COFFEE HOUSE PRESS

FALL • WINTER 2026

Coffee House Press began as a small letterpress operation in 1972 and has grown into an internationally renowned nonprofit publisher of literary fiction, essay, poetry, and other work that doesn't fit neatly into genre categories.

Coffee House creates new spaces for audiences and artists to interact, inspiring readers and enriching communities by expanding the definition of what literature is, what it can do, and to whom it belongs.

Adventurous readers, arts enthusiasts, community builders, and risk takers—join us.

FOUNDER

Allan Kornblum (1949–2014)

STAFF

Linda A. Ewing, Executive Director
Bella Frost, Director of Publicity
Mark Haber, Director of Marketing
Ülrika Moats, Director of Operations
Michael Schuldt, Finance Manager
Kaija Straumanis, Editorial Director
Ken Chen, Spatial Species Editor
Youmna Chlala, Spatial Species Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

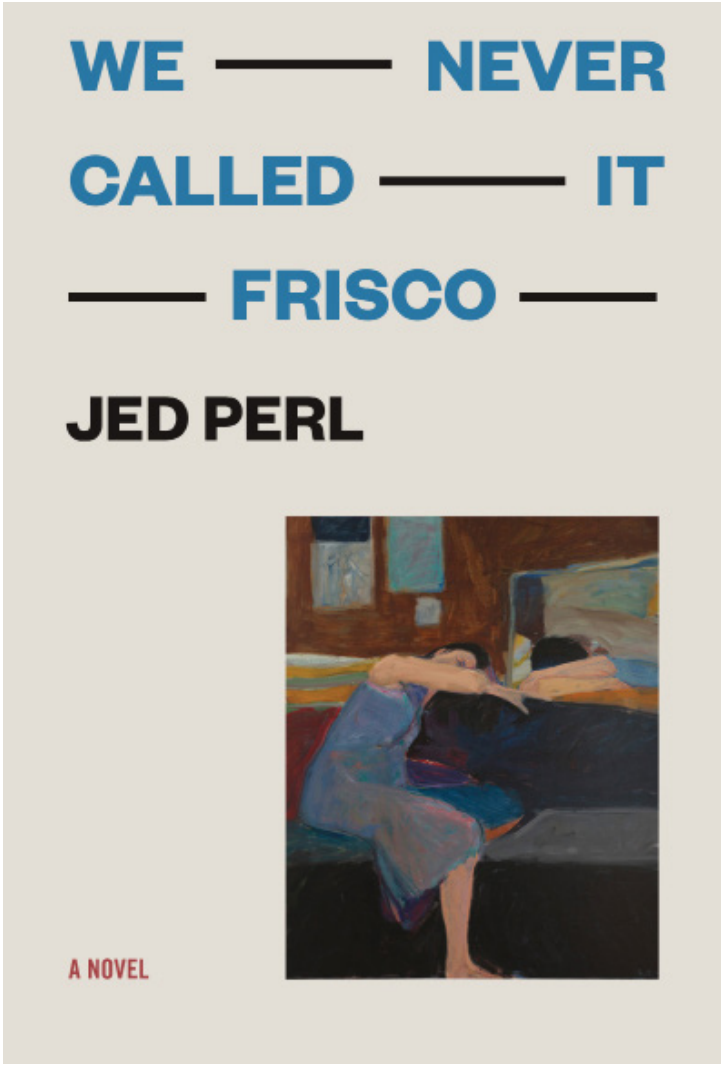
Patricia Beithon, President
Maureen Millea Smith, Vice President
Kelli Cloutier, Treasurer
Robin Preble, Secretary
Monica Clark
Dallas Dredske-Raquel
Sarah Jackson
Bill Lee
Sun Yung Shin
Stephen L. Smith
Charles Sutton
Jennifer Thompson

Coffee House Press books are distributed to the trade by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution.
Ordering and customer service at (866) 400-5351 or ips@ingramcontent.com.
For desk copies and review copies, email info@coffeehousepress.org.

Coffee House Press strives to make programming available to individuals regardless of race, national origin, color, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. Accommodations are available for those with disabilities.
Please contact us for more information.

