

*Frances Goldin Literary Agency, Inc.*

*2014*

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**Michelle Kuo** is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She has worked in a poverty law clinic in Oakland California, taught writing at San Quentin prison, and clerked for two federal judges in San Francisco. She has published in the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She currently lives in France, where her husband teaches history at the American University of Paris.

**Rights Sold:**

US & Can.: Random House

- UK & Translation rights available
- Proposal available; Ms due July 2014

## READING WITH PATRICK

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

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

Like *Reading Lolita in Teheran*, it's a book about the redemptive power of reading and literature. Like *The Blind Side*, it's a book about what can be done for a single talented young person, even after they've been utterly abandoned, if there's enough commitment. Like Pat Conroy's *The Water is Wide*, it's a book about the dedication of a teacher who travels to one of the poorest parts of the country, and through sheer teacherly energy, finds a way to connect.



**Alvaro Enrique** was born in Mexico in 1969. He is the award-winning author of five novels and two books of short stories. His first novel *La muerte de un instalador* won the 1996 Joaquín Mortiz Prize. In 2007, the “Bogotá39” project named him one of the most promising Latin American writers of his generation. Enrique’s writing has appeared in the *London Review of, n+1, The Believer, Bomb Magazine* and his short stories have been widely anthologized.

**Rights Sold:**

US, Can., audio (Riverhead); UK (Harvill); France (Bouchet Chastel); Spain (Anagrama); Germany (Blessing); Italy (Feltrinelli); Sweden (Natur och Kultur); Brazil (Companhia das Letras)

- Translation rights available
- Manuscript available

## SUDDEN DEATH: A NOVEL

WINNER OF THE 2013 HERRALDE PRIZE

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

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

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

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

**Backlist:** *Decencia* (2011); *Vidas Perpendiculares* (2008); *Hipotermia* (2006); *El Cementerio de Sillas* (2002); *Virtudes Capitales* (1998); *La Muerte de un Instalador* (1996, 2007, 2010)



**Eula Biss** holds an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa. Her second book, *Notes from No Man's Land*, received the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism. Her work has also been recognized by a Pushcart Prize, a Rona Jaffe Writers' Award, and a 21st Century Award from the Chicago Public Library as well as Guggenheim and NEA Fellowships. She teaches at Northwestern University.

**Rights Sold:**

US & Can. (Graywolf Press)

Audio (Highbridge)

- US Publication September 2014
- UK & Translation rights available
- Manuscript available

## **ON IMMUNITY**

*An Inoculation*

### **The anticipated follow-up to Biss's NBCC winning *Notes from No Man's Land***

A book-length cultural exploration of vaccination, parenthood, public health, and the body as metaphor. Includes narratives about Biss's son's acquisition of language through bodily metaphor, the personal politics of vaccination, the history of conscientious objection, vampires and the rise of inoculation in 19<sup>th</sup> century England, predatory capitalism, gender and sexism in medicine, body and environmental pollution, blood banking, and many other wide ranging topics woven together with Biss's fierce intelligence and supple prose. The result is a sprawling but controlled *tour de force* by one of America's leading literary nonfiction practitioners. A portion of the book appeared in the January 2013 issue of *Harper's*

-Graywolf Fall '14 Lead Title

-2014 BEA Editor's Buzz Panel Selection

-Starred *Publisher's Weekly* and *Kirkus* reviews

"Is essayist Eula Biss Joan Didion's heiress apparent? .... Eula Biss' *Notes From No Man's Land* is the most accomplished book of essays anyone has written or published so far in the 21st century."- **Salon**

"Imagine Eula Biss as herself a vaccine against vague and incoherent thinking, as a booster to the acuity of your thought, as a thermometer taking the temperature of our ideas about purity, contagion, individuality, and community. [*On Immunity*] is a magnificent piece of research and of writing, a surprising but welcome departure in the career of one of the best younger essayists at work. And it has vampires in it."

**-Rebecca Solnit**



**Elaine M. Hayes** received her doctorate in music history from the University of Pennsylvania. She's a magazine writer, editor, and radio producer. She lives in Seattle, Washington.

**Rights Sold:**

US & Can (Ecco)

- US Publication Fall 2016
- UK & Translation rights available
- Proposal available

**QUEEN OF BEBOP**

*The Musical Lives of Sarah Vaughan*

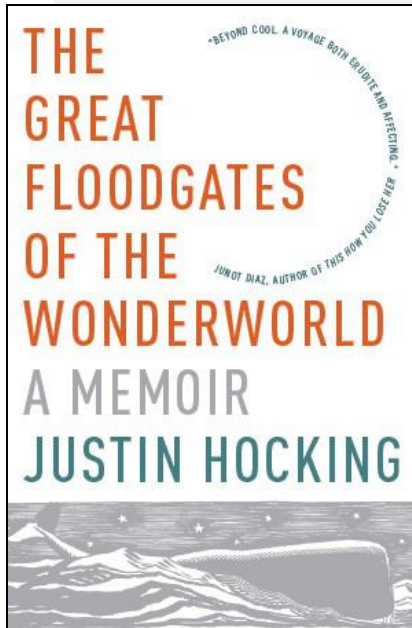
**A major biography of the jazz and pop legend, the first in over twenty years**



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

cultural context of her times, while elevating her status and recognizing her true influence.

