ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS
HARDCOVERS
A stunning follow-up to her Commonwealth Writers’ Prize–winning book, *The Secret River*, Kate Grenville’s *The Lieutenant* is a gripping story about friendship, self-discovery, and the power of language set along the unspoiled shores of 1788 New South Wales.

As a boy, Daniel Rooke was always an outsider. Ridiculed in school and misunderstood by his parents, Daniel could only hope, against all the evidence, that he would one day find his place in life. When he joins the marines and travels to New South Wales as a lieutenant on the First Fleet, Daniel finally sees his chance for a new beginning.

As his countrymen struggle to control their cargo of convicts and communicate with those who already inhabit the land, Daniel constructs an observatory to chart the stars and begin the scientific work he prays will make him famous. But the place where they have landed will prove far more revelatory than the night sky. Out on his isolated point, Daniel comes to intimately know the local Aborigines and forges a remarkable connection with one young girl, Tagaran, that will forever change the course of his life. As the strained coexistence between the Englishmen and the native tribes collapses into violence, Daniel is forced to decide between dedication to his work, allegiance to his country, and his protective devotion to Tagaran and her people.

Inspired by the notebooks of British astronomer William Dawes, *The Lieutenant* is a remarkable story about the poignancy and emotional power of a friendship that defies linguistic and cultural barriers, and shows one ordinary man that he is capable of exceptional courage.

“[*The Lieutenant*] glows with life: imaginative in its re-creations, respectful of what cannot be imagined, and thoughtful in its interrogation of the past. . . . Grenville’s most intellectually sophisticated novel to date.”

—Kerryn Goldsworthy, *The Age* (Australia)
Excerpt from

THE LIEUTENANT

Rooke caught a few raindrops on his palm, held it out to his visitors. ‘What is this, how do you say wet?’

One of the girls came forward and touched his palm with the point of an index finger. She was perhaps twelve years old, skinny and quick, with a long graceful neck and an expressive mobile face. He thought he saw in her the same impulses he was feeling himself: excitement tempered by wariness, the desire to explore held in check by the fear of making a wrong move. Dark skinned, naked, she was nothing like his sister, yet he recognized Anne in her: old enough to want to look into another’s eyes, one human to another, and still young enough to be fearless. She touched his palm again, this time with all her fingertips, stroking his skin as if to test its texture. Over the roar of the rain she said something. Like a deaf man, he watched her lips moving around the stream of words.

‘Mar-ray,’ he tried. She smiled, her entire face involved in the act. He had thought her eyes black, but now he saw they were deep brown. To look so freely into the eyes of another felt as dangerous as leaping from a height. He was amazed at such recklessness in himself.

‘Marray,’ she said again, pointing with her chin toward the rain.

PRAISE FOR THE LIEUTENANT:

“[The Lieutenant] has a potency and beauty that lingers in both the heart and mind’s eye. . . . Rooke and Tagaran are superbly written, and Grenville conveys not only the sense of true kinship that grows between them, but also the euphoria of connection and understanding between two people from different universes. [The Lieutenant] visits a part of Australian black-white history and finds a true heart of goodness there.”
—Lucy Clark, The Sunday Telegraph (Australia)

“A particular kind of stillness marks out Grenville’s characters as uniquely hers. . . . Between the words and among them, this is a profoundly uplifting novel.”
—Katy Guest, The Independent (UK)

“Grenville inhabits characters with a rare completeness . . . and writes with a poet’s sense of rhythm and imagery. . . . [She] explores the natural rifts that arise between settlers and native people with a deep understanding of the ambiguities inherent in such conflicts . . . [and] occupies the mind of Rooke with a kind of vivid insistence, and his isolation—and moral dilemmas—become ours.”
—Jay Parini, The Guardian (UK)
SEPTEMBER

“A wonderful book, written with deep insight into the uncertain world of medicine. The tale of this family grips the heart and illuminates the mind.” —Dr. Jerome Groopman, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School; contributor to The New Yorker; and author of How Doctors Think

JOSIE’S STORY

A Mother’s Inspiring Crusade to Make Medical Care Safe

Sorrel King

• Sorrel King and the Josie King Foundation have been at the forefront of the campaign to make health-care organizations safer
• Across the country, health-care organizations invite Sorrel King to speak at training sessions, conferences, and seminars on patient safety
• Josie’s Story includes a resource guide for patients, families, and health-care providers

• 18-city tour
  (Boston • New York City • Philadelphia • Washington, D.C. • Baltimore • Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill • Atlanta • Miami • Pittsburgh • Cleveland • Chicago • Louisville • Nashville • Houston • Phoenix • Los Angeles • San Francisco • Toronto)
• national TV and radio coverage
• major off-the-book-page coverage
• Web and blog marketing campaign
• online promotion (www.josieking.org)

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“Sorrel King is a heroic figure in the health-care movement. Josie’s story and Sorrel’s determination are making care safer for millions of patients. At its core, this is a powerful and immensely moving love story.” —Charles Kenney, quality and safety consultant to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Ninety-eight thousand people die every year from medical errors, making it a leading cause of death in the United States, but the subject has long been taboo. All that changed with Josie.

Sorrel King was a young mother of four when her eighteen-month-old daughter was badly burned by a faulty water heater in the family’s new home. Taken to the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital, Josie made a remarkable recovery. But as she was preparing to leave, the hospital’s system of communication broke down and Josie was given a fatal shot of methadone, sending her into cardiac arrest. Within forty-eight hours, the King family went from planning a home-coming to planning a funeral.

Dizzy with grief, falling into deep depression, and close to ending her marriage, Sorrel slowly pulled herself and her life back together. Accepting Hopkins’ settlement, she and her husband established the Josie King Foundation. They began to implement basic programs in hospitals emphasizing communication between patients, family, and medical staff—programs like Family-Activated Rapid Response Teams, which are now in place in hospitals around the country.

Today Sorrel and the work of the foundation have had a tremendous impact on health-care providers, making medical care safer for all of us, and earning Sorrel a well-deserved reputation as one of the leading voices in patient safety.

The account of one woman’s unlikely path from full-time mom to nationally renowned patient advocate, Josie’s Story is the startling, moving, and inspirational chronicle of how a mother—and her unforgettable daughter—are transforming the face of American medicine.
“People need to hear the story,” one doctor told me at a patient-safety conference in Florida. “But I think they’d be interested in hearing about all the work you’ve been doing with the foundation. Start focusing the talks more on those accomplishments. Tell them all of the good that has come from Josie’s death. Inspire them to do the same.”

Throughout the rest of the day I thought about what he had said. Josie’s story was becoming more than the story of a horrible tragedy. Her death had inspired change, real change. The foundation was growing and amazing things were happening. Yes, he was right. This was what I wanted to talk about.

From that day on, my message changed. I no longer focused solely on Josie’s death. I talked about the foundation’s projects and programs. And while I had the attention of change makers, I began spinning other topics into my speech, one of which was disclosure.

“It’s not about the money,” I told audiences. “It’s about telling us the truth, apologizing and fixing the problem. There may well be a lawsuit. But by doing the right thing, families might give back to the hospital that harmed them, if it means no one else will be hurt.” I said this over and over, in front of thousands of health-care providers, hoping that maybe, just maybe, they would get the message and treat their patients and families the way Hopkins had treated us.

SORREL KING is a patient-safety advocate and cofounder of the Josie King Foundation, a not-for-profit organization aimed at increasing patient safety and eliminating medical errors. She lives with her husband and their children in Baltimore, Maryland.

“Josie’s story has served as a beacon for me and thousands of other health-care professionals.”
—DR. LOUISE LIANG, FORMER SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, QUALITY AND CLINICAL SYSTEMS SUPPORT, KAISER PERMANENTE

“Josie’s story . . . teaches us that listening is as important as doing, reminding us that our learning is a journey, and that our true teachers sit in front of us in hospital beds and on exam tables each day.”
—DR. DAVID SHULKIN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER

“I am confident that Sorrel has saved countless lives by sharing her story and challenging physicians and administrators to critically examine how they provide care. She made a difference for our Children’s Hospital and we are forever grateful.”
—CRAIG CORDOLA, CEO, CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL OF HOUSTON

“Sorrel King took the tragic death of her daughter and used it to transform the culture of the nation’s top hospital—and ultimately the entire world of medicine.”
—DR. ROBERT WACHTER, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

“A riveting and poignant account of the impact of preventable harm in our health care system.”
—ROSEMARY GIBSON, AUTHOR OF WALL OF SILENCE AND SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER AT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION
“With Deon Meyer you can’t go wrong. He’s a writer whose work I admire, wait for, and then devour.”
—Michael Connelly

BLOOD SAFARI
Deon Meyer

“Deon Meyer is . . . one of the sharpest and most perceptive thriller writers around.”
—Peter Millar, The Times (London)

Published to rave reviews in South Africa and Germany, Blood Safari is the harrowing new novel from internationally acclaimed thriller writer Deon Meyer. Like the best international mystery and thriller writers, Meyer is an expert storyteller whose wickedly fast narratives reveal the heart of his enthralling country.

In Blood Safari, Emma Le Roux, a beautiful young woman in Cape Town, sees her brother named on the television news as the prime suspect in the killing of four poachers and a witch doctor. But it can’t be possible: Emma’s brother is supposed to be dead, having disappeared twenty years ago in Kruger National Park. Emma tries to find out more but is attacked and barely escapes. So she hires Lemmer, a personal security expert, and sets out into the Lowveld in search of the truth.

A complicated man with a dishonorable past, Lemmer just wants to do his job and avoid getting personally involved. But as he and Emma search for answers from the rural police, they encounter racial and political tensions, greed, corruption, and violence unlike anything they have ever known. A chilling novel from a master of suspense, Blood Safari takes the reader beyond the headlines and into the complicated present and dangerous history of South Africa.

