

MacKenzie Wolf Rights Guide

Fall 2020

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Contents

Nonfiction	3
Fiction	21
Children's	27
Co-Agents	29

Nonfiction

Susan Wise Bauer

Bones, Blood, Breath:

How Sickness Shapes Our World

Publisher: St. Martin's Press (W/Eng) + **Editor:** Elisabeth Dyssegaard

Pub date: Fall 2022 + **Materials:** Proposal (ms due Fall 2021)

Category: Narrative nonfiction + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: **Korean:** Sejong Books; **Simplified Chinese:** Winshare (Tiandi); **Turkish:** Say; **Russian:** Eksmo.

+ Sold in a six-figure pre-empt.

+ Bestselling author, with over a million books sold.

+ Expert author, with 100,000+ newsletter subscribers.

+ Closest comp titles are international bestsellers *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond, and *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari.

In the tradition of *Sapiens*, bestselling author Susan Wise Bauer's *BONES, BLOOD, BREATH: How Sickness Shapes Our World* is a timely, gripping and thought-provoking take on human history told through humanity's evolving perceptions of illness.

In illness, Bauer finds a surprising new lens through which to consider all of human history—she argues that bodily sickness and our conception of it has shaped our culture, our philosophies, and our religions, and has directly and indirectly affected how we view others, how we view ourselves, and how we fashion our world. She argues that sickness is the great mirror that reflects back our most urgent and eternal questions: *Why does calamity descend without warning? How can we explain it? And how do we fight back?*

Bringing history to life through intimate individual stories—the feverish Mesopotamian sufferer; the plague victim who dies alone, the last in his village; the seventeenth-century teenager racked by smallpox; the Congolese grandmother watching her family die of Ebola—Bauer takes readers on a journey from humans' earliest days when sickness was an unsolvable mystery, evidence that humans were powerless to the unseen forces of gods, to more modern times and the birth of germ theory, when secularism grew alongside our fear of contamination. Bringing us full circle, Bauer discusses how in our contemporary era, HIV, Ebola, Superbugs, and a number of other seemingly apocalyptic forces have pushed people away from science and back towards the old and perverse comforts of superstition and suspicion of the other.

A multidisciplinary human history like no other, *BONES, BLOOD, BREATH* is a big think book that tells a large-scale, vivid, chronological story, stretching around the world from ancient times until the present—it will change the way we understand who we are.

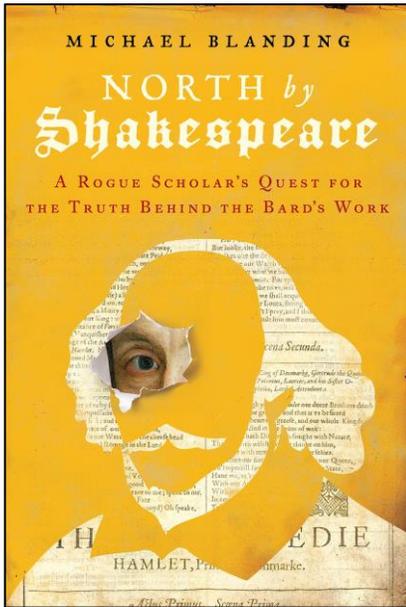
Susan Wise Bauer is a writer, historian, and educator. Known for combining meticulous research with gripping detail to offer her readers sweeping and engaging big-picture narratives, Susan is also an in-demand speaker and expert. She is the author of eighteen books, including the educational classic *The Well-Trained Mind* (with Jessie Wise), **250,000+ copies sold**; *The Well-Educated Mind*, **110,000+ copies sold**; the *History of the World* series **300,000+ copies sold**; and *The Story of the World* series **1.5 million+ copies** since 2001. Bauer has a bachelor's degree in English language and linguistics with a minor in Greek; a Master of Divinity in Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature; an M.A. in English language and literature; and a Ph.D. in American Studies, with a concentration in the history of American religion. Susan writes, reads, lectures and consults, and runs a family farm and bed-and-breakfast.



Michael Blanding

North By Shakespeare:

A Rogue Scholar's Quest for the Truth Behind the Bard's Work



Publisher: Hachette Books (North American) + **Editor:** Paul Whitlatch
Pub date: March 2021 + **Materials:** Proposal (ms due October 2020)
Category: History + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

+ **New York Times** bestselling author

From the acclaimed author of *The Map Thief*, the true story of a self-taught Shakespeare sleuth's quest to prove his eye-opening theory about the source of the English language's most famous plays, taking readers inside the vibrant era of Elizabethan England and the contemporary scene of Shakespeare scholars and obsessives.

A work of gripping non-fiction, *North by Shakespeare* presents the twinning narratives of rogue scholar Dennis McCarthy, called "the Steve Jobs of the Shakespeare community," and Sir Thomas North, an Elizabethan courtier whom McCarthy believes to be the undiscovered source for Shakespeare's plays.

Dennis McCarthy is an unlikely figure, a fifty-something college dropout who, for the last fifteen years, has obsessively pursued the true source of Shakespeare's works. His findings are stunning. With the help of plagiarism software, he has not only found direct links between *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Thomas North's published and unpublished writings, but he has also discovered plotlines in the plays seemingly lifted straight from North's colorful life.

McCarthy's wholly original conclusion is this: Shakespeare wrote the plays, but he adapted them from source plays written by North decades before—many penned on behalf of North's patron Robert Dudley, in his efforts to woo Queen Elizabeth. That bold theory answers many lingering questions about the Bard with compelling new evidence, including a newly unearthed journal of North's travels through France and Italy, filled with details of places appearing in the plays where Shakespeare himself is never known to have traveled.

North by Shakespeare alternates between the dramatic life of Thomas North, the intrigues of the Tudor court, the rivalries of English Renaissance theatre, and outsider scholar Dennis McCarthy's attempts to air his provocative ideas in the clubby world of Shakespearean scholarship. Through it all, Blanding employs his keen journalistic eye to craft a highly readable drama, up-ending our understanding of the beloved playwright and his "singular genius."

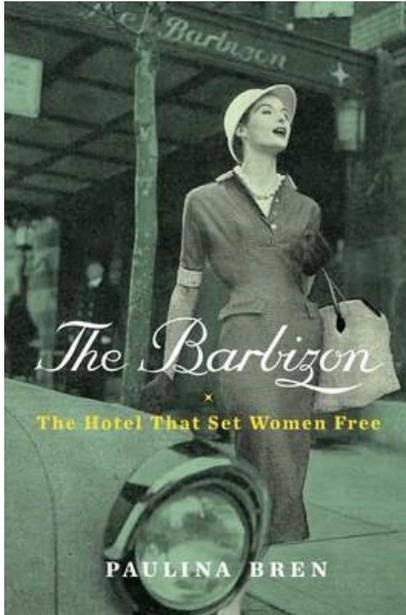
Michael Blanding is a Boston-based investigative journalist, whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *WIRED*, *Slate*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Boston* magazine, and other publications. He is author of *The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who Made Millions Stealing Priceless Maps* (2014), which was a *New York Times* bestseller and an NPR Book of the Year; and *The Coke Machine: The Dirty Truth Behind the World's Favorite Soft Drink* (2010). A former journalism fellow at Brandeis University and Harvard Law School, he has taught feature writing at Tufts University, Emerson College, and GrubStreet Writers.



Paulina Bren

The Barbizon:

The Hotel That Set Women Free



Publisher: Simon & Schuster (N/Am) + **Editor:** Emily Graff

Pub date: Fall 2020 + **Materials:** Proof pages.

Category: Narrative nonfiction + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: UK/ANZ: Two Roads; **Italian:** Neri Pozza; **Simplified Chinese:** United Sky.

+ **TV rights optioned at auction to HBO, with Emilia Clarke (*Game of Thrones*) to executive produce.**

+ **Sold in an eleven-way auction in a six-figure deal.**

+ **Famous residents included Joan Didion, Sylvia Plath, Joan Crawford, Grace Kelly, Liza Minnelli, Ann Beattie and many more.**

+ **An epic story of women's ambition in the 20th century.**

From award-winning author Paulina Bren comes the first history of New York's most famous residential hotel—The Barbizon—and the remarkable women who lived there.

The Barbizon tells the story of New York's most glamorous women-only hotel, and the women—both famous and ordinary—who passed through its doors. World War I had liberated women from home and hearth, setting them on the path to political enfranchisement and gainful employment. Arriving in New York to work in the dazzling new skyscrapers, they did not want to stay in uncomfortable boarding houses; they wanted what men already had—exclusive residential hotels that catered to their needs, with daily maid service, cultural programs, workout rooms, and private dining.

The Barbizon would become the most famous residential hotel of them all, welcoming everyone from aspiring actresses, dancers, and fashion models to seamstresses, secretaries, and nurses. The Barbizon's residents read like a who's who: Titanic survivor Molly Brown; actresses Rita Hayworth, Joan Crawford, Grace Kelly, Tippi Hedron, Liza Minelli, Ali McGraw, Jaclyn Smith, and Phylicia Rashad; writers Sylvia Plath, Joan Didion, Diane Johnson, Gael Greene, and Meg Wolitzer; and so many more. But before they were household names, they were among the young women arriving at the Barbizon with a suitcase, and hope.