“A singer who sings so good, I want to cut my wrist with a dull blade and let her sing me to death.”— **Frank Sinatra**



**Justin Hocking** is an avid surfer and skateboarder. He edited *Life and Limb: Skateboarders Write from the Deep End*, and his work has appeared in the *Rumpus*, *Thrasher*, and the *Normal School*. He is the executive director of the Independent Publishing Resource Center, and lives in Portland, Oregon.

**Rights Sold:**

World English (Graywolf Press)

- US Publication March 2014
- Translation rights available
- Books available

## THE GREAT FLOODGATES OF THE WONDERWORLD

**Surfing in Far Rockaway, romantic obsession, and *Moby-Dick* converge in this dynamic and compelling memoir**

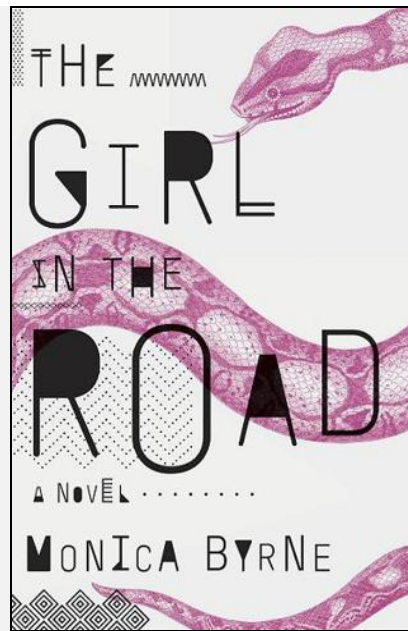
Justin Hocking, like many transplants to the city, doesn't adapt easily to New York. Far Rockaway is his escape. There he discovers surfing and a colorful circle of friends, both of which prove vital to his sanity, especially in the wake of a traumatic carjacking. But the tides of this memoir pull in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

- Starred Kirkus & Library Journal Reviews
- A Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Pick

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

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

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



**Monica Byrne** studied fiction with Neil Gaiman, Nalo Hopkinson, Kelly Link and Geoff Ryman at the Clarion Workshop. She has published fiction in *Gargoyle*, *Shimmer*, *Fantasy Magazine* and *Electric Velocipede*, and nonfiction in *Wellesley Magazine* and *HowlRound: The Journal of New American Plays*. She holds degrees in biochemistry from Wellesley College and MIT.

**Rights Sold:**

US & Canada (Crown); Germany (Heyne); UK (Little Brown)

- US Publication May 2014
- Translation rights available
- Edited Manuscript available

**THE GIRL IN THE ROAD**

*A Novel*

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

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

Forty years earlier, in 2026, a slave girl named Mariama flees her home in Mauritania after witnessing the rape of her mother. She finds refuge in a truck caravan headed across the Sahara, which is carrying a mysterious cargo. Mariama addresses her story to the person she calls Yemaya, a young woman who joins the caravan in Dakar and takes Mariama under her wing. Increasingly Mariama becomes obsessed with Yemaya, seeing her as a goddess, as they journey across Africa towards Ethiopia. But when they finally arrive in Addis Ababa, Yemaya disappears.

Mariama never recovers from this abandonment, but keeps Yemaya in her, even as she grows up, goes to university, takes part in growing anti-Indian protests, and falls in love with a young Indian doctor.

The two stories alternate, with Meena travelling west, and Mariama travelling east. But it is only at the end, in a stunning climax, that we understand how closely the two stories parallel each other, and how Meena and Mariama are linked.

“It's transfixing to watch Monica Byrne become a major player in SF with her debut novel: so sharp, so focused and so human. Beautifully drawn people in a future that feels so close you can touch it, blended with the lush language and concerns of myth. It builds a bridge from past to future, from East to West. Glorious stuff.” —**Neil Gaiman, author of *The Ocean at the End of the Lane***



**PJ Tracy** is the pseudonym of mother-daughter writing duo P.J. and Traci Lambrecht, winners of the Anthony, Barry, Gumshoe, and Minnesota Book Awards. Their novels, *Monkeewrench*, *Live Bait*, *Dead Run*, *Snow Blind*, and *Shoot to Thrill* are national and international bestsellers.



**Rights Sold:**

US, Can., Audio: Putnam

UK: Penguin UK

- US Publication Summer 2014
- Translation rights available
- Unedited Manuscript available

**FERTILE GROUND**

**New novel in the international bestselling Monkeewrench series**

Minneapolis homicide detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth are called to the recently slain body of a young woman found in a wooded city park. Everything about the scene is all too familiar, harkening back to a year old unsolved murder where an Ace of Spades was found under that victim's shirt. When they discover a Two of Spades on their current victim, and a Three of Spades on a third, their worst fears are confirmed -- there is a serial killer operating and he plans to finish the deck.

At the same time, the Monkeewrench Software founders – Grace MacBride, Harley Davidson, Annie Belinsky, and

Roadrunner – find themselves at personal and career crossroads. Weary of the darker side of their computer work with the police, they agree to take on a private missing persons case in a small farming community in southwestern Minnesota.

