

McCormick Literary

Rights Guide Frankfurt Book Fair October 2025

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FICTION

I.S. Berry

UNTITLED NOVEL

Praise for *The Peacock and the Sparrow*:

“I.S. Berry is the best spy novelist of her generation. Her book is brilliant, thrilling, and, like the best fiction, true to life. She brings her own harrowing experience as a CIA officer to every page. I can’t recommend her book highly enough.”

—Tim Weiman, author of *The Mission: The CIA in the 21st Century*

The plot is top secret, but we have it on good authority that I.S. Berry’s sophomore spy thriller will deliver in January 2026.

[I.S. Berry](#) is “one of the freshest new voices in spy fiction”(Tim Shipman, *Sunday Times*) and “a star in the making” (Jake Kerridge, *Daily Telegraph*). She is the author of *The Peacock and the Sparrow*, which won the 2024 Edgar, Barry, ITW, and Macavity awards for best first novel, was named the *Times* and *Sunday Times* Thriller of the Year, and has been licensed in the UK, France, Japan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Georgia.

Berry spent six years as an operations officer for the CIA, serving throughout Europe and the Middle East. She lives in Virginia with her husband and son.

North America: Peter Borland/Atria | Delivering January 2026; Publication TBD

Rights sold: No Exit/UK

Joshua Cohen

WITZ

"The sort of postmodern epic that arrives like a comet about once every decade, like *Infinite Jest* or *Gravity's Rainbow*." —*New York Observer*

From Joshua Cohen—winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize—comes one of the great comic epics of our time, newly restored in this definitive edition.

On Christmas Eve 1999, all the Jews in the world die in a strange, millennial plague, with the exception of firstborn males, who are soon adopted by a cabal of powerful people in the American government. By the following Passover, however, only one is still alive: Benjamin Israelien, a kindly, innocent, ignorant man-child. As he finds himself transformed into an international superstar, Jewishness becomes all the rage: matzo-ball soup is in every bowl, sidelocks are hip; and the only truly Jewish Jew left is increasingly stigmatized for not being religious. Since his very existence exposes the illegitimacy of the newly converted, Israelien becomes the object of a worldwide manhunt.

Meanwhile, in the not-too-distant future of our own, “real” world, another last Jew—the last living Holocaust survivor—sits alone in a snowbound Manhattan, providing a final melancholy witness in the form of punch lines to half-remembered jokes.

Joshua Cohen is the author of Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Netanyahus*, which has been translated into seventeen languages. His books include the novels *Moving Kings*, *Book of Numbers*, *A Heaven of Others*, and *Cadenza for the Schneidermann Violin Concerto*; the short fiction collection *Four New Messages*, and the non-fiction collection *Attention: Dispatches from a Land of Distraction*.

North America: Dalkey Archive Press | Delivering Jan 2026; Publication August 4, 2026
Rights sold: Schöffling/Germany

Mark Hitz

THE NAME OF THE DOG

Literary, speculative debut novel set in the aftermath of a “dog flu” pandemic.

The novel opens several years after a swift and unexplained illness, known colloquially as “the amaranth,” took the lives of nearly seven percent of the global population. Life has moved on, though the survivors have all been scarred in some way, and every summer there are echoes of the amaranth’s continuing presence. Scientific efforts to understand the illness have been unsuccessful, but because it was first observed in dogs, nearly all domestic dogs were either killed by the amaranth or culled by humans.

The plot is set in motion by the birth of a single litter of puppies who are immune to the illness, and it picks up years later when the dogs have grown and a second wave of the dormant amaranth threatens to emerge. The narrative is driven by three main characters: a woman still mourning the loss of her husband and young son, who caretakes the dogs in secret; the government amaranth investigator who is looking for her; and a lonely, busybody widower who finds himself in the middle of it all. Each is forced to overcome their own private grief as their fates, and the fates of the wild dogs, intertwine.

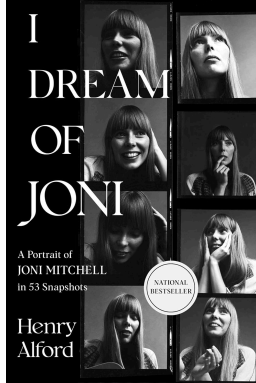
[Mark Hitz](#) is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas, where he won the Keene Prize for Literature, and was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. His work has appeared in *Glimmer Train* and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*. He lives in Idaho.

