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International Rights Guide

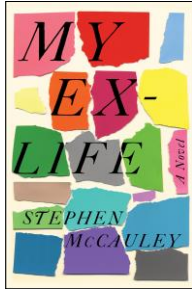
**Featuring Titles Publishing from
Fall 2017 to Fall 2018**

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FICTION:**MY EX-LIFE by Stephen McCauley (May 2018)**

Acquiring editor: Amy Einhorn; Material: manuscript; Page count: 336

Comparison: Maria Semple

The long awaited breakout novel from the author of the bestseller *The Object of My Affection* (which was made into a movie with Jennifer Aniston and Paul Rudd with a screenplay by Wendy Wasserstein) is a wickedly funny and poignant examination of the sometimes disappointing, sometimes surprising times in one's life and shows that sometimes the middle might be the best place to start again. David Hedges is having an unusual mid-life crisis. His boyfriend Soren has left him for an *older* man, albeit a successful surgeon. His job—helping the spoiled children of San Francisco's elite get into university—is exasperating. As his life reaches new lows, his weight has reached new highs. The only good thing he has is his under market value apartment with a view that is so stunning he is the envy of all of San Francisco. But when the landlady finally decides to sell, David hits rock bottom. Across the country, Julie Fiske isn't having much of a better time herself. Her second husband, Harry, has left her for another woman (younger, of course). The bills that she files by throwing into the back seat of her car keep piling up—so much so that she has turned her rambling home into an illegal B&B. Her sullen teen daughter, Mandy, adamantly refuses to apply to university. And Julie can't seem to quit smoking weed (Why should she? It's the one good thing she has). When Harry lays down an ultimatum—if Mandy doesn't start applying to university, she's going to come live with him and Carol—Mandy surprises Harry, and stuns Julie, by saying she's been working with David Hedges, Mom's first husband from long ago. It's a lie, but a good one, and, Julie thinks, not a bad idea. When Julie calls David up out of the blue and asks if he'll help Mandy, he says of course. And when Mandy tells David he should come visit them and stay in one of their B&B rooms, he surprises everyone, including himself, by accepting. Soon David and Julie are living together and in many ways pick up exactly where they left off. But while the chemistry between them is still there, and they can finish each other's sentences, there's one conversation they never finished that is unavoidable, and could change everything.

“Make no mistake: McCauley is a social satirist in the tradition of Evelyn Waugh and Oscar Wilde—and like them, he's a serious writer indeed.”—Darcy Cosper, *The Los Angeles Times*, on *Alternatives to Sex*

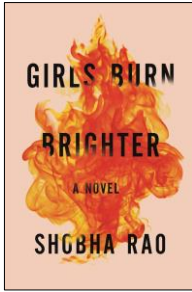
SAVE ME FROM DANGEROUS MEN by Saul Lechuk (Fall 2018)

Acquiring editor: Amy Einhorn and Christine Kopprasch; Material: manuscript due November; Page count: 320

Comparison: Lee Child

Nikki Griffin isn't your typical bookseller. In her office above the bookstore, where she also quietly works as a private investigator, she tracks certain men. Dangerous men. Men who have hurt the women they claim to love. And Nikki likes to teach those men a lesson, teach them what it feels like to be hurt and helpless, so she can be sure that their victims are safe from them forever. When a regular job tracking Karen, a tech company's disgruntled employee who might be selling secrets, turns ugly, and Karen's life is threatened, Nikki has to reveal herself. Karen tells Nikki that there are people after her, people trying to kill her. Dangerous men. She says she'll tell Nikki what's really going on. But then Karen is murdered, and suddenly Nikki is no longer just solving a case—she's trying hard to stay alive.

Part Lisbeth Salander, part Jack Reacher, part Jessica Jones, Nikki Griffin is a kickass character who readers will root for as she seeks to right the world's wrongs—and they'll be thrilled to see her return in the next book in the series.



