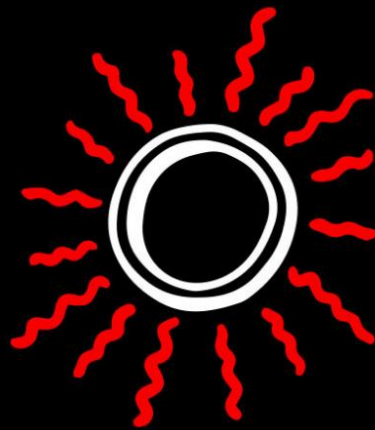


Spring 2023

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

Time for a new story.

Upcoming Titles



QUIETLY HOSTILE

Samantha Irby



Essays

A hilarious new essay collection from #1 *New York Times* bestselling fan-favorite Samantha Irby invites us to share in the gory particulars of her life.

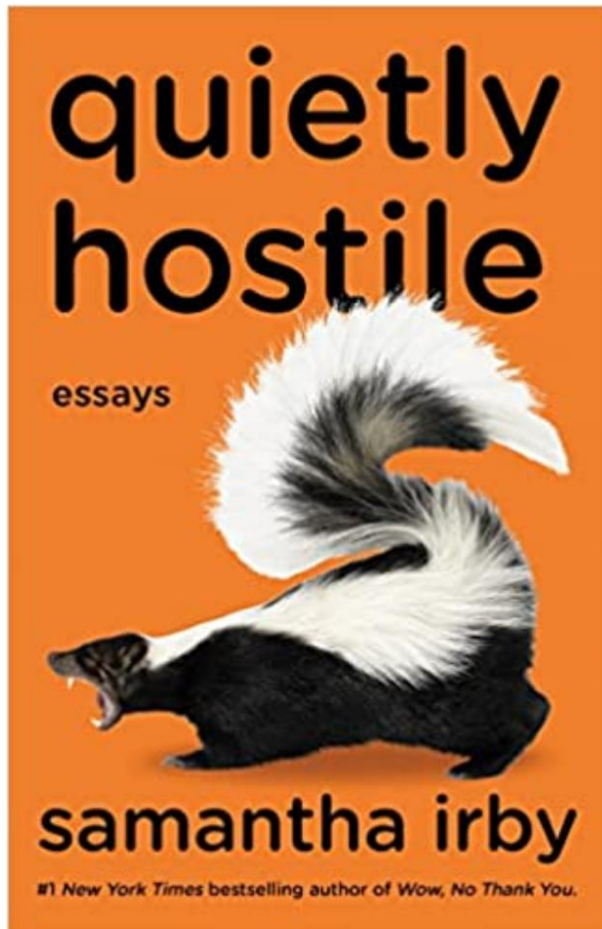
“Irby is back with a new and hilariously relatable essay collection...[she] will have you crying and laughing.” —*TODAY*

Samantha Irby’s career has taken her to new heights. She dodges calls from Hollywood and sweats on the red carpet at premieres (well, one premiere). But nothing is ever as it seems online, where she can edit out all the ugly parts.

Irby received too many rude emails about the *Sex & the City* reboot and not only does she have more intestinal stress to deal with, but now—anaphylactic shock. She is turned away from restaurants for being inappropriately dressed and looks for ways to cope, i.e., reveling in online shopping and adopting a deranged pandemic dog. Irby takes us on another outrageously funny tour of all the mortifying details that make up the true portrait of a life behind the depression memes on her Instagram. Relatable, poignant, and uproarious, once again, Irby is the tonic we all need to get through our own bullshit.

Vintage // May 2023

Faber & Faber (UK)



“*Wow, No Thank You* author returns with a hilarious new essay collection that touches on her rotting teeth, QVC obsession, and frequent bouts of diarrhea due to Crohn’s disease. All of which prove that no matter how famous Samantha Irby gets, she’ll never stop being #relatable.”
— *TIME Magazine*, “The 23 Most Anticipated Books of 2023”



“It’s always entertaining to see Irby—a first-rate, self-deprecating mind—riff on the oddities of her own life. . . . what’s most endearing about this new collection is that the voice is always brazenly, unapologetically hers.” — *The New York Times*, “19 Works of Nonfiction to Read This Spring”

Samantha Irby is a humorist and essayist, and the author of three previous essay collections: *We Are Never Meeting in Real Life*, *Wow, No Thank You*, and *Meaty*.

RIPE

Sarah Rose Etter



Literary
Fiction

From an award-winning writer whose work Roxane Gay calls “utterly unique and remarkable” comes a surreal novel about a woman in Silicon Valley who must decide how much she’s willing to give up for success—for fans of *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* and *Her Body and Other Parties*.

A year into her dream job at a cutthroat Silicon Valley start-up, Cassie is trapped in a corporate nightmare. Between the long hours, toxic bosses, and unethical projects, she also struggles to reconcile the glittering promise of a city where obscene wealth lives alongside abject poverty and suffering. Ivy League grads complain about the snack selection from a conference room with a view of houseless people bathing in the bay. Start-up burnouts leap into the paths of commuter trains, and men literally set themselves on fire in the streets.

Though isolated, Cassie is never alone. From her earliest memory, a miniature black hole has been her constant companion. It feeds on her depression and anxiety, growing or shrinking in relation to her distress. The black hole watches, but it also waits. Its relentless pull draws Cassie ever closer as the world around her unravels.

As her CEO’s demands cross into illegal territory, she finds herself pregnant, and Cassie must decide whether the tempting fruits of Silicon Valley are worth cost. Sharp but vulnerable, funny yet unsettling, *Ripe* portrays one woman’s journey through our late-capitalist hellscape and offers a brilliantly incisive look at the absurdities of modern life.

