

## **RIGHTS LIST** London Book Fair 2025

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## Recently Sold

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**Ashley J. Bohrer**  
***WE DON'T BUY IT: A Global History of Boycott***  
US & Canada: Ecco

**An incisive, rich global history of boycott from scholar Ashley J. Bohrer, exploring how this time-honored tactic has—and can—be used to create change.**

Boycotts are everywhere. Every day there are new calls to withhold our support from unethical brands, rogue states, and problematic individuals. Across the world, people are participating in boycotts at unprecedented rates, and are being met with waves of state repression for doing so. In the past decade, anti-boycott legislation or resolutions have been passed in Israel, Canada, Germany, France, Czechia, Spain, the U.S.A., and the United Kingdom. Globally, boycott is emerging as perhaps the most hotly contested form of nonviolent political action of our age.

However, boycott can't be stamped out so easily. It has been around for hundreds of years, steadily evolving alongside the growth of global capitalism, and as a tactic, it's only grown more powerful as the goods and services necessary for our survival are increasingly held hostage by the market. As boycotts become more common and more vilified, understanding how they work takes on a new urgency.

From Ireland to India, South Africa to Palestine, *WE DON'T BUY IT* shows us how and why boycotts happen, who participates in them, and whether they actually succeed at what they set out to do. An absorbing narrative of the modern era, this galvanizing book will make an invaluable resource for consumers, scholars, and activists who want to understand the hidden power behind the everyday choices we make.

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**Ashley J. Bohrer (they/she)** is an Assistant Professor of Gender and Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Their first book, *Marxism and Intersectionality* (Transcript, 2019) was shortlisted for the 2020 Deutscher Prize, and is currently being translated into Spanish (Verso Libros, 2025) and Greek (Ektos Grammis, 2025). They have given presentations about their work at universities in the United States, Italy, France, Germany, Sweden, Palestine, South Africa, and Canada. Bohrer is fluent in both French and Spanish, and has worked as a translator for both languages. Their French-to-English translation of Françoise Vergès' *A Decolonial Feminism* won an English PEN Award for Translation in 2021. Their Spanish-to-English translation of Pedro Górgolas' "Urban Planning and Sustainable Development" will appear with Transcript Verlag in 2025.

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** July 2027

**US editor:** Sarah Murphy

**Agent:** Sarah Khalil

**UK rights:** [rachel@abnerstein.co.uk](mailto:rachel@abnerstein.co.uk)

**Dolly Chugh**

***THE GOOD BOSS PROJECT: The Sacred Work of Managing Employees  
Human Beings***

World English: Simon Acumen

**An inspiring and practical guide to the transformative power of management that reveals how to grow your company's bottom line by investing in people—and how being a good boss is a path to lasting impact and purpose.**

If you are a new manager, a not-so-new manager, a maybe-someday manager, a seen-it-all manager, or a burnt-out manager, this book is for you. Drawing on research from social psychology, organizational behavior, and behavioral economics, world-renowned Dr. Dolly Chugh will cover 10 key skills that separate Good Bosses from Default Bosses. Good Bosses manage humans, not work. Good Bosses lead people, not just processes. They drive business success by developing their teams, rather than at their expense. And they create lasting legacies—often without even realizing it.

*THE GOOD BOSS PROJECT* is organized around a “3W” framework: Work, Weather, Wisdom. Work skills are the day-to-day work of, well, getting the work done. Weather skills help leaders assess the true climate of their team's emotions and navigate inevitable turbulence. Finally, Wisdom skills incorporate the essential perspectives needed to effectively manage up, down, and across—ensuring that you have the mindset needed to be a good boss to all of your employees, not just a select few. With cutting-edge insights and actionable strategies, *The Good Boss Project* is the essential guide for leaders who want to inspire, grow, and create workplaces where people and businesses thrive.

“This is a book for anyone who thinks of themselves as a pretty decent human being but who knows, deep in their heart, they could be better. A cocktail of stories and science that gets you thinking and, more importantly, gets you acting.”—Angela Duckworth, #1 NYT best-selling author of *Grit* in praise of Dolly Chugh's *The Person You Mean to Be*

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**Dolly Chugh** is a social psychologist at the NYU Stern School of Business, where she teaches leadership and management to MBA students. Her groundbreaking research focuses on “bounded ethicality,” which she describes as the “psychology of good people.” Prior to becoming an academic, Dolly worked at Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Sibson and Company, Scholastic, and Time Inc. She attended Cornell University, where she majored in psychology and economics, and earned her MBA and PhD from Harvard University. She is the author of *A More Just Future* (Atria, 2022) and *The Person You Mean to Be* (Harper Business 2018).

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** February 2026

**Publication:** Spring 2027

**US editor:** Stephanie Hitchcock

**Agent:** Leila Campoli

**Jeffrey Sanchez-Burks**

**WORK|MODE**

World English: HarperCollins; Germany: Goldmann

**In this paradigm-shifting book on work ethos, cultural psychologist and behavioral scientist Jeffrey Sanchez-Burks shows how to enhance performance and increase innovation by tapping into an undervalued resource within each of us: our unique human complexity.**

We all know the feeling. The Zoom call begins, the Slack notification pings, the elevator doors open, and in an instant, our demeanor shifts, our perspective narrows, and entire parts of our identity seem to fade away. We're in classic "work mode," shut off from our outside lives and even experiences within ourselves. We've been taught that stoic detachment defines true professionalism, but by adhering to this outdated belief, we suppress the very traits that make us creative, adaptable, and effective. What if the key to thriving at work isn't about suppressing our humanity, but about bringing more of who we are into what we do?

In *WORK MODE*, Jeffrey Sanchez-Burks demonstrates the value of tapping into emotional openness and individual identity without devolving into 'group therapy' or excess oversharing. Drawing on the author's two decades of research and consulting around the world, Sanchez-Burks shows how learning to properly access and deploy one's full self in the workplace can overcome individual and organizational stagnation, and bring forth new ideas, energy, and momentum.

Through research studies and real-world examples *WORK MODE* shows how integrating your unique experiences, emotions, and quirks into your work mindset is not only more sustainable but far more conducive to creativity and effective collaboration. Incorporating cultural practices, such as *bricolage*, *wabi-sabi*, and *wei wu wei*, this book provides proven methods for radically transforming the way we work, lead, and innovate.

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**Jeffrey Sanchez-Burks** is an endowed Professor of Management and Organizations at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. An award-winning scholar and executive educator, his research focuses on emotions, culture, and the group dynamics of organizational life, with an emphasis on leading innovation and driving engaged change. Sanchez-Burks has a distinguished global platform, and he routinely conducts workshops and delivers keynotes for the likes of Apple, Google, Oracle, General Motors, General Electric, Toyota, Pepsi, and Caterpillar in cities across the US, the UK, Australia, Europe, India, China, Japan, Korea, the Middle East, and Latin America.

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** July 2026

**Editor:** Hollis Heimbouch

**Agent:** Carolyn Savarese

**Jeffrey Wasserstrom**

***ORWELL AND ASIA: A Continent's Connection to an Author's Life, Legacy, and Literary Creations***

World English: Princeton University Press

**Combining literary biography, history, and political journalism, this is the prescient story of how Asia shaped George Orwell's life and work, and of how that literary legacy has played a role in the political fortunes of a continent.**

George Orwell is one of the world's most enduring political writers. He's traditionally thought of as a critic of both British imperialism and Soviet power, and yet, despite continual study and revisiting of Orwell, there has been a major story left untold.

*ORWELL AND ASIA* places Orwell in the context of Asia, a region in which the author not only lived and worked, but also one that he wrote about and influenced long beyond his death. Jeffrey Wasserstrom, a senior scholar of Chinese history, argues that ignoring Asia, as many writers on Orwell have, distorts our sense of the author's life, and makes it impossible to understand fully his literary creations. *ORWELL AND ASIA* is a spirited, engaging, and necessary, corrective to the tendency to marginalize parts of the world that deserve to be placed in the center in many contexts.

In this book, Wasserstrom challenges us to think about censorship, protest, and surveillance and authoritarianism. It is for readers who have connected with works like Ta-Nehisi Coates's *The Message*, Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Rebecca Solnit's *Orwell's Roses*, Dorian Lynskey's *The Ministry of Truth*, and Christopher Hitchens's modern classic *Why Orwell Matters*.

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**Jeffrey Wasserstrom** is the Chancellor's Professor of History at UC Irvine. He has written and spoken in outlets such as the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, the *TLS*, the *Guardian*, CNN, PBS, and NPR. His book reviews have regularly appeared in the *WSJ*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the *Financial Times*, the *TLS*, and elsewhere. He has been a visiting professor at Oxford, a consultant to the British Museum, and a speaker for the US National History Center and the US Fulbright Program. He spent last spring on a visiting professorship at University College London and while there established relationships with Orwell's key biographers and Orwell's son.

