

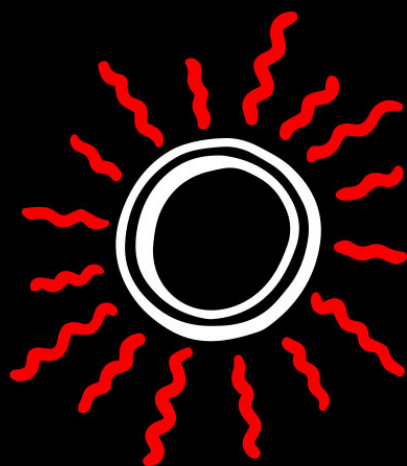


SPRING 2021

Contact: Kent D. Wolf // kent@neonliterary.com

Time for a new story.

Upcoming Titles



DARRYL

Jackie Ess



Debut
Fiction

**A wild exploration of desire and identity in the spirit of *I Love Dick*
—with a kinky twist.**

Darryl Cook is a man who seems to have everything: a quiet home in Western Oregon, a beautiful wife, and a lot of friends to fuck her while he watches. But as he explores the cuckolding lifestyle, he finds himself tugging at threads that threaten to unravel his marriage, his town, and himself.

With empathy and humor, debut author Jackie Ess crafts a kaleidoscopic meditation on marriage, manhood, dreams, basketball, sobriety, and the secret lives of Oregonians.

"Underneath the sharp satire and hilarious sexual irreverence this is a deadly serious book: a brilliant novel of a seeker, like *The Pilgrim's Progress* refracted by queer internet culture."

—Torrey Peters, author of *Detransition, Baby*

Clash Books // May 2021

"...A brilliant novel of a seeker, like *The Pilgrim's Progress* refracted by queer internet culture."
—Torrey Peters, author of *Detransition, Baby: A Novel*

DARRYL



a novel by

JACKIE ESS

Jackie Ess is a writer, culture mischief-maker, and minor Internet celebrity. A co-founder of the Bay Area Trans Writers Workshop, her work can be found in *Heavy Feather Review*, *The Zahir*, *The New Inquiry*, *Vetch*, and *We Want it All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics*. *Darryl* is her first novel.

TO END A PLAGUE

Emily Bass

The story of America's unlikeliest, least-known, yet greatest achievement this millennium: containing AIDS in Africa

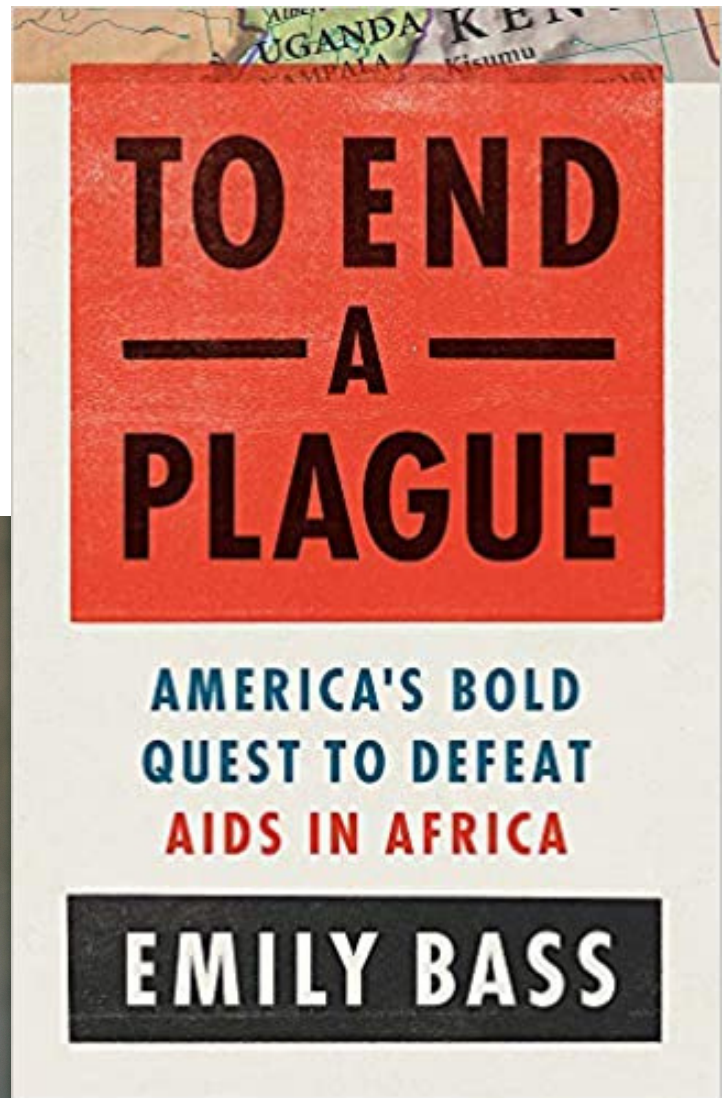
With his 2003 announcement of a program known as PEPFAR, George W. Bush launched an astonishingly successful American war against a global pandemic. PEPFAR played a key role in slashing HIV cases and AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, leading to the brink of epidemic control. Resilient in the face of flatlined funding and political headwinds, PEPFAR is America's singular example of how to fight a long-term plague—and win.

To End a Plague is not merely the definitive history of this extraordinary program; it traces the lives of the activists who first impelled President Bush to take action, and later sought to prevent AIDS deaths at the whims of American politics. Moving from raucous street protests, to the marbled halls of Washington, and the clinics and homes where Ugandan people living with HIV fight to survive, it reveals an America that was once capable of real and meaningful change—and illuminates imperatives for future pandemic wars. Exhaustively researched and vividly written, this is the true story of America's last moonshot.

PublicAffairs // July 2021

world English rights w/ publisher

"When protease inhibitors changed the course of HIV/AIDS, many declared the pandemic over. It isn't. Emily Bass' granular account tracks what happened after the American media klieg light shifted away from AIDS, without sacrificing poetry to mountains of data."—**Avram Finkelstein**, founding member of the Silence=Death collective

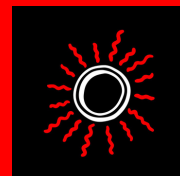


"*To End A Plague* is a triumph, and landmark work that will endure—wonderful and wildly important."
—**Martin Duberman**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, CUNY

Emily Bass has spent twenty years as a journalist and advocate focused on AIDS in Africa and American foreign aid. She has served as an expert advisor to the World Health Organization, and her articles and essays have appeared in numerous books and publications including the *Washington Post*, the *Lancet*, *Esquire* and *n+1*. She is the recipient of a Fulbright journalism fellowship. She lives with her family in Brooklyn.

MRS. MARCH

Virginia Feito



Debut
Fiction

Soon to be a feature film from Blumhouse Productions and Elisabeth Moss, the team behind the hit movie *The Invisible Man*.

A twenty-first-century Highsmith, Virginia Feito conjures an unforgettable New York housewife whose life is shattered by her husband's new novel.

In this astonishing debut, the venerable but gossipy New York literary scene is twisted into a claustrophobic funhouse of paranoia, horror, and wickedly dark humor. George March's latest novel is a smash. No one is prouder than Mrs. March, his doting wife. But one morning, the shopkeeper of her favorite patisserie suggests that his protagonist is based on Mrs. March herself: "But...—isn't she..." Mrs. March leaned in and in almost a whisper said, 'a whore?'"

Clutching her ostrich-leather pocketbook, she flees, that one casual remark destroying her belief that she knew everything about her husband—as well as herself. Suddenly, Mrs. March is hurled into a harrowing journey that builds to near psychosis, one that merely begins within the pages of a book but may uncover both a killer and the long-buried secrets of her past.

Liveright // August 2021

Fourth Estate (UK) / Lumen (Spain) / Harper (Italy) / Modernista (Sweden)
Litera (Romania) / Marti (Turkey) / Le Cherche midi (France) / Eksmo
(Russia) / Hayakawa (Japan)

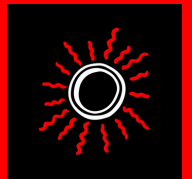
"*Mrs. March* is just the Madame Bovary-meets-Patricia Highsmith feminist psychoanalytic comedy-of-manners thriller that I didn't know I so desperately needed. I almost destroyed my life by staying up so late reading. I am lucky my house is still standing."—**Elif Batuman**, author of *The Idiot*



Virginia Feito was raised in Madrid and Paris, and studied English and Drama at Queen Mary University of London. She worked as a copywriter until she quit to write *Mrs. March*. She lives in Madrid.

SEVERAL PEOPLE ARE TYPING

Calvin Kasulke



Debut
Fiction

**In active TV development with Good At Business Productions
(Nick Kroll, co-creator of the hit Netflix series *Big Mouth*)**

A work-from-home comic tour de force that takes place entirely within a PR firm's Slack channels. For fans of *Then We Came to the End* and *Severance*. And anyone who has ever struggled to understand an emoticon.

Employee Gerald discovers that his consciousness has been uploaded into the company's Slack channel. Despite his posts for help, his colleagues assume it's a trick to work from home. Gerald enlists his co-worker Pradeep to care for his body while they figure out how to reintegrate his consciousness.

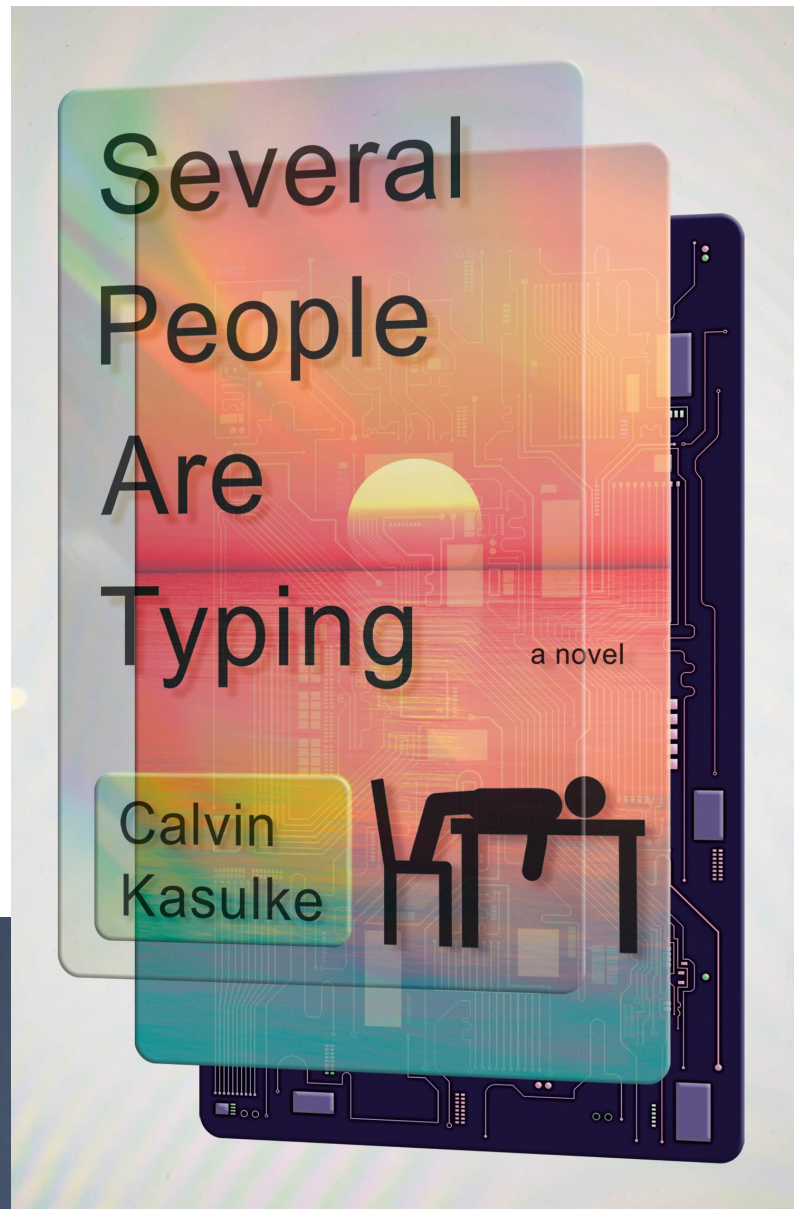
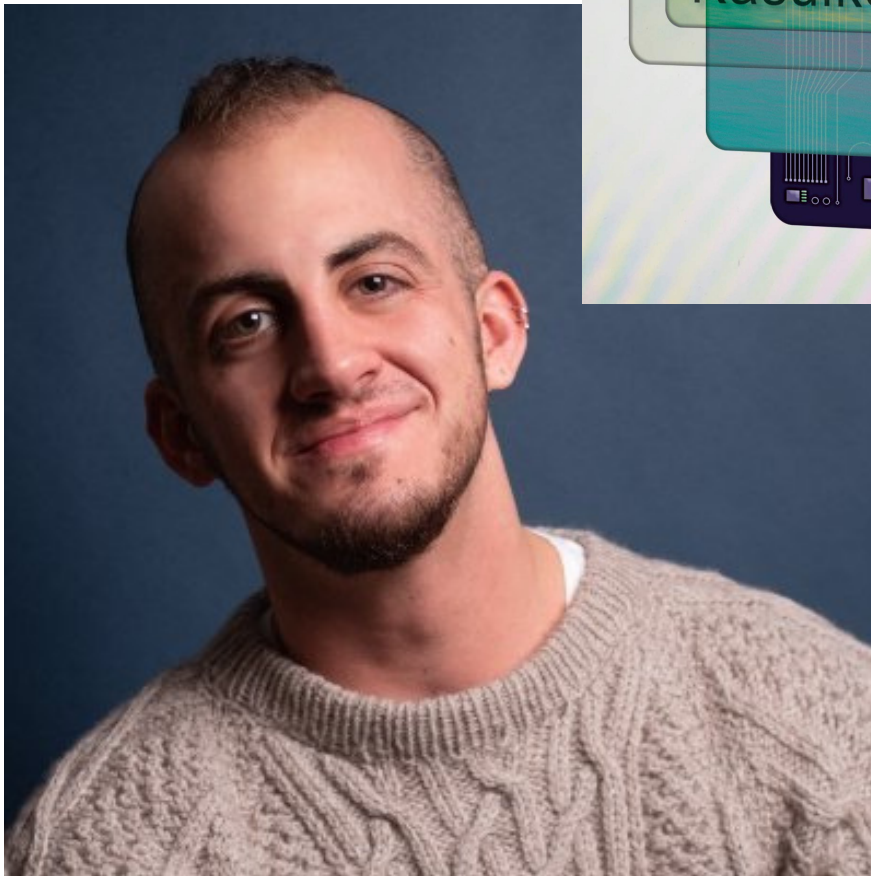
Plunging deeper into the Slack workspace—and becoming more productive by the day—Gerald relies on Slackbot, the messaging service's AI assistant, to navigate his new digital reality. But what happens when it discovers a world (and an empty body) outside the Slack app?

Meanwhile, can Gerald's colleagues contain the PR catastrophe that erupts after Björk-brand dog food poisons Pomeranians? Will their boss Doug discover that Tripp has been fucking Beverley on Doug's now-broken desk? Why does Lydia hear an incessant howling dog on a work-from-home day? Can love develop between two men when one is a disembodied consciousness? And what the hell does the **:dusty-stick:** emoji mean?

Doubleday // September 2021

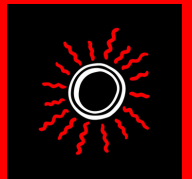
Hodder Studio / UK

Calvin Kasulke is a writer based in Brooklyn, NY. He is a Lambda Literary Fellow and is the creator of *In This Economy?*, an audio fiction series produced by BRIC Arts Media. His writing and reporting have been featured in such outlets as *VICE*, *MEL Magazine*, *Electric Literature* and *BuzzFeed*.



JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM

Ryan O'Connell



Debut
Fiction

A comic, heartfelt debut novel from the creator and star of the hit Netflix series *Special*

The unnamed narrator of *Just By Looking at Him*, is a thirty-something gay TV writer with cerebral palsy. He has a disposable income (SO. MANY. DIPTYQUE. CANDLES.), a growing alcohol dependence disguised as an appreciation of natural wines, and a loving boyfriend with the perfect penis. Life is good—far better than a gay disabled person has been conditioned to expect— so why is he cheating on Gus, his perfect-penised boyfriend, with a sex worker named River and getting jerked off in steam rooms?

At first he revels in sowing the wild oats he'd never allowed himself to plant in his twenties, but his dalliances begin to reveal the deeper scars of inhabiting a disabled body in a world that simultaneously highlights and erases his existence. Does Gus really see him? Do his friends and colleagues? But the big question is: does he even see himself?

Just By Looking at Him is the story of a man falling down a rabbit hole of sexual obsession in an attempt to be seen as just A Body in a gay world fixated on perfection, who's limping towards self-acceptance one (paid) rim job at a time.

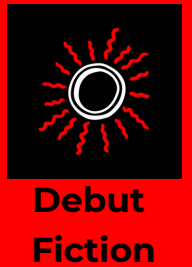
Atria // Summer 2022



Ryan O'Connell is the Emmy-nominated writer, producer and star of Netflix's critically-acclaimed comedy series, *Special*, which is based on his memoir, *I'm Special: And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves*. He's written for *The New York Times*, *Vice*, and *Vulture*, as well as for television, including MTV's *Awkward*, *Will & Grace*, and Netflix's *The Baby-Sitters Club*. He's won a GLAAD award, an HRC award, and any other award you can get for being gay. In 2020 he made the *Time* 100 Next list as one of the rising artists shaping the future of the entertainment industry. He lives in Los Angeles.

BROTHER

Zain Khalid



“When you ask, what should I tell you?” writes our narrator Youssef in a letter to his young niece. For what are our first histories but ones narrated by others?

Youssef’s own story begins—as it was told to him—when he is adopted by Imam Salim and raised above The Occident Street Mosque on the grooved tip of New York’s most disrespected borough, Staten Island. Like his adopted brothers Iseul (Korean) and Dayo (Nigerian), Youssef (from “a spot one map-inch east of the middle”) comes of age under Salim’s affectionate tutelage. Still, the business of raising the three orphaned boys occurs at a literal arm’s length: Imam Salim will not so much as tousle their hair, nor does he speak of his work in his locked office or his midnight perambulations.

Of the three, Youssef feels the sting of rejection most keenly. Does it have anything to do with the sibling only Youssef sees, a Brother born from his mind, a shapeshifter who matures alongside Youssef by devouring his memories?

In the wake of a family tragedy, Imam Salim disappears to Saudi Arabia, leaving behind a letter that lays bare twenty years of secrets: the identities of the boys’ parents, Imam Salim’s role in their deaths, and his complicity in an experiment that is now bringing “progress” to the Middle East at a horrifying cost.

Youssef, Dayo, and Iseul embark on a mission to find Imam Salim by joining a group of jihadists, but what power does this family have in the face of the real enemy behind it all—capitalist ambition? And what will become of Youssef when he has nothing left to give Brother?

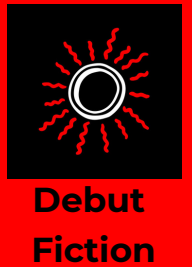
Grove Atlantic // Summer 2022



Zain Khalid is a writer whose work has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The Believer*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, and elsewhere. He has punched up the occasional script for television. He was born and raised in New York.

HAWK MOUNTAIN

Conner Habib



A blood-soaked debut about love between men who don't know how to express it: partners and friends, fathers and sons, bullies and scapegoats.

Todd is playing at the beach with his six-year-old son, Anthony, when he sees a man approach them. It is Jack, the man who made his high-school years a living hell. Radiant, repentant, and overjoyed to have "run into" Todd, Jack suggests a meal (to catch up!) and perhaps a night or two's stay at Todd's house (to reconnect!). Todd politely agrees, smile frozen on his face, as a sick feeling begins to grow within him, churning into rot and releasing a repressed darkness. What follows is a tense, fast-paced story of obsession and the grotesque, as disturbing as it is emotionally riveting.

A Patricia Highsmith novel for the demented age we're living through, *Hawk Mountain* is a compelling look at how love and hate are indissoluble, intertwined until the last breath.

W. W. Norton // Fall 2022

Doubleday (UK)



Conner Habib is the host of the popular podcast *Against Everyone with Conner Habib* and is a writer, lecturer, and a sex workers' rights advocate. He lectures around the world about sexuality, spirituality, pornography, science, and art. His writing has appeared in such publications as *The Stranger*, *Vice*, *Salon*, *Slate*, and in several anthologies. For ten years, he was an award-winning gay adult performer.

BEHOLD THE TRIUMPH OF VIRTUE

Jennifer Ashley Wright

Behold the Triumph of Virtue is a little bit You Never Forget Your First, a little bit The Knick, a dash of The Age of Innocence, and a sprinkle of The Shawshank Redemption.

This sharp, witty Gilded Age medical history stars Madame Restell, a glamorous women's healthcare provider in Manhattan, who was a celebrity in her era and a Moira Rose-esque figure with a flair for high fashion and petty public beefs. The story of Restell's struggle to care for New York's unmarried women—providing abortions, birth control, and other assistance—in defiance of increasing persecution from powerful men, it ends not in outright tragedy, but with a glorious, life-affirming, bittersweet twist.

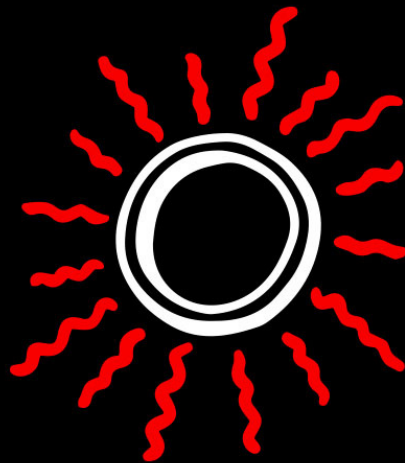
That this book doubles as a history of women's health—and the propaganda on which the “pro-life” movement was founded—makes it not just entertaining, but profoundly comforting for feminist readers. Few and far between are the books expanding our sense of hope, humor, and what's possible for women's rights in this politicized arena, one which augurs some real downer developments in the coming years. *Behold the Triumph of Virtue* does just that, and it does so in a sumptuous, character-driven, frequently funny package.

Hachette Books // Spring 2023



Jennifer Ashley Wright has written beloved pop history collections from *It Ended Badly* and *Get Well Soon* (Holt) to the forthcoming *She Kills Me*, an illustrated field guide to righteous women who have committed murder (Abrams Image). *Behold the Triumph of Virtue* is Wright's first work of single narrative history.

Recently
Published



THE LONELIEST POLAR BEAR: A True Story of Survival and Peril on the Edge of a Warming World Kale Williams

The heartbreaking yet hopeful story of an abandoned polar bear cub and the humans working to save her and her species.

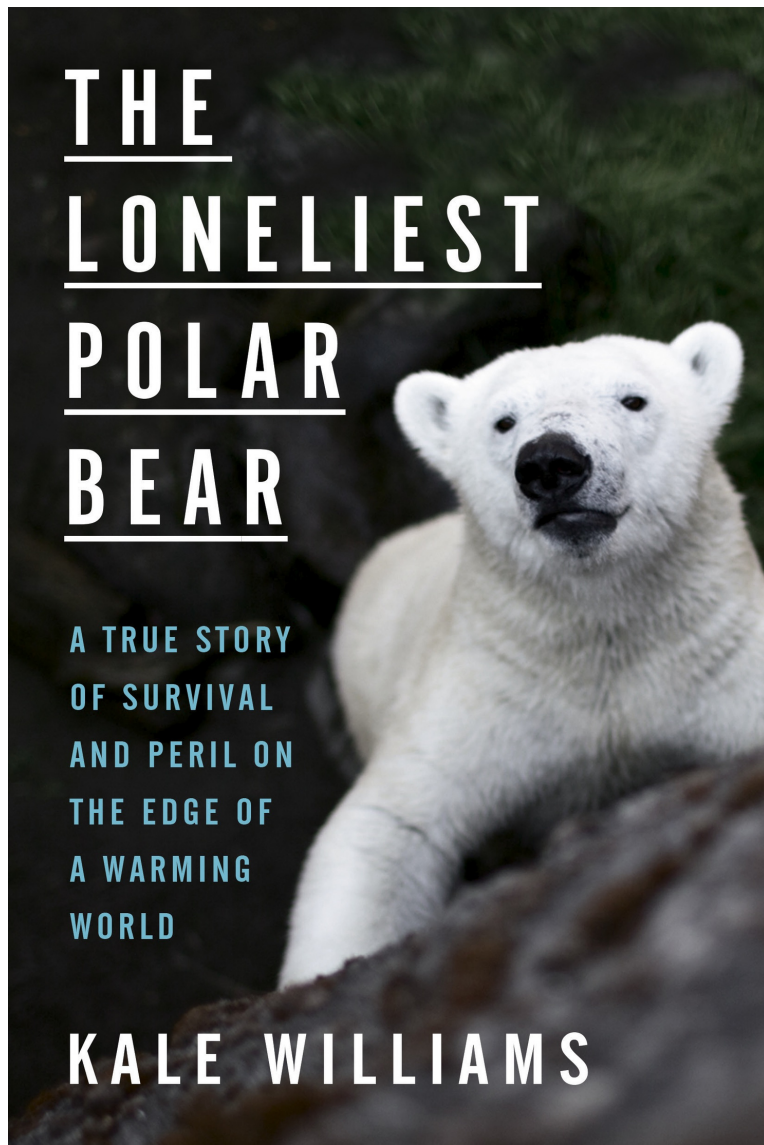
Six days after giving birth, a polar bear at the Columbus Zoo abandoned her tiny cub. She was furless and blind, and with her temperature dropping, the zookeepers entrusted with her care had no choice: They would have to raise one of the most dangerous predators in the world themselves.

Three decades before Nora's birth, her father, Nanuq, was orphaned when an Inupiat hunter killed his mother. That hunter, Gene Agnaboogok, now faces some of the same threats as the bears near his Alaskan village. As sea ice diminishes and temperatures increase, Gene and the polar bears are being forced to adapt. Not all of them will succeed.

Sweeping and tender, *The Loneliest Polar Bear* explores the fraught relationship humans have with the natural world, the exploitative and sinister causes of the environmental mess we all find ourselves in.

Crown // March 2021

Sphere (UK) / Droemer (Germany) / Ripol (Russia)



Kale Williams is a reporter at *The Oregonian*, where he covers science and the environment. A native of the Bay Area, he previously reported for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He lives with his wife, Rebecca; his two dogs, Goose and Beans; his cat, Torta; and his step-cat, Lucas

“Heartrending.”—
Newsweek

“A moving story of abandonment, love, and survival against the odds.”—
Dr. Jane Goodal



UNDER THE SKY WE MAKE: How to Be Human in a Warming World

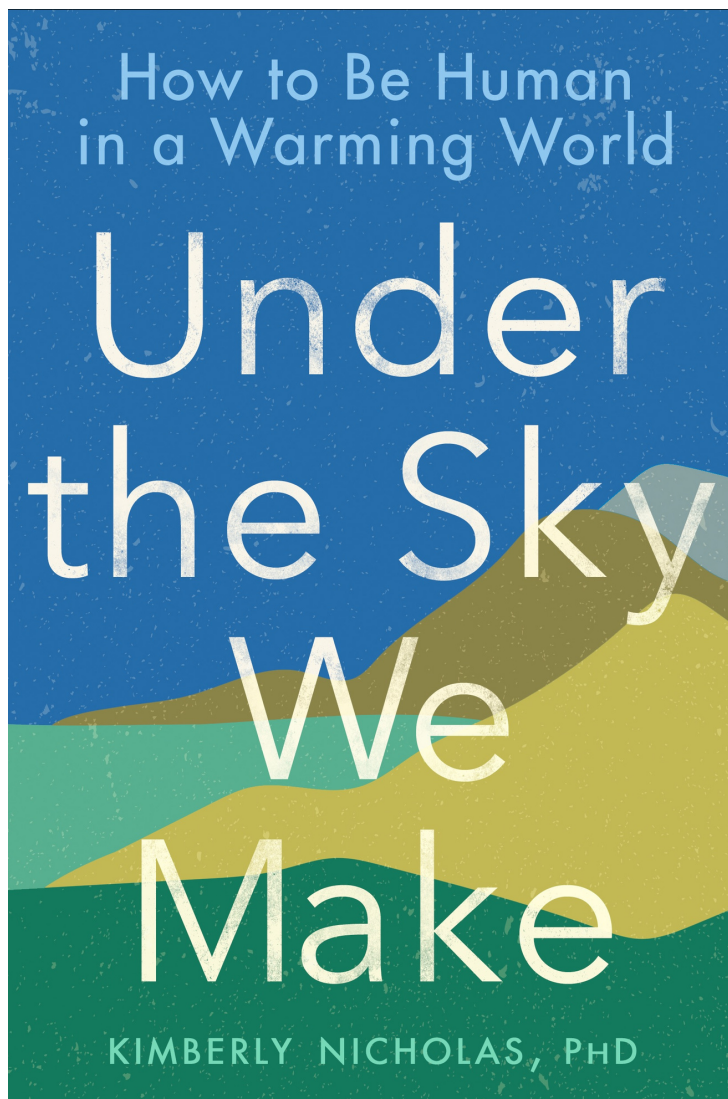
Kimberly Nicholas, PhD

The planet is warming. It's bad. But we can fix it.

After speaking to the world for close to fifteen years about sustainability, climate scientist Dr. Nicholas realized that people were getting the wrong message about the climate crisis. Yes, companies and governments are hugely responsible for the mess we're in. But individuals CAN effect real, significant, and lasting change to solve this problem. Nicholas explores finding purpose in a warming world, combining her expertise and her personal experience in a way that is fresh and deeply urgent: Agonizing over the climate costs of visiting loved ones overseas, how to find low-carbon love on Tinder, and even exploring her complicated family legacy of supermarket turkeys.

Nicholas does for climate science what Michael Pollan did for food: offering a hopeful, clear-eyed, and somehow hilarious guide to effecting real change. Saving ourselves from climate apocalypse will require radical shifts within each of us. But it can be done. Change requires, Dr. Nicholas argues, belief in our own agency and value, alongside a deep understanding that no one will ever hand us power—we're going to have to seize it for ourselves.

Putnam // March 2021



“This compelling book about climate change really packs a punch, because climate scientist Nicholas relentlessly brings things down to the personal level.... a realistic, accessible, and clarion call for change.”—**Booklist** (starred)

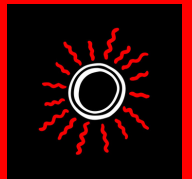
“A breezy field guide on how to align your lifestyle with your values that avoids being overly prescriptive.”—**Mother Jones**



Dr. Kimberly Nicholas is Associate Professor of Sustainability Science at Lund, Sweden's highest-ranked university. Raised on her family's vineyard in Sonoma, California, she studied the effect of climate change on the California wine industry for her PhD at Stanford University. Since then, she has published over in leading peer-reviewed journals, and her research has been featured in outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *USA Today*, *Buzzfeed* and more. She has also been profiled in *Elle* and *The Guardian* and gives appearances at around 50 lectures each year, such as the recent Climate Change Leadership summit.

A CERTAIN HUNGER

Chelsea G. Summers



Debut
Fiction

**"*American Psycho* as rewritten by Angela Carter."
—Megan Abbott**

Food critic Dorothy Daniels loves what she does. Thanks to her mastery of the culinary arts, she could, on any given night, create a more inspired dish than any one of the chefs she writes about.

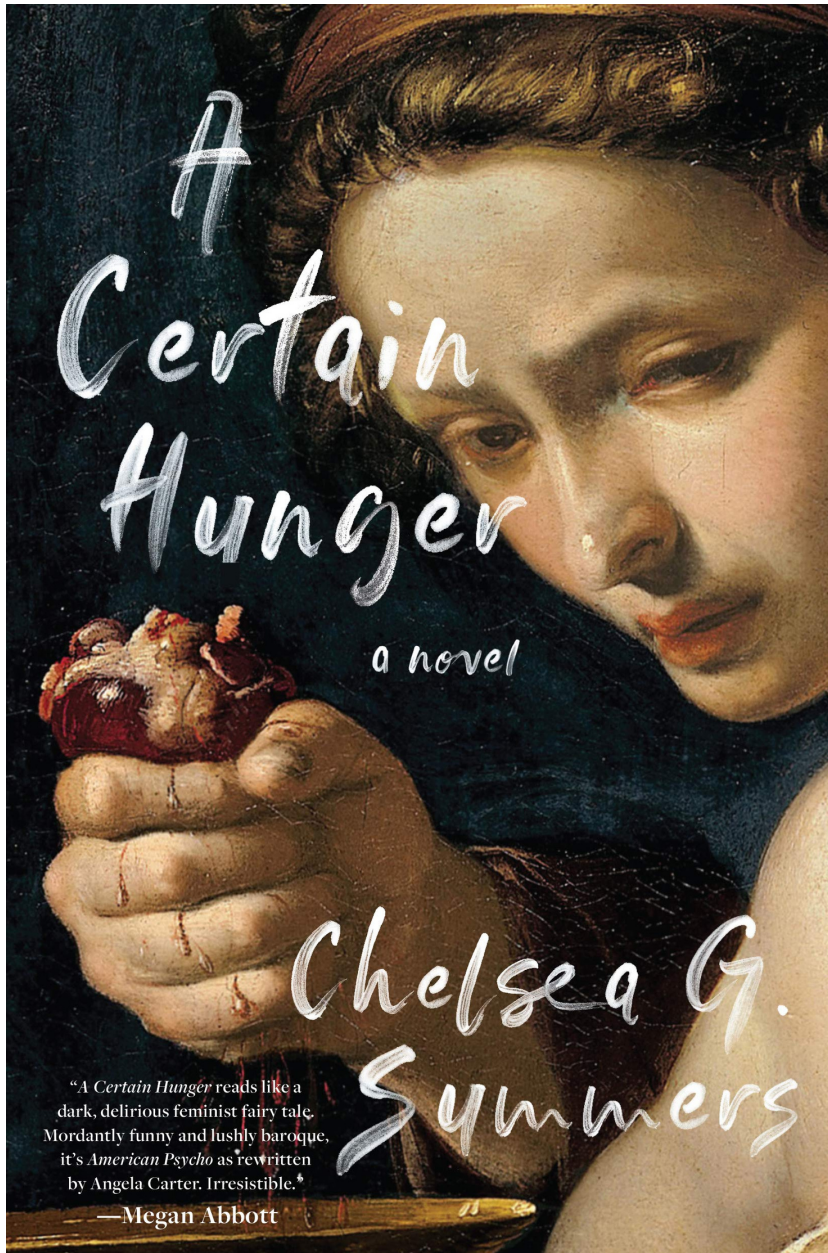
Dorothy loves sex as much as she loves food, and while she has struggled to find a long-term partner who can keep up with her appetites, she makes the best of her freedom, frequently traveling from Manhattan to Italy for a taste of both.

But there is something within Dorothy that's different from everyone else, and having suppressed it long enough, she starts to embrace what makes Dorothy uniquely, terrifyingly herself. Recounting her life from a seemingly idyllic childhood, the heights of her career, to the moment she plunges an ice pick into a man's neck, Dorothy Daniels show us what happens when a woman finally embraces her superiority.

A satire of early foodieism, a gender critique, and a showcase of virtuoso storytelling, Chelsea G. Summers' *A Certain Hunger* introduces us to the food world's most charming psychopath and an exciting new voice in fiction.

Unnamed Press // December 2020

Faber (UK) / Fayard (France) / Rahva Raamat (Estonia) /
Polyandria NoAge (Russia)



"One of the most uniquely fun and campily gory books in my recent memory."—**New York Times**

"[A] macabre banquet of a suspense novel serving up carnal and gustatory surprises... Dorothy speaks like Humbert Humbert and behaves like Hannibal Lecter."—**Washington Post**

Chelsea G. Summers is a freelance writer whose work focuses on sex, politics, tech, fashion and culture. She is a former academic and professor with Ph.D. training in eighteenth-century British literature. Her work has appeared in *VICE*, *Fusion*, *Hazlitt*, *The New Republic*, *Racked*, and *The Guardian*. She splits her time between New York and Stockholm.

THE UNIDENTIFIED: Monsters, Alien Encounters, and Our Obsession with the Unexplained

Colin Dickey

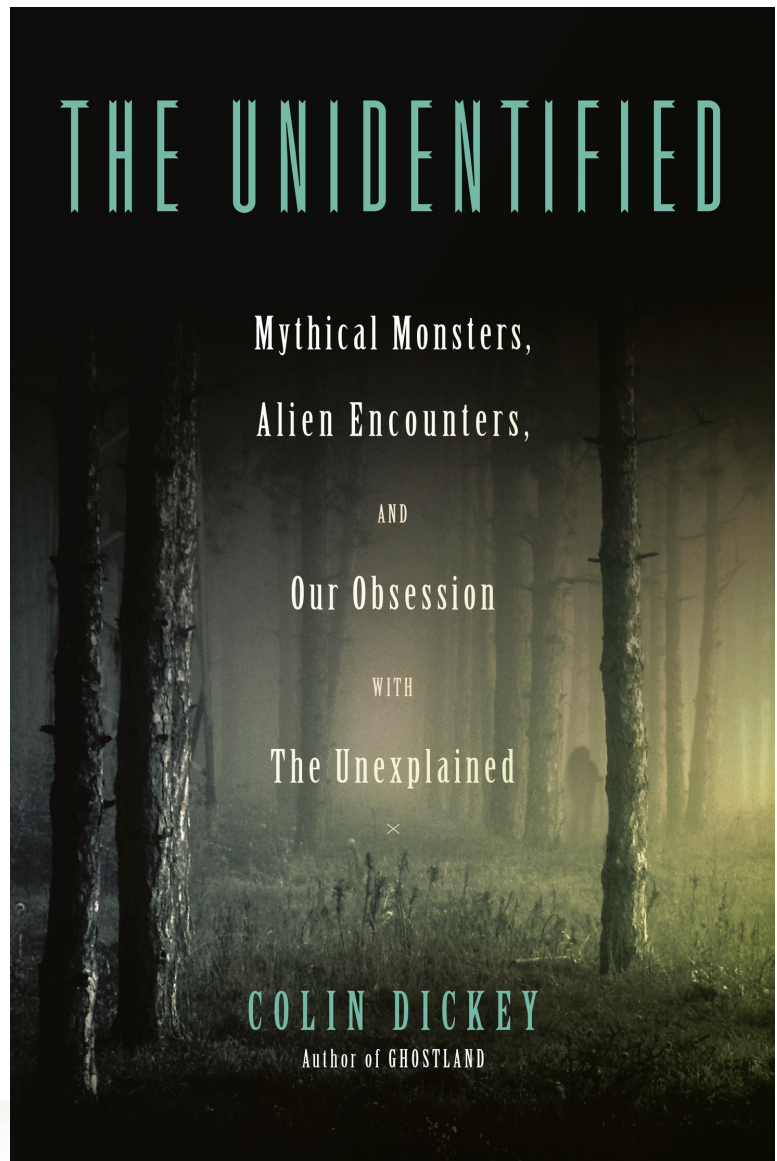
America's favorite cultural historian and author of *Ghostland* takes a tour of the country's most persistent "unexplained" phenomena.

In a world where rational, scientific explanations are more available than ever, belief in the unprovable and irrational is on the rise: from Atlantis to aliens, from Flat Earth to the Loch Ness monster, the list goes on.

Enter Cultural Historian and Tour Guide of the Weird, Colin Dickey, who looks at what all fringe beliefs have in common, explaining that today's Illuminati is yesterday's Flat Earth: the attempt to find meaning in a world stripped of wonder. Dickey visits the wacky sites of our wildest fringe beliefs—from the famed Mount Shasta where the ancient race (or extra-terrestrials, or possibly both, depending on who you ask) called Lemurians are said to roam, to the museum containing the last remaining "evidence" of the great Kentucky Meat Shower—investigating how these theories come about, why they take hold, and why we keep inventing and re-inventing them decade after decade.

Viking // July 2020

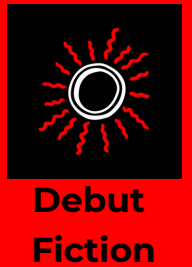
Colin Dickey is a regular contributor to the *LA Review of Books* and *Lapham's Quarterly*, and is the co-editor of *The Morbid Anatomy Anthology*. He is also a member of the Order of the Good Death, a collective of artists, writers, and death industry professionals interested in improving the Western world's relationship with mortality. He is an associate professor of creative writing at National University.



“Fascinating, troubling, compassionate and—in the end—deeply thoughtful... Dickey’s sense of history reminds us of the complex reasons our odder beliefs endure.”—***The New York Times Book Review***

CATHERINE HOUSE

Elisabeth Thomas



EDGAR AWARD FINALIST
LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD FINALIST

Gothic-infused literary suspense, set within a secluded university and following a rebellious woman who uncovers the dark truth beneath her school's promise of prestige.

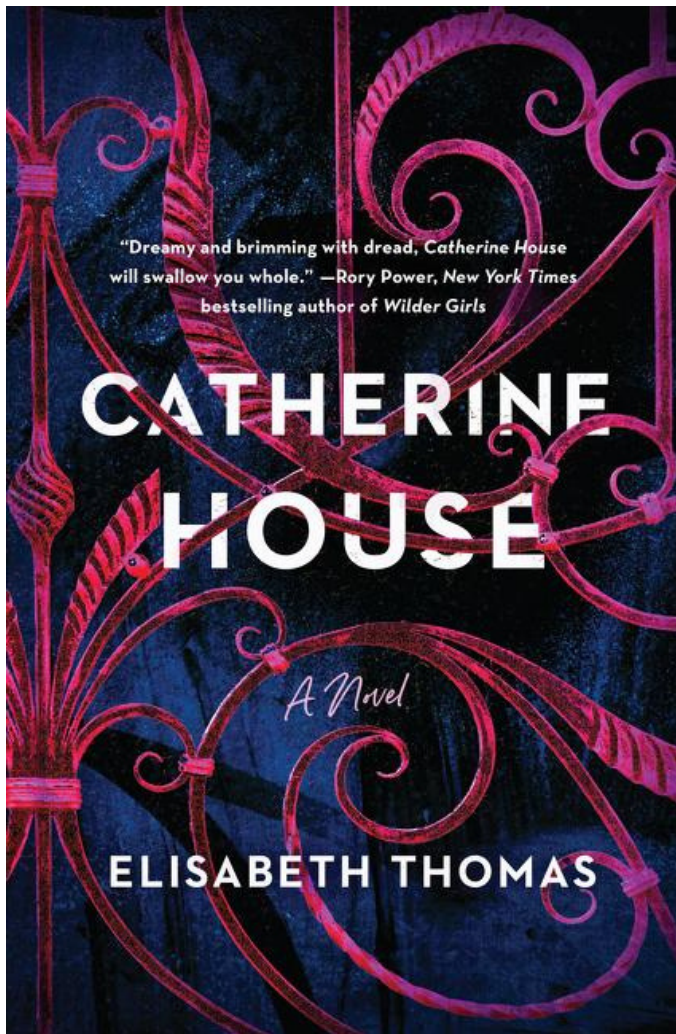
Catherine House is a school of higher learning like no other. Hidden deep in the woods, this crucible of reformist liberal arts with has produced some of the world's best minds. For those lucky few selected, tuition, room, and board are free. But acceptance comes with a price. Students are required to give the House three years—summers included—completely removed from the outside world. Family, friends, television, music, even their clothing must be left behind. In return, the school promises a future of sublime power and prestige.

Ines Murillo expects to trade blurry nights of parties, cruel friends, and dangerous men for rigorous intellectual discipline but discovers an environment of sanctioned debauchery. For Ines, it is the closest thing to a home she's ever had. When tragedy strikes, Ines suspects that the school might be hiding a dangerous agenda.

Combining the haunting sophistication and dusky, atmospheric style of Sarah Waters with the unsettling isolation of Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, *Catherine House* is a devious, delicious, and suspenseful page-turner.

Custom House // May 2020

Tinder Press (UK) / dtv (Germany)



Elisabeth Thomas grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where she still lives and now writes. She graduated from Yale University and currently works as an archivist for a modern art museum.

"[A] delicious literary Gothic debut"—***The New York Times Book Review*** "Editors' Choice"



NATURAL: How Faith in Nature's Goodness Leads to Harmful Fads, Unjust Laws, and Flawed Science

Alan Levinovitz

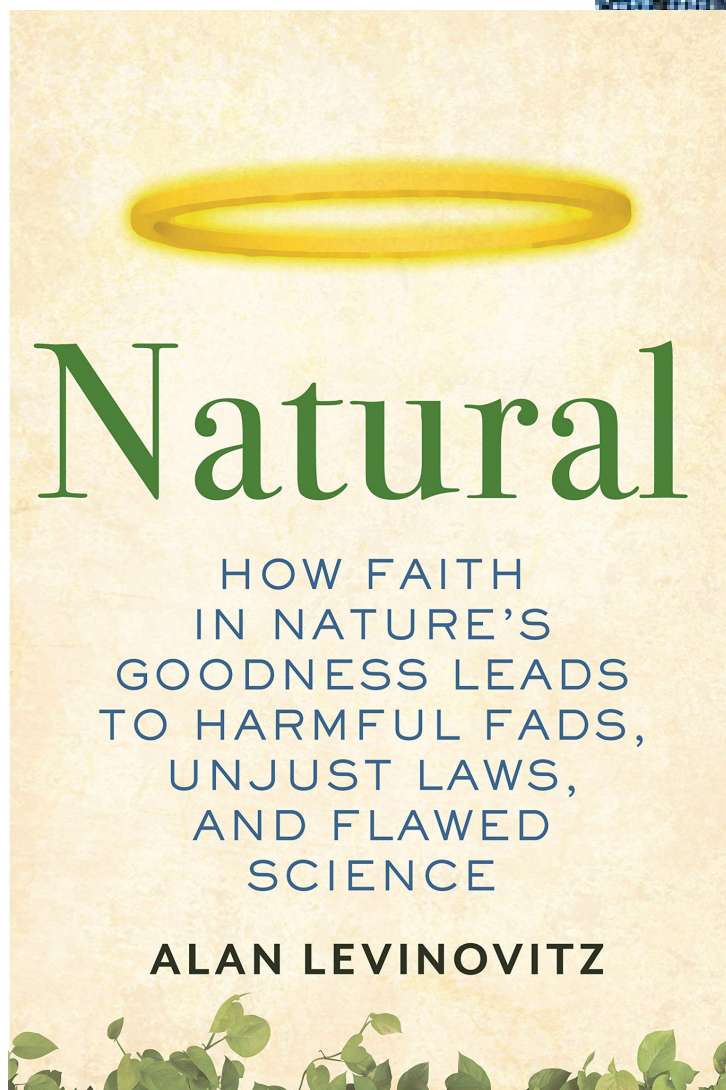
***Natural* illuminates the far-reaching harms of believing that natural means “good,” from misinformation about health choices to justifications for sexism, racism, and flawed economic policies.**

People love what’s natural: it’s the best way to eat, the best way to parent, even the best way to act—naturally, just as nature intended. . Yet Nature (with a capital N) and natural goodness are not objective or scientific. In this groundbreaking book, Alan Levinovitz demonstrates that these beliefs are actually religious and highlights the many dangers of substituting simple myths for complicated realities. It may not seem like a problem when it comes to paying a premium for organic food. But what about condemnations of “unnatural” sexual activity? The guilt that attends not having a “natural” birth? Economic deregulation justified by the inherent goodness of “natural” markets?

In *Natural*, Levinovitz takes the reader from Peruvian rainforests to Yellowstone Park, from a “natural” bodybuilding competition to a “natural” cancer clinic. The result is a new perspective that shatters faith in Nature’s goodness and points to a better alternative. We can love nature without worshipping it, and we can work toward a better world with humility and dialogue rather than taboos and zealotry.

Beacon Press // April 2020

"[A]n important call for more nuance over simplicity, for compromise over dogmatism, and for embracing uncertainty over certainty."—**Science**



Alan Levinovitz is associate professor of religious studies at James Madison University. His writing has appeared in academic journals, *Wired*, *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Aeon*, *Vox*, and *Slate*.

WOW, NO THANK YOU

Samantha Irby

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD FINALIST

From Samantha Irby, beloved author of *We Are Never Meeting in Real Life*, a rip-roaring, edgy and unabashedly raunchy new collection of hilarious essays

Irby is forty, and increasingly uncomfortable in her own skin despite what Inspirational Instagram Infographics have promised her. She has left her job as a receptionist at a veterinary clinic, has published successful books and has been friendzoned by Hollywood, left Chicago, and moved into a house that requires repairs and the skills to complete them with her wife in a Blue town in the middle of a Red state where she now hosts book clubs and makes mason jar salads. This is the bourgeois dream. She goes on bad dates with new friends, spends weeks in Los Angeles taking meetings with "tv executives slash amateur astrologers" while being a "cheese fry-eating slightly damp Midwest person," "with neck pain and no cartilage in [her] knees," who still hides past-due bills under her pillow.

The essays in this collection draw on the raw, hilarious particulars of Irby's new life. *Wow, No Thank You* is Irby at her most unflinching, riotous, and relatable.

Vintage // March 2020

Faber and Faber (UK)

“As fitting a response to 2020 as I can imagine... Wildly, seditiously funny.... Read Irby because she knows what it means to live with a fair amount of panic and largely indoors.... She might be our great bard of quarantine.”

—**Parul Sehgal**, *The New York Times*



**wow,
no
thank
you.**

essays

“Spit-out-your-beverage funny. . . .
Irresistible
as a snack tray.”
—Jia Tolentino



samantha irby

Bestselling author of *We Are Never Meeting in Real Life.*

Samantha Irby is a writer whose work you can find on the internet.

HERE FOR IT: Or How to Save Your Soul in America

R. Eric Thomas

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

A Today Show #ReadWithJenna Book Club Pick

R. Eric Thomas didn't know he was different until the world told him so. Everywhere he went—whether it was his rich, mostly white, suburban high school, his conservative black church, or his Ivy League college—he found himself on the outside looking in.

In essays by turns hysterical and heartfelt, Thomas reexamines what it means to be an “other” through the lens of his own life. He explores the two worlds of his childhood: the barren urban landscape where his parents' house was a bright spot, and the Eden-like school they sent him to in white suburbia. He writes about struggling to reconcile his Christian identity with his sexuality, the exhaustion of code-switching in college, and accidentally getting famous on the internet (for the wrong reason).

Ultimately, Thomas seeks the answer to ever more relevant questions: Is the future worth it? Why do we bother when everything seems to be getting worse? As the world continues to shift in unpredictable ways, Thomas finds the answers to these questions by reenvisioning what “normal” means and in the powerful alchemy that occurs when you at last place yourself at the center of your own story.

Ballantine // February 2020

R. Eric Thomas was a senior staff writer at *Elle* online from 2016 to 2021. His writing for the theater has won the Barrymore Award and the Dramatists Guild Lanford Wilson Award and was a finalist for the Steinberg/American Theater Critics Association New Play Award. He lives in Baltimore with his extraordinary husband, the Reverend David Norse Thomas, and an out-of-control collection of succulents, candles, and tote bags.



"Pop culture-obsessed, Sedaris-level laugh-out-loud funny . . . [R. Eric Thomas] is one of my favorite writers."

—**Lin-Manuel Miranda,**
Entertainment Weekly

HOLD ON, BUT DON'T HOLD STILL: Hope and Humor From My Seriously Flawed Life

Kristina Kuzmič

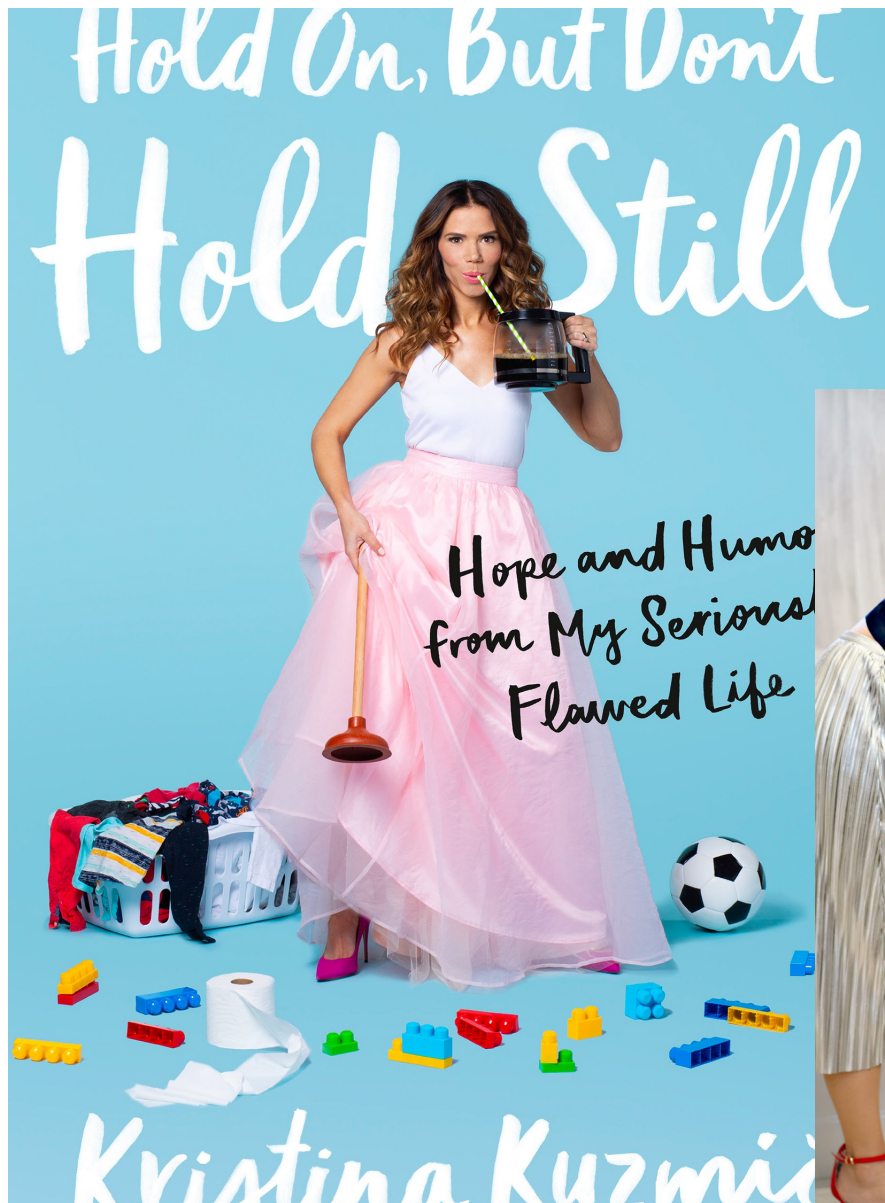
One woman's story of ditching her fairytale dreams and falling in love with her unpredictable, chaotic, imperfect life

Kristina Kuzmič has made herself a household name, speaking directly to mothers from the trenches of parenthood via her viral videos and social media presence. She now brings her message of self-acceptance, resilience, and joy to book readers.

With a refreshingly unpretentious, funny, and galvanizing voice, Kuzmič reveals how she went from broke and defeated to brimming with thankfulness. Illuminating the hard-won wisdom from a life always spent one step behind—whether it was as a teenager new to America, a suddenly single mother to two kids, remarried and juggling two teens and a toddler, or the unexpected recipient of Oprah's attention and investment—*Hold On, But Don't Hold Still* is the book every mother needs to reassure her that she's not only fine just as she is, but that she already has more tools and support than she can possibly imagine.

Viking // February 2020

Univers (Romania) / Ikar (Slovakia) / Mladisnka Knjiga (Slovenia) / LifeTime (Bulgaria)



"Tenacious and refreshingly candid."
—***Publisher's Weekly*** (starred)



Kristina Kuzmič was born in Croatia and is a world-renowned speaker known for her unique insight and humor on family-related topics. She currently lives in Southern California with her husband, where her most important, rewarding, and exhausting careers include being a sanitation engineer, chef, chauffer, and conflict-resolution guru for her three (mostly satisfied) clients—her children.

YELLOW BIRD:

A Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country

Sierra Crane Murdoch

EDGAR AWARD FINALIST

The gripping true story of a murder on an Indian reservation, and the unforgettable Arikara woman who becomes obsessed with solving it.

When Lissa Yellow Bird was released from prison she found her home, the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, transformed by the Bakken oil boom. In her absence, the landscape had been altered, her tribal government swayed by corporate interests, and her community burdened by a surge in violence and addiction. Three years later, when Lissa learned that a young white oil worker, "KC" Clarke, had disappeared, she became concerned. No one knew where Clarke had gone, and few people were looking for him.