Cover photograph of Book Suey in Hamtramck, Michigan. Photo courtesy of Alissa Shelton.

If you'd like your bookstore featured on our catalog or website, email Ülrika Moats at ulrika@coffeehousepress.org.
Visit us at www.coffeehousepress.org



September 8, 2026 • 5.5 x 8 • 136 pages
$18.00 • Trade Paper • 9781566897648
$17.99 • Ebook • 9781566897655

Jed Perl was the art critic for The New Republic for twenty years and a contributing editor to Vogue for a decade. He is currently a regular contributor to The New York Review of Books. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and teaches at the New School in New York City, where he lives. He is the author of numerous books, including Paris Without End, Calder, and Authority and Freedom. We Never Called it Frisco is his debut novel.

We Never Called It Frisco

A novel by Jed Perl

A candid novel about art, artists, and their tempestuous relationships in the counter-cultural movement of the 50's and 60's, by one of America's most celebrated art critics.

During intermission at the San Francisco Opera, esteemed and incorrigible cultural critic Marcia Falk collapses into a banquette and dies on the spot. It's soon discovered that Marcia willed her entire estate to Burt—her on-again, off-again lover. His windfall includes her correspondence, her stilted redwood house in Marin County, and an incomplete draft of her unpublished memoir, We Never Called It Frisco. As he processes Marcia's death alongside their cadre of Berkeley bohemians, Burt begins to reconstruct Marcia's work-in-progress as an elegiac collage for the friend he's lost and the city that found her.

In his debut novel, renowned art critic Jed Perl, guides his reader down the back alleys of a mid-century San Francisco populated with painters, puppeteers, paperback revolutionaries, and the writers like Marcia who determined their positions in the cultural ecosystem. Through energetic and immersive prose, We Never Called It Frisco tests the structural limits of the novel as a site of reconstitution and remembrance.

PRAISE FOR WE NEVER CALLED IT FRISCO

"In a poignant attempt to hold a time, a place, a world all but vanished, Jed Perl writes an elegant, intimate novel of love and affection—a tribute, a retrieval, a resuscitation and reunion."

—Carole Maso

A Contribution to the History of Joy

A novel by Radka Denemarková

Translated by Julia and Peter Sherwood

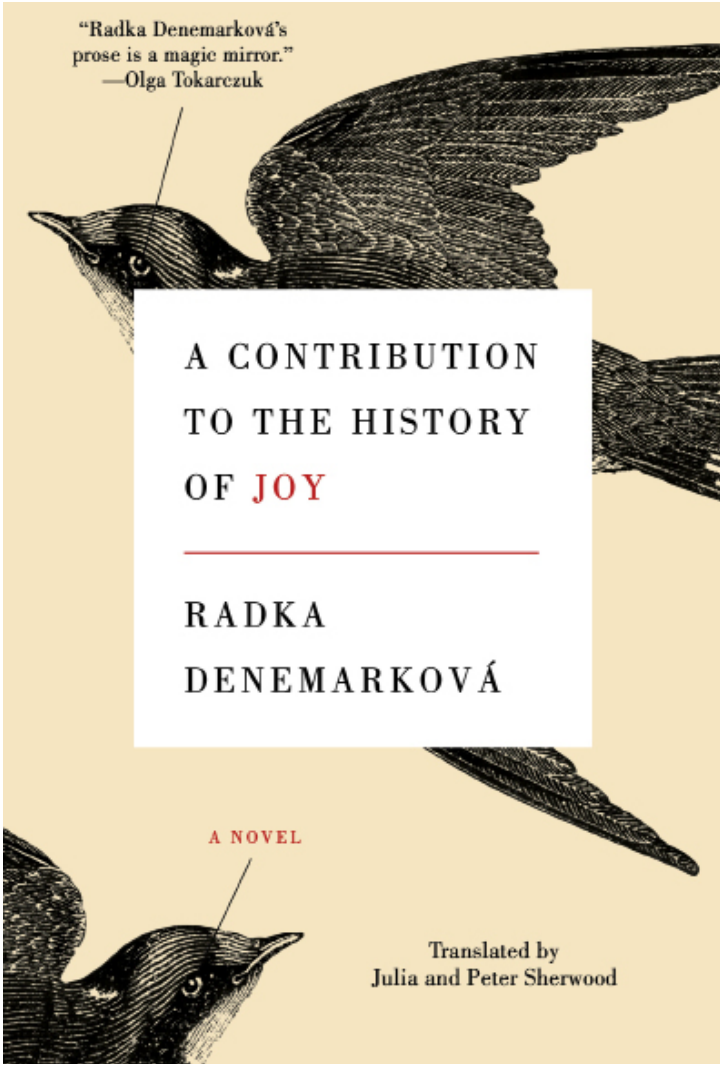
The body of a wealthy, middle-aged businessman is discovered hanging in the attic of his Old Town Prague villa. At first, everything points to suicide, but his young Widow denies the possibility. The ensuing investigation leads a Detective to a house at the foot of Petřín Hill, where three elderly women live: a yoga instructor, a film director, and a creative writing teacher. As the Detective pores through their vast archive of documents, most of which concern rape and abuse cases dating back to World War II, he begins to suspect the women of taking justice into their own hands. How far are they willing to go in their efforts to right the "raped century"?