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** December 2026

**US editor:** Priya Nelson

**Agent:** Katherine Flynn

# Non-Fiction

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**Karen Auerbach**

***THE NIGHTTIME BUTTERFLY: A Catholic Woman and Her Jewish Family in Warsaw at the Turn of the Twentieth Century***

World English: Yale University Press; Poland: Osnovy

**“If not for the prodigious research and deep analytic perspective, one might think that Karen Auerbach has written a novel. The individuals on these pages are vivid and soulful...[m]ore historians should be writing like this.” – Hasia Diner, New York University**

**A dynamic history of life in turn-of-the-century Warsaw through the eyes of a young woman and her Jewish family who converted to Catholicism.**

When Alicja Lewental’s parents came of age in the middle of the nineteenth century, they believed they did not have to choose between two communities, one Polish and the other Jewish. But by the time Alicja was growing up in the 1890s, it seemed that for some Polish nationalists there was little Jews could do to be accepted unequivocally as Poles. As Alicja entered young womanhood and her father, a prominent publisher, became the target of polemics casting him as an outsider in Polish culture, her mother came to believe that only through her daughters’ conversion to Catholicism and marriage to Catholic men could their family achieve acceptance in Polish society. The Lewentals’ lives and their aspirations for belonging played out in Warsaw’s homes, salons, and bookstores in a modernizing city.

Drawing on Alicja Lewental’s diary and other sources, historian Karen Auerbach provides a unique window into how the Lewentals and their circle navigated a time of increasing ambivalence about the possibility for Jewish belonging to the Polish nation. As exclusionary notions of what it meant to be Polish gained traction in politics, Alicja and her family encountered these ideas in their private lives.

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**Karen Auerbach** is an associate professor at the University of North Carolina, where she specializes in Jewish history, the Holocaust, and Eastern Europe. She is the author of *The House at Ujazdowskie 16: Jewish Families in Warsaw after the Holocaust*.

**Material:** Manuscript available

**Publication:** 2026

**US editor:** Adina Popescu

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland



**Emily Baum**

***NEEDED: How Acupuncture Became Alternative***

US & Canada: Viking

**An illuminating look at the modern history of acupuncture, from its global boom of popularity in the 1970s through to its continued status as an “alternative medicine” today, this fascinating exploration reveals the shortcomings and biases of our medical system.**

During the Cultural Revolution, Chinese doctors and scientists revived the ancient medical practice that had fallen out of favor centuries earlier. Despite the Chinese government’s tightly controlled visits by foreign doctors and journalists, the technique soon spread across the globe to become a multi-billion-dollar industry.

And yet, given how widespread acupuncture has become, why it is classified as “alternative medicine” across much of the world? What makes one technique alternative medicine and another mainstream? The doctors chronicled in this beautifully written book try to prove or disprove acupuncture’s efficacy, but what they expose instead, scholar of Chinese medicine Emily Baum says, “is the uncomfortable limits of modern medical knowledge and how we behave when we encounter those limits.”

For every study that claims that acupuncture is effective at relieving pain or other afflictions, another study asserts that it is no better than a placebo. Moving between Asia, the United States, Europe, and the Soviet Union, this book follows the path of acupuncture as it migrated beyond Chinese borders and into the world at large beginning in the early 1970s. As acupuncture’s global popularity has continued to rise, *NEEDED* tells the story of the medicine and the people who were tasked with assessing it.

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**Emily Baum** is an associate professor of history at the University of California, Irvine, and the director of the Long US-China Institute. She holds a PhD in modern Chinese history and has written numerous academic books, edited collections, and journal articles. She is widely seen as an expert on the history of Chinese medicine and has published in *Aeon*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*. Her research has been supported by grants from Fulbright, the NEH, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Social Sciences Research Council, among others.

**Material:** Proposal and sample chapter

**Delivery:** May 2026

**US editor:** Terezia Cicel

**Agent:** Katherine Flynn

**UK rights:** *caspian@abnerstein.com*

**Alison Wood Brooks**

*TALK: The New Science of Conversation and the Art of Being Ourselves*

US & Canada: Crown; UK: Penguin Life; Bulgaria: Hermes; Brazil: Sextante; China: Dook; Germany: C.H. Beck; Japan: Hayakawa; Korea: Woongjin; Romania: Litera; Russia: Mann, Ivanov & Ferber; Spain: Urano; Taiwan: Linking; Ukraine: Laboratory

**“Alison Wood Brooks brings to life the science of conversation, in which she is a world expert, with the utmost warmth, empathy, and joy. The perfect combination of stories and science, maxims and examples...I'm recommending it to everyone I know.”—Angela Duckworth, #1 NYT best-selling author of *Grit***

**A groundbreaking book that reveals the hidden architecture of our conversations and how even small improvements can have a profound impact on our relationships in work and life—from a celebrated Harvard Business School professor and leading expert on the psychology of conversation.**

We know we struggle with difficult conversations, but we're often not very good at the easy ones, either. Though we do it all the time, Harvard professor Alison Wood Brooks argues that conversation is one of the most complex, demanding, and delicate of all human tasks, rife with the possibility of misinterpreting and misunderstanding. In *TALK*, Brooks shows why conversing a *little* more effectively can make a *big* difference in the quality of our close personal relationships, as well as our professional success.

Through experiments ranging across the conversational spectrum—from speed daters who ask too few questions (or too many), to future business leaders averse to topic forethought, to traffic stops that reveal the essence of kind language—Brooks takes us inside the world of conversation, giving us the confidence and the advice to approach any interaction with more creativity and compassion. Addressing our face-to-face conversations as well as those we have by phone, email, text, and social media, *TALK* is a thoughtful guide for anyone seeking to better establish and sustain their relationships.

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**Alison Wood Brooks** is the O'Brien Associate Professor of Business Administration and Hellman Faculty Fellow at the Harvard Business School. She studies the behavior science of conversation, teaches an award-winning course in the MBA curriculum called *TALK*, and chairs a program for executives called *Communicating for Impact*. She was named a Best 40 Under 40 Business School Professor by *Poets & Quants*.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** January 2025

**US editor:** Kevin Dougherty; **UK editor:** Daniel Crewe

**Agent:** Alison MacKeen

**Clifton Crais**

***THE KILLING AGE: How Violence Made the Modern World***

US & Canada: University of Chicago Press; UK: Picador; China: CITIC

**A bracing account of how our current planetary crisis emerged from the worst cataclysmic destruction in human history, which Clifton Crais terms the Mortecene—the killing age.**

We are used to speaking of the Anthropocene and the outsized impact humans have had on the planet. But we sometimes lose sight of a fundamental truth at the heart of modern world history—the legacy of human predation, slavery, and imperialism that has devastated the natural world and led us to our present moment. As historian Clifton Crais shows in this magisterial work, the period that we most associate with human progress—which gave us the Enlightenment, the birth of democracies, the Industrial Revolution, and more—was at the same time catastrophically destructive.

In this bracing, landmark book, Crais urges us to view the growth of global capitalism between 1750 and the early 1900s not as the Anthropocene, but the Mortecene: the Killing Age. Killing brought the world together and tore it apart, as profiteering warlords committed mass-scale slaughter of humans and animals across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The newfound ease and profitability of killing created a disturbing network of global connections and economies, eliminating tens of millions of people and sparking an environmental crisis that remains the most urgent catastrophe facing the world today.

Drawing on years of scholarship and marshaling myriad sources across world history, *THE KILLING AGE* turns our vision of past and present on its head, illuminating the Mortecene in all its horror—how it shaped who we are, what we value and fear, and the precarious present we inhabit today.

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**Clifton Crais** is the Director of African Studies and Professor of History at Emory University and the author of eight books, including *Poverty, War, and Violence in South Africa* (Cambridge, 2011) and co-author of *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus: A Ghost Story and a Biography* (Princeton, 2008).

**Material:** Copyedited manuscript available

**Publication:** Fall 2025

**US editor:** Dylan Montanari

**UK editor:** Alpana Sajip (originally acquired by Ravi Mirchandani)

**Agent:** Katherine Flynn

**William R. Cross**

***TIFFANY: Art, Awe, and Invention in the Gilded Age***

US & Canada: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux; Japan: Hayakawa

**An intimate biography of Louis Comfort Tiffany—artist, designer, and visionary behind one of the most iconic luxury brands in the world.**

**"Certain to be definitive . . . William R. Cross has a special talent for discerning details most of us overlook."—Randall Fuller, *The Wall Street Journal* in praise of Winslow Homer**

Louis Comfort Tiffany was born at a revolutionary moment in history and grew up surrounded by ambition and innovation. The son of Charles Lewis Tiffany, co-founder of Tiffany & Co., Louis inherited not only his father's entrepreneurial spirit but also a restless creative drive that would transform the decorative arts. From his early fascination with glasswork to his pioneering stained-glass designs and elaborate interiors, Tiffany's work combined artistic daring with technical brilliance. His innovative approach earned him international acclaim, turning Art Nouveau into an industrial empire.