The Barbizon Hotel offered its residents a room of their own and air to breathe, unfettered from family obligations and expectations. It gave women a chance to remake themselves however they pleased. No place had existed like it before, or has since.

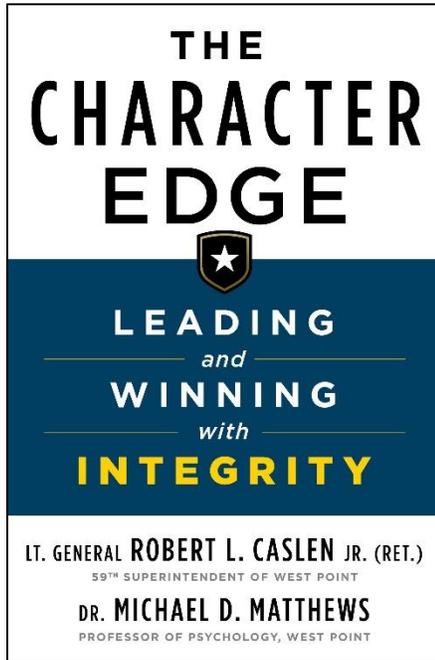
Paulina Bren received her PhD in Modern European history from New York University. Her first book, *The Greengrocer and His TV: The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring* (Cornell UP, 2010), won the Council for European Studies 2012 Book Prize, the Austrian Studies Association 2012 Book Prize, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Vucinich Book Award. Her second book, co-edited with Mary Neuburger, was a collection of essays entitled *Communism Unwrapped: Consumption in Cold War Eastern Europe* (Oxford UP, 2012). Bren has been the recipient of many grants and fellowships, including from the National Endowment for Humanities, the National Council of East European and Eurasian Research, the Social Science Research Council, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Fulbright-Hays.



LTG Robert Caslen & Dr. Michael Matthews

The Character Edge:

Leading and Winning With Integrity



Publisher: St. Martin's Press (W/Eng) + **Editor:** Marc Resnick
Pub date: October 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.
Category: Leadership / psychology + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: **Simplified Chinese:** Beijing Zito; **Complex Chinese:** ACME; **Korean:** Woongjin Think Big; **Hebrew:** Matar.

- + Sold in a six figure pre-empt
- + Foreword by MARTIN E. P. SELIGMAN, Ph.D., bestselling author of *Learned Optimism*
- + Co-authors a celebrated General and former head of West Point
- + Major Marketing Campaign: 150000 copy announced market distribution

What makes a successful leader? Skill, grit, resiliency, charisma, courage, credibility? All of these factors play a part, but underlying each of them is the one core attribute that all others emanate from: strength of character.

We are experiencing a failure in character right now at the highest levels—in business, in politics, in sports, and beyond—and we all suffer for it. In response to these failures, the psychological science of character has exploded. Psychologists are building an understanding of the role character plays in leadership, trust, and overcoming adversity, and demonstrating links between character and resilience. THE CHARACTER EDGE puts the science to work and presents an actionable method for building character. Built on the lessons of the authors' work, and drawing examples from successful leaders in business, industry, sports, and beyond; and in the spirit of bestselling pop-psych books like Angela Duckworth's *Grit*, Susan Cain's *Quiet*, and Carol Dweck's *Mindset*, THE CHARACTER EDGE is a must-read roadmap to true strength of character.

**"Inspiring and practical. This will be an instant classic."
—Angela Duckworth, bestselling author of *Grit***

"Few great leaders have charismatic personality, but all have character that inspires. Caslen and Matthews show how and why this fundamental inner architecture of leadership can—and must—be built." —JIM COLLINS, author of *Good to Great*

Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Jr. recently retired as the 59th Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Prior to serving at West Point, LTG Caslen served as the Chief of the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq. He has been recognized with numerous military and civilian awards and honors at the highest levels.

Dr. Michael D. Matthews is currently Professor of Engineering Psychology at the United States Military Academy at West Point and is a former Air Force officer. A Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Dr. Matthews speaks regularly to military and civic groups on matters of personal and organizational resilience, and is a regular consultant to senior Army leaders. Dr. Matthews is the author of *Head Strong: How Psychology is Revolutionizing War* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Sutanya Dacres

Dinner For One:

How Cooking in Paris Saved Me

Publisher: Park Row + **Editor:** Natalie Hallack + **Pub date:** May 2022

Materials: Proposal (ms available August 2021) + **Category:** Memoir + **Agent:** Leigh Eisenman

+ Author a popular podcaster with an International following
+ Will feature select recipes, illustrative of the author's Parisian life,
at the end of the memoir

When Sutanya Dacres married her French boyfriend and moved to Paris in 2013, she felt like she was living out her very own fairy tale. Jamaican-born and New York-raised, she had never entertained fantasies of living abroad, until her grad school days when she discovered the blogs of expat women living in Paris and began to dream of a different life in a different land. Then she met a French man in a bar, fell in love, and *voilà*, almost as if she willed it, she was living her Parisian fantasy, embarking on her own “happily ever after” ... until her marriage fell apart.

Sutanya looked back to her beloved bloggers for guidance, but realized their rosé-tinted reality didn't match up to her own. For one thing, they weren't writing about divorce. For another, they weren't Black. While her marriage had ended and the facade of picture-perfect Paris had cracked, Sutanya wasn't giving up on the City of Light. Instead, she decided to figure out for herself what happens after the Paris fairy tale ends, and to find a way to mend her broken heart and create a home for herself, beginning in her kitchen.

Determined to share her genuine, candid perspective and offer a counter-narrative to the typical idealized expat story, Sutanya launched her podcast, *Dinner for One*, in February 2018. In each episode, she invites listeners into her Paris kitchen as she shares her experiences as a 30-something hopeless romantic embracing her post-divorce life and celebrating the joy of learning to love cooking for herself. This book grew out of the podcast. In *Dinner for One: How Cooking in Paris Saved Me*, Sutanya takes the reader on an adventure through love, loss, and finding home, even when home doesn't look quite how you expected.

Along the way, she builds Parisienne friendships, learns how to date in French, and examines what it means to be a Black American woman in Paris—all while adopting the French principle of pleasure, especially when it comes to good food.

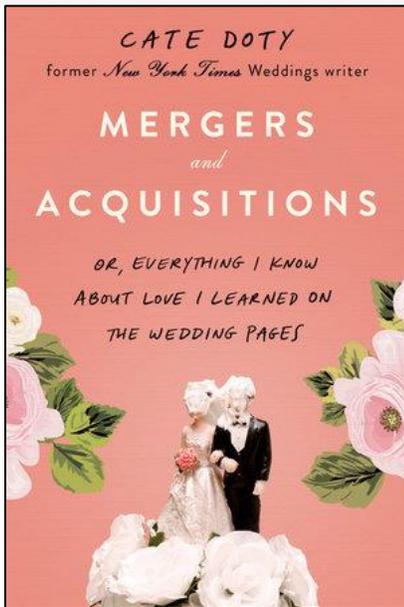
Sutanya Dacres is the creator and host of the podcast *Dinner for One*, which has been featured in *The New York Times* and BBC Radio Hour, among others outlets. She grew up in New York City and graduated from the University of Hartford where she double majored in international relations and modern languages and cultures (French) and earned a master's in communications. She has held a number of copywriting positions at branding and advertising agencies, including Interbrand and BBDO Paris, and with Air France. Sutanya is passionate about contributing a new, underrepresented voice to the Paris expat narrative. She currently resides, and cooks dinners for one, in the Montmartre neighborhood of Paris.



Cate Doty

Mergers and Acquisitions

Or, Everything I Know About Love I Learned on the Wedding Pages



Publisher: Putnam + **Editor:** Michelle Howry

Pub date: May 2021 + **Materials:** Proposal (ms available Oct 2020)

Category: Narrative nonfiction/memoir + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

+ Sold at auction for six figures

+ Author worked as the weddings writer for the *New York Times*' Sunday Style section

+ Nonfiction meets romantic comedy

+ A new comedic voice in nonfiction, alongside the likes of Mindy Kaling and Jenny Lawson

A compulsively readable behind-the-scenes memoir that takes readers inside the weddings section of the *New York Times*—the good, bad, and just plain weird—through the eyes of a young reporter just as she's falling in love herself.

Growing up in the south, where tradition reigns supreme, Cate Doty thought about weddings . . . a lot. She catered for them, she attended many, she imagined her own. So, when she moved to New York City in pursuit of love—and to write for *The New York Times*—she finds her natural home in the wedding section, a first step to her own happily-ever-after, surely. Soon Cate is thrown into the cutthroat world of the metropolitan society pages, experiencing the lengths couples go to have their announcements accepted and the lengths the writers go in fact-checking their stories; the surprising, status-signaling details that matter most to brides and grooms; and the politics of the paper at a time of vast cultural and industry changes.

Reporting weekly on couples whose relationships seem enviable—or eye-roll worthy—and dealing with WASPy grandparents and last-minute snafus, Cate is surrounded by love, or what we're told to believe is love. But when she starts to take the leap herself, she begins to ask her own questions about what it means to truly commit...