North America: Tim O’Connell/Saga Press | Delivering December 2025; Publication Summer 2026

NONFICTION

Henry Alford

I DREAM OF JONI: A Portrait of Joni Mitchell in 53 Snapshots



“[A] delightful compendium of everything you ever wanted to know about Mitchell, broken down into 53 anecdotes....[Alford] has a deliciously witty prose style.” –*Washington Post*

Presented in the impressionistic vein of Craig Brown’s *Ninety-Nine Glimpses of Princess Margaret*, *I Dream of Joni* explores in fifty-three essays the life of the legendary and elusive singer-songwriter.

In this nationally bestselling and delightfully idiosyncratic biography, Joni Mitchell, the iconic singer-songwriter, is captured in “all her zesty contradictions” (Mary Roach) in an artfully composed arrangement of verbal snapshots, anecdotes, quotes, and lyrics by humorist (and super fan) Henry Alford.

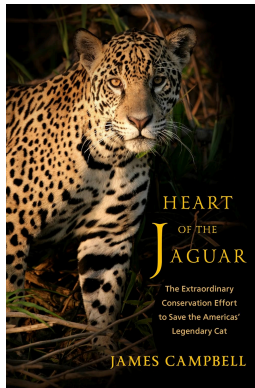
From her childhood in Saskatoon, Canada, to her transformative years in Laurel Canyon and her experiments in jazz each period of Mitchell’s life is observed via the artists, friends, family, and lovers she encountered along the way, including James Taylor, Leonard Cohen, Georgia O’Keefe, Prince, and, most significantly, Kilauren, the daughter Mitchell gave up for adoption at birth but then reconnected with decades later.

[Henry Alford](#) is a humorist and journalist who has written for *The New Yorker* for more than two decades. A former columnist for *The New York Times* and a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair*, he is the author of six books including *And Then We Danced*, *How to Live*, and *Big Kiss*, which won a Thurber Prize.

World English: Karyn Marcus/Gallery Books | January 21, 2025

James Campbell

HEART OF THE JAGUAR: The Extraordinary Conservation Effort to Save the Americas' Legendary Cat



"Readers will love this wild story of a talismanic species that, despite an ever-encroaching modern world, has always found the audacity to survive."—Hampton Sides, author of *The Wide Wide Sea*

Once indigenous to North America, the jaguar is one of the wildest creatures left on the planet, a resilient and efficient predator, with a natural habitat that extends throughout Mexico and Central and South America. But today, one million years after it appeared in the New World, the jaguar is struggling to survive.

Heart of the Jaguar tells the story of the extraordinary undertaking to save the jaguar, as well as the impassioned conservationist who dedicated his life to the species, Alan Rabinowitz, a formidable personality whom *Time* magazine called “the Indiana Jones of wildlife protection.” Rabinowitz first studied jaguars in the jungles of Belize and the Brazilian Pantanal in the 1980s, and later led the charge for the Jaguar Corridor Initiative, making it his dying mission to protect the big cat’s historic habitat.

Campbell journeys across two continents in search of the species’ past, present, and future, taking readers from the Bering Land Bridge to pre-Columbian jungle temples and modern-day jaguar preserves. Despite the thriving trade in jaguar parts and the ravages of industrial agriculture and climate change, Campbell finds sources of hope: wildlife biologists, Indigenous organizers, ranchers, and park administrators who carry on Rabinowitz’s legacy.

[James Campbell](#) is the author of *The Final Frontiersman*, *Braving It*, and *The Ghost Mountain Boys*. He has written for *Outside*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Men’s Journal*, and many other publications. He lives in Wisconsin.

Nicolas Dawidoff

SHINE A LIGHT ON YOU: Robert Frank's America

A cultural biography of renowned Swiss-American photographer Robert Frank (1924-2019) focusing on his seminal work, *The Americans*, a book of eighty-three black-and-white photographs that changed the way Americans saw their country — and the way the world saw America.

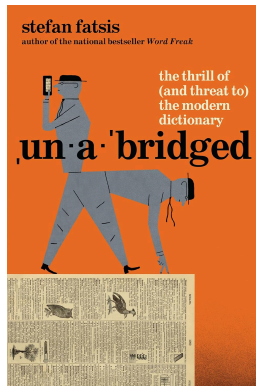
In June 1955, Frank left New York in a secondhand Ford and began the epic yearlong road trip that would become *The Americans*, a photographic survey that the late Peter Schjeldahl, art critic of *The New Yorker*, considered “one of the basic American masterpieces of any medium.” And while Frank’s friend Jack Kerouac wrote the introduction, Ken Burns has called *The Americans* “the great American road trip book.” Nicky Dawidoff spent countless hours with Robert Frank in the last decade of his life and has unique access to Frank’s vast archives. He wrote a much praised [cover feature](#) about Frank for *The New York Times Magazine* in July 2015, and he will edit the first Library of America main series volume of Robert Frank’s work.