Set against the backdrop of 19th-century upheaval, industrial progress, and the rise of New York's cultural elite, *TIFFANY* vividly brings to life a world of artistry and ambition. Ahead of his time in everything from manufacturing techniques to his treatment of women, Tiffany's greatest innovation was democratizing design—making luxury about quality, not price.

Through meticulous research and engaging storytelling, William R. Cross explores Tiffany's complex relationships with his influential family, the European art world, and the craftsmen who helped realize his vision. It is a story of creativity, commerce, and a relentless pursuit of beauty. Perfect for readers of art history, design, and biography, *TIFFANY* captures the brilliance and legacy of a man whose name remains synonymous with elegance and innovation.

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**William R. Cross** is an independent scholar and a consultant to art and history museums. He served as the curator of *Homer at the Beach: A Marine Painter's Journey, 1869–1880*, a nationally renowned 2019 exhibition on the formation of Winslow Homer as a marine painter. He is the author of the definitive biography of *Winslow Homer* (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2022).

**Material:** Proposal and sample chapters available

**Delivery:** December 2025

**Publication:** Fall 2026

**US Editor:** Jonathan Galassi

**Agent:** Carolyn Savarese

**UK rights:** [caspien@abnerstein.co.uk](mailto:caspien@abnerstein.co.uk)

**Meredith Elkins**

***PARENTING ANXIETY: Breaking the Cycle of Worry and Raising Resilient Kids***

**US & Canada:** Crown; **UK:** Vermilion; **Brazil:** Globo; **China:** Cheers; **Netherlands:** Spectrum Life; **Spain:** Zenith/Planeta

**A timely, practical, and innovative look at the relationship between parent and child anxiety, with actionable strategies to help parents break the cycle—from a clinical psychologist with expertise in treating anxiety disorders in children, adolescents, and parents.**

How do you raise resilient kids in this age of uncertainty? How do you parent your kids if you yourself are anxious? How do you make sense of the avalanche of parenting advice and best support your child’s mental health—or, at the very least, how do you not make things worse? Today’s parents know that anxiety disorders are on the rise, and that they can have devastating impacts on kids and families. As modern parents feel the weight of responsibility to guide their children through today’s turbulent emotional health landscape, it’s no wonder that parental well-being is declining. As parent distress and anxiety increases, child anxiety follows, fueling a vicious cycle.

Parents who struggle with anxiety, or who have anxious children, are looking for guidance. Influencers have responded with a flood of content, but much of this guidance encourages parents to act in ways that actually *increase* the risk of child anxiety in the long term. And ironically, the hyper-availability of this content, delivered as one-size-fits-all solutions, can contribute to even more confusion and anxiety for parents seeking clarity.

Elkins, a clinical child psychologist at Harvard Medical School, demystifies anxiety and empowers parents to rethink “negative” emotions like fear, sadness, and guilt. A parent herself, Dr. Elkins argues that modern parenting pressures are major contributors to the current state of parent and child anxiety. With warmth and understanding, she provides concrete, evidence-based techniques to help families experiencing normal levels of anxiety and those coping with anxiety disorders. *PARENTING ANXIETY* offers readers with an accessible roadmap for understanding and addressing anxiety in children and parents and promotes adaptability and resilience across all stages of development.

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**Dr. Meredith Elkins** is a clinical psychologist specializing in the research and treatment of anxiety and related disorders in children and families. She is a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and the co-program director at the McLean Anxiety Mastery Program (MAMP) at McLean Hospital, an intensive outpatient program for youth with anxiety disorders. She has been featured in such media outlets as *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Parents*, and *Harvard Gazette*.

**Material:** Manuscript available in April 2025

**Publication:** January 2026

**US editor:** Amanda Cook; **UK editor:** Sam Jackson

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Edwin Frank**

***STRANGER THAN FICTION: Lives of the Twentieth-Century Novel***

US & Canada: Farrar, Straus & Giroux; UK: Fern Press; Brazil: Comphania das Letras; China: Xiyuan; Germany: C.H.Beck; Korea: Influential; Spain: Seix Barral

**“In [Frank's] view, the twentieth-century novel is a distinct literary genre, and his book is an ambitious, intelligent, and happily unpretentious effort to map it.”—Louis Menand, *The New Yorker***

**“Convincing, idiosyncratic and often felicitous.”—Alexandra Jacobs, *The New York Times Book Review***

**A legendary editor's reckoning with the twentieth-century novel and the urgent messages it sends.**

Imagine the history of the twentieth-century novel recounted with the urgency and intimacy of a novel. That's what Edwin Frank, the legendary editor who has run the New York Review Books publishing imprint since its inception, does in *Stranger than Fiction*. With penetrating insight and originality, Frank introduces us to books, some famous, some little-known, from the whole course of the century and from around the world. Starting with Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground* of 1864, he illuminates the political vision of H.G. Wells's science fiction, Colette and Andre Gide's subversions of traditional gender roles, and Gertrude Stein's untethering of the American sentence. He describes the monumental ambition of books such as *Mrs. Dalloway*, *The Magic Mountain*, and *The Man Without Qualities* to rebuild a world of human possibility upon the ruins of World War I and explores how Japan's Natsume Soseki and Nigeria's Chinua Achebe broke open European models to reflect their own, distinct histories and experience. Here too are Vasily Grossman, Anna Banti, and Elsa Morante reckoning in specific ways with the traumas of World War II, while later chapters range from Marguerite Yourcenar and V. S. Naipaul to Gabriel García Marquez and W.G. Sebald. The story as a whole is one of fearless, often reckless exploration, as well as unfathomable desolation. Throughout, we discover the power of the novel to reinvent itself, to find a way for itself, to live differently. *STRANGER THAN FICTION* offers a new vision of the history and art of the novel and of a dark and dazzling time in whose light and shadow we still stand.

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**Edwin Frank** is the editorial director of *New York Review Books* and the founder of the acclaimed NYRB Classics series. He has been a Wallace Stegner Fellow, a Lannan Fellow and is a member of the New York Institute for the Humanities. He has taught in the Columbia Writing Program and served on the jury of 2015 Booker International Prize. He is a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, a recipient of a lifetime award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for distinguished service to the arts.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** November 2024

**US Editor:** Alex Star; **UK Editor:** Michal Shavit

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Paul Gillingham**  
***MEXICO: A HISTORY***

US & Canada: Grove; UK: Allen Lane

**In this sweeping new look at Mexico, from the conquest through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, comes a vibrant history of one of the world's most diverse, politically ground-breaking, and influential of countries.**

This book begins in 1511 with the dramatic shipwreck of two Spanish sailors in the far south of Mexico. Just 10 years later an army of European adventurers and indigenous rebels seized the legendary island city of Tenochtitlán, today known as Mexico City. The capture of one of the world's greatest empires marked the collision of two long-separated worlds, radically different in everything from biota to urban planning. Spaniards discovered tomatoes, chocolate, and the most sophisticated city they had ever seen. Mexicans discovered horses, wheels, and lethal germs.

Drawing on a vast new trove of research, Professor Paul Gillingham presents a much-needed revisionist history of Mexico. Gillingham chronicles the cataclysmic century of disease, brought from afar, that killed a majority of the indigenous population and led to a startling recombination of cultures. From the industrial mining of Mexico's silver to its independence from Spain, *MEXICO* is an eye-opening and richly textured new narrative of the country as a global crossroads, a profoundly cosmopolitan place whose distinguishing historical features are not predictable violence but improbable peace and stunning social, political, and cultural achievements.

The history of Mexico was, Gillingham shows, one of suffering empire but also of overcoming empire. Through it all the country set new standards for inclusivity, for progressive social policies, for artistic expression, for adroitly balancing dictatorship and democracy. As elegantly written as it is powerful in scope, *MEXICO* uses the latest research to dazzling effect, showing how often Mexico has been a dynamic and vital shaper of world affairs.

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**Paul Gillingham** is a Professor of History at Northwestern University. His most recent book is *Unrevolutionary Mexico* (Yale, 2021). His first book, *Cuauhtémoc's Bones: Forging National Identity in Modern Mexico* (2011), was awarded the Conference on Latin American History's Mexican History prize. Gillingham is the co-editor of *Dictablanda: Politics, Work, and Culture in Mexico, 1938-1968* (2014), *Journalism, Satire, and Censorship in Mexico* (2018), and the Violence in Latin American History series at the University of California Press.

