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I CHEERFULLY REFUSE
BY LEIF ENGER

A career defining tour-de-force from New York Times bestselling, award-winning and “formidably gifted” (Chicago Tribune) storyteller Leif Enger

A storyteller “of great humanity and huge heart” (Minneapolis Star Tribune), Leif Enger debuted with Peace Like a River, which sold over a million copies and was published in sixteen languages. His finest novel since, I CHEERFULLY REFUSE shares the literary quality of his previous work while promising to broaden his international audience.

Set in a not-too-distant America, I CHEERFULLY REFUSE is the tale of a bereaved musician setting sail across a sentient Lake Superior in search of his departed, deeply beloved, bibliophile wife. Rainy, an endearing bear of an Orphean narrator, seeks refuge in the harbors, fogs, and remote islands of the inland sea. Encountering lunatic storms and rising corpses from the warming depths, Rainy finds on land an illiterate and increasingly desperate people, a malignant billionaire ruling class, crumbled infrastructure, and a lawless society. Amidst the Switzen challenges of life at sea and no safe landings, Rainy is lifted by the beauty around him, surprising humor, generous strangers, and an unexpected companion in a young girl who comes aboard. And as his innate guileless nature begins to make an inadvertent rebel of him, Rainy’s private quest for the love of his life grows into something wider and wilder, sweeping up friends and foes alike in his strengthening wake.

I CHEERFULLY REFUSE epitomizes the “musical, sometimes magical and deeply satisfying kind of storytelling” (Los Angeles Times) for which Leif Enger is cherished. A rollicking narrative in the most evocative of settings, this latest novel is a symphony against despair and a rallying cry for the future.

PRAISE FOR LEIF ENGER:

“Deserves to be mentioned alongside the likes of Richard Russo and Thomas McGuane.” —New York Times Book Review

“Enger is a masterful storyteller.” —Chicago Tribune

ALSO AVAILABLE

“[Virgil Wander] brings out the charm and downright strangeness of the defiantly normal.” —Wall Street Journal

Leif Enger grew up in Osakis, Minnesota, and worked as a reporter for Minnesota Public Radio before writing his bestselling debut novel Peace Like a River, which won the Booksense Award for Fiction and was named one of the Year’s Best Books by Time Magazine and the Los Angeles Times. His second novel, So Brave, Young, and Handsome, was also a national bestseller. It was a Midwest Booksellers Honor Book and won the High Plains Book Award for Fiction. His third novel, Virgil Wander, was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and was named a best book of the year by Amazon, Library Journal, Bookpage, and Chicago Public Library. He lives with his wife in Duluth, MN.
ANDREW SMITH’s first book, *Moondust*, was a #1 UK and international bestseller, nominated for two British Book Awards (including Read of the Year), and cited by the *Times* as one of its “100 Best Books of the Decade.” His follow-up *Totally Wired*—centered on the late 1990s dot-com bubble and its tumultuous crash—was published to rave reviews, hailed as “effervescent and vivid . . . a book whose time has come” (*Sunday Times*). Smith’s latest, *DEATH IN THE STACK*, is a mesmerizing, up-to-the-minute account of the world of coders, as experienced through his own attempts to become one.

Throughout history, technological revolutions have been driven by the invention of machines. But today, the power of the tech transforming our world lies in an intangible and impenetrable cosmos of software: algorithmic code. So symbiotic has our relationship with this code become that we barely notice it anymore. We can’t see it, are not even sure how to think about it, and yet we do almost nothing that doesn’t depend on it. In a world increasingly governed by technologies that so few can comprehend, who controls the future?

*DEATH IN THE STACK* follows Andrew Smith on his immersive trip into the world of coding, taking us behind the scenes into the lives—and minds—of the new frontierspeople of the 21st century: the men and women encoding society. In writing the book, he passes through the stories of logic, machine-learning, and early computing, from George Boole to Ada Lovelace to Alan Turing, and up to the present moment. Smith embarks on a quest to understand this sect in what he believes to be the only way possible: by learning to code himself. Along the way, he visits a global coding conference in Ohio, where he meets the creator of the Python programming language; and he takes part in a 24-hour “hackathon” in Silicon Valley, a Darwinian race to see who can build the best app overnight. At the start of his odyssey he travels to Magdeburg, Germany to have his brain scanned by a team of scientists studying the effects of coding on the human brain and will share the results of the final comparison scan. *DEATH IN THE STACK* delivers a portrait of code as both a vivid culture and an impending threat. By turns revelatory, unsettling, and joyously funny, *DEATH IN THE STACK* is an essential book for our times, of vital interest to anyone hoping to participate in the future—defining technological debates to come.

**PRAISE FOR ANDREW SMITH:**

“A brilliant exploration of madness and genius in the early days of the web. Fascinatingly weird . . . terrific.”
—*Guardian* on *Totally Wired*

“A rich mix of cultural history, reportage and personal reflection.” —*Evening Standard* on *Moondust*

“Highly entertaining . . . [Smith’s] superb book is a fitting tribute to a unique band of 20th-century heroes.”
—*GQ* on *Moondust*

ANDREW SMITH has worked as a critic and feature writer for the *Sunday Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, and *The Face*, and has penned documentaries for the BBC. He is the author of the internationally bestselling book *Moondust*, about the nine remaining men who walked on the moon between 1969 and 1972; and *Totally Wired*. He was raised in the UK and currently lives in California.
Like every American teenager, Kashmira wants nothing more than to be wanted. She might not hate the face she sees in the mirror, but it never seems to be enough to fit in at her suburban Connecticut high school. But maybe it can be, after an old friend introduces her to the wonders of Evolvoir, a personalized beauty product that mimics social media filters, layering a “second face” over your real one and ensuring that your features are exactly what is in vogue.

