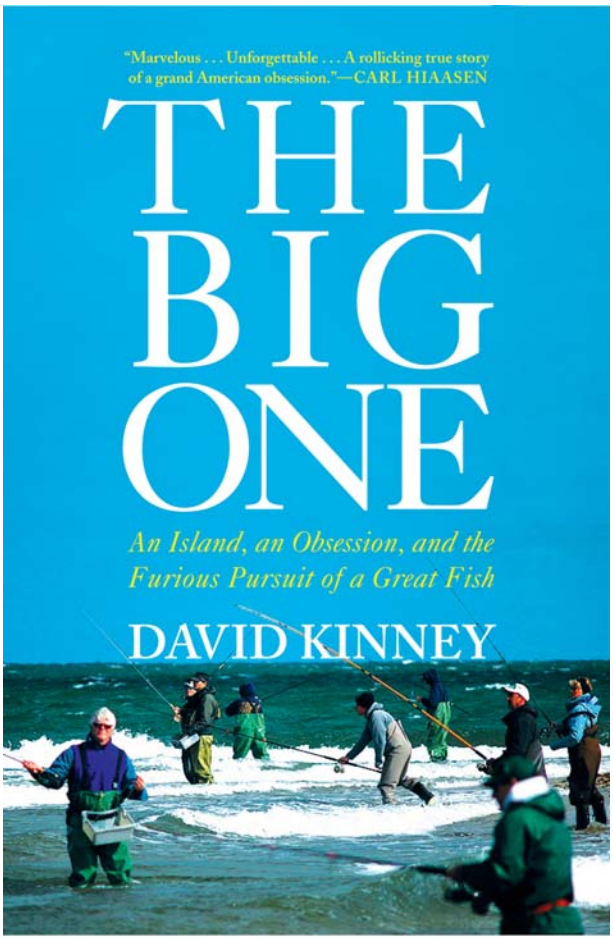
"Whoever said fishing is boring was dead wrong. *The Big One* is smart, funny, and lively. It's populated by a cast of colorful obsessives. It's elegantly written and deeply felt. David Kinney has crafted a portrait of a place, a culture, and a tradition with a message bigger than any Derby-winning striper: that life truly is all about the chase."—STEFAN FATSIS

"Well researched and frankly told, *The Big One* is a striking tale of America's fixation with a little island with gargantuan personality. . . . Kinney delivers bright, boisterous prose true to the derby's melee of egos, fishy romance, and the quixotically obsessed."—*FLY FISHERMAN*

"*The Big One* offers an unforgettable view of a remarkable fishing derby, the island on which it takes place, the drama, the shenanigans, and its unique participants. All fishermen will love this book."—NICK LYONS

"A roaring account."—*CAPE COD TIMES*

"One of the best fishing books I've reviewed in quite a while."—*THE PLAIN DEALER*

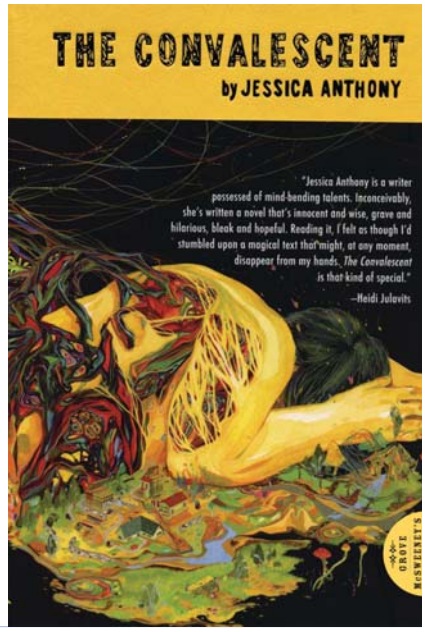


DAVID KINNEY has written for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the Associated Press, and *The Star-Ledger* (Newark), where he worked on the team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2005. He lives with his family outside Philadelphia.