**Material:** Copyedited manuscript available March 2025

**Publication:** November 2025

**US editor:** George Gibson; **UK editor:** Simon Winder

**Agent:** Alison MacKeen

**Rebecca Newberger Goldstein**

***THE MATTERING INSTINCT: How Our Deepest Longing Drives Us***

US & Canada: W.W. Norton/Liveright

**A perspective-altering ‘big idea’ book that draws on physics, psychology, and philosophy to distill how our lives are shaped by our longing to matter and the drive to prove our existence is not meaningless.**

In her latest book, award-winning philosopher, author, and public intellectual Rebecca Newberger Goldstein brings into focus the missing piece in our understanding of ourselves, one another, and our troubled times. Our longing to ‘matter,’ Goldstein posits, is lodged in the core of humanity: we must, somehow, prove to ourselves (and others) that we are worthy of all the energy we are hardwired to invest in ourselves. This instinct to matter is our deepest longing, and our most opaque. It is the source of endless frustration, division, and tribalism (if this matters, how can this matter *too*; if we matter, how can *you* matter too). Yet, it may also save us – in a world where many of us are experiencing what Goldstein calls a “crisis of mattering,” this insatiable longing that drives humans to such different ends may also be the key to truly understanding each other and bridging our deepest divides.

Melding science, psychology, philosophy, and history, *THE MATTERING INSTINCT* is a major intellectual contribution, decades in the making, unfolded for a wide audience by a superb writer and storyteller. Goldstein’s innovative ideas about our “Mattering Instinct” offer refreshing clarity and an enlightening new way to understand modern humanity—which have already influenced leading behavioral economists, feminist theorists, and titans of psychology. An instant classic in the making, *THE MATTERING INSTINCT* is sure to appeal to readers of Carlo Rovelli, Susan Cain, Jonathan Haidt, Sarah Bakewell, Vivek Murthy, Andrew Solomon, and Sherry Turkle.

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**Rebecca Newberger Goldstein** is an award-winning philosopher, writer, and public intellectual. She is the author of ten books, both fiction and non-fiction. She holds a Ph.D. in philosophy of science from Princeton University, and she has taught and researched at Yale, Harvard, Barnard, Rutgers, Columbia, Trinity College, NYU, Dartmouth, and the New College of the Humanities in London. Her work has been supported by the MacArthur “Genius” grant, Guggenheim Fellowship, Radcliffe Fellowship, and the National Science Foundation fellowship among others. She has received the Whiting Writers’ Award for her fiction and two National Jewish Book Awards. She is a member of The American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2015, Goldstein was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama.

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** April 2025

**US editor:** Peter Simon

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland

**UK rights:** [caspian@abnerstein.co.uk](mailto:caspian@abnerstein.co.uk) and [anna@abnerstein.co.uk](mailto:anna@abnerstein.co.uk)



**Stephen Greenblatt**

***DARK RENAISSANCE: The Dangerous Times and Fatal Genius of Shakespeare's Greatest Rival***

**US & Canada:** W.W. Norton; **UK:** The Bodley Head; **China:** SSAP; **Germany:** Siedler; **Italy:** Rizzoli; **Korea:** Kachi; **Spain:** Crítica

**NYTimes bestselling author of *THE SWERVE* and *WILL IN THE WORLD*, Stephen Greenblatt's most vivid, page-turning book to date reconstructs the brief, action-packed life of writer, and suspected spy, Christopher Marlowe—Shakespeare's bolder, raunchier, and more radical brother in arms and ink.**

**"This brilliant and riveting book brings Christopher Marlowe out of the shadows, capturing the remarkable and sudden life (and the no less sudden and violent death) of this extraordinary Elizabethan poet and playwright."—James Shapiro, author of *1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare***

London, late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Townhouses quickly give way to overcrowded tenements; cobblestone lanes are filled with excrement; bodies hang from gallows and severed heads are impaled on spikes for all to see. It's a place of repression, suspicion, censorship, and violence. Enter Christopher 'Kit' Marlowe. From inauspicious beginnings as a cobbler's son in Canterbury, Marlowe scrambled his way out of poverty and through a Cambridge education, entering London with nothing to lose. From inner city taverns to royal courts, Marlowe becomes a catalyst for change in the cultural landscape and a shadowy actor in the political one. By the time of his murder in 1593, the 29-year-old is the greatest and most revered playwright, poet, and rule-breaker of his time.

In Greenblatt's hands, Marlowe here serves—as Lucretius and Poggio Branciolini did in *The Swerve*—as the embodiment of an astonishing period of transformation in the history of Western culture. Greenblatt moves seamlessly between fascinating documentation of Marlowe's life, the rich history of the culture and politics of the time, and literary criticism of Marlowe's work. He reveals Marlowe not only to be the most genius of writers, to whom Shakespeare owes an enormous debt, but the mastermind who carried Elizabethan England out of the dark ages and into the light.

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**Stephen Greenblatt** is Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. He is the author of over a dozen books, including *Tyrant*, *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve*, *The Swerve* (winner of the 2011 National Book Award and the 2012 Pulitzer Prize); *Shakespeare's Freedom*, and *Will in the World*. Greenblatt's honors include the MLA's James Russell Lowell Prize, the Sapegno Prize, the Distinguished Humanist Award from the Mellon Foundation, the Holberg Prize from the Norwegian Parliament, the William Shakespeare Award for Classical Theatre, the Erasmus Institute Prize, and two Guggenheim Fellowships.

**Material:** First pass available March 2025

**Publication:** September 2025

**US editor:** Alane Mason; **UK editor:** Stuart Williams

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Drew Harvell**

***THE OCEAN'S MENAGERIE: How Earth's Strangest Creatures Reshape the Rules of Life***

US & Canada: Viking; UK: The Bodley Head

**"An entrancing examination of marine invertebrates' many peculiarities...Buoyed by fascinating trivia and lay reader-friendly science, this should be a no-brainer for nature lovers."—*Publishers Weekly***

**An elegantly written exploration of the cutting-edge science of the strangest and most remarkable creatures on our planet by a leading marine biologist**

Hundred-year-old giant clams, coral kingdoms the size and shape of cities, and jellyfish that glow in the dark: ocean invertebrates are among the oldest and most diverse organisms on earth, seeming to bend the rules of land-based biology. Although sometimes unseen in the deep, the spineless creatures contain 600 million years of adaptation to problems of disease, energy consumption, nutrition, and defense.

In *THE OCEAN'S MENAGERIE*, world-renowned marine ecologist Dr. Drew Harvell takes us diving from Hawaii to the Salish Sea, from St. Croix to Indonesia, to uncover the incredible underwater "superpowers" of spineless creatures: we meet corals many times stronger than steel or concrete, sponges who create potent chemical compounds to fight off disease, and sea stars who garden the coastlines, keeping all the other nearby species in perfect balance. As our planet changes fast, the biomedical, engineering, and energy innovations of these wondrous creatures hold ever more important secrets to our own survival. *THE OCEAN'S MENAGERIE* is a tale of biological marvels, a story of a woman's passionate connection to an adventurous career in science, and a call to arms to protect the world's most ancient ecosystems.

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**Drew Harvell** is Professor Emerita of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University and a Science Envoy to the US State Department. She is the author of *Ocean Outbreak*, and *A Sea of Glass* which were, variously, the winner of the National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History Literature, recipient of the Rachel Carson Environmental Literature Award among others. She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Seattle Times*, *The Hill*, and *CNN*, and her work has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, and more. Dr. Harvell was featured in the award-winning film, *Fragile Legacy* and is currently a science adviser for Fabian Cousteau's Underwater Space Station.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** April 2025

**US Editor:** Emily Wunderlich; **UK Editor:** Stuart Williams

**Agent:** Katherine Flynn

**Patricia Hewlin**

***THE MIDDLE SELF: What We Get Wrong About Authenticity and Conformity – and How to Thrive as the Real “You,”***

US & Canada: Avery; UK: Profile Books

**A powerful new framework for managing identity in the 21st century, from a leading behavioral scientist conducting research around the globe.**

**"Patricia Hewlin is the world's leading expert on balancing what's authentic with what's effective. Her research has changed how I think about identity and conformity...She offers powerful insights for achieving success without sacrificing our values."—Adam Grant, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Think Again***

What are we missing about the ‘true self’ that causes so many people to feel fake and caught in between? Dr. Hewlin’s original research has found that 30% of employees “sometimes” to “almost always” conform in uncomfortable ways at work—they don’t feel like themselves, leaving them confused and uneasy. It was happening to analysts in finance offices on Wall Street, actors backstage on Broadway, flight attendants, lawyers, and teachers, and it was happening both in cultures that placed a high value on conformity, like China, and those that prized authenticity, like the US. How can we balance external and internal demands? Can we be true to ourselves while living and working in community with others? Dr. Hewlin says the answer is YES—and *THE MIDDLE SELF* will show us how.

In *THE MIDDLE SELF*, Dr. Hewlin debunks major myths about authenticity and conformity, shedding fresh light on why trying to bring our full self into every context can be so unsatisfying, and why going along to get along can be so debilitating. Bringing together her own findings with cutting-edge scholarship, *THE MIDDLE SELF* unlocks a revolutionary new framework for thinking about modern identity.

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**Patricia Hewlin** is an award-winning behavioral scientist with 20+ years of experience researching authenticity and conformity around the world. Currently on faculty at the Desautels Faculty of Management in McGill University, Dr. Hewlin is a native New Yorker who holds her PhD in organizational behavior and MBA in finance from New York University’s Stern School of Business. Her work has been featured in mainstream media, including the *Huffington Post*, *The Times*, *Harvard Business Review Online*, and *Globe and Mail*. In addition to her research and teaching, Dr. Hewlin is also a professional consultant who works with major pharmaceutical, retail, and finance companies, as well as arts organizations.

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** September 2025

**US editor:** Caroline Sutton

**UK editor:** Louisa Dunnigan

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland

**Michèle Gerber Klein**

***SURREAL: The Extraordinary Life of Gala Dali***

US & Canada: Harper; UK: Virago; Poland; Agora; Russia: Alpina

**“A textured, comprehensive portrait...an intriguing look into the growth of the Surrealist movement and the unseen power dynamics that underlie how art gets made and who gets credit. Enriched by a novelist’s flair for detail, it’s a worthy tribute to an enigmatic figure in art history.” — *Publishers Weekly***

***Surreal*, the long-awaited, definitive biography of Gala Dalí, unmask this famous yet little-known queen of the twentieth-century art world, who graced the canvases, inspired the poetry, and influenced the careers of her illustrious lovers and husbands with tenderness, courage, and agency.**

Using previously undiscovered material, *SURREAL* tells the riveting story of Gala Dalí, (1894-1982) who broke away from her cultured but penurious background in pre-Revolutionary Russia to live in Paris with both France’s most famous poet Paul Éluard and Max Ernst. By the time she met the budding artist Salvador Dali in 1929, Gala was known as the Mother of Surrealism. She rapidly became his mentor and protector, marrying him in 1934 and subsequently engineering their vast fortune. At a time when artists were celebrities, Gala acted as the ambassador of the Surrealist movement, spreading its popularity across the globe. She was the survivor of two world wars, the Russian Revolution and the Spanish Civil War, and lived between France, Spain and the U.S. Gala was a heroine whose originality captivated people wherever she went, and her life story has everything to pull readers toward it: size; glamour; drama; true love, twisted love; ambition; money; art; defiance; daring, and sweeping social unrest. In this vivid, detailed rendering, Michèle Gerber Klein has brought Gala out of the shadows to reveal a charismatic figure who played a pivotal role in the art world, yet never received the full recognition she deserves.

Covering a swathe of the cultural life of the last century, the book will be published during the celebration of the movement’s centenary at a time when Surrealism is enjoying a new surge in popularity.

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**Michèle Gerber Klein** is an author and journalist, who writes frequently about art and fashion. Her first book, *Charles James: Portrait of an Unreasonable Man*, was named a *Financial Times* Best Book of 2018. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, she serves as the vice president of the Bertha and Isaac Liberman Foundation and is involved with many arts institutions including the Drawing Center, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** April 2025

**US editor:** Sara Nelson; **UK editor:** Caitlin Landuyt

**Agent:** Eve MacSweeney

**Quill Kukla**

***SEX BEYOND YES: Pleasure and Agency for Everyone***

World English: W.W. Norton

**Philosopher Quill R Kukla reimagines fulfilling sex through an exploration of sexual agency, communication, and pleasure.**

**“Bold, incisive, and brilliant, Kukla's *Sex Beyond 'Yes'* is a provocative exploration of how to negotiate sex that is pleasurable, free, and ethically sound. A must-read for any feminist.” --Kate Manne, author of *Down Girl* and *Unshrinking***

Today's conversations about sex often focus on the importance of consent—who has given it, when one has it, and how to get it. However, good, fulfilling sex requires much more than securing a “yes” from a partner. It requires a wide variety of kinds of communication, as well as social circumstances that support rather than undermine sexual agency and pleasure. In *Sex Beyond 'Yes,'* Georgetown philosophy professor Quill R. Kukla explores what sexual agency is and how it can be enabled or hindered. Kukla reimagines pleasurable, ethical sex beyond the constraints of commodification, patriarchal and heterocentric social scripts, ableism, and puritanical and stigmatizing attitudes towards sex. Centering pleasure and agency rather than sex gone wrong, this book encourages conversations and social changes that can make good sex accessible to all. It addresses the complexities of desire and the importance of creating an environment that prioritizes respect, communication, and joy.

“Readable without sacrificing rigor and sexy without sacrificing seriousness, *Sex Beyond 'Yes'* is a must-read for anyone who approaches sexual relationships thoughtfully, as we all should.” -- John Corvino, author of *Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination*

“What a smart, level-headed, and even-keeled exploration of the highly contentious, deeply polarizing topic of how to get what you want and avoid what you don't when it comes to having sex--however you like to have it. If the #MeToo movement left you wanting more, this is the book for you.”--Susan Stryker, author of *Transgender History*

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**Quill R Kukla** (they/ them) lives in Washington, DC, and Berlin. They are Professor of Philosophy and Disability Studies at Georgetown University and a research fellow at the SOCRATES Institute at Leibniz Universität Hannover. They also hold honorary positions at the University of Johannesburg, Queen's University Belfast, and Technische Universität Berlin. In addition to English, they speak French and German.

**Material:** First pass available

**Publication:** September 2025

**US editor:** Alane Mason

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland

**Ian Kumekawa**

***EMPTY VESSEL: The Story of the Global Economy in One Barge***

US & Canada: Knopf; UK: John Murray Press; Arabic: Kotob Khan; China: Citic; Germany: HarperCollins; Japan: Hayakawa; Korea: Book 21; Sweden: Volante

**“A thrilling, meticulous and wondrously original journey, told with a flair and reverence for detail that captures all the joys, travails and horrors of life across time, place and water. A fabulous book.”—Philippe Sands, author of *East West Street***

**“A stunningly original history, as phenomenally well-researched as it is eloquently told.” —Maya Jasanoff, author of *The Dawn Watch***

**A fascinating history of the world economy over the last fifty years told through the life of a single barge, from Harvard historian Ian Kumekawa.**

Capitalism. International law. Imperial decline. National sovereignty. Inflation. Sectoral stagnation. Gentrification. Mass incarceration. Booms. Busts. Racism. Greed. *EMPTY VESSEL* is the story of globalism in one boat.

First built as a Swedish offshore oil rig in the 1970s, it went on to house British soldiers in the Falklands War in the 1980s, prisoners from Riker's Island in New York's East River in the 1990s, Volkswagen factory employees in Germany in the 2000s, and Nigerian oil workers off the coast of Africa in the 2010s. In each of its lives, it arrived as an empty vessel, filled at the behest of both public and private interests, for purposes of war, incarceration, and commerce - connecting people thousands of miles apart, all shaped by the same global economic transformations. So much of our global economy is composed of specific innovations, decisions, and human experiences as concrete as the barnacles scraped off a hull. Through this party boat, prison, oil rig, and war vessel, *EMPTY VESSEL* reveals the global economy to us - and warns of its troubling consequences.