At Evolvoir’s corporate offices in New York, Kashmira’s twenty-something brother Nikhil begins what he’s sure is another cookie-cutter start-up job. Already disillusioned with the tech world, Nikhil’s instinct is to rebel against his new employer’s colonialist beauty standards and create radical change from the inside. He wants to work somewhere that values faces like his — like his mother’s, like his sister’s — even if he must take matters into his own hands to do so.

But as Nikhil’s efforts successfully expand Evolvoir’s customer base, reports of medical distress in some of the product’s users begin to surface. And when Kashmira is hospitalized, undiagnosable inflammation consuming her body, Nikhil uncovers the vicious truth about Evolvoir’s proprietary technology and must decide where his loyalty lies.

Both suspenseful and full of heart, RAVISHING is Gold Diggers meets Uncanny Valley, with a touch of The Other Black Girl. Through Kashmira and Nikhil’s stories, debut novelist ESHANI SURYA deftly excavates the experience of coming-of-age in white spaces. And with its unflinching look at living with chronic illness, RAVISHING asks how much quiet suffering we’ll endure in exchange for beauty, for acceptance, for love.

ESHANI SURYA is a writer living in Philadelphia interested in what a body encapsulates and how it can be defined. She holds an MFA from the University of Arizona, and is a 2022 Asian Women Writer’s Workshop mentee, a 2022 Kenyon Review Writer’s Workshop scholarship recipient, and a 2021 Mae Fellowship recipient. RAVISHING is her first novel.
From the outside, Oliver Radclyffe spent four decades living an immensely privileged, beautifully composed life. As the daughter of two well-to-do British parents and the wife of a handsome, successful man from an equally privileged family, Oliver played the parts expected of him. He checked off every box—marriage, children (four), a white-picket fence surrounding a stately home in Connecticut, and a golden retriever named Biscuit.

But beneath the shiny veneer, Oliver was desperately trying to stay afloat as he struggled to maintain a facade of normalcy—his hair was falling out in clumps, he couldn’t eat, and his mood swings often brought him to tears. And then, on an otherwise unremarkable afternoon in September, Oliver Radclyffe woke up and realized the life of a trapped housewife was not one he was ever meant to live. In fact, Oliver had spent his entire life denying the deepest, truest parts of himself. In the wake of this realization, he began the challenging, messy journey toward self-acceptance and living a truer life, knowing he risked the life he’d built to do so.

That journey was fraught, as Oliver navigated leaving a marriage and reintroducing himself to his children. And despite the challenges he faced, Oliver realized there was no way for him to go back to the beautiful lie of his previous life. Not if he wanted to survive.

Frighten the Horses is a trans man’s coming of age story, about a housewife who comes out as a lesbian and tentatively, at first, steps into the world of queerness. With growing courage and the support of his newfound community, Oliver is finally able to face the question of his gender identity and become the man he is supposed to be. The story of a flawed, fascinating, gorgeously queer man, Frighten the Horses introduces Oliver Radclyffe as a witty, arresting, unforgettable voice.

Oliver Radclyffe is part of the new wave of transgender writers unafraid to address the complex nuances of transition, examining the places where gender identity, sexual orientation, feminist allegiance, social class, and family history overlap. His work has appeared in The New York Times and Electric Literature, and he recently published Adult Human Male, a monograph with Unbound Edition Press on the trans experience under the cisgender gaze. He currently lives on the Connecticut coast, where he is raising his four children.
From the Booker-shortlisted author of Umbrella, a brilliant portrait of motherhood, sublimated desire, and the reverberations of the Cold War in a novel that investigates and reimagines the life of the author’s mother.

**WILL SELF** is one of the most inimitable contemporary writers in the English language, dubbed “the most daring and delightful novelist of his generation” (Guardian). His work has been shortlisted for awards including the Booker Prize and the Whitbread Award for Novel of the Year, and selected for best of the year lists, including those of the Times, Guardian, Independent and Financial Times. He also earns rapturous reviews, with his last novel, Phone, hailed as “one of the most significant literary works of our century” (New Statesman). Following a blistering personal account of addiction in his memoir Will, Self turns his forensic eye to the life of his own equally troubled mother, Elaine, in this brilliantly conceived new novel.

Standing by the mailbox outside 1100 Hemlock Street in Ithaca, New York, Elaine thinks of her child and husband, an Ivy League academic and former Communist Party member, inside her house and wonders: is this . . . it? As she begins to push back against the strictures of her life in 1950s America, she undertakes a disastrous affair that ends her marriage and upends her life.

Based on the intimate diaries Self’s mother kept for over forty years, **ELAINE** is a writer’s attempt to reach the almost unimaginable realm of a parent’s interior life prior to his own existence. Perhaps the first work of auto-oedipal fiction, **ELAINE** shows Will Self working in an exciting new dimension, utilizing his stylistic talents to tremendous effect.

**PRAISE FOR WILL SELF:**

“Will Self may not be the last modernist at work but at the moment he’s the most fascinating of the tradition’s torch bearers.” —**New York**

“Self often enough writes with such vividness it’s as if he is the first person to see anything at all.” —**New York Times**

“A writer whose formidable intellect is mercilessly targeted on the limits of the cerebral as a means of understanding. Yes, he makes you think, but he also insists that you feel.” —**Guardian**

“Self’s prose demands real attention, but is never less than sharp, biting and incisive.” —**Independent**

“Like the work of the great high modernists from the 1920s, like Joyce, Woolf and Eliot, there is a kind of chaotic beauty in Self’s unrestricted writing . . . You’ll be simultaneously entertained, mesmerized, intellectually stimulated, baffled—and laugh your ass off.” —**NPR**

“Self has indeed been a goat among the sheep of contemporary English fiction, a puckish trickster self-consciously at odds with its middle-class politeness . . . Writers, too, as Self so wonderfully proves, can awaken the half-dead and reanimate that which has been sunk in oblivion.” —**New York Review of Books**

**WILL SELF** is the author of many novels and books of nonfiction, including *Great Apes: How the Dead Live*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel of the Year; *The Butt*, winner of the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction; *Umbrella*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize; *Shark: Phone*; the memoir *Will* and the essay collection *Why Read*. He lives in South London.
Jackie Stinson’s best friend is dead, and everyone knows who killed her.

