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FALL • WINTER 2025

Coffee House Press began as a small letterpress operation in 1972 and has grown into an internationally renowned non-profit 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.

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helen of nowhere

"virtuosically written."
—rachel cusk



**makenna
goodman**

September 9, 2025 • 5 x 7.5 • 160 pages
\$18.00 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-735-8
\$17.99 • Ebook • 978-1-56689-763-1

Helen of Nowhere

A novel by Makenna Goodman

An electrifying novel about the delights and dangers of starting over.

In the middle of the countryside, a realtor is showing a disgraced professor around an idyllic house. She speaks not only about the home's many wonderful qualities but about its previous owner, the mystifying Helen, whose presence still seems to suffuse every fixture. Through hearing stories of Helen's chosen way of living, the man begins to see that his story is not actually over—rather, he is being offered a chance to buy his way into the simple life, close to the land, that's always been out of reach to him. But as evening fades into black, he will learn that the asking price may be much higher, and stranger, than anticipated.

Philosophically and formally adventurous, at once intimate and cosmic in scope, *Helen of Nowhere* asks: What must we give up in exchange for true happiness?

PRAISE FOR HELEN OF NOWHERE

"Goodman has wrought an epic in miniature. Equal parts philosophy and art that's also delightfully wicked, like something from a fairytale or a fever dream."

—SARAH MANGUSO, author of *Liars*

"Goodman has daringly crafted toothsome characters you will devour."

—SAMANTHA HUNT, author of
The Unwritten Book

MAKENNA GOODMAN is the author of two novels, *Helen of Nowhere* (Coffee House Press, 2025) and *The Shame* (Milkweed Editions, 2020), and has written for international publications including the *New York Review of Books*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Harvard Review*, *The White Review*, *BOMB*, *The Common*, *ASTRA Magazine*, and *Mousse Magazine*. Also an editor, she is based in Vermont.

The Mind Reels

A novel by Fredrik deBoer

In his debut novel, inveterate polemicist Fredrik deBoer shines a merciless light on our pervasive need to romanticize debilitating mental illnesses into dainty, loveable quirks.

In a dorm room at her safety school, surrounded by cornfed boys and contemptuous girls, Alice is losing her mind. Her first semester is spent clinging to middling grades between drunken hookups and roommate fights. The next brings sleepless nights, extreme weight loss, and effortless, compulsive energy, paused only by an unexpected summoning from the RA for evaluation. Thus begins an endless march of lithium, antidepressants, and Klonopin; doctors and therapists—when health insurance allows—along with overwhelmed parents and well-intentioned friends; all helpless bystanders as Alice descends deeper into chaos.

Evoking the wry precision of a digital age Flaubert, *The Mind Reels* is as horrific and captivating as an impossibly intrusive case study, peeling back society's polite trappings to expose the realities of mental illness.

PRAISE FOR *THE MIND REELS*

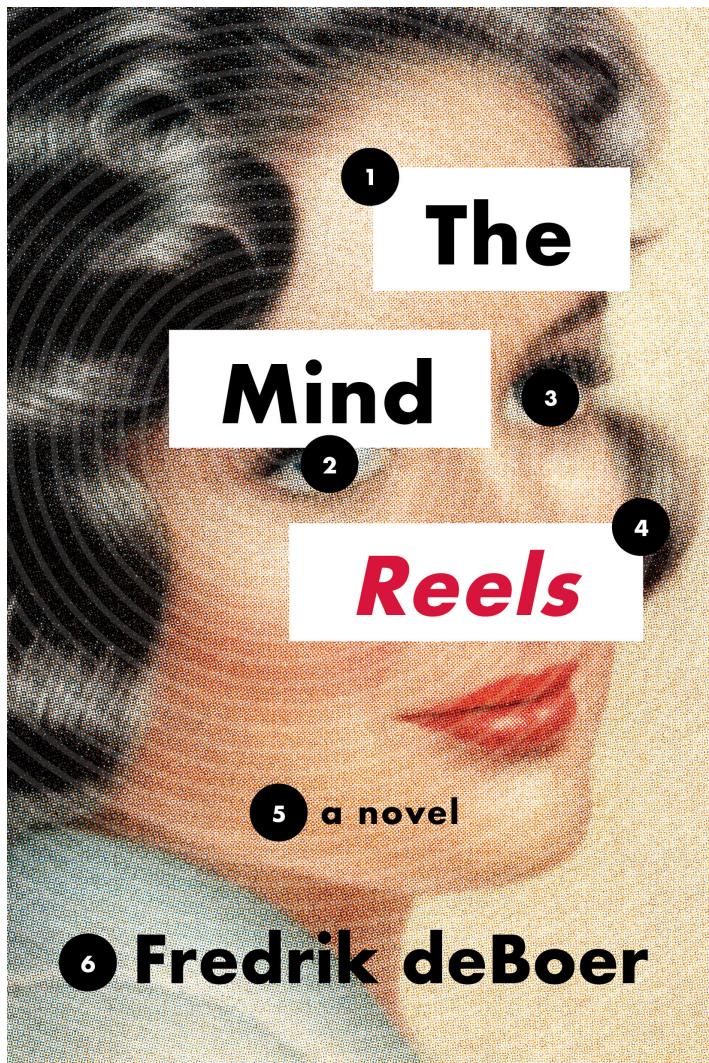
"One of the most precise and harrowing depictions of mental illness I've ever read."

