



FRANCES GOLDIN LITERARY AGENCY, INC.

HOTLIST
London 2023

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NONFICTION



JENNY ODELL's is the author of **HOW TO DO NOTHING**, which was a *NYT* bestseller and one of Barack Obama's favorite books of 2019.

US & Can: Random House
UK: Bodley Head
Germany: Beck | **Spain:** Planeta Ariel
BR Portuguese: Companhia das Letras
Italy: NR Edizioni | **Dutch:** Ten Have
China (Simplified): CTPH
China (Complex): Crown
Korea: SangSangSquare
Japan: Sayusha
Lithuania: Alma Littera
Other Translation: FGLA
Final pages available
Publication: March 2023
Domestic Agent: Caroline Eisenmann

SAVING TIME: *Discovering A Life Beyond the Clock*

****US RIGHTS SOLD IN A 12 BIDDER (17 IMPRINT) AUCTION ****

****UK RIGHTS SOLD IN AN 11 BIDDER AUCTION ****

A radical argument that we are living on the wrong clock—one that tells us time is money—and that there are other ways of experiencing time that offer bold, hopeful possibilities for ourselves and the planet from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *How to Do Nothing*.

Our daily experience, dominated by the corporate clock that so many of us contort ourselves to fit inside, is destroying us. It wasn't built for people, it was built for profit. This is a book that tears open the seams of reality as we know it—the way we experience time itself—and rearranges it, reimagining a world not centered around work, the office clock, or the profit motive. Explaining how we got to the point where time became money, Odell offers us new models to live by—inspired by pre-industrial cultures, ecological, and geological time—that make a more humane, more hopeful way of living seem possible.

In this dazzling, subversive, and deeply hopeful reframing of time, Jenny Odell takes us on a journey through other temporal habitats. As planet-bound animals, we live inside shortening and lengthening days, alongside gardens growing, birds migrating, and cliffs eroding. The stretchy quality of waiting and desire, the way the present may suddenly feel marbled with childhood memory, the slow but sure procession of a pregnancy, or the time it takes to heal from injuries—physical or emotional. Odell urges us to become stewards of these different rhythms of life, to imagine a life, identity, and source of meaning outside of the world of work and profit, and to understand that the trajectory of our lives—or the life of the planet—is not a foregone conclusion. In that sense, “saving” time—recovering its fundamentally irreducible and inventive nature—could also mean that time saves us.

****A *New York Times* Bestseller ****

“Saving Time is an exposé of our past, an antidote to our present, and a manifesto for the future. ... It is one of the most important books I've read in my life.”

— Ed Yong, author of *An Immense World*

“Odell's journey to find the best way to use our limited time on earth is an eye-opening look at what it really means to be alive” — *TIME*

It is in the gap between present and future, where outcomes are not yet determined, that Jenny Odell enters with her paradigm-destroying new book ... [A] grand, eclectic, wide-ranging work

— *New York Times*



COURTNEY GUSTAFSON, is the creator of @PoetsSquareCats on TikTok (962k) and Instagram (71k). Her cats and rescue work have been featured on *The Dodo*, *Newsweek*, *Best Friends Animal Society Magazine*, and elsewhere. Before she had thirty cats, she completed a master's degree and PhD coursework in rhetoric and composition at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

- **US&C:** Crown (PRH)
- **UK:** Fig Tree (Penguin UK)
- **German:** Ullstein
- **Italian:** Modadori Oscar
- **Dutch:** Nieuw Amsterdam
- **Other Translation:** FGLA
- **Manuscript:** Due Jan 2024
- **Publication:** Spring 2025
- **Domestic Agent:** Caroline Eisenmann

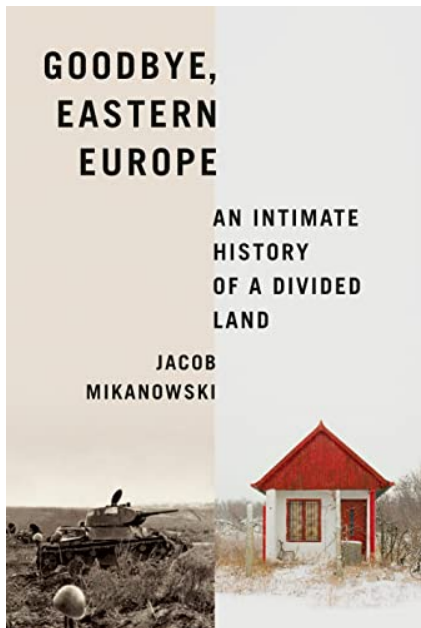
POETS SQUARE: *Essays on Cats & Community*

****Sold in a six figure preempt****

When Courtney Gustafson moved into a new rental in the Poets Square neighborhood in Tucson, Arizona, she would have never guessed that a colony of feral cats living in her driveway would change her life forever. Settling into a secure romantic relationship while it felt like the world around her was burning down, she couldn't know how reluctantly, then profoundly, she would come to care about the health and safety of those thirty-some-odd neglected cats. She had no idea about the grief and hardship of animal rescue, the staggering size of the problem. And she couldn't have imagined how that struggle—towards an ethics of care, of individuals trying their best amidst spectacularly failing systems—would help pierce a personal darkness she'd wrestled with much of her life.