Jackie wants to be many things, but a martyr has never been one of them. She is an ex-emotional eater and mother of four, who has finally lost the weight she long yearned to be free of. In her new, sharp-edged body, she goes by Jacqueline. But leaving her old self behind proves harder than she ever imagined. And while she believes she should be happier, misery still chases her, and motherhood threatens to subsume what little is left of her.

Her only salve is her best friend Theresa, whose seemingly perfect life she desperately covets. Since they met in the maternity ward 15 years earlier, the two have survived the trials of motherhood side by side—Theresa with her quiet, cherubic daughter, and Jacqueline with her rambunctious, unruly boys. Their bond is tight, but it is not enough to keep Jacqueline, finally moving through the world in the body she has always wanted, from stealing a bit of Theresa’s perfect life.

**HOT SPRINGS DRIVE** is a dark, heart-pounding exploration of one woman’s deepest desires, and how the consequences of betrayal can ripple outward beyond the initial strike point. In her third, fiercest, and now hotly anticipated novel, acclaimed literary voice **LINDSAY HUNTER** deftly peels back the fragile veneer of two suburban families and the secrets roiling between them.

FROM THE 3 STARRED PREPUB REVIEWS:

“Lyrical.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Addictive.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Ruthless.” —*Library Journal*

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR **HOT SPRINGS DRIVE**:

“Lindsay Hunter at her finest . . . Gritty and propulsive, a true page-turner; I couldn’t put this book down.” —Kristen Arnett, author of *With Teeth* and *Mostly Dead Things*

“Poignant, luscious, brutal, gorgeous, heartbreaking, and totally unique—this stunning book destroyed me, and I didn’t want it to end.” —Andrea Bartz, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Spare Room*

“A bold, unflinching exploration of female friendship, motherhood, and desire, with an unforgettable anti-heroine as its bloody, beating heart.” —Kirstin Chen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Counterfeit*

“This is truly brilliant, sexy, and sly storytelling.” —Deesha Philyaw, author of *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*

**LINDSAY HUNTER** is the author of two story collections and two novels. Her second collection, *Don’t Kiss Me*, was named one of Amazon’s 10 Best Books of the Year: Short Stories. Her latest novel, *Eat Only When You’re Hungry*, was a finalist for the 2017 *Chicago Review of Books* Fiction Award and a 2017 NPR Great Read. She lives in Chicago.
THE DEVIL’S BEST TRICK
BY RANDALL SULLIVAN

Equal parts illuminating, riveting, and unnerving, a brilliantly researched narrative investigation of how humankind has identified and confronted evil, from acclaimed journalist Randall Sullivan

How we explain the nature of evil—and the darkest parts of ourselves—has preoccupied humans throughout history. A sweeping and comprehensive search across the centuries for the origins of belief in a Satanic figure, THE DEVIL’S BEST TRICK is a keen investigation into the inescapable reality of evil and the myriad ways we attempt to understand it. Part true crime story, part historical account, part religious and literary analysis, it is also a personal and profound rumination on crime, violence, and the darkness in all of us.

In THE DEVIL’S BEST TRICK, Randall Sullivan travels to Catemaco, Mexico, to participate in the “Hour of the Witches”—an annual ceremony in which hundreds of people congregate in the jungle south of Veracruz to negotiate terms with El Diablo. He takes us through the most famous and best-documented exorcism in American history, which lasted four months. And, woven throughout, he details the shocking story of a small town in Texas that, one summer in 1988, unraveled into paranoia and panic after a seventeen-year-old boy was found hanging from the branch of a horse apple tree and rumors about Satanic worship and cults spread throughout the wider community.

Sullivan also brilliantly melds historical, religious, and cultural conceptions of evil: from the Book of Job to the New Testament to the witch hunts in Europe in the 15th through 17th centuries, through to the “Satanic Panic” of the 1980s to the Stanford Prison Experiment, to writings by John Milton, William Blake, Oscar Wilde, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, and many more, among them Charles Baudelaire, from whom the title comes. He speaks with scholars, priests, reporters, and the central surviving characters connected to the Texas case.

Well-told, nimble, and expertly researched, THE DEVIL’S BEST TRICK examines the various conceptions of what it means to sin, to repent, and to forgive. Randall Sullivan, whose reportage and narrative skill has been called “extraordinary” and “enthralling” by Rolling Stone, takes on a bold task in this book—essentially crafting, from over a decade of research, a biography of the Devil.

PRAISE FOR RANDALL SULLIVAN:

“Intensive, engaging investigative journalism.” —Library Journal on Dead Wrong

“Sullivan has done what every aspiring true-crime writer hopes to do: He has crossed the line from titillation into cultural history.” —Los Angeles Times on The Price of Experience

ALSO AVAILABLE

RANDALL SULLIVAN was a contributing editor to Rolling Stone for over twenty years. He is also the author of The Miracle Detective, which combined history and reportage on miraculous phenomena, as well as The Price of Experience, Labyrinth, Untouchable, The Curse of Oak Island, Dead Wrong, and Graveyard of the Pacific. His work has been published in, among many other places, Esquire, Outside, Men’s Journal, the Washington Post, and the Guardian. He lives in Oregon.