“As in all Meyer thrillers, things are not as they seem. The Mpumalanga Lowveld becomes a sinister setting for a fascinating plot and the type of excursion into the past that has become a Meyer coup de grâce. . . . While the action scenes are plentiful and excellent, the plot is refined—a delicately prepared five-course meal.”
—Yolandi Groenewald, Mail & Guardian (South Africa)
Excerpt from
BLOOD SAFARI

Emma’s cry penetrated the thick sand of sleep: “Lemmer!”
I was on my feet and in the sitting room before I was wholly awake, not even sure her cry had been real.

“Lemmer!” Pure terror.

I rushed at her door, slammed into it. Locked. I took a step back and kicked the door. It splintered open. Her room was pitch black. She shrieked again. I banged my palm where the light switch should be and it was suddenly bright and the snake lunged at me, a huge grey, hissing wide-mawed monster, the inside of the mouth as black as death. I recoiled into the sitting room. Emma screamed for me again, and for a fleeting moment I saw her in the double bed, pillow and duvet, everything piled up in front of her for protection. The snake lunged at me, striking again and again, the hollow hiss of pure rage. I tripped over a chair, and the snake’s fangs bit into the material millimeters from my leg. As it pulled loose, venom sprayed in a bright mist. I had to get a weapon, a club. I grabbed the lamp off the corner table, swing it, and missed.

The snake was incredibly long, three meters, maybe more, streamlined and lethal like a spear. I leapt behind the other armchair, trying to keep it between us; the snake came over the top, its front end lifted high. The snake struck and I hit, grazing its neck. Swiftly, it came again, unmanageable, terrifyingly determined, as though my blow had released a deeper rage, a long think, elastic projectile, the eyes relentless, the maw aggressively gaping.

DEON MEYER is the author of five crime novels, including Heart of the Hunter and Dead at Daybreak.

PRAISE FOR DEON MEYER AND BLOOD SAFARI:

“A thriller writer that I put along side some of my favorites like Lee Child or John Sanford.”
—LINDA WERTHEIMER, NPR

“Meyer is simply excellent. Lemmer is . . . a sardonic, accurate observer of South African foibles, especially those of the Afrikaner. It is all rendered with enough wry, dry humor to make the reader laugh out loud.”
—BUSINESS DAY (SOUTH AFRICA)

“An adventurous investigation through South African wilderness, society, and history . . . Meyer gets better and better.” —DIE WELT (GERMANY)

“Meyer cleverly brings in a major unsolved South African mystery and the problems of poaching, and there are plenty of twists in the plotting to keep the reader hooked. South Africa, with its violent past and present, makes a suitable setting for this kind of book—things that might not be believable elsewhere could easily happen here. . . . a well-plotted thriller.”
—MARGARET VON KLEMPERER, THE WITNESS (SOUTH AFRICA)
OCTOBER

The best-selling author of The Weather Makers returns to the subject of climate change with a thought-provoking and powerful argument for immediate global action and a wide range of innovative, deeply pragmatic ideas to help solve the crisis

NOW OR NEVER

Why We Must Act Now to End Climate Change and Create a Sustainable Future

Tim Flannery

“Out of all the books on global warming that have passed my desk in recent years, this is the best so far. . . . Now or Never is so arresting because Flannery is one of a rare breed who can write with scientific authority in eloquent, accessible prose. . . . Utterly compelling.”

—The Age

In Now or Never, the internationally acclaimed author of The Weather Makers returns to the subject of climate change with a book that is at once a forceful call to action and a deeply (and often surprisingly) pragmatic road map toward sustainability.

Utilizing the most up-to-the-minute data available, Tim Flannery examines the environmental challenges we face and their potential solutions in both the big picture and in specific detail. This brilliant book explores everything from techniques for storing the carbon that dead plants release into the earth to the fragile balancing act between energy demands and food supply in India and China, from carbon-trading schemes in South America to a recent collaboration between a Danish wind-energy company and an automobile manufacturer that may produce a viable electric car and end the reign of big oil. Rather than looking backward to assign blame, or weeping in despair, Flannery is looking forward in the belief that “a sense of hopelessness is just as great a danger to our future as the bankrupt philosophies of the recent past. Even world-weariness, a resignation to destruction, is profoundly inimical to sustainability, because its adherents believe that the fate of our planet is already sealed. If the British had thought that way in 1941, we might be living in a very different world.”

Now or Never is a short and undeniably powerful book that burns with Flannery’s characteristic mix of passion, scientific precision, and “offhand interdisciplinary brilliance” (Entertainment Weekly).

“With scientific gravitas, complemented by the skillful use of layman’s language, Tim Flannery paints a serious picture of the planet’s future.”

—Sir Richard Branson
Excerpt from

**NOW OR NEVER**

Electric cars have been “on the horizon” for around a century and various attempts have been made to commercialize them, all with limited or no success. The problems have been their range of travel and ease of refueling. These limitations have now been overcome by a remarkable collaboration between two companies, DONG Energy, one of Denmark’s wind-energy pioneers, and Better Place. Throughout late 2007 and early 2008, they worked together on a project to bring the electric car to Denmark.

The cars will be fueled from electric plug facilities and it’s hoped that before the end of 2010 such plugs will be available at one in every six parking spots in Denmark. Owners of the new electric cars would pay for their electricity much as we pay for mobile phone credit, via a monthly bill. I asked DONG’s CEO why his company intended to spend hundreds of millions of euros on what looked to me like a speculative venture. He explained that, at present, all of the electricity generated by DONG’s turbines at night was wasted, because no one wanted electricity at that time. If the company could find a market for that power in the charging of electric car batteries, that was a good thing indeed. “We’re about creating a virtual oil field in the sky,” he said.

While it will be balm to the soul to see electric cars proliferate in Denmark, the true significance of this initiative is far more profound. What it tells us is that wind energy can compete directly with big oil.

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**PRAISE FOR THE WEATHER MAKERS:**


“An enthralling crash course in climate change that benefits from Flannery’s offhand interdisciplinary brilliance. (A)” —ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

“Shocking . . . [Flannery] writes for a general audience with passion and clarity.” —JIM HANSEN, THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

“Compelling . . . A complete and profound work.” —BUSINESS WEEK

“One hell of a weather book . . . Written with the urgency of a thriller novelist.” —GQ

“Sober, detailed, and alarming without being alarmist . . . Flannery is especially clear on the global science.” —NEWSWEEK

“Comprehensive and extremely well-written, The Weather Makers has perhaps the best chance of inspiring actual policy change since Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring.” —NEWSDAY

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**Also available:**

*The Eternal Frontier*
(978-0-8021-3888-0 • $16.00 • USC)

*The Future Eaters*
(978-0-8021-3943-6 • $16.00 • USCO)

*The Weather Makers*
(978-0-8021-4292-4 • $15.00 • USO)
OCTOBER

The third novel from international best-selling author Paul Sussman, The Hidden Oasis is an action-packed thriller about an American mountain climber and a British professor who set out to solve a ghastly murder and discover the whereabouts of a mythical desert paradise.

THE HIDDEN OASIS

Paul Sussman

- The Last Secret of the Temple and The Lost Army of Cambyses have each sold over one million copies worldwide
- prepublication reading copies available
- mystery and thriller Web and blog marketing campaign
- IndieBound outreach campaign
- point-of-purchase display material available
- newsletter cooperative advertising available

Also available:
The Last Secret of the Temple
(978-0-8021-4393-8 • $14.00 • USCO)
The Lost Army of Cambyses
(978-0-8021-4378-5 • $14.00 • USCO)

Paul Sussman is an international best-selling writer whose previous two books, The Last Secret of the Temple and The Lost Army of Cambyses, have each sold over one million copies worldwide. In his new book, The Hidden Oasis, Sussman delivers a heart-pounding, action-packed novel set in Egypt’s Western Desert and revolving around a legendary desert paradise.

The Hidden Oasis begins with the murder of Alex Hannen, a former CIA agent living in Egypt. Her sister, Freya, a world-class mountain climber from the United States, travels to Cairo to help bury Alex, and once there immediately becomes suspicious of the doctor’s news that Alex had taken her own life. How, she asks, could Alex have injected herself with a lethal dose of morphine, given her lifelong fear of needles? The mysterious circumstances surrounding Alex’s death lead Freya on a search for the truth. She soon meets her sister’s dear friend, Flin Brodie, a world-renowned authority on predynastic Egypt. Flin is also searching for answers—he has devoted his career to studying the existence of a mythic hidden oasis, an Atlantis of the sands, elusive to the great desert explorers of the twentieth century and supposedly housing a valuable, mythic stone untouched for millennia.

In this propulsive, fascinating thriller that takes readers through the bustling streets of Cairo and into the vast stretches of the Western Desert, Freya and Flin are led on an extraordinary adventure—sometimes violent, often dangerous, always thrilling—for the answer to one of archaeology’s greatest mysteries: the location of the legendary lost oasis of Zerzura, and the key to the astonishing, terrifying secret that lies at its heart. Filled with fascinating history about ancient Egypt, and featuring a terrific cast of characters, from a corrupt, lecherous arms dealer and his twin soccer-loving bodyguards, to a duplicitous American embassy worker and the dynamic couple at the book’s heart, The Hidden Oasis is another spellbinding thriller from Paul Sussman.
Excerpt from
THE HIDDEN OASIS

“So?” asked Girgis, once he was in and the door closed.

“Nothing, I’m afraid, Mr. Girgis. Half the film was spoilt, and the other half . . . ” He handed over a sheaf of A4-sized photographic prints.

“Useless, completely useless. See, all the images are from inside the oasis—nothing to help identify the actual location. It’s like trying to find a house in the middle of a city when all you’ve got to go on is a picture of the bathroom. Completely useless.”

“Could you have missed something?”