GIRLS BURN BRIGHTER by Shobha Rao (March 2018)

Acquiring editor: Amy Einhorn; Material: manuscript; Page count: 320

Comparison: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

A searing, electrifying debut novel—set in India and America—about a star-crossed friendship between two girls who are driven apart but never stop trying to find one another. When Poornima first meets Savitha, she feels something she thought she lost for good when her mother died: hope. Poornima’s father hires Savitha to work one of their sari looms, and the two girls are quickly drawn to one another. Savitha is even more impoverished than Poornima, but she is full of passion and energy. She shows Poornima how to find beauty in a bolt of indigo cloth, a bowl of yogurt rice and bananas, and the warmth of friendship. Suddenly their Indian village doesn’t feel quite so claustrophobic, and Poornima begins to imagine a life beyond the arranged marriage her father is desperate to lock down for her. But when a devastating act of cruelty drives Savitha away, Poornima leaves behind everything she has ever known in order to find her friend again. Her journey takes her into the darkest corners of India’s underworld, on a harrowing journey to the other side of the world, and eventually to an apartment complex in Seattle. But despite the relentless obstacles in her past, Poornima never loses the hope that Savitha gave her and the love she brought into her life. At once a propulsive page-turner and a heart-wrenching meditation on friendship, this is a literary tour de force.

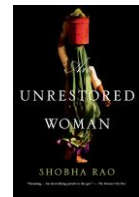
*Rao’s story “Kavitha and Mustafa” was chosen by T.C. Boyle for inclusion in *The Best American Short Stories 2015**

“Girls Burn Brighter by Shobha Rao blew my heart up. Heart-shards everywhere. I am in awe of the warmth and humanity in this book, even as it explores some incredibly dark places. I’m going to be thinking about *Girls Burn Brighter* for a while, and you’re going to be hearing a lot about it.”—Charlie Jane Anders, author of *All the Birds in the Sky*

Foreign sales: **Italy**/Neri Pozza, **UK**/Fleet

Previous title foreign sales: **Italy**/Neri Pozza, **Spain**/Alfaguara, **UK**/Fleet

Also available: *An Unrestored Woman* (2016)



UNTITLED by Rosella Postorino (Future)

Acquiring editor: Amy Einhorn; Material: partial English manuscript (full Italian manuscript available); Page count: 288

Comparison: *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink

Germany, 1943. Twenty-six-year-old Rosa Sauer’s parents are gone, and her husband Gregor is far away, fighting on the frontlines of WWII. Alone, she has little choice but to leave war-torn Berlin behind and live with her in-laws in a village near the Wolf’s Lair, Hitler’s hidden headquarters. Convinced that the enemy wants to poison him, Hitler recruits ten women, including Rosa, to be his food tasters. Even though food is a luxury, eating the decadent meals Hitler will soon be served is an act of torture—after each meal, the women must wait to see if they will die. Every minute seems like an eternity. Rosa’s new life is full of delicious food and ever-present fear. When Rosa receives a devastating letter from the front, she seeks solace with a commander, embarking on a passionate affair that forces her to decide where her loyalties truly lie and what she is willing to sacrifice for love.

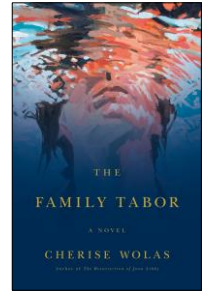
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THE FAMILY TABOR by Cherise Wolas (July 2018)

Acquiring editor: Amy Einhorn; Material: manuscript due November; Page count: 400

Comparison: *The Emperor's Children* by Claire Messud

From the author of the acclaimed *The Resurrection of Joan Ashby* comes a tightly knit novel about a family and how each member must confront the lies upon which their lives are built. Harry Tabor is about to receive the Man of the Decade award. As he enters his twilight years, this distinction seems like the culmination of a life well lived. A perfect life. A life spent helping Jewish refugees from all over the globe find a better life in America. Giving them a second chance. And Harry knows all about second chances. He has the perfect marriage—his wife, Roma, is a distinguished child psychologist, and they tell each other almost everything. His three grown children, Phoebe, Camille, and Simon, are all accomplished. But his life could have very well taken a different turn if, seemingly a different lifetime ago, he hadn't uprooted everyone from their life in Connecticut and brought them out to the desert, literally, where they knew no one and he could start again. In *The Family Tabor*, Cherise Wolas examines the five members of the Tabor family as they prepare to celebrate Harry. Through each of their points of view, we see family members whose lives are built on lies, both to themselves and to others, and how these all come crashing down during a seventy-two-hour period.