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Manuscript available / 336 pages
Joni Ackerman’s decision to raise children came with a steep cost. Twenty-five years ago, she was a pioneering filmmaker, one of the few women to break into the all-male club of Hollywood feature film directors. But she and her husband Paul had always wanted a family, and his ascending career at a premier television network provided a safety net. They have recently transplanted to Brooklyn, so that Paul can launch a major East Coast production studio, when a scandal rocks the film industry and forces Joni to revisit a secret from long ago involving a powerful man who abused women, including the friend of her youth, Val.

Joni is adamant that the time has come to tell the story, but Val and Paul are reluctant, for different reasons. As the marriage frays and the friends spar about whether to speak up, Joni’s struggles with isolation in a new city and old resentments about the sacrifices she made start to boil over. She takes solace in the novels of Patricia Highsmith—particularly the masterpiece Strangers on a Train, with its duplicitous characters and their murderous impulses—until the lines between reality and fantasy become blurred.

INVISIBLE WOMAN is at once a literary thriller about the lies we tell each other (and ourselves), and a powerful psychological examination of friendship, marriage, and motherhood.

**Advance Praise for Invisible Woman:**

“A wily, provocative literary thriller—classic but timely, retro yet right-this-minute . . . High-tension, high-class, and highly recommended.” —A.J. Finn, #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Woman in the Window

“A tight, well-paced novel . . . Absolutely a novel of its time.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“A stunning achievement.” —Alex Finlay, author of Every Last Fear

“INVISIBLE WOMAN will seize you and never let go. Smart and spellbinding . . . and most certainly your next favorite thriller.” —Jennifer Hillier, award-winning and bestselling author of Things We Do in the Dark
The exciting debut of a “Writer to Watch” (Publishers Weekly), CITY OF LAUGHTER is an electric novel that tangles beautifully with queerness, with Jewish spirituality and generational silence, with a history of displacement, and with a present life half-lived for fear of invoking ancestral judgment. For readers of Orlando, Jeanette Winterson, and Andrea Lawlor, as much as for readers of Michael Chabon, CITY OF LAUGHTER is a portal to a world at once here and entirely elsewhere.

Ropshitz, Poland, was once known as the City of Laughter. As this story opens, an 18th century badchan, a holy jester whose job is to make the bride and groom laugh on their wedding day, receives a visitation from a mysterious stranger—bringing the laughter that the people of Ropshitz desperately need, and triggering a sequence of events that will reverberate across the coming century.

In the present day, Shiva Margolin, a young woman named for a mourning rite, is a graduate student in Jewish folklore recovering from the heartbreak of her first big queer love while also grieving the death of her beloved father. She struggles to connect with her mother, who harbors secrets and barriers that Shiva can’t break. When the opportunity arises for Shiva to visit Poland on a half-formed research trip, she takes it; she’s interested in her mysterious matriarchal line, in particular Mira Wollman, the great-grandmother about whom no one speaks, and who left a piece of herself behind in Poland when she emigrated. But as in most folklore, the answers to Shiva’s questions won’t come so easily. Zigzagging between our known universe and a tapestry of real and invented Jewish folklore, CITY OF LAUGHTER is epic and sharply intimate, both fantastical and hyperreal.

**ADVANCE PRAISE FOR CITY OF LAUGHTER:**

“Tender and unforgettable . . . This dazzling and hopeful novel is not to be missed.” — *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Powerful, profound, beautifully-told and thought-provoking.” — Jordy Rosenberg, author of *Confessions of the Fox*

“A sharply observed, tenderly complex, and wildly delightful debut by an original and impressive new voice.” — Danielle Evans, author of *The Office of Historical Corrections*

“CITY OF LAUGHTER has the sparkle and fire of something truly rare.” — Kristen Arnett, author of *With Teeth*

“A rich, lyrical portrait of four generations of unruly longings.” — Zeyn Joukhadar, author of *The Thirty Names of Night*

“Richly imagined, painstakingly crafted, [and] full of delights.” — Sarah Thankam Mathews, author of *All This Could Be Different*

“Moving, funny, beautifully crafted . . . and wildly gripping.” — Andrea Lawlor, author of *Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl*

**Temim Fruchter** is a queer nonbinary writer who was raised in a Modern Orthodox Jewish household. She holds an MFA from the University of Maryland, and has received fellowships from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Vermont Studio Center, and first prize in short fiction from both *American Literary Review* and *New South*, and a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award. She lives in Brooklyn.
Over half of the over 7,000 human languages are at risk of disappearing, and because many of these languages have never been recorded, when they are gone it will be forever. Thanks to its unique history of immigration, New York City has always been a place of great linguistic diversity, with some languages flourishing in the urban diaspora when conflict or globalization has threatened them at home.

As co-founder and co-director of the Endangered Language Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to documenting Indigenous, minority, and endangered languages in New York City, Ross Perlin is racing against time to record the 700+ dialects that have been found across the city. Perlin introduces us to languages that are spoken in certain communities in New York City: from Seke, a dialect from Nepal, spoken in five ancestral villages and a single building in Brooklyn; to Wakhi, a language of Persian origin spoken in Tajikistan; to Lenape, the language that gave the name to Manhattan, which is now being revived after 300 years of colonization and silencing. Perlin portrays his experience meeting speakers of these languages, which also include Yiddish, the Mexican Indigenous language Nahuatl, and the West African writing system of N’ko.

Delving into the history of the city and whisking the reader to tiny restaurants, city parks, and across the world, from Ontario to rural China, Language City is a celebration of the great linguistic diversity within a single city, and how small languages are putting up a good fight against the politicization of anti-immigrant feeling, and globalizing forces that help the big get bigger. Insightful, often funny, and captivating, Perlin’s book is for readers of Robert McFarlane, fans of Nonstop Metropolis by Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, and anyone who is intrigued by the quirks of language.