But that respite doesn't last long -- as Magozzi and Gino frantically try to find their killer while Monkeewrench works through the puzzles of an old farmer's missing daughter, there is a shocking, seemingly random attempt on Harley Davidson's life. A day later, they find Harley's new romantic interest murdered and dumped in a garbage can on his property. The FBI and the DEA suddenly descend on their investigation, hampering their work to find the unlikely connections that ultimately weave together a farmer's missing daughter, a dead undercover agent, a serial killer, and a criminal operation in the heart of the city.

**Praise for Monkeewrench:**

"[A] smart thriller."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"A killer read in every way."—*People*

"Fast, fresh, funny, and outrageously suspenseful."—**Harlan Coben**



**Colin Asher's** writing and reporting have appeared in over two dozen publications, including *The Believer*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Boston Globe*, and *The American Prospect*. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Cushing Niles Dolbeare Award for magazine reporting for his feature in the San Francisco *Chronicle* Magazine. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

**Rights Sold:**

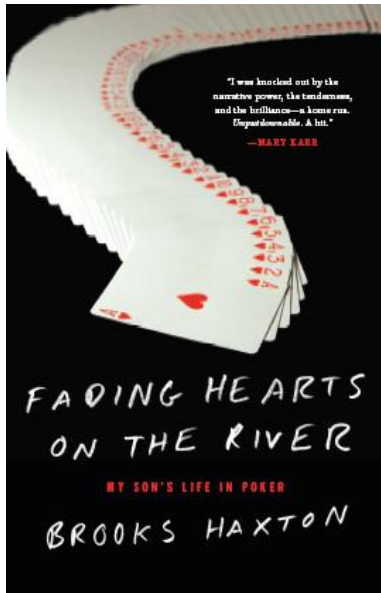
- US & Canada: W.W. Norton
- UK & Translation available
  - Proposal available
  - Publication 2016

## NEVER A LOVELY SO REAL

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

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

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



**Brooks Haxton** has published six collections of poems with Knopf. His poems and prose have appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times Book Review*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Paris Review*. In 2013 the Fellowship of Southern Writers presented him with the Hanes Award, recognizing a distinguished body of work by a poet in mid-career. This is his first work of prose.

**Rights Sold:**

- World English (Counterpoint)
- US Publication May 2014
- Translation rights available

- Edited Manuscript available

## **FADING HEARTS ON THE RIVER**

*An Improbable Story of Texas Hold 'EM*

### **A nonfiction rollercoaster about games of chance and the game of life**

By the spring of 2014, in his most recent year of playing against the biggest sharks in tournament poker, Isaac Haxton had won four million dollars. Not only that, for eight years running he had won more than a quarter of a million dollars every year. But in 2006 when he told his parents, after three years in computer science at Brown University, that he wanted to play poker full time, the outcome was far from certain.

Following his son on the plunge into this career, Brooks Haxton, a recreational gambler and longtime poet and teacher, takes readers on a rollicking tour of game theory, financial strategy, and the mysteries of parenthood. *Fading Hearts on the River* is one family's story of playing the odds—the odds for a career in poetry or in poker, the odds for the survival of a newborn son in intensive care, the luck of the draw in Texas hold 'em, and the gamble of placing your heart in the care of another.

While Isaac climbs the ranks of international poker, winning more in one hand than his father has earned from all his books combined, he visits ports of call in the Bahamas, Las Vegas, and Malta. Millions of dollars come and go. *Fading Hearts on the River* celebrates the staggering luck of a gifted mind at play and the ultimate luck of love

"I loved this book - gave a sad groan when I saw I was out of pages - hugely compelling, kind, witty – an utterly charming & frank voice."—**George Saunders**

"I was knocked out by the narrative power and polymath brilliance, the elliptical beauty and elegance of thought inside a story with great momentum. It's a book about child rearing, money in absentia and in abundance, poker, the nature of chance, the psychology of deception....I can see this being a cult hit *ala* Elif Batuman's *Possessed*."

**-Mary Karr**



**Rights Sold:**

US, Can. + Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China (Coffeehouse)

- UK & other translation available
- Manuscript available
- US Publication 2015

## **A COLLAPSE OF HORSES**

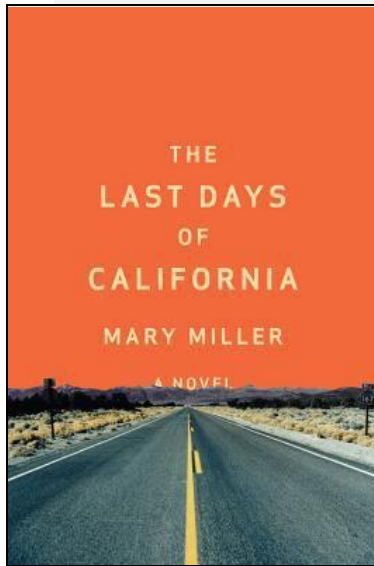
*Stories*

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

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

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

—**Jonathan Lethem**



**Mary Miller's** work has appeared in journals and anthologies, including *McSweeney's*, *Oxford American*, *Tin House*, and *The Rumpus*. Her short story collection *Big World* was published in 2009

by Short Flight and will soon go into its third printing. She is currently a James A. Michener Fellow in Fiction at the University of Texas at Austin, where she serves as editor-in-chief of *Bat City Review*.