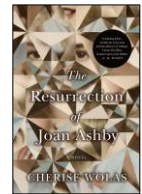


Foreign sales: UK/Borough Press|HarperCollins

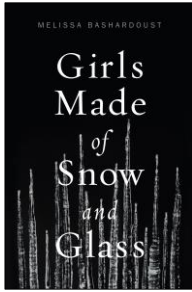
Previous title foreign sales: **Israel**/Yedioth-Miskal, **Poland**/Czarna Owca, **UK**/Borough Press|HarperCollins

“[A] stunning debut...reminds me of my most favorite authors: J.D. Salinger, Carson McCullers, Truman Capote, Joan Didion.”—A.M. Homes on *The Resurrection of Joan Ashby*

“Like John Irving’s *The World According to Garp*, this is a look at the life of a writer that will entertain many nonwriters. Like Lauren Groff’s *Fates and Furies*, it’s a sharp-eyed portrait of the artist as spouse and householder. From the start, one wonders how Wolas is possibly going to pay off the idea that her heroine is such a genius. Verdict: few could do better.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review) on *The Resurrection of Joan Ashby*



Also available: *The Resurrection of Joan Ashby* (2017)

YOUNG ADULT:**GIRLS MADE OF SNOW AND GLASS by Melissa Bashardoust (September 2017)***Acquiring editor: Sarah Barley; Material: finished copies; Page count: 384*Comparison: *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire

Entwining stories of both the beautiful princess and stepmother queen in the past and present, this stunning reimagining of the Snow White fairy tale traces the relationship of two young women doomed to be rivals from the start. Mina's mother is dead, her father is vicious, and her silent heart has never beat with love for anyone—not since her father cut it out and replaced it with one of glass. When she moves to Whitespring Castle and sees its king for the first time, Mina forms a plan: win the king's heart with her beauty, become queen, and finally know love. The only catch is that she'll have to become a stepmother. Lynet looks just like her late mother, and one day she discovers why: a magician created her out of snow in the dead queen's image, at her father's order. But despite being her mother's ghost made flesh, Lynet is determined to prove that she's not the delicate creature her mother was. She'd rather be like her fierce and regal stepmother, Mina. But when her father decides to make Lynet queen, displacing Mina, her relationship with her stepmother is shaken, and Lynet must decide what to do—and who to be—to win back the only mother she's ever known...or else defeat her once and for all. Grappling with the struggle for female empowerment and the endless complexities of love and what it means to have a heart, this is an utterly transfixing debut from a very talented author.

“A beautifully wrought novel. Compellingly flawed characters, vivid world-building, and pitch-perfect pacing make this utterly superb.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

“An empowering novel with strong, three-dimensional female protagonists who refuse to let jealousy and power break their bond. Filled with magic, adventure, and interesting characters, this debut will keep readers thoroughly engaged. A refreshing and progressive original retelling. Highly recommended.”—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

“Magic, mother-daughter conflict, and the quest for self-identity are given a dark and fantastical treatment in this chilling feminist adaptation of the Snow White fairy tale. A hauntingly evocative adaptation that stands on its own merits.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Foreign sales: **Brazil/V&R, Spanish language (Latin America and USA)/V&R, Turkey/Güldünya**

UNSTOPPABLE MOSES by Tyler Smith (October 2018)*Acquiring editor: Sarah Barley; Material: manuscript; Page count: 352*

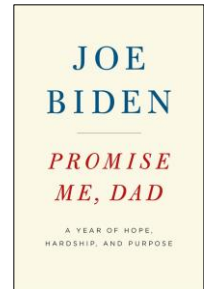
Moses and his cousin Charlie were best friends, wisecracking pranksters, unstoppable forces of teenage energy—until the night they became accidental arsonists and set in motion a chain of events that left Moses alone, guilt-stricken, and most likely trapped in his dead-end town. Then Moses gets a lucky break: the chance to volunteer as a camp counselor for a week and prove that the incident should be expunged from his record. And since a criminal record and a scholarship to Duke are mutually exclusive, he's determined to get through his community service and get on with his life. But tragedy seems to follow him wherever he goes, and this time, it might just stop him in his tracks. A coming-of-age story of tragedy and redemption, *Unstoppable Moses* is contemporary realistic YA in the tradition of Stephen Chbosky and Andrew Smith.

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NON-FICTION

PROMISE ME, DAD: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose by Joe Biden (November 2017)

Acquiring editor: Bob Miller; Material: manuscript with signed NDA; Page count: 272



In November 2014, thirteen members of the Biden family gathered on Nantucket for Thanksgiving, a tradition they had been celebrating for the past forty years; it was the one constant in what had become a hectic, scrutinized, and overscheduled life. The Thanksgiving holiday was a much-needed respite, a time to connect, a time to reflect on what the year had brought, and what the future might hold. But this year felt different from all those that had come before. Joe and Jill Biden’s eldest son, Beau, had been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor fifteen months earlier, and his survival was uncertain. “Promise me, Dad,” Beau had told his father. “Give me your word that no matter what happens, you’re going to be all right.” Joe Biden gave him his word.