POETS SQUARE: *Essays on Cats & Community* is a memoir-in-essays about becoming an accidental cat rescuer, going viral, creating community, and surviving capitalism. These essays tell the brutal and tender stories of cats Courtney has saved (or failed to save) as a lens to explore everything from poverty and mental health to morality and misogyny. We see how cat rescue—despite its often-enormous sadness—paradoxically helped in a struggle with depression, showing the way towards an interrelated community of cats and care. The book explores caretaking and kindness in the face of a broken system: what it means for an individual to refuse to throw their hands up, to insist on showing up regardless of insurmountable problems, to search for ways to be a good person in the face of crushing overwhelm.

POETS SQUARE is beautifully written literary nonfiction about animals with a profound core like *H IS FOR HAWK* and *FOX AND I*. Structured in smart, snappy personal essays that probe at the problems of personhood in the internet age, it will appeal to fans of Melissa Broder or Jia Tolentino, and its introspective, generous thinking on self and society evokes *WINTERING*.



JACOB MIKANOWSKI is a writer, academic and journalist with 20 years' experience studying and writing about Eastern Europe. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *The Guardian*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, and elsewhere.

- **US & Can:** Pantheon
- **UK:** Oneworld
- **Germany:** Rowohlt Berlin
- **Italy:** Keller
- **Hungary:** Maxim
- **Other Translation:** FGLA
- **Edited manuscript available**
- **Publication:** July 2023
- **Domestic Agent:** Sam Stoloff

GOODBYE, EASTERN EUROPE: *An Intimate History of a Divided Land*

In light of Russia's aggressive 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Goodbye, Eastern Europe is a crucial, elucidative read, a sweeping epic chronicling a thousand years of strife, war, and bloodshed, from pre-Christianity to the fall of Communism—illuminating the remarkable cultural significance and richness of a place perpetually lost to the margins of history.

Eastern Europe, the moniker, has gone out of fashion since the fall of the Soviet Union. Ask someone now, and they might tell you that Estonia is in the Baltics, or Scandinavia, that Slovakia is in Central Europe and Croatia is in the Eastern Adriatic or the Balkans. In fact, Eastern Europe is a place that barely exists at all, except in cultural memory. Yet it remains a powerful marker of identity for many, with a fragmented and wide history, defined by texts, myths, and memories of centuries of hardship and suffering.

Goodbye, Eastern Europe is a masterful narrative about a place that has survived the brink of being forgotten. Beginning with long-lost accounts of early pagan life, Mikanowski offers a kaleidoscopic tour recounting the rise and fall of the great empires—Ottoman, Hapsburg, and Russian—the dawn of the modern era, the ravages of Fascism and Communism, as well as Capitalism, the birth of the modern nation-state, and more. A student of literature, history, and the ghosts of his own family's past, Mikanowski paints a magisterial portrait of a place united by diversity, and eclecticism, and a people with the shared story of being the dominated rather than the dominating.

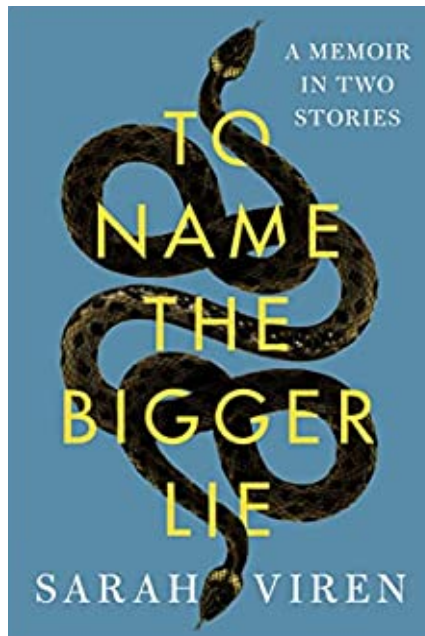
The result is a loving and ebullient celebration of the distinctive and vibrant cultures that stubbornly persisted at the margins of Western Europe, and a powerful corrective that re-centers our understanding of how the modern Western world took shape.

“Ambitious. . . . stunning. . . . Shot through with lyrical reflections and astute analysis, this is a rewarding portrait of a diverse and complex part of the world.”

—★ *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“An epic history. . . . of a part of the world too often ignored, told with vigor, color, and authority.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



SARAH VIREN is a contributing writer for the *New York Times Magazine* and the author of *Mine*. Sarah's creative work has been supported by an NEA Fellowship and a Kerouac House Writing Residency, and her writing appears in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Oxford American*, *Texas Monthly*, and elsewhere. An assistant professor of creative nonfiction at ASU, she is a graduate of the Nonfiction Writing MFA at the University of Iowa.

- **World English:** Scribner
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **Final Manuscript Available**
- **Publication:** June 2023
- **Domestic Agent:** Matt McGowan

TO NAME THE BIGGER LIE: *A Memoir in Two Stories*

Part coming-of-age story, part psychological thriller, part philosophical investigation, this unforgettable memoir traces the ramifications of a series of lies that threaten to derail the author's life—exploring the line between truth and deception, fact and fiction, and reality and conspiracy.