Scribner // July 2023

Verve (UK)

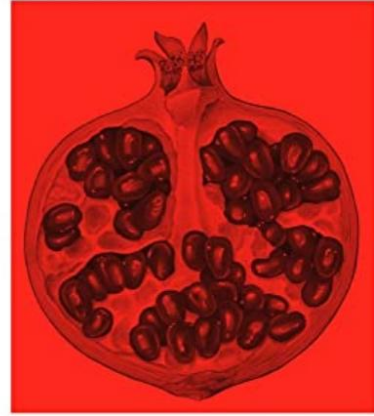
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"Etter refuses to pull any punches here, asking us to look directly at the nightmares we sometimes agree to live with in exchange for comfort and security. *Ripe* is a dazzlingly gorgeous novel and Sarah Rose Etter is truly one hell of a writer." — **Kristen Arnett**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mostly Dead Things*

"*Ripe* is a triumph—blade-sharp and unflinching. It walks a darkly gorgeous tightrope between the bitter and beautiful with skill that takes your breath away." — **Sophie Mackintosh**, author of *The Water Cure*

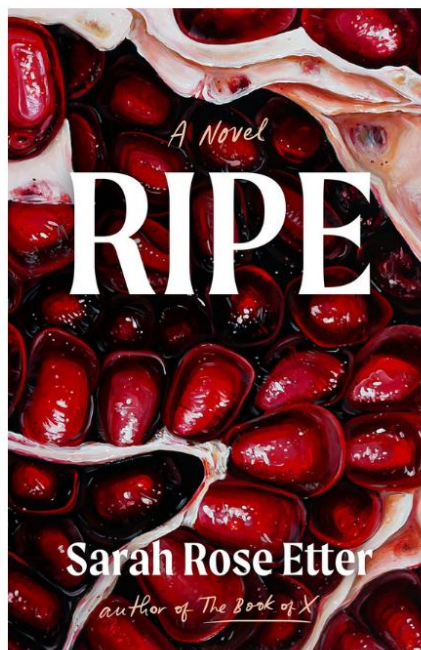


RIPE



'A TRIUMPHANT, DARKLY GORGEOUS TIGHTROPE BETWEEN THE BITTER AND BEAUTIFUL'
— SOPHIE MACKINTOSH

SARAH ROSE ETTER



"Sarah Rose Etter is a wonder, and this novel is a knife to the heart." — **Carmen Maria Machado**, author of *Her Body and Other Parties*

Sarah Rose Etter is the author of *Tongue Party* and *The Book of X*, winner of a 2019 Shirley Jackson Award. Her work has appeared in *Guernica*, *BOMB*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Cut*, *VICE*, *TIME*, among other publications. She earned her B.A. in English from Pennsylvania State University and her MFA in Fiction from Rosemont College. She lives in Los Angeles.

NO ONE DIES YET

Kobby Ben Ben



Debut
Fiction

A genre-breaking novel from a powerful new African voice.

How do you begin a murder story starring a curious foreigner and an opportunistic local without giving away the entire plot—who died and why? You start with the obvious villain.

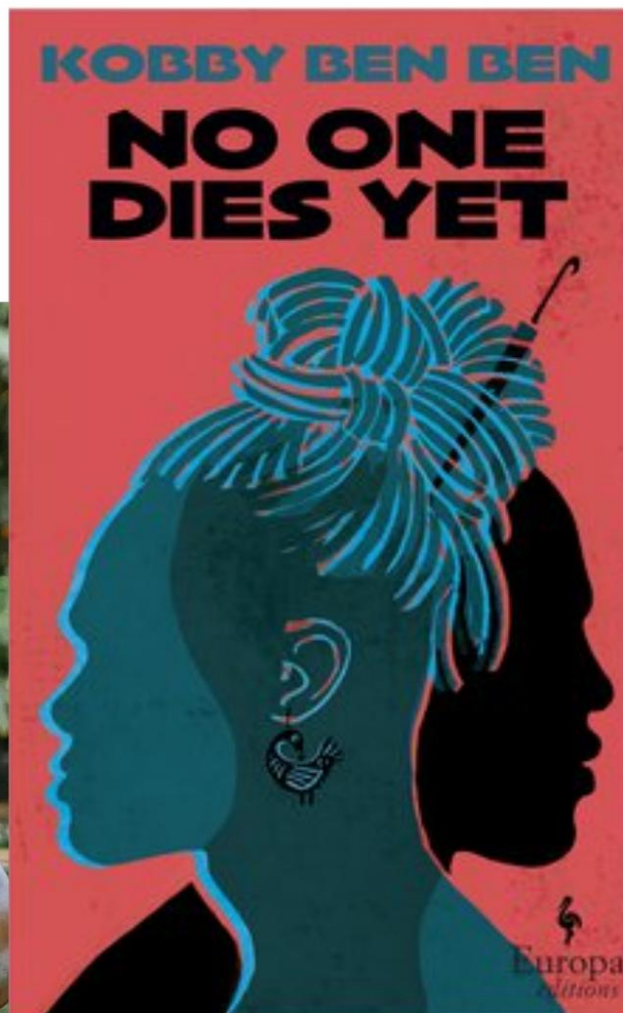
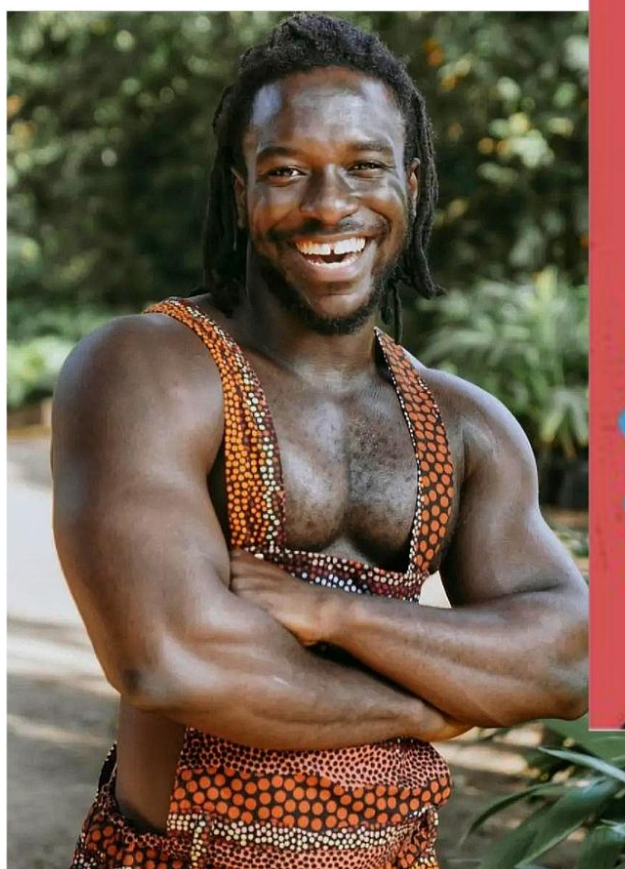
2019, The Year of Return. It has been exactly 400 years since the first slave ships left Ghana for America. Ghana has now opened its doors to Black diasporans, encouraging them to return and get to know the land of their ancestors.