Promise Me, Dad chronicles the year that followed, which would be the most momentous and challenging in Joe Biden’s extraordinary life and career. Vice President Biden traveled more than a hundred thousand miles that year, across the world, dealing with crises in Ukraine, Central America, and Iraq. When a call came from New York, or Capitol Hill, or Kyiv, or Baghdad—“Joe, I need your help”—he responded. For twelve months, while Beau fought for and then lost his life, the vice president balanced the twin imperatives of living up to his responsibilities to his country *and* his responsibilities to his family. And never far away was the insistent and urgent question of whether he should seek the presidency in 2016. The year brought real triumph and accomplishment, and wrenching pain. But even in the worst times, Biden was able to lean on the strength of his long, deep bonds with his family, on his faith, and on his deepening friendship with the man in the Oval Office, Barack Obama.

Writing with poignancy and immediacy, Joe Biden allows readers to feel the urgency of each moment, to experience the days when he felt unable to move forward as well as the days when he felt like he could not afford to stop. This is a book written not just by the vice president, but by a father, grandfather, friend, and husband. *Promise Me, Dad* is a story of how family and friendships sustain us and how hope, purpose, and action can guide us through the pain of personal loss into the light of a new future.

Foreign sales: UK/Pan Macmillan

UNTITLED by James Comey (May 2018)

Acquiring editor: Bob Miller; Material: proposal with signed NDA; Page count: 304

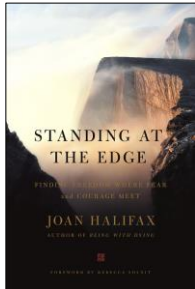
In his forthcoming book, former FBI director James Comey shares his never-before-told experiences from some of the highest-stakes situations of his career in the past two decades of American government, exploring what good, ethical leadership looks like, and how it drives sound decisions. His journey provides an unprecedented entry into the corridors of power and a remarkable lesson in what makes an effective leader. Mr. Comey served as director of the FBI from 2013 to 2017, appointed to the post by President Barack Obama. He previously served as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. deputy attorney general in the administration of President George W. Bush. From prosecuting the Mafia and Martha Stewart to helping change the Bush administration’s policies on torture and electronic surveillance, to overseeing the Hillary Clinton e-mail investigation as well as ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, Comey has been involved in some of the most consequential cases and policies of recent history.

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THE VIEW FROM FLYOVER COUNTRY: Dispatches from the Forgotten America by Sarah Kendzior (April 2018)

Acquiring editor: Whitney Frick; Material: manuscript; Page count: 224

St. Louis-based journalist and expert in authoritarian states, Sarah Kendzior has been called “a political heavyweight” and “a cassandra in Trumpland.” In 2015, she collected and published the columns about the labor exploitation, racism, gentrification, media bias, and other aspects of the post-employment economy that she originally reported for Al Jazeera. That collection, *The View from Flyover Country*, became an e-book bestseller and garnered praise from politicians—including Hillary Clinton—and journalists around the world. Now, with an updated introduction and epilogue that reflect on the ways that the Trump presidency was the certain result of the very realities Kendzior first exposed, *The View from Flyover Country* is being published in print for the first time. A piercing critique of the economic and social issues of our era, this is necessary reading for anyone who believes that the only way for America to fix its problems is to first discuss them with honesty and compassion.

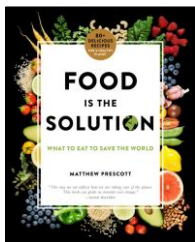


STANDING AT THE EDGE: Finding Freedom Where Fear and Courage Meet by Joan Halifax (May 2018)

Acquiring editor: Whitney Frick; Material: manuscript; Page count: 288

From a renowned activist, humanitarian, and spiritual thought-leader whose work has enriched countless lives, *Standing at the Edge* is an evocative examination of how we can respond to suffering, live our fullest lives, and experience profound spiritual and personal growth. Halifax has identified five psychological territories she calls Edge States—altruism, empathy, integrity, respect, and engagement—that epitomize strength of character. Yet each of these states can also be the cause of personal and social suffering.

In this way, these five psychological experiences form edges, and it is only when we stand at these edges that we become open to the full range of our human experience and discover who we really are. Recounting the experiences of caregivers, activists, humanitarians, politicians, parents, and teachers, incorporating the wisdom of Zen traditions and mindfulness practices, and rooted in Halifax’s groundbreaking research on compassion, *Standing at the Edge* is destined to become a contemporary classic. A powerful guide on how to find the freedom we seek for others and ourselves, it is a book that will serve us all.