Nicholas Dawidoff is the author of five books including *The Catcher Was a Spy* (Pantheon, 1994), which was adapted into a feature film, *The Fly Swatter* (Pantheon, 2002), which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and *The Other Side of Prospect* (Norton, 2022). A graduate of Harvard University, he has been a Guggenheim, a Civitella Ranieri, and a Berlin Prize fellow and is a contributor to the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *The American Scholar*.

North America: Scott Moyer/Penguin Press | Delivering April 2026; Publication TBD

Stefan Fatsis

UNABRIDGED: The Thrill of (and Threat to) the Modern Dictionary



“Capacious and revealing, this is a logophile’s dream.”—*Publisher’s Weekly* (starred review)

From the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Word Freak*, a vibrant, lively, and illuminating look at the dictionary in the internet age.

Words are the currency of culture—and never more than today.

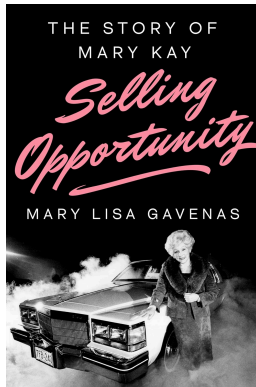
From *selfie* to *doomscrolling* to *rizz*, our hyper-connected digital world coins and spreads new words with lightning speed. Journalist and bestselling author Stefan Fatsis embedded as a lexicographer-in-training at America’s most famous dictionary publisher, Merriam-Webster, to learn how words get into the dictionary, where they come from, and who decides what they mean.

Delving into Merriam’s legendary archives and parsing its arcane rules, Fatsis learns the painstaking precision required for writing good definitions. He examines how the dictionary has handled the most explosive slurs and the revolutionary change in pronouns. He votes on the annual Word of the Year, travels to the legendary Oxford English Dictionary, and visits the world’s greatest private dictionary collection in a Greenwich Village apartment stuffed with more than 20,000 books. Fatsis demonstrates how words are weaponized in our polarized political culture—from *liberal* to *woke* to *DEI*—and, in a time of insurrections and pandemics, how they can be a literal matter of life and death. Along the way, he manages to write a few definitions that crack the code and are enshrined in the pixelated dictionary.

[Stefan Fatsis](#) is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Professional Scrabble Players* (2001). In four decades as a journalist, Fatsis has written and talked for *Slate*, *The Wall Street Journal*, NPR, *The New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated*, and many other outlets. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Mary Lisa Gavenas

SELLING OPPORTUNITY: The Story of Mary Kay



The only woman in *Forbes' Greatest Business Stories of All Time* and the first woman to chair a company on the New York Stock Exchange, Mary Kay Ash has a life story that reads like a Barbara Taylor Bradford novel

Growing up in Depression-era Texas, Mary Kathlyn Wagner is a dutiful daughter and diligent student with ambition aplenty and no place to use it. Married at sixteen, she is a grandmother at thirty-four. When she is not cooking or cleaning or taking care of the kids, she peddles cleaning products to other housewives. The work has no salary and no security but she sticks with it, sure that direct selling will somehow make her dreams come true.

In 1963, after she has been divorced three times and widowed twice, she sets up her own company, selling second chances and self-invention for the price of a skin care showcase. Soon millions know her as the little lady in the big wig who gives away pink Cadillacs. From its unpromising start in a 500-square-foot Texas storefront, Mary Kay Inc. grows into a global phenomenon with 3.5 million reps in over 35 countries. She becomes the most famous saleswoman in the world. Maybe the most famous ever.

Based on fifteen years of research, *Selling Opportunity* is a page-turning rags-to-riches story set against the background of a peculiarly American industry and a mid-century mindset that ennobled extreme self-reliance and blind faith in the American dream.

[Mary Lisa Gavenas](#) is the author of *Color Stories: Behind the Scenes of America's Billion-Dollar Beauty Industry*. A former senior editor at *Glamour*, *InStyle*, and *Mirabella*, and columnist for *Elle*, she has contributed to *The New York Times Magazine*, *Fast Company*, and other national outlets.