Advance Praise for Language City:


“This passionate, learned and fascinating book gives us a portrait of New York like no other . . . A wonderful book.” — David Bellos, author of Is That a Fish in Your Ear?: Translation and the Meaning of Everything

“A work of sweeping ambition that succeeds on every level: reportorial, explanatory, stylistic, political . . . Couldn’t be more timely—and more urgently needed—than it is right now.” — Margalit Fox, author of Talking Hands, The Riddle of the Labyrinth, and The Confidence Men

“A rich and explosively vital book.” — Russell Shorto, author of The Island at the Center of the World

“Ross Perlin gives us a tour showing the city as a smorgasbord of languages from all over the globe, from its founding (Pieter Stuyvesant spoke Frisian) to right now.” — John McWhorter, author of Nine Nasty Words

Ross Perlin is a linguist, writer, and translator. He has written for the New York Times, the Guardian, Harper’s, and n+1, and the Endangered Language Alliance has been written about by the New York Times, the New Yorker, BBC, NPR, and many other places. He is also the author of Intern Nation: How to Learn Nothing and Earn Little in the Brave New Economy. Perlin is a native New Yorker.

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Manuscript available / 432 pages
Lush Lives
BY J. Vanessa Lyon

With beguiling wit and undeniable passion, LUSH LIVES is a deliciously queer and sexy novel about bold, brilliant women unafraid to take risks and fight for what they love.

An unabashedly charged love story set in the evocative and high-stakes world of art and auction in New York City, LUSH LIVES is a crowd-pleaser in the vein of Jasmine Guillory’s The Wedding Date, Helen Wan’s The Partner Track, and Alyssa Cole’s A Princess in Theory.

For Glory Hopkins, inheriting her Aunt Lucille’s Harlem brownstone feels more like a curse than a blessing. As a restless artist struggling to find gallery representation, Glory doesn’t have the money, time, or patience to look after the aging house of an aunt she barely knew. But when she stumbles into Parkie de Groot, a savvy, ambitious auction house appraiser on the verge of a coveted promotion, her unexpected inheritance begins to look more promising. Glory and Parkie form an unlikely alliance and work to unearth the origins of a rare manuscript hidden in the brownstone’s trove. In doing so, they uncover not only the well-kept secrets of Lucille’s life but also the complex relationships between Harlem and its distinguished residents.

Undeniable as their connection may be, complications arise that threaten to tear apart their newly forged relationship. Between Parkie’s struggle to overcome the heartache of past romances and professional problems that threaten to end her rising career, and Glory’s unbridled and all-consuming drive, they begin to keep secrets from each other. The deeper they dig into the mysteries of the Harlem brownstone, the more fraught their relationship becomes.

LUSH LIVES is an unforgettable novel of queer love, ambition, and the forgotten histories that define us.

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR LUSH LIVES:

“An unerringly satisfying read.” —Booklist, starred review

“A compelling and sexy story of the lives of queer women.” —Library Journal, starred review

“With prose that turns on a dime from blistering to sensual . . . [LUSH LIVES] is a treat.” —Publishers Weekly

“LUSH LIVES is a joy to read. It’s tender, sharp, funny, and oh so sexy. This is one to savor: I didn’t want it to end.” —Jasmine Guillory, New York Times-bestselling author of The Proposal

“Smart, sophisticated, and deeply romantic . . . I was captivated.” —Helen Hoang, New York Times-bestselling author of The Kiss Quotient

“Insightful, brazen, and groundbreaking . . . LUSH LIVES is the total package.” —Camille Perri, author of When Katie Met Cassidy and The Assistants

“With a singular voice, Lyon weaves an unforgettable romance in the elite art world, one full of tenderness, fierce hope, and self-empowerment.” —Ashley Herring Blake, author of Astrid Parker Doesn’t Fail

J. Vanessa Lyon is the author of The Groves (an Audible Original). She is an art historian, former appraiser, and occasional curator who teaches at a New England liberal arts college.
John Lawton Backlist

One of “50 Crime Writers to Read Before You Die” (Daily Telegraph) and “quite possibly the best historical novelist we have” (Philadelphia Inquirer), John Lawton’s work has been described as “meticulously researched, tautly plotted historical thrillers in the mold of World War II and Cold War fiction by novelists like Alan Furst, Phillip Kerr, Eric Ambler, David Downing and Joseph Kanon” (Wall Street Journal).

Inspector Troy Thrillers:

**BLACK OUT** (#1)
352 pages, May 1995 (reissue: May 2011)
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK; France/Univers Poche
**PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS INCLUDE:** Italy/Polillo; Romania/Editura Art; Spain/RBA

**OLD FLAMES** (#2)
432 pages, January 2003
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK; France/Univers Poche

**A LITTLE WHITE DEATH** (#3)
448 pages, February 2006
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK; France/Univers Poche

**BLUFFING MR. CHURCHILL** (#4)
448 pages, January 2004
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

**FLESH WOUNDS** (#5)
352 pages, March 2005
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

**SECOND VIOLIN** (#6)
432 pages, November 2008
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

**A LILY OF THE FIELD** (#7)
400 pages, October 2010
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK
**PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS INCLUDE:** Holland/Karakter Uitgevers

**FRIENDS AND TRAITORS** (#8)
352 pages, October 2017
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

Joe Wilderness Novels:

**THEN WE TAKE BERLIN** (#1)
432 pages, September 2013
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

**HAMMER TO FALL** (#3)
400 pages, March 2020
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

**THE UNFORTUNATE ENGLISHMAN** (#2)
368 pages, March 2016
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

**MOSCOW EXILE** (#4)
448 pages, April 2023
**RIGHTS SOLD:** UK/Grove Press UK

John Lawton has written eight Inspector Troy thrillers, four Joe Wilderness novels, a standalone novel, and a volume of history. His Inspector Troy novels have been named best books of the year by the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and New York Times Book Review. He lives in Derbyshire, England.