FOOD IS THE SOLUTION: What to Eat to Save the World—80+ Delicious Recipes for a Healthy Planet by Matthew Prescott (April 2018)

Acquiring editor: Kara Rota and Whitney Frick; Material: manuscript; Page count: 288

In this beautifully designed book, Matthew Prescott, Senior Food Policy Director for the Humane Society and a leader in the environmental food movement, shows how our plates have the power to heal the world. Anyone can help solve the world’s major issues—environmental problems chief among them—simply by incorporating more plants into their diets. Featuring investigative reporting, compelling infographics, and essays from notable contributors like Michael Greger, MD, John Mackey, James Cameron, Paul McCartney, and Wolfgang Puck—as well as delectable plant-based recipes—*Food Is the Solution* will inspire us all to put more plants on our plates.

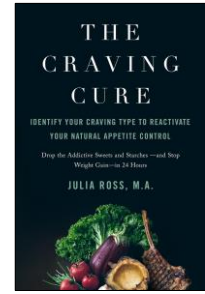
“The way we eat reflects how we are taking care of the planet. This book can guide us towards real change.”—Alice Waters

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THE CRAVING CURE: Identify Your Craving Type to Activate Your Natural Appetite Control by Julia Ross (December 2017)

Acquiring editor: Whitney Frick; Material: manuscript; Page count: 432

Top food addiction expert and bestselling author of *The Diet Cure* and *The Mood Cure*, Julia Ross, exposes the real reason so many of us fail to stick to our diet plans: our favorite foods are engineered to be addictive. Using five key amino acid supplements to target food addiction where it starts—in the brain—Ross shows us how we can jump-start our appetite-regulating neurotransmitters to conquer cravings in as little as twenty-four hours. Complete with a detailed questionnaire, *The Craving Cure* enables readers to identify their specific amino acid deficiencies and personal craving profiles. Ross’s clear explanation of why and how to use the aminos empowers you to reclaim your natural appetite control, and her anti-craving eating guidelines will permanently strengthen your dietary defenses. A well-researched and clinically-tested rejection of low-calorie, low-saturated fat, and low-protein diets, *The Craving Cure* reveals how we can effortlessly and permanently eradicate our cravings to lose weight, rediscover our nutritional heritage, and regain optimal mood, energy, and health.



SMALL ANIMALS: Parenthood in the Age of Fear by Kim Brooks (August 2018)

Acquiring editor: Whitney Frick; Material: manuscript; Page count: 256

One cool spring morning, Kim Brooks made a split-second decision to leave her four-year old son in the car while she ran into a store. What happened would consume the next several years of her life and ultimately motivate her to begin writing about the broader subject of parenthood and fear. In *Small Animals*, Brooks asks: Of all the emotions inherent in parenting, is there any more universal or profound than fear? To be a parent is to be afraid. And yet, the objects and intensity of our fear vary based on culture, temperament, and the historical moment in which we live. In the signature style—by turns funny, penetrating, and always illuminating—that has dazzled millions of fans of the essays she publishes in *New York Magazine*, *LennyLetter*, *Salon*, and *Buzzfeed*, Brooks blends personal memoir, investigative reporting and sociological critique to ask: Why have our notions of what it means to be a good parent changed so radically in the course of a generation? In what ways do these changes impact the lives of parents, children, and the structure of society at large? And what, in the end, does the rise of fearful parenting tell us about our children, our communities, and ourselves? By telling her own story and probing our culture at large, Brooks offers a provocative, compelling portrait of parenthood today and calls us to examine what we most value in our relationships with our children and one another.



“Why have we become so fearful as parents? When did parenthood become a minefield of insecurity and shame? With humor, heart, and intelligence, Kim Brooks explores these issues using her own deeply personal story.”—Jancee Dunn, author of *How Not to Hate Your Husband After Kids*

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O'S LITTLE GUIDE TO THE BIG QUESTIONS by The Editors of *O, The Oprah Magazine* (January 2018)

Acquiring editor: Whitney Frick; Material: manuscript; Page count: 192

What matters most? What is my purpose? When is the right time to make a change? Who is most important to me? Asking (and answering) the big questions can be terrifying—but it is the only way to put yourself on the path toward living your best life. Big questions can be forces of empowerment, motivation, and clarification. The editors at *O, The Oprah Magazine* have combed through the magazine's extensive archives to assemble ***O's Little***