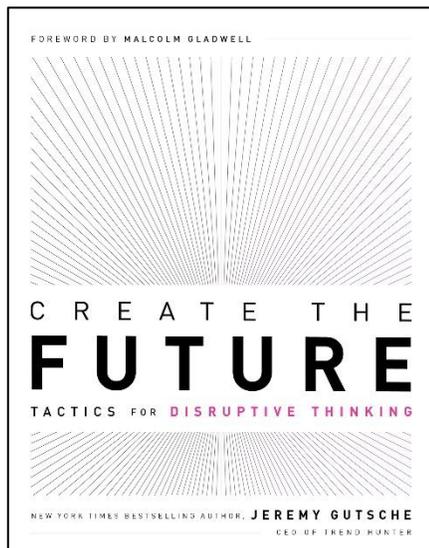
Warm, witty, and keenly observed, *Mergers and Acquisitions* is an enthralling dive into one of society's most esteemed institutions, its creators and subjects, and a young woman's coming-of-age.

Cate Doty is a writer and a former editor at *The New York Times*, where she worked for nearly 15 years, including as a wedding announcements writer; a research assistant to Dan Barry; a presentational campaign reporter; and a senior staff editor on the Food desk, where she was a founding editor of *NYT Cooking*, *The Times*'s award-winning recipes and cooking site and app. She left *The Times* in 2016 along with her husband, Michael McElroy, an editor on the 2016 politics desk, to live in her home state of North Carolina.



Jeremy Gutsche

Create The Future + The Innovation Handbook: Tactics for Disruptive Thinking



Publisher: Fast Company (W/Eng) + **Pub date:** March 2020

Materials: Final pdf.

Category: Business/Leadership + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: Complex Chinese: Helipolis.

+Foreword by Malcolm Gladwell.

+From the *New York Times* bestselling author.

+ An innovative book duo comprised of the all-new *Create The Future* and a revised and updated version of the award-winning *Exploiting Chaos*.

+ Launching with a major \$3mill+ promotional campaign, including targeted advertising, and outreach to innovation leaders.

Everyone wants to be an innovator, but most people don't know how to actually go about it. It's not easy, which is why so many fail. In our era of AI, rapid change, disruption, and possibility, there are so many great opportunities within the grasp of business leaders and entrepreneurs, but smart, successful people consistently miss out on those opportunities. Thankfully, Jeremy Gutsche, *New York Times* bestselling author, award-winning innovation expert, and CEO of Trend Hunter, is here to demystify the process. In *Create The Future*, Gutsche demonstrates how to think disruptively, and provides meaningful, actionable steps for creating real innovation and change. *Create the Future* combines Gutsche's high-energy, provocative thinking with tactics that have been battle-tested through projects by leading innovators like Disney, Starbucks, Amex, IBM, Adidas, Google, and NASA. In combination with the updated and revised *The Innovator's Handbook* (formerly *Exploiting Chaos*) it is a must for any business bookshelf.

"A rousing battle cry for the kind of creative, risky thinking that is most needed in times of change and disorder ... this bold guide is the shake-up you need to check your assumptions, get inspired, and turn business as-usual totally upside down."

—Daniel Pink, bestselling author of *A Whole New Mind*

"Gutsche vividly explores how remarkable companies have risen from chaos, and he provides a toolkit that managers can use to foster a culture of innovation, create great products and services, and change the world." —Guy Kawasaki, bestselling author of 15 books

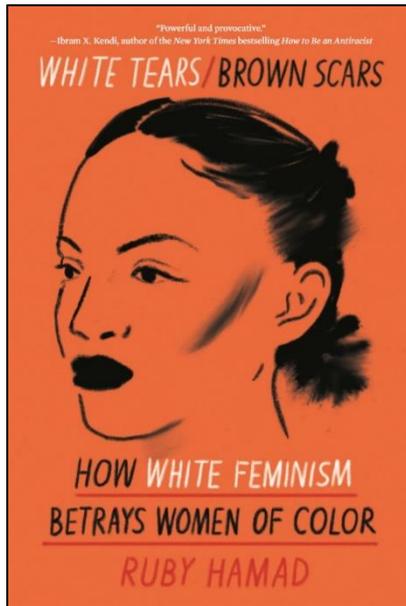
"Without a doubt, this is one of the best books on sparking ideas that I have ever read ... will have you reaching for a blank piece of paper."—Jack Covert author of *The 100 Best Business Books of All Time*

Jeremy Gutsche is a *New York Times* bestselling author, award-winning innovation expert, "one of the most sought-after keynote speakers on the planet" (*The Sun*), and the CEO of Trend Hunter—the world's #1 trend website and innovation consultancy. Jeremy has the #1 most-watched innovation keynote videos on the internet with over 20,000,000 views. He is regularly quoted in the media, including in *The Economist*, *CNN*, *WIRED*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere. He has been described as "a new breed of trend spotter" by *The Guardian*, "an eagle eye" by *Global TV*, an "Oracle" by *The Globe and Mail*, an "intellectual can of Red Bull" by *Association Week*.



Ruby Hamad

White Tears/Brown Scars: *How White Feminism Betrays Women of Color*



Publisher: Catapult (North American) + **Editor:** Megha Majumdar

Pub date: October 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.

Category: Cultural criticism + **Agent:** Rach Crawford

Rights sold: UK: Orion/Trapeze; ANZ: MUP.

+ An October Indie Next pick

+ Named a Best Book by *Cosmopolitan*, *The Observer*

For readers of *White Fragility*, an explosive book of history and cultural criticism, which argues that white feminism has been a weapon of white supremacy and patriarchy deployed against Black and Indigenous women, and women of color.

Taking us from the slave era, when white women fought in court to keep “ownership” of their slaves, through the centuries of colonialism, when they offered a soft face for brutal tactics, to the modern workplace, *White Tears/Brown Scars* tells a charged story of white women’s active participation in campaigns of oppression. It offers a

long overdue validation of the experiences of women of color.

Discussing subjects as varied as *The Hunger Games*, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the viral BBQ Becky video, and 19th century lynchings of Mexicans in the American Southwest, Ruby Hamad undertakes a new investigation of gender and race. She shows how the division between innocent white women and racialized, sexualized women of color was created, and why this division is crucial to confront. With rigor and precision, Hamad builds a powerful argument about the legacy of white superiority that we are socialized within, a reality that we must apprehend in order to fight.

"Powerful and provocative."

—Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, author of *The New York Times* bestselling *How to be an Antiracist*

"Hamad offers a comprehensive look at the ways in which women of color have been dismissed by society . . . This book should be considered required reading."

—Lauren LeBlanc, *The Observer*

"[A] commanding debut . . . searing and effective." —Arianna Rebolini, *BuzzFeed*

"Amid a sea of recent books about white women's commitment to white supremacy, *White Tears/Brown Scars* stands out." —*Bitch*

"*White Tears/Brown Scars* belongs in twenty-first-century feminist canon. Hamad has written a truly exceptional, agenda-setting work."

—Rachel Hills, author of *The Sex Myth*

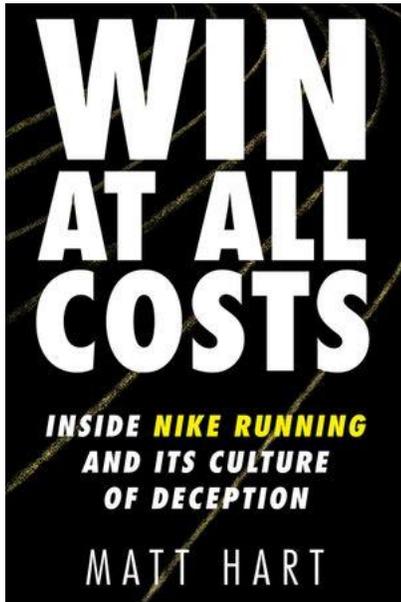
Ruby Hamad is a journalist, author, and academic completing a Ph.D. in media studies at UNSW (Australia). Her *Guardian* article, 'How White Women Use Strategic Tears to Silence Women of Color,' became a global flashpoint for discussions of white feminism and racism and inspired her debut book, *White Tears/Brown Scars*, which has received critical acclaim in her home country of Australia. Her writing has also featured in *Prospect Magazine*, *The New Arab*, and more. She splits her time between Sydney and New York.



Matt Hart

Win At All Costs:

Inside Nike Running and Its Culture of Deception



Publisher: Dey Street + **Editor:** Matthew Daddona
Pub date: October 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.
Category: Narrative / Sports + **Agent:** Allison Devereux

+ An AMAZON #1 Bestseller in Nonfiction: Olympics
#64 in Business Infrastructure

Game of Shadows meets *Shoe Dog* in this explosive behind-the-scenes look that reveals for the first time the unsettling details of Nike's secret running program—the Nike Oregon Project.

