

Donadio & Olson, Inc.  
LITERARY REPRESENTATIVES

**RIGHTS GUIDE, August 2015**

- **Kaitlyn Greenidge, WE LOVE YOU, CHARLIE FREEMAN**

An exploration of the complexities of identity, this remarkable debut novel shows how language, race, and history manifest in everyday life. Frustrated by the limitations of cross-race communication in her predominantly white town, a young African-American girl teaches herself to sign. Years later, Laurel uproots her husband and daughters from their over-educated and underpaid life in the South End of Boston. The Freemans have been hired by a private research institute to teach sign language to a chimpanzee. Told primarily from the point of view of Laurel's elder daughter, Charlotte, the novel shifts in time from the early 1990s to the founding of the Institute in the 1930s to the present day. With language both beautiful and accessible, Greenidge examines that time in each person's life when we realize the things we thought were normal may be anything but. Colum McCann said, "Kaitlyn Greenidge's debut novel slips a very skillful knife under the skin of American life. This is a story about family, about language, about history and its profound echoes. In particular she is surgically brilliant when it comes to the issue of race: she pushes the story into brand new territory. The novel does what all good art should do -- it creates an appearance of ease, but then it returns to haunt and question us. This is an allegory that pays tribute to Ellison, to Morrison, to Wideman and Doctorow, and it is every bit as necessary and provocative as Colson Whitehead's *The Intuitionist*."

**World English:** Algonquin

**Film:** Donadio & Olson

**Foreign:** Donadio & Olson

**Available format:** edited manuscript (pub March 2016)

**Audio:** Recorded Books

**First Serial:** Donadio & Olson

- **Mark Thornton, KID MOSES**

Moses is a street kid in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. A survivor who longs for something outside of the grim existence he has long known: begging, stealing fruit, and steering clear of the murderous bully Prosper. On a whim, Moses and his friend Kioso hitch a ride on the back of a truck. Only to find themselves alone in a wilderness where their street savvy is of no use. Cruel strangers and poisonous snakes are just a few of challenges Moses faces before his adventure climaxes in a violent shoot-out with elephant poachers. Safari-guide Thornton uses the experience of one unfortunate but resourceful child to show the uneasy relationship between modern humanity and disappearing wilderness, and the brutal life of the displaced in contemporary southern Africa, or indeed throughout the world. The novel received high praise upon its publication in South Africa. A lean, raw, surprising debut.

**US & Canada:** Arcade (Skyhorse)

**Foreign:** Jacana/South Africa

**Film, audio, serial:** Donadio & Olson

**Available Format:** page proofs (pub October 2015)

- **Vikram Paralkar, THE AFFLICTIONS**

A mesmerizing and sometimes hilarious collection of phantasmagorical diseases, “collected” from an imaginary medieval encyclopedia. Published by a small Philadelphia press last fall, the work has already garnered excellent attention, and foreign rights have just been turned over to D&O, with a deal to close in Argentina shortly. Paralkar was born and educated in Mumbai, moved to Philadelphia in 2005 and is now a physician-scientist specializing in hematology-oncology at the University of Pennsylvania. He has won awards and published research in numerous medical and scientific journals and is now working on a brilliant first novel in the magical realist tradition.

<b>World English:</b> Lanternfish	<b>Available Format:</b> Finished book
<b>Translation:</b> Bompiani/Italy; La Bestia Equilatera/World Spanish	

- **James Curtis, WILLIAM CAMERON MENZIES: The Shape of Films to Come**

From the acclaimed film historian and biographer of Spencer Tracy, W. C. Fields, and Preston Sturges—the first book to look at the life and work of Hollywood's greatest production designer (a job title David O. Selznick invented for Menzies's extraordinary, and Academy Award-winning work on *Gone with the Wind*). It was Menzies—winner of the first ever Academy Award for Art Direction—who changed the way movies were (and still are) made in a career as production designer that spanned four decades, from the 1920s through the 1950s, and whose more than 120 films include: *The Thief of Bagdad*, *Things to Come*, *Foreign Correspondent*, *Our Town*, *The Pride of the Yankees*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*. **Black & white images throughout, color insert.**

<b>World English:</b> Knopf	<b>Available Format:</b> bound proofs
<b>Translation, film:</b> Donadio & Olson	