Sarah's story begins as she's researching what she believes will be a book about her high school philosophy teacher, a charismatic instructor who taught her and her classmates to question everything—in the end, even the reality of historical atrocities. As she digs into the effects of his teachings, her life takes a turn into the fantastical when her wife, Marta, is notified that she's been investigated for sexual misconduct at the university where they both teach.

Based in part on a viral New York Times essay, *To Name the Bigger Lie* follows the investigation as it upends Sarah's understanding of truth. She knows the claims made against Marta must be lies, and as she uncovers the identity of the person behind them and then tries, with increasing desperation, to prove their innocence, she's drawn back into the questions that her teacher inspired all those years ago: about the nature of truth, the value of skepticism, and the stakes we all have in getting the story right.

A compelling, incisive journey into honesty and betrayal, this memoir explores the powerful pull of dangerous conspiracy theories and the pliability of personal narratives in a world dominated by hoaxes and fakes. *To Name the Bigger Lie* reads like the best of psychological thrillers—made all the more riveting because it's true.

"A thrilling, labyrinthine and ultimately illuminating reckoning with what it feels like to be caught up in a vortex of post-truth, conspiracy, and lies, Sarah Viren's *To Name the Bigger Lie* is a fascinating and deeply disturbing account of our contemporary age of weaponized falsehoods... This is a memoir, yes, but it's also a view into a terrifying aspect of modernity, and Viren's ability to unspool complicated tangles for the reader is unparalleled."

—**Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, author of *The Fact of a Body***

"Sarah Viren's *To Name the Bigger Lie* is a work of radical moral philosophy as much as a memoir of one woman's confrontation with the seeming contradictions of certainty and doubt, truth and conspiracy, of the sometimes unbridgeable distance between the truth we know and the one we can prove. This is one of the most astonishing books I've ever read — a beacon in these uncertain times."

—**Lacy M. Johnson, author of *The Reckonings***



MARGARET JUHAE LEE is an Oakland-based writer and a former literary editor of *The Nation* magazine. She has been the recipient of a Bunting Fellowship from Harvard University, a Korean Studies Fellowship from the Korean Foundation. She is also a Tin House scholar, and has been awarded residencies at the Mesa Refuge, the Anderson Center, and Mineral School. Her articles, reviews, and interviews have been published in *The Nation*, *Newsday*, *Elle*, *ARTnews*, *The Advocate*, *The Progressive* and most recently in *The Rumpus*.

- **US:** Melville House
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **Edited Manuscript Available March, 2023; Final, August, 2023**
- **Publication:** Spring/Summer 2024
- **Domestic Agent:** Ayla Zuraw-Friedland

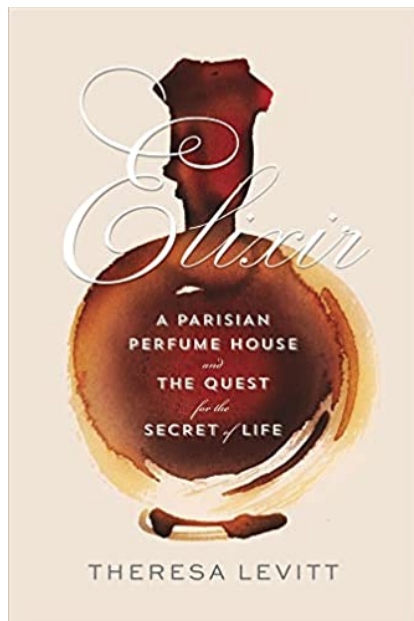
STARRY FIELD: *A Memoir of Lost History*

Journalist Margaret Juhae Lee never met her grandfather, Lee Chul Ha (code name, Starry Field)—he died at 27 after a long imprisonment by Japanese occupiers who ruled Korea through the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Her grandmother, her Halmani, never wanted to talk about him either—not to her son, Margaret’s father, nor to her grandchildren. Even after Chul Ha was exhumed and reburied with honors from the Korean government for his resistance against the Japanese, clearing his name and installing him as a hero of Korean history, Halmani couldn’t bear to talk about the stranger she married as a teenager who chose his political ideals over his family.

When Margaret first set out to learn more about her family’s history, it was ostensibly to help her father, who had lost large parcels of memory in the aftermath of emergency surgery to treat scarred lung tissue caused by a bout of tuberculosis he suffered as a young man. But, it was as though the internal rupture had opened something deeper. Margaret’s stern, taciturn father revealed things about his childhood as a fatherless boy in colonial Korea she had never heard before. As they raced to recover his memory, her own life began to fall apart—her partner’s struggles with mental illness propelled her toward her family’s past.

STARRY FIELD: A MEMOIR OF LOST HISTORY tells the story of four generations of the Lee family and all they passed down to one another. Here, Margaret traces her own path back to Korea to excavate the truth of her grandfather’s disappearance. Combining investigative journalism, oral history, archival research, and imagined scenes, **STARRY FIELD** weaves together the stories of Margaret’s grandparents, parents, and herself against the backdrop of Korea’s tumultuous modern history, from the colonial era to its technological boom at the beginning of a new century. The memoir is told in a series of short chapters anchored by three long-form interviews Margaret conducted with Halmani before her death.