**Rights Sold:**

World English (W.W. Norton); Germany (Metrolit)

- US publication February 2014
- Translation rights available
- Edited Manuscript available

## THE LAST DAYS OF CALIFORNIA

*A Novel*

***A compelling, humorous, and utterly engaging debut novel***

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

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

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

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

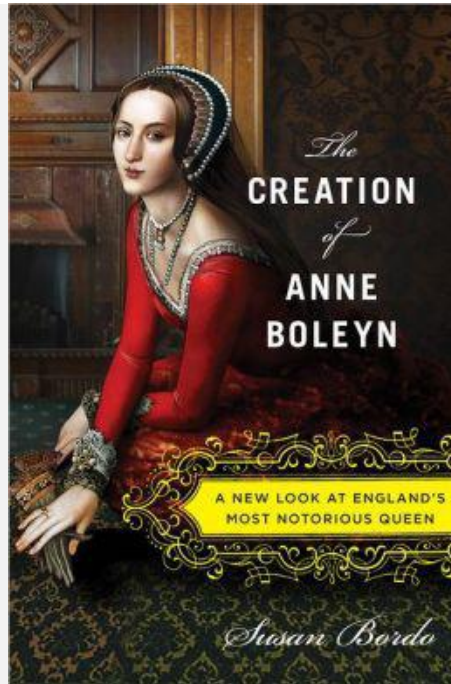
"Rarely, if ever, have we seen young American womanhood painted in such a raw and honest and heartbreaking way."

**- Los Angeles Review of Books**

"Miller has created a narrator worthy of comparison with those of contemporaries such as Karen Thompson Walker and of greats such as Carson McCullers."

**-Publishers Weekly, Starred Review**

"[A] terrific first novel." **-Laurie Muchnick, New York Times Book Review**



**Susan Bordo** , Otis A. Singletary Chair in the Humanities at University of Kentucky, is the author of *Unbearable Weight* and *The Male Body*.

**Rights Sold:**

US & Can (Houghton Harcourt); UK (Oneworld); Audio (Audible)

- Translation rights available
- Books available
- Publication April 2013

**THE CREATION OF ANNE BOLEYN**

## *A New Look at England's Most Notorious Queen*

Part biography, part cultural history, *The Creation of Anne Boleyn* is a fascinating reconstruction of Anne's life and an illuminating look at her afterlife in the popular imagination. Why is Anne so compelling? Why has she inspired such extreme reactions? What did she really look like? Was she the flaxen-haired martyr of Romantic paintings or the raven-haired seductress of twenty-first-century portrayals? (Answer: neither.) And perhaps the most provocative questions concern Anne's death more than her life. How could Henry order the execution of a once beloved wife? Drawing on scholarship and critical analysis, Bordo probes the complexities of one of history's most infamous relationships.

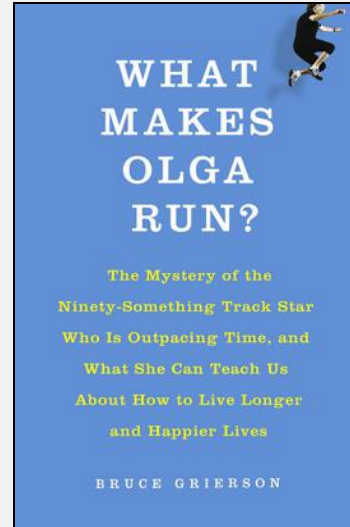
Bordo also shows how generations of polemicists, biographers, novelists, and filmmakers imagined and re-imagined Anne: whore, martyr, cautionary tale, proto "mean girl," feminist icon, and everything in between. In this lively book, Bordo steps off the well-trodden paths of Tudoriana to expertly tease out the human being behind the competing mythologies.

"A great read for Boleyn fans and fanatics alike...."

**-Kirkus**

"The young queen has been the source of fascination for nearly half a millennium, and her legacy continues; this engaging portrait culminates with an intriguing exploration of Boleyn's recent reemergence in pop culture"

**-PW**



**Bruce Grierson** is a Canadian science journalist, whose work has been published in *Psychology Today*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Discover* and *Scientific American* among many others. His first book was *U-Turn: What If You Woke Up One Morning and Realized You Were Living the Wrong Life?* (Bloomsbury, 2008).

### **Rights Sold:**

World English (Holt); Canada (Random House); Brazil (Pensamento); Chinese Simple (Apocalypse); Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta)

▪ Translation rights available

- Copyedited ms. available
- Publication April 2014

## WHAT MAKES OLGA RUN?

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

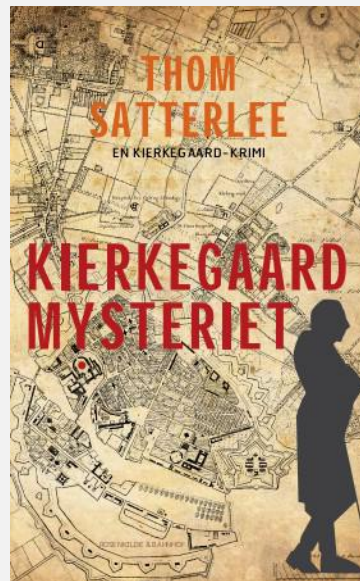
When Olga Kotelko first stepped onto the running track at age 77, she wasn't expecting much. She'd retired at 65 from a career as a teacher in Vancouver; she'd played a little recreational softball, but she'd never been an athlete. No one knew she was about to break every record in the book.