- **Chuck Palahniuk, MAKE SOMETHING UP: Stories You Can't Unread**

Representing work spanning more than a decade, Palahniuk's first collection of short fiction will disturb and delight in equal measure. In “Zombies,” the best and brightest high school students become addicted to the latest craze—electric shock from cardiac defibrillators. In “Knock, Knock,” a son hopes to tell one last off-color joke to a father, while in “Tunnel of Love,” a massage therapist practices the curious art of providing ‘relief’ to dying clients. **And in “Excursion,” fans will be thrilled to find a side of Tyler Durden never seen before in this precursor story to the classic Fight Club.** “Palahniuk comes roaring back . . . Pathos and panic and penitence from one of the darkest and most singular minds in contemporary American lit.” -- Kirkus. “Essential for Palahniuk fans and will likely win him some new ones.” -- Publisher's Weekly.

<b>US &amp; Canada:</b> Doubleday	<b>Available format:</b> finished books (pub May 2015)
<b>Foreign:</b> Cape/UK, AST/Russia; Ayrinti/Turkey	
(Option publishers include Sonatine/France, Mondadori/Italy, Random House/Spain, LeYa/Brazil, Polirom/Romania, Purpura/Poland, Euromedia/Czech Republic, Helikon/Hungary, Kunst/Estonia, Qanun/Azerbaijan, Phoenix-Power Cultural/China (Simplified))	
<b>Audio:</b> Recorded Books	<b>Film:</b> Rich Green/ICM

- **Louis Sarno, SONG FROM THE FOREST (Reprint)**

First published more than twenty years ago, Sarno's classic of his life among the Bayaka (pygmy) people of Central Africa is back in print just in time for the international release of Michael Obert's film of the same name. The New York Times calls the film "a captivating visual and sonic exploration of the strange, music-driven life of Louis Sarno, and American ethnomusicologist who was lured to the Congo River basin in the 1980s by recordings of pygmy songs and, in many ways, never came back." "Sarno tells the story of his quest with honesty and passion and purity of soul, as well as with a golden ear . . . an amazing confessional narrative that just about defines what it means to be human." – Luc Sante

New Foreword by Alex Shoumatoff

**World English:** Trinity University Press      **Available Format:** Finished books (pub April 2015)  
**Foreign:** Malik National Geographic/Germany  
**Film has released in Germany and will in USA (April), Poland, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Switzerland (with more countries to follow)**

- **John Ehle, THE LAND BREAKERS (Reprint)**

First published in 1964, this novel of two daring settlers confronting in the Appalachian wilderness in 1789 is the first in Ehle's epic series of seven books. All set in North Carolina, they together paint a portrait of American rural life from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. This New York Review Books Classic edition has already garnered high praise from The Spectator in London ("A lost American classic to rival anything by Faulkner") among others, and been bought by Mozaiek in The Netherlands. "The Land Breakers is a great American novel, way beyond most anything New York literary icons have produced"—**Michael Ondaatje** "John Ehle is our foremost writer of historical fiction"—**Harper Lee**

**World English:** New York Review Books      **Available Format:** Finished Books  
**Foreign:** Mozaiek/The Netherlands

- **Mark Merlis, JD**

When a scholar asks permission to write a biography of the once well-known but now obscure writer Jonathan Ascher, his wife Martha is forced to reevaluate their life together. For the first time she reads her deceased husband's journals, which reveal the heartbreaking secrets undermining their strained relationship with each other, as well as with their son Mickey. Set against a superbly authentic world of cultural New York in the 1950s and 60s, Merlis (**American Studies; The Arrow's Flight**) creates a vivid portrait of the pre-AIDS gay intellectual scene. Unflinching and emotionally resonant.

**US & Canada:** Wisconsin University Press      **Available format:** finished books (March 2015)  
**Foreign and audio:** Donadio & Olson

- **Daniel Mark Epstein, PATRIOTS AND RENEGADES: The War in Ben Franklin's House**

William Franklin, bastard son of Benjamin Franklin, was a soldier, scholar, lawyer, assistant on his father's scientific experiments, and named Royal Governor of New Jersey at the age of 32.

