

MacKenzie Wolf Rights Guide

Spring 2021

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Nonfiction

Paulina Bren

The Barbizon:

The Hotel That Set Women Free



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

Pub date: March 2021 + **Materials:** Final pdf.

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

Rights sold: UK/ANZ: Two Roads; **Italian:** Neri Pozza; **Simplified Chinese:** United Sky; **Korean:** Nike Books; **Hungarian:** Konyvmolykepzo

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

+ **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.

"More than a biography of a building, the book is an absorbing history of labor and women's rights in one of the country's largest cities, and also of the places that those women left behind to chase their dreams." — [The New Yorker](#)

"A captivating history... Bren's book is really about the changing cultural perceptions of women's ambition throughout the last century, set against the backdrop of that most famous theater of aspiration, New York City.... Bren draws on an impressive amount of archival research, and pays tender attention to each of the women she profiles."

— [The New York Times Book Review](#)

"Among the handful of iconic hotels closely entwined with New York's cultural history, the Barbizon is perhaps less widely known than the Plaza, Algonquin or Waldorf Astoria. But as Paulina Bren's beguiling new book makes clear, its place in the city's storied past is no less deserving...In this captivating portrait, the hotel comes alive again as an enchanted site of a bygone era." — [*The Wall Street Journal*](#)

"The first history of the hotel and the ambitious women who stayed there...poignant and intriguing." — [*The New Republic*](#)

"While Bren's book is packed with juicy midcentury gossip, it's also full of lesser-known characters who light up the pages...It all serves as a potent reminder of how important a little space can be in the quest for freedom." — [*Bust*](#)

"Varying delectably in cadence, from high-heel tapping and typewriter clacking to sinuous and reflective passages analyzing the complex forms of adversity Barbizon women faced over the decades, Bren's engrossing and illuminating inquiry portrays the original Barbizon as a vital microcosm of the long quest for women's equality." — [*BOOKLIST \(Starred\)*](#)

"[An] insightful, well-written account...[Bren] details the lives of some of the Barbizon's most well-known residents, including Molly Brown, Grace Kelly, Sylvia Plath, and Joan Didion, and provides historical context about midcentury single women, careers, and sex...A must read for anyone interested in the history of 20th-century women's lives, fashion, publishing, and New York." — [*LIBRARY JOURNAL \(Starred\)*](#)

"Bren elegantly weaves interviews with former residents and archival research with context on the social and political conditions that limited midcentury women." — [*Fortune*](#)

"A rare glimpse behind the doors of New York's famous women-only residential hotel...Drawing on extensive research, extant letters, and numerous interviews, Bren beautifully weaves together the political climate of the times and the illuminating personal stories of the Barbizon residents...Elegant prose brings a rich cultural history alive." — [*KIRKUS*](#)

"An entertaining and enlightening account of New York's Barbizon Hotel and the role it played in fostering women's ambitions in 20th-century America...Carefully researched yet breezily written, this appealing history gives the Barbizon its rightful turn in the spotlight." — [*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*](#)

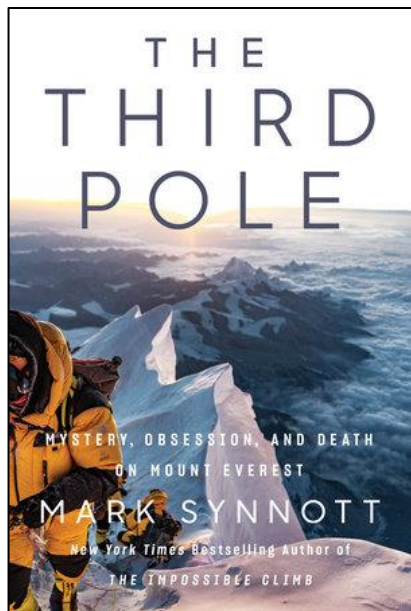
Paulina Bren received her PhD in Modern European history from New York University. Her first book, *The Greengrocer and His TV: The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring* (Cornell UP, 2010), won the Council for European Studies 2012 Book Prize, the Austrian Studies Association 2012 Book Prize, 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.



Mark Synnott

The Third Pole:

Mystery, Obsession, and Death on Mount Everest



Publisher: Dutton (North American) + **Editor:** Stephen Morrow

Pub date: April 2021 + **Materials:** Final pdf.

Category: History / Sports + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: UK/ANZ: Headline; **Spanish:** Desnivel; **Russian:** Sport Marafon; **Italian:** Newton Compton.

- + One of the 57 Most Anticipated Books Of 2021—*Elle*
- + Author stars in National Geographic Everest documentary on climb, directed by Renan Ozturk, released globally in 2020
- + From the *New York Times* bestselling author
- + Sold for six figures in an exclusive submission
- + Major National Geographic Social Promotion across Nat Geo's social channels (equaling 100+M followers), online Q&A; Facebook Live and Reddit AMA
- + *National Geographic* print essay in April 2021 issue

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.

"[A] hair-raising mountaineering story...A fine tale of adventure and exploration sure to please any fan of climbing and Everest lore."

—Kirkus, starred review

"Synnott weaves back and forth between the early climbing pioneers' experiences and his 2019 expedition, harrowing in its own right. A gifted storyteller, he proves firsthand the irresistible lure and perilous dangers of climbing Mount Everest."