In May 2017, journalist Matt Hart received a USB drive containing a single file—a 4.7-megabyte PDF named “Tic Toc, Tic Toc. . . .” He quickly realized he was in possession of a stolen report prepared a year earlier by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) for the Texas Medical Board, part of an investigation into legendary running coach Alberto Salazar, a Houston-based endocrinologist named Dr. Jeffrey Brown, and cheating by Nike-sponsored runners, including some of the world’s best athletes. The information Hart received was part of an unfolding story of deception which began when Steve Magness, an assistant to Salazar, broke the omertà—the Mafia-like code of silence about performance-enhancing drugs among those involved—and alerted USADA. He was soon followed by Olympians Adam and Kara Goucher who risked their careers to become whistleblowers on their former Nike running family in Beaverton, Oregon. Combining sports drama and business exposé, *Win at All Costs* tells the full story of Nike’s running program, uncovering a corporate win-at-all-costs culture.

“Matt Hart’s meticulous reporting documents the toxic culture cultivated by the running world’s most powerful coach and one of the sport’s most influential brands.” –Christie Aschwanden, award-winning science journalist and author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Good to Go*.

“Beautifully-crafted and richly-reported, Matt Hart’s *Win at All Costs* reads like a James Bond thriller.” –Dan Shaughnessy, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Francona* and *The Curse of the Bambino*

“as captivating as it is unsettling and, at times, almost unbelievable. I couldn’t put it down.” –Mario Fraioli, writer and host of the morning shakeout newsletter and podcast

“At its heart, this book is nothing less than an indictment of American sports capitalism.” –Fritz Huber, *Outside Magazine*’s *In Stride* columnist

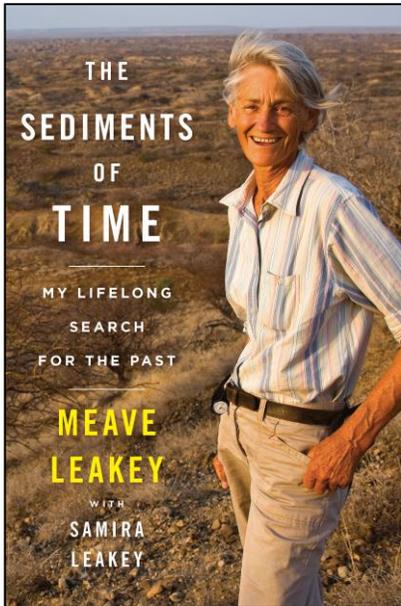
Matt Hart is a freelance journalist based in Boulder, Colorado. His writing covers sports science, human-powered adventure and exploration, nutrition, evolution, and religion. A regular contributor to *National Geographic* and *Outside* magazine, his work also appears in *The Atlantic* and *Men’s Journal*, and his reporting on the investigations into Salazar appeared on the front page, above the fold, of *The New York Times* in May 2017. In addition to his exclusive access to the Gouchers, other confirmed sources for the book include former Nike executives, athletes, and coaches; famed performance coach and Oregon Project whistleblower Steve Magness; and Olympic marathon gold medalist Frank Shorter, among many others.



Meave Leakey, with Samira Leakey

Sediments of Time:

My Lifelong Search for the Past



Publisher: HMH (N/Am) + **Editor:** Pilar Garcia Brown
Pub date: October 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.
Category: Science / Memoir + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

+ **Author is one of the world's preeminent paleoanthropologists.**
+ **A compelling blend of science and memoir.**

Meave Leakey's thrilling, high-stakes memoir encapsulates her distinguished life and career on the front lines of the hunt for our human origins, a quest made all the more notable by her stature as a woman in a highly competitive, male-dominated field.

In *The Sediments of Time*, Meave Leakey—with co-writer and daughter Samira—brings us along on her remarkable journey to reveal the diversity of our early pre-human ancestors and how past climate change drove their evolution. She offers a fresh account of our past, as recent breakthroughs have allowed new analysis of her team's fossil findings and vastly expanded our understanding of our ancestors. The story takes us from Meave's discoveries on the shores of Lake Turkana to run-ins with armed herders and every manner of wildlife, to raising her children and supporting her renowned paleoanthropologist husband Richard Leakey's ambitions amidst social and political strife in Kenya. *The Sediments of Time* is the summation of a lifetime of Meave Leakey's efforts; it is a compelling picture of our human origins and climate change, as well as a high-stakes story of ambition, struggle, and hope.

"A fascinating glimpse into our origins. Meave Leakey is a great storyteller, and she presents new information about the far off time when we emerged from our ape-like ancestors to start the long journey that has led to our becoming the dominant species on Earth. That story, woven into her own journey of research and discovery, gives us a book that is informative and captivating, one that you will not forget."

—Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute

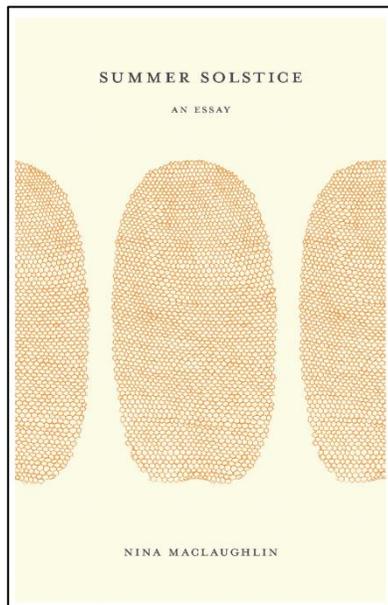
Meave Leakey currently coheads the significant field efforts in northern Kenya, started nearly a century ago by Louis and Mary Leakey, seeking the fossil records to the roots of humankind. She has worked at the National Museums of Kenya since 1969, including the head of the paleontology department, and is research professor at Stony Brook University, New York. She is the recipient of several honorary degrees, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Geological Society of London, inducted into the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, was a National Geographic Explorer in Residence, served as a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, and received the National Geographic Society Hubbard Medal, among many other accolades and achievements. She is also an author of numerous groundbreaking scientific publications in prestigious journals and of several monographs documenting her research. **Samira Leakey** obtained a BA in politics with First-Class Honors from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and a master's in public administration from Princeton University. Samira worked at the World Bank in Washington, DC, and now lives in Nairobi with her daughter.



Nina MacLaughlin

Summer Solstice:

An Essay



Publisher: Black Sparrow Press (W/Eng) + **Editor:** Joshua Bodwell
Pub date: April 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.
Category: Creative nonfiction + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

+ A lyrical, book-length essay from an exciting new voice in American letters.
+ Adapted from the author's essay series published by *The Paris Review*.

A loving, far-ranging, meditation on the meaning of summer.

What is summer made of? The smell of cut grass behind the gasoline of a lawnmower. Ponds, lakes, and oceans. The first swim. A sunburn. A crown you've made of flowers. Blackberry bush prickles. Fat red tomatoes sliced thin and salted. First hot dog off the grill. Stargazing, spooning, and sleeping with the windows open. Two bodies, naked and entwined. Throbbing light from fireflies.

Nina MacLaughlin has been called by the *Boston Globe* "a master writer, with the rare combination of acute observation and astute word choice that characterizes Annie Dillard or Joan Didion." Her long essay (expanded and adapted from her summer solstice series published by *The Paris Review*) brims with a searching honesty and insight about what this season has meant in our pasts and what it might mean in our lives ahead.

"MacLaughlin describes summer as "evanescent, effervescent as a soda bubble at the back of the nose," and her lyrical, lilting prose mirrors the metaphor, until the essay becomes one long gulp, fizzing with life....For those who cannot safely venture from their homes this season, MacLaughlin's book can be that breath of fresh air, the nostalgic call back to better days, and the hope for a future when we can safely gather again under open sky... [Summer Solstice is] a brief reverie, short and sweet like the fleeting days it describes." —Green Mountain Review

Praise for *Wake, Siren: Ovid Resung*, an Indie Next pick (FSG, 2019):

"Nina MacLaughlin has done something audacious. She has invited the female characters in Ovid—daughter, mother, sister, wife, widow, queen, nymph, maenad, monster, even the blind seer Tiresias—to sing through her. *Wake, Siren* is a stunning and sustained performance, in language bold and lyrical, direct yet sensual, and loaded with natural beauty."

—Mary Norris, author of *Greek to Me*

"Vital, vivid, and angry."—Kirkus, starred review

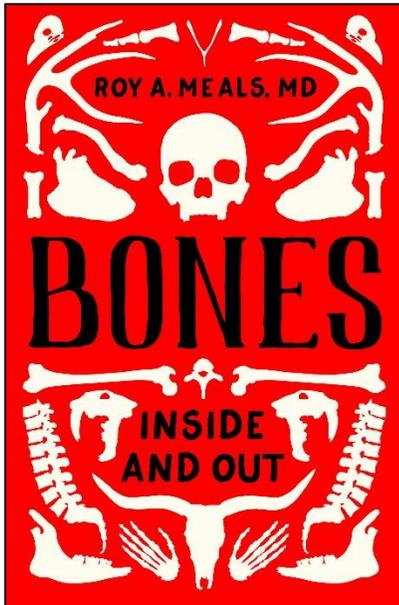
Nina MacLaughlin is the author of *Wake Siren: Ovid Resung* and the acclaimed memoir *Hammer Head*. Formerly an editor at *The Boston Phoenix*, she worked for nine years as a carpenter, and is now a books columnist for *The Boston Globe*.