North America: Camille LeBlanc/Viking | Delivered; Publication April 28, 2026

Miriam Gohara

THE MYTH OF THE IDEAL VICTIM

Drawing on the author's two decades of experience as a public defender, *The Myth of the Ideal Victim* reveals how not all crime victims are treated equally.

The dominant Victim's Rights Movement, which emerged in the 1970s and still holds sway today, is composed mainly of white, middle class women's advocates and political elites and focuses on person-to-person harms. The movement's political success hinges on the appeal of an "ideal victim": a totally blameless (implicitly white, usually female) person, with no previous ties to the person who harmed them, and whose perpetrator can be easily identified and punished. Miriam Gohara argues that this movement's tendency to treat violence as an interpersonal problem rather than a structural problem, its dependence on the trope of the "ideal victim," and its erasure of Black survivors, has been the central failure of American responses to crime.

While public discourse has evolved in recent years amid a growing awareness of structural inequality, there is very little literature that centers Black survivors, even as statistics show that, nationwide, Black people are victims of crime at rates far disproportionate to other groups. There are also very few books that chronicle the extensive, century-spanning work and advocacy of Black-led survivor organizations and posit them as models of transformative justice. *The Myth of the Ideal Victim* will fill this critical gap.

[Miriam Gohara](#) is a Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School. Prior to joining the faculty, she spent sixteen years representing death-sentenced clients in post-conviction litigation, first as assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) and then as a specially designated federal public defender with the Federal Capital Habeas Project. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Columbia University.

North America: Brandon Proia/Basic Books | Delivered; Publication Spring 2026

Daniel Immerwahr

THIS, TOO, SHALL BURN: America in the Age of Wood

How To Hide an Empire author and *New Yorker* contributing writer Daniel Immerwahr argues that the story of America is the story of America on fire.

In Abraham Lincoln’s famous phrasing, the United States was “conceived in Liberty,” but as Daniel Immerwahr reveals in this eye-opening history, it was built almost entirely on wood. Forests—which England lacked—are what impelled our forebears to cross the Atlantic in the first place. Whatever boards of wood were not shipped back to England were sawed, planed, stacked, and whittled down into the shape of young America. Ours was a nation of log cabins and split-rail fences, where wood-burning locomotives clattered recklessly over wooden bridges. New York even had wood plank *roads*. Wood was easy, it was cheap, and it was everywhere. It was also, as we soon came to learn, combustible.

From the torching of a Native American village by the first English settlers at Roanoke to the Great San Francisco Fire of 1906, the almost ridiculous flammability of the United States has played a major role in nearly every major political conflict and social movement in our history. *This, Too, Shall Burn* reveals how the fear of arson sparked the American Revolution and fueled the Civil War. It explores the importance of wood to the vaunted independence of frontiersmen. It follows the slaves who burned their way to freedom, setting fire to Mount Vernon and the Confederate White House, among other places. With the environment in view, familiar subjects, from Abraham Lincoln to *The Wizard of Oz*, take on an indelible new character.

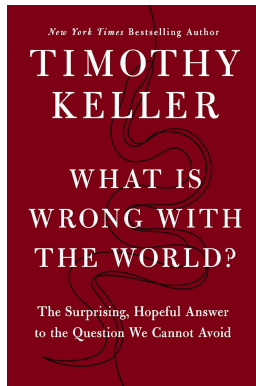
[Daniel Immerwahr](#) is the author of *How To Hide an Empire*, which has sold nearly 200,000 copies in English and has been translated into 12 languages. He is the Bergen Evans Professor in the Humanities at Northwestern University and a contributing writer at *The New Yorker*.

North America: Alex Star/Farrar, Straus & Giroux | Delivering March 2027

Rights sold: Bodley Head/UK

Timothy Keller

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD? The Surprising, Hopeful Answer to the Question We Cannot Avoid



Drawn from the late Tim Keller's sermon series "The Faces of Sin," this ultimately uplifting book confronts the darkness in our world and names the source: our own sinful natures. Keller reveals how sin operates in our lives, but also how grace heals our brokenness—and why there's still reason to hope for a better world.

[Timothy Keller](#) (1950-2023) was the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, co-founder of Redeemer City to City, and the author of numerous books, including *New York Times* bestseller *The Reason for God*, *The Prodigal God*, and *The Meaning of Marriage*.