Usman shrugged, pattered the tips of his fingers together again. “I’ve gone through them extremely carefully, so I’d say not. Then again . . . ” He gave a nervous laugh. “. . . I’m not a world authority on the subject.”

“Brodie?”

“Professor Brodie’s the world authority.”

“Then I think it’s time to go and talk to him,” said Girgis, handing the photos back and picking up the limousine’s intercom phone to issue instructions to the driver.

“I really can’t see him helping,” said Usman as they started to move away. “Even if he managed to spot something. From what I’ve heard he’s a rather stubborn character.”

Girgis adjusted the cuffs of his shirt, brushed something off his jacket. “Believe me, Ahmed, once Manshiet Nasser’s finished with him there’s nothing Professor Brodie won’t do for us. He’ll be pleading to help. Begging.”

PAUL SUSSMAN is a journalist, author, and field archaeologist whose first novel, The Lost Army of Cambyses, was an international best seller that has been translated into twenty-eight languages. He is married and lives in London.

PRAISE FOR THE LAST SECRET OF THE TEMPLE:

“The Last Secret of the Temple is a gripping mystery, intricately plotted and eloquently told, with more hairpin turns than the road to Hitler’s Berchtesgaden. . . . Paul Sussman’s novel is not just thrilling, it makes the tension and promise of the Middle East heartbreakingly alive.”
—WILLIAM DIETRICH, AUTHOR OF NAPOLEON’S PYRAMIDS

“The Last Secret of the Temple is a brilliant detective novel, hidden within a medieval saga, tucked inside an archaeological mystery, surrounded by a modern-day Middle East terrorist thriller. Paul Sussman has managed the impossible: a multilayered quest where all the characters are real and alive, and we should expect the completely unexpected.”—KATHERINE NEVILLE, AUTHOR OF THE EIGHT

“While Paul Sussman’s brilliant novel The Last Secret of the Temple will be compared to Dan Brown’s eight-hundred-pound gorilla, it is so much more. The mystery runs deeper, the history more accurate, the suspense drawn to a keener edge. . . . Here is a thriller on par with the best literature out there.”
—JAMES ROLLINS, THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF BLACK ORDER AND THE JUDAS STRAIN
The follow-up to his celebrated memoir, Living in a Foreign Language, Michael Tucker’s Family Meals is a heartwarming book about family and the challenges of caring for an aging parent, set in Italy, Santa Barbara, and New York City.

FAMILY MEALS

Coming Together to Care for an Aging Parent

Michael Tucker

- Living in a Foreign Language was a Book Sense selection
- A veteran stage, film, and television actor, Michael Tucker is perhaps best known for his role as Stuart Markowitz in the hit series L.A. Law
- prepublication reading copies available
- 10-city radio satellite tour
- national media campaign including print and radio interviews
- Web and blog marketing campaign
- online promotion (www.tuckerberry.com)
- newsletter cooperative advertising available

Also available: Living in a Foreign Language (978-0-8021-4362-4 • $14.00 • USCO)

Michael Tucker and his wife, Jill Eikenberry, are enjoying the early years of retirement in their dream house, a beautiful 350-year-old stone farmhouse in the central Italian province of Umbria, when life suddenly interrupts their summer plans. Jill’s mother’s second husband, Ralph, has passed away, and Michael and Jill must leave the respite of the Italian countryside and travel to California to console Lora, Jill’s mother, and help her plan her future.

Thus begins Family Meals, a beautifully told memoir that explores the meaning of family and examines the sacrifices we make for those we love. After Ralph’s death, Lora begins a rapid decline into dementia. Jill wrestles with the decision to move her from her comfortable home in Santa Barbara to New York City so that she can be near her family. After a disastrous attempt to place Lora in a senior residence in New York, Jill slowly comes to grips with the reality of her Mom’s condition. By chance, an apartment becomes vacant right across the hall from Michael and Jill and they grab it for Lora and her twenty-four hour aides and set up their own little nursing home. Michael and Jill’s children, Alison and Max—much to their parents’ delight—decide not only to relocate to Manhattan but also move in together. Alison, a personal chef and caterer, takes over the responsibilities of her grandmother’s daily meals. Their family, which had been a loose network of individual parts, is now, remarkably, a cohesive unit. It’s all become very Italian.

Family Meals is a heartwarming story of Tucker’s own unique family and the journeys each member has taken. It is a book that addresses a fact of life all of us will face—aging—with remarkable charm, sympathy, and warmth, showing the ways in which those we love are our greatest asset in times of sorrow and times of joy.

MICHAEL TUCKER is the author of Living in a Foreign Language and I Never Forget a Meal: An Indulgent Reminiscence. He is a veteran stage, film, and television actor perhaps best known for his role on the long-running television series L.A. Law.
The Pulitzer Prize winner delivers a deliciously witty new novel of good, evil, and free will, set in a Hell populated by figures from history and contemporary culture (William Randolph Hearst, Anne Boleyn, Humphrey Bogart, and George W. Bush, etcetera)

HELL

Robert Olen Butler

“I’ll never stop believing it: Robert Olen Butler is the best living American writer, period.” —Jeff Guinn, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The new novel from one of American literature’s brightest stars, author of the Pulitzer Prize–winning A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain, Robert Olen Butler’s uproarious new novel is set in the underworld. Its main character, Hatcher McCord, is an evening news presenter who has found himself in Hell and is struggling to explain his bad fortune. He’s not the only one to suffer this fate—in fact, he’s surrounded by an outrageous cast of characters, including Humphrey Bogart, William Shakespeare, and almost all of the popes and most of the U.S. presidents. The question may be not who is in Hell but who isn’t. McCord is living with Anne Boleyn in the afterlife but their happiness is, of course, constantly derailed by her obsession with Henry VIII (and the removal of her head at rather inopportune moments).

Butler’s Hell isn’t as much a boiling lake of fire—although there is that—as it is a Sisyphean trial tailored to each inhabitant, whether it’s the average Joes who die and are reconstituted many times a day to do it all again, or the legendary newspaperman William Randolph Hearst, doomed to obscurity as a blogger mocked by his fellows because he can’t figure out CAPS LOCK. One day McCord meets Dante’s Beatrice, who believes there is a way out of Hell, and the next morning, during an exclusive on-camera interview with Satan, McCord realizes that Satan’s omniscience, which he has always credited for the perfection of Hell’s torments, may be a mirage—and Butler is off on a madcap romp about good, evil, free will, and the possibility of escape. Butler’s depiction of Hell is original, intelligent, and fiercely comic, a book Dante might have celebrated.

Also available:

Fair Warning
(978-0-8021-3956-6 • $12.00 • USCO)

A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain
(978-0-8021-3798-2 • $13.00 • USCO)

Had a Good Time
(978-0-8021-4204-7 • $13.00 • USCO)

Mr. Spaceman
(978-0-8021-3782-1 • $12.00 • USCO)
In front of Hatcher a man lurches from the darkness of a doorway into a sudden flare of orange sodium vapor light. He is draped in a toga that perhaps long ago was white but now is dark with stains and spattered with what appear to be bird droppings, though Hatcher has never seen a bird in Hell. The man’s hair is cropped close and his face is pasty and he has no nose, only a jagged outline of one in the center of his face as if he were an ancient marble statue.

“Who are you?” Hatcher asks.

“Publius Vergilius Maro.”

The name sounds vaguely familiar to Hatcher, but he can’t place it.

“I was a poet for the great Augustus,” the man says.

“You’re Virgil,” Hatcher says.

“The Emperor is not so great now.”

Virgil steps very close to Hatcher. He is a surprisingly tall man, for his era, his face fully in Hatcher’s. He reeks of rotten sardelles and Cyprian garlic. “You need to come with me,” Virgil says.

Hatcher realizes this is one of those oh-right-I’m-in-Hell-and-this-isn’t-really-a-matter-of-choice moments. He and Virgil look at each other. The crowd is jostling noisily by, but Hatcher can clearly hear the Roman’s whistley breathing through his fragment of a nose. “Okay,” Hatcher says.

PRAISE FOR ROBERT OLEN BUTLER:

“The number of novels and short-story collections about the Vietnam War is now approaching five hundred. Were I to recommend a single volume that poignantly shows the magnitude and the humanity of the tragedy, it would be this one.”

—John Clark Pratt, The Detroit News, on the Pulitzer Prize–winning collection A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain

“The book has attracted such acclaim not simply because it is beautifully and powerfully written, but because it convincingly pulls off an immense imaginative risk. . . . Butler has not entered the significant and ever-growing canon of Vietnam-related fiction (he has long been a member)—he has changed its composition forever.”

—Claire Messud, The Guardian (London) on A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain

“No writer in America today can be said to surpass Butler in the eating-his-cake-and-having-it-too category: He’s literary and entertaining, serious and funny. Within his clear and fluent narratives, there usually nestles complexity, if you care to look for it.”

—Chauncey Mabe, South Florida Sun-Sentinel
Fresh off his National Book Award win, Sherman Alexie delivers a heart-breaking and hilarious collection of stories that explore the precarious balance between self-preservation and external responsibility in art, family, and the world at large.

With unparalleled insight into the minds of artists, laborers, fathers, husbands, and sons, Alexie populates his stories with ordinary men on the brink of exceptional change. In a bicoastal journey through the consequences of both simple and monumental life choices, Alexie introduces us to these personal worlds as they transform beyond return. In the title story, a famous writer must decide how to care for his distant father who is slowly dying a “natural Indian death” from alcohol and diabetes, just as he learns that he himself may have a brain tumor. Alexie dissects a vintage-clothing store owner’s failing marriage and his subsequent courtship of a married photographer in various airports across the country; what happens when a politician’s son commits an unforgivable hate crime; and how a young boy learns his self-worth while writing for the obituary department of his local newspaper.

Brazen and wise, War Dances takes us to the heart of what it means to be human. The new beginnings, successes, mistakes, and regrets that make up our daily lives are laid bare in this wide-ranging and provocative new work that is Alexie at the height of his powers.