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**Ian Kumekawa** is a historian at the Center for History and Economics at Harvard University. He is the author of *The First Serious Optimist: A. C. Pigou and the Birth of Welfare Economics* (2017), which won the Joseph J. Spengler Prize. He has taught at Harvard and MIT.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** May 2025

**US Editor:** Todd Portnowitz; **UK Editor:** Joe Zigmond

**Agent:** Katherine Flynn

**Kari Leibowitz**

***HOW TO WINTER: Harness Your Mindset to Thrive on Cold, Dark, or Difficult Days***

**US & Canada:** Penguin Life; **UK:** Bluebird/Pan Macmillan; **China:** Grand China; **Germany:** Klett-Cotta; **Lithuania:** Vaga; **Netherlands:** Meulenhoff Boekerij; **Poland:** Marginesy; **Romania:** Nemira; **Russia:** Eksmo; **Slovakia:** Motyl; **World Spanish:** Alienta

**“Kari Leibowitz has written a practical guide to harnessing our mindsets to help us find meaning in darkness and difficulty. This book offers essential strategies for turning life’s challenges into opportunities for growth.”—Carol Dweck, bestselling author of *Mindset***

**A blend of mindset science, original research, and cultural insights for cultivating a positive “wintertime mindset,” to vanquish winter blues and find joy and comfort in dark times year-round.**

Do you dread the end of Daylight Savings Time and lament the long, chilly season of gray skies and ice? Do you find yourself in a slump every January and February? What if there were a way to rethink this time of year? Psychologist and winter expert Kari Leibowitz’s galvanizing *HOW TO WINTER* uses mindset science to help readers embrace winter as a season to be enjoyed, not endured—and in turn, learn powerful lessons that can impact our mental wellbeing throughout the year. Kari Leibowitz moved above the Arctic Circle – where the sun doesn’t rise for two months each winter – expecting to research the season’s negative effects on mental health, only to find that inhabitants actually looked forward to it with delight and enthusiasm. Leibowitz has since travelled to places on earth with some of the coldest, darkest, longest and most intense winters, and discovered the power of “wintertime mindset”— viewing the season as full of opportunity and wonder. Inspired by cutting-edge psychological and behavioral science research as well as cultures worldwide that find warmth and joy in winter’s extremes, *HOW TO WINTER* provides readers with concrete tools for making winter wonderful wherever they live and harnessing the power of small mindset changes with big impact to help readers embrace every season of life.

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**Kari Leibowitz** is a health psychologist with a Ph.D. in psychology from Stanford University where she conducted research at the Stanford Mind & Body Lab, a U.S.-Norway Fulbright Scholar, and a frequently invited writer and speaker on the power of mindset. Her pioneering research on wintertime mindsets in Norway was published in *The International Journal of Wellbeing*, she has written about wintertime mindset for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and her work has been covered by *The Guardian*, CNN, *National Geographic*, *Forbes*, *The Telegraph*, BBC, and *New Scientist*.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** October 2024

**US editor:** Emily Wunderlich; **UK editor:** Jodie Lancet-Grant

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Jeffrey Marlow**

***THE DARK FRONTIER: Unlocking the Secrets of the Deep Sea***

US & Canada: Random House; UK: Faber & Faber; Korea: Danchu

**An awe-inspiring and panoramic investigation into the hidden world of the deep sea—a mysterious, unforgiving landscape whose secrets radically revise our understanding of life on Earth.**

The deep sea is one of our last frontiers. For most of human history, it was a vast, unknown realm that invoked awe and terror. We now know that the deep sea is critically important to the future of life on this planet, but it remains largely unexplored.

In *THE DARK FRONTIER*, marine microbiologist and deep sea explorer Jeffrey Marlow offers a new perspective on the power and beauty of the deep sea, beginning with the nineteenth century “discovery” that the deep sea was teeming with life, and shifting to more recent investigations of the kaleidoscopic ecology of hydrothermal vents, methane seeps, and whale falls. Throughout, Marlow explores the ocean’s scientific marvels: microbes that breathe metal, fish that withstand crushing pressures, and theories about how underwater habitats may have been the cradle of life on Earth and could hold the key to finding life beyond our planet.

*THE DARK FRONTIER* is an engaging narrative journey grounded in Marlow’s own research and vast knowledge, as well as insights from hundreds of experts, from deep-sea scientists to conservationists and UN diplomats. The book considers the twinned forces of exploration and exploitation, shining a light on deep-sea drilling and mining, as well as the challenges of governing the high seas and its precious resources.

Marlow captures the wonder and potential of the deep sea—teaching us lessons that illuminate the future—not just for the remarkable creatures that live there, but for those of us on the surface as well.

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**Dr. Jeffrey Marlow** is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Boston University, he has served on the science teams of NASA’s robotic missions to Mars and participated in seven deep-sea research expeditions, publishing more than 25 peer-reviewed scientific papers. As a science journalist, Marlow has written dozens of popular science articles in well-respected national and international publications, including *Scientific American*, *Undark*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Yorker*. Marlow is a National Geographic Emerging Explorer and a Fellow of The Explorers Club and the Royal Geographical Society.

**Material:** Manuscript available, not copyedited

**Delivery:** Typeset file April 2025

**Publication:** August 2025

**US editor:** Marie Pantojan; **UK editor:** Fred Baty

**Agent:** Carolyn Savarese



**Sophie Pinkham**

***THE OAK AND THE LARCH: A Forest History of Russia and its Empire***

US & Canada: W. W. Norton; UK: William Collins; Netherlands: Van Oorschot

**A majestic cultural and environmental history, by the writer who William T. Vollmann has called “the perfect cultural commentator,” that reveals how forests have made—and broken—Russian empires.**

Russia has three times as many trees as there are stars in our galaxy. From the Baltic to the Pacific, from the Arctic to the steppes of Central Asia, Russia’s forests account for nearly one-fifth of the world’s wooded lands. In this astonishing work of cultural and environmental history, award-winning journalist, critic, and scholar Sophie Pinkham presents the first-ever English-language exploration of this vast expanse, offering an eloquent and absorbing account of how forests have shaped Russia.

Written from the ground up, *THE OAK AND THE LARCH* spans centuries, from medieval times to the present, and draws on literature, art, music, and original reportage. Pinkham describes the varied forests and trees that grow within Russia’s borders, from the hardy Siberian larch to the majestic oaks of central Russia, and the diverse peoples who live deep in the Russian wilderness and make their living there. She analyzes the forest’s role in Russia’s long history of imperial conquest—including its attacks on Ukraine today—and discusses the ways the mythologies of the forest shaped Russian culture, from pre-Christian forest spirits to the influential works of Russian literature, from Turgenev to Tolstoy, Leonov to Prilepin, and beyond.

By examining Russia from the forest’s perspective, *THE OAK AND THE LARCH* offers an urgent new understanding of the nature of Russian power, and of Russia’s ideas of itself.

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**Sophie Pinkham** is a Professor of Practice at Cornell and a former National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar. The author of *Black Square: Adventures in Post-Soviet Ukraine*, her writing on Russia and Ukraine has appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, and *Foreign Affairs*, among other publications. She lives in Ithaca, NY.

**Material:** Manuscript available April 2025

**Publication:** January 2026

**US editor:** Tom Mayer; **UK editor:** Arabella Pike

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Ben Ratliff**

***RUN THE SONG: Writing About Running About Listening***

World English: Graywolf Press

**"Certain writing rushes out of the mind and into the body, makes you want to slam the book shut, get up, move around. Ben Ratliff's brilliant and invigorating new book will make you want to do just that: Run the Song."—Nuar Alsadir, author of *Animal Joy***

**"What is remarkable about Ratliff . . . is his musical intelligence and his almost singular breadth of knowledge and sympathy for all kinds of music."—August Kleinzahler, *The New York Times Book Review* in praise of *Every Song Ever***

**A revelatory exploration of the relationship between music and running, by leading music writer Ben Ratliff.**

Out the front door, across the street, down the hill, and into Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York City. This is how Ben Ratliff's runs started most days of the week for about a decade. Sometimes listening to music, not always. Then, at the beginning of the pandemic, he began taking notes about what he listened to. He wondered if a body in motion, his body, was helping him to listen better to the motion in music. Soon he is running past newly erected fences for an intended FEMA hospital, past protests against racial violence, through the woods, along the Hudson River and into the lowlands of the Bronx. His runs, and the notes that result from them, vary in length just as the songs he listens to do: 70s soul, jazz, hardcore punk, string quartets, Éliane Radigue's slow-change electronics, Carnatic singing, DJ sets, piano music of all kinds, Sade, Fred Astaire, and Ice Spice.

*Run the Song* is also the story of how a professional critic, frustrated with conventional modes of criticism, finds his way back to a deeper relationship with music. When stumped or preoccupied by a piece of music, he starts to think that perhaps running can tell him more about what he's listening to—*let's run it*, he'll say. And with that, the reader in turn is invited to listen alongside one of the great listeners of our day in this wildly inventive and consistently thought-provoking chronicle of a profoundly unsettling time.