Denemarková's fourth novel addresses the sexualized violence that pervades all times and cultures—from Nazi crimes in Poland to mass rape in India and forced prostitution of minors in England—a universal calamity stored in the body's memory, for which the birds are the only reliable witnesses.

PRAISE FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF JOY

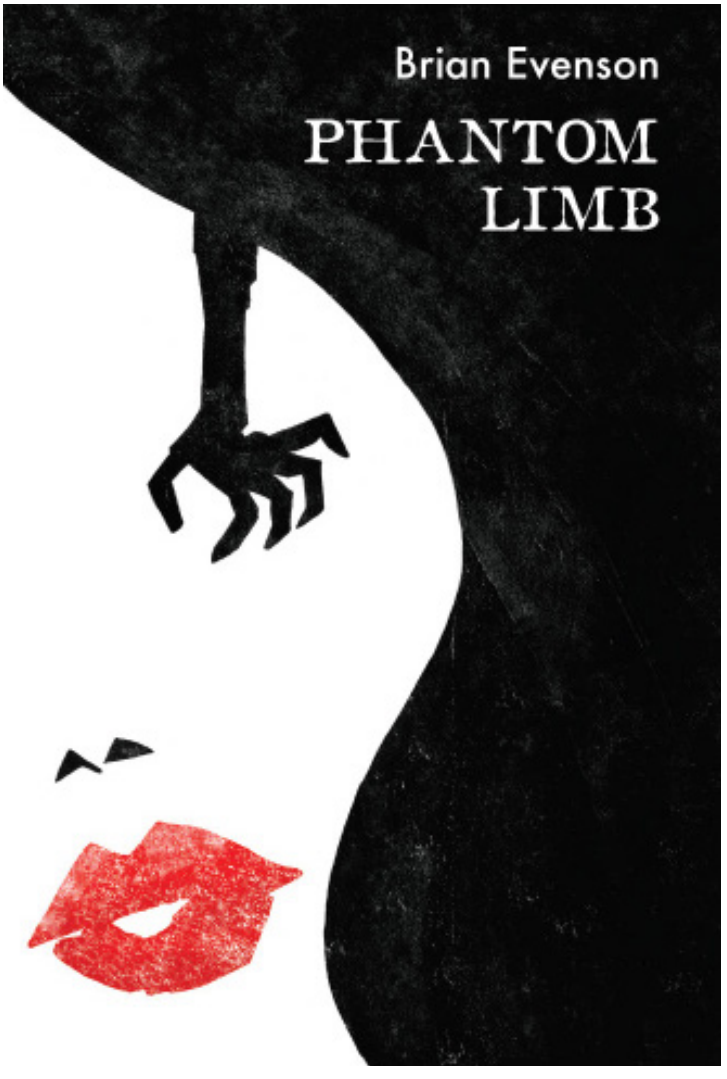
"Radka Denemarková is one of the most provocative, political and at the same time one of the most poetic authors of the present, as she proves in her novel A Contribution to the History of Joy…The painfulness of the narrative, the poetry and the precision of the language are by no means mutually exclusive."