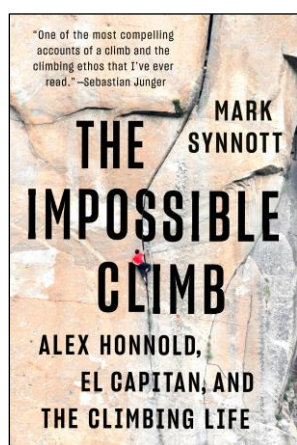
—Booklist

"The Third Pole is an elegy of extremes, a white-knuckle tale of obsession and survival. From the archives of London's Royal Geographical Society to a tent battered by howling winds in the Death Zone, Mark Synnott puts it all on the line in his quest to solve Mount Everest's most enduring mystery." —Susan Casey, author of *The Wave* and *Voices in the Ocean*

"A hundred-year-old detective story with a new twist. A high-altitude adventure. The best Everest book I've read since *Into Thin Air*. Synnott's climbing skills take you places few will ever dare to tread, but it's his writing that will keep you turning pages well past bedtime." —Mark Adams, author of *Tip of the Iceberg* and *Turn Right at Machu Picchu*

"Join Mark Synnott on a quest for an artifact that could change Everest mountaineering history. Part detective story, part high adventure, Synnott engages obsessed historians, dodges Chinese bureaucrats, and ultimately risks his life high on the mountain's north face. As the tension rises, he discovers astounding strengths in his fellow climbers, tragic frailty, and an ineffable truth he never imagined." —Andy Hall, author of *Denali's Howl*

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

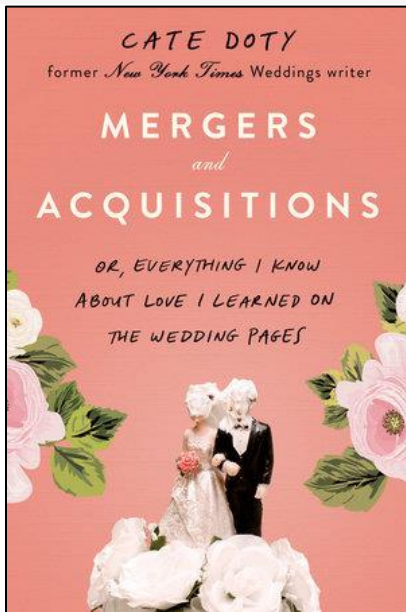
Mark Synnott is a twenty-year member of the North Face Global Athlete team. He is a frequent contributor to National Geographic magazine and has written for Outside, Men's Journal, Rock and Ice, and Climbing. He is also an internationally certified mountain guide and a trainer for the Pararescuemen of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

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:** Final pdf.

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

+ Sold at auction for six figures

+ Optioned by Sony, with screenwriter Emily Goldwyn (*Emily in Paris*) and *Devil Wore Prada* producers attached

+ Author was 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.

"Journalist Doty's boisterous debut combines memoir with a behind-the-scenes look at the *New York Times* style section and a survey of modern marriage trends... Laced with frank reflection and entertaining anecdotes, this is a winning portrait of love and ambition in the 21st century."

– *Publisher's Weekly*

Cate Doty's *MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS* is a delicious confection, filled with swirling layers of history and politics, journalism and gossip, etiquette and fashion, plus family ties, morals and immorals, and, of course—and thank goodness—romance and love, just as any book about weddings (and weddings themselves) should be. -- Jen Doll, author of *Save the Date: The Occasional Mortifications of a Serial Wedding Guest*

"Mergers and Acquisitions: (Or, Everything I Know about Love I learned on the Wedding Pages) is funny, smart, biting, and highly entertaining. Navigating the world of weddings can't be easy, but Cate handles it fearlessly with to-the-point sass in this eye-opening expose." -- Jen Lancaster, New York Times bestselling author of Bitter Is the New Black

"I tore through Cate Doty's book, which is equal parts charming, addictive, funny, and poignant. Doty's stories about working at the New York Times, brilliantly intertwined with her personal experiences with love, lift the veil (pun intended) on both high society and the human condition." – Amy Odell, author of Tales From The Back Row: An Outsider's View from Inside the Fashion Industry

"Hilarious and moving, Doty writes about an industry from the outside in. She illuminates how our appetite for the bouquets, canapés, and artifice exist alongside our desire for the unspoken elements of weddings—the hangovers, cold feet, and gaudy diamonds. At its heart, this is as much a love story between two people as between a writer and her craft." – Ellen O'Connell Whittet, author of What We Become in Flight

"Anyone who enjoys ogling the love lives of couples featured in the newspaper (guilty!) won't be able to put down this entertaining, behind-the-scenes expose, which examines the drive to have nuptials announced and how it says as much about privilege as it does about true love." – Kate Bolick, author of the best-selling Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own.

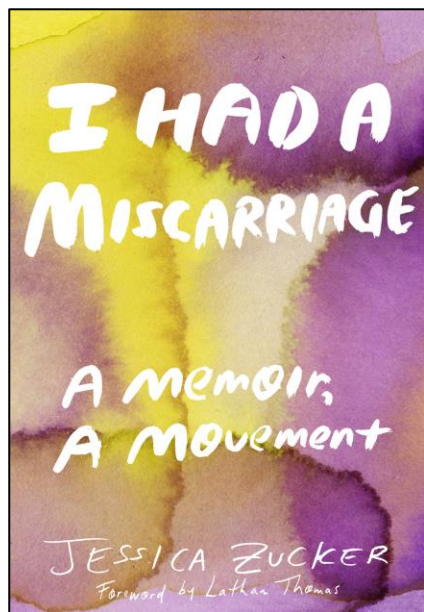
"All the deliciously fizzy fun of a bottomless mimosa, without the hangover! Cate Doty has woven entertaining tales of life on the Vows beat together with her own personal reflections to create a sweet, relatable memoir of growing up and finding love. Give a copy to all your bridesmaids." – Mary Laura Philpott, author of I Miss You When I Blink

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 presidential 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.



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.

"Miscarriages are often considered an uncomfortable and taboo topic. Jessica Zucker's memoir is a response to that, a bold first step in kicking down the stigma that surrounds this common event. . . . A melding of the theoretical and the personal that makes for a powerful feminist framework around this topic." —Literary Hub, "Most Anticipated Books of 2021 List"

"This book should serve as both balm and guidebook for those suffering from such loss. A contemplative, sensitive, and necessary work in the field of pregnancy and parenting."