Nothing seemed more certain than that he would take his rightful place as one of the leading men of the Colonies. Until strife with England turned father and son-- rebel and tory-- into bitter enemies. Epstein (**The Lincolns, The Ballad of Bob Dylan**) will recreate this family tragedy against the dramatic backdrop of the American Revolution

**World English:** Ballantine Books  
**Foreign & Film:** Donadio & Olson

**Available format:** Proposal  
**First serial & Audio:** Ballantine

- **Bridgett Davis, INTO THE GO-SLOW**

Set in a democratically awakening Africa of the 1980s, Davis' latest focuses on a young woman coming to terms with her sister's mysterious death. Angie flees the suffocating atmosphere of her mother's home for Lagos, Nigeria. It was a trip she dreamed of taking with her sister, a recovered heroin addict. The turbulent world Angie encounters is nothing like the one she dreamed, but as she survives illness, threats, and tortured romance, she finds the strength to face the troubles she left behind. Davis brings the sights, smells and feel of Lagos—from poverty-ridden slums to the mansions of the wealthy—vividly to life, and explores how attitudes and desires common to a people express themselves differently under different circumstances.

**US & Canada:** Feminist Press  
**UK, translation, film:** Donadio & Olson

**Available format:** finished book

- **Peter Matthiessen, IN PARADISE**

Clements Olin, American academic of Polish descent, travels to Auschwitz in the winter of 1996 for an extraordinary purpose: a weeklong retreat in which Buddhists, Catholics, the children of prisoners and the children of their guards, hold meditation sessions on the train platforms and sleep in the former SS quarters of the camp where, half a century before, more than a million Jews went to their deaths. As the days pass, tensions political and personal surface among the group, stripping away any easy pretense of healing or closure. Olin, in the grip of emotions of bewildering intensity, is forced to abandon the role of observer and to embrace a history his family has long suppressed. And with it, the yearnings and contradictions of being fully alive. A brave and deeply thought-provoking novel about what it is to bear witness, by one of our most stunningly accomplished writers. Matthiessen, co-founder of *The Paris Review*, world-renowned naturalist, explorer, and environmental activist, is the author of thirty books including *Shadow Country*, which won the National Book Award for fiction in 2008, and *The Snow Leopard*, which won the same award for non-fiction three decades before.

**World English:** Riverhead/Penguin

**Film:** Steve Fisher/APA

**Foreign:** One World/UK, Scribe/Australia, Seix Barral/Spain, Deux Terres/France, EO/Italy; Lemur/Turkey

**Available format:** finished books (April 2014)

**Audio:** Riverhead/Penguin

## NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK DEALS:

- **Isabel Bandeira, BOOKISHLY EVER AFTER (Young Adult)**

In this charming, contemporary debut, when book-nerd Phoebe learns that the cute band guy, Dev, has a crush on her, she looks to her favorite young adult books as romance advice manuals.

**The first of a three book deal.**

**World English:** Spencer Hill Contemporary

**Foreign:** Donadio & Olson

**First Serial:** Donadio & Olson

**Available format:** Manuscript

**Audio:** Donadio & Olson

- **Melissa Gorzelanczyk, ARROWS (Young Adult)**

Think Greek Mythology meets MTV's *Teen Mom*. In this contemporary myth adaptation, a cupid-in-training from Olympus shoots a ballet prodigy with an arrow, realizing too late the other arrow in his pack is useless, causing a tragically one-sided enchantment. A remarkable debut from a talented new writer.

**World:** Delacorte Press/Random House Children's

**Available format:** Galleys (January 2016)

**Audio:** Recorded Books

- **Chris Scofield, THE SHARK CURTAIN (Young Adult)**

Lily lives in two worlds: her own not-quite reality, and that of her 1960s nuclear family. Both are spinning slowly out of control. A tragicomic glimpse into the world of a young girl with a disorder that has yet to be discovered, set against the backdrop of a decade that redefined everything.

**World English:** Black Sheep/Akashic Books

**Available format:** finished books (pub April 2015)

- **Liza Wiemer, HELLO?**

Tricia: A girl struggling to find her way after her beloved grandma's death. Emerson: A guy who lives his life to fulfill promises, real and hypothetical. Angie: A girl with secrets she can only express through poetry. Brenda: An actress and screenplay writer afraid to confront her past. Brian: A potter who sets aside his life for Tricia, to the detriment of both. Linked and transformed by one phone call, *Hello?* weaves together these five Wisconsin teens' stories into a compelling narrative of friendship and family, loss and love, heartbreak and healing, serendipity, and ultimately hope.