—ANDREW MARTIN, author of
Cool for America

"Deliberate, wide-ranging, lionhearted."

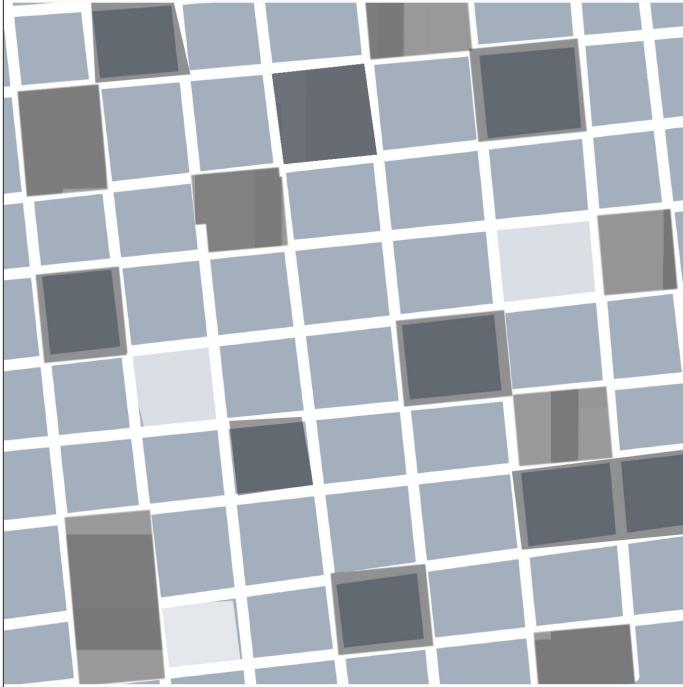
—GIDEON LEWIS-KRAUS, author of
A Sense of Direction

FREDRIK DEBOER is a writer and academic. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Harper's* among many others. His nonfiction books include *The Cult of Smart* and *How Elites Ate the Social Justice Movement*. He holds a PhD in English with a concentration in higher education policy from Purdue University. He lives in Connecticut with his wife, his son, and his cat Suavecito.



October 7, 2025 • 5.5 x 8.25 • 168 pages
\$18.00 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-737-2
\$17.99 • Ebook • 978-1-56689-738-9

ANALOG DAYS

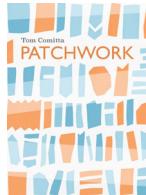


Damion Searls

October 21, 2025 • 4.5 x 7 • 120 pages
\$14.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-739-6
\$13.99 • Ebook • 978-1-56689-740-2

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by poupeh missaghi
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Analog Days

A novella by Damion Searls

Acclaimed translator Damion Searls's exuberant debut novella navigates the bitter-sweet tug-of-war between nostalgia and living life meaningfully in a world buzzing with constant connection and information overload.

Analog Days is a snapshot of a circle of friends living through the sorrows and joys of a particular inflection point in history. Amid the ever-present news cycles, watching the world shift around them, they fall back on film and friendship and art as the last bastions of meaning in their fragmented lives. Moving from coffee shops to bars, from New York City to San Francisco, *Analog Days* immerses us in the individual lives set adrift among the pivotal events of our recent history.