Roy A. Meals

Bones:

Inside and Out



Publisher: W.W. Norton + **Editor:** Quynh Do
Pub date: October 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.
Category: Science + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

+ From an expert author, an accomplished bone surgeon.

A lively, illustrated exploration of the 500-million-year history of bone, a touchstone for understanding vertebrate life and human culture.

Bone is ubiquitous, versatile, and uniquely repairs itself without scarring. However, we rarely see bone in its living state—and even then, mostly in two-tone images that only hint at its marvels. After it serves and protects vertebrate lives, bone reveals itself in surprising ways, sometimes hundreds of millions of years later.

In *Bones*, orthopedic surgeon Roy Meals explores and extols this amazing material which both supports *and* records vertebrate life. He demystifies the biological makeup of bones, how they grow, break, and heal, and how medical innovations—from the first X-rays to advanced surgical techniques—enhance our lives. With enthusiasm and humor, Meals also reveals the enduring presence of bone outside the body—as fossils, ossuaries, tools, musical instruments—and celebrates allusions to bone in history, religion, and idiom. Approachable and entertaining, *Bones* richly illuminates our bodies' essential framework.

“This appealing and kaleidoscopic narrative on bone topics, ranging from x-ray technology to the Paris catacombs, will appeal to readers interested in medicine and medical history, anthropology, archaeology, and material culture. Enjoyable and recommended.” —*School Library Journal*

“An engaging journey for readers that explores and explains the mysteries and wonders of the skeleton, illustrating the importance of bone in health and history in a wonderful storytelling style. Most informative and a real joy to read.”—Vernon Tolo, MD, former president, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

“Roy A. Meals has done for bone what Mark Kurlansky did for salt: he saw the possibilities in something that everyone takes for granted and made it into a star. This is a paean to bone, a scientific primer as well as a cultural history, composed by a master of his subject.”—Ross D. E. MacPhee, curator, American Museum of Natural History, and author of *End of the Megafauna*

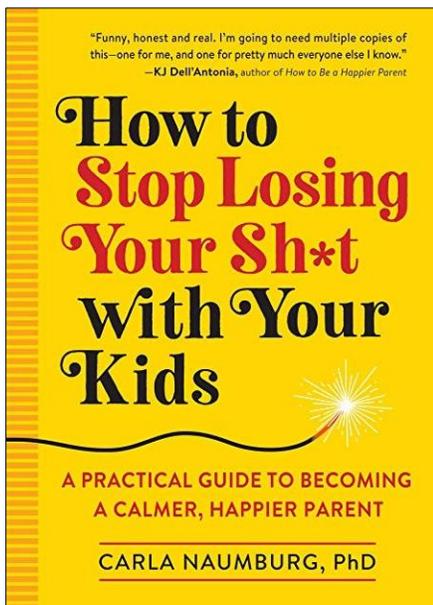
Roy Meals is a Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UCLA. The author of several medical books, he has practiced, researched, and taught hand surgery for forty years. He lives in Los Angeles, California.



Carla Naumburg

*How to Stop Losing Your Sh*t with Your Kids*

A Practical Guide to Becoming a Calmer, Happier Parent



Publisher: Workman (N/Am) + **Editor:** Margot Herrera

Pub date: August 2019 + **Materials:** Finished copies.

Category: Parenting + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: UK/ANZ: Yellow Kite; **German:** Trias; **Italian:** Newton Compton; **Polish:** Muza; **Hungarian:** Publish & More; **Taiwan:** China Times; **China:** Beijing United; **Thai:** Amarin; **Dutch:** Gotmer/Altamira.

+ Reached Amazon #1 New Release in Anger Management Self Help, # 3 in Parenting, #129 in Books.
+ A simple, accessible and humorous guide to more effective and mindful parenting.
+ Now in its third print run!

So, you're losing your sh*t with your kids. You scream, you shout, you snap at them. You're cranky and irritable more often than you'd like to admit. You know how you want to parent; you want to be a calmer, more rational and intentional parent, but no matter how hard you try, you can't help it. You keep losing your shit. Just remember: YOU ARE NOT A BAD PARENT. *How to Stop Losing Your Sh*t With Your Kids* is as honest and compassionate as it is pragmatic about helping you work through your sh*t to be more present and positive. Increasingly relevant to today's parents, who are more overloaded, overwhelmed, and overworked than ever before, this book has the antidote to the feelings of complete despair and rage.

"A definitive, hilarious, and brutally honest guide on how to stop bringing your sh*t into your kids' lives so you can all be happier and more connected in healthy ways."
— Mayim Bialik, on Instagram (*The Big Bang Theory*; *Blossom*; 3.4million followers.)

"...Empathic and real; she doles out plenty of helpful examples and suggestions, then summaries them all in constructive lists at the end of the book." — *BookPage*

"It's a super practical book and one I'd recommend to every parent." — *BookRiot*

"Funny, honest and real." —KJ Dell'Antonia

"Makes you feel hugged rather than judged." —Rebecca Schrag Hershberg, PhD

Carla Naumburg, PhD, is writer, speaker, and clinical social worker. She is the author of *Ready, Set, Breathe* (New Harbinger, 2015) and *Parenting in the Present Moment: How to Stay Focused on What Really Matters* (Parallax, 2014). Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Mindful Magazine*, among other places. Carla is a sought-after public speaker, and she coaches overwhelmed parents on how to make parenting less stressful and more fun.



Shugri Said Sahl

The Last Nomad:

Coming of Age in the Somali Desert

Publisher: Algonquin (North American) + **Editor:** Betsy Gleick + **Pub date:** August 2021

Materials: Manuscript + **Category:** Memoir + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

“I am the last nomad. My ancestors traveled the East African desert in search of grazing land for their livestock, and the most precious resource of all—water. When they exhausted the land and the clouds disappeared from the horizon, their accumulated ancestral knowledge told them where to move next to find greener pastures. They loaded their huts and belongings onto their most obedient camels and herded their livestock to a new home.”

When Shugri Said Salh was six years old, she was sent to live with her nomadic grandmother in the desert, away from the city of Mogadishu. Leaving behind her house, her parents, her father’s multiple wives, and her many siblings, she would become the last of her family to learn a once-common way of life. The desert held many risks, from drought and hunger to the threat of predators, but it also held beauty, innovation, and centuries of tradition. Shugri grew to love the freedom of roaming with her goats and the feeling of community in learning the courtship rituals, cooking songs, and poems of her people. She was even proud to face the rite of passage that all “respectable” girls undergo in Somalia, a brutal female circumcision.

In time, Shugri would return to live with her siblings in the city. Ultimately, the family was forced to flee as refugees in the face of a civil war—first to Kenya, then to Canada, and ultimately to the United States. There, Shugri would again find herself a nomad in a strange land, learning to navigate everything from escalators to homeless shelters to, ultimately, marriage, parenthood, and nursing school. And she would approach each step of her journey with resilience and a liveliness that is all her own.

At once dramatic and witty, *The Last Nomad* tells a story of tradition, change, and hope.

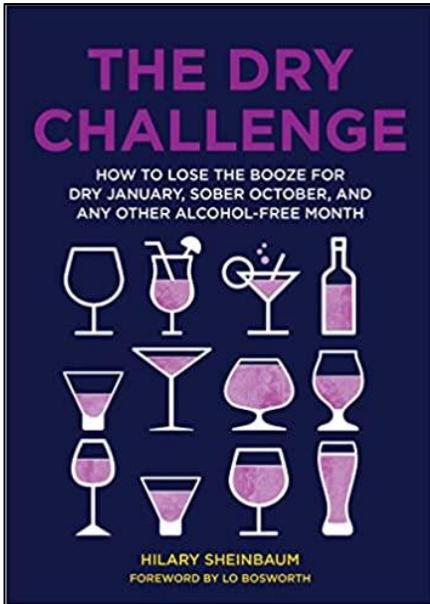
Shugri Said Salh was born in the desert of Somalia in 1974 and spent her early years living as a nomad. In 1992, she emigrated to North America after the civil war broke out in her home country. She attended nursing school at Pacific Union college and graduated with honors. And although this is her first book, Shugri has been storytelling since she could talk. From her grandmother and the nomadic community in which she was raised, she heard stories and learned of their power to entertain, teach, and transform. When she isn't writing or telling stories, she works as an infusion nurse. She lives in Sonoma County with her husband and three children.



Hilary Sheinbaum

The Dry Challenge:

How to Lose the Booze for Dry January, Sober October, and Any Other Alcohol-Free Month



Publisher: Harper Design (North American)

Pub date: December 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.

Category: Lifestyle + **Agent:** Leigh Eisenman

Trend journalist, on-air host, and lifestyle expert Hilary Sheinbaum explores the incredible life-changing benefits of abstaining from alcohol for one month and provides a comprehensive guide to help you tackle Dry January, Sober October, and other booze-free challenges.

For many people, the holidays bring too much fun, too much food, and too much booze. January can be the perfect time to embrace the new you—and it all starts with taking a break from the bottle . . . but this challenge isn't limited to the month of January.