“Sherman Alexie, who has been called the Native American James Baldwin, writes with anger, humor, raw inventiveness, and defiant pride.”

—Amanda Heller, The Boston Globe

Also available:
Flight (978-0-8021-7037-8 • $14.00 • USCO)
Indian Killer (978-0-8021-4357-0 • $15.00 • USCO)
The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven (978-0-8021-4167-5 • $15.00 • USCO)
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Ten Little Indians (978-0-8021-4117-0 • $13.00 • USCO)
The Toughest Indian in the World (978-0-8021-3800-2 • $14.00 • USCO)
“My dad’s in the recovery room and he’s freezing, and they’ve only got these shitty little blankets, and I came looking for Indians in the hospital because I figured—well, I guessed if I found any Indians, they might have good blankets.” The other Indian man studied my face. I felt exposed, isolated, ashamed.

“You want to borrow a blanket from us?” the man asked.

“Yeah.”

“Because you thought some Indians would just happen to have some extra blankets lying around? That’s fucking ridiculous.”

“I know.”

“And it’s racist.”

“I know.”

“You’re stereotyping your own damn people.”

“I know.”

“And we have a room full of new Pendleton blankets. Jesus, you’d think my sister was having, like, a dozen babies.” Five minutes later, carrying a Pendleton star blanket, the Indian man walked out of his sister’s room, accompanied by his father, who wore Levis, a black T-shirt, and eagle feathers in his gray braids.

“Hello,” the father said. “So I hear your father is sick.”

“Yeah,” I said. I wondered how many times in indigenous history that Indian men first met one another because of something as simple as a blanket. Forget the Eiffel Tower or the Hoover Dam or the Great Pyramids or the Empire State Building or the Great Wall of China. It was the little things—the blankets and forks and chopsticks—that really measured and marked man’s progress.
An award-winning memoirist, poet, and activist, Jimmy Santiago Baca has established himself as an inspiring and important spokesperson for the Chicano experience, continually giving voice to the voiceless. His first novel, A Glass of Water, is a gripping tale of family, loyalty, ambition, and revenge that offers us a glimpse into the tragedies unfurling at this very moment on our country’s borders.

The promise of a new beginning brings Casimiro and Nopal together when they are young immigrants, each having made the nearly deadly journey across the border from Mexico. They settle into a life of long days in the chili fields and in a few years their happy union yields two sons, Lorenzo and Vito. But when Nopal is brutally murdered, the boys are left to navigate life in this brave but capricious world without her. Lorenzo follows in his father’s footsteps, devoting himself to the land, and falls in love with a beautiful, idealistic student who comes to the migrant camp to study and improve the lives of its workers. Vito, hot-blooded and restless, breaks away and soon finds fame as an itinerant boxer, gaining notoriety in the ring and out. The brothers’ journeys will eventually converge and bring them face to face with a common enemy.

A Glass of Water is a searing, heartfelt tribute to brotherhood and an arresting portrait of the twisted paths people take to claim their piece of the ever-elusive American dream.
Excerpt from
A GLASS OF WATER

It was September, 1983, in the village of Villa de Alonzo, and Casimiro was given the gruesome task of pitching corpses onto carts and hauling them down to the crematorium. The village had almost been wiped out from some kind of strange virus. The work done, he put torch to the roof timber of homes and as the flames devoured houses, they shredded every aspect of his identity, reduced his previous life to a meaningless mound of smoldering ash. And it was an obvious sign—God’s message was to start his life anew, and so, invigorated with a renewed faith that better things lie beyond the horizon, he bid the remaining inhabitants adios and left.

But that was not the only reason he left.

He remembered his father saying, “Sometimes a man is so poor, all the pride he has is in the last cigarette he’s smoking.” And it was true, a day or so into the trip he sat on a boulder and smoked his last cigarette, feeling a little pride that he had escaped, inventing a story in his mind in case he needed to explain himself to authorities, a story to replace the real one left back in Mexico.

PAYING BACK JACK
A Vincent Calvino Crime Novel

Christopher G. Moore

Christopher G. Moore is the winner of the Deutscher Krimi Preis, the most prestigious award for crime fiction in Germany, and the Premier Special Director Book Award Semana Negra in Spain.

Also available:
The Risk of Infidelity Index
(978-0-8021-4398-3 • $14.00 • USCO)
Spirit House
(978-0-8021-4352-5 • $13.00 • USCO)

“Underneath Bangkok society is a deeply encrusted demiworld of hope, despair, corruption, and courage that Moore, an American-born writer who has lived there for almost twenty years, paints with maestrolie Dickensian strokes.”
—Tom Plate, The Seattle Times

Christopher G. Moore’s prize-winning series of crime novels set in Bangkok has been translated into eleven languages and critically acclaimed around the world. Featuring Vincent Calvino, a disbarred American lawyer working as a PI in the dangerous and steamy Thai capital, the books offer gripping plots, fascinating characters, and unparalleled insight into one of the world’s most entrancing cities.

In Paying Back Jack, Calvino agrees to follow the “minor wife” of a Thai politician and report on her movements. His client is Rick Casey, a shady American whose life has been darkened by the unsolved murder of his idealistic son. But what seems to be a simple surveillance job pulls Calvino into a quest for revenge, as well as a perilous web of political allegiance. Calvino narrowly escapes an attempt on his life and then avoids being framed for a murder only through the calculated lever-pulling of his best friend, Thai police colonel, Pratt. But unknown to our man in Bangkok, in an anonymous apartment tower in the center of the city, a two-man sniper team awaits its shot, a shot that will change everything. Paying Back Jack is classic Christopher G. Moore: densely-woven, eye-opening, and riveting.

“Moore’s flashy style successfully captures the dizzying contradictions of this vertiginous landscape.” —Marilyn Stasio, The New York Times Book Review

CHRISTOPHER G. MOORE is the author of ten novels starring Vincent Calvino. He has lived in Bangkok since 1988.
The fiftieth anniversary edition of Naked Lunch, “a masterpiece. A cry from hell, a brutal, terrifying, and savagely funny book that swings between uncontrolled hallucination and fierce, exact satire” (Newsweek)

NAKED LUNCH
The Fiftieth Anniversary Edition

William S. Burroughs
Introduction by David Ulin

“A book of great beauty and maniacally exquisite insight with a wild and deadly humor . . . The only American novelist who may conceivably be possessed of genius.” —Norman Mailer

Fifty years ago, Olympia Press in Paris issued a book that redefined not just American literature, but American culture. Naked Lunch, the U.S. edition of which soon followed from Grove Press, is one of the most important and influential novels of the twentieth century. An unnerving tale of an addict unmoored in New York, Tangier, and ultimately a nightmarish wasteland known as Interzone, Naked Lunch’s formal innovation, formerly taboo subject matter, and tour de force execution has exerted its influence on the works of authors like Thomas Pynchon, J. G. Ballard, and William Gibson; on the relationship of art and obscenity; and on the shape of music, film, and media in general.

On the fiftieth anniversary of its first publication, Grove Press is proud to issue a special hardcover edition featuring the restored text that is faithful to Burroughs’s original composition, an introduction from David Ulin, book editor of the Los Angeles Times, as well as reproductions of original manuscript pages and drawings.

“Ever since Naked Lunch . . . Burroughs has been ordained America’s most incendiary artist.” —Los Angeles Times

“Of all the Beat Generation writers, Burroughs was the most dangerous . . . He was anarchy’s double agent, an implacable enemy of conformity and all agencies of control—from government to opiates.” —Rolling Stone

“Burroughs’s voice is hard, derisive, inventive, free, funny, serious, poetic, indelibly American.” —Joan Didion

WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS (1914–1997) was the author of numerous novels, including Nova Express, The Ticket That Exploded, The Soft Machine, and The Wild Boys, and was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
Twenty years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, a sweeping new history of Communism—from its origins in the aftermath of the French Revolution to the rise and fall of the Soviet Union and beyond—by a brilliant Oxford professor

**THE RED FLAG**

* A History of Communism

David Priestland

Communism was one of the most powerful political and intellectual movements the world has ever seen. At the height of their influence, Communists controlled more than a third of the earth's surface. But perhaps more astonishing than its rapid rise and extraordinary reach was Communism's sudden, devastating collapse in November of 1989.

In *The Red Flag*, Oxford professor David Priestland tells the epic story of a movement that has taken root in dozens of countries across two hundred years, from its birth after the French Revolution to its ideological maturity in nineteenth-century Germany to its rise to dominance (and subsequent fall) in the twentieth century. Beginning with the first modern Communists in the age of Robespierre, Priestland examines the motives of thinkers and leaders including Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Castro, Che Guevara, Mao, Ho Chi Minh, Gorbachev, and many others. He also asks what it was about Communism that inspired its rank and file—whether the militants of 1920s Russia, the guerrilla fighters of China, or the students of Ethiopia—and explores the experience of what it meant to live under Communism for its millions of subjects.

He shows how Communism, in all its varieties, appealed to different societies for different reasons, in some as a response to inequalities and in others more out of a desire to catch up with the West. But paradoxically, while destroying one web of inequality, Communist leaders were simultaneously weaving another. It was this dynamic, together with widespread economic failure and an escalating loss of faith in the system, that ultimately destroyed Soviet Communism itself.

At a time when global capitalism is in crisis and powerful new political forces have arisen to confront Western democracy, *The Red Flag* is essential reading if we are to apply the lessons of the past to navigating the future.
Excerpt from
**THE RED FLAG**

The victory of Communism was not inevitable, and its leaders often came to power in conditions of war. Had it not been for the chaos prevailing in Russia in 1917, or the Japanese invasion of China, the two states which provided the major inspiration for the Communist movement might never have emerged. Even so, Communism made sense to a variety of different people, even if it was rarely a movement of the majority.