Fiercely wrought and deeply researched, **STARRY FIELD** combines the emotional poignancy and breadth of **PACHINKO** as readers are introduced to a family that continues to feel the aftershocks of a period of Korean history that has captured readers imaginations, and the deft combination of personal and political narratives seen in Hisham Matar’s **THE RETURN**. Here, we see all that is possible for a person to inherit: silence, disease, resilience, and a drive to find a place to call home.



THERESA LEVITT is a historian of science and a professor at the University of Mississippi. She is the author of *A SHORT BRIGHT FLASH* (W. W. Norton) and *THE SHADOW OF ENLIGHTENMENT* (Oxford U. Press). She received her B.S. in physics from MIT, a MA in History from Iowa State University, and a PhD from Harvard. She was the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant and a Fulbright IIE Graduate Research Fellowship, among other honors.

- **US & Can:** Harvard University Press
- **UK:** Basic Books
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **Edited manuscript available**
- **Publication:** April 2023
- **Domestic Agent:** Caroline Eisenmann

ELIXIR: *A Parisian Perfume House and the Quest for the Secret of Life*

A story of alchemy in Bohemian Paris, where two scientific outcasts discovered a fundamental distinction between natural and synthetic chemicals that inaugurated an enduring scientific mystery.

For centuries, scientists believed that living matter possessed a special quality—a spirit or essence—that differentiated it from nonliving matter. But by the nineteenth century, the scientific consensus was that the building blocks of one were identical to the building blocks of the other. *Elixir* tells the story of two young chemists who were not convinced, and how their work rewrote the boundary between life and nonlife.

In the 1830s, Édouard Laugier and Auguste Laurent were working in Laugier Père et Fils, the oldest perfume house in Paris. By day they prepared the perfumery’s revitalizing elixirs and rejuvenating eaux, drawing on alchemical traditions that equated a plant’s vitality with its aroma. In their spare time they hunted the vital force that promised to reveal the secret to life itself. Their ideas, roundly condemned by established chemists, led to the discovery of structural differences between naturally occurring molecules and their synthetic counterparts, even when the molecules were chemically identical.

Scientists still can’t explain this anomaly, but it may point to critical insights concerning the origins of life on Earth. Rich in sparks and smells, brimming with eccentric characters, experimental daring, and the romance of the Bohemian salon, *Elixir* is a fascinating cultural and scientific history.

Praise for ELIXER:

“If you read this book you will be changed. For those of us who make a living assembling words to describe smells, this book feels like an actual elixir. Absolutely stunning.” —Kiese Laymon, MacArthur Fellow and author of *Heavy: An American Memoir*

“With remarkable historical and literary skill, Levitt reveals how the quest to supply queenly scents and Napoleon’s bathwater ended up interrogating the most profound questions of life and death.” —Matthew Stanley, author of *Einstein’s War: How Relativity Triumphed Amid the Vicious Nationalism of World War I*



JAMIE HOOD is a critic, memoirist, and poet, and the author of *how to be a good girl* (Grieveland 2020). Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Baffler*, *The Nation*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The New Inquiry*, *Observer*, *The Drift*, *SSENSE*, *Bookforum*, *Vogue*, and elsewhere. She lives in Brooklyn.

- **US:** Pantheon/Random House
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **Proposal Available**
- **Delivery Date:** Spring 2024
- **Publication:** Spring, 2025
- **UK Rep:** Holly Faulks at Greene & Heaton
- **Domestic Agent:** Ayla Zuraw-Friedland

RAPE GIRL: A Study in Nine Parts

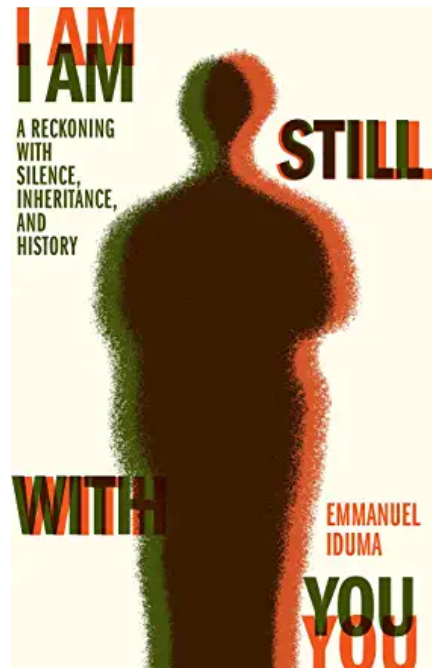
*****Sold in a six figure pre-empt*****

In many ways, *RAPE GIRL: A STUDY IN NINE PARTS* is the book that essayist, critic, and poet Jamie Hood has been writing her entire life. In the thirty years since her first sexual assault (age six, by the neighbor), it has taken many forms: a chronological, straight memoir of violence; a book-length poem; a manifesto; a novel. In the wake of each subsequent attack (twice as a teenager, several times in graduate school, most recently at a Brooklyn bar), and resultant attempt to narrativize the violence, what became clear was that no single genre was able to capture the entirety of what she was trying to say.

Trauma disorients the very possibility of straightforward narrative, so then why do we expect our tellings of it to be linear and easily digestible? *RAPE GIRL* asks: what is rape at its core? And beyond: how would an account of rape that acknowledges and incorporates the truth of trauma as an experience shift the conversation?