—Kirkus Reviews

"Psychologist Zucker delivers an illuminating discussion of miscarriage in her strikingly intimate debut memoir. . . . Zucker's story is a profound personal reflection, and her remarkable storytelling sheds new light on a difficult topic. Miscarriage survivors will find affirmation and hope in this stirring account." —Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

"Millions of women experience miscarriages every year. Why, then, is a miscarriage still a loss that our culture views as less extreme and less irretrievable than any other kind of gutting loss? *I Had a Miscarriage* by Jessica Zucker knocks down this ridiculous ladder of loss. Zucker reminds us of the vulnerability and strength of bodies that grow life, and honors the loss of a life that did not have a chance to be a body in the world. Avoiding sentimentality and platitudes, and 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 instead of being expected to 'just get over it.' This book is a gift."

—Emily Rapp Black, author of *The Still Point of the Turning World*

"Dr. Zucker's book compassionately shows that 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, author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*

"This powerful and important book is for men as much as for women. By breaking the silence on lost pregnancies, Zucker throws a lifeline to grieving parents who should know that they're not alone and it's not their fault." —Dan Schwerin, former senior advisor to Hillary Clinton

"An essential book for those raw in grief or looking to support and understand a loved one's sorrow. This is not a cold textbook but rather a compassionate love story about death and life, written by an expert who not only counsels but also has experienced such harrowing loss. Zucker's warmth, insight, and honesty make every page bloom with tenderness."

—Mira Ptacin, author of *Poor Your Soul*

"For too long, those suffering from pregnancy loss have felt isolated and alone. In her moving and insightful memoir, Dr. Zucker shares her profound wisdom. Those who've endured pregnancy loss, or their friends and family, will find the stories and experiences shared in these compelling pages to be of great comfort. A necessary book."

—Zev Williams, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Columbia University Medical Center

"When my pregnancy and relationship suddenly and painfully ended, Dr. Zucker's 'I Had a Miscarriage' campaign gave me a lifeline and a silent virtual community of witnesses and words when I had none. Documenting her experience and the campaign with this riveting memoir helps us all normalize miscarriage experiences and end stigma, shame, and silence."

—Yamani Hernandez, executive director of the National Network of Abortion Funds

"This gripping book should rest in the hands of every woman around the world, most especially those who have experienced pregnancy loss. It serves as an immeasurably helpful guide in a time when vital support is needed—and often can't be found. Providing a sense of connection, this story reiterates that there is always a community behind us."

—Christy Turlington Burns, founder of Every Mother Counts

"By writing so bravely and candidly about her own miscarriage, Dr. Zucker has given us a deeply humane book, inviting conversation and community into what for many has been a place of shame and silence. This is a book for everyone whose life has been touched by the loss of a pregnancy." —Carol Gilligan, author of *In a Different Voice*

"*I Had a Miscarriage* masterfully dismantles the shame and stigma heaped upon reproductive health issues, mental health treatment, and speaking out about taboo topics. Dr. Zucker's bravery benefits us all. We all know people who have had miscarriages, we all know the trauma and silence that shrouds this loss. This, too, is a reproductive justice issue. We must tell our stories. Thank you, Dr. Zucker."

—Sarah Sophie Flicker, artist and activist

"The book I wish I had with me on my topsy-turvy road to motherhood."

—Piera Gelardi, cofounder of Refinery29

"*I Had a Miscarriage* provides the badly needed space to share, grieve, and unpack pregnancy loss. By combining her personal story with research and her many years of experience as a therapist, Dr. Jessica Zucker paints a nuanced and frank portrait of the many different ways miscarriage is experienced, and in that portrait, she educates and illuminates—and comforts, too. This book is a solace and a rallying call for change. Let us speak openly and honestly about that which affects so many of us. I am grateful for this book."

—Edan Lepucki, author of *California*

"As a husband who held his wife while she experienced a second-trimester miscarriage, I appreciated the depths Jessica was willing to explore in order to share her remarkable story and to generate awareness about this type of devastating loss. *I Had A Miscarriage* is a poignant book that both men and women can benefit from in order to process the grief of a miscarriage."

—Dan Crane, journalist, author, and documentary filmmaker

"*I Had a Miscarriage* provides an honest, vulnerable, and important account of a societal issue that will never go away, and encourages us to figure out how to address a pain that should weigh on all of us." —Evette Dionne, editor in chief of Bitch Media

"Time was, miscarriage was something families suffered through in silence. If they did talk about it, they were encouraged, often with destructive platitudes, to move on quickly from the experience. Jessica Zucker's work—in her clinical practice, her online community, and now this powerful book—gives people permission to acknowledge their loss and process their grief. This totally absorbing memoir will reduce the isolation that so many who experience pregnancy loss feel. It's about time." —Gabrielle Birkner, coauthor of *Modern Loss: Candid Conversation About Grief. Beginners Welcome.*

"Jessica Zucker's #IHadaMiscarriage campaign gave voice to the unspeakable reality of miscarriage; now, her book goes deeper to explore what she names the trifecta of silence, shame, and stigma women experience following a reproductive loss. [R]aw storytelling alongside brilliant advice for helping ourselves, and those we love, grieve. It is a book that will mean a lot to so many people, and one I won't forget." —Allison Yarrow, author of *90s Bitch: Media, Culture, and the Failed Promise of Gender Equality*

"The book you need that you wish you didn't. Jessica Zucker is an expert in pregnancy loss who's lived it too, and she delivers a much-needed call for new ways to acknowledge, grieve, and gather around what has been an exclusively private pain for too long."

—Anna Sale, host and creator of the podcast *Death, Sex & Money*

"*I Had a Miscarriage* is an incredible reflection on grief and resilience, lifting the veil on a topic so often mired in shame. Kudos to Jessica Zucker for this necessary and moving book."

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

"Jessica Zucker's book is so much more than a recounting of her own experience—though her vulnerability and transparency alone make it worth reading—but about how our society has minimized the experience of pregnancy loss for so many on the basis of politics, religion, race, socioeconomic status, and gender. We have so far to go to eradicate shame and silence on this topic, and this book—and Dr. Zucker's #IHadaMiscarriage movement—does a powerful job of shifting the narrative to one that is more inclusive, loving, and deeply empathic."