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

Now Canadian journalist Bruce Grierson has set out to learn what makes Olga tick. Following her to Masters Circuit track events, and tagging along as she allows herself to become the subject of

scientific scrutiny, Grierson explores not only the secret to Olga's astonishing abilities, but what practical lessons we can learn ourselves, about how to stay healthy as we age.

A warm and inspiring story about achieving our full potential.





**Thomas Satterlee** is the recipient of the American-Scandinavian Foundation Translation Prize, a National Endowment of the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, and several Pushcart Prize nominations. He has published two collections of Danish poetry in translation and a collection of original poetry. *Burning Wyclif* was a 2007 American Library Association Notable book and a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Award.

**Rights Sold:**

US (Mystery Guild); Denmark (Rosenkilde & Bahnhof)

- UK & Translation rights available
- Books available
- Publication May 2013

**THE STAGES**

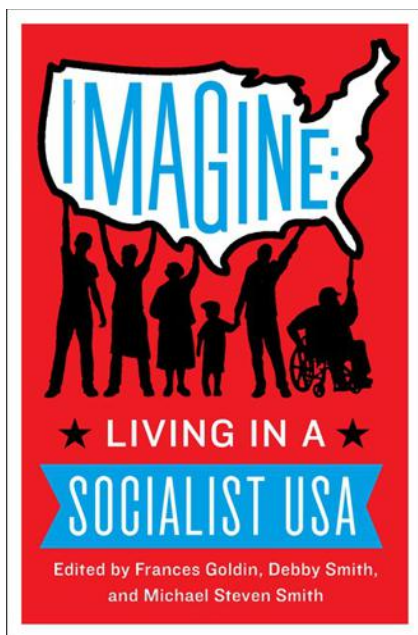
*A Novel*

**Set in Copenhagen, Denmark, just months before the bicentennial birthday of melancholy native son Søren Kierkegaard, SOREN'S DESK is part literary mystery, part philosophical exploration, and part witty takedown of academic and social pretensions.**

When Søren Kierkegaard's writing desk spills a manuscript of poems just months before his 200th birthday, many conclude that it must be a lost work by the famous philosopher—but Head of Fraudulent Affairs, Rolf Poulsen, isn't so sure.

Mette Rasmussen, Director of the Søren Kierkegaard Institute, must persuade two feuding scholars to set aside their differences and cooperate in the international celebration she is planning. Everything starts to go wrong, however, when the philosopher's writing desk is moved to the site of the main display and gets caught up in a possible bomb threat that shuts down the city and brings in the Danish Bomb Squad. No explosives are found, but the desk contains a previously unknown manuscript of poems supposedly written by Kierkegaard—and one of the feuding scholars has apparently hanged himself.

The job of authenticating the manuscript and assuring its safety goes to Inspector Rolf Poulsen, Head of Fraudulent Affairs at Danish National Police. As Inspector Poulsen begins his investigation, he discovers links to an earlier case of his, one that involved infamous con artist Stein Blicher, Denmark's own version of Bernard Madoff. The Inspector follows clues that become personal threats on his own life and finds himself making compromising deals with the city's Mayor and its Chief of Police. Before the case is closed, he's learned more than he thought he ever wanted to about his illustrious, esoteric kinsman—not to mention himself.



**Edited by:** Frances Goldin (yes, our Frances Goldin!), Michael Steven Smith, and Debby Smith.

**Rights Sold:**

- World English (HarperCollins)
- South Korea (Ermamama)
- Translation rights available
- Ms. + books available