Told in nine parts—media historical, political, poetic, autofictional, literary critical, and memoiristic—*RAPE GIRL* reckons with the confessional imperative of survivors and the role of rape narratives in our collective consciousness. Weaving between genres and throughout history, Hood consults Artemesia Gentileschi and other foremothers in revenge and witness, documents a month of walking the exact route that she took to escape an assailant, tangles with the specter of Dick Wolf and *Law and Order*, reflects on her own coping mechanisms and childhood in Virginia, probes the specific silence around trans women’s experience of rape, and interrogates what it means to enter a post-#MeToo era of backlash in 2022.

RAPE GIRL is a necessarily illuminating text, imagining stranger, more radical models of storytelling. Combining the hybridity of Camen Maria Machado’s *IN THE DREAM HOUSE* with the intensity of Maggie Nelson’s *THE ART OF CRUELTY*, *RAPE GIRL* promises to do for sexual violence what *CITIZEN* did for conversations around race, and become part of a new wave of cultural resistance.



EMMANUEL IDUMA was born and raised in Nigeria, where he trained as a lawyer. He is the author of the travelogue *A STRANGER'S POSE*, which was longlisted for the 2019 RSL Ondaatje Prize. He holds an MFA in art writing from the School of Visual Arts, New York City and has received many grants and awards, including the Windham-Campbell Prize.

- **US&C:** Algonquin
- **UK:** William Collins
- **Nigeria (English):** Masobe Books
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **Books & Final Manuscript Available**
- **Publication:** February 2023
- **Domestic Agent:** Alison Lewis

I AM STILL WITH YOU: A Reckoning with Silence, Inheritance, and History

“A compelling, sharply observed story of discovery, beautifully paced and haunting in its details.”—Amitava Kumar, author of *Immigrant, Montana*

In inimitable, rhythmic prose, the author and winner of the prestigious Windham-Campbell Prize Emmanuel Iduma tells the story of his return to Nigeria, where he grew up, after years of living in New York. He traveled home with an elusive mission: to learn the fate of his uncle Emmanuel, his namesake, who disappeared in the Nigerian Civil War in the late 1960s. A conflict that left so many families broken, the war remains at the margins of the history books, almost taboo to discuss. To find answers, Iduma stopped in city after city throughout the former Biafra region, reconnecting with relatives dear and distant to probe their memories, prowling university libraries to furtively photocopy illicit books, and visiting half-abandoned monuments along the highway. Perhaps, he realized, if he could understand how his father grieved the loss of a brother in the war, he might learn how to grieve his late father in turn.

His is also the story of countless families across the country and across the world who will never have answers or proper funerals for their loved ones. It’s a story about the birth of an artist, about writing itself as an act both healing and political, even dangerous. And it’s a story about family history and legacy, and all the questions the dead leave unanswered. How much of the author’s identity is wrapped up in this inheritance? And what does it mean to return home, when the people who define it are gone? Equal parts memoir, national history, and political reckoning, *I AM STILL WITH YOU* is a deeply personal story of collective loss and making peace with the unknowable.

Praise for I AM STILL WITH YOU:

“A poignant story rescued from silences and lacunae.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

“In clear, elegiac prose, Iduma’s search leads to an affecting conclusion.”—*The New Statesman*

“*I Am Still With You* is both epic and intimate. It gives us the beauties and consolations of an ethereal imagination.”—*Margo Jefferson, Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *Negroland* and *Constructing a Nervous System**

“Iduma writes with such startling clarity that the book ultimately becomes both powerful and transcendent.” —*Chigozie Obioma, Booker Prize-shortlisted author of *The Fishermen**

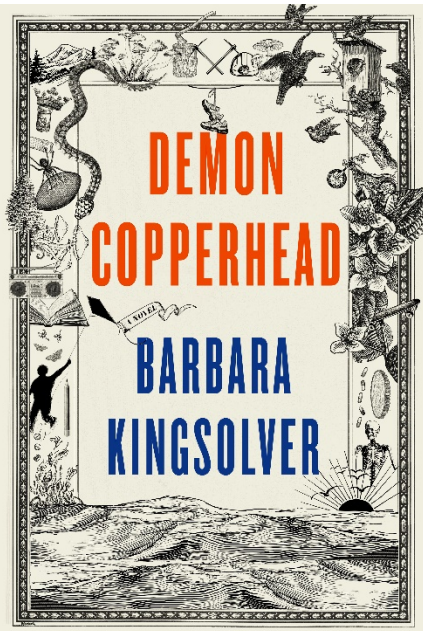
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FICTION

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BARBARA KINGSOLVER is the bestselling author of *THE POISONWOOD BIBLE*, among other titles. Her work has been translated into more than 20 languages and has several earned literary awards including the *National Humanities Medal*, the *Dayton Literary Peace Prize*, and UK's *Orange Prize for Fiction*.

US&C: HarperCollins | **UK:** Faber & Faber | **France:** Albin Michel **Croatia:** Vorto Palabra | **Serbia:** Laguna **Romania:** Trei | **Bulgaria:** Erove **Poland:** Filia **Lithuania:** Balto | **Denmark:** Gyldendal **Germany:** dtv | **Netherlands:** Meulenhoff **Sweden:** Norstedts | **Italy:** Neripozza **Portugal:** PRH Suma | **Spain:** Navona
Translation: FGLA
Books & Edited MS Available
Publication: October 2022
Domestic Agent: Sam Stoloff

DEMON COPPERHEAD

****NYT TOP TEN BOOK OF THE YEAR****

****AN OPRAH'S BOOKCLUB SELECTION****

****22 WEEKS ON THE NYT FICTION BESTSELLER LIST AND COUNTING****

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Unsheltered* and *Flight Behavior*, a brilliant novel which entralls, compels, and captures the heart as it evokes a young hero's unforgettable journey to maturity.