Its original roots can be found among students and educated elites, some of whom were rebelling against patriarchal authority more generally, in the tradition of Rousseau, Chernyshevskii, and Lu Xun. But many Communists of the ruling generations—including Stalin, Mao, Khrushchev, Tito, Ceausescu, and Pol Pot—were from artisanal or rich peasant backgrounds. They were eager to modernize their countries and themselves. The old regimes were obstacles and needed to be swept away.

Communists were at their most confident when they were members of a revolutionary movement, fighting inequality and traditionalist regimes. They were less suited to the practice of government. How were they to modernize and confront international inequalities—to "catch up with the West"—while remaining true to their egalitarian, anti-capitalist ideals at home? The Communists tried to solve this dilemma in a number of very different ways.

**PRAISE FOR STALINISM AND THE POLITICS OF MOBILIZATION:**

“A short review cannot do justice to the complexities and subtleties of this impressive [work]. . . . Suffice it to say that the book is essential reading.”

—HISTORY

“Erudite and even-handed . . . Extremely well done . . . An original and challenging interpretation of the Stalinist Terror.”

—ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW

“One of the fine points of this book is its treatment of Maoist China. There are very few studies around treating both Communist giants in an informed way. . . . This book is a must for all scholars and students interested in comparative Communism.”

—REVOLUTIONARY

**DAVID PRIESTLAND** has studied Communism for many years. He is University Lecturer in Modern History at Oxford and a Fellow of St. Edmund Hall, and the author of *Stalinism and the Politics of Mobilization*. 

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![The Red Flag: A History of Communism](image-url)
An outlandish stylist, a provocative philosopher on youth and sexuality, and one of the indisputable totems of twentieth-century world literature, Witold Gombrowicz wrote *Pornografia* after leaving his native Poland for Argentina in 1939 and then watching from afar as the German invasion destroyed his country. Translated for the first time into English from the original Polish by award-winning translator Danuta Borchardt, *Pornografia* is one of Gombrowicz's highest regarded works—a richly imagined tale of violence and carnality set in wartime Poland.

In the midst of the German occupation, two aging intellectuals travel to a farm in the countryside, looking for a respite from the hellish scene in Warsaw. They quickly grow bored of their bucolic surroundings—that is, until they are hypnotized by a pair of country youths who have grown up alongside each other: the betrothed daughter of the farm's owner, and a young farmhand who has just returned from a stint in the Polish resistance. The older men are determined to orchestrate a tryst between the two teenagers, but they are soon distracted by a string of violent developments: the cold-blooded murder of the young girl's future mother-in-law and, even more disturbing, an order that comes down from the leadership of the underground movement for the men at the farm to assassinate a rogue resistance captain who has sought refuge there. The erotic games are put on hold—until the two dissolute intellectuals find a way to involve their pawns in the murderous plot.

“Danuta Borchardt . . . is faithful to the substance of the original and gives the reader a good, zesty flavor of Gombrowicz's inspired idiosyncrasy.”

**WITOLD GOMBROWICZ** (1904–1969) is the author of many novels and plays, including *Ferdydurke* and *Cosmos*, as well as the three-volume *Diaries*. 

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*Danuta Borchardt won the 2001 National Translation Award for her translation of Gombrowicz’s *Ferdydurke*  
*John Updike called Gombrowicz “one of the profoundest late moderns” and Milan Kundera describes him as “one of the great novelists of our century”*
BLACK CAT
A thrilling debut novel from a “formidable storyteller” whose short stories were acclaimed as “reminiscent of early Rick Moody or the short stories of Daniel Handler” (Publishers Weekly)

**MISCONCEPTION**

* A Novel
* Ryan Boudinot

“Misconception takes on the question of truth in storytelling, as well as matters of the heart, and the mysteries of coming into one’s own, all with a sensitivity and intelligence that is truly moving, and a sense of humor that, page after page, will warm your cockles. A gem of a first novel.”

—Charles Bock, author of Beautiful Children

Ryan Boudinot’s story collection *The Littlest Hitler* was an Amazon.com and *Publishers Weekly* “Book of the Year” choice, and established him as one of the most promising talents of a new generation of American writers. With *Misconception*, Boudinot has delivered a startlingly original debut novel—one hand a smart and provocative coming-of-age story, on the other a fresh and witty comment on the unreliability of memory and storytelling—that is sure to command attention.

Cedar Rivers is on a strange errand. A doctor sidelined into the strange world of the first dot-com boom, he has come to Albany, New York, in between business in Iceland and home in Silicon Valley, to meet a woman he hasn’t seen in twenty years. Then a Chuck Taylor–shod proto-Goth with chipped black nail polish, Kat is now a literary up-and-comer who has summoned him to Albany to vet her memoir—an account of the summer they were sweethearts. As if that weren’t enough, she’s written parts of it from his point of view. Through an intense weekend in a snowed-in motel room, Cedar and Kat relive their most painful memories: Before they had a chance at first love, Kat’s mother and her new fiancé dragged Kat off on a family sailing trip. Kat returned with a secret, one which—when she shared it with Cedar—set off a series of drastically miscalculated assumptions that dominoed into a moment of startling tragedy.

A tender, absurd, and heartbreaking novel about the unintended consequences of first love and bad judgment, *Misconception* slyly questions the way we narrate our memories and assign culpability. With a sharp eye for human foibles and a trenchant cleverness that dances off the page, Ryan Boudinot announces himself as a young writer who is here to stay.
Excerpt from
MISCONCEPTION

Here’s upstate New York, brutalized by a sadistic winter storm. Across the slippery parking lot of the Extended Stay hotel was a bar. From outside I recognized the muffled, pubic grunt of seventies rock. Inside, a gin and tonic was placed in front of me, capturing smeared bits of ESPN in the ice cubes. I waited for Kat. She had found me on the Internet and we’d arranged to meet in Albany. In her e-mail she’d said she was writing a book in which I played a significant role and she needed me to read it and sign some legal documents giving her permission to publish it.

Earlier that day I had enjoyed a mimosa in a geothermal hot tub in Reykjavik. The storm made me nervous about getting stuck here too long. I was happiest en route, with my laptop and a coffee in a sleeved paper cup, arranging ground transportation, stepping from gate to plane to gate. Inhaling jet fumes in the optimism of rental-car parking lots. Now I was paused in a city bled by politics and punished with ice.

Kat and I noticed each other almost simultaneously, recognized one another a moment later. She existed. Her dyed hair concealed secret ex-hairstyles. Her eyes looked punched-in with eyeliner. She locked on my gaze hard, then looked away. We closed the space between us, meeting at a table with a guttering candle.

“You came,” she said.

RYAN BOUDINOT’s work has appeared in Dave Eggers’s Best American Nonrequired Reading 2003 and 2005, McSweeney’s, BlackBook, and Nerve. He blogs about film on the Web site therumpus.net.

PRAISE FOR MISCONCEPTION:

“Ryan Boudinot will make you love characters even when they are being despicable and foolish, and he writes about relationships in a way that is perceptive, honest, and refreshing. But there is something more going on. Misconception is a book riven with insight, humor, and style. And it is among the finest debuts I have ever read.”—STEPHEN ELLIOTT, AUTHOR OF HAPPY BABY

“A comic symphony—a story with side-splitting action, treacherous wit, and vise-grip lyricism . . . Here, bleak is beautiful, and lucid, lovable characters jump into your arms. Misconception gives fresh voice to our most important American secrets.”—MARIA FLOOK, AUTHOR OF INVISIBLE EDEN AND LUX

“Ryan Boudinot’s tragic narrators, Cedar and Kat, deliver a rollicking tour of adolescence that pivots on a gasp. Misconception is as twisted as watching your own sperm swim under the microscope in biology class and as irresistible as a twenty-year secret about sex, death, and paternity.”—AIMEE LIU, AUTHOR OF FLASH HOUSE

PRAISE FOR THE LITTLEST HITLER:

“A must-read . . . Imagine the dry but daft humor of John Hodgman’s lithe essays crosscut with Stephen Leacock . . . Add a dash of Chuck Klosterman’s incisiveness . . . That’s where Boudinot’s weird science is heading. Only he’s better.”—PHILADELPHIA CITY PAPER
"It would be hard to find a more inventive, incisive examination of faith, in all its forms, than this extraordinary work." —The Independent

From the internationally best-selling author of *I’m Not Scared* comes a dizzying and compulsively readable novel set in a moribund town in industrial Italy, where a father and son contend with a hostile world and their own inner demons.

The economically depressed village of Varrano, where Cristiano Zena lives with his hard-drinking, out-of-work father, Rino, is a world away from the picturesque, light-drenched towns of travel-brochure Italy. When Rino and his rough-edged cronies Danilo and Quattro Formaggi come up with a plan to reverse all their fortunes, Cristiano wonders if maybe their lives are poised for deliverance after all. Perhaps the beautiful and aloof Fabiana will take notice of him, and perhaps he will no longer have to worry about child services coming to separate him from his dad. But the plan goes horribly awry. On a night of apocalyptic weather, each character will act in a way that will have irreversible consequences for themselves and others, and Cristiano will find his life changed forever, and not in the way he had hoped.

Gritty and relentless, *As God Commands* moves at breakneck speed, blending brutal violence, dark humor, and surprising tenderness. With clear-eyed affection, Niccolò Ammaniti introduces a cast of unforgettable characters trapped at the crossroads of hope and despair.
Excerpt from

**AS GOD COMMANDS**

From where he stood Cristiano could see a segment of the deserted parking lot, and the children's playground, with the merry-go-round, the swings glowing in the lamplight, and the lampposts themselves with their glass globes emanating milky spheres. No sign of Castardin's dog. And yet he must be very near. Or was all that barking just a recording? Then he saw, about a hundred feet away, a dark shape on the ground, half-covered in snow. From that distance it looked like an overcoat. Cristiano moved closer. The thing on the ground was moving. Only slightly. But it was moving.