—Megan Lierley, managing editor of Blood & Milk

"*I Had a Miscarriage* is a heartbreaking and inspiring portrait of the complexities of pregnancy loss and the world we navigate in its wake. Beautifully crafted from start to finish, this book should be required reading for any family who's been through it."

—Brad Meltzer, author of *The Lincoln Conspiracy*

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.

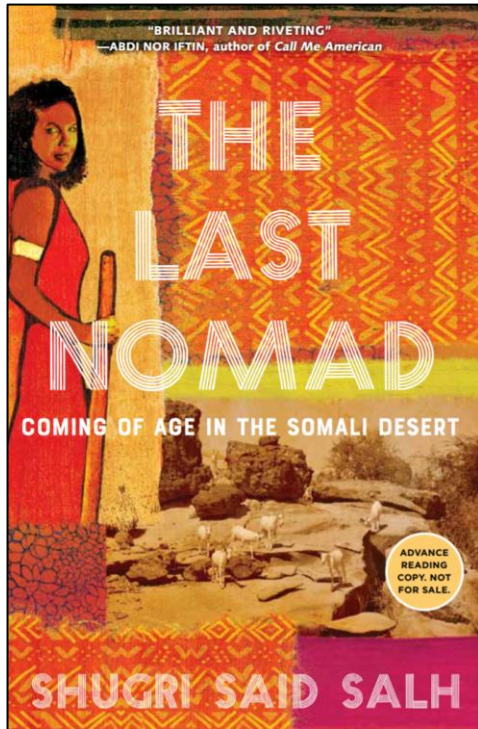
Shugri Said Sahl

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."

Shugri Said Salh grew up in Somalia. A spare daughter in a large family, she was sent at age six to live with her nomadic grandmother in the desert. Leaving behind her house in the city of Galkayo, 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. For Salh, though the desert was a dangerous place threatened by drought and plagued by predators, it also held beauty, innovation, centuries of tradition, and a way for a young Muslim girl to learn courage and independence. She grew to love the freedom of roaming with her goats and the feeling of community found in the courtship rituals, cooking songs, and storytelling of her ancestors.

With engaging wit, with frankness about the rigid gender roles of her culture, and with a fierce feminism, Salh describes how she was wrenched from this life by the Somali Civil War, and how she became a different kind of nomad. She fled, first to a refugee camp on the Kenyan border, and ultimately to North America, where she was once again thrust into a new way of life, this time learning to navigate everything from escalators and homeless shelters to marriage and parenthood.

Now a nurse living in California, Salh has written a dramatic and original memoir that honors a disappearing culture and is as enthralling as a novel. For readers of Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone* or Clemantine Wamariya's *The Girl Who Smiled Beads*, *The Last Nomad* is a riveting story of endurance, resilience, and the shifting definitions of home.

"A brilliant and riveting book, a story that starts pre-war Somalia and into the whispers of the wars. The human stories remain even during the wars, the stories of people's love for their animals, culture and despite all that, Somalia will not be lost. *The Last Nomad* introduces the reader to the real lives in Somalia and the resilience of its people not only inside Somalia but beyond and out into the West Coast of the United States. A timely memoir that helps understand the shifts in political and social aspects in the Somali community."

—Abdi Nor Iftin, author of *Call Me American*

"Shugri Salh's *The Last Nomad* is a fascinating look at a disappearing culture. It's told from the perspective of a girl growing into womanhood in a place where women's value and virtue hinges on the actions of men. Salh's stories of bravery and resilience intersplice with those of everyday joy and struggle. They show her forever navigating the place where two worlds collide with grace and skill, as perhaps only a nomad can."

—Tracey Baptiste, author of *The Jumbies* and *African Icons: Ten People Who Built a Continent*

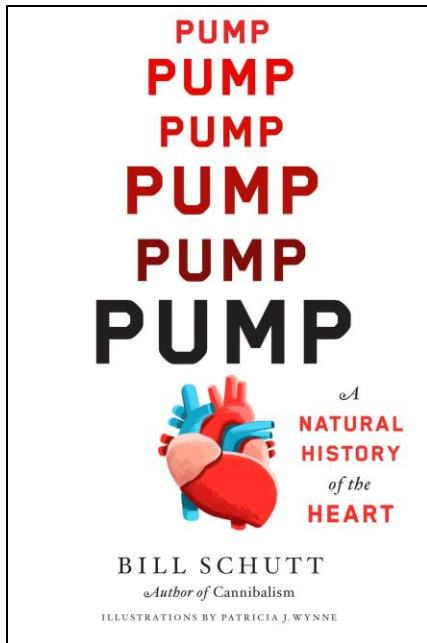
Shugri Said Salh was born in the desert of Somalia in 1974 and spent her early years living as a nomad. In 1992, she emigrated to North America after the civil war broke out in her home country. She attended nursing school at Pacific Union college and graduated with honors. And although this is her first 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.



Bill Schutt

Pump:

A Natural History of the Heart



Publisher: Algonquin (North American)

Pub date: September 2021 + **Materials:** Galley pdf.

Category: Science + **Agent:** Gillian MacKenzie

Rights sold: Simplified Chinese: Citic.

+ Author of four critically acclaimed books, including the *NY Times* Editors' Choice and Amazon Best Book of the Year

Cannibalism: A Perfectly Natural History

+ Author has been profiled in the *New York Times*, *Natural History* magazine, *National Geographic Weekend*, *Vice*, *WIRED*, *Slate*, and *Newsweek*, and on NPR's *Science Fridays* and *Talk of the Nation*

Millennia ago, when we first began puzzling over the mysteries of the human body, one organ stood out as vital. The heart was warm, it was central, and it moved as it pumped blood. The ancient Egyptians thought it contained the soul, and Aristotle believed that it was the seat of consciousness. Over the centuries, science has dispelled the

myths, but our fascination with the heart has endured. In *Pump*, we journey with Schutt from the origins of circulation, still evident in some microorganisms today, to beaches where horseshoe crabs are being harvested for their life-saving blood. We go under the sea to learn about the world's most natural antifreeze, flowing through the veins of icefish. And we follow him through human history, too, as scientists hypothesize wrongly and rightly about what is arguably our most important organ, ultimately developing the technologies that have helped us study the heart—and now, in the most cutting-edge labs, the tools that will help us regenerate it. Deeply researched and engagingly told, this latest book from American Museum of Natural History zoologist Bill Schutt offers a truly unexpected look at the hearts of the animal kingdom.