Elton, Vincent, and Scott arrive from America to visit preserved sites from the transatlantic slave route, and to explore the country's underground queer scene. Their activities are narrated by their two combative guides: Kobby, their way into Accra's privileged circles; and Nana, the voice of tradition and religious principle. The pair's tense relationship sets the tone for what becomes a shocking and unsettling tale of murder that is at times funny, at times erotic, yet always outspoken and iconoclastic.

Europa Editions // August 2023 (UK)
February 2024 (US)

Edizioni E/O (Italy)

"A gorgeously sculpted book, *No One Dies Yet* is thrilling in a way that very few contemporary novels are. Kobby Ben Ben is a radical literary stylist on the rise."
— **Diriye Osman**, author of *The Butterfly Jungle*.



Kobby Ben Ben, is a Ghanaian book reviewer as well as book curator for *Ghana Must Read*, his eccentric Instagram book blog. When he isn't writing poetry masked as prose or anticipating Michaela Coel's next project, he's most passionate about discovering debut writers of color whose stories shed light on underrepresented languages and cultures.

DELIVER ME

Elle Nash



Fiction

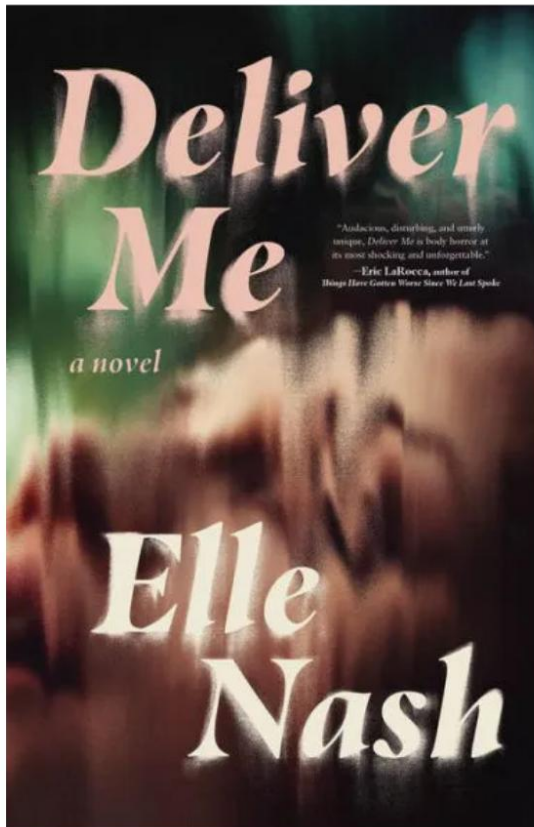
"Audacious, disturbing, and utterly unique, *Deliver Me* is body horror at its most shocking and unforgettable." — Eric LaRocca, Bram Stoker Award Winner and author of *Things Have Gotten Worse Since We Last Spoke*

At a meatpacking facility in the Missouri Ozarks, Dee-Dee and her co-workers kill and butcher 40,000 chickens in a single shift. The work is repetitive and brutal, with each stab and cut a punishment to her hands and joints, but Dee-Dee's more concerned with what is happening inside her body. After a series of devastating miscarriages, Dee-Dee has found herself pregnant, and she is determined to carry this child to term.

Dee-Dee fled the Pentecostal church years ago, but judgment follows her in the form of regular calls from her mother, whose raspy voice urges Dee-Dee to quit living in sin and marry her boyfriend Daddy, an underemployed ex-con with an insect fetish. With a child on the way, at long last Dee-Dee can bask in her mother's and boyfriend's newfound parturient attention. She will matter. She will be loved. She will be complete.

When her charismatic friend Sloane reappears after a twenty-year absence, feeding her insecurities and awakening suppressed desires, Dee-Dee fears she will go back to living in the shadows. Neither the ultimate indignity of yet another miscarriage nor Sloane's own pregnancy deters her: she must prepare for the baby's arrival.

Unnamed Press // October 2023



"No one can swirl sex and strange quite like Elle Nash, and *Deliver Me* rubs creation against devastation on a wild ride of self discovery away from a Christian-shaped cult. It's a religious and troubling experience — a work of art from an artist to watch." — **Brian Alan Carr**, author of *Opioid, Indiana*



"Elle Nash is one of the best writers alive. This book is utterly fearless, utterly devastating, and an uncompromising masterpiece. Reading *Deliver Me* made me feel like I was possessed." — **Juliet Escoria**, author of *Juliet the Maniac* and *I Am The Snake*

Elle Nash is the author of the debut novel *Animals Eat Each Other* and the story collection *Nudes*. Her work has appeared in *Guernica*, *Adroit*, *The Creative Independent*, *Hazlitt*, *Literary Hub*, *Cosmopolitan*, *New York Tyrant* and elsewhere. She is a founding editor of *Witch Craft Magazine* and a fiction editor at *Hobart Pulp*. She lives in Edinburgh.