—Jury, Spycher Leuk Literature Award 2019



September 22, 2026 • 5.5 x 8.5 • 344 pages
$20.00 • Trade Paper • 9781566897662
$19.99 • Ebook • 9781566897679

Radka Denemarková is a celebrated Czech novelist, dramatist, TV screenplay writer, translator, and essayist. She has written nine books. Denemarková is the only Czech writer who has received the Magnesia Litera Award four times, and has received international awards such as the Styria Literature Prize, the Brücke Berlin Award, the Franz Kafka Prize from the ÖGfL, and the European Prize for Tolerance, among others. Her works have been translated into twenty-three languages. A Contribution to the History of Joy won the Spycher Leuk Literature Award 2019, and is her second book to be published in English. She lives in Prague.



Phantom Limb

A novel by Brian Evenson

Master of literary horror Brian Evenson returns with a long-awaited follow-up to his 2016 novel, Last Days.

After destroying the headquarters of an underground amputation cult, a burned and battered Kline finds himself in a holding cell. When he enlists the help of an ex-cop to commute his prison sentence, Kline inadvertently tangles with a schism of the very cult he sought to destroy. Can Kline investigate the sect's ritualistic murder spree without getting lured into their ranks?

Frigid and precise, Phantom Limb interrogates our notions of wholeness, fate, and the lengths we are willing to go to connect with a higher power.

PRAISE FOR PHANTOM LIMB

"His stories are deeply terrifying and so troubling that they linger in your mind long after you've read them."

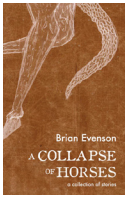
—R.L. Stine

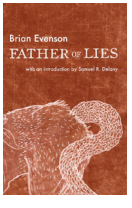
Brian Evenson has won the World Fantasy Award, The International Horror Guild Award, and the Shirley Jackson Award. He is also the recipient of three O. Henry Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and was a finalist for the Ray Bradbury Prize.

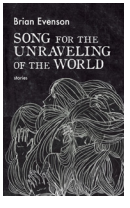
October 13, 2026 • 5.5 x 8.5 • 200 pages
$18.00 • Trade Paper • 9781566897686
$17.99 • Ebook • 9781566897693

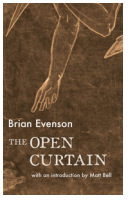
ALSO AVAILABLE:

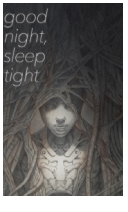
- Last Days
  $18.00, Trade Paper
- A Collapse of Horses
  $18.00, Trade Paper
- Father of Lies
  $16.95, Trade Paper
- Song for the Unraveling of the World
  $18.00, Trade Paper
- The Open Curtain
  $18.00, Trade Paper
- Good Night, Sleep Tight
  $19.00, Trade Paper
- The Glassy, Buring Floor of Hell
  $16.95, Trade Paper
- Windeye
  $18.00, Trade Paper
- Fugue State
  $18.00, Trade Paper

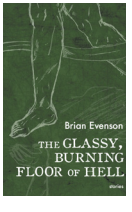












Our Hours Are Married To Shadow

A poem by Nghiem Tran

A book-length poem about the tumultuous relationship between two queer Vietnamese immigrants.