"Wonderful. *Pump* is informative and entertaining, and the science is impeccable. I highly recommend it."—Joseph C. Piscatella, author of *Don't Eat Your Heart Out*

"Narrating stories from across the animal kingdom, Schutt brings his usual intelligence and humor to this rich and entertaining read that will leave you feeling smarter."

—Darrin Lunde, author of *The Naturalist*

"*Pump* takes readers on a fantastic and fascinating voyage of all matters of the heart."

—Cat Warren, author of *What the Dog Knows*

"As Bill Schutt delightfully shows us in his new book, hearts have gripping stories to tell about a huge range of topics, from the history of life on our planet to the foibles of humankind."

—Ian Tattersall, coauthor of *The Accidental Homo Sapiens*

Bill Schutt is a vertebrate zoologist, professor of biology, and author. His latest non-fiction book *Cannibalism: A Perfectly Natural History* examines the phenomenon of cannibalism in nature and among humans. With great reviews from *The New York Times* (Editor's Choice), *Boston Globe*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Scientific American*, and *The New Yorker*, *Cannibalism* was named a Best Book of the Year by Amazon and was a Goodreads Choice Awards finalist.

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.



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 named by *Time Out* as one of 14 women

“changing the way we eat and drink in 2021”

+ From a popular podcaster with an International following

**+ Will feature select recipes, illustrative of the author’s Parisian life,
at the end of the memoir**

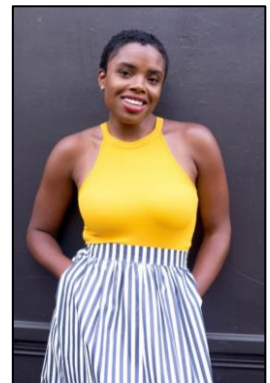
When Sutanya Dacres married her French boyfriend and moved to Paris in 2013, she felt like she was living out her very own fairy tale. Jamaican-born and New York-raised, she had never entertained fantasies of living abroad, until her grad school days when she discovered the blogs of expat women living 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.

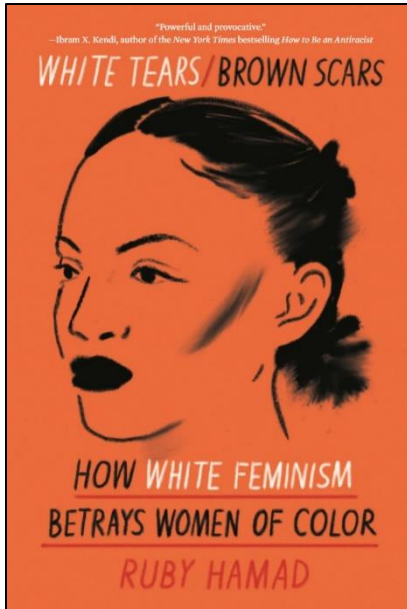
Sutanya Dacres is the creator and host of the podcast *Dinner for One*, which has been featured in *The New York Times* and BBC Radio Hour, among others outlets. She grew up in New York City and graduated from the University of Hartford where she double majored in international relations and modern languages 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.



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; Italian: Tlon.

+ An ABA Indie Bestseller

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*

“Highly anecdotal — full of first-person accounts based on exhaustive reporting – but also meticulously cited . . . *White Tears/Brown Scars* is a stunning and thorough look at White womanhood that should be required reading for anyone who claims to be an intersectional feminist. Hamad’s controlled urgency makes the book an illuminating and poignant read. Hamad is a purveyor of such bold thinking, the only question is, are we ready to listen?”

—*Washington Post*

“In her debut book, journalist Ruby Hamad explores the connections between white feminism and white supremacy . . . In breaking down examples from history, as well as from her own life as an Arab woman working in Australian media, Hamad offers a haunting but powerful reading of white feminism and its lasting impacts on marginalized communities.” —*TIME*

“eye-opening and necessary reading for anyone” – *Buzzfeed*

“An essential guide for those who want to be truly intersectional in their feminism. Ruby Hamad skillfully distills history, academic research, and lived experiences of women of color to create an engaging inquiry into white supremacy and the role of white women within it.” —Zeba

Talkhani, author of *My Past Is a Foreign Country*

"A must-read for all white feminists. To develop the feminist coalitions that are so desperately needed in these times, we need frank conversations between feminists of colour and white feminists, in which white women take accountability instead of using tears to avoid it. Hamad's book is an essential resource to help us do this." —Alison Phipps, author of *Me, Not You*

"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." —*The Observer*

"An incisive book of history and cultural commentary with a wide scope." —[Autostraddle](#)

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

**"A raw look at how white feminism has historically been used as an agent of white supremacy and patriarchy against Black women, Indigenous women, and women of color. Ruby Hamad's analysis is extensive . . . Exactly the kind of book that every ally needs to read right now."
-- [Cosmopolitan](#)**

**"Searing and wide-ranging . . . Skillfully blending autobiography, history, and cultural criticism, Hamad makes a devastating case against white women's complicity in systemic racism. This insistent and incisive call for change belongs in the contemporary feminist canon."
—[Publishers Weekly](#), starred review**