GIVE ME SPACE BUT DON'T GO FAR

Haley Weaver



Graphic
Memoir

**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.

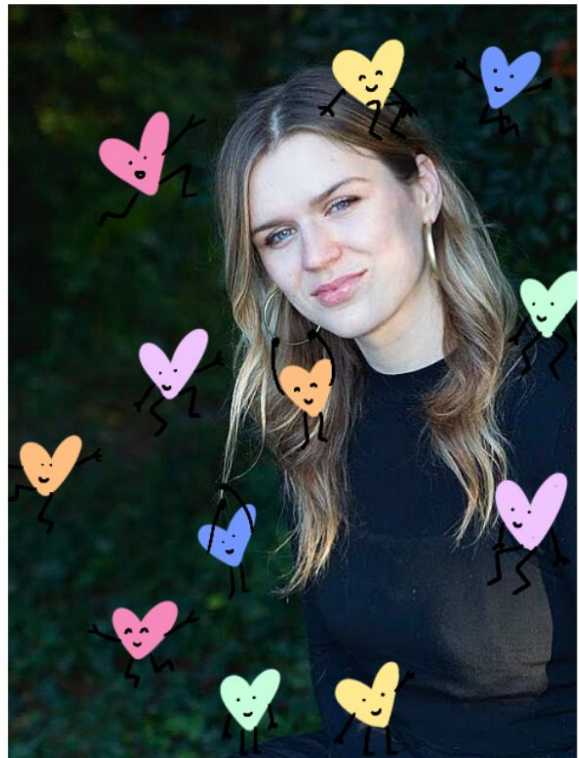
Or in Haley Weaver's case, her anxiety is represented by a wide-eyed tangle of string, Weaver reveals over the course of the book that it isn't an enemy to defeat or an obstacle to overcome. Anxiety just is, and it's never going away, but if we care for it with tender curiosity and attention, it has 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 // February 2024

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.



THIS ORDINARY STARDUST

Alan Townsend



Memoir

A luminous and heartrending exploration of scientific inquiry as spiritual practice, Alan Townsend's *This Ordinary Stardust* is Sam Harris's *Waking Up*; Laura Lynne Jackson's *Signs*; and Matthew Crawford's *Shop Class as Soulcraft*.

One of the country's most accomplished sustainability scientists, Dr. Townsend has reached professional heights and personal depths most of us will never approach. An astronomically unlikely pair of catastrophes struck his family nine years ago: just a handful of months apart, his 4-year-old daughter Neva and vibrant young wife, Diana, developed separate, unrelated, inexplicable, life-threatening forms of brain cancer. Neva ultimately survived; Diana didn't. And in this time of protracted agony, Alan—a lifelong scientist, atheist, and strident believer in Logic—found himself transformed. He had always thought of his work as a refuge from emotion and uncertainty, a way to impose order onto chaos; now he realized that it was so much more. Science wasn't a way to escape the pain of mortal life; approached properly, it was the opposite, a way of staying awestruck and present in the fullness of life's brutality and beauty. Science was a discipline not so much of pure reason as of love.

With frequent appearances in national media, international speaking commitments, and a prominent role in a recent documentary viewed 900 million times across various platforms, Alan is one of the country's most visible advocates for public engagement with and faith in science. He views *This Ordinary Stardust* as an extension of that work. Although he uses personal storytelling to illustrate his points, his intent is to make a heartfelt case to the public for why science matters.

Grand Central // Spring 2024



Dr. Alan Townsend is a scientist, author and Dean of the Franke College of Forestry & Conservation at the University of Montana.

Alan has served in leadership positions at university, national and international levels, including Dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, Provost of Colorado College, Director of CU-Boulder's Environmental Studies Program and its Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, Director of the Division of Environmental Biology at the National Science Foundation, and Co-Director of the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program. He is a highly cited author of more than 130 peer reviewed articles, and received his bachelor's degree from Amherst College, and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Stanford University.

CINEMA LOVE

Jiaming Tang



Debut
Fiction

***Pachinko* meets *Brokeback Mountain* in Jiaming Tang's sweeping debut *Cinema Love*, which follows the lives of rural gay men in China and the women who marry them.**

Combining the grit and heart of *How Much of These Hills is Gold* with the intricate and moving character work of *The Leavers*, *Cinema Love* marks the arrival of a preternaturally gifted new voice in fiction.

For over thirty years, Old Second and Bao Mei have cobbled together a meager existence in New York City's Chinatown. But unlike other couples, these two share an unusual past. In rural Fuzhou, before they emigrated, they frequented The Workers' Cinema: a theater where gay men cruised for love.

While classic war films played, Old Second and his countrymen (many in arranged marriages) found intimacy in the Workers' Cinema's screening rooms. In the box office, Bao Mei sold tickets to closeted men—guarding their secrets, guiding their love lives, and finding her own happiness with the projectionist.

However, Old Second's passion for his lover, Shun-Er, left Shun-Er's wife Yan Hua in the cold, and a desperate move to keep her husband set in motion haunting events—causing the deaths of Shun-Er and the projectionist and propelling Yan Hua, Old Second, and Bao Mei towards an uncertain future in America.

Spanning three timelines—contemporary New York, late '80s Chinatown, and post-socialist China—*Cinema Love* is a voice-driven, tender epic that bridges the interior landscapes of the disenfranchised with the physical, and often foreign, spaces they inhabit.

Dutton // Spring 2024

John Murray (UK) / Edizioni E/O (Italy) / Klett-Cotta
(Germany) / Czarna (Poland)

13



Jiaming Tang is a queer immigrant writer based in Brooklyn and works in editorial at Marysue Rucci Books, an imprint of Scribner. He holds an MFA from The University of Alabama and his writing has appeared in such publications as *AGNI*, *LitHub*, *Joyland Magazine*, *The Masters Review*, *Epiphany Literary Magazine* (where he won a “Breakout 8” Writer’s Award), and elsewhere.