And he understood.

The stupid beast had got himself tangled up in the long chain that was supposed to allow him to move around the perimeter of the building. Now and then he raised his head. *That’s why he’s barking so much.* The stupid mutt. Shooting him from there would be child’s play. Even if he didn’t kill him first shot, the dog wouldn’t be able to move, and he would certainly send him to his maker with the second. *He’s barking because he can’t move. I could set him free; then he would stop barking.*

No, he must kill him, because the truth was that his father didn’t give a damn whether the dog barked or not. His father hated Castardin, so the dog had to die. Period.

NICCOLÒ AMMANITI was born in Rome in 1966. He is the author of two other novels, *I’ll Steal You Away*, long listed for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, and *I’m Not Scared*, winner of the prestigious Italian Viareggio-Repaci Prize for Fiction.

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**PRAISE FOR AS GOD COMMANDS:**

“Ammaniti is a modern-day Dickens: he takes a ruthless snapshot of degradation, arousing horror, shock, and tears.”—LA REPUBBLICA (ITALY)

“Extraordinary . . . The characters are dissected with a sly sense of humor, compelling you to follow them wherever they go. Ammaniti sketches a cruel picture of adolescence and laments the Italian landscape where beauty and nature have lost out to business parks and megastores.”—NRC HANDELSBLAD (HOLLAND)

“It is impossible not to be gripped. . . . Ammaniti has produced a forceful portrait of contemporary Italy . . . his Italians are tough, status-obsessed, and never quaint. And yet for all the harshness of his world, warmth bubbles up between the cracks.”—FINANCIAL TIMES (UK)

“Ammaniti strikes a masterful balance between farce and tragedy.”

—DIE WELT (GERMANY)

“One of Italy’s brightest literary stars . . . [Niccolò Ammaniti’s fiction offers] an artful, interstitching of plots and cinematic, horror-dazed images.”—THE OBSERVER (UK)
“Enchanting—A meticulously crafted piece of gently comic satire that attests to the author’s pitch-perfect ear for character and mood, and her natural storytelling gifts.”—Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times

HULLABALOO IN THE GUAVA ORCHARD

A Novel

Kiran Desai

• Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard won the 1998 Betty Trask Award, a prize given to first-time novelists from the Commonwealth who are under thirty-five
• The Inheritance of Loss won the Man Booker Prize and the NBCC Award for Fiction, was selected as one of Publishers Weekly’s Best Books of the Year, one of the New York Times Book Review’s 100 Notable Books of the Year, and an ALA Notable Book of the Year
• The Inheritance of Loss was a finalist for the Orange Prize and long listed for the Dublin Impac Award
• The Inheritance of Loss and Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard were Book Sense selections

Also available:
The Inheritance of Loss
(978-0-8021-4281-8 • $14.00 • USCO)

“Delectable—with this sprightly first novel, Kiran Desai takes her place among the pack of gifted young Indian writers.”—The Wall Street Journal

Winner of the 2006 Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction for her second novel The Inheritance of Loss, Kiran Desai is one of the most talented writers of her generation. Now available for the first time as a Grove Press paperback, Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard—Desai's dazzling, much-heralded debut novel—is a wryly hilarious and poignant story of life, love, and family that simultaneously captures the vivid culture of the Indian subcontinent and the universal intricacies of human experience.

Sampath Chawla was born in a time of drought into a family not quite like other families, in a town not quite like other towns. After years of failure at school, failure at work, of spending his days dreaming in tea stalls, and singing to himself in the public gardens, it does not seem as if Sampath is going to amount to much. “But the world is round,” says his grandmother. “Wait and see! Even if it appears he is going downhill, he will come up on the other side. Yes, on top of the world. He is just taking the longer route.” No one believes her, until one day Sampath climbs a guava tree in search of peaceful contemplation and becomes unexpectedly famous as a holy man, sending the tiny town of Shahkot into turmoil. A syndicate of larcenous, alcoholic monkeys terrorize the pilgrims who cluster around Sampath’s tree, spies and ice-cream vendors and profiteers descend on the town, and none of Desai’s outrageous characters goes unaffected as events spin increasingly out of control.

A former Woolrich fellow at Columbia University, KIRAN DESAI was born in India and educated there, in England, and in the United States. Her writing has appeared in the New Yorker, Gourmet, and The New York Times Magazine, among others publications.
“With empathy and wit, Kallos weaves together the stories of the living and the dead, creating a world in which love trumps loss and faith can summon redemption. The result is a magical novel that even cynics will close with a smile.”—Michelle Green, People (3 1/2 out of 4 stars)

**SING THEM HOME**

*A Novel*

Stephanie Kallos

- *Sing Them Home* was an Indie Next List and MidWest Connections selection, and a Shelf Awareness Pick of the Year
- *Sing Them Home* was a PNBA and Heartland Bookseller best seller
- After sixteen printings, *Broken for You* has over 230,000 copies in print and has been published in ten countries

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“Fans of Ann Patchett and Haven Kimmel should dive onto the sofa one weekend with Stephanie Kallos’s wonderfully transportive second novel, *Sing Them Home*. . . . [A] keenly empathetic description of life in . . . Emlyn Springs, one of those all-too-rare small towns in literature, rich in personality but mercifully free of broad, condescending cliché. . . . Kallos patiently reveals the hurt and longing that’s pounding beneath the surface . . . [and] the ending may leave you feeling so wistful for these strange, sad people that you find yourself fantasizing about a trip to Nebraska.”

—Karen Valby, *Entertainment Weekly* (A-)

Greeted with unanimous critical praise, and reprinted within its first month of publication, *Sing Them Home* is the triumphant second novel by Stephanie Kallos, the author of the national best seller and *Today Show* Book Club selection, *Broken For You*. Now in paperback, Kallos’s rich, transporting story of three siblings who have lived in the shadow of unresolved grief since their mother’s disappearance when they were children, is well-positioned to become a book club favorite.

Everyone in Emlyn Springs knows the story of Hope Jones, the physician’s wife whose big dreams for their tiny town were lost along with her in the tornado of 1978. For Hope’s three young children, the stability of life with their preoccupied father, and with Viney, their mother’s spitfire best friend, is no match for Hope’s absence. When the Jones siblings—Larken, Gaelen, and Bonnie—are summoned home from their varied adult lives after their father’s death, each sibling is forced to revisit the childhood tragedy that has defined their lives.

With breathtaking lyricism, wisdom, and humor, Kallos explores the consequences of protecting those we love. *Sing Them Home* is a magnificent tapestry of lives connected and undone by tragedy, lives poised—unknownst to the characters themselves—for redemption.
PRAISE FOR
SING THEM HOME:

“Sing Them Home constantly surprises, changing voices, viewpoints, and tempos, mixing humor and pathos, and introducing a big cast of vividly portrayed characters, major and minor.”—DIANE WHITE, THE BOSTON GLOBE

“(Sing Them Home) is a book written for cold winter nights by the fire. . . . Kallos is working in a vast landscape here, both emotional and physical [and] she handles it all with grace, giving each character and plotline a satisfying finish, like chords resolving themselves.”

—SHAWNA SEED, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

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STEPHANIE KALLOS spent twenty years in the theater as an actress and teacher. She is the author of the best-selling, award-winning novel, Broken for You, which has been translated into ten languages.

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BLOOD RIVER
A Journey to Africa’s Broken Heart

Tim Butcher

“A remarkable, fascinating book by a courageous and perceptive writer. One of the most exciting books to emerge from Africa in recent years.”

—Alexander McCall Smith

Published to rave reviews in the United Kingdom and named a Richard & Judy Book Club selection—the only work of nonfiction on the 2008 list—Blood River is the harrowing and audacious story of Tim Butcher’s journey in the Congo and his retracing of legendary explorer H. M. Stanley’s famous 1874 expedition in which he mapped the Congo River.

When Daily Telegraph correspondent Tim Butcher was sent to Africa in 2000 he quickly became obsessed with the legendary Congo River and the idea of recreating Stanley’s journey along the three-thousand-mile waterway. Despite warnings that his plan was suicidal, Butcher set out for the Congo’s eastern border with just a backpack and a few thousand dollars hidden in his boots. Making his way in an assortment of vehicles, including a motorbike and a dugout canoe, helped along by a cast of characters from UN aid workers to a pygmy-rights advocate, he followed in the footsteps of the great Victorian adventurer.

An utterly absorbing narrative that chronicles Butcher’s forty-four-day journey along the Congo River, Blood River is an unforgettable story of exploration and survival.

“Superb . . . a masterpiece.”

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“This is a terrific book, an adventure story about a journey of great bravery in one of the world’s most dangerous places.”

—Fergal Keane, author of Season of Blood

Born in 1967, TIM BUTCHER has worked for the Daily Telegraph since 1990 as the paper’s chief war correspondent and Africa bureau chief. He is currently their Middle East correspondent, based in Jerusalem.
“Smart and gracefully written . . . It has been Lawton’s achievement to capture, in first-rate popular fiction, the courage and drama—and the widespread tomorrow-we-may-die exuberance—of that terrible and thrilling moment in twentieth-century history.”

SECOND VIOLIN
An Inspector Troy Thriller

John Lawton

One of today’s top historical espionage writers, considered “as good as Le Carré” (Chicago Tribune) and “a master” (Rocky Mountain News), John Lawton adds another spellbinding thriller to his Inspector Troy series with Second Violin.

The sixth installment in the series, Lawton’s new novel opens in 1938 with Europe on the brink of war. In London, Frederick Troy, newly promoted to the prestigious murder squad at Scotland Yard, is put in charge of rounding up a list of German and Italian “enemy aliens” that also includes Frederick’s brother, Rod, who learns upon receiving an internment letter that he was born in Austria despite having grown up in England. Hundreds of men are herded by train to a neglected camp on the Isle of Man. And as the bombs start falling on London, a murdered rabbi is found, then another, and another. Amid great war, murder is what matters.