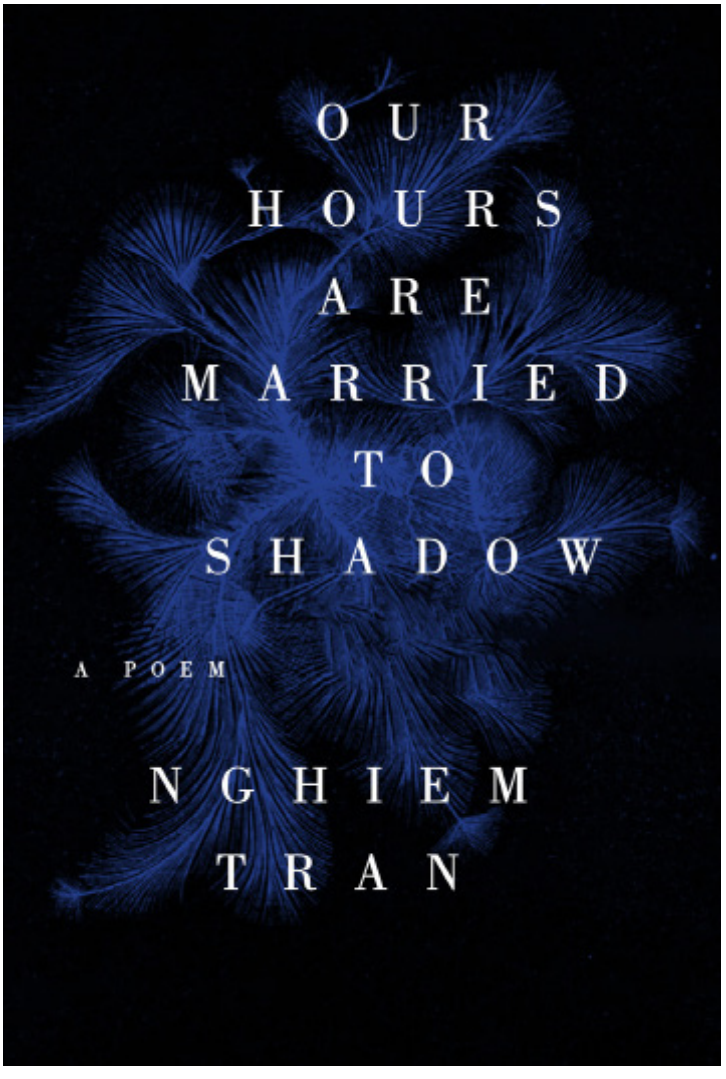
When a young man undergoes electroconvulsive therapy to quiet memories of childhood abuse, he alienates himself from his partner, creating a volatile, at-times violent rift in their relationship. As the couple clashes over how best to address and cope with mental illness, they must confront the painful history that they have so desperately tried to escape.

Nghiem Tran's debut collection wrestles with the terror of vulnerability, the limits of devotion, and the dark joy of self-destruction.

PRAISE FOR OUR HOURS ARE MARRIED TO SHADOW

"Nghiem Tran has penned a lyrical, moving poetry collection that I expect to dazzle readers as the sleeper hit of the year. I consumed it in a long guzzle, then went back to page one and started again, for it reads like a psychological action movie and a tender love story at once. And its mythic echoes will keep me rereading it for years to come." —Mary Karr

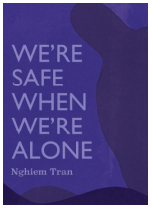
Nghiem Tran was born in Vietnam and raised in Kansas. He received his BA from Vassar College and his MFA from Syracuse University. A Kundiman Fellow, his poetry has been published in The American Poetry Review, The Offing, Hyphen Magazine, and The Margins. His debut novella, We're Safe When We're Alone (Coffee House Press) was one of NPR's Books We Love 2023.