THE DISSONANCE

Shaun Hamil



Fiction

An absorbing adult fantasy from the acclaimed author of *A Cosmology of Monsters* in the vein of *The Magicians*.

“Dissonance theory is based on the hypothesis that something is broken in the foundation of creation: a gap between how things should be, and how they are.... [What people] don’t know—or allow themselves to admit—is that this broken foundation creates a friction, a sort of energy users call the Dissonance.”

—Professor Elijah Marsh

In the late 1990s, four teenagers discover a secret source of mystical potential: The Dissonance. Under the tutelage of a doting grandfather—an expert in Dissonance Theory—epic adventures await. But their power comes at a horrific price, one that not only kills a member of their coven but their entire high school.

Twenty years later, the survivors reunite when a supernatural threat descends upon their Texas hometown. Can these broken adults make peace with the past in time to confront the real Big Bad?

Exploding cliched genre tropes like no other novelist, Shaun Hamill has crafted an immersive, propulsive and heartfelt novel of magic and redemption.

Pantheon // Spring 2024

Option holders: Titan (UK) / Heyne (Germany) / Albin Michel (France) / Urano (Spain) / (Sperling & Kupfer (Italy) / Epsilon (Turkey) / Eksmo (Russia) / Infortress (Taiwan)

“Shaun Hamill’s *A Cosmology of Monsters* brilliantly combines the mythos of H.P. Lovecraft with a contemporary story of a family under threat of destruction from supernatural forces. If John Irving ever wrote a horror novel, it would be something like this. I loved it, and think you will, too.” — **Stephen King**

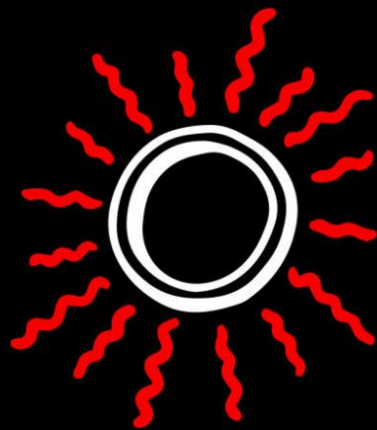
“Hamill has crafted an ambitious, spellbinding horror novel for the ages, one where the looming specters of ambition, obsession, and loss are every bit as terrifying as the flesh-and-blood monsters themselves.” — **Adrienne Westenfeld**, *Esquire*



“*Cosmology* straddles the line between scares and feels with confidence and flair. . . . It’s a book that haunts in a myriad ways, and its monsters are just as often palpably real as they are dredged from the depths of nightmares. Horrific yet emotionally immersive.” — **Jason Heller**, *NPR*

Shaun Hamill received his BA in English from the University of Texas at Arlington and his MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He is the author of *A Cosmology of Monsters*, and his fiction has appeared in *Carve* and *Tor Nightfire's Come Join Us By the Fire 2*. He currently lives and works in North Texas.

Recently Published



MADAME RESTELL

THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF
OLD NEW YORK'S MOST FABULOUS,
FEARLESS, AND INFAMOUS ABORTIONIST

Jennifer Ashley Wright



History/
Biography

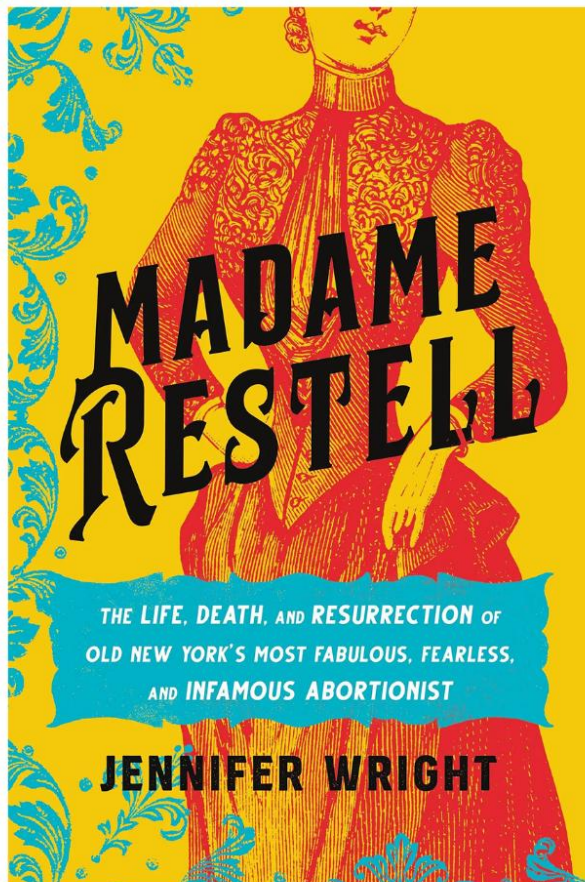
This is the story of one of the boldest women in American history: self-made millionaire, a celebrity in her era, a woman beloved by her patients and despised by the men who wanted to control them.

An industrious immigrant who built her business from the ground up, Madame Restell was a self-taught surgeon on the cutting edge of healthcare in pre-Gilded Age New York, and her bustling “boarding house” provided birth control, abortions, and medical assistance to thousands of women—rich and poor alike. As her practice expanded, her notoriety swelled, and Restell established herself as a prime target for tabloids, threats, and lawsuits galore.

Her rise to the top of her field coincided with a campaign to curtail women’s power by restricting their access to both healthcare and careers of their own. Powerful, secular men were eager to declare abortion sinful, a position endorsed by newly-minted male MDs who longed to edge out their feminine competition and turn medicine into a standardized, male-only practice. By unraveling the misogynistic and misleading lies that put women’s lives in jeopardy, Wright simultaneously restores Restell to her rightful place in history and obliterates the faulty reasoning underlying the very foundation of what has since been dubbed the “pro-life” movement.

Thought-provoking, character-driven, boldly written, and feminist as hell, Madame Restell is required reading for anyone and everyone who believes that when it comes to women’s rights, women’s bodies, and women’s history, women should have the last word.

Hachette Books // February 2023



"Painfully timely... Wright observes that Americans don't take well to learning history. When it is delivered with this kind of blunt force, however, perhaps they might. Whatever readers end up thinking of Madame Restell, they surely cannot miss the core lesson: that there has never been a culture in human history without abortion. The only variable has ever been the cost." — *New York Times Book Review*

An Indie Next Pick for March 2023.



Jennifer Ashley Wright is the author of several pop history books, including *It Ended Badly: 13 of the Worst Breakups in History* and *Get Well Soon: History's Worst Plagues and the Heroes That Fought Them* (winner of Audible's Best History Book of 2017). She was also a writer on HBO's feminist sci-fi series, *The Nevers*. Previously, she was the political editor-at-large for *Harper's Bazaar*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, fellow writer Daniel Kibblesmith, and their daughter.

HAWK MOUNTAIN

Conner Habib



Debut
Fiction

**LONGLISTED FOR THE 2023 PEN/FAULKNER
AWARD FOR FICTION**

An English teacher is gaslit by his charismatic high school bully in this tense story of deception, manipulation, and murder.

Single father Todd is relaxing at the beach with his son, Anthony, when he catches sight of a man approaching from the water's edge. As the man draws closer, Todd recognizes him as Jack, who bullied Todd relentlessly in their teenage years but now seems overjoyed to have "run into" his old friend. Jack suggests a meal to catch up. And can he spend the night?

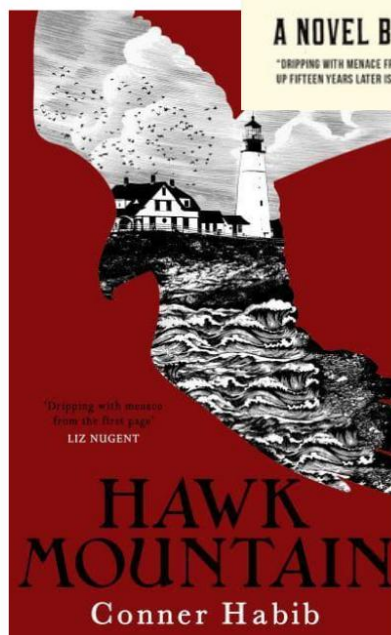
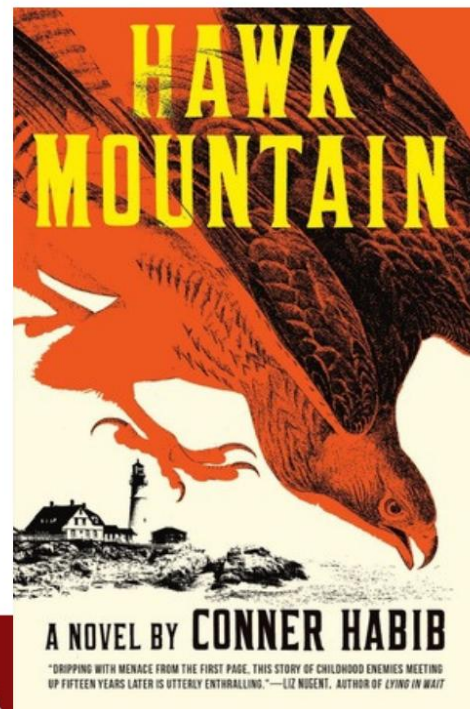
What follows is a fast-paced story of obsession and cunning. As Jack invades Todd's life, pain and intimidation from the past unearth knife-edge suspense in the present. Set in a small town on the New England coast, Conner Habib's debut introduces characters trapped in isolation by the expansive woods and the encroaching ocean, their violence an expression of repressed desire and the damage it can inflict. Both gruesome and tender, *Hawk Mountain* offers a compelling look at how love and hate are indissoluble, intertwined until the last breath.

W. W. Norton // July 2022

Doubleday (UK)

"[*Hawk Mountain*] is a tightening-vice story concerning the repercussions of repression."—**Teddy Wayne**, *New York Times Book Review*

"*Hawk Mountain* is impossible to put down from the start, but at the same time you just want it to end – because the tension and menace that begins to grow from the first page escalates with each page you turn."—**Susan McKeever**, *Books Ireland*



"Conner Habib's debut novel is a bleak, dark adrenaline rush."—**Clive Barker**

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**

**NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE'S JOHN LEONARD PRIZE FINALIST
2023 FERRO-GRUMLEY AWARD FINALIST**

An astonishing debut about family, sexuality, and capitalist systems of control.

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, but at home he is a distant father who spends evenings in his study with whiskey-laced coffee, writing letters to 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 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

**Grove Press (UK) / Ultimo Press (ANZ) / Kjona Verlag
(Germany)**



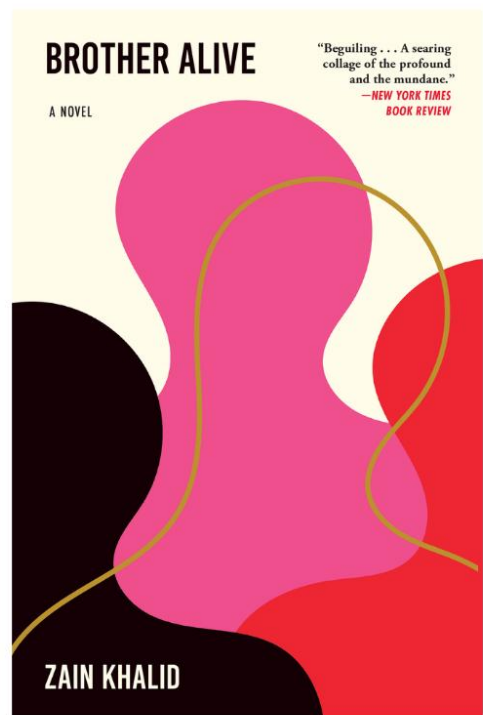
“Brother Alive...[is] truly delightful, its myriad layers ripe for deep and pleasurable reading. It is hard not to be swept up by a novel that works so well, on so many levels.”—**Noor Qasim**, *Astra Magazine*