PRAISE FOR DAMION SEARLS

"I feel that Damion has an unbelievable talent. I must admit that it is sometimes a mystery to me how he does it!"

—JON FOSSE, Nobel Prize-winning author of *Septology*

"Searls is a wonderful writer, funny, compassionate, and unfailingly attentive to all the magical coincidences (or are they?) and twists of human history."

—ELIF BATUMAN, author of *Either/Or*

DAMION SEARLS is a renowned translator of the fiction of Nobel laureate Jon Fosse and dozens of other modern classics from German, French, Norwegian, and Dutch. A Guggenheim, Cullman Center, and two-time NEA fellow, he is the author of *The Inkblots* and *The Philosophy of Translation*.

Terry Dactyl

A novel by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore

From iconic author and activist Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore comes a breathless search for intimacy and connection, from club culture to the art world, from the AIDS crisis to COVID-19.

Terry Dactyl has lived many lives. Raised by boisterous lesbian mothers in Seattle, she comes of age as a trans girl in the 1980s in a world of dancing queens and late-night house parties just as the AIDS crisis ravages their world. After moving to New York City, Terry finds a new family among gender-bending club kids bonded by pageantry and drugs, fiercely loyal and unapologetic.

Twenty years later, in a panic during the COVID-19 lockdown, Terry returns to a Seattle stifled by gentrification and pandemic isolation until resistance erupts following the murder of George Floyd, and her search for community ignites once again.

In propulsive, intoxicating prose, *Terry Dactyl* traces an extraordinary journey from adolescence to adulthood, delivering a vital portrait of queer identity in all its peril and possibility.

PRAISE FOR *TERRY DACTYL*

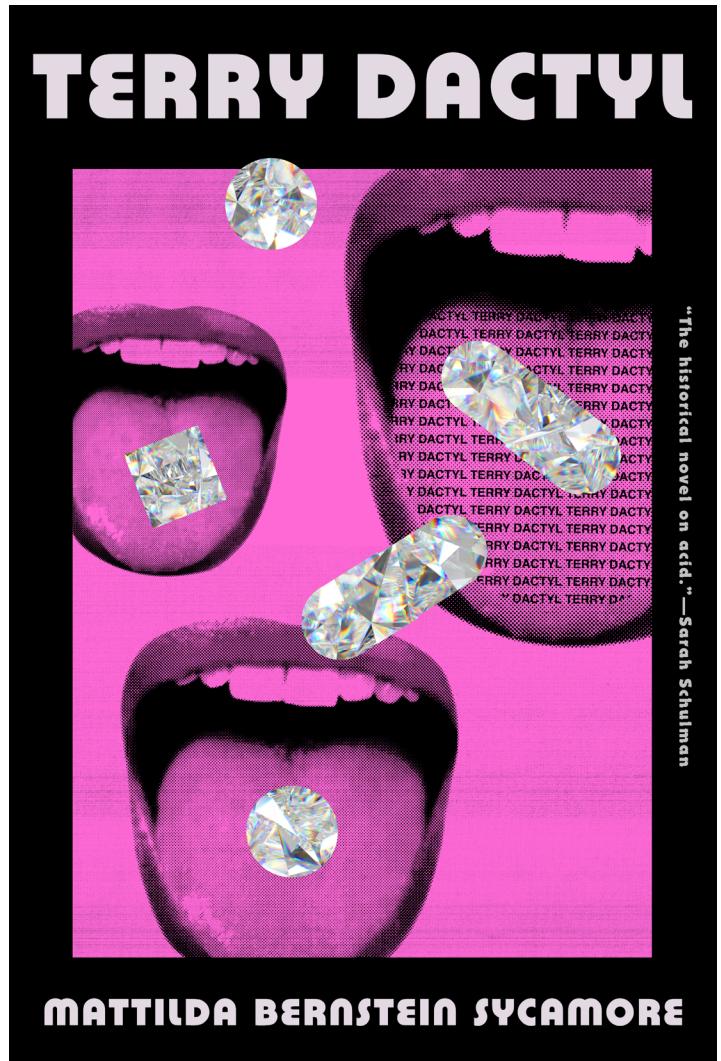
“Expansive and confidential, nostalgic and hopeful.”

—LISA KO, author of *Memory Piece*

“Sycamore has excelled herself and that’s saying something.”