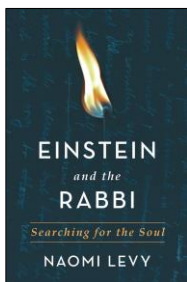
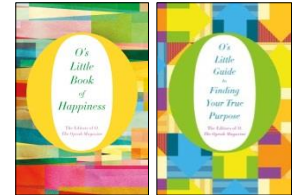
Guide to the Big Questions, a collection of stirring, motivating, and thought-provoking pieces from great writers and celebrated thinkers, that offers wise guidance and inspiration to anyone feeling lost or in need of a reset. This is the sixth and final book in our series of small, inspirational books from the editors of *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

Foreign sales: **UK/Pan Macmillan**

Previous titles foreign sales: **Netherlands/A.W. Bruna, Taiwan/China Times,**

Thailand/Amarin, Turkey/Dogan, UK/Pan Macmillan

Also available: *O's Little Book of Happiness* (2015), *O's Little Guide to Finding Your True Purpose* (2015), *O's Little Book of Love & Friendship* (2016), *O's Little Guide to Starting Over* (2016), *O's Little Book of Calm & Comfort* (2017)



EINSTEIN AND THE RABBI: Searching for the Soul by Naomi Levy (September 2017)

Acquiring editor: Bob Miller; Material: finished copies; Page count: 352

"A human being is a part of the whole, called by us 'Universe,' a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separate from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. The striving to free oneself from this delusion is the one issue of true religion. Not to nourish it, but to try to overcome it is the way to reach the attainable measure of peace of mind."—Albert Einstein

When Rabbi Naomi Levy, bestselling author and founder of NASHUVA, a renowned Jewish spiritual movement, came across these words by Albert Einstein, she was shaken to her core. This letter, written to a stranger, communicated so much of what Rabbi Levy had come to believe about human beings and our true connection to one another. But to whom was Einstein writing? And what had provoked such a profound spiritual response from such a man of science? Thus began a years-long journey for Rabbi Levy, as she researched the origins and circumstances of Einstein's letter, in the process, gaining a deeper, more profound understanding of what the soul is, how it guides us, and how connection to our true souls can help us to live richer, bigger, more connected lives. The result is a powerful, thoughtful, meditative book that examines all aspects of the soul and offers wisdom and comfort for all readers.

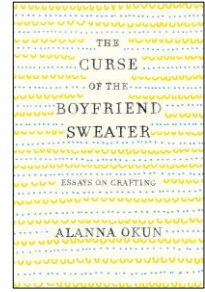
"Naomi Levy examines life's polarities: birth and death, love and loss, faith and doubt. With keen insight, she shows how each duality is connected by the vital force we call 'the soul.' This is a lovely, tender book that will illuminate and inspire."—Jerome Groopman, Recanati Professor at Harvard University and author of *The Anatomy of Hope*

Foreign sales: **Hungary/Unio Mystica**

THE CURSE OF THE BOYFRIEND SWEATER: Essays on Crafting by Alanna Okun (March 2018)

Acquiring editor: Amy Einhorn; Material: manuscript; Page count: 256

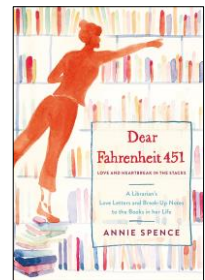
Every knitter knows that as soon as you start making your boyfriend a sweater, he will be out the door and out of your life before you're done. But as Alanna Okun has learned, these life lessons are not limited to the curse of the boyfriend sweater. Like millions of women, Okun gets great joy and solace in crafting. And she has also found some essentials truths. Some people like to fish. Some like to play music. Or run. Okun likes to make things. Knitting, crocheting, sewing, decoupage—you name it, Okun has tried it; and even if she turned out to be not very good at it, she found it was good for her. In a world that shows itself impervious to our need for order and logic, crafting allows Okun to feel a sense of control—even if it's simply by making a piece of felt do what she wants it to. And by doing so, it has helped keep her severe anxiety at bay. Crafting made a scary first apartment more hospitable. It helped her heal from a broken heart. When Okun had two good friends die within a year of each other, it was crafting that helped her find hope and joy again. The art and physicality of making things, whether it's nerdy embroidery or warm mittens, has helped her cope with life's internal trauma. In beautiful prose that belies her age, Okun's essays about art, craft, and mental health will resonate with creative people no matter their medium and no matter the troubles in their hearts. We can all relate to the need to fix what's inside by keeping our hands busy.