The Dry Challenge is ideal for anyone who wants to complete a dry month challenge, giving up all forms of alcohol—wine, beer, spirits and cocktails, including no shots, no low ABV cocktails, and absolutely no champagne toasts—for thirty-one days. Whether you're thinking

of participating in Dry January, Sober October, or want to choose a time of your own, this book walks you step-by-step through one drink-free month, from making a plan to sharing the news with friends and family (and what to do when someone tries to sabotage it) to getting back on track if you slip up and have a drink (or two).

Hilary Sheinbaum covers essential topics and provides informative tips such as:

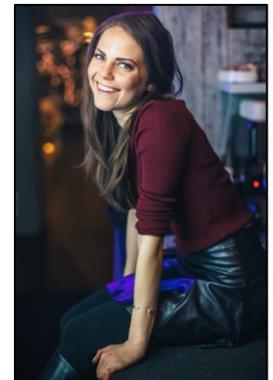
- “What You’ll Gain When You Lose the Booze” + other positive side effects—money and time saved, and a deep dive into the health benefits of living a month without booze.
- “Sober Month Support Squad”—how to enlist friends for support and combat social pressures from our current drinking culture.
- Fun non-boozy activities everyone can participate in, dating (without drinks), “zero-proof” drink recipes, how to throw a nonalcoholic shindig, and the new sober nightlife trend.

With interactive activities from prompts to checklists to recipes, *The Dry Challenge* is the ultimate guide to stay booze free for one month. Cheers to a whole new you!

“A routine-breaking experiment becomes a life-changing experience in *The Dry Challenge*. It’s witty, insightful— and essential.”—*InTouch Weekly*

“The ultimate guide to giving up booze. So much common sense with a fun perspective. It made me want to put down the wine and join and join the movement.”—*People*

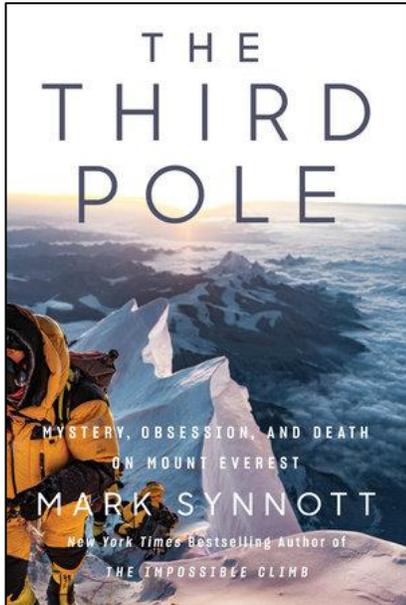
Hilary Sheinbaum’s journalism covers food & beverage, health & fitness, beauty & lifestyle, entertainment, weddings and more, her trend and profile pieces have appeared in the New York Times, USA Today, Marie Claire, and Travel + Leisure, Today.com, and Yahoo!, amNew York and many other outlets. Hilary has been featured as an entertainment and lifestyle expert on Inside Edition, CBS, Fox & Friends, and more. The former South Floridian graduated from the University of Florida. She currently lives in New York City.



Mark Synnott

The Third Pole:

Mystery, Obsession, and Death on Mount Everest



Publisher: Dutton (North American) + **Editor:** Stephen Morrow
Pub date: Spring 2021 + **Materials:** Proposal (ms due Oct 2020)
Category: History / Sports + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: UK/ANZ: Headline; **Spanish:** Desnivel.

+ **Author stars in upcoming National Geographic Everest documentary, directed by Renan Ozturk, to be released globally in 2020**

+ **From the *New York Times* bestselling author.**

+ **Sold for six figures in an exclusive submission**

Veteran climber Mark Synnott never planned on climbing Mount Everest, but a hundred-year mystery lured him into an expedition--and an awesome history of passionate adventure, chilling tragedy, and human aspiration unfolded.

On June 8, 1924, George Mallory and "Sandy" Irvine set out to stand on the roof of the world, where no one had stood before. They were last seen eight hundred feet shy of Everest's summit. A century later, we still don't know whether they achieved their goal, decades before Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay did, in 1953. Irvine carried a Kodak camera with him to record their attempt, but it, along with his body, had never been found. Did Mallory and Irvine reach the summit and take a photograph before they fell to their deaths?

Mark Synnott made his own ascent up the infamous North Face along with a filmmaker using drone technology higher than any had previously flown. His goal: to find Irvine's body and the camera he carried that might have held a summit photo on its still-viable film. Synnott's quest led him from oxygen-deprivation training to archives and museums in England, to Kathmandu, the Tibetan High Plateau, and up the North Face into a storm during a season described as the one that broke Everest. An awful traffic jam of climbers at the very summit resulted in tragic deaths. Sherpas revolted. Chinese government agents turned adversarial. An Indian woman crawled her way to safety and survival. Synnott himself went off the safety rope--if he had slipped, no one would have been able to save him--desperate to solve the mystery. A magnificent story a la *The Lost City of Z*, *The Third Pole* conveys the miracle of a mountain the world wants to own, and the first explorers who may have done so.

Praise for *The Impossible Climb*:

"It is one of the most compelling accounts of a climb and the climbing ethos that I've ever read." —Sebastian Junger, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

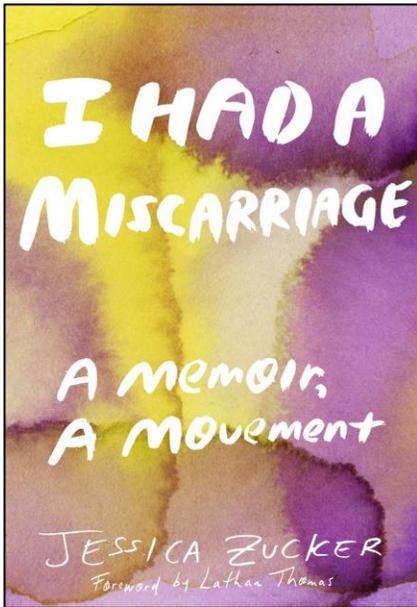
"Mark Synnott's *The Impossible Climb* is to climbing what William Finnegan's *Barbarian Days* is to surfing." —John Long, rock climbing pioneer

Mark Synnott is a twenty-year member of the North Face Global Athlete team. He is a frequent contributor to National Geographic magazine and has written for Outside, Men's Journal, Rock and Ice, and Climbing. He is also an internationally certified mountain guide and a trainer for the Pararescuemen of the United States Air Force. He lives in the Mt. Washington Valley of New Hampshire.

Option Publishers: UK/ANZ: Allen & Unwin; **German:** Benevento; **French:** Editions Amphora; **Japanese:** Toyokan Publishing; **Spanish:** Desnivel; **Italian:** Corbaccio; **Simplified Chinese:** Thinkingdom; **Polish:** Publicat; **Croatian:** V.B.Z.

Dr. Jessica Zucker

I Had A Miscarriage *A Memoir, A Movement*



Publisher: Feminist Press (N/Am) + **Editor:** Lauren Hook & Jamia Wilson

Pub date: March 2021 + **Materials:** Manuscript available.

Category: Memoir / Psychology + **Agent:** Kate Johnson

+ Author is a clinical psychologist specializing in women's reproductive and maternal mental health
+ Foreword by Latham Thomas

Sixteen weeks into her second pregnancy, psychologist Jessica Zucker miscarried at home, alone. Suddenly, her career, spent specializing in reproductive and maternal mental health, was rendered corporeal, no longer just theoretical. She now had a changed perspective on her life's work, her patients' pain, and the crucial need for a zeitgeist shift. Navigating this nascent transition amid her own grief became a catalyst for Jessica to bring voice to this ubiquitous experience. She embarked on a mission to upend the strident trifecta of silence, shame, and stigma that surrounds reproductive loss—and the result is her striking memoir meets manifesto.

Drawing from her psychological expertise and her work as the creator of the #IHadaMiscarriage campaign, *I Had a Miscarriage* is a heart-wrenching, thought-provoking, and validating book about navigating these liminal spaces and the vitality of truth telling—an urgent reminder of the power of speaking openly and unapologetically about the complexities of our lives. Jessica Zucker weaves her own experience and other women's stories into a compassionate and compelling exploration of grief as a necessary, nuanced personal and communal process. She inspires her readers to speak their truth and, in turn, to ignite transformative change within themselves and in our culture.