North America: Webster Younce/Zondervan | October 21, 2025

Rights sold: Hodder Faith/UK, Duranno/Korea

Timothy Keller and Michael Keller

THE STORIES WE LIVE BY: How the Gospel Counters and Completes What Our Culture Tells Us

Based on extensive conversations and letters between the late Tim Keller and his son Michael, *The Stories We Live By* examines the seven most prominent cultural narratives that give meaning to our lives —identity, happiness, morality, freedom, power, truth, and progress— and points out the ways they fall short, and why Christianity offers a stronger foundation for a life of meaning and purpose.

[Michael Keller](#) is the founding pastor of Redeemer Lincoln Square in New York City. He holds a PhD from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, as well as both MDiv and ThM degrees from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

North America: Webster Younce/Zondervan | Delivering Nov 2025; Publication Fall 2026

Rights sold: Hodder Faith/UK, Duranno/Korea

Pagan Kennedy

THE NONS: The Story of an Uprising Against Motherhood and the Invention of “Child-Free” America

From the author of *The Secret History of the Rape Kit*, *The Nons* tells the forgotten history of America's child-free movement of the 1970s and its profound, continuing impact on our society today. Told through an ensemble of fascinating, complicated characters, the narrative will trace the origins, rise, and fall of the National Organization of Non-Parents (NON)—whose members were as varied as Shirley Chisholm and Paul Ehrlich—during the movement's heyday and beyond.

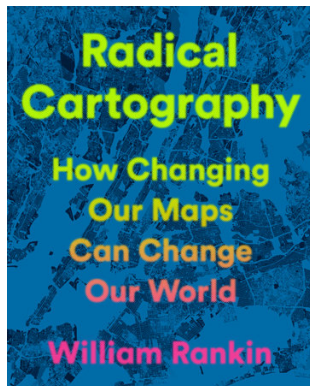
The decision of whether or not to have children is a choice that many of us take for granted today. But, as Pagan compellingly argues, the mere question of whether to become a parent is a modern invention---and in today's sociopolitical climate, it's one we may have to fight for again.

[Pagan Kennedy](#) is the author of eleven books including *The Secret History of the Rape Kit*, *Inventology*, and *The First Man-Made Man*. She has been awarded a Smithsonian fellowship, a Massachusetts Book Prize honor in nonfiction, and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship.

World English: Vintage/Vanessa Haughton | Delivering June 2026; Publication TBD

William Rankin

RADICAL CARTOGRAPHY: How Changing Our Maps Can Change Our World



“Rankin argues for a ‘radical’ approach to cartography that not only spotlights marginalized groups but also is ‘less well-behaved,’ embracing noise and messiness....Lavishly illustrated with maps and photographs, this stuns.”

–Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Maps are everywhere. They can change how cities are designed and how rivers flow, how wars are fought and how land claims are settled, how children learn about race and how colonialism becomes a habit of mind. Maps don’t just show us information – they help construct our world.

Cartographer and historian William Rankin argues that it’s time to reimagine what a map can be and how it can be used. Maps are not neutral. They are innately political, defining how the world is divided, what becomes visible and what stays hidden, and whose voices are heard.

Brimming with vibrant, radical maps created by Rankin and by other cutting-edge mapmakers, *Radical Cartography* challenges the map as a tool of the status quo. Changing our maps can change the questions we ask, the answers we accept – and the planet we build.

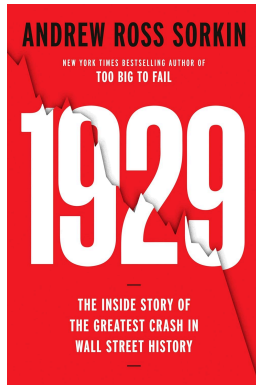
[William Rankin](#) is a historian of science at Yale University, where he focuses on the history of mapping and the geographic sciences. Born and raised outside Chicago, he was originally trained as an architect before receiving a dual PhD in the history of science and architecture from Harvard. In addition to his work as a historian, he is also an award-winning cartographer, and his maps have appeared in numerous books, magazines, and exhibits around the world.

North America: Terezia Cicek/Viking | November 11, 2025

Rights sold: Picador/UK, Kobunsha/Japan, Faces/Taiwan

Andrew Ross Sorkin

1929: The Inside Story of the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History



“Mesmerizing from beginning to end...a masterclass in narrative nonfiction.”—Walter Isaacson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Elon Musk*

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Too Big to Fail* comes a spellbinding narrative of the most infamous stock market crash in history. *1929* gives us a fly-on-the-wall view of the greed, blind optimism, and human folly that led to an era-defining collapse—one with ripple effects that still shape our society today.