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**Ben Ratliff** is the author of *Every Song Ever* (Picador, 2017) and *Coltrane: The Story of a Sound* (FSG, 2007), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. A former music critic for the *New York Times*, he lives in New York City and teaches at New York University.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** March 2025

**US editor:** Ethan Nosowsky

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Meredith Reiches**

***CAT LADY: A Reckoning***

US & Canada: Grand Central; UK: Faber & Faber; Germany: Piper

**From anthropologist Meredith Reiches comes a sharp and hilarious investigation of the ‘Cat Lady,’ exploring the hidden history of the archetype and the amazing range of socio-political issues it signifies in our global cultural imagination—from misogyny to anti-queerness, to pronatalism, and beyond.**

The stereotype of the ‘Cat Lady’ conjures many images: witches, Egyptian goddesses, 18<sup>th</sup>-century spinsters, 1950s English teachers, Catwoman, and now even Taylor Swift. Calling someone a cat lady in 2024 might be shorthand for “single White woman, no kids” but the origins of the modern caricature, Reiches explains, do involve *actual* cats. Delving into the history of our feline friends and the women who often accompanied them, the book journeys from Egypt, Ireland, and Scandinavia, exploring the link between cats and feminine spirituality to 19<sup>th</sup> century England, where Frances Simpson tried to clear a path for single women to make a respectable living through cat breeding. As Reiches unpacks the various histories that have tied together women and cats, the politics of the contemporary Cat Lady come into sharp focus—as do the questions we should be asking about her. How does this archetype relate to the growing panic about falling birth rates in wealthy nations? Why is the term thrown about like an insult, even when there are no women or cats involved? And now that we understand the Cat Lady’s cultural roots, can we claim this identity and embrace its subversive power in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Searingly intelligent and gloriously spiky, *CAT LADY* is a must-read for all dangerous women who dare to think and live for themselves. We see it in the vein of nonfiction books that bring a new level of edge and sophistication to a curiosity-inducing topic, such *Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell, *Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Human Evolution* by Cat Bohannon, and *Butts: A Backstory* by Heather Radke.

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**Meredith Reiches** is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Boston and a founding member of the GenderSci Lab at Harvard. She has been awarded a fellowship by the Wissenschaftskolleg (Institute for Advanced Study) in Berlin and the Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship by *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Her work has been published in the *LA Review of Books*, and her research has been featured in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Slate*. Reiches is herself a childless cat lady, and human guardian to one feline friend named Wren.

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** September 2025

**US editor:** Maddie Caldwell; **UK editor:** Hannah Knowles

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland

**Marietje Schaake**

***THE TECH COUP: The Power Grab and How to Win Back Democracy***

World English: Princeton UP; Italy: Franco Angeli; Japan: Hayakawa; Germany: pending;  
Netherlands: Atlas-Contact

"Schaake is a renowned expert on the consequences of the rise of the tech sector. In this book, she analyses one of the most important consequences of all — that for democracy. . . The result is what she calls the “tech coup”, the shift of power from public and democratic institutions to companies. This, she insists, “must stop”. She is right.”— *Financial Times*

"[A]n excellent, new book.”—*Forbes*

**An insider offers an alarmingly timely “forceful critique...of Big Tech's steady erosion of democracy” (*The New Yorker*) and describes what must be done to stop it.**

Over the past decades, under the cover of “innovation,” technology companies have successfully resisted regulation and have even begun to seize power from governments themselves. Facial recognition firms track citizens for police surveillance. Cryptocurrency has wiped out the personal savings of millions and threatens the stability of the global financial system. Spyware companies sell digital intelligence tools to anyone who can afford them. This new reality—where unregulated technology has become a forceful instrument for autocrats around the world—is terrible news for democracies and citizens.

In *THE TECH COUP*, Marietje Schaake offers a behind-the-scenes account of how technology companies crept into nearly every corner of our lives and our governments. She takes us beyond the headlines to high-stakes meetings with human rights defenders, business leaders, computer scientists, and politicians to show how technologies—from social media to artificial intelligence—have gone from being heralded as utopian to undermining the pillars of our democracies. Drawing on her experiences in the halls of the European Parliament and among Silicon Valley insiders, Schaake offers a frightening look at our modern tech-obsessed world—and a clear-eyed view of how democracies can build a better future before it is too late.

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**Marietje Schaake** is international policy director at Stanford University Cyber Policy Center and international policy fellow at Stanford’s Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence. Between 2009 and 2019, she served as a member of the European Parliament from the Netherlands. She writes a monthly column for the *Financial Times* on technology and governance.

**Material:** Final file available

**Dutch publication:** August 2024; **US publication:** September 2024

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Nancy Sherman**

***HOW TO HAVE A SOUL: What Aristotle Teaches Us About Lasting Happiness***

US & UK: Yale University Press; Russia: pending

**From acclaimed philosopher Nancy Sherman comes a book of popular philosophy that brings Aristotle's enduring wisdom about the human condition to 21<sup>st</sup>-century readers.**

In chapters anchored by thought-provoking quotes from the ancient philosopher on different topics ("Friendship," "Connecting to Nature," "The Old and the Young"), Sherman explores what we can learn from Aristotle about our lives today—particularly what his wisdom can teach us about how to face the challenges and pains of being alive while cultivating resilient souls and communities. After so much cultural airtime given to the Stoics in recent years, readers will find Aristotle invigoratingly honest about the human condition and the importance of social connection. Our self-sufficiency, Aristotle tells us (with some irony), is very much relational.

In Professor Sherman's own words: "With Aristotle as our guide, a new understanding of our souls is within our reach. Only by nourishing our souls can we make peace with the fragility of happiness and find a measure of sturdiness even when we are torn by conflicts, personal and political".

Calling on the tradition of smart philosophically driven books that reflect on the human condition, such as books by Alain de Botton and Oliver Burkeman, Sherman's *HOW TO HAVE A SOUL* will appeal to readers of Adam Nicolson's *How to Be* and Keiran Satiy's *Life is Hard*.

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**Nancy Sherman** is a distinguished professor of philosophy at Georgetown University. Sherman is a *New York Times* notable author whose publications include *Stoic Wisdom* (OUP, 2021), *Afterwar* (OUP, 2015), *The Untold War* (a *New York Times* editors' pick, Norton 2010), *Stoic Warriors* (OUP, 2007), among others. She has received many prestigious honors recognizing her work, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, the Wilson Center, and the National Endowment for the Humanities to name a few. She has written for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Chronicle for Higher Education*, *New Statesman*, and contributes frequently to many other media outlets, appearing as a guest on a broad range of podcasts.

**Material:** Proposal available

**Delivery:** October 2025

**US editor:** Heather Gold

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland

**Sebastian Smee**

***PARIS IN RUINS: Love, War, and the Birth of Impressionism***

US & Canada: W.W. Norton; ANZ: Text; UK: Oneworld; Germany: Suhrkamp; Italy: Rizzoli; Netherlands: Spectrum; Poland: Arkady; Russia: Azbooka; Spain: Taurus

**“Smee has a gimlet eye, a seductive style and a novelist’s feel for character and incident...[A]n inspiring book...about artists committed to ‘the new’: new ways of seeing a changing world; new ways of living and feeling; new ways of painting.”—Christopher Benfey, *The New York Times***

**“Deft, vibrant, cultural history”—Kirkus Reviews (starred)**

**A Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic’s gripping account of how the Paris year that Victor Hugo dubbed the “Terrible Year” gave rise to Impressionism.**

Nearly 150 years after its origins, Impressionism—its dramatic depiction of light, its lovely feeling for transience and the impermanence of all things—remains incredibly popular, and exhibitions by its greatest artists—Edouard Manet, Berthe Morisot, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro—attract legions of fans. But as Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic Sebastian Smee shows in a book of narrative sweep and vivid detail, Impressionism was a complex reaction to the shock and insecurity wrought by violence, civil war, and political intrigue. From the summer of 1870 to the spring of 1871, Paris and its people were cut off, starved, and forced to surrender by Germans—then imperiled again as rebel republicans established a breakaway Commune, ultimately crushed by the French army after street-to-street fighting and the burning of central Paris. The great figures of what would become Impressionism were dramatically affected by these events, and in *Paris in Ruins* Smee tells the story through their eyes, with a special focus on the intimate, enigmatic relationship between Manet—the father of Impressionism—and Morisot, the group’s only woman in its early years. An indelible portrait of the city, *Paris in Ruins* captures the shifting passions and politics of the art world, and reveals how the pressures of the Siege and the chaos of the Commune had an incalculable effect on the development of modern art.