—ISABEL WAIDNER, author of *Corey Fah Does Social Mobility*

MATTILDA BERNSTEIN SYCAMORE is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, and the editor of six anthologies. Her most recent title, *Touching the Art*, was a finalist for a Washington State Book Award and a Pacific Northwest Book Award. Her new novel is *Terry Dactyl*.



November 11, 2025 • 5.5 x 8.25 • 304 pages
\$18.00 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-741-9
\$17.99 • Ebook • 978-1-56689-742-6

Very Collected Poems

Poems by Ron Padgett

Over sixty years of poems celebrating one of the most dynamic careers in twentieth and twenty-first century American poetry.

Gathering a lifetime of poetry, Ron Padgett's *Very Collected Poems* is the ultimate record of the Pulitzer Prize finalist's oeuvre—newly updated and completed since the sold-out first edition hit shelves in 2013. Padgett's poems reverberate with his reading and friendships, from Andrew Marvell to Woody Guthrie to Kenneth Koch, alongside his musings on art and family. Wry, insightful, and direct, they offer readers the rewards of his endless curiosity and generous spirit.

PRAISE FOR RON PADGETT

"Ron Padgett makes the most quiet and sensible of feelings a provocatively persistent wonder." —**ROBERT CREELEY**

"For decades now, Ron Padgett has built up a body of work that, like the tenderly deadpan ballads of Jonathan Richman, has at its heart a sort of wry, pickled innocence. He makes plain niceness look like the most radical stance of all."

—**JEFF GORDINER, *The New York Times***

"Wonderful, generous, funny poetry."
—**JOHN ASHBERY**

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.

Very COLLECTED POEMS RON PADGETT

November 18, 2025 • 6 x 9 • 1128 pages
\$48.00 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-743-3
\$47.99 • Ebook • 978-1-56689-744-0

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\$16.95, Trade Paper
- *How to Be Perfect: An Illustrated Guide*
\$14.95, Hardcover
- *Alone and Not Alone*
\$16.00, Trade Paper



The Aquatics

A novel by Osvalde Lewat

Translated by Maren Baudet-Lackner

An extraordinary novel of loyalty, strife, and empowerment from Peabody Award-winning Cameroonian filmmaker Osvalde Lewat.

In the fictional African country of Zambuena, Katmé Abbia enjoys a life of privilege and influence married to a powerful prefect. Yet after years spent playing the obedient, demure wife to a husband who has ceased to notice her, Katmé grows increasingly restless. Her one source of connection is Samy, a childhood friend, struggling artist, and gay man—an offense punishable by law in Zambuena. When Katmé discovers that Samy's new exhibition boldly critiques Zambuena's social and economic inequities, her public, married life is set on a collision course with her one true friendship.

Mixing compassion with clear-eyed fury, *The Aquatics* confronts one of contemporary Africa's most entrenched societal issues in a story as immersive and inevitable as a quickly rising tide.