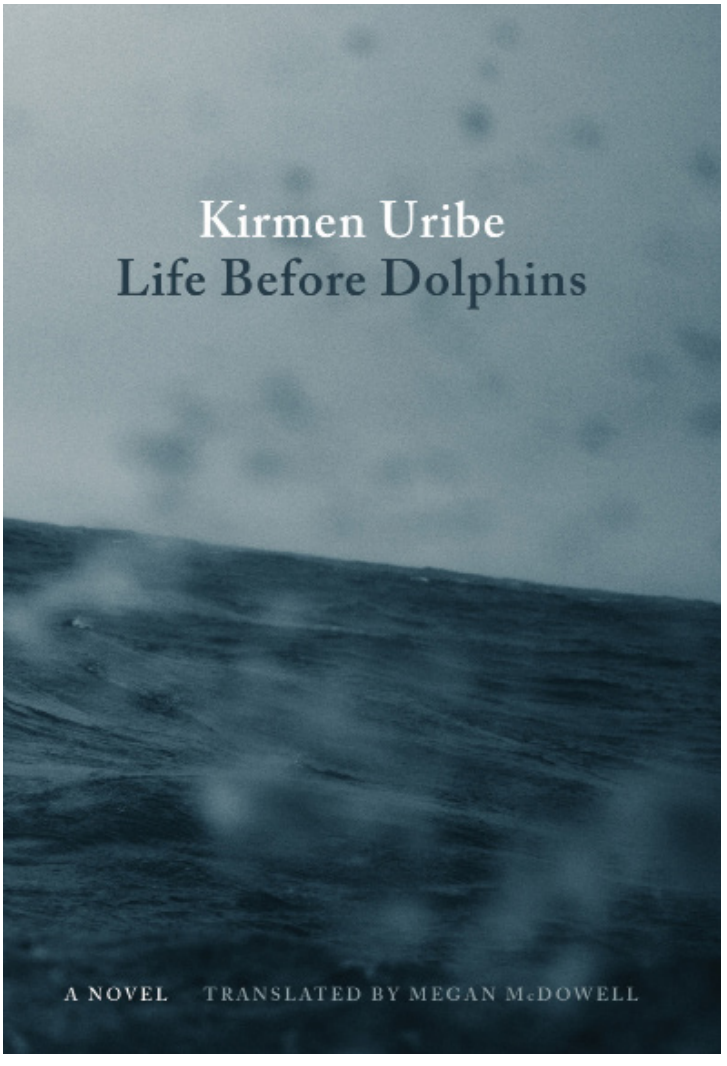


December 8, 2026 • 5x8 • 60 pages
$17.00 • Trade Paper • 9781566897723
$16.99 • Ebook • 9781566897754

ALSO AVAILABLE:

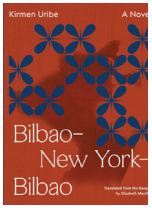
- We're Safe When We're Alone
  $14.95, Trade Paper





January 26, 2027 • 5.5x8 • 228 pages
$18.00 • Trade Paper • 9781566897730
$17.99 • Ebook • 9781566897747

ALSO AVAILABLE:
• Bilbao-New York-Bilbao
$14.95 Trade Paper



Life Before Dolphins

A novel by Kirmen Uribe

Translated by Megan McDowell

A hybrid and moving novel mixing history, memoir, and fiction that speaks to universal themes of family, immigration, and history.

Awarded a fellowship at the New York Public Library, our narrator, Uribe, reflects on his life as an antimilitarist in the Basque Country, while researching the Hungarian activist and pacifist Rosika Schwimmer. As Uribe uncovers Rosika's purpose in World War I, he struggles to understand his own ambitions as a migrant in a new country. The narrative weaves myth, personal history, and the forgotten story of a stateless feminist into a meditation on crossing borders—geographical, emotional, and historical. Formally bold, the novel blends an unfinished manuscript, a pandemic letter, and even a TikTok video, speaking to a moment when questions of migration, gender equality, and historical memory feel increasingly urgent.

Evocative and genre-blurring, Life Before Dolphins is an elegy for lost voices and a celebration of resilience, imagination, and the secret language of those who choose to live softly in a hard world

PRAISE FOR LIFE BEFORE DOLPHINS

"Uribe has succeeded in realizing what is surely an ambition for many writers: a book that combines family, romances and literature, anchored deeply in a spoken culture but also in bookishness—and all without a single note of self-congratulation." —Times Literary Supplement

Kirmen Uribe is a Basque-born New York-based award-winning writer whose work transcends borders, weaving together personal and collective histories. Through poetry and fiction, he explores themes of identity, migration, and memory. In 2018, he won the NYPL Cullman Center Fellowship. Based in New York City, he teaches Creative Writing at New York University (NYU).