DEAR FAHRENHEIT 451: Love and Heartbreak in the Stacks by Annie Spence (September 2017)

Acquiring editor: Amy Einhorn; Material: finished copies; Page count: 288

If you love to read you know that some books affect you so profoundly they forever change the way you think about the world. Some books, on the other hand, disappoint you so much you want to throw them against the wall. Either way, it's clear that a book can be your new soul mate or the bad relationship you need to end. In *Dear Fahrenheit 451*, librarian Annie Spence has crafted love letters and breakup notes to the iconic and eclectic books she has encountered over the years. From breaking up with *The Giving Tree* (a dysfunctional relationship book if ever there was one), to her love letter to *The Time Traveler's Wife* (a novel less about time travel and more about the life of a marriage, with all of its ups and downs), Spence will make you think of old favorites in a new way. Filled with suggested reading lists, Spence's take on classic and contemporary books is very much like the best of literature—sometimes laugh-out-loud funny, sometimes surprisingly poignant, and filled with universal truths.



“Perfect for any bibliophile and terrifically funny.”—*Library Journal* (starred review)

“A librarian delivers a charming epistolary volume that begs to be read with pencil in hand.... A smart, funny, forthright librarian in book form.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Dear *Dear Fahrenheit 451*, thanks for the lovely reminder of the ways we find ourselves in books.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

Foreign sales: UK/Icon Books

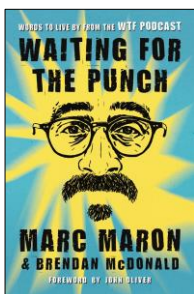


THE KINGS OF BIG SPRING: God, Oil, and One Family's Search for the American Dream by Bryan Mealer (February 2018)

Acquiring editor: Colin Dickerman; Material: manuscript; Page count: 384

From *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author Bryan Mealer comes a saga of family, fortune, failure, and Texas, where blood may be thicker than water, but oil is king. In the winter of 1981, Bryan's father, Bobby, receives a call from an old friend with a deviously simple question, "How'd you like to be a millionaire?" Bobby is drawn back to his hometown of Big Spring where an oil boom is on and a fevered American dream has taken hold as fortune hunters pour in, oil rigs sprout up like dandelions in the field, and millionaires are minted each day. Grady Cunningham, Bobby's old friend, is one of the fresh kings of Big Spring—flashy, loud, smart as a whip, and richer than sin. There's a cushy job for Bobby as VP of Grady's oil company, with weekend jaunts to the Bahamas in private jets, shopping sprees in Paris, and lost weekends in New Orleans. But beneath these glittering lives is a side as dark as the oil which pays for it. Drugs take hold, marriages crumble, accidents happen, and most importantly, wells run dry. But the story really starts over a hundred years before, when Bryan's great grandfather left Appalachia to first venture west to seek his fortune. The heartaches, the triumphs, the pain, and the pleasure that accompany the booms and subsequent busts are keenly felt and endlessly repeated. In *The Kings of Big Spring*, Bryan Mealer has written an indelible portrait of a family through three generations of boom and bust and a legacy of fortune and ruin as big as Texas itself.

"The Kings of Big Spring tears like a flaming roller-coaster through four generations of a Texas family that's lived it all, from hardscrabble farms and tarpaper shacks to the crazy-making highs of oil booms and big money, with gobs of love, lust, heartache, and Jesus along the way. Bryan Mealer has given us a brilliant, and brilliantly entertaining, portrayal of family, and a bursting-at-the-seams chunk of America in the bargain."*—Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk



WAITING FOR THE PUNCH: Words to Live by from the WTF Podcast by Marc Maron and Brendan McDonald; foreword by John Oliver (October 2017)

Acquiring editor: Colin Dickerman; Material: finished copies; Page count: 416

From the beloved and wildly popular podcast *WTF with Marc Maron*—which has over a million and a half listeners each week—comes a collection of intimate, hilarious, and life-changing conversations with some of the biggest names in entertainment. Described as a "must-listen" by the *New York Times*, *WTF with Marc Maron* perfects the lost art of conversation while attracting guests as varied and prominent as the late Robin Williams, Ian McKellen, and even former President Barack Obama. In the course of seven years and more than 700 hours of conversation, Marc Maron and his incredible roster of guests have tackled life's most pressing issues and deepest concerns. Now, in *Waiting for the Punch*, Maron brings together these interviews in a way that is not simply a collection, but a running narrative of the world's most recognizable names working through the problems, doubts, joys, triumphs, and failures we all experience. With each chapter covering a different topic—parenting, childhood, relationships, sexuality, success, failures, and others—this becomes a sort of everyman's guide to life. Taken together, these voices form a chorus discussing both life's biggest questions, and its smallest, most intimate moments. Full of stories that are at once laugh-out-loud funny, heartbreakingly honest, joyous, tragic, and powerful, *Waiting for the Punch* is a book to be read from cover to cover, but is also one to return to again and again.