• Publication January 2014

**IMAGINE:**

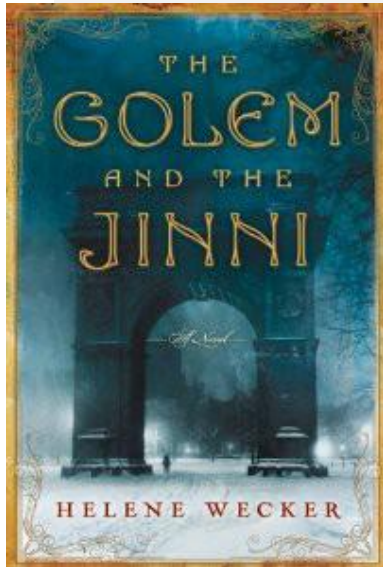
*Living in a Socialist USA*

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

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

Capitalism: The Real Enemy by **Paul Street** The Future Will Be Ecosocialist by **Joel Kovel** A Democratically Run Economy Can Replace the Oligarchy by **Ron Reost** The Shape of a Post-Capitalist Future by **Rick Wolff** Law in a Socialist USA by **Michael Steven Smith** Alternatives to the Present System of Capitalist Injustice by **Mumia Abu-Jamal** and **Angela Davis** Socialism Is the Highest Expression of Human Rights by **Ajamu Baraka** Personal, Emotional, and Sexual Life Without Capitalism by **Harriet Fraad** and **Tess Fraad Wolff** ; A Woman's Workday in a Socialist U.S.A. by **Renate Bridenthal** Dignity, Respect, Equality, Love by **Blanche Wiesen Cook** How Queer Life Might Be Different in a Socialist U.S.A. by **Leslie Cagan** and **Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz** Drugs in a Society Where People Care About Each Other by **Steven Wishnia** Immigration: Immigrant Workers Point the Way to a Better World by **Juan Gonzalez** Welfare in a New Society: An End to Intentional Impoverishment and Degradation by **Frances Fox Piven** Food for All: Creating a Socially Sustainable Food System by **Arun Gupta** The Right to Housing by **Tom Angotti** Socialized Medicine Means Everyone Gets Care, Regardless of Whether They Have Money by **Dave Lindorff** Teach Freedom! by **William Ayers** Imagining Art After Capitalism by **Mat Callahan** Prometheus Completely Unbound: What Science and Technology Could Accomplish in a Socialist America by **Clifford D. Conner** First-Class News: The Media in a Socialist U.S.A. by **Fred Jerome** Imagine the Angels of Bread by

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**Helene Wecker** currently lives near San  
 Francisco. She has an MFA from Columbia.  
*The Golem & the Jinni* is her first novel.

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- Translation rights available
- Books available
- Publication April 2013

**THE GOLEM AND THE JINNI**

*A Novel*

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

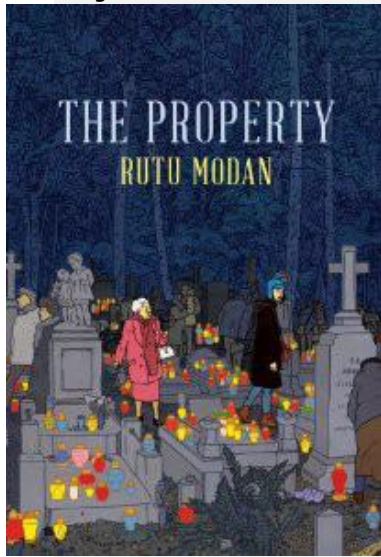
The narrative traces their respective journeys, as they explore the strange  
 human city. The Golem is besieged by human desires and wishes, which  
 she can feel tugging at her; the Djinni is aggravated by human dullness. But  
 they both work to make at least a temporary place for themselves in this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

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

"...This impressive first novel manages to combine the narrative magic of "The Arabian Nights" with the kind of emotional depth, philosophical seriousness and good, old-fashioned storytelling found in the stories of [Isaac Bashevis Singer](#)."

**-The New York Times**

"Wecker's storytelling skills dazzle... [an]intoxicating fusion of fantasy and historical fiction."**-Entertainment Weekly**



**Rutu Modan** first graphic novel, *Exit Wounds*, won the prestigious Eisner Award for best graphic novel in 2008. She has

done comic strips for the Israeli newspapers *Yedioth Aharonot* and *Ma'ariv* and illustrations for *The New Yorker*, *Le Monde*, *The New York Times* and many other publications. Modan currently lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.

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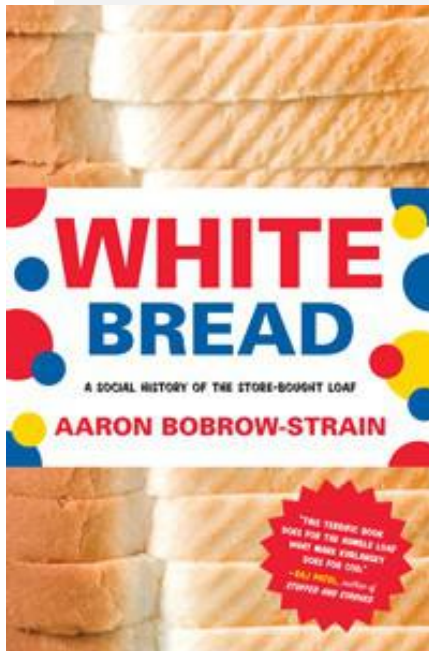
- Translation rights available
- Books available
- US publication May 2013

## THE PROPERTY

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

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

Recent backlog:



**Aaron Bobrow-Strain** is associate professor of politics at Whitman College in Washington. He writes and teaches on the

politics of the global food system. He is the author of *Intimate Enemies: Landowners, Power, and Violence in Chiapas*.

**Rights Sold:**

US & Can. (Beacon); South Korea (Viz&Biz); Audio (Audible)

- Translation rights available
- Books available
- Publication January 2013

**WHITE BREAD**

*A Social History of the Store-Bought Loaf*

**The story of how white bread became white trash, this social history shows how our relationship with the most beloved and reviled food staple reflects our country's changing values.**

How did white bread, once an icon of American progress, become “white trash”? In this lively history of bakers, dietary crusaders, and social reformers, Aaron Bobrow-Strain shows us that what we think about the humble, puffy loaf says a lot about who we are and what we want our society to look like.

*White Bread* teaches us that when people debate what one should eat, they are also wrestling with larger questions of race, class, immigration, and gender. As Bobrow-Strain traces the story of bread, from the first factory loaf to the latest gourmet *pain au levain*, he shows how efforts to champion “good food” reflect dreams of a better society—even as they reinforce stark social hierarchies.

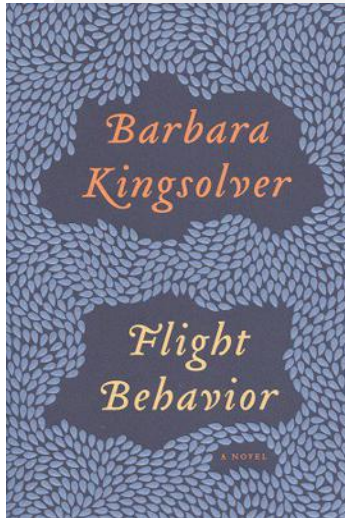
Given that open disdain for “unhealthy” eaters and discrimination on the basis of eating habits grow increasingly acceptable, *White Bread* is a timely and important examination of what we really talk about when we talk about food.

“This terrific book does for the humble loaf what Mark Kurlansky does for cod.”

—**Raj Patel**, author of *Stuffed and Starved*

“This is entertaining history and an example of food studies in action”

—**Marion Nestle**



**Barbara Kingsolver** is the author of seven works of fiction, including *The Lacuna*, *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Animal Dreams*, and *The Bean Trees*, as well as books of poetry, essays, and creative nonfiction. In 2000, she was awarded the National Humanities Medal, the US’s highest honor for service through the arts and in 2010 she won the Orange Prize for *The Lacuna*. She lives with her family on a farm in southern Appalachia.

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- Translation rights available
- Books available
- Publication November 2012

**FLIGHT BEHAVIOR\***

*A Novel*

**From the Orange Prize-winning author of *The Lacuna* comes a suspenseful and brilliant new novel about catastrophe and denial**

Discontented with her life of poverty on a failing farm in the Eastern United States, Dellarobia, a young mother, impulsively seeks out a love affair. Instead, on the Appalachian mountains above her farm, she discovers something much more profoundly life-changing – a beautiful and terrible marvel of nature. As the world around her is suddenly transformed by a seeming miracle, can the old certainties they have lived by for centuries remain unchallenged?

*Flight Behavior* is a captivating, topical and deeply human novel touching on class, poverty and climate change. It is Barbara Kingsolver’s most accessible novel yet, and explores the truths we live by, and the complexities that lie behind them.

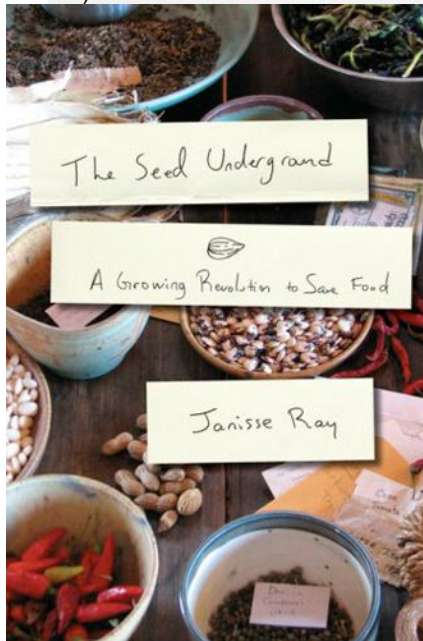
“With her powerful new novel, Kingsolver (*The Lacuna*) delivers literary fiction that conveys an urgent social message”--**PW** (Starred Review)

“Orange Prize winner Kingsolver (*The Lacuna*) performs literary magic, generously illuminating both sides of the culture wars, from the global-warming debate to public education in America”—**Library Journal** (Starred Review)

\*Shortlisted for the 2013 Women's Prize (formerly The Orange Prize)

**Previous publishers:**

UK (Faber); France (Rivages); Italy (Mondadori); Turkey (Pegasus); Spain (Lumen); Israel (Modan); Brazil (Versus); Hungary (Kelly); Norway (Juritzen Forlag); Serbia (Laguna); Romania (Corint); Russia (Corpus); Greece (Melani); China Simple & Complex (Thinkingdom); Portugal (Club do Autor); Czech (Jota); Denmark (Verve); Poland (Wydawnictwo Abatroz); Croatia (Algoritam); Holland (Atlas-Contact)



**Janisse Ray** is author of four books of literary nonfiction and a collection of nature poetry. She is on the faculty of Chatham University's low-residency MFA program and is a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. She holds an MFA from the University of Montana, and in 2007 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Unity College in Maine.

**Rights Sold:**

World English (Chelsea Green); Turkey (Moda Ofset); France (Seepia)

- Translation rights available
- Books available
- Publication April 2013

## THE SEED UNDERGROUND

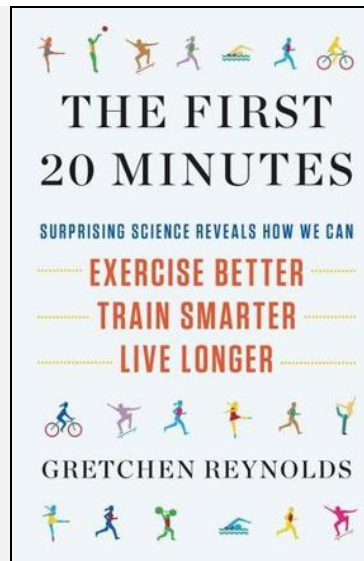
### *A Growing Revolution to Save Food*

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

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

“What a dream of a book—my favorite poet writing about my favorite topic (seeds)...If books can move you to love, this one does.”

—**GARY PAUL NABHAN**, editor of *Renewing America’s Food Tradition*



**Gretchen Reynolds** pens the Phys Ed column for the *The New York Times*, which appears on the “Well” blog online and in the *Science Times* print section. An award-winning journalist, her byline has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *AARP Magazine*, *Popular Science*, and *Outside*, among others. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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- Publication April 2012

**THE FIRST TWENTY MINUTES**

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



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

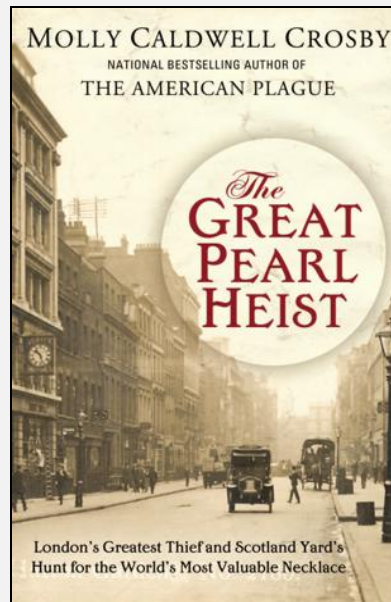
At one point or another, nearly every person who works out wonders: am I doing this right? Which class is best? Do I work out enough?

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

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

"Gretchen Reynolds writes the Phys Ed column in the New York Times, and her book is an informative and

entertaining review of current science about exercise and fitness, with good, commonsense recommendations that cut through confusing, often conflicting research on the subject.... Armed with the information in this book, readers will be inspired and motivated to reassess their habitual exercise programs and make positive changes" --**PW**



**Molly Caldwell Crosby** is the author of *The American Plague: The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, the Epidemic that Shaped Our History*, and *Asleep: The Forgotten Epidemic that Remains One of the Medicine's Greatest Mysteries*. Her writing has appeared in *Newsweek*, *Health*, and *USA Today*.

**Rights Sold:**

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- Publication December 2012

## THE GREAT PEARL HEIST

*London's Greatest Thief and Scotland Yard's Hunt for the World's Most Valuable Necklace*

**The untold story of the theft of a priceless pearl necklace, that would pit a charming, gentleman thief in a cat-and-mouse game against Scotland Yard's most talented detective.**

On July 15, 1913, a Parisian jeweler named Henri Salamons worked in his shop on Rue de Provence, wrapping the most valuable strand of pearls in the world. The necklace was on loan to him from Max Mayer, a London jeweler who had spent a fortune assembling it. Most of the pearls had come from Baghdad and Bombay, and the large center pearl had belonged to Portuguese royalty. Shortly, the necklace would be mailed back to Mayer in London, but it never

arrived. The necklace, valued at the time more than the Hope diamond, had disappeared, stolen by a master thief.

That summer, the hunt for the world's most valuable pearl necklace would bring together two brilliant minds – Chief Inspector Alfred Ward, one of the first criminologists of the modern Scotland Yard, and Joseph Grizard, a celebrated and dapper jewel thief. Both men were highly respected and well-known. Both were considered the best in their professions, and in this front-page case, were set against one another in this case that riveted Edwardian London.

“A winning true crime tale.”-PW

# The Lifespan of a Fact.

John D'Agata,  
author.

Jim Fingal,  
fact checker.

**John D'Agata** is the author of *About a Mountain* and teaches nonfiction writing at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where he lives.

**Jim Fingal** is a software engineer and writer in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

## **Rights Sold:**

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- Publication February 2012

## THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT

### *An Essayist and His Fact-Checker Do Battle*

In 2003, an essay by John D'Agata was rejected by a major magazine that commissioned it due to factual inaccuracies, artistic liberties which the author never shied away from. The essay was accepted by another magazine, *The Believer*, but not before they handed it to their own fact-checker, Jim Fingal. What resulted from that assignment was seven years of arguments, negotiations, and revisions as D'Agata and Fingal struggled to navigate the boundaries of literary nonfiction.

"Here is the genius of this little book, for as it progresses, D'Agata and Fingal turn everything around on us, until even our most basic assumptions are left unclear .... A vivid and reflective meditation on the nature of nonfiction as literary art."

- **L.A. Times**

".... might be the most improbably entertaining book ever published." –

**NPR**

"[A] whip-smart, mordantly funny, thought-provoking rumination on journalistic responsibility and literary license." - **Publishers Weekly** (starred)

review)

“... less a book than a knock-down,  
drag-out fight between two tenacious  
combatants, over questions of truth,

belief, history, myth, memory and forgetting.” - *New York Times Book  
Review* (cover)

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