World Rights

**JAPANESE AGENT:** Japan Uni Agency, Inc.
AND THEN HE SANG A LULLABY
BY ANI KAYODE SOMTOCHUKWU

The inaugural title from the most buzzed about new imprint in years, and “a remarkably beautiful and intimate story . . . from a new voice we are sure to treasure for years to come.”—Michael Welch, Chicago Review of Books

AND THEN HE SANG A LULLABY is a powerful, luminous debut. In his first semester at university, God-fearing August is doing well in his classes. There’s only one problem: he can’t stop thinking about Segun, an openly gay student who works at a local cybercafé. August and Segun forge a tender intimacy that defies the violence around them—until a new anti-gay law is passed and they must find a way for their love to survive.

“An incredible novel.” —Sara Neilson, Shondaland

ANI KAYODE SOMTOCHUKWU is an award-winning Nigerian writer and queer liberation activist. His work has appeared in literary magazines across Africa, Europe, Asia, and North America. His debut novel, AND THEN HE SANG A LULLABY, won the 2021 James Currey Prize for African literature. Ani recently joined the creative writing program at the University of East Anglia.

WORLD RIGHTS EXCLUDING AFRICA
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LIFE SENTENCE
THE BRIEF AND TRAGIC CAREER OF BALTIMORE’S DEADLIEST GANG LEADER
BY MARK BOWDEN

A visceral account of violence, intimidation, and murder in West Baltimore, from “master of narrative journalism” (New York Times) Mark Bowden

In this unprecedented deep dive into inner-city gang life, MARK BOWDEN takes readers inside a Baltimore gang, offers an in-depth portrait of its notorious leader, and chronicles the FBI investigation that landed eight gang members in prison.

“A ground level view . . . The masterful yarn is a riveting true narrative.” —Associated Press

MARK BOWDEN is the author of fifteen books, including the #1 New York Times bestseller Black Hawk Down. He reported at the Philadelphia Inquirer for twenty years and now writes for The Atlantic and other magazines.

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RECENT PUBLISHERS OF MARK BOWDEN INCLUDE: Bulgaria/KRYG; China/Social Sciences Academic Press; Czech/Aktuell; Germany/Berlin Verlag; Holland/Meulenhoff; Israel/Modan; Italy/Rizzoli; Poland/Poznanskie; Romania/Corint; Slovakia/Ikar; Spain/Big Sur, Ariel; Sweden/Bookmark/Stockholm Text, Tukan/Nona; Turkey/Bal Yayınlari; Ukraine/Osoblyve

PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS OF MARK BOWDEN INCLUDE: Brazil/Objetiva, Landscape; China/Changjiang Literature & Art, New Prosperous China Media, National Defence Industry Press; Czech/Albatros, Academia; Denmark/Gyldendal, Lindhardt & Ringhof; Finland/Otava; France/Grasset, Plon; Germany/Econ Ullstein List; Holland/De Bezige Bij, Luitingh-Sijthof, Bruna; Hungary/Atheneum; Israel/Kinneret, Ministry of Defense Publishing; Japan/Hayakawa; Korea/Chunga; Poland/Pascal, Mayfly; Russia/Red Fish; Spain/RBA; Sweden/Bonniers, Albero, Norstedts; Taiwan/Briefing, Taiwan Elite; Thailand/Thai Army Center of Doctrine and Strategy Development; JAPANESE AGENT: Japan Uni Agency, Inc.

Finished books available / 320 pages
Direct, darkly funny, and profound, Nazli Koca’s debut novel THE APPLICANT explores what it means to be an immigrant, woman, and emerging writer. It’s 2017 and Leyla, a leftwing Turkish twenty-something living in Berlin, is scrubbing toilets while awaiting a verdict on her visa status. As the clock winds down on her temporary visa, Leyla meets a right-wing Swedish tourist at a bar one night and—against her better judgment—begins to fall in love. Will she choose a cookie-cutter life as the wife of a Volvo salesman, or just as unimaginable, return to Turkey to her mother and sister, the ghost of her father still haunting their lives? Written in the diary form of Rachel Khong’s Goodbye, Vitamin and with the probing self-reflection of Sheila Heti, THE APPLICANT is a stunning dissection of a life lived between borders and identities.

“Wry and reflective . . . in the tradition of writers like Ferrante.” —New York Times Book Review

Nazli Koca is a writer and poet from Turkey who now lives in the US. Her work has appeared in the Threepenny Review, Bookforum, Second Factory, Chicago Review of Books, and books without covers, among other outlets. THE APPLICANT is her first novel.

QUEEN OF THE COURT
THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF TENNIS LEGEND ALICE MARBLE
BY MADELEINE BLAIS

In August 1939, Alice Marble graced the cover of Life magazine, photographed by the legendary Alfred Eisenstaedt. She was a worldwide celebrity, having that year won singles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles titles at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, an unprecedented feat, then and now. Today, one of America’s greatest-ever female athletes and most charismatic characters is largely forgotten. QUEEN OF THE COURT, by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Madeleine Blais, places Alice Marble back on center stage with her glittering life story.

“The great victory of Madeleine Blais’s careful, moving biography is her sensitive understanding of a formidable competitor whose greatest rival was herself.” —Nicholas Dawidoff, author of The Catcher Was a Spy and The Other Side of Prospect

Madeleine Blais was a reporter for the Miami Herald for years before joining the faculty of the School of Journalism at the University of Massachusetts. She is the author of To the New Owners, In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle, Uphill Walkers, and The Heart Is an Instrument, a collection of her journalism. She lives in Amherst, Massachusetts.
“Dazzling . . . Aboulela has written a novel of war, love, faith, [and] womanhood . . . From 19th-century Sudan to present-day America, the questions, in their travel to us, grow only more pressing.” —Megha Majumdar, New York Times

“A blazing historical epic of war, love, and revolution” (Los Angeles Review of Books), RIVER SPIRIT is a tale of the relationship between Britain and Sudan, Christianity and Islam, colonizer and colonized. Set in the years leading up to the British conquest of Sudan in 1898, and told by a chorus of vivid women and men—including an orphaned young enslaved woman, her unlikely suitor and guardian, a military rebel, and two ferocious mothers—RIVER SPIRIT is a masterpiece of literary fiction and an immersion into Sudanese history.