Demon Copperhead is set in the mountains of southern Appalachia. It's the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind.

"May be the best novel of 2022. . . . Equal parts hilarious and heartbreaking, this is the story of an irrepressible boy nobody wants, but readers will love."—Ron Charles, *Washington Post*

"An Appalachian *David Copperfield*. . . . Kingsolver's novel sweeps you along just as powerfully as the original does."— *New York Times*

"Kingsolver's tour de force is a serpentine, hard-striking tale of profound dimension and resonance."— ★*Booklist* (starred)



SHELLY JAY SHORE (she/they) is a writer, digital strategist, and nonprofit fundraiser. Their writing on queer Jewish identity has been published by Autostraddle, Alma, and the Bi Resource Center. *BODIES IN WATER* is her debut novel.

- **US & C:** Ballantine (PRH)
- **UK:** Trapeze/Orion (Hachette UK)
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **Unedited MS available**
- **Edited MS expected Summer 2024**
- **Publication:** Spring, 2024
- **Domestic Agent:** Ayla Zuraw-Friedland

BODIES IN WATER

****Sold in a 6-figure preempt****

Twenty-eight-year-old Ezra Friedman is only a little bit clairvoyant, but enough to make growing up in a funeral home miserable. Maybe it wouldn't have been so bad if his Zayde's ghost didn't keep giving him this look of betrayal and disapproval as he went through an HRT-induced second puberty, or if the dead's hands weren't so cold. But, it's no wonder that Ezra would want to get as far away as possible from the family business.

With his parents' marriage imploding, Ezra finds himself pulled back into the effort to help save the Friedman Family Memorial Chapel from financial ruin. That means long days of puzzling out his mom's cryptic filing systems while surrounded by the ghosts no one else can see, while balancing his role as referee between the warring factions of his family. Add in his unfortunate crush on the cute funeral home volunteer who just happens to live downstairs from where Ezra and his ex are now living together as friends, and the new ghost who keeps breaking every spectral rule Ezra's managed to figure out about the dead, and Ezra's more than ready to make another run for the hills.

The more Ezra learns about the tangled web of secrets that haunt the Chapel's halls, the harder it is to maintain the distance that (he thought) kept him sane. As the pressure mounts to figure out how to keep the funeral home from being snapped up by a corporate "body farm", Ezra is forced to do something he never thought possible.

BODIES IN WATER combines the humor, fraught-but-loving family dynamics, and obsession with death seen in books like *MOSTLY DEAD THINGS*, *ONE LAST STOP*, and *FUN HOME*. It is the gay, Jewish, *SIX FEET UNDER* we've all been waiting for.



SCOTT ALEXANDER HOWARD has a PhD in philosophy from the University of Toronto, where he wrote an award-winning dissertation on literary emotions and the passage of time. His articles have appeared in journals such as *Philosophical Quarterly* and *Analysis*. Upon completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard, he decided to pursue fiction. He now lives in Vancouver.

- **US:** Atria (S&S)
- **Canada:** Scribner Canada (S&S)
- **UK:** Atlantic
- **Germany:** Diogenes
- **Portugal:** Casa das letras | Leya group
- **Other Translation:** FGLA
- **Film/TV:** Chris Lupo
- **Copyedited MS available**
- **Publication:** Spring 2024
- **Domestic Agent:** Roz Foster

THE OTHER VALLEY

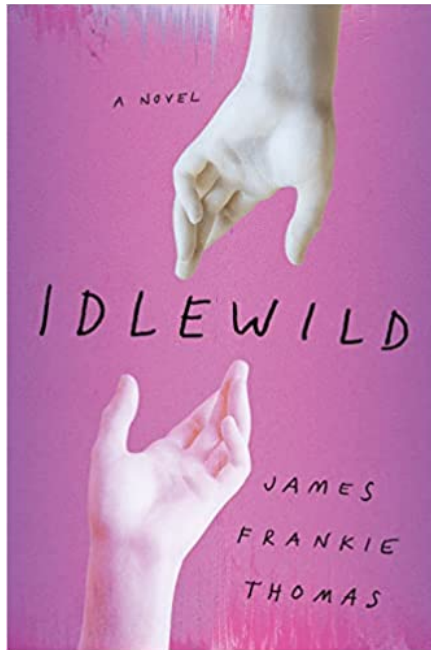
****Sold in a 6-figure preempt for two titles****

****Universal won television rights to the title in a heated 10-way auction with Working Title attached to produce****

Sixteen-year-old Odile Ozanne is an awkward, quiet girl, but everyone knows she's destined to land a coveted seat on the Conseil. In her apprenticeship, she competes to become one of the judges to decide who amongst the town's residents may travel across the border. If she earns the position, she'll decree who may be escorted deep into the woods, who may cross the border's barbed wire fence, who may make the arduous trek over the western mountain range — or perhaps the eastern range—to descend into the next valley over. It's the same valley, the same town. However, to the east, the town is twenty years ahead in time. To the west, it's twenty years behind. The towns repeat in an endless sequence across the wilderness. The only border crossings permitted by the Conseil are mourning tours: furtive viewings of the dead in towns where the dead are still alive.

