

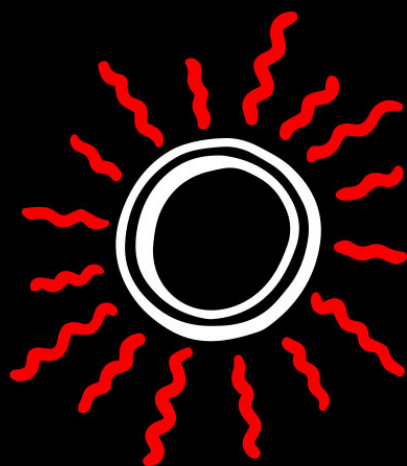


FALL 2021

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

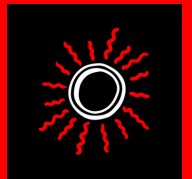
Time for a new story.

Upcoming Titles



JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM

Ryan O'Connell



Debut
Fiction

From the star of Peacock's upcoming *Queer as Folk*, comes a witty and touching novel about a gay TV writer with cerebral palsy as he faces addiction and longs to be seen in an ableist world.

Eliot appears to be living the dream as a successful TV writer with a doting boyfriend. But behind his Instagram-filtered life, he's struggling with a worsening alcohol dependency, he can't seem to stop cheating on his boyfriend with various sex workers, and his cerebral palsy is making him feel like a gay Shrek.

After falling into a cycle of sex, drinking, and Hollywood backstabbing, Eliot decides to limp his way towards redemption. But facing your demons is easier said than done.

Candid, biting, and refreshingly real, *Just by Looking at Him* is an incisive commentary on gay life, a heart-centered, laugh-out-loud exploration of self, and a rare insight into life as a person with disabilities who refuses to be invisible.

Atria // June 2022

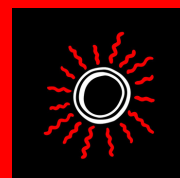
Sphere (UK) / Camelot (Spain)



Ryan O'Connell is the Emmy-nominated creator, writer, and star of Netflix's *Special*, which is based on his memoir, *I'm Special: And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves*. He's also written for other TV shows like *Will & Grace*, *Awkward*, and Peacock's *Queer as Folk* revival, which he also stars in. He lives, laughs, and loves in Los Angeles with his partner, Jonathan Parks-Ramage.

HAWK MOUNTAIN

Conner Habib



Debut
Fiction

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 // July 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.

BROTHER ALIVE

Zain Khalid



Debut
Fiction

In 1990, three baby boys—Dayo, Iseul, and Youssef—are adopted and live atop a mosque in one of Staten Island’s most diverse and precarious neighborhoods. They are a conspicuous trio: Dayo is of Nigerian origin, Iseul is Korean, and Youssef Middle Eastern, but they are so close as to be inseparable. Nevertheless, Youssef is keeping a secret: he has an imaginary double, a shapeshifting creature he calls Brother. Brother is both a friend and a curse—he provides solace to Youssef but demands information in exchange.

The boys’ adoptive father, Imam Salim, is popular in the community, known for his radical sermons. But at home he is a distant father who spends evenings in his study with whiskey-laced coffee, writing letters to his former compatriots back in Saudi Arabia. Like Youssef, he too has secrets, including the cause of his failing health, the reason for his nighttime excursions, and the truth about what happened to the boys’ parents. When Imam Salim’s disappears to Saudi Arabia, the boys will be forced to follow. There they will be captivated by an opulent, almost futuristic world. A linear city that seems to offer a more sustainable modernity than that of the West, where they find traces of their parents’ stories. But they will have to change if they want to survive in this new world, and the arrival of a creature as powerful as Brother will not go unnoticed.

With stylistic brilliance and intellectual acuity, Zain Khalid brings characters to vivid life with a bold energy that matches the great themes of family, capital, power, sexuality, and the possibility of reunion for those who are broken.

Grove Atlantic // July 2022



Zain Khalid has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Believer*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, and elsewhere. He has also written for television. *Brother Alive* is his first novel. He lives in New York City.

THE MAN WHO COULD MOVE CLOUDS

Ingrid Rojas Contreras

**From the author of *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* comes a
dazzling, kaleidoscopic memoir of her family's
otherworldly legacy.**

For Ingrid Rojas Contreras, magic is a family affair. In her childhood home in Colombia, “What did you dream?” was asked instead of “How are you?” Her grandfather, Nono, was a renowned *curandero*, a community healer with the ability to talk to the dead, treat the sick, and move the clouds. As a young girl, Ingrid spied on her mother’s fortune-telling business and waited eagerly for Mami to appear in two places at once via astral projection.