"A great tale . . . What makes Kinney's book so fascinating is that it's not just a book about fishing, but a book that uses the fishing culture of the island to weave in and out of the ridiculously complex fabric that is Vineyard society. . . . Like most great nonfiction, it reveals characters fiction writers would be hard-pressed to duplicate. If you fish, or love the Vineyard, or—best case—both, *The Big One* is well worth the time, the firewood, and the scotch."—*MARTHA'S VINEYARD TIMES*

"Engaging . . . A fine book . . . Even if you care little for fishing, it is worth reading for the characters, the rivalry, the drama, and the eccentricities of this place."—*VINEYARD GAZETTE*

"Jessica Anthony has given a voice—wry, sad, and arresting—to the wounded little homunculus that lives, largely ignored, in all of us, a creature that wrestles with a guilt and grief that is as historical as it is personal. **The Convalescent** *is a melancholy delight." — Chris Adrian, author of* **The Children's Hospital**



THE CONVALESCENT

Jessica Anthony

"Jessica Anthony is a writer possessed of mind-bending talents. Inconceivably, she's written a novel that's innocent and wise, grave and hilarious, bleak and hopeful, fast-paced and meditative, heartbreaking and heart healthy, evanescent and concrete. Reading it, I felt as though I'd stumbled upon a magical text that might, at any moment, disappear from my hands. ***The Convalescent*** **is that kind of special." —Heidi Julavits**

The Convalescent is the story of a small, bearded man selling meat out of a bus parked next to a stream in suburban Virginia . . . and also, somehow, the story of ten thousand years of Hungarian history. Jessica Anthony, the inaugural winner of the Amanda Davis Highwire Fiction Award, makes an unforgettable debut with an unforgettable hero: Rovar Ákos Pfliegman—unlikely bandit, unloved lover, and historian of the unimportant.

"A blissfully nutty, brainy, ribald, brilliantly imaginative ode to human loneliness, oddity, and persistence." —Francisco Goldman, author of ***The Long Night of White Chickens***

JESSICA ANTHONY was born in upstate New York in a small agricultural community sandwiched between a Native American reservation and a cutlery factory. Her fiction has appeared in *Best New American Voices, Best American Nonrequired Reading, McSweeney's, Mid-American Review, New American Writing,* and elsewhere. She is the winner of the Amanda Davis Highwire Fiction Award, the Summer Literary Seminars fiction contest, and has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony, the Millay Colony, the Ucross Foundation, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She lives in Portland, Maine.

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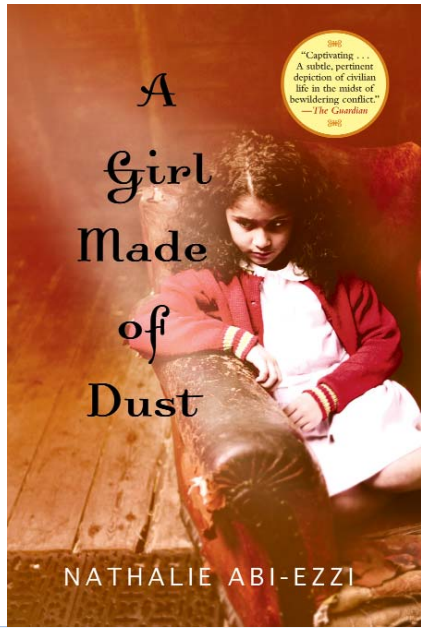
(tel.: 415-642-5624)
Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 9781934781104
Residence: Portland, ME

"[A] powerful, poetic debut . . . Both graceful and wise, A Girl Made of Dust *is a simple narrative that lets the pure vision of childhood speak for itself . . . [and] makes a reader wonder: If more Rubas found their voices, might there not be less war?"*
—Marjorie Kehe, The Christian Science Monitor



A GIRL MADE OF DUST

Nathalie Abi-Ezzi

- **Rights have been sold in nine countries**
- ***A Girl Made of Dust* was short-listed for the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Author's Club Best First Novel Award, and the Waverton Good Read Award, and was an Edinburgh Book Festival New Voices pick**
- **Abi-Ezzi experienced Israel's invasion of Lebanon firsthand while living just outside Beirut during Lebanon's Civil War—a battle that resulted in over 100,000 casualties and displaced approximately 900,000 people or one-fifth of the prewar population.**
- **Israel and Lebanon's violent political relationship began forty years ago and still remains a focal point in the Middle East—most recently brought to light again during Lebanon's "July War" with Israel in 2006**