Moving from the Nazi-infested alleys of prewar Vienna to the bombed-out streets of 1940 London, and featuring an extraordinary cast of characters, Lawton’s latest thriller is a suspenseful and intelligent novel, as good a spy story as it is an historical narrative.

“Weaving complex characters and plot threads from Kristallnacht to Fleet Street, [Lawton] builds a suspenseful story that long remains in the reader’s memory.”
—Library Journal

“An excellent WWII historical thriller . . . Fans will appreciate John Lawton’s brisk expanded Frederick Troy thriller that fascinatingly goes back a decade plus from the usual Freddie Troy police procedurals.”
—Midwest Book Review

JOHN LAWTON is the author of seven previous novels, including Black Out and A Little White Death. A former television producer in the United Kingdom, Lawton now spends most of his time writing and lives in a remote hilltop village in Derbyshire, England.
“Haunting and convincing . . . There's a fairy-tale quality to the prose—a sense of wondrous and terrible things happening apart from human volition.”
—Joyce Carol Oates, The New Yorker

ZABELLE
A Novel
Nancy Kricorian

“[Kricorian] poignantly renders generational differences, the pull of America, the slow fading of the old culture, the prejudices encountered, and hardships overcome.”
—San Francisco Chronicle

Zabelle begins in a suburb of Boston with the quiet death of Zabelle Chahasbanian, an elderly widow and grandmother whose history remains vastly unknown to her family. But as the story shifts back in time to Zabelle's childhood in the waning days of Ottoman Turkey, where she survives the 1915 Armenian genocide and near starvation in the Syrian desert, an unforgettable character begins to emerge. Zabelle's journey encompasses years in an Istanbul orphanage, a fortuitous adoption by a rich Armenian family, and an arranged marriage to an Armenian grocer who brings her to America where the often comic interactions and battles she wages are forever colored by shadows from the long-lost world of her past.

“Kricorian is able to transform oral history into her own distinctive, accomplished prose. . . . Zabelle, like [Toni] Morrison's best work, is a lovely and artful piece.”
—Time Out New York

NANCY KRICORIAN was raised in Watertown, Massachusetts. A graduate of Dartmouth College and Columbia University, she is an award-winning poet who lives in New York City.

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THE PIANO TEACHER
A Novel
Elfriede Jelinek
Translated from the German by Joachim Neugroschel

The most popular work from provocative Austrian Nobel laureate Elfriede Jelinek, The Piano Teacher is a searing portrait of a woman bound between a repressive society and her darkest desires. Erika Kohut is a piano teacher at the prestigious and formal Vienna Conservatory, who still lives with her domineering and possessive mother. Her life appears boring, but Erika, a quiet thirty-eight-year-old, secretly visits Turkish peep shows at night and watched sadomasochistic films. Meanwhile, a handsome, self-absorbed, seventeen-year-old student has become enamored with Erika and sets out to seduce her. She resists him at first but then the dark passions roiling under the piano teacher's subdued exterior explode in a release of perversity, violence, and degradation.

“Extraordinary linguistic zeal . . . [Jelinek’s] musical flow of voices and countervoices in novels and plays . . . reveal the absurdity of society’s clichés and their subjugating power.”
—Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Nobel Prize address, 2004

“The language is simple yet full of imaginative, often darkly funny metaphors; the view of the world original.”
—The New York Times

ELFRIEDE JELINEK grew up in Vienna, where she attended the Vienna Conservatory of Music. She is also the author of Wonderful, Wonderful Times; Lust; and Women as Lovers.
Now in paperback, Jim Harrison’s riotous and moving cross-country novel, *The English Major*, has received tremendous acclaim for its vivid characters, wry humor, and earthy insights. Critics have raved that “The English Major is to midlife crisis what *The Catcher in the Rye* is to adolescence” (*Los Angeles Times*).

“It used to be Cliff and Vivian and now it isn’t.” With these words, Jim Harrison begins a riotous, moving novel that sends a sixty-something man, divorced and robbed of his farm by a late-blooming real estate shark of an ex-wife, on a road trip across America, armed with a childhood puzzle of the the United States and a mission to rename all the states and state birds, the latter of which have been unjustly saddled with white men’s banal monikers up until now. Cliff’s adventures take him through a whirlwind affair with a former student from his high-school-teacher days twenty-some years before, to a “snake farm” in Arizona owned by an old classmate, and to the high-octane existence of his son, a big-time movie producer who has just bought an apartment over the Presidio in San Francisco.

*The English Major* is the map of a man’s journey into, and out of, himself, and it is vintage Harrison—reflective, big-picture American, and replete with wicked wit.
PRAISE FOR
THE ENGLISH MAJOR:

“[Harrison’s] sentences . . . fuse on the page with a power and blunt beauty. . . . The English Major . . . is tragedy recast as comedy. . . . Harrison creates delicious comic tension.”
—JENNIFER EGAN, THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

“Harrison’s language seems to come straight from America’s center of gravity, the core of the country where people still live by a code and think for themselves. . . . After twenty-five books Harrison is . . . closing in on the status of a national treasure.”
—ANTHONY BRANDT, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE

“Jim Harrison is larger than life, a true legend. . . . No other author has so inspired, amused or comforted me.”
—KATHLEEN JOHNSON, THE KANSAS CITY STAR

“[The English Major] is also a deeply serious novel, and a satisfying one.”
—ANTHONY GIARDINA, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“A fine book . . . All the observations, the asides, the wisecracks . . . coalesce to produce a fascinating tapestry of life in contemporary America as seen by an Aging White Male with a sharp eye and a devilishly funny (and bawdy and irreverent) sense of humor.”
—JOHN GREENYA, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

“Harrison spins the common chaff of a road trip into gold. . . . After a long and idiosyncratic literary career, Harrison the storyteller is still at the top of his game.”
—TIM MCNULTY, THE SEATTLE TIMES

“An actual road trip with Jim Harrison would probably mimic this book: fun, angst, high times, with an admixture of erudite if often curmudgeonly observations on literature, history, sex, society, and life itself. . . . This is a master writer who has some important things to say about life and how to live it.”
—RON ANTONUCCI, THE PLAIN DEALER (CLEVELAND)

“Harrison’s ninth and funniest novel. . . . The English Major is the most recent installment in what has become a prodigious achievement in American letters.”
—CHARLES W. BRICE, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

JIM HARRISON is the author of over twenty-five books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and winner of a Guggenheim fellowship, he has had work published in twenty-five languages.

“A wistfully comic novel . . . Harrison has created a character of such appeal and self-deprecating wisdom that even the more fantastical episodes—a nubile young woman cavorting in the nude for his pleasure—acquire a charmingly philosophical air.”—THE NEW YORKER

“A rollicking page-turner, full of Harrison’s biting humor and set against a rugged and beautiful landscape.”—ASHLEY SIMPSON SHIERES, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
In *Old World, New World*, recently published to wide acclaim in hardcover, Kathleen Burk sets out to tell the whole story of America and Great Britain for the first time. Burk is a fourth-generation Californian and a distinguished professor of history in London, and in this book she draws on her unrivaled knowledge of both countries to explore the totality of the relationship—the politics, economics, culture, and society—beginning with the first British settlement in the United States, at Jamestown, and continuing through our current alliance in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The result is a lively and unprecedented book that is being hailed by critics and historians on both sides of the Atlantic as a landmark work. At once sweeping in scope and meticulous in detail, *Old World, New World* is a vivid, absorbing, and surprising story of one of the longest and most fascinating international relationships in modern history.

“This stunning and important work is destined to become the benchmark study of this topic for many years to come.”
—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Exemplary historical writing . . . An ambitious, fittingly sized effort to distill the complex, contentious relations between Mother England and her unruly offspring in the New World.”
—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

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—The Spectator

“Ambitious and comprehensive . . . There is nothing else like it.”
—Daniel Walker Howe, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *What Hath God Wrought*

Born in California and educated at Berkeley and Oxford, KATHLEEN BURK is professor of modern and contemporary history at University College London. She lives near Oxford, England.
“The finest of these stories achieve luminous moments, moments with potential to change how the reader sees and thinks. A reader who pays attention not only wants to turn pages but to prolong them.”
—The New York Times Book Review

In these ten exquisite stories, first published by Atlantic Monthly Press in 1987 and now reissued as a Grove Press paperback, Richard Ford mines literary gold from the wind-scrubbed landscape of the American West—and from the guarded hopes and gnawing loneliness of the people who live there: a refugee from justice driving across Wyoming with his daughter and an unhappy girlfriend in a stolen, cranberry-colored Mercedes; a boy watching his family dissolve in a night of tragicomic violence; and two men and a woman swapping hard-luck stories in a frontier bar as they try to sweeten their luck. Rock Springs is a masterpiece of taut narration, cleanly chiseled prose, and empathy so generous that it feels like a kind of grace.

“These stories elevate Richard Ford to the small group of great living American storytellers. With great strength and tragic grace, Richard Ford will shoot an arrow through your heart.”
—The Denver Post

“Richard Ford is an enormously versatile writer, a perfect ventriloquist who achieves his end in voices that vary from swamp-deep to mirror-flat. . . . Rock Springs is cause for celebration.”
—The Village Voice Literary Supplement

RICHARD FORD is the author of six novels and three collections of stories. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award for Independence Day, the first book to win both prizes. In 2001, he received the PEN/Malamud Award for excellence in short fiction.
OCTOBER

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At once a gripping narrative and a moving testament to the courage and tenacity of ordinary soldiers who are thrust into desperate circumstances, Crossing the Rhine moves at a fast pace, delivers a fresh interpretation of the past, and forces us to ask ourselves just what it takes—in blood spilled, in lives lost—to win in war.