**"*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***

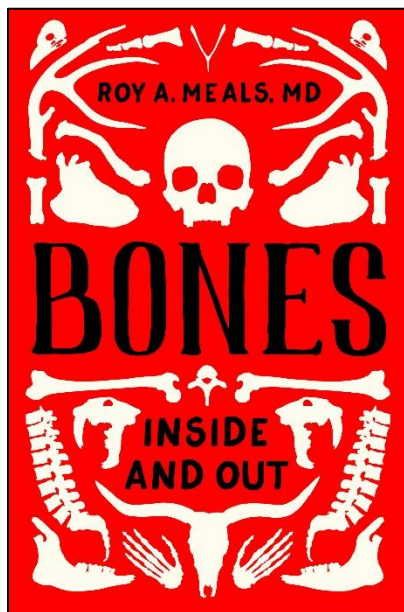
Ruby Hamad is a journalist, author, and academic completing a Ph.D. in media studies at UNSW (Australia). Her *Guardian* article, 'How White Women Use Strategic Tears to Silence Women of Color,' became a global flashpoint for discussions of white feminism and racism and inspired her debut book, *White 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.



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

Rights sold: **Simplified Chinese:** Chongqing UP; **Russian:** MIF;
Korean: Henamu.

+ 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*

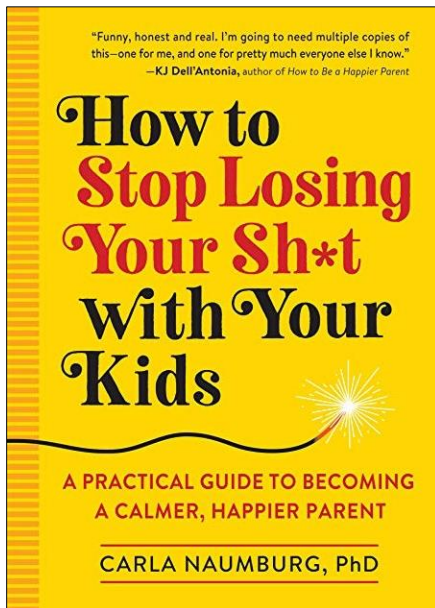
Roy Meals is a Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UCLA. The author of several medical books, he has practiced, researched, and taught hand surgery for forty years. He lives in Los Angeles, California.



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:** Maisie Tivnan

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; **Vietnamese:** Women's Publishing House; **Lithuanian:** Briedis.

+ An International Bestseller!

+ 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

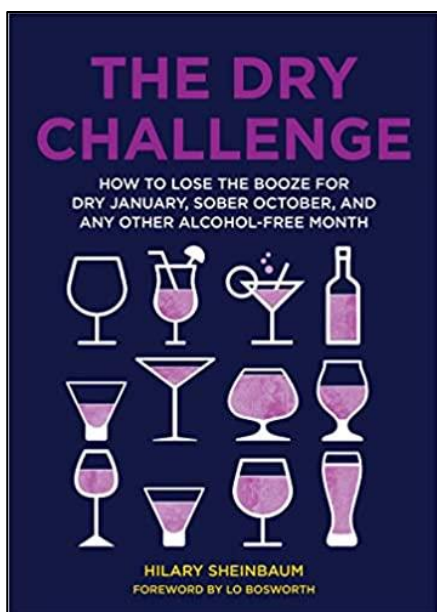
Carla Naumburg, PhD, is writer, speaker, and clinical social worker. She is the author of *Ready, Set, Breathe* (New Harbinger, 2015) and *Parenting in the Present Moment: How to Stay Focused on What Really Matters* (Parallax, 2014). Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *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.



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

- +An Amazon #1 New Release in Detox & Cleansing Diets
- +Author appearances on Good Morning America (3.5mil+ viewers) and Dr. Oz (1.5mil+ viewers)
- +Press coverage in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Allure, Fox News, Today, E!, and more
- +Target promotion in store January 2021, a 10,000 copy order

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:

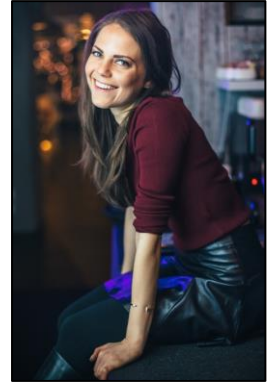
- “What You’ll Gain When You Lose the Booze” + other positive side effects—money and time saved, and a deep dive into the health benefits of living a month without booze.
- “Sober Month Support Squad”—how to enlist friends for support and combat social pressures from our current drinking culture.
- Fun 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*

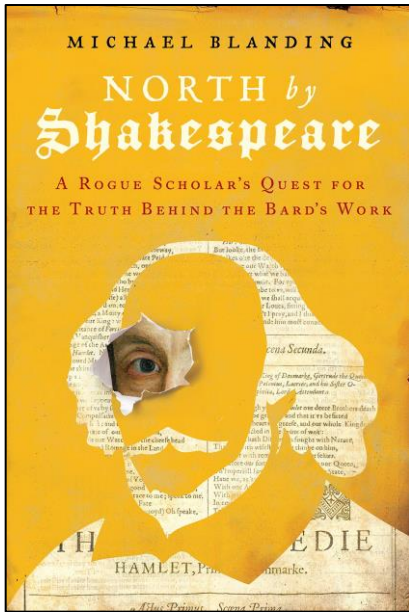
Hilary Sheinbaum's journalism covers food & beverage, health & fitness, beauty & lifestyle, entertainment, weddings and more, her trend and profile pieces have appeared in the New York Times, USA Today, Marie Claire, and Travel + Leisure, Today.com, and Yahoo!, amNew York and many other outlets. Hilary 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.



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:** Finished pdf.

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."

"Lively....Blanding does a good job of capturing the eccentric McCarthy and his passion to get to the bottom of this particular rabbit hole. Shakespeare fans and readers who enjoy the thrill of a good bibliographic treasure hunt will want to check this out."—*Publisher's Weekly*

"A fascinating detective jaunt through history—all the better for the depth of its scholarship." — Fred Melamed, actor and founding member of Shakespeare & Co.