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Residence: England

"Exquisitely affecting . . . Page-turningly suspenseful . . . Gripping as a visceral depiction of living with war literally crashing on your doorstep. The local sounds, smells, and sights are astonishingly well-rendered, with transportingly-textured details that nevertheless are wholly convincing as the impressions of a young child." ***—Words Without Borders***

Short-listed for the Desmond Elliott Prize, Nathalie Abi-Ezzi's *A Girl Made of Dust* is a sophisticated exploration of one family's private battle to survive in the midst of civil war.

In her peaceful town outside Beirut, Ruba is slowly awakening to the shifting contours within her household: hardly speaking and refusing to work, her father has inexplicably withdrawn from his family; her once-youthful mother looks so sad that Ruba imagines her heart must have withered like a fig in the heat; and Ruba's older brother has begun to secretly meet with older boys who carry guns. When Ruba decides that to salvage her family she must first save her father, she uncovers a long-buried secret that will send her on a journey away from the safety of childhood and into a brutal reality where men kill in the name of faith and race, past wrongs remain unforgiven, and where nothing less than courageous acts of sacrifice and unity can offer survival.

A Girl Made of Dust is a coming-of-age story sparked, but not consumed, by violence and loss. This strikingly assured debut captures both a country and a childhood plagued by a conflict that even at its darkest and most threatening, carries the promise of healing and retribution.

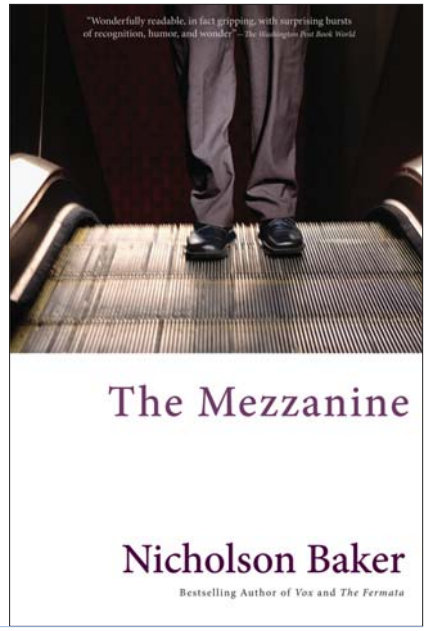
"In turn hopeful and despairing . . . Beautifully written, lyrical, with vivid, sensual descriptions that are sophisticated yet completely believable as experienced and retained by a child." ***—Publishers Weekly***

Born in 1972 in the Metn region of Lebanon, NATHALIE ABI-EZZI and her family moved to England in 1983 when Israel invaded Lebanon. This is her first novel.

"Wonderfully readable, in fact gripping, with surprising bursts of recognition, humor and wonder."
—The Washington Post Book World

THE MEZZANINE

Nicholson Baker



- **Nicholson Baker is the best-selling author of *Vox, The Fermata,* and *Human Smoke***
- **Baker received a National Book Critics Circle Award and the James Madison Freedom of Information Award for his nonfiction book *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper***

"A very funny book . . . Its 135 pages probably contain more insight into life as we live it today than anything currently on the best-seller list."
—The New York Times

In his startling, witty, and inexhaustibly inventive first novel—first publishhed in 1986 and now reissued as a Grove Press paperback—the author of *Vox* and *The Fermata* uses a one-story escalator ride as the occasion for a dazzling re-appraisal of everyday objects and rituals. From the humble milk carton to the act of tying one's shoes, *The Mezzanine* at once defamiliarizes the familiar world and endows it with loopy and euphoric poetry. Nicholson Baker's accounts of the ordinary become extraordinary through his sharp storytelling and his unconventional, conversational style. At first glance, *The Mezzanine* appears to be a book about nothing. In reality, it is a brilliant celebration of things, simultaneously demonstrating the value of reflection and the importance of everyday human experiences.