**US & Canada:** Spencer Hill Contemporary

**Foreign, audio, film:** D&O

**Available format:** galleys

## RECENT DEALS (Foreign Rights Controlled by the Publisher)

- **Carmiel Banasky, THE SUICIDE OF CLAIRE BISHOP**

Combining literary accessibility with fabulist elements, Banasky uses dual narratives to create a tour de force that spans time and space and shows just what it means to find one's true self. Greenwich Village, 1959. Claire Bishop—a housewife with a proclivity for stealing forks from restaurants—sits for a portrait, only to discover that what the artist has actually depicted is Claire's suicide. Haunted by the painting, Claire is forced to redefine herself within a failing marriage and a family history of madness. Shifting ahead to 2004, we meet West, a young schizophrenic obsessed with a painting he encounters in a gallery: a mysterious image of a woman's suicide. Convinced it was painted by his ex-girlfriend, West constructs an elaborate delusion involving time-travel, Hasidism, art-theft, and the terrifying power of representation. When the two characters finally meet, in the present, delusions are shattered and lives are forever changed. Colum McCann called it a "Daring, precise, and linguistically acrobatic, this novel brings a history of America alive, from the war protests in the sixties to turn-of-the-21st-century art theft. A fearless portrayal of madness and its consequences, Carmiel Banasky's debut novel tracks the life of a suicidal housewife and her unlikely, schizophrenic counterpart. This is a new writer to savor, reminiscent of Nicole Krauss, Michael Chabon and Andy Sean Greer." \*Starred PW Review 7/15\*

**World:** Dzanc, **Audio:** Blackstone Audio. **Available format:** galleys (pub Sept 2015)

- **Thomas Rayfiel, GENIUS**

Kara Bell spent her youth plotting escape from Witch's Falls, Arkansas. Relentless focus and spurning all emotional attachment led to a doctoral program in philosophy at Columbia University. But Kara's careful plans are upended by cancer, and suddenly she is home again. Subject to her mother's suffocating care, her brother's stormy love life, the local doctor's meddling and the strong gravitational pull of her old friend and obsession, Christy Lee. Will Kara find health and sanity? Will she learn what really happened to her father? Can she escape Witch's Falls a second time, or will she succumb to the slow poison of local kindness and Snickers salad? In **Genius**, the marvelous Thomas Rayfiel (**Colony Girl**) finds poignancy and dark humor in deathly illness, family secrets, organized religion, parenting, abortion, small-town gossip, senility, and so much more. **World:** TriQuarterly

- **Tom Bouman, DRY BONES IN THE VALLEY**

*Dry Bones in the Valley* introduces the melancholy, old-time fiddle-playing, deer-hunting Officer Henry Farrell of Wild Thyme, Pennsylvania, who is drawn into his first murder investigation when an elderly recluse discovers a mutilated corpse on his land. Though content in his sleepy, small-town station, Farrell knows that trouble lurks among his neighbors. Secrets and feuds go back generations, meth labs sprout like mushrooms in the woods, and the steady encroachment of gas drilling has made some rich, while turning neighbor against neighbor. When danger strikes close to home, Henry's hunt for the killer will open old wounds, dredge up ancient crimes, and lead to a final, deadly reckoning in the woods. **World:** Norton **Available Format:** books

**DRY BONES won the 2015 Edgar Award for first novel.**

**Norton has signed up two more novels in the Henry Farrell mystery series.**

- **Brian Kellow, CAN I GO NOW?: The Life of Sue Mengers, Hollywood's First Superagent**

The first biography of the most famous Hollywood super-agent of the 1970s and '80s. Sue Mengers was a born rule breaker; with her boundless imagination, devastating wit and relentless persistence, she became THE movie agent of her time, securing spectacular financial deals for a client list that included Barbra Streisand, Burt Reynolds, Ryan O'Neal, Gene Hackman, Christopher Plummer, Gore Vidal, Peter Bogdanovich, Cybill Shepherd, Farrah Fawcett-Majors and many others. Kellow's book traces Mengers's stunning rise to a celebrity status that rivaled those of her star clients, from her beginnings in Hamburg to her childhood in the bustling mill town of Utica, New York to her professional beginnings as a low-paid secretary in New York theatrical agencies, to her emergence as one of the toughest agents in the business. Kellow, the author of *PAULINE KANEL: A LIFE IN THE DARK*, one of the most critically acclaimed biographies of 2011, uses extensive interviews with Mengers's clients and colleagues to discover the passions and fears that drove her, while creating a vivid tapestry of "The New Hollywood" era of the late 1960s and '70s, a time when the movies--and the movie audience--changed in dramatic ways. **World:** Viking **Available Format:** Galleys

- **Robert Stone, THE DEATH OF THE BLACK-HAIRED GIRL**

Steven Brookman, a brilliant but careless professor, has determined that for the sake of his marriage and soul, he must end the relationship with his electrifying student Maud Stack. But Maud is a young woman whose passions are not easily contained, and their union will yield tragic and far-reaching consequences. As in his most acclaimed novels, Stone conjures a complex moral universe where nothing is black and white. The needs of individuals, for faith, love, or revenge, pit them against one another and against the institutions meant to protect them. *Death of the Black-Haired Girl* is Stone's most provocative novel in years—an irresistibly compelling tale of infidelity, accountability, the allure of youth, the promise of absolution, and the notion that madness is everywhere, in plain sight. "Stone imbues his characters with a rare depth that makes each one worthy of his or her own novel. With its atmosphere of dread starting on page one, this story will haunt readers for some time." —*Publishers Weekly* "An unusual but poised mix of noir and town-and-gown novel, bolstered by Stone's well-honed observational skills."—*Kirkus* (starred review) **World:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt **Available Format:** Books

Donadio & Olson controls rights to several Robert Stone backlist titles: **Dog Soldiers** [winner of the National Book Award], **A Hall of Mirrors**, **Children of Light**, **A Flag for Sunrise**, and **Prime Green**.)

**Selected Client List**

<b>ABISH</b> , Walter	<b>ELLMANN</b> , Richard (Estate)	<b>MERLIS</b> , Mark
<b>ALBRECHT</b> , Donald	<b>EPSTEIN</b> , Daniel Mark	<b>MULROY</b> , Tom
<b>ALGREN</b> , Nelson (Estate)	<b>EHRENBERG</b> , Pamela	<b>MURPHY</b> , Ray
<b>ARLEN</b> , Michael	<b>EVANS</b> , Rebecca	
		<b>PALAHNIUK</b> , Chuck
<b>BAILEY</b> , Anthony	<b>FALCO</b> , Edward	<b>PERA</b> , Brian
<b>BANASKY</b> , Carmiel	<b>FLAX</b> , Shoshana	<b>PHILIPS</b> , Sian
<b>BANDEIRA</b> , Isabel		<b>PUZO</b> , Mario (Estate)
<b>BLAIR</b> , Katharyn	<b>GORZELANCZYK</b> , Melissa	
<b>BOUFFARD</b> , Carrie	<b>GOREY</b> , Edward (Estate)	<b>RAYFIEL</b> , Thomas
<b>BOUMAN</b> , Tom	<b>GREENIDGE</b> , Kaitlyn	
<b>BECK</b> , Koa	<b>GRISSOM</b> , James	<b>SCOFIELD</b> , Chris
<b>BING</b> , Leon		<b>SARNO</b> , Louis
<b>BRIAN</b> , Bex	<b>HERR</b> , Michael	<b>SHULMAN</b> , Jennifer
<b>BRAM</b> , Christopher	<b>HILL</b> , Robert	<b>SIKOV</b> , Edward
	<b>HINEBAUGH</b> , Olivia	<b>SIMON</b> , Rachel
<b>CALISHER</b> , Hortense	<b>HYNES</b> , James	<b>SPANBAUER</b> , Tom
<b>CHESTER</b> , Craig		<b>STONE</b> , Robert
<b>COLBY</b> , Todd	<b>JENKINS</b> , McKay	<b>SPAIN</b> , Chris
<b>COLWIN</b> , Laurie (Estate)		
<b>CONROY</b> , Frank (Estate)	<b>KAZAN</b> , Frances	<b>TERKEL</b> , Studs
<b>CONROY</b> , Will	<b>KELLOW</b> , Brian	<b>TEPPER</b> , Julian
<b>CURTIS</b> , James	<b>KAUFMAN</b> , Joan	<b>TOUGAW</b> , Jason
	<b>KELLETT</b> , Kathleen	<b>TURNER</b> , Alice
<b>DAVIS</b> , Bridgett		
<b>DAVIS</b> , Wes	<b>MACMILLAN</b> , Ian	<b>WIEMER</b> , Liza
<b>DeMARINIS</b> , Rick	<b>MANN</b> , Dionna	
<b>DEROSA</b> , Stephen	<b>MATTHIESSEN</b> , Peter	
<b>DIEVENDORF</b> , Scott	(Estate)	
<b>EHLE</b> , John	<b>MAUGHAN</b> , Kathryn	