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Currently senior lecturer at the department of war studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, LLOYD CLARK is one of England’s leading military historians. He is a frequent guide to battlefields on four continents.
“Excellent . . . admirably honest [and] staggeringly researched . . . It is unlikely that after Anderson’s exhaustive contribution, much more will be learned about Guevara.”

—Los Angeles Times

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OBSCENE: A PORTRAIT OF BARNEY ROSET & GROVE PRESS

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-Richard Corliss
TIME MAGAZINE

OBSCENE is the definitive film biography of Barney Rosset, the influential publisher of Grove Press and the Evergreen Review. He acquired the then fledgling publishing house in 1951 and soon embarked on a tumultuous career of publishing and political engagement that continues to inspire today's defenders of free expression. Not only was he the first American publisher of acclaimed authors Samuel Beckett, Kenzaburo Oe, Tom Stoppard, Che Guevara, and Malcolm X, but he also battled the government in the highest courts to overrule the obscenity ban on groundbreaking works of fiction such as Lady Chatterley’s Lover, Tropic of Cancer, and Naked Lunch. But the same unyielding and reckless energy Rosset used to publish works such as Allen Ginsberg’s Howl in Evergreen Review and distribute films like I Am Curious (Yellow), also brought him perilously close to destruction. Obscene includes never-before-seen footage, and music by Bob Dylan, The Doors, Warren Zevon, Jim Carroll, X, and Patti Smith.

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Venice for Lovers

Louis Begley and Anka Muhlstein

By turns humorous, nostalgic, and spellbinding, Venice for Lovers is a memorable collaboration by two fine stylists who have fashioned their own personal homages to Venice, one with a novella, the other with a personal essay. In each, Louis Begley and Anka Muhlstein offer a view of Venice that goes beyond the canals and cobblestones to provide a very private view of a place that will forever inspire dreams of love and passion.

Every year for all the thirty they have been married, Begley and Muhlstein have escaped to Venice to write. In her contribution to the book, Muhlstein charmingly describes how she and her husband dine at the same restaurant every night for years on end, and how becoming friends with restaurateurs has been an unsurpassed means of getting to know the city and its inhabitants, far from the tourists in San Marco Square. In his short novella, Begley writes a story of falling in love with—and in—Venice. His twenty-year-old protagonist, enamored with an older, far worldlier woman of twenty-seven, is lured by her to the City of Water, only to be unceremoniously dumped and left to fend for himself after a brief rendezvous. But he discovers a lasting love for Venice itself—not an uncommon romance, as Begley’s brilliant literary essay on the city’s place within world literature demonstrates: Henry James, Marcel Proust, and Thomas Mann were all illustrious predecessors.

“A love letter to an ancient Italian city by the sea . . . Both writers are exemplars of the windowpane school of prose: We are able to visualize their subjects as soon as we take in their sentences.”

—Mindy Aloff, The Washington Post

Born in Poland in 1933, LOUIS BEGLEY is the author of many novels, including Wartime Lies, About Schmidt, and Shipwreck. His wife of thirty years, biographer ANKA MUHLSTEIN, is the author of La Salle: Explorer of the North American Frontier and, most recently, A Taste for Freedom: the Life of Astolphe de Custine.
“Reveal[s] two giants-to-be in the development stages of their craft. . . . With its evocative rendition of now-vanished saloons, bygone diners, and other landmarks of yesteryear, Burroughs and Kerouac may have inadvertently done for 1944 Greenwich Village what Joyce did for 1904 Dublin.”
—George Kimball, The Phoenix (Boston)

AND THE HIPPOS WERE BOILED IN THEIR TANKS

A Novel

Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs
Edited by James Grauerholz

And the Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks, the legendary collaboration between William S. Burroughs and Jack Kerouac, was first published in 2008 in hardcover. It met with good reviews and strong sales, going into three printings. Evocative of hard-boiled crime fiction from the 1940s, the novel tells the story of a shocking murder at the dawn of the Beat Generation.

On August 14, 1944, Lucien Carr, a friend of Burroughs’s from St. Louis, stabbed a man named David Kammerer and threw his body into the Hudson River. For eight years, Kammerer had fawned over the younger Carr, making romantic advances that, for a time, it seemed he didn’t mind. But on that night, either Carr had had enough or he was forced to defend himself. The next day, his clothes stained with blood, he went to his friends Bill Burroughs and Jack Kerouac for help. In doing so, he involved them in the crime. A few months later, they were caught up in the events in a different way.

Something about the murder captivated the fledgling Beats, especially Kerouac and Burroughs, who decided to collaborate on a novel about the events of the previous summer. At the time, the authors were still unknown, yet to write anything of note. Alternating chapters, they pieced together a narrative of drugs and obsession, violence and bohemian New York during World War II. Named after an absurd line from a radio bulletin about a circus fire, the manuscript was submitted to publishing houses but it was rejected—the authors were unknown after all—and confined to a filing cabinet for decades.

Drawing scenes and characters from their own lives, Burroughs and Kerouac preserved a unique moment in American literary history. And the Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks is a fascinating window into the early days of the Beat movement. But it is also an engaging novel. It is a fast-paced read that shows the authors’ developing styles, and will be read for years to come.
PRAISE FOR
AND THE HIPPOS WERE BOILED IN THEIR TANKS:

“A combination hard-boiled murder mystery and existentialist lament on the meaninglessness of modern life—think Dashiell Hammett meets Albert Camus... an essential document of the Beat Generation—filled with precise details and precisely recorded dialogue from a place and period, pre-Atomic Age America, now almost irretrievably lost to us. But Hippos is more than just a debunking of the standard histories of the period. It contains the first clear expression of the core Beat vision of America as insane and morally corrupt—a vision as apt and accurate today as it was when these outcasts and marginal outlaws began to emerge from their societal exile some sixty years ago.”
—GERALD NICOSIA, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“[A] persuasive portrait of la vie bohème in all its aimlessness and squalor.”
—AMANDA HELLER, THE BOSTON GLOBE

“Illuminates the links between Sam Spade and Sal Paradise, noir nihilism and Beat exuberance.”—TIMOTHY HODLER, DETAILS

“Spellbinding... with spot-on dialogue and descriptions of seedy bars and jam-packed apartments, the authors serve up a fascinating look at a time of late night parties, casual sex and a devil-may-care approach to life.”
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“A fascinating snapshot from a lost era. If you’re looking for the link between Hemingway’s impotent postwar drifters in The Sun Also Rises, the barflies and Tralalas of Last Exit to Brooklyn and the zonked-out kids of Bret Easton Ellis’s Less Than Zero, look no further.”
—JOHN WALSH, THE INDEPENDENT (UK)

“Eccentric, engaging, and readable... What makes the novel particularly fascinating, however, is its ability to provide a window into the early autobiographical styles of both Burroughs and Kerouac as emerging, unpublished writers.”
—MARCUS NISKI, THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

One of the twentieth century’s most influential writers, WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS (1914–1997) is the author of numerous books, including Naked Lunch, Nova Express, The Ticket That Exploded, The Soft Machine, and The Wild Boys. He was a member of the Academy of Arts and Letters.

JACK KEROUAC (1922–1969) was one of his era’s most inventive writers and is considered the father of the Beat Generation. He is the author of On the Road, The Dharma Bums, The Subterraneans, and many other novels.

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November 1950, the Korean Peninsula: After General MacArthur ignores Mao’s warnings and pushes his UN forces deep into North Korea, his ten thousand First Division marines find themselves surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered by one hundred thousand Chinese soldiers near the Chosin Reservoir. Their only chance for survival is to fight their way south through the Toktong Pass, a narrow gorge in the Nangnim Mountains. This choke point will need to be held open at all costs.

The mission is handed to Captain William Barber and the 236 men of Fox Company, a courageous but undermanned unit of the Seventh Marine Regiment. Barber and his men are ordered to climb seven miles of frozen terrain to a rocky promontory overlooking the pass, where they will endure four days and five nights of nearly continuous Chinese attempts to take Fox Hill. Amid the relentless violence, three-quarters of Fox’s marines are killed, wounded, or captured. Just when it looks like the outfit will be overrun, Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Davis, a fearless marine officer who is fighting south from the Chosin, volunteers to lead a daring mission that will seek to cut a hole in the Chinese lines and relieve the men of Fox Company.

The Last Stand of Fox Company is a fast-paced and gripping account of heroism and self-sacrifice in the face of impossible odds. The authors have conducted dozens of first-hand interviews with the battle’s survivors, and they narrate the story with the immediacy of classic accounts of a single battle like Guadalcanal Diary, Pork Chop Hill, and Black Hawk Down.

“Gut-clenching and meticulously detailed . . . Puts you in the throes of battle . . . Using the journals, letters and memories of Fox Hill survivors, Drury and Clavin tell a story so realistic that many readers will have to stop and take deep breaths as the story unfolds. The authors’ ability to make individual marines come to life makes their heroics and sacrifices all the more compelling.”

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“The authors tell a terrific story thrillingly, occasionally borrowing the rough colloquial language of the marines. Maps are excellent. The book is, like many good military narratives, in large part a series of individual stories. This brings some humanity to the savagery and helps the reader comprehend the bewildering, swiftly changing combat.”
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—NATHANIEL FICK, NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF ONE BULLET AWAY

A contributing editor and foreign correspondent for Men’s Health magazine, BOB DRURY has reported from numerous war zones. His last solo book, The Rescue Season, was made into a documentary for the History Channel. TOM CLAVIN is the author of eight books, including Dark Noon: The Final Voyage of the Fishing Boat Pelican.

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SHANI MOOTOO was born in Ireland and grew up in Trinidad. She is the author of the story collection, *Out on Main Street*, and the novel, *He Drown She in the Sea*.

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RACHEL SHERMAN has an MFA in fiction from Columbia University. Her short stories have appeared in McSweeney’s, Open City, Fence, New York Tyrant, and n+1, among other publications.
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