"A dizzyingly complex story, expertly woven together, that takes readers deep into the overlapping worlds of Shakespeare studies, Elizabethan history, and contemporary literary analysis." — Toby Lester, author of *The Fourth Part of the World* and *Da Vinci's Ghost*

" This compelling take on the age-old quest to understand the foundations of the world's greatest literature isn't only a great detective story, it also raises important epistemological questions about how we know what we know in the first place." — Scott Carney, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *What Doesn't Kill Us* and *The Wedge*

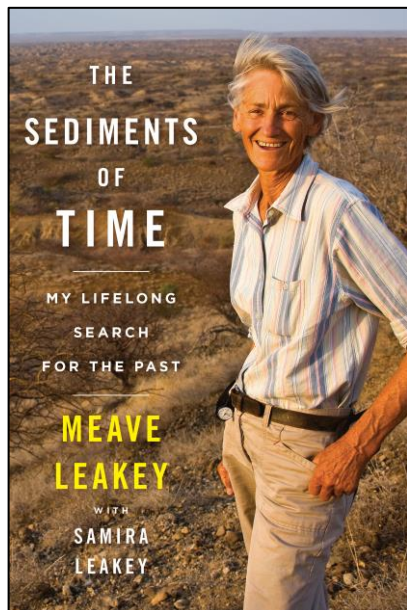
Michael Blanding is a Boston-based investigative journalist, whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *WIRED*, *Slate*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Boston* magazine, and other publications. He is author of *The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who Made Millions Stealing 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.



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 tells her extraordinary life story in "The Sediments of Time: My Lifelong Search for the Past." Co-written with her youngest daughter, Samira, this inspirational autobiography stands among the finest scientist memoirs." –*New York Times*

"Prominent paleoanthropologist, Meave Leakey, provides an excellent overview of how we know what we know about human evolution as revealed by her research career and life in Kenya. Meave Leakey is a real-life Indiana Jones. Her life has been filled with adventure, struggle, and discovery after amazing discovery that are detailed in her riveting autobiography ... this book will appeal to anyone with an interest in evolution (especially human evolution), or palaeontology, who is interested in what it's like to do field work in Kenya, or who wants to know how one determined female scientist managed to accomplish so much at a time when most of the world's women were trapped in a kitchen." –[Forbes](#)

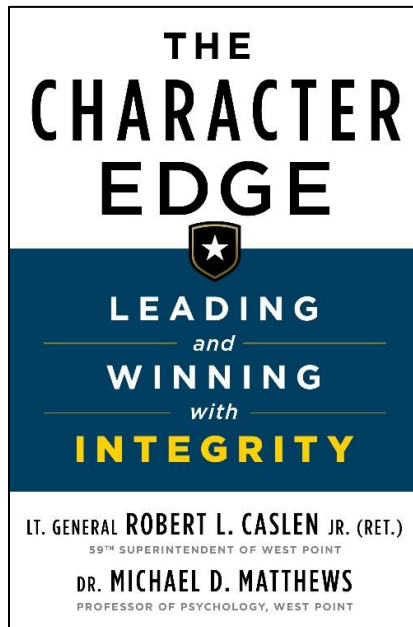
Meave Leakey currently coheads the significant field efforts in northern Kenya, started nearly a century ago by Louis and Mary Leakey, seeking the fossil records to the roots of humankind. She has worked at the National Museums of Kenya since 1969, including the head of the paleontology department, and 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.



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***
+ **By a celebrated General & former head of West Point**
+ **Major Marketing Campaign**

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 ... 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*

"The definitive guide to how individuals and organizations may build and utilize positive character to flourish and win. Corporations who 'get' this message excel, those that do not will fail in the long run."—Indra Nooyi, Former Chairman & CEO, PepsiCo

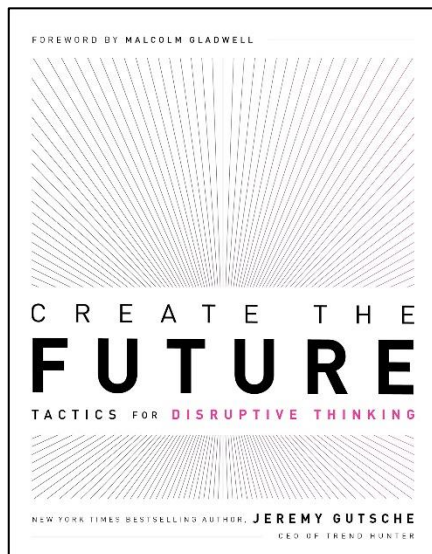
"In a time of polarization and incivility, the authors have created a how-to manual for counteracting these destructive forces in ourselves and our institutions." —Stefanie Sanford, Chief of Global Policy & External Relations, The College Board

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).

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: Vietnam: Saigon House;
Russian: Eksmo; **German:** Midas.

+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

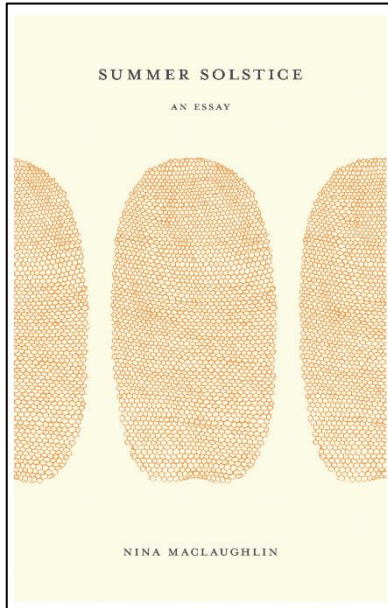
Jeremy Gutsche is a *New York Times* bestselling author, award-winning innovation expert, "one of the most sought-after keynote speakers on the planet" (*The Sun*), and the CEO of Trend Hunter—the world's #1 trend website and innovation consultancy. Jeremy has the #1 most-watched innovation keynote videos 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*.