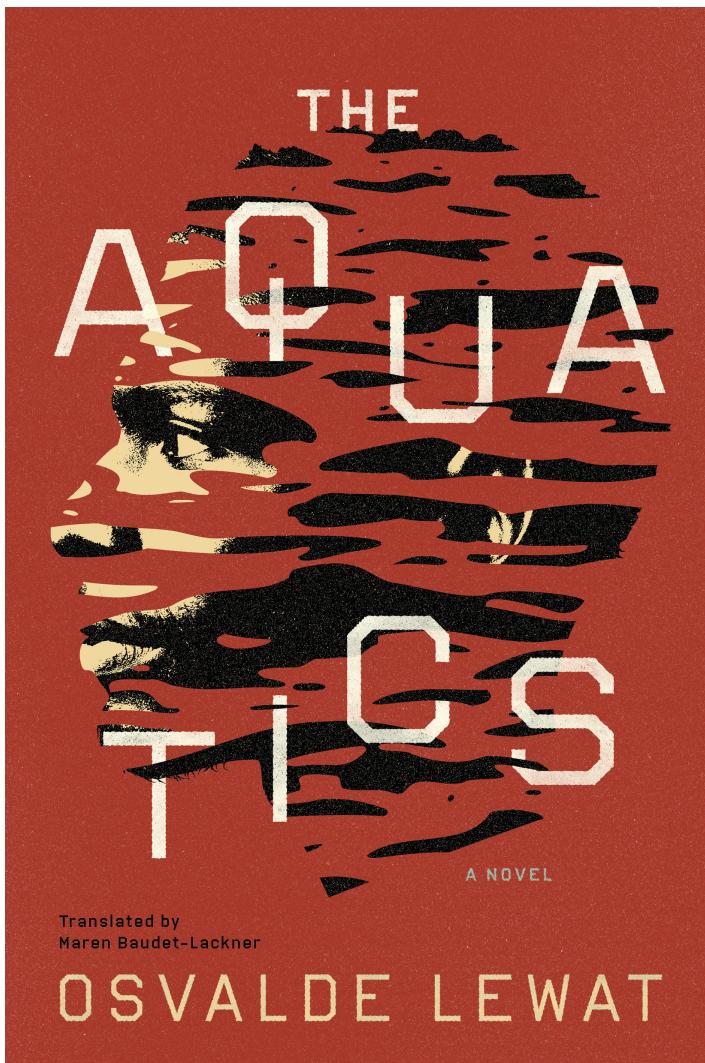
PRAISE FOR *THE AQUATICS*

Winner of the 2022 Pan-African Prize for Literature
Winner of the 2022 Kourouma Prize
Winner of the 2022 French Academy Literature Prize

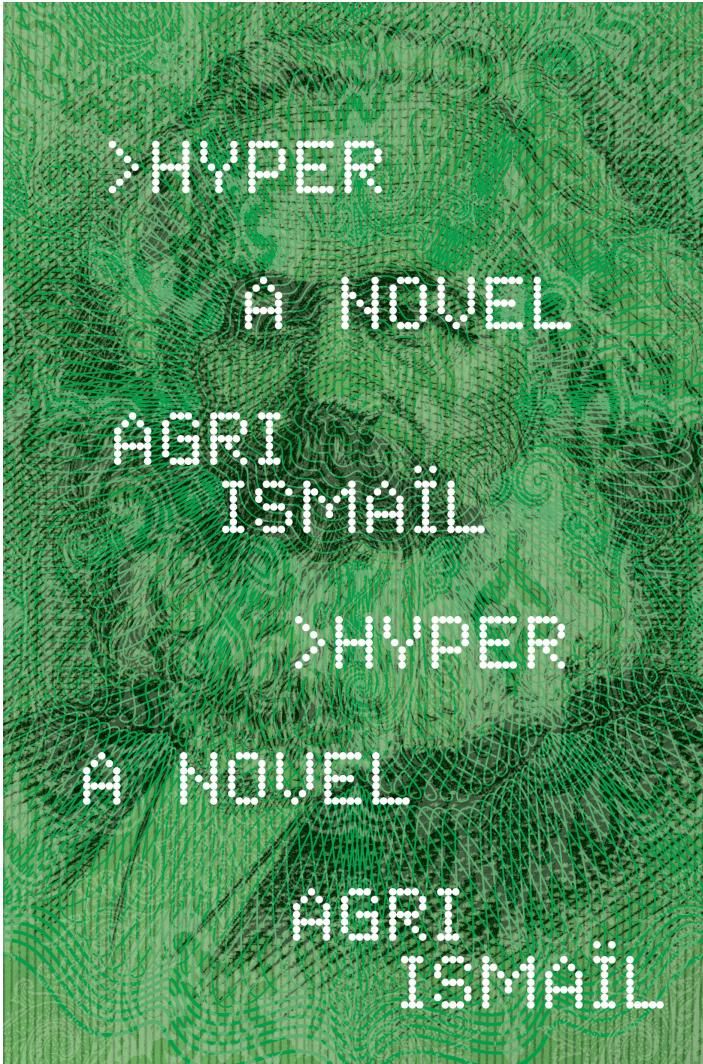
“Magnificent!” —**ATIQ RAHIMI**, *Goncourt Prize-winning author of *The Patience Stone**

OSVALDE LEWAT is a Cameroonian author and renowned documentary filmmaker whose work has been awarded the prestigious Peabody Award. Her debut novel, *The Aquatics*, won the Pan-African Prize for Literature, the French Academy Literature Prize, and the Kourouma Prize.

MAREN BAUDET-LACKNER is an American literary translator from the French. She is the recipient of a 2023 PEN Presents Award and a 2024 PEN Translates Award.