Odile, wise beyond her years, will surely pass the Conseil's vetting. But when she happens upon a mourning tour she wasn't supposed to see, she realizes her dear friend Edme's parents have crossed the border from the east, from twenty years in the future, to view their son still alive in Odile's present. Edme, who's so funny and light. Edme, who's a violin virtuoso at just sixteen! Edme, who's the first boy to even see Odile, to really like her.... And it's Edme who's going to die.

THE OTHER VALLEY is a dark, modern fable about grief, time and fate. Kazuo Ishiguro's literary speculative work is crossed with the inventive, foreboding thrillers of Ian Reid. Readers will rush breathlessly to the end to see if the spark of hope in their hearts for Odile will grow again into the bright promise of her youth—or collapse into unchangeable catastrophe.



JAMES FRANKIE THOMAS holds an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Their fiction has been published in the *Paris Review online*, *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, and *The Toast*, among other publications. One of these essays is included in the anthology *We Are the Baby-Sitters Club*, and another was adapted into a PBS NewsHour segment.

WO English: Overlook (Abrams)
Translation: FGLA
Final MS Available
Publication: September 2023
Domestic Agent: Ayla Zuraw-Friedland

IDLEWILD

Idlewild is a tiny, artsy Quaker high school in lower Manhattan. Students call their teachers by their first names, there are no grades or awards, and every day begins with 20 minutes of contemplative silence. It is during one of those moments of worship that two airplanes hit the World Trade Center.

For two Idlewild outcasts, 9/11 serves as the first day of an intense, 18-month friendship. Fay is a prickly, aloof rich kid who is obsessed with gay men; Nell is a shy, sensitive scholarship student who is obsessed with Fay. The two of them bond fiercely over being the only two openly queer kids at Idlewild. But, as they rehearse for the school's production of *Othello*, they notice two sexually ambiguous boys, Theo and Christopher, who are potential candidates for their exclusive Invert Society (née Gay-Straight Alliance). The pairs become mirrors of one another's desires, anxieties, and loneliness. Their devotion to one another becomes an obsession, driving them to do things that they'll regret for the rest of their lives.

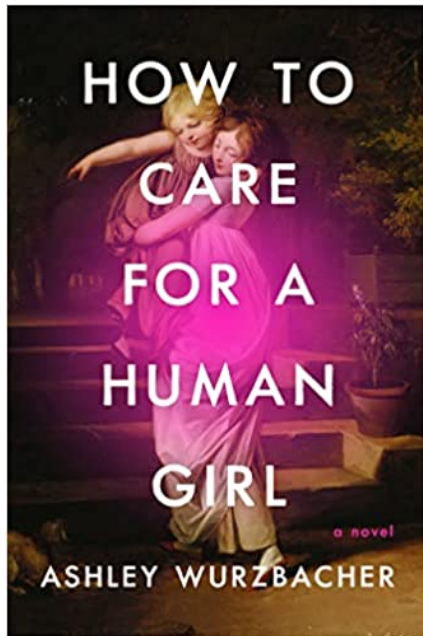
Looking back on these events as adults, Fay and Nell, who haven't spoken to each other in fifteen years, are haunted by shame over their Idlewild days. From alternating perspectives, they wonder if they could have done anything to save their friendship, or if it was meant to remain an artifact that couldn't have existed outside of Idlewild's walls.

A darkly funny and much gayer imagining of the classic prep school novel, IDLEWILD will appeal to readers of Curtis Sittenfeld's PREP and Donna Tartt's THE SECRET HISTORY.

Advance praise for IDLEWILD

"Idlewild toes the delicate line between darkly biting and empathetic. It's loud and funny and raucous, and yet, it sneaks up on you. With truths about living in the 2000s, the searing pain of looking back, and the absolute madness of having a best friend, James nails the heartbreak of being a theater kid and the humiliation of growing up."—Kiley Reid, author of SUCH A FUN AGE

"A crackling, blindingly funny, thrilling and poignant romp through queer youth, the early 2000s, 9/11 NYC, Quaker schools, and the maddening, heartrending, singular friendship between Fay and Nell that I will never forget. Thomas is a voice and mind we've been waiting for."—Sarah Thankam Mathews, author of ALL THIS COULD BE DIFFERENT



ASHLEY WURZBACHER is the author of the story collection *HAPPY LIKE THIS*, which won the 2019 Iowa Short Fiction Award and was named a National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” honoree and a NYT Editors’ Choice. Born and raised in Western Pennsylvania, she currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama and teaches at the University of Montevallo.

- **US & Can:** Atria (S&S)
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **UK:** Laura Williams/ Greene & Heaton
- **Edited manuscript available**
- **Publication:** August 2023
- **Domestic Agent:** Caroline Eisenmann

HOW TO CARE FOR A HUMAN GIRL

From “a writer at the top of her game” (*The New York Times*) comes a bighearted and sharply funny debut novel about two estranged sisters and the crossroads they face after becoming unexpectedly pregnant at the same time.