“Captivating . . . Aboulela unspools the fraught story of Sudan, as freedom and faith do battle.” —Daily Mail (UK)

LEILA ABOULELA is the first ever winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing. Her novels—including Bird Summons, The Kindness of Enemies, The Translator, Minaret, and Lyrics Alley—have been longlisted for the Women’s Prize for Fiction and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize and the PEN/Macmillan Silver Pen Award. Elsewhere, Home won the Saltire Fiction Book of the Year Award. Her work has been translated into fifteen languages. She grew up in Khartoum, Sudan, and now lives in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The brainchild of literary critic and writer JOHN FREEMAN, FREEMAN’S has become essential reading, featuring never-before-published fiction, essays, and poetry from the best-known writers around the world and from exciting new voices. This final issue, FREEMAN’S: CONCLUSIONS, includes work by Rebecca Makkai, Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Denis Johnson, and Louise Erdrich, alongside tomorrow’s stars.

“Illustrating . . . Perfect reading for our ever-accelerating times.” —NPR’s Book Concierge

JOHN FREEMAN, former editor of Granta, launched Freeman’s in 2015. His books are The Tyranny of Email, Dictionary of the Undoing, and How to Read a Novelist; a trilogy of anthologies including Tales of Two Americas and the poetry collections Maps and The Park. An executive editor at Alfred A. Knopf, he teaches at New York University and in Paris. His work has been translated into more than twenty languages.
The police call him Merkury. He’s a killer who chooses his victims seemingly at random. He leaves no evidence behind, and no witnesses. Except for one.

When Kate Summerlin was eleven years old, she climbed out her bedroom window on a spring night, looking for a taste of freedom in the small college town where she was living with her parents. But what she found as she wandered in the woods near her house was something else: the body of a beautiful young woman, the first of Merkury’s victims. And before she could come to grips with what she was seeing, she heard a voice behind her, the killer’s voice, saying: “Don’t turn around.”

Now, at the age of twenty-nine, Kate is a successful true crime writer, but she has never told anyone the truth about what happened on that long-ago night. When Merkury claims yet another victim—a college student named Bryan Cayhill—Kate finds herself drawn back to the town where everything started. She sets out to make sense of this latest crime, but the deeper she gets into the story, the more she comes to realize that it isn’t over. Her search for the truth about Merkury is leading her down into a dark labyrinth, and if she hopes to escape, she’ll have to meet him once again—this time face to face.

**PRAISE FOR HARRY DOLAN:**

“Witty, sophisticated, suspenseful and endless fun.” —Washington Post on *Bad Things Happen*

“In just five standalone novels, Dolan has garnered a reputation for intelligent plots that gently weave in action with his well-sculpted characters’ believable motives and a soupçon of humor.” —Associated Press on *The Good Killer*

“Absorbing, exciting . . . fast and unpredictable . . . Mr. Dolan’s characters are human enough to catch you off-guard, and he makes the actions of even the creepiest ones believable.” —Wall Street Journal on *The Last Dead Girl*

“Great f—ing book . . . I was totally hooked.” —Stephen King on *Bad Things Happen*

“Fun and entertaining . . . Written in Dolan’s characteristically sophisticated prose, the action never stops.” —Daily Mail on *The Good Killer*

“*Bad Things Happen* is a very smart, well-written roller coaster ride that is always threatening to hurl the reader out into roaring empty space.” —James Patterson on *Bad Things Happen*

“You better believe [Harry Dolan] has a gift for storytelling.” —New York Times on *Bad Things Happen*

**HARRY DOLAN** is the author of the novels *Bad Things Happen, Very Bad Men, The Last Dead Girl, The Man in the Crooked Hat,* and *The Good Killer*. He graduated from Colgate University, where he majored in philosophy and studied fiction-writing with the novelist Frederick Busch. A native of Rome, New York, he now lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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- China/Shanghai 99
- Germany/DTV
- Holland/House of Books
- Norway/Cappelen Damm

Manuscript available / 384 pages
# THE GREAT STATE OF WEST FLORIDA

**By Kent Wascom**

*From the beloved author previously compared to Cormac McCarthy and Joyce Carol Oates (Washington Post), a startling novel of vengeance, family, and first love as two warring factions vie for control of a blood-soaked Gulf Coast*

Kent Wascom exploded onto the scene with *The Blood of Heaven*, which earned comparisons to Faulkner, O’Connor, and McCarthy. *The Great State of West Florida* is set during the Louisiana summer of 2026. When a far-right movement to turn the Florida panhandle into a white Christian ethnostate emerges, thirteen-year-old Rally and his uncle Rodney embark on a journey into the wild heart of West Florida. An explosive, genre-redefining take on family, violence, and the costs of preserving a legacy in a sun-soaked world of megachurch magnates, suburban guerillas, and robotic warriors, *The Great State of West Florida* is also the tender coming-of-age story of a young man caught in the wheels of something bigger.

“Mr. Wascom’s writing rolls from the page in torrents, like the sermon of a revivalist preacher in the grip of inspiration. You can’t help listening, no matter how wicked the message.” —Wall Street Journal on *The Blood of Heaven*

Kent Wascom is the author of *The New Inheritors*, *Secessia*, and *The Blood of Heaven*, which was named a best book of the year by the *Washington Post* and *NPR*. It was a semifinalist for the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award and longlisted for the Flaherty-Dunnan Award for First Fiction. Wascom was awarded the 2012 Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival Prize for Fiction and selected as one of Gambit’s 40 Under 40. He lives in Louisiana, where he teaches at Southeastern Louisiana University.