The Tallness of Moonlight

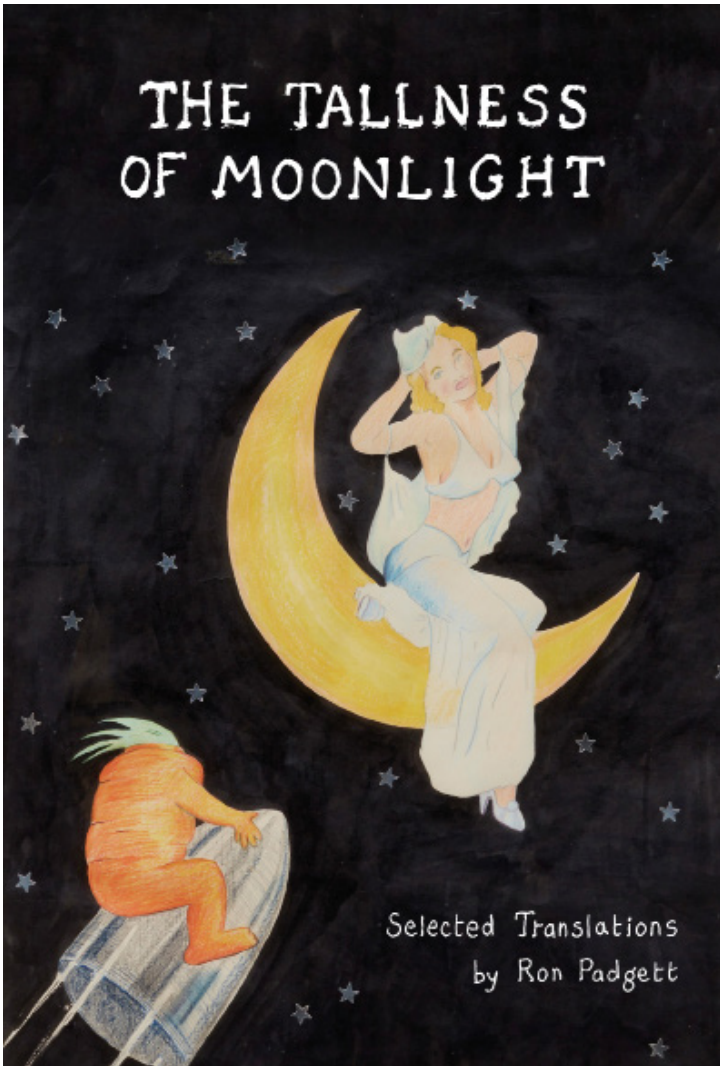
Poetry Translations by Ron Padgett

The Tallness of Moonlight is at once a celebration of Padgett's decades-long translation work and his particular taste in avant-garde poetics. Spanning millennia and the globe, this anthology of translations pays special attention to the French greats: Apollinaire, Gautier, Mallarmé, Cendrars. From prose poems to visual poems to theatrical scenes, Padgett's collection is a love letter to French poetry and the act of translation itself.

PRAISE FOR THE TALLNESS OF MOONLIGHT

"Ron Padgett makes the most quiet and sensible of feelings a provocatively persistent wonder." —Robert Creeley

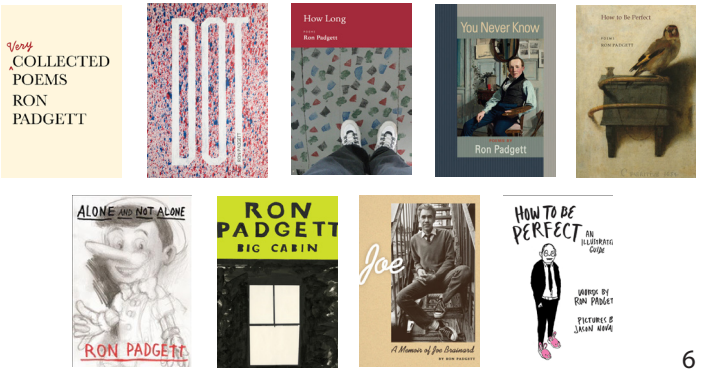
Ron Padgett's How Long was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in poetry, and his Collected Poems won the LA Times Prize for the best poetry book of 2014 and the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. He has also received the Shelley Memorial Award and the Frost medal from the Poetry Society of America. His translations include Zone: Selected Poems of Guillaume Apollinaire and Blaise Cendrars's Complete Poems. Seven of his poems were used in Jim Jarmusch's film Paterson. New York City has been his home base since 1960.