“Khalid is such a gifted commentator that his methods bear close examination . . . [His] sentences abound with florid, poetic metaphors while maintaining the clipped, declarative tempo of Scripture.”—**Pete Tosiello**, *New York Times*

“Even though *Brother Alive* is far from hopeful, wrestling with intellectual and political energies that seem to have no appropriate outlet, Youssef, and his author, maintain a sense of delirious wonder throughout.”—**Jonah Bromwich**, *Atlantic*



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



Memoir

2022 National Book Award Finalist National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist

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.

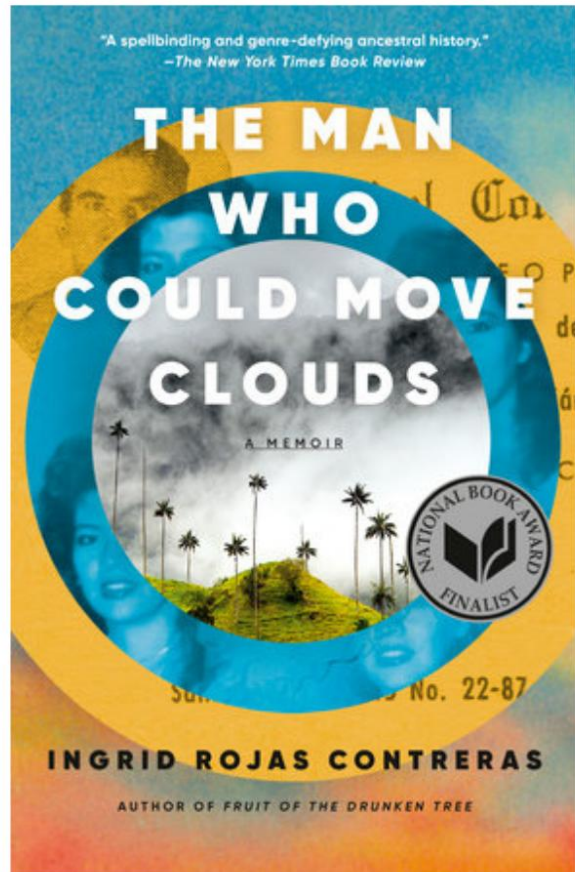
Doubleday // July 2022

Piemme (Italy) / CITIC (China)

"Using philosophical and startlingly delicate prose, Rojas Contreras spins colonial history, personal narrative and the magical around the axis of her family story. The reader feels their soft rotation, like planets around a sun."—*Washington Post*

"Rojas Contreras reacquaints herself with her family's past, weaving their stories with personal narrative, unraveling legacies of violence, machismo and colonialism...In the process, she has written a spellbinding and genre-defying ancestral history."—*New York Times Book Review*

"A blazing memoir...A lyrically rich excavation of memory, mythology and history."—*The Los Angeles Times*



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.

JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM

Ryan O'Connell



Debut
Fiction

From the star of Peacock's *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.

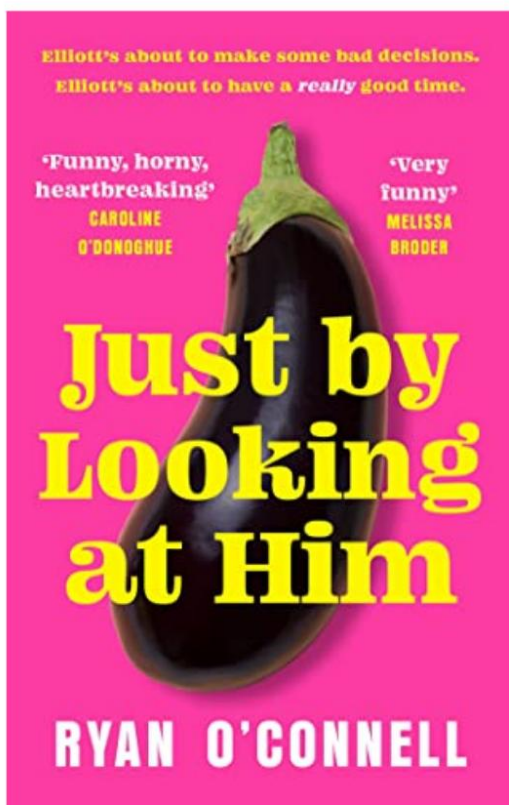
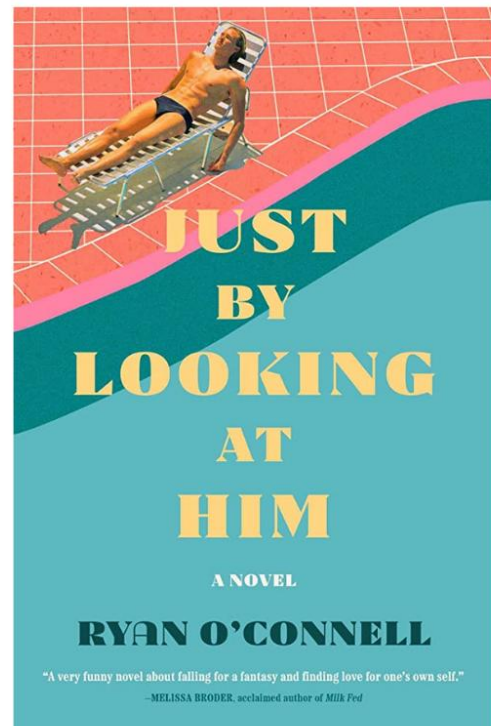
Candid, biting, and refreshingly real, *Just by Looking at Him* is an incisive commentary on gay life, a heart-centered, laugh-out-loud exploration of self, and a rare insight into life as a person with disabilities who refuses to be invisible.