Two years after the death of their mother, Jada and Maddy Battle both face unplanned pregnancies. Jada, a thirty-one-year-old psychology PhD student living in Pittsburgh, quietly obtains an abortion without telling her husband, but the secret causes turmoil in her already shaky marriage. Back home in rural Pennsylvania, nineteen-year-old Maddy, who spends her time caring for birds at a wildlife rehabilitation center, is paid off by the man who got her pregnant to get an abortion. But an unsettling visit to a crisis pregnancy center adds to her doubts about whether to go through with it.

Although Maddy still hasn’t forgiven Jada for a terrible betrayal, she goes to her for support, only to discover the cracks in the façade of her sister’s seemingly perfect life. As their past resentments boil over, the sisters must navigate the consequences of their choices and determine how best to care for themselves and each other.

With luminous prose and laser-sharp psychological insight, *How to Care for a Human Girl* is a compassionate and unforgettable examination of the complexities of choice, the special intimacy of sisterhood, and the bizarre ways our heated political moment manifests in daily life.

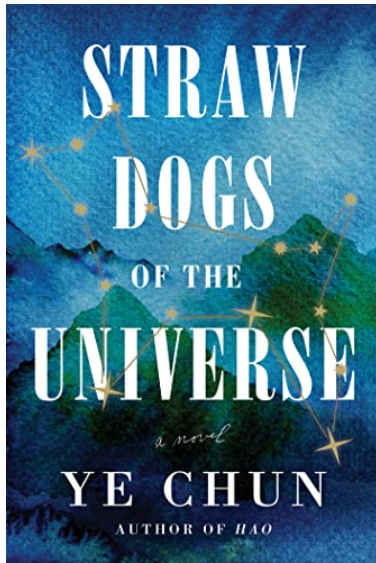
Praise for HOW TO CARE FOR A HUMAN GIRL:

“Ashley Wurzbacher’s *How to Care for a Human Girl* is a heartfelt, compelling story told in an artful blend of sophistication and beauty. This is a fierce look at family, resilience, and love.”

—Brandon Hobson, National Book Award finalist and author of *The Removed*

“Ambitious, evocative, and deeply empathetic, *How to Care for a Human Girl* eloquently examines the many facets of personal choice.” —Kimberly King Parsons, author of *Black Light*

“Ashley Wurzbacher has written the kind of page turner you want to reread as soon as you’re done, a book that belongs, tragically and comically, to our moment—and to every moment that led us here. I laughed and cried and saw myself—saw every woman I’ve ever known—in the story of the Battle sisters.” —Anna Solomon, author of *The Book of V*



YE CHUN is a bilingual Chinese American writer and literary translator. She has published two books of poetry, *Travel Over Water* and *Lantern Puzzle*; a novel in Chinese, 《海上的桃树》 (Peach Tree in the Sea); and four volumes of translations. A recipient of an NEA Literature Fellowship, a Sustainable Arts Foundation Award, and three Pushcart Prizes, she teaches at Providence College and lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

- **World English:** Catapult
- **Translation:** FGLA
- **Edited manuscript available**
- **Publication:** October 2023
- **Domestic Agent:** Caroline Eisenmann

STRAW DOGS OF THE UNIVERSE

****Sold in a two-book deal, for a collection and a novel****

STRAW DOGS OF THE UNIVERSE follows the story of a Chinese father and daughter in late 19th Century America West: the daughter as she searches for her father, the father as he seeks a new life in a difficult land. Following a devastating famine in her village, ten-year-old Sixiang’s mother reluctantly sells her to a human trafficker, who promises to bring Sixiang to a better life in America. Her mother gives Sixiang the profits of the sale as well as a photo of her absent father, Guifeng, who had travelled to Gold Mountain years ago before cutting off communication with his family at home. STRAW DOGS OF THE UNIVERSE follows Sixiang’s brave journey through the unforgiving landscape of the American West—a place particularly hostile to Chinese immigrants—in hopes of finding her father and reuniting her family. The novel simultaneously traces the story of Guifeng who, little known to Sixiang, has found his attempts to build a new place for himself destabilized by both a long-lost passion from home and the seemingly inescapable violence of this new land.

A deeply felt generational story of little-known immigrant history in the vein of *PACHINKO* or *HOW MUCH OF THESE HILLS IS GOLD*, STRAW DOGS OF THE UNIVERSE considers what makes or breaks the ties of family, and shows the strength and courage it takes to survive in a new world.

PRAISE FOR HAO:

“Words are Ye Chun’s superpower ... These stories are immaculate, beautiful, tattered” —Hillary Kelly, *Vulture*

“Ye Chun captures the complexities of human emotion with a fine chisel and poet’s eye, moving deftly between themes of motherhood, loss, and migration. Hao is a richly imagined, satisfying collection, one that invites you to stay, to linger and be moved.”—Te-Ping Chen, author of *Land of Big Numbers*

“Each of Ye’s dozen stories astounds.” —★*Booklist* (starred review)

“Ye Chun’s gorgeous collection turns our attention to Chinese women. They are wives and mothers. They are immigrants and graduate students. They are bridges between continents...More than anything, Hao is a love letter to language.” —*Lit Hub*