December 2, 2025 • 5.5 x 8.25 • 300 pages
\$18.00 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-745-7
\$17.99 • Ebook • 978-1-56689-746-4



January 13, 2026 • 5.5 x 8.25 • 400 pages
\$18.00 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-747-1
\$17.99 • Ebook • 978-1-566-748-8

Hyper

A novel by Agri Ismail

A cutting, hypermodern saga of money, family, and survival for fans of Zadie Smith, Patricia Lockwood, and Mohsin Hamid.

On the eve of the 1979 Revolution, Rafiq Hardi Kermanj, founder of Kurdistan's communist party, flees Iran for London with his young family. Thirty years later, Rafiq's children attempt to carve out futures in the ruthless, alienating structures of twenty-first century capitalism. Though their circumstances differ drastically, the Hardis are united by their obsession with money and desperate efforts to locate meaning and identity within the numb isolation of modern immigrant life.

Equal parts heartfelt family story and razor-sharp satire, *Hyper* is an ambitious, thrilling articulation of life in the twenty-first century, marking debut author Agri Ismail as one of the most perceptive and exciting new voices in contemporary literature.

PRAISE FOR *HYPER*

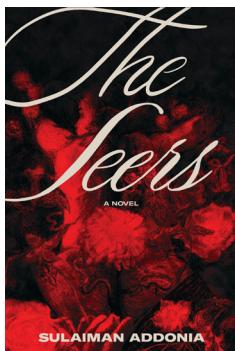
"A novel in the truest sense. Ambitious, epic, heartfelt. I was blown away."

—FREDRIK BACKMAN, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Anxious People*

"Both a rich novel of ideas and a moving family saga. Agri Ismail is a master of dramatic tension."

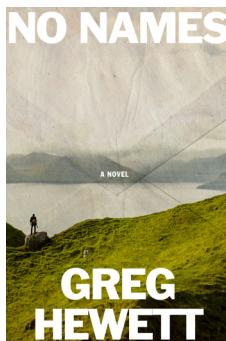
—*Times Literary Supplement*

AGRI ISMAİL is a Kurdish author based in Sweden who has worked as a corporate lawyer in London, Dubai, and Iraqi Kurdistan. His work has been published in *The White Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Guernica*, and *Asymptote*, amongst other places. His piece "Haunted Home" won the 2016 Stack award for best nonfiction for *The Outpost*, and he was longlisted for the 2017 Galley Beggar Press Short Story Prize.



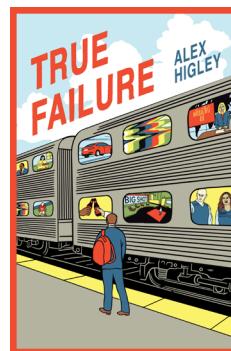
THE SEERS

A novel by Sulaiman Addonia
\$18.00 • Trade Paper



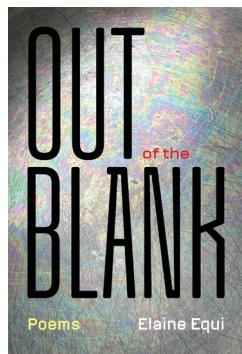
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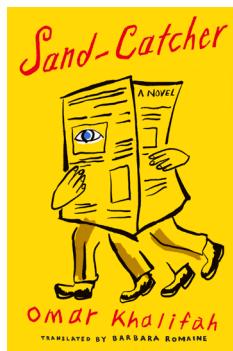
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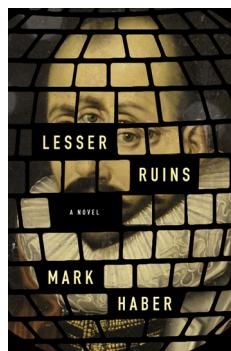
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A novel by Omar Khalifah
translated by Barbara Romaine
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SOUND MUSEUM

A novella by poupeh missaghi
\$14.95 • Trade Paper



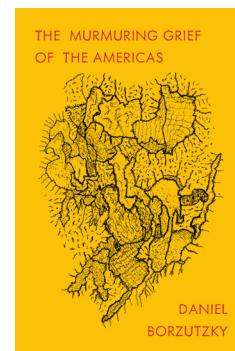
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A novel by Mark Haber
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