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**Sebastian Smee** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic at the *Washington Post* and the author of *The Art of Rivalry*. Formerly the chief art critic at the *Boston Globe* and national art critic for the *Australian*, he has also written for the *Daily Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, and the *Independent*, among other publications.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** September 2024

**US editor:** Matt Weiland; **UK editor:** Cecilia Stein

**Agent:** Zoë Pagnamenta

**Betsy Wills and Alex Ellison**

***YOUR HIDDEN GENIUS: The Science-Backed Strategy to Uncovering and Harnessing Your Innate Talents***

World English: Harvest/HarperCollins

**“Adults of all ages want work that aligns with their potential, purpose, and preferences. *Your Hidden Genius*—and the accompanying assessment—can tell you what that work is. I wish I'd had this revealing and empowering book when I was starting my career.”—Meg Jay, author of *The Defining Decade***

**“*Your Hidden Genius* is the book every working person needs.”—Alice Randall, author and Andrew W. Mellon Chair in the Humanities, Vanderbilt University**

**A one-of-its-kind guide that offers you rare and surprising insights into what makes you you. Featuring access to the innovative YouScience assessment, *Your Hidden Genius* reveals your innate talents, interests, and traits along with the infinite paths that can lead to optimal happiness and career success.**

Aptitudes, unlike IQ or learned skills, are the natural strengths we are born with, in combinations as unique to each of us as a fingerprint. Understanding our individual aptitude picture in detail expands our opportunities, enables us to stay ahead of evolving workplace trends, and allows us to beat boredom and burnout by leveraging our authentic natures. With the instant appeal of *Enneagrams* and *Strengthsfinder*, *YOUR HIDDEN GENIUS* offers a key difference from those models by focusing on scientific testing rather than self-report, so democratizing opportunity and helping to eliminate gender, economic, and racial biases. Included in the book are access to a science-based online assessment (a \$50 value), an in-depth exploration of different aptitudes, interviews with real-life subjects, analysis, and strategic advice. Thought leaders Wills and Ellison present their extensive research and its practical application to offer a revolutionary tool for general readers seeking to optimize their talents and find fulfilling work, as well as providing important insights to educators, policymakers, and the business community.

**The online assessment linked to the book is currently offered with instructions in English and Spanish, but there will be multiple languages available in 2025.**

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**Betsy Wills** is a co-founder of the aptitude assessment company YouScience and a regular guest lecturer at Vanderbilt University, New York University Stern School of Business, and Tennessee State University. She has been a featured speaker for TEDxWomen. **Alex Ellison** is an independent education consultant who writes and lectures extensively on the subject of careers and college readiness. She has been a featured speaker for SXSW and TedX.

**Material:** Final file available

**Publication:** January 2025

**US editor:** Sarah Pelz

**Agent:** Eve MacSweeney

# Fiction

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**Van Jensen**

*GODFALL: A Novel*

US: Grand Central (3 BOOK DEAL) UK: Transworld (2 BOOK DEAL); Italy: Atlantide; Film/  
TV rights: Imagine Entertainment

"A gripping, fast-paced, genre-bending novel full of heart and wonder."—*Library Journal*

**When a massive asteroid hurtles toward Earth, humanity braces for annihilation—but the end doesn't come.**

In fact, it isn't an asteroid but a three-mile-tall alien that drops down, seemingly dead, outside Little Springs, Nebraska. Dubbed "the giant," its arrival transforms the red-state farm town into a top-secret government research site and major metropolitan area, flooded with soldiers, scientists, bureaucrats, spies, criminals, conspiracy theorists—and a murderer.

As the sheriff of Little Springs, David Blunt thought he'd be keeping the peace among the same people he'd known all his life, not breaking up chanting crowds of conspiracy theorists in tiger masks or struggling to control a town hall meeting about the construction of a mosque. As a series of brutal, bizarre murders strikes close to home, Blunt throws himself into the hunt for a killer who seems connected to the Giant. With bodies piling up and tensions in Little Springs mounting, he realizes that in order to find the answers he needs, he must first reconcile his old worldview with the town he now lives in—before it's too late.

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**Van Jensen** is an acclaimed novelist and comic book author, known for fresh and surprising takes on genre fiction. A new edition of his debut novel, *GODFALL*, will be published by Grand Central in 2026, launching a series with sequels to come. Dramatic rights are in development at Amazon Studios with Academy Award-winner Ron Howard attached to direct. Jensen began his writing career as a newspaper crime reporter before breaking into comics and writing such legendary characters as Superman, The Flash, Green Lantern, and James Bond. In 2013, Jensen was named a Comic Book Ambassador by the U.S. State Department, venturing overseas to teach refugee children to tell their stories through comics. Jensen grew up outside of Lewellen, Nebraska, a town of 300. He credits the wide-open plains for fostering his imagination. He lives in Atlanta.

**Material:** NEW manuscript available

**Publication:** New edition forthcoming from Grand Central in January 2026

**US editor:** Colin Dickerman

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland

**Aruni Kashyap**

***HOW TO DATE A FANATIC: A Novel***

US & Canada: HarperVia; India: pending

**“A book of ferocious inquiry and vast heart, delightful formal play and intellectual agility”—Megha Majumdar, author of *A Burning*, in praise of *The Way You Want to Be Loved***

**“Poignant and finely crafted” – Amitav Ghosh**

**From Harvard Radcliffe fellow Aruni Kashyap comes a masterful novel about love and politics in the lives of a group of queer friends on the cusp of their thirties, making their way in contemporary India, for fans of Chimamanda Adichie, Tommy Orange, and Marlon James.**

The story centers on Rohit, a young professor who has just finished his PhD in New York and returns to India to teach, joined by his longtime friends Minti, the lesbian therapist and indomitable activist, and Sarfaraz, a handsome failed model. In Delhi, Rohit throws himself into the local queer dating scene in the city, falling in and out of love and lust. At underground parties and political debates, Rohit and his friends navigate sex, love, heartbreak, religious fundamentalism, political suppression, and anti-Muslim violence. When tensions around the city come to a boil, unleashing an explosive ethnic riot, its stunning, heartbreaking outcome will change each of their lives forever. What we look for in love, Kashyap suggests, may not be too far from what we look for in democracy: can we be safeguarded without giving up our freedom?

Kashyap based the novel on the riots of [January & February 2016](#) in the outskirts of Delhi, during which he was locked inside the campus where he taught for several weeks. Afterward, he interviewed a variety of survivors and began working on this novel.

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**Aruni Kashyap** is a professor of English & Creative Writing and the director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Georgia. A Harvard Radcliffe fellow in 2024 and a National Endowment for the Arts fellow in 2023, his work has been praised by Amitav Ghosh as "poignant and finely crafted" and "daring and surprising" by Rigoberto González. His short stories, poems, and essays have appeared in a variety of journals and media, including *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Bitch Media*, *The Boston Review*, *Catapult*, and *Electric Literature*. He is the author of *The House With a Thousand Stories* (Penguin Random House India, 2013), the short story collection *His Father's Disease*, and a poetry collection, *There is No Good Time for Bad News*, that was a finalist for multiple prizes.

**Material:** Draft manuscript available

**Delivery:** June 2025

**US editor:** Rakesh Satyal & Ryan Amato

**Agent:** Lucy Cleland

*UK and Indian rights:* [caspian@abnerstein.co.uk](mailto:caspian@abnerstein.co.uk)

# Children's Books

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**Jeff Brown, illustrated by Corey Egbert**  
***FLAT STANLEY GRAPHIC NOVEL: His Own Original Adventure!***  
US & Canada: HarperCollins; UK: Farshore/Harper

**In this special graphic novel adaptation, join Flat Stanley, one of the world's most well-known children's book characters, on the adventure that started it all!**

Four feet tall...  
One foot wide...  
Half an inch thick...

Stanley Lambchop is an ordinary boy. Then one night, a huge bulletin board falls on him, and he wakes up flat. Amazing things begin happening to him. Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite. Offering valuable lessons about friendship, courage, and the importance of keeping an open mind, Stanley may be flat, but he's got a lot to teach us about the world.

Flat Stanley is an enduring and beloved character that has captivated young readers for generations. More than just a character; he's an adventure waiting to unfold, a lesson in creativity, and a testament to the power of imagination. He represents the spirit of curiosity and exploration, making him a favorite among children and parents alike. Since the publication of the first book in 1964, the adventures of Stanley Lambchop and his family have been translated into numerous languages and have sold millions of copies globally. And now in this graphic novel, we get to see Flat Stanley in a whole new light.

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**Jeff Brown** worked in Hollywood and as an editor and writer in New York before creating Flat Stanley, first published in 1964. Flat Stanley originated as a bedtime story for his children and has since transformed into an iconic brand known worldwide. The series has sold around 20 million copies worldwide. There are 34 books in the series: 4 books in the most recent STEM series called "Flat Stanley's Adventures in Classroom 2E" (the final book in the series will be published in January 2025), 15 chapter books called "Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures" and a series of 9 "I-Can-Read" picture books, plus the original classic series. Each book in the series presents new challenges and discoveries for our hero, keeping the stories fresh and exciting for readers.

**Corey Egbert** is an illustrator based in Virginia. He is the author and illustrator of *Visitations* (FSG, 2024) and has worked with Disney, Pixar, Macmillan, HarperCollins, and Scholastic.

**Age range:** 6 to 10  
**Material:** Final file  
**Publication:** Fall 2025  
**Agent:** Katherine Flynn

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