When Ingrid suffered a head injury in her twenties that left her with amnesia (an accident similar to the one that put her mother in a coma as a child and granted her the ability to see ghosts) the family assumes “the secrets” have been passed down to the next generation. But as Ingrid recovers her memories, she is consumed instead by a powerful urge to learn more about her family legacy.

With Mami as her unpredictable, stubborn and often hilarious guide, Ingrid traces her lineage back to her indigenous and Spanish roots, uncovering the repressive colonial narrative that would eventually break her family into two opposing sides: those who believe “the secrets” are a gift, and those who are convinced they are a curse.

Interweaving family stories more enchanting than any novel, resurrected Colombian history, and her own deeply personal reckonings with the bounds of reality, Rojas Contreras writes a luminous testament to the power of storytelling as a healing art and an invitation to embrace the extraordinary.

Doubleday // July 2022



Ingrid Rojas Contreras was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. Her debut novel *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* was the silver medal winner in First Fiction from the California Book Awards, and a *New York Times* Editors' choice. Her essays and short stories have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Buzzfeed*, *Nylon*, and *Guernica*, among others publications.

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, 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 there 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.

GIVE ME SPACE BUT DON'T GO FAR

Haley Weaver

**An illustrated memoir of one woman's utterly
relatable and life-affirming anxiety journey**

Through eleven illustrated essays, *Give Me Space But Don't Go Far* encourages readers to understand anxiety as a part of them, a neutral thing as unavoidable and intrinsic as any other part of their body. Anxiety isn't an obstacle, it's a roommate.

Or in Haley Weaver's case, her anxiety is represented by a wide-eyed tangle of string, Weaver reveals over the course of the book that it isn't an enemy to defeat or an obstacle to overcome. Anxiety just is, and it's never going away, but if we care for it with tender curiosity and attention, it has many gifts to offer.

With care, practice, and the friendship of some really great coping mechanisms, you can learn how to live with your anxiety roommate in a mutually respectful, affectionate, even meaningful way.

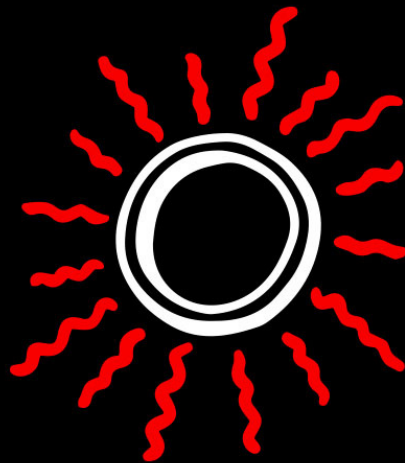
Give Me Space is more than just a memoir; it's a valentine to self-acceptance and forgiveness.

Avery // Spring 2023



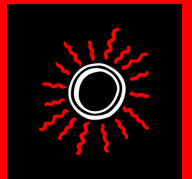
Haley Weaver illustrates and shares webcomics about anxiety + mental health, relationships, and selfhood on her Instagram account @HaleyDrewThis. Her illustrations have been featured on other notable accounts and websites, including *Bustle*, *Betches*, *New York Magazine*, and *Bored Panda*. She has a knack for transforming universal (and sometimes overwhelming) feelings into digestible, relatable illustrations. Since sharing her first doodle to Instagram in 2017, Haley has accrued a fan base of almost 300,000 followers on Instagram.

Recently
Published



SEVERAL PEOPLE ARE TYPING

Calvin Kasulke



Debut
Fiction

A Good Morning America Book Club Pick

A work-from-home comic tour de force 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.

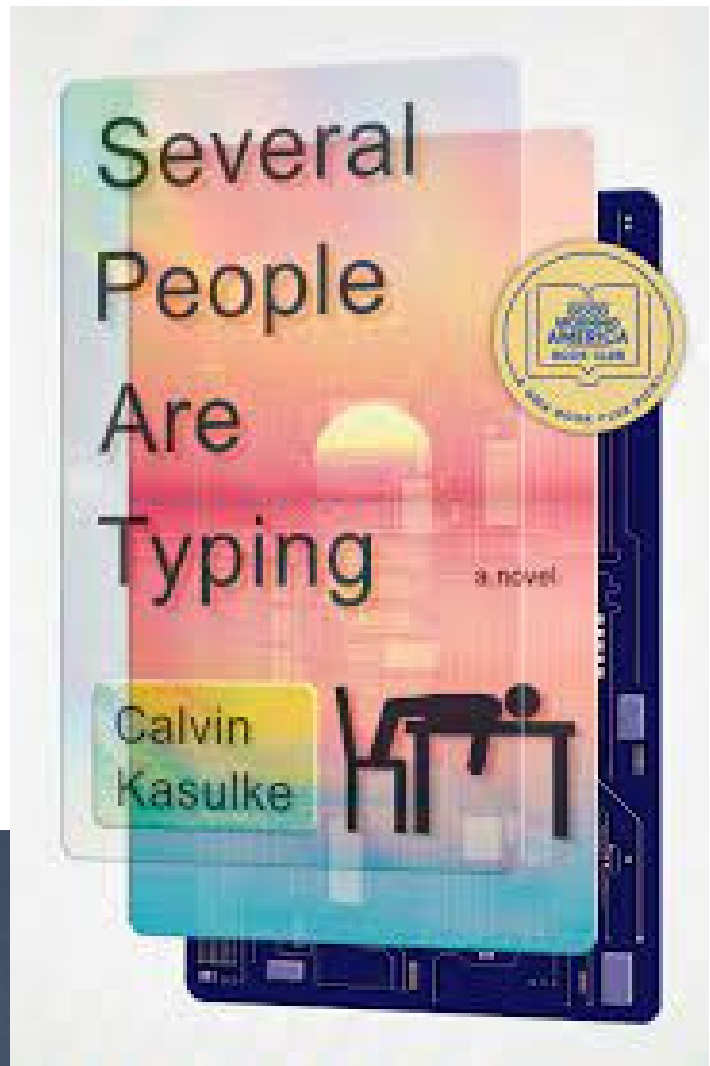
Plunging deeper into the Slack workspace—and becoming more productive by the day—Gerald relies on Slackbot, the messaging service's AI assistant, to navigate his new digital reality. But what happens when it discovers a world (and an empty body) outside the Slack app?

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 // August 2021

Hodder Studio / UK

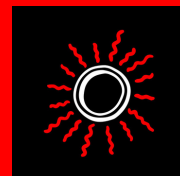
“*Several People Are Typing* is fun, funny, addictive, and surreal...I blazed through it in an hour, came up for air, and then immediately blazed through it again.”—***The New Yorker***



Calvin Kasulke is a writer based in Brooklyn. A Lambda Literary Fellow, his writing and reporting have been featured in *VICE*, *BuzzFeed*, and *Electric Literature*. This is his first book.

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) / Czarna (Poland) / House of Books (The Netherlands)

"The final pages are shocking... readers may find themselves tempted to return to the beginning in order to understand just what Feito has so convincingly managed to achieve within her accomplished debut."—***The New York Times Book Review***



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.

TO END A PLAGUE

Emily Bass

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

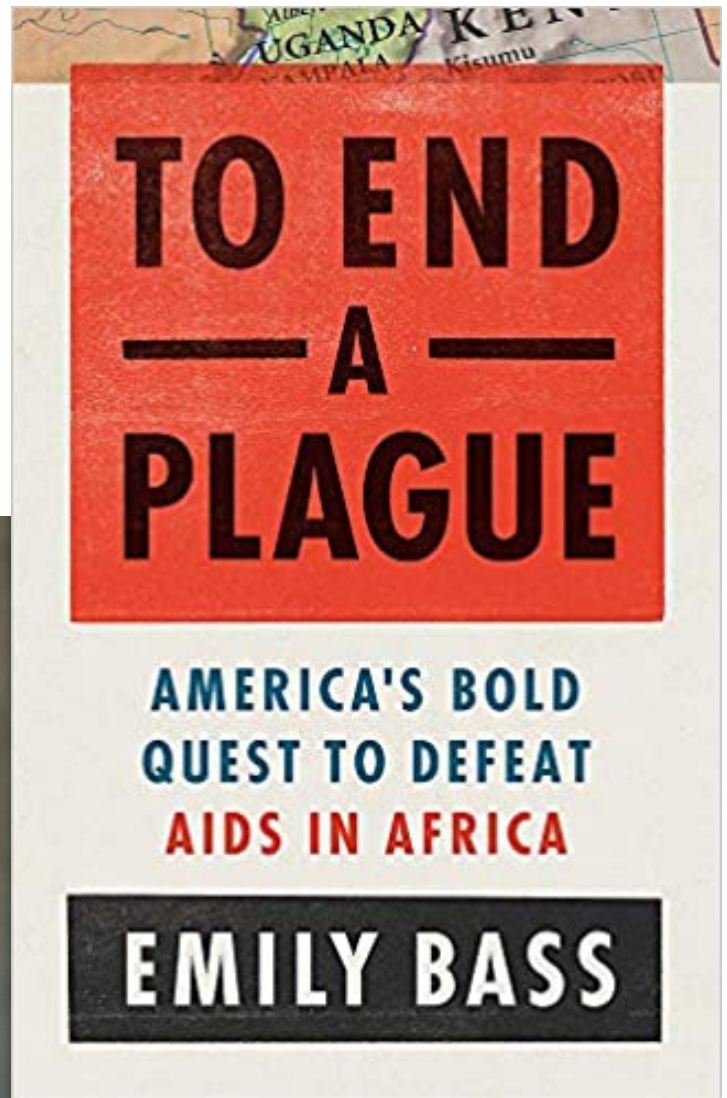
With his 2003 announcement of a program known as PEPFAR, George W. Bush launched an astonishingly successful American war against a global pandemic. PEPFAR played a key role in slashing HIV cases and AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, leading to the brink of epidemic control. Resilient in the face of 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

“With 25 years of experience as an AIDS activist, journalist Bass makes a vivid book debut with a detailed recounting of a prevention program that effectively stemmed AIDS in Africa...A timely history of successful government intervention.”—**Kirkus Reviews**

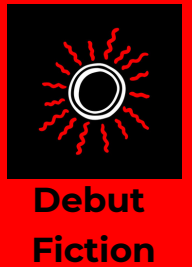


“*To End A Plague* is a triumph, and landmark work that will endure—wonderful and wildly important.”
—**Martin Duberman**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, CUNY

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.

DARRYL

Jackie Ess



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



"Ess captures the thorny overlaps between male friendship, love, competition, and lust to create an unforgettable portrait of the men who know too easily how to be men and the men desperate to figure it out."—**Buzzfeed**

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.

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.**

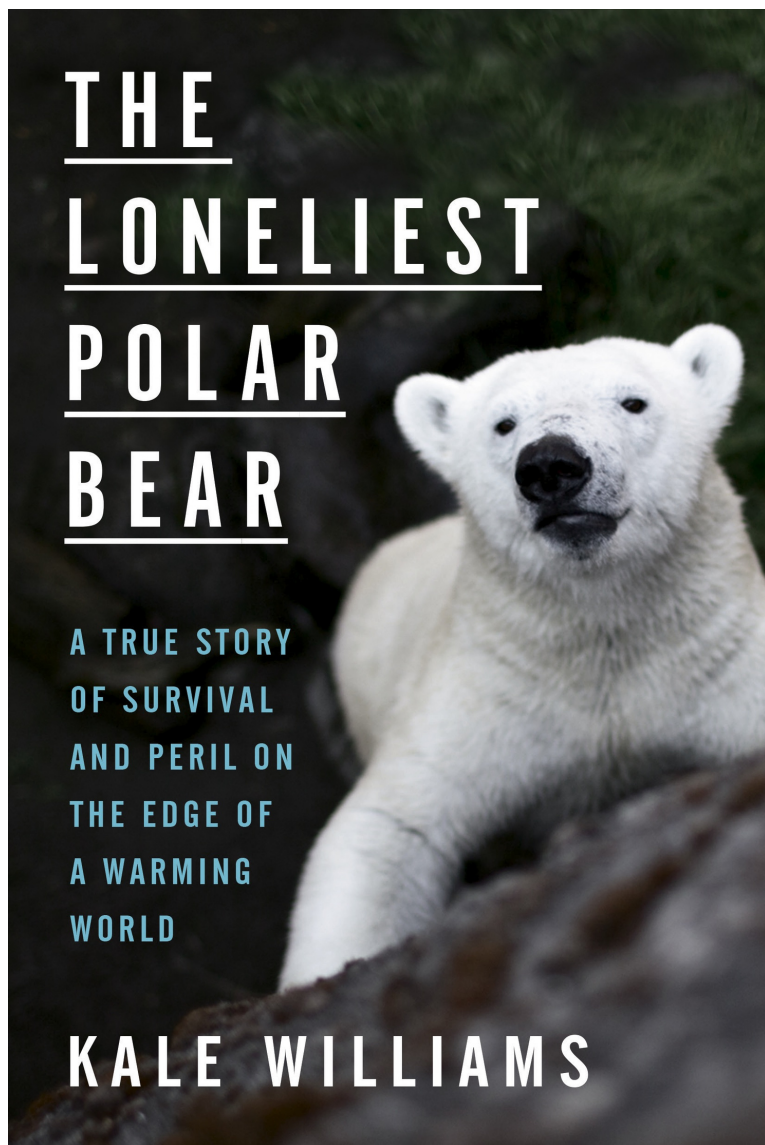
Six days after giving birth, a polar bear at the Columbus Zoo abandoned her tiny cub. She was furless and blind, and with her temperature dropping, the zookeepers entrusted with her care had no choice: They would have to raise one of the most dangerous predators in the world themselves.

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, and 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

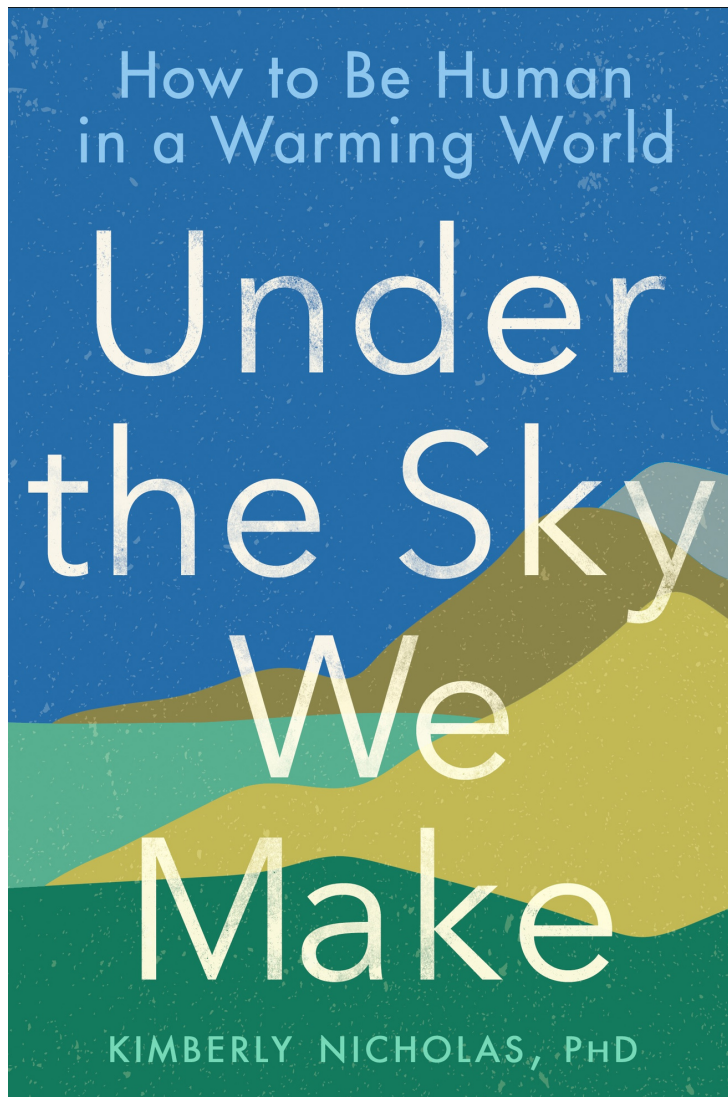
Kimberly Nicholas, PhD

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



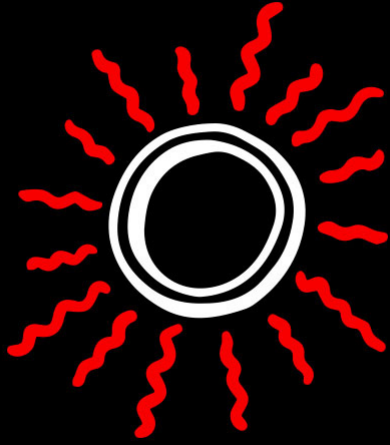
“This compelling book about climate change really packs a punch, because climate scientist Nicholas relentlessly brings things down to the personal level.... a realistic, accessible, and clarion call for change.”—**Booklist** (starred)

“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 Ph.D. at Stanford University. Since then, she has been published 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.



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