"Captures the spirit of American corporate life and invests it with a passion and sympathy that is entirely unexpected." ***—The Seattle Times***

"A constant delight . . . among the year's best." ***—The Boston Globe***

"Baker writes with appealing charm . . . [He] clowns and shows off . . . rambles and pounces hard; he says acute things, extravagant things, terribly funny things." ***—Los Angeles Times Book Review***

Nicholson Baker is the author of eight novels—*The Mezzanine, Room Temperature, Vox, The Fermata, The Anthologist, A Box of Matches, Checkpoint,* and *The Everlasting Story of Nory*—and four works of nonfiction, *U and I, Double Fold, The Size of Thoughts,* and *Human Smoke.* He lives with his wife and two children in Maine.

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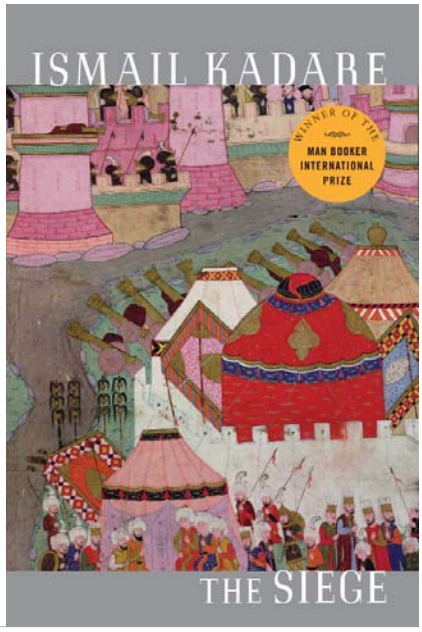
Previous ISBN: 9780679725763
Residence: Maine

"Extraordinary: an epic with the force of myth and the delicacy of a miniature . . . You could read The Siege *every year for a lifetime and find something new each time. . . . A masterpiece."* —The Sunday Telegraph



THE SIEGE

Ismail Kadare

- ***The Siege*** **was long-listed for the Arts Council England's Independent Foreign Fiction Prize**
- **Kadare was the inaugural winner of the Man Booker International Prize in 2005**
- **Kadare is a member of the French Académie des Sciences Morales et Politique and has been awarded the Prix mondial Cino Del Duca and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature**
- **Kadare's fifteen novels have been translated into forty languages**

"Ismail Kadare is one of Europe's most consistently interesting and powerful contemporary novelists, a writer whose stark, memorable prose imprints itself on the reader's consciousness." —*Los Angeles Times*

Ismail Kadare's *The Siege* dramatizes a relentless fictional assault on a Christian fortress in the Albanian mountains by the Ottoman Army in the fifteenth century. As the bloody and psychologically crushing struggle for control over the citadel unfolds, Kadare's newest work opens a window onto the eternal clash between religions and empires as well as the exhilaration, despair, and immediacy of the battlefield.

Kadare is a hugely respected novelist and a hero to his people, as well as an outspoken critic of all forms of totalitarianism. *The Siege* is a "powerfully atmospheric . . . and vividly rendered" (*The Telegraph*) novel of considerable cumulative power and resonance for our own times.

"A tale steeped in blood, a snapshot of a centuries-long conflict, but at the same time, Kadare's realism and lively sense of irony give it a modern twist . . . A universal evocation of human violence." —*The Times* (UK)

"Kadare's fiction offers invaluable insights into life under tyranny—his historical allegories point both to the grand themes and small details that make up daily life in a restrictive environment. . . . A great writer, by any nation's standards." —*Financial Times*

"A powerful fable about the follies and horrors of war." —*London Review of Books*

ISMAIL KADARE was born in 1936 in Albania. His first novel, *The General of the Dead Army,* established him as a major voice in literature. His work has since been translated into forty languages, and in 2005 he became the first winner of the Man Booker International Prize.