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

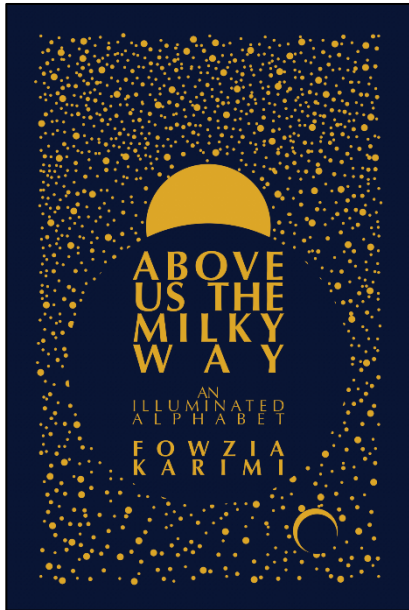
Nina MacLaughlin is the author of *Wake Siren: Ovid Resung* and the acclaimed memoir *Hammer Head*. Formerly an editor at *The Boston Phoenix*, she worked for nine years as a carpenter, and is now a books columnist for *The Boston Globe*.



Fiction

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

+ **Publisher will reissue in paperback, with a full publicity campaign in early 2022**

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

+ **One of *Thrillist's* Best Books of 2020**

+ **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.

"[*Above Us the Milky Way*] has what certain great novels have — and I'm calling this a great novel intentionally — which is explicit working-out of narrative structure. This book has a really astute and generous conversation with its readers. An enchanting, inventive, and powerful novel." —Michael Silverblatt, *Bookworm*

"Structured as an illuminated alphabet, Karimi's startling debut pieces together a pastiche of memory, folklore, and multilayered sense impressions with photographs from Karimi's childhood and illustrations of her own making. The result is a sharply etched treatise on the objects of memory—encouraging a perhaps unavoidable comparison to Proust—which sets itself the monumental task of exploring the atrocity of war both as the bombs strike and as they reverberate down through the generations. Because, as Karimi concludes, a 'war in one place is like a wound in all,' and what else but the letters of an alphabet, or perhaps sisters, could, 'give positive form to the formless' by being 'forever in two places at once: bound to their fixed positions—for who could reorder the sequence of an alphabet?—and leaving their posts to form this... word.' A novel 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*

“With enchantment and a pounding heart, I devoured this wondrous book, beautiful and fearless, rich in grace and compassion, deeply imagined and unlike any other. It is no less than marvelous.” —Rikki Ducornet

“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*

“*Above Us In the Milky Way* is a philosophical, richly sensory meditation on memory, loss, nostalgia, and the inheritances of war. Illustrated with family photographs and exquisite, often surreal, watercolors, Fowzia Karimi offers us intimate portals to grief, displacement, and survival.” —Cristina García, author of *Here in Berlin* and other novels

“Fowzia Karimi’s debut novel is an extraordinary book—one which is both witness to its time, an homage to Afghanistan, to family, and to what endures: stories and love and beauty. Inside it you will find humanity’s imaginary so beautifully disclosed.” —Micheline Aharonian Marcom, author of six novels including *The Brick House* and Creative Director of The New American Story Project

**“This is storytelling of a high, profound, most beautiful order.”
—Rick Simonson, Elliot Bay Book Company**

“The writing is seductive, compelling, horrifying, irresistible. The story is dreamlike in its framework and structure, with adult Karimi and the reader dragged back into a spectral but all-too-real childhood, and that is key: the dead are never really gone if they live on in the childhood memories she—and we—can never relinquish.” —Chris Manno, *Lone Star Literary*

**“It is Fowzia Karimi the artist we shall remember after reading the book as much as Fowzia Karimi and her family, the exiles and victims of war. This is a wonderful book.”
—*The Modern Novel***

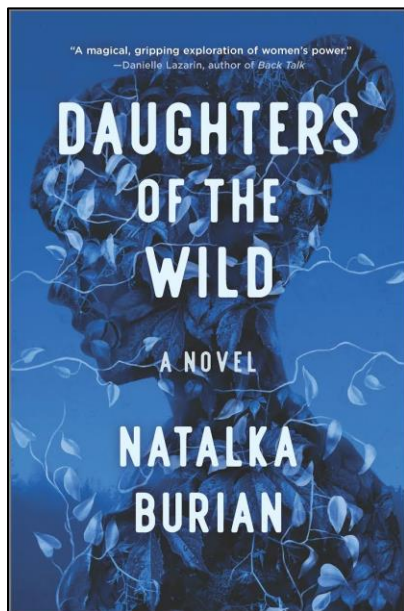
“A skilled technician whose prose flows like intuition, Karimi parses the beats of her paragraphs with the attention of a poet. Rich with images and imagery, the book is beautiful, both illuminated and illuminating.” —*Foreword Reviews*, Leticia Montgomery-Rodgers

**“For how experimental the novel gets, it never obstructs the family’s experience, everything from the small joys and the bold wonders a person may experience in a new land free of war.”
—*Thrillist***

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.

Nataalka 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 Nataalka 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*

"Nataalka 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.

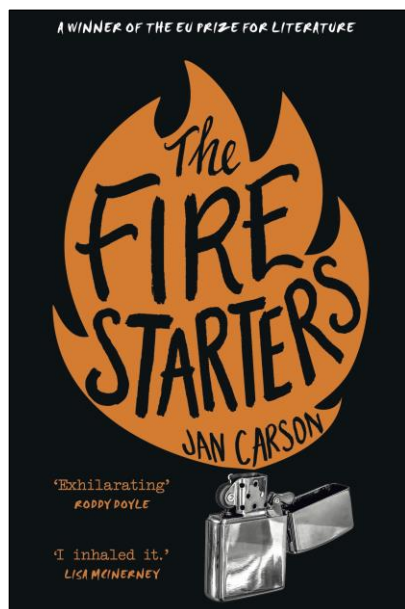


Rights also available to WELCOME TO THE SLIPSTREAM (YA, Simon Pulse, 2017)

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

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