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**Previous Publishers Include:** UK/Grove Press UK; France/Christian Bourgois, Editions Gallmeister; Norway/Font Forlag

Manuscript available / 256 pages

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# HOW TO DRAW A NOVEL

**By Martín Solares**

*A playful, highly visual exploration of novelistic structure and how novels are created, HOW TO DRAW A NOVEL is a meditation on literary craft that muses on how and why novels communicate with readers*

Since his prize-winning debut novel, *The Black Minutes*, Martín Solares has maintained a coveted spot as one of Mexican fiction’s brightest lights. In his first work of nonfiction, Solares examines the novel in all its forms, using his own line drawings to portray the ebb and flow of the novel, with *Moby Dick* spiraling across the page while *Dracula* takes the form of an erratic heartbeat. With insights into the construction of the novel that are as profound as they are accessible, this is an important contribution to the study of craft and fiction.

“A quirky, playful addition to the well-populated subgenre of fiction writers writing about writing fiction.” —Kirkus Reviews

Martín Solares is the author of the novels *Don’t Send Flowers* and *The Black Minutes*, which was 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. He lives in Mexico City.

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Manuscript available / 208 pages
WELCOME TO THE GAME
BY CRAIG HENDERSON
Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, November 2022

“[Henderson] mixes a keen sense of the absurd with sly turns of phrase . . . The vibe is George V. Higgins with a British accent.” —New York Times

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IF WALLS COULD SPEAK: MY LIFE IN ARCHITECTURE
BY MOSHE SAFDIE
Non-Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, September 2022

“The renowned architect reflects on his life designing famous structures such as Montreal’s Habitat ’67 and Singapore’s Marina Bay Sands and argues for an architectural philosophy that focuses not only on truth and beauty but also on social engagement.” —New York Times Book Review

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ANATOMY OF 55 MORE SONGS: THE ORAL HISTORY OF TOP HITS THAT CHANGED ROCK, R&B, AND SOUL
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Non-Fiction, Grove Press, December 2022

“Entertaining . . . with singers, composers, lyricists, and producers delving into the backstories of some of the most recognizable, impactful songs of the 20th century.” —Boston Globe

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THE COMMANDERS: THE LEADERSHIP JOURNEYS OF GEORGE PATTON, BERNARD MONTGOMERY, AND ERWIN ROMMEL
BY LLOYD CLARK
Non-Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, November 2022

“Clark fixes his focus on the intersection of personality and military leadership through the prism of three individualists . . . Wonderful three-dimensional models of the war’s iconic leaders.” —Wall Street Journal

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KING OF THE BLUES: THE RISE AND REIGN OF B. B. KING
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Non-Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, October 2021

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THE FUNNY STUFF: THE OFFICIAL P. J. O’ROURKE QUOTATIONARY AND RIFFAPEDIA
BY P. J. O’ROURKE; INTRODUCTION BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY
Non-Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, November 2022

“Now that he belongs to the ages, P. J. O’Rourke takes his rightful place along with Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain and Dorothy Parker in the Pantheon of Quote Gods.” —Christopher Buckley, from the introduction

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BY JIM HARRISON
Non-Fiction, Grove Press, September 2022

“One of the most interesting and entertaining bodies of work by any writer of his generation.” —Alan Cheuse, Chicago Tribune

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FIVE TUESDAYS IN WINTER
BY LILY KING
Fiction, Grove Press, November 2021

“FIVE TUESDAYS IN WINTER moved me, inspired me, thrilled me. It filled up every chamber of my heart. I loved this book.” —Ann Patchett

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PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS INCLUDE: Brazil/Globo; Bulgaria/Iztok Zapad; China/China South Booky Culture Media; Czech/Beta; France/Christian Bourgois; Holland/Hollands Diep; Hungary/Tarandus; Iceland/Angustura; Israel/Keter; Portugal/Guerra e Paz; Serbia/Mono I Manjana; Turkey/Marti; JAPANESE AGENT: Japan Uni Agency, Inc.

THE DELUSIONS OF CROWDS: WHY PEOPLE GO MAD IN GROUPS
BY WILLIAM J. BERNSTEIN
Non-Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, February 2021

“Fascinating . . . Bernstein is an entertaining chronicler.” —Times (UK)

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JAPANESE AGENT: Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.
PLEASE KILL ME: THE UNCENSORED ORAL HISTORY OF PUNK (20TH ANNIVERSARY)
BY LEGS MCNEIL AND GILLIAN MCCAIN
Non-Fiction, Grove Press, August 2016

“No volume serves juicier dish on punk’s New York birth . . . Tales of sex, drugs and music that will make you wish you’d been there.” —Rolling Stone

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VALLEY OF THE DOLLS (50TH ANNIVERSARY)
BY JACQUELINE SUSANN
Fiction, Grove Press, July 2016


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COLD MOUNTAIN
BY CHARLES FRAZIER
Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, June 1997

The National Book Award-winning debut novel by the author of The Trackers


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JAPANESE AGENT: Japan Uni Agency, Inc.

LEGENDS OF THE FALL
BY JIM HARRISON
Fiction, Grove Press reissue, July 2016

“Jim Harrison stands high among the writers of his generation. This book is rich, alive, and shatteringly visceral. A triumph.” —New Yorker

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SAYED KASHUA (Israel) – *Track Changes* (Kinneret)

NIVIAQ KORNELIUSSEN (Greenland) – *Last Night in Nuuk* (Milik Publishing)

PASCAL MERCIER (Switzerland) – *Lea* (Hanser Verlag)

SAYAKA MURATA (Japan) – *Vanishing World* (Kawade Shobo Shinsha)

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