"An essential book for those raw in grief, or looking to support and understand a loved one's sorrow ... a compassionate love story about death and life, written by an expert, who not only counsels but has experienced such harrowing loss."—Mira Ptacin, author of *Poor Your Soul*

"Dr. Zucker's book compassionately shows there is no one way to grieve a miscarriage, and in doing so normalizes a spectrum of mourning we don't talk about nearly enough. There are lessons on grief for all of us—whether we have experienced miscarriage or not—in her brilliant, beautiful pages. A must read."—Lori Gottlieb, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk To Someone*

"... rooted in her knowledge as a specialist in reproductive and maternal mental health, this book creates a space for women to speak, to grieve, and to live alongside their loss ... This book is a gift."—Emily Rapp Black, Author of *The Still Point of the Turning World*

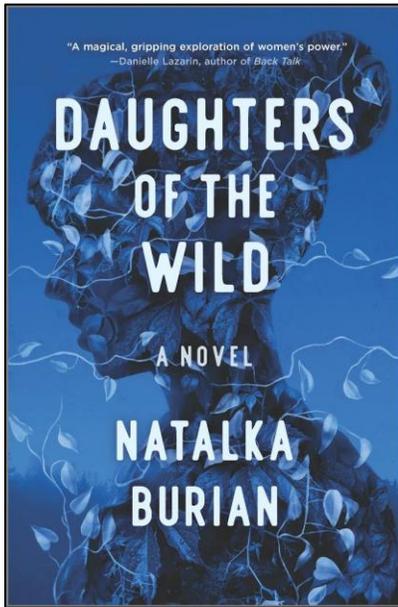
"her moving and insightful ... A necessary book."—Zev Williams, MD, PhD, Chief of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Columbia University Medical Center

Jessica Zucker is a Los Angeles-based psychologist specializing in reproductive and maternal mental health. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, NBC, *New York Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Marie Claire*, *Glamour*, *Instyle*, BuzzFeed, *ELLE*, *SELF*, *TIME*, *VICE*, among others, and she has been featured on *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, CNN, and NPR. Jessica is the creator of the #IHadaMiscarriage campaign, a multi-platform effort. Dr. Zucker earned advanced degrees from New York University and Harvard University.

Fiction

Natalka Burian

Daughters of the Wild



Publisher: Park Row Books (W/Eng) + **Editor:** Laura Brown

Pub date: September 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.

Category: Literary/upmarket + **Agent:** Kate Johnson

+ **Sold in a pre-empt**

+**For readers of Naomi Alderman’s THE POWER and Chloe Benjamin’s THE IMMORTALISTS.**

Unfolding over a sweltering West Virginia summer, *AMONG THE WILD YOUNG* follows Cello and Joanie, foster siblings living in a compound they know only as the Garden. There, with their foster family, they work the land to harvest Vine, a potent plant of dubious legality, while the girls worry about the fate that comes with womanhood: Joanie is the first sister to grow up, but she won’t be the last.

At the novel’s opening, Joanie has returned home after a forced marriage: her husband died unexpectedly, and pregnant Joanie is swiftly blamed, punished at a ritualistic family trial, and banished back

to the Garden. Her baby is born there, destined for a life working the Vine with the other foster kids, until one night he goes missing.

Cello, who has been in love with Joanie ever since they were little, soon finds a ransom note filled with tiny, translucent nail clippings and a request for money. He’s convinced that the kidnappers come from within the family, but to accuse them is too risky. He’ll do anything to get Joanie’s baby back, but Joanie herself doesn’t seem to care: she has discovered more urgent secrets about the family’s history and the Vine’s true powers – she doesn’t know everything, but she knows to get as far away as she can.

A story of family and destiny in the vein of *The Immortalists*, set against a swampy Appalachian backdrop, *AMONG THE WILD YOUNG* is a high-stakes adventure about dark alchemy, alliances, and who you can become, when you don’t know where you come from.

"Daughters of the Wild is a gorgeous, different, and completely engrossing book. Burian's writing is transporting - and exactly what I needed right now."

— Jessica Valenti, author of *Sex Object: A Memoir*

"With prose as luminous and transformative as the psychoactive plant at this novel’s core, this is a book about dignity, intuition, and the sustaining vine of friendship. A perennial read."—

Courtney Maum, author of *Costalegre*

"*Daughters of the Wild* is that rare thing, a gorgeously written and richly imagined page-turner that plows full speed across your heart. Writers like Karen Russell, Joy Williams, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez spring to mind, but Natalka Burian’s voice is her own: lyrical, spunky, and defiantly untamed. It’s a voice we’ll be reading for a long time to come."

—Adam Wilson, author of *Sensation Machines*

"Natalka Burian’s *Daughters of the Wild* is a stunning portrait of a woman seeking to recover her stolen child and her own autonomy in the face of control and confinement. Saturated with magic and mysticism, this novel is a luminous and blisteringly real exploration of the bonds of motherhood, the limits and expansiveness of love, and the possibility of transcendence."

—Jessie Chaffee, author of *Florence in Ecstasy*

"*Daughters of the Wild* is a magical, gripping exploration of women's power and the ties that bind. I was hooked by Joanie and Cello's journeys to survive and grow and by Burian's writing, which is as lush as the garden her characters give their all to. I won't forget the complexity and the strength of these characters."—Danielle Lazarin, author of *Back Talk*

**"*Daughters of the Wild* is a novel about history, our connection to the Earth, and above all, mother's intuition. This is an engrossing, startling debut and Joanie is a force of nature."—
Madeline Stevens, author of *Devotion***

"With utter believability *Daughters of the Wild* brings to life a whole kingdom of grimy, shamanist Virginia Gothic that exists just a short hitchhike away from our contemporary world.

Keep your wits about you as you step across the border – but don't delay too long, because revolution is already stirring in Natalka Burian's spellbinding debut." —Ned Beaman, author of *Madness Is Better Than Defeat*

Natalka Burian is the author of the YA novel *Welcome to the Slipstream* (Simon Pulse), co-author of *A Woman's Drink* (Chronicle) and the co-owner of two Brooklyn bars, Ramona and Elsa. Natalka is also co-founder of The Freya Project, a monthly reading series that raises money for small non-profits located in communities that are discouraging of their work, and through which she has connected with writers Iris Martin Cohen, Madeline Stevens, Danielle Lazarin, Robin Wasserman, Julie Buntin and Jessie Chaffee, who have all offered to support her novel. She received an MA at Columbia University, and completed workshops at Sackett Street and Catapult Books. Her writing has appeared in *The Millions*, *Lit Hub*, *Catapult*, and *Lenny*, and her bars and books have been featured in *The New Yorker*, *Elle*, *Vogue*, *New York*, and elsewhere.

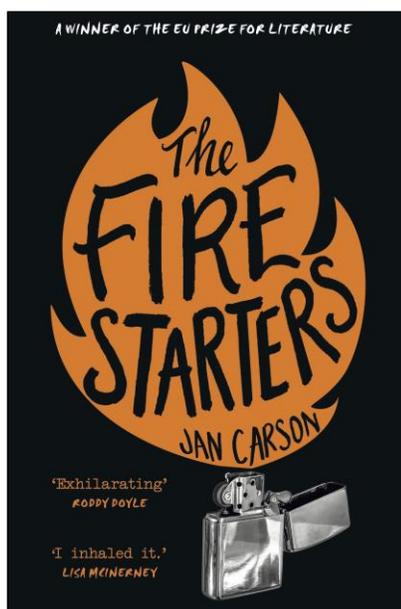


Rights also available to WELCOME TO THE SLIPSTREAM (YA, Simon Pulse, 2017)

Jan Carson

The Fire Starters

Winner, EU
Prize for
Literature



Publisher: Doubleday (UK/Comm) + **Editor:** Fiona Murphy
Pub date: April 2019 + **Materials:** Final pdf.
Category: Literary + **Agent:** Kate Johnson

Rights sold: **Italian:** Giulio Perrone; **Serbian:** Zavet; **Albanian:** Toena; **Bulgarian:** Perseus; **Croatian:** HENA Com; **Macedonian:** TRI Publishing Centre; **Spanish:** Hota de Lata; **Turkish:** Kitap Vadisi; **Arabic:** Al Arabi; **French:** Sabine Wespeiser.

+ Winner of the EU Prize for Literature, Ireland
+ Author “one of the most exciting and original Northern Irish writers of her generation”—*Sunday Times*

From a prize-winning rising star in Irish fiction comes this brilliant, dark, propulsive literary novel about fierce familial love and sacrifice.

Dr Jonathan Murray fears his new-born daughter might not be as harmless as she seems. Sammy Agnew is wrestling with his dark past, and fears the violence in his blood lurks in his son, too. Belfast is in flames and the authorities are losing control. As matters fall into frenzy, and as the lines between fantasy and truth, right and wrong, begin to blur, who will these two fathers choose to protect?