Atria // June 2022

Sphere (UK) / Camelot (Spain) / Falco (Denmark)

"I've loved Ryan O'Connell's voice in every iteration, but his turn to fiction is my favorite Ryan yet: sharp, bawdy, yet still deeply touching. It's shockingly elegant, and elegantly shocking."—**Lena Dunham**, author of *Not That Kind of Girl*

"*Just By Looking At Him* — a frothy, spicy story about a self-described "gay man in his mid-thirties with an expensive haircut."—*The Hollywood Reporter*



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 the TV shows *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.

AN EXCITING AND VIVID

INNER LIFE

Paul Dalla Rosa



Debut
Collection

Oscillating between elation and despair, *An Exciting and Vivid Inner Life* is the debut short story collection from *Sunday Times Short Story Award* finalist Paul Dalla Rosa.

Whether working in food service or in high-end retail, lit by a laptop in a sex chat or by the camera of an acclaimed film director, or sharing a dangerous flat in the city or a holiday rental in Mallorca, the protagonists of the ten stories comprising Paul Dalla Rosa's debut collection navigate the spaces between aspiration and delusion, ambition and aimlessness, the curated profile and the unreliable body.

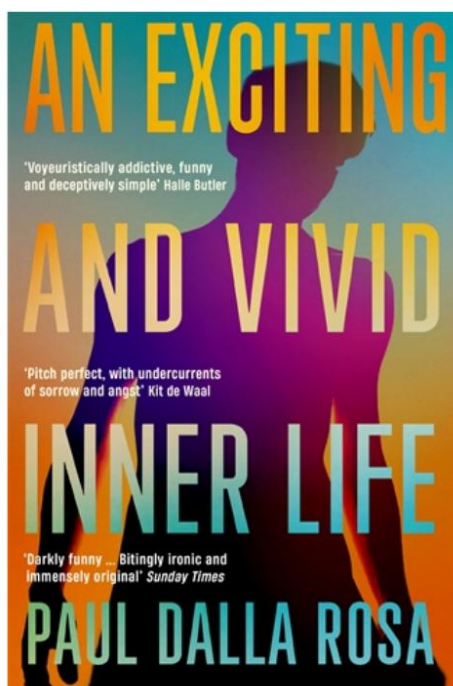
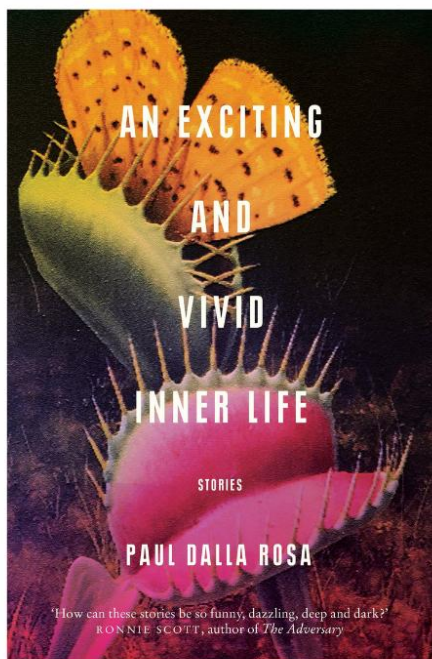
By turns unsparing and tender, Dalla Rosa explores our lives in late-stage Capitalism, where globalization and its false promises of connectivity leave us further alienated and disenfranchised. Like the legendary Lucia Berlin and his contemporary Ottessa Mossfegh, Dalla Rosa is a masterful observer-and hilarious eviscerator-of our ugly, beautiful attempts at finding meaning in an ugly, beautiful world.

"I love these voyeuristically addictive, funny, and deceptively simple stories. Paul Dalla Rosa has perfectly articulated the bizarreness of human isolation and human behaviour."—Halle Butler, author of *The New Me*

Allen & Unwin // May 2022

Serpent's Tail (UK) / Pidgin (Italy)

"His stories eschew spectacle — their resonance is created by more subtle means, by the promises that these lonely and angst-ridden characters are learning about themselves, how to exist in a world with the odds stacked against them, even if that means discovering the invisible prison bars all around them." — **Jack Stanton**, *Sydney Morning Herald*

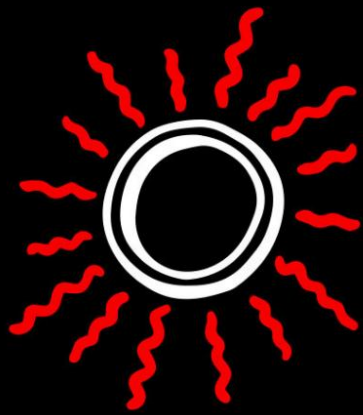


"The jokes are deftly executed; the dialogue is cringingly funny. But underneath, these well-choreographed car crashes are all pulled toward the same, tender magnetic pole." — **Imogen Dewey**, *The Guardian*



"Dalla Rosa manages to get the internet right. There's a bleak satisfaction here in watching lonely characters spiral out at rock bottom, but beneath the cutting sentences and biting humour, there's something more." — **Gurnaik Johal**, *The Guardian*

Paul Dalla Rosa is a writer based in Melbourne, Australia. His stories have appeared in *Granta*, *The Paris Review*, *McSweeney's*, *Meanjin* and *New York Tyrant*. In 2019, his story 'Comme' was shortlisted for the Sunday Times Short Story Award. *An Exciting and Vivid Inner Life* is his debut collection.



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