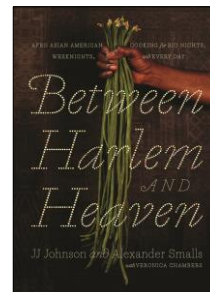
"[A] deeply moving, inspirational, and witty work."*—*Publishers Weekly

"As readers will expect, there are plenty of laugh-out-loud moments, but what is more surprising and refreshing is how many profound and powerful insights Maron manages to draw from his guests...An insightful collection of interviews about what it means to be human. This book, it turns out, helps explain W is TF."*—*Kirkus Reviews

BETWEEN HARLEM AND HEAVEN: Afro-Asian-American Cooking for Big Nights, Weeknights, and Every Day by JJ Johnson and Alexander Smalls (February 2018)

Acquiring editor: Will Schwalbe; Material: early .pdf; Page count: 272

In two of the most renowned and historic venues in Harlem, Alexander Smalls and JJ Johnson created a unique take on the Afro-Asian-American flavor profile. Their foundation was a collective three decades of traveling the African diaspora, meeting and eating with chefs of color, and researching the wide reach of a truly global cuisine; their inspiration was how African, Asian, and African-American influences criss-crossed cuisines all around the world. They present here for the first time over 100 recipes that go beyond just one place, taking you, as noted by *The New Yorker*, “somewhere between Harlem and heaven.” This book branches far beyond “soul food” to explore the melding of Asian, African, and American flavors. The Afro Asian flavor profile is a window into the intersection of the Asian diaspora and the African diaspora. An homage to this cultural culinary path and the grievances and triumphs along the way, *Between Harlem and Heaven* isn’t fusion, but a glimpse into a cuisine that made its way into the thick of Harlem’s cultural renaissance.

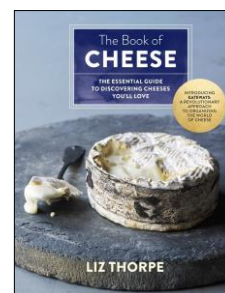


Includes over 100 color photographs throughout

THE BOOK OF CHEESE: The Essential Guide to Discovering Cheeses You’ll Love by Liz Thorpe (September 2017)

Acquiring editor: Will Schwalbe; Material: finished copies; Page count: 416

For the first time ever, in a world of monotonous cheese books, comes an entirely new way to discover and enjoy this beloved food. The country’s leading expert on cheese, Liz Thorpe has mapped the entirety of cheese using nine familiar favorites, or “gateways,” designed to open readers up to more fun and eccentric textures and flavors. Liz takes readers on a journey from basics like Swiss, blue, and cheddar, to explore more adventurous types that they are most likely to fall in love with. Instead of getting caught up in technical classifications, Liz’s revolutionary approach to organizing the world of cheese allows food lovers to focus on what they care about: finding more cheeses to enjoy. Complete with fun flavor wheels, useful sidebars, and gorgeous photography, *The Book of Cheese* will quickly become not only your favorite book on this mouthwatering food but the only book on cheese you will ever need.

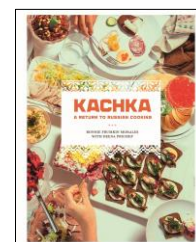


Includes over 100 color photographs throughout

KACHKA: A Return to Russian Cooking by Bonnie Frumkin Morales with Deena Prichep (November 2017)

Acquiring editor: Will Schwalbe; Material: early .pdf; Page count: 400

From the acclaimed Portland restaurant Kachka, which has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Food & Wine* and many others, comes a debut cookbook enlivening Russian cuisine with an emphasis on vibrant, locally sourced ingredients. The recipes in this book set a communal table with nostalgic Eastern European dishes like Caucasus-Inspired Meatballs, Porcini Barley Soup, and Cauliflower Schnitzel and give new and exciting twists to current food trends like pickling, fermentation, and bone broths. *Kachka*’s recipes and narratives show how Russia’s storied traditions of smoked fish, cultured dairy, and a shot of vodka can be celebratory, elegant, and as easy as meat and potatoes. The food is clear and inviting, rooted in the past, yet not at all afraid to play around and wear its punk-rock heart on its sleeve.



Includes over 150 color photographs throughout