With unparalleled access to historical records and newly uncovered documents, Andrew Ross Sorkin takes readers inside the chaos of the crash, behind the scenes of a raging battle between Wall Street and Washington and the larger-than-life characters whose ambition and naive belief in an endless boom led to disaster.

Hailed as a landmark book, *Too Big to Fail* reimagined how financial crises are told. Now, with *1929*, Sorkin delivers an immersive, electrifying account of the most pivotal market collapse of all time—with lessons that remain as urgent as ever. The dizzying highs and brutal lows of this era eerily mirror today’s world—where markets soar, political tensions mount, and the fight over financial influence plays out once again.

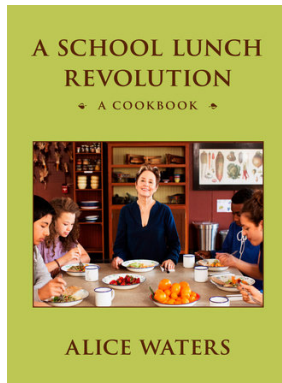
[Andrew Ross Sorkin](#) is the bestselling author of *Too Big to Fail*, which won the Gerald Loeb Award for Best Business Book, and was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize and the *Financial Times* Business Book of the Year Award. He is a long-time journalist at *The New York Times*, the creator of DealBook, co-creator of the TV drama *Billions*, and a television co-presenter for CNBC’s Squawk Box.

North America: Laura Tisdell/Viking | October 14, 2025

Rights sold: Allen Lane/UK, Cheers/China, Debate/Spain

Alice Waters

A SCHOOL LUNCH REVOLUTION: A Cookbook



“Learning from renowned Chez Panisse chef Waters is always a joy...[A] gorgeous and heartfelt book.”--*Booklist* (starred review)

In this cookbook for adults and children alike, the award-winning chef and food activist argues for a school lunch revolution.

Alice Waters has always believed that education and food are two universal rights: all children deserve to go to school, and everyone should have the opportunity to eat nutritious food. Thirty years ago, she founded the Edible Schoolyard Project, inspiring schools to source their food from local regenerative farmers and developing an edible education that would transform the school food experience for children worldwide.

Now, in *A School Lunch Revolution*, the culinary icon reimagines the way we feed our children at school and at home. Beginning with what we cook in our kitchens, this book offers the first step to teaching the next generation the lifelong values of eating whole foods. Inspired by international food traditions, these versatile recipes explore an array of textures and tastes guided by a few basic principles: local and seasonal, affordable, diverse, simple and delicious, and beautiful.

[Alice Waters](#) is a chef and the founder of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, California. She has won numerous awards, including the National Humanities Medal, the French Legion of Honor Medal, the Cavaliere of the Italian Republic, the Julia Child Award, and three James Beard Awards. As vice president of Slow Food International and founder of the Edible Schoolyard Project, she has helped bring food awareness to people of all ages all over the world. She is the author of numerous books and cookbooks, including *The Art of Simple Food*, which has been translated into ten languages.

North America: Ann Godoff/Penguin Press | October 14, 2025

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Young Adult | Nonfiction

MT Anderson

THE SANTA CLAUS HEIST

In 1087, a league of Italian adventurers sailed to Asia Minor, broke into the tomb of the 4th century Bishop of Myra, aka St. Nicholas, and stole his corpse. Fleeing through the town, chased by a mob of angry villagers, they got back to their ships and sailed to Bari with the bones of the dead saint. Amazingly, the relic hunters left several records of this extraordinary heist, and the bones remain in Bari to this day; every year, thousands of pilgrims visit the Basilica of St. Nicholas to purchase and drink the holy fluid that emanates from his tomb.

In this book for teens 14 and up, Anderson delves deeply into this amazing history—using contemporaneous written narratives, archaeological findings, and forensic evidence— to establish the outlines of the real St. Nicholas, but also to talk about broader issues: the shape that religions take, the rise and fall of empires, and the detective work of archaeology.

[MT Anderson](#) is the author most recently of *Nicked*, which puts a fictional spin on the story of the theft of St. Nicholas's bones. He is the author of many books for children and young adults, including the YA nonfiction *Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad* and the YA novels *Feed* (National Book Award finalist) and *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* (National Book Award winner).

North America: Andrew Karre/Dutton Children's | Delivered; Publication Fall 2026