“Carson’s playfulness delights again and again, even as she explores her city’s darkest corners. Sound the siren: this novel truly burns bright.” —*The Independent*

“*The Fire Starters* succeeds in dramatizing the simmering volatility of a region that, with the looming post-Brexit threat of a hard border, could explode again.” —*The Guardian*

“hugely and pleasingly reminiscent of Salman Rushdie’s ... *Midnight’s Children*.” —*Metro*

“a thoroughly captivating and well-paced novel. A writer with a pleasingly distinctive style ... an intelligent and courageous commentator.” —*The Irish Times*

“An amazing book...it is breathtaking” —RTE Radio 1

“Characteristically inventive” —*Vogue*

“Gripping, affecting, surprising. I inhaled it” —Lisa McInerney

“Captivating, intelligent and courageous” —*Irish Times*

“Spectacular. At once grittily real, wildly magical and insanely alluring - a siren-song of a novel.” —Donal Ryan

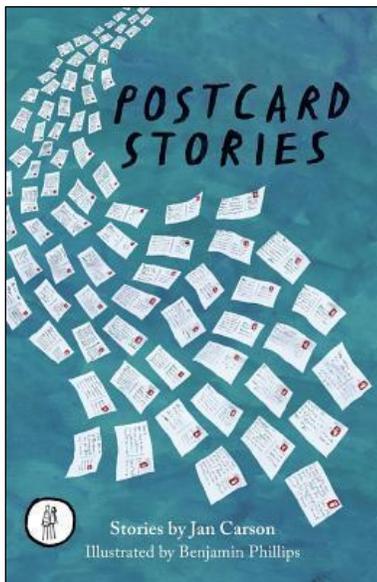
“Jan Carson seems to have invented a new Belfast in this gripping, surprising, exhilarating novel.” —Roddy Doyle

“A brilliant, wry novel, fizzing with energy.”—Barney Norris

Jan Carson

Illustrated by Benjamin Phillips

Postcard Stories #1 & #2



Publisher: The Emma Press (W/Eng) + **Editor:** Emma Wright
Pub date: April 2017/August 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.
Category: Stories / illustrated + **Agent:** Kate Johnson

- + Author shortlisted for the prestigious
BBC National Short Story Award
- + Exciting project from the acclaimed author of
The Fire Starters
- + Can be sold and published as one volume

Each day of 2015 Jan Carson wrote a short story on the back of a postcard and mailed it to a friend. Each of these tiny stories was inspired by an event, an overheard conversation, a piece of art or just a fleeting glance of something worth thinking about further.

Collected in two volumes, published in 2017 and 2020, Carson's postcards present a panoramic view of contemporary Belfast — its coffee shops, streets and museums and airports — and offer it to the wider world. Even as they seem to spring from a writer's solitary perspective, taken together, these observations and their distribution speak of human connectedness. Like a pleasant surprise in the mail, this collection reminds us how many friendships are born and strengthened in a story shared.

The stories in these collections represent the best of some five hundred postcard stories Jan has written since.

Jan Carson is a writer and community arts facilitator based in Belfast. Her first novel, *Malcolm Orange Disappears*, was published in 2014 to critical acclaim, followed by a short story collection, *Children's Children* (2016), and a flash fiction anthology, *Postcard Stories* (2017). Her work has appeared in numerous journals and on BBC Radio 3 and 4. In 2016 she won the Harper's Bazaar short story competition and was shortlisted for the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize. She specializes in running arts projects and events with older people,

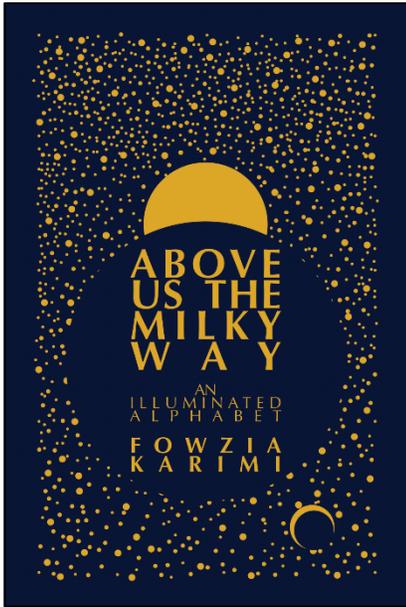
especially those living with dementia. *The Fire Starters* is her second novel.

Artist and illustrator **Benjamin Phillips** lives in St Leonards-on-Sea and shares a studio in Hastings with his partner and dog. Benjamin finds inspiration in human interaction, the humor and turmoil of everyday life and the joy of repetition. His debut graphic novel, *Peanutborough Cucumberland*, was published by Log Press in 2012, and he has worked for clients such as The New York Times, Virgin Media, the Jerwood Gallery and Wichita Records.



Fowzia Karimi

Above Us The Milky Way *An Illuminated Alphabet*



Publisher: Deep Vellum (N/Am) + **Editor:** Will Evans

Pub date: April 2020 + **Materials:** Final pdf.

Category: Literary / illustrated + **Agent:** Kate Johnson

+ **Author winner of a prestigious Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award**

+ **A unique, illustrated literary novel based on the author's childhood immigration from Afghanistan to the U.S.**

As a young family attempts to reconstruct their lives in a new and peaceful country, they are daily drawn back to the first land through remembrance and longing, by news of the continued suffering and loss of loved ones, and by the war dead, who have immigrated and reside with them, haunting their days and illuminating the small joys and wonders offered them by the new land.

The novel's structure is built around the alphabet, twenty-six pieces written in the first person that sketch a through-line of memory for the lives of the five daughters, mother, and father. Ghost stories and fairytales are woven with old family photographs and medieval-style watercolor illuminations to create an origin story of loss and remembrance.

"A sharply etched treatise on the objects of memory... powerful in both its beauty and its uncompromising horror whose themes are as sadly timely as they are eternal." -Starred Review, *Kirkus*

"Karimi's inventive, allegorical debut renders a family's wartime emigration through a polyphonic mix of voices and genres along with evocative color illustrations and photographs... Fans of Lost Children Archive will love this." -*Publishers Weekly*

"A skilled technician whose prose flows like intuition, Karimi parses the beats of her paragraphs with the attention of a poet. Rich with images and imagery, the book is beautiful, both illuminated and illuminating." -Starred review, *Foreword Reviews*

"An ambitious abecedary of family, trauma and life and a love letter to the universe with many moments of power and resplendence." -Jennifer Croft, author of *Homesick*

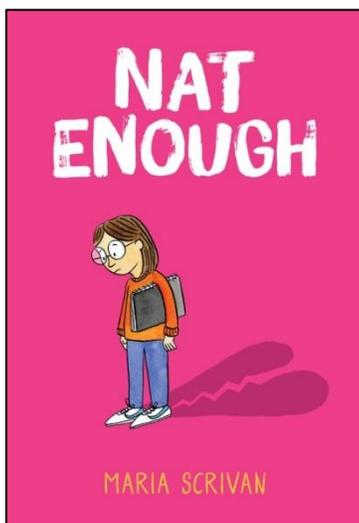
Fowzia Karimi was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. She immigrated to the US in 1980, after the Soviet invasion of the country. Karimi has a background in Studio Art and Biology. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College, California. Her work explores the correspondence on the page between the written and the visual arts. She is a recipient of The Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, and has illustrated *The Brick House* by Micheline Aharonian Marcom and *Vagrants and Uncommon Visitors* by A. Kendra Green. She lives in Texas.



Children's

Maria Scrivan

Nat Enough and Forget Me Nat



Publisher: Scholastic / Graphix (N/Am)

Editor: David Saylor & Meghan Peace

Pub date: April 2020 (Book 1); September 2020 (Book 2)

Materials: Final pdfs.

Category: Middle Grade Graphic Novel + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: UK/ANZ: Scholastic UK; **German:** Loewe; **Spanish and Catalan:** Bruno; **French North American:** Scholastic Canada; **Hebrew:** Yedoith; **Italian:** Piemme; **Turkish:** Epsilon.

+ A *New York Times* bestseller

+ Books 3 and 4 coming soon!

+ A lead title for Scholastic,

with a significant marketing commitment

+ First print run of 50,000 copies, & an additional 160,000 copies ordered for Scholastic Book Fairs

A hilarious new middle grade graphic novel series about self-confidence and hidden talents.

NAT ENOUGH: Making friends isn't easy, but losing them is even harder! Natalie has never felt that she's enough -- athletic enough, stylish enough, or talented enough. And on the first day of middle school, Natalie discovers that things are worse than she thought -- now she's not even *cool enough* for her best friend, Lily! As Natalie tries to get her best friend back, she learns more about her true self and natural talents. If Natalie can focus on who she *is* rather than who she *isn't*, then she might realize she's more than enough, just the way she is.

FORGET ME NAT: There's a reason it's called a crush! For the first time in her life, Natalie feels confident in her own skin. Her talents are being

recognized, she has supportive friends, and she's spending a ton of time with her crush, Derek! But when Derek tells Natalie that he wants to be just friends, Natalie's self-confidence quickly changes to self-loathing. As she attempts to recover from her broken heart, Natalie casts aside her talents and even her friends. With no one to turn to, Natalie will have to pull herself out of this mess on her own.

Maria Scrivan's cartoons have been published in magazines, newspapers, books, and on national television, including *MAD* magazine, *National Lampoon*, *Parade*, *Highlights*, *Funny Times*, *Huff Post*, *Mashable*, *Salon*, and *The Doctor Oz Show*. Her syndicated comic "Half Full" appears daily in newspapers across the US, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Greenwich Time*, and *Stamford Advocate*, and on GoComics.com. Scrivan has done illustrations for corporate clients including IBM, Deloitte, MasterCard, and AT&T, among others, and she has a thriving licensing career. She is on the board of the National Cartoonists Society and was nominated for their Silver Reuben Award in the Greeting Card Division in 2015 and 2017. She is also a member of the Society of Illustrators and speaks about cartooning and creativity for a variety of audiences at libraries and schools. Find her at www.mariascrivan.com



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