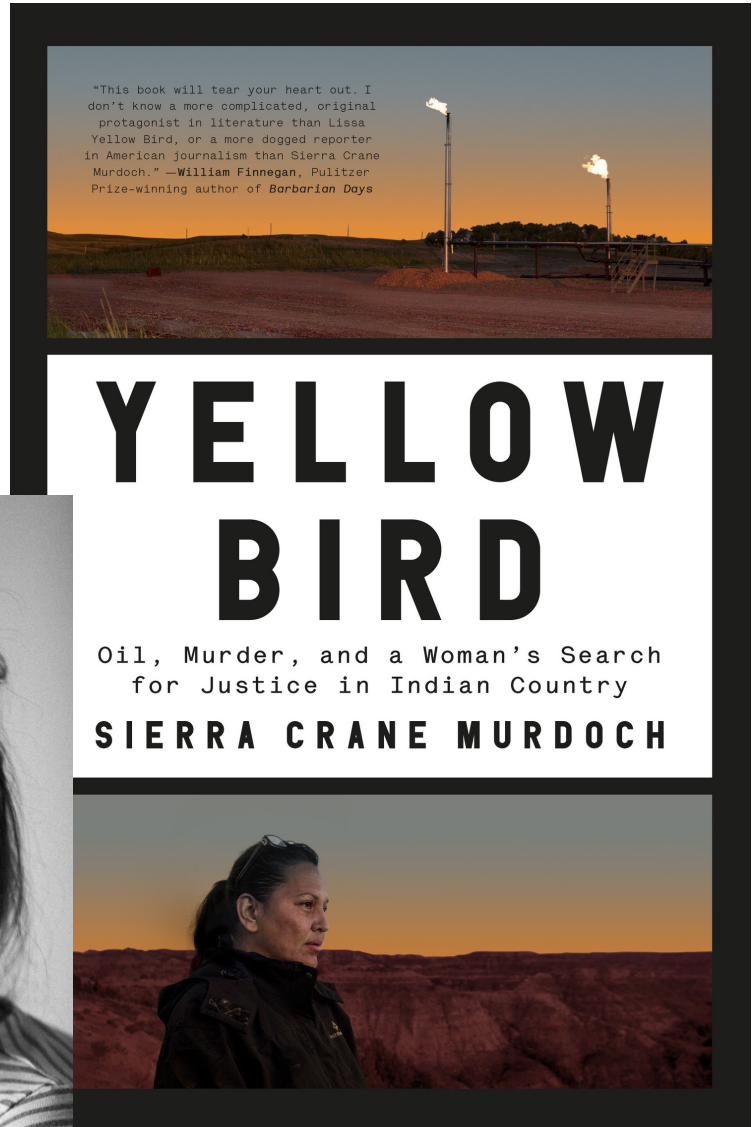
Yellow Bird traces Lissa's steps as she hunts for clues to Clarke's disappearance. She navigates two worlds—that of her own tribe, changed by its newfound wealth, and that of the non-Native oilmen, down on their luck, who have come to find work. Her pursuit of Clarke is also a pursuit of redemption, as Lissa atones for her own crimes and reckons with generations of trauma.

Drawing on eight years of immersive investigation, Sierra Crane Murdoch has produced a profound examination of the legacy of systematic violence inflicted on a tribal nation and a tale of extraordinary healing.

Random House // February 2020

Sierra Crane Murdoch has written for *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker* online, *Harper's*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Orion*, and *High Country News*. She has held fellowships from Middlebury College and from the Investigative Reporting Program at the University of California, Berkeley.

“A great true-crime story.... Murdoch reports the hell out of it.... a remarkable accomplishment.”—***Los Angeles Times***



“Remarkable . . . Murdoch brings the same fanaticism and dignity to the search for and meaning of modern Native America.”—***The New York Times***

IN THE DREAM HOUSE

Carmen Maria Machado

2021 RATHBONES FOLIO PRIZE WINNER
LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD WINNER

**A revolutionary memoir about domestic abuse by
the author of *Her Body and Other Parties*.**

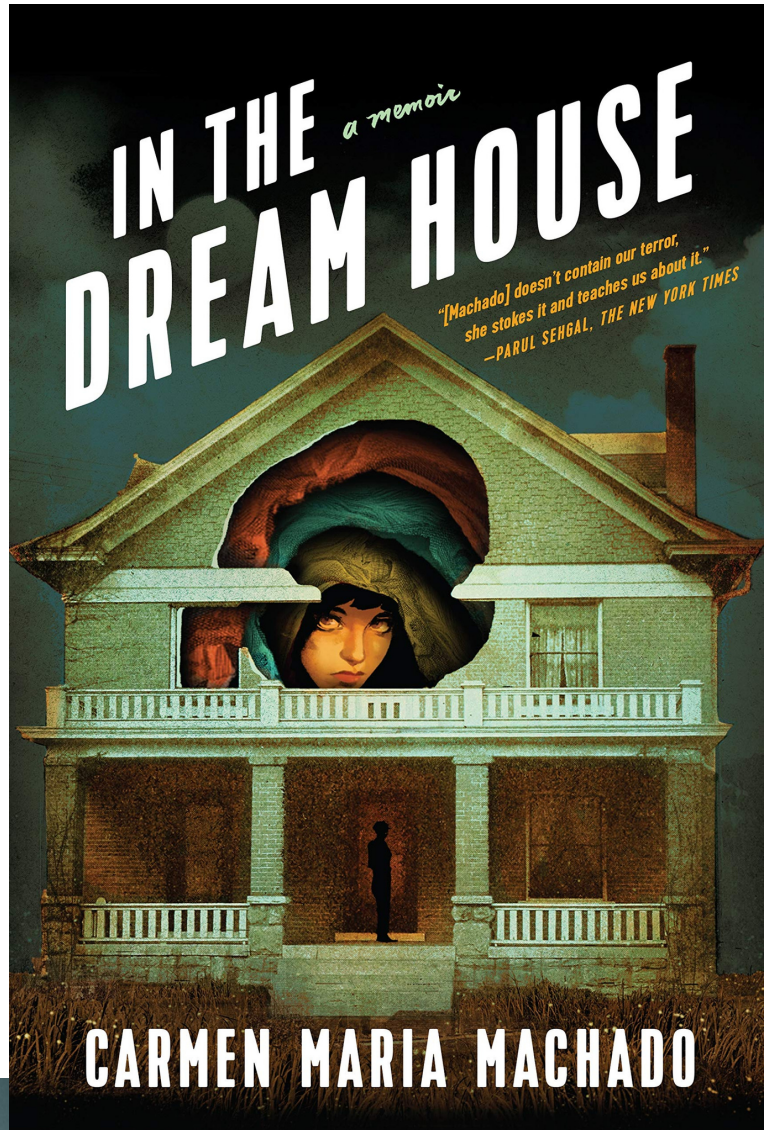
In the Dream House is an engrossing and wildly innovative account of a relationship gone bad, and a bold dissection of the mechanisms and cultural representations of psychological abuse. Tracing the full arc of a harrowing journey with a charismatic but volatile woman, Machado struggles to make sense of how what happened to her shaped the person she was becoming.

Each chapter features its own narrative trope—the haunted house, erotica, the bildungsroman—through which Machado holds the events up to the light and examines them from different angles. She looks back at her religious adolescence, unpacks the stereotype of lesbian relationships as safe and utopian, and widens the view with essayistic explorations of the history and reality of abuse in queer relationships. The result is a wrenching, riveting book that explodes our ideas about what a memoir can do and be.

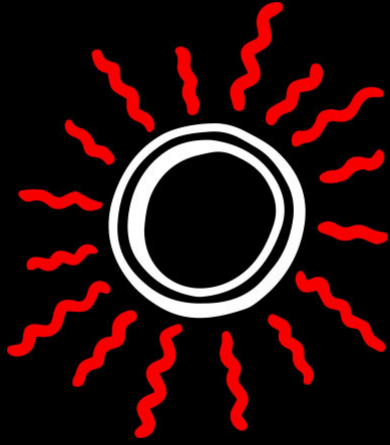
Graywolf Press // November 2019

Serpent's Tail (UK) / A Strange Light (Canada) / Klett Cotta (Germany)
/ Anagrama (Spain) / Cossee (The Netherlands)
Christian Bourgois (France) / Companhia das letras (Brazil)
Agora (Poland) / Solum (Norway) / Mann, Ivanov & Ferber (Russia)
Munhakdongne (Korea) / Codice (Italy)

Carmen Maria Machado is a National Book Award Finalist for her debut story collection, *Her Body and Other Parties*. She lives in Philadelphia with her wife.



"Breathtakingly
inventive"
—*The New
Yorker*



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