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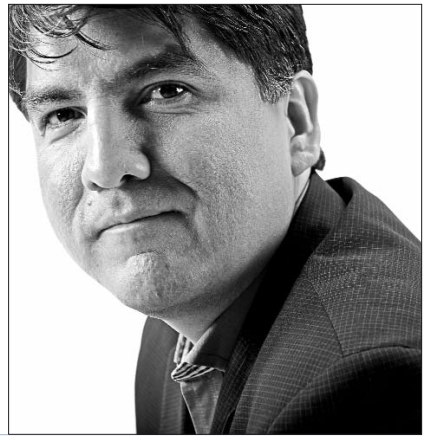
Carton quantity: 36
Previous ISBN: 9781847671851
Residence: Albania and France

"I've always played with the notion of rewriting one of my published works. Other artists, like musicians, sculptors, and painters, continually revise and reinterpret their work. Why should a book remain static? So here is my remix of War Dances*."*
—Sherman Alexie

WAR DANCES

REMIXED EDITION

Sherman Alexie



© CHASE JARVIS

- ***War Dances* was a national best seller**
- **First serial of "War Dances" ran in *The New Yorker***
- **Alexie's books have sold over one million copies worldwide**
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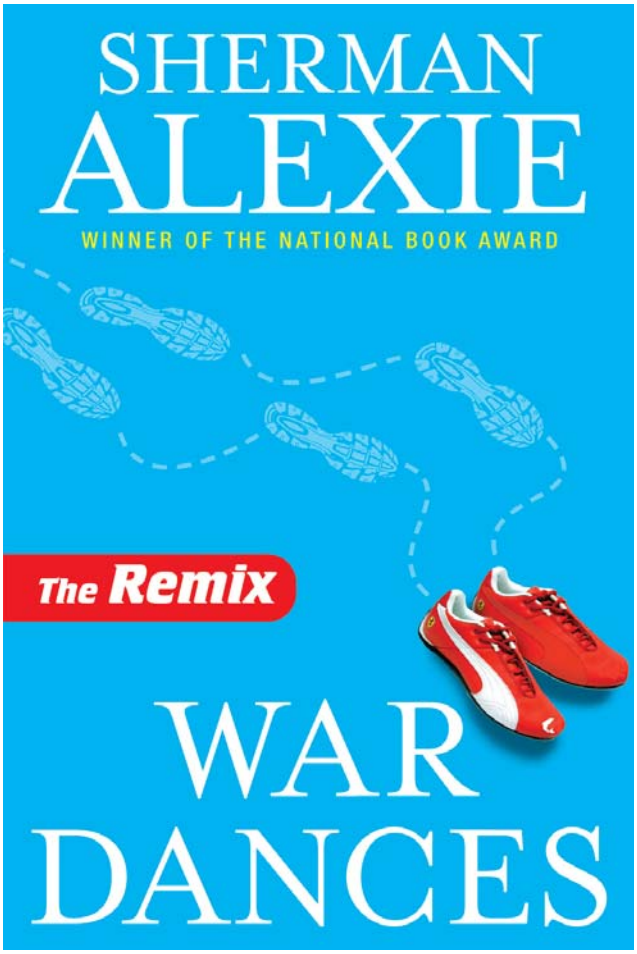

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We all go back to the house or town where we were raised, to an old friend or lover, to an idea or belief we long ago abandoned

GRANTA 111

Going Back

Edited by John Freeman

We're all seduced by the idea of going back. But can we ever trust our memories? We return (or attempt to return) to places, friends, lovers, missed opportunities, and versions of ourselves that no longer exist. Or we're haunted and shaped by the fact that returning—going back—isn't an option. Can we ever trust our memories?

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The issue will feature new fiction by up-and-coming writer Claire Watkins, a profound essay on Detroit by the poet Lawrence Joseph, a photo essay on Shanghai, and startling memoirs and stories by the best writers from around the world.

JOHN FREEMAN's criticism has appeared in more than two hundred newspapers around the world, including *The Guardian, The Independent, The Times* (UK), and *The Wall Street Journal*. Between 2006 and 2008, he served as president of the National Book Critics Circle. His first book, *The Tyrrany of E-mail,* will be published in October 2009.

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OPEN CITY MAGAZINE

Volume 29

Edited by Thomas Beller and Joanna Yas

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