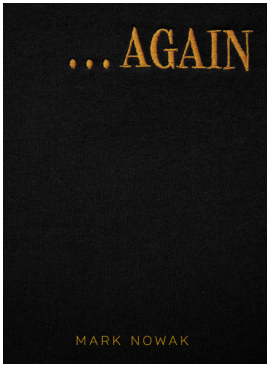


February 23, 2027 • 5.5x8.5 • 264 pages
$20.00 • Trade Paper • 9781566897709
$19.99 • Ebook • 9781566897716

ALSO AVAILABLE:

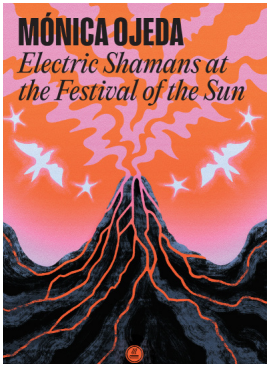
- Very Collected Poems
$50.00, Trade Paper
- Dot
$16.95, Trade Paper
- How Long
$17.95, Trade Paper
- You Never Know
$16.00, Trade Paper
- How To Be Perfect
$16.00, Trade Paper
- Alone and Not Alone
$16.00, Trade Paper
- Big Cabin
$16.95, Trade Paper
- Joe: A Memoir of Joe Brainard
$19.95, Trade Paper
- How To Be Perfect: An Illustrated Guide
$14.95, Trade Paper



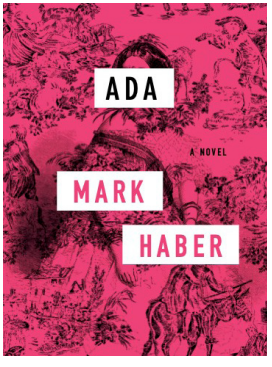


. . . AGAIN
Poems by Mark Nowak
$18.00 • Trade Paper

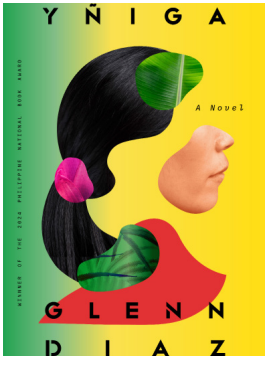
SQUIRMING
Poems by Monika Ostrowska
$20.00 • Trade Paper



ELECTRIC SHAMANS AT THE FESTIVAL OF THE SUN
A novel by Mónica Ojeda
$20.00 • Trade Paper

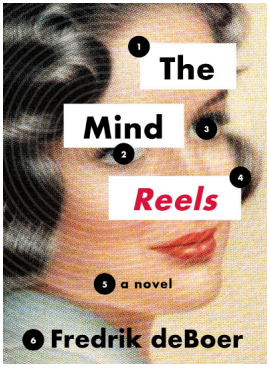


ADA
A novel by Mark Haber
$18.00 • Trade Paper

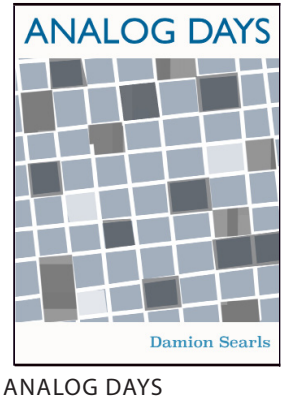


YÑIGA
A novel by Glenn Diaz
$18.00 • Trade Paper

HELEN OF NOWHERE
A novel by Makenna Goodman
$18.00 • Trade Paper



THE MIND REELS
A novel by Fredrik deBoer
$18.00 • Trade Paper



ANALOG DAYS
A novella by Damion Searls
$14.95 • Trade Paper

TERRY DACTYL
A novel by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore
$18.00 • Trade Paper

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS