



BASIC  
BOOKS

Winter 2023

SEAL PRESS

Renowned publisher of serious nonfiction  
by leading intellectuals, scholars, and journalists

# BASIC BOOKS

*with* SEAL PRESS

## WINTER 2023

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ABOUT

## BASIC BOOKS

Since its founding in 1950, Basic Books has shaped public debate by publishing award-winning books in history, science, sociology, psychology, politics, and current affairs. Basic's list of influential authors includes Stephon Alexander, Robert Alter, Isaac Asimov, Edward Baptist, H. W. Brands, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Iris Chang, George Chauncey, Eugenia Cheng, William Easterly, Richard Feynman, Richard Florida, Martin Ford, Howard Gardner, Adrian Goldsworthy, Adam Gopnik, Jonathan Haidt, Victor Davis Hanson, Judith Herman, Christopher Hitchens, Douglas Hofstadter, Leszek Kolakowski, Kevin Kruse, Lawrence Lessig, Claude Levi-Strauss, Alice Miller, Don Norman, Robert Nozick, Judea Pearl, Samantha Power, Diane Ravitch, Eugene Rogan, Timothy Snyder, Thomas Sowell, Nicholas Stargardt, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Eric Topol, Sherry Turkle, Michael Walzer, George Weigel, Bee Wilson, James Q. Wilson, Richard Wrangham, and Irvin Yalom.

# JUDITH L. HERMAN, MD

## TRUTH AND REPAIR

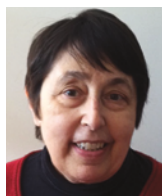
*How Trauma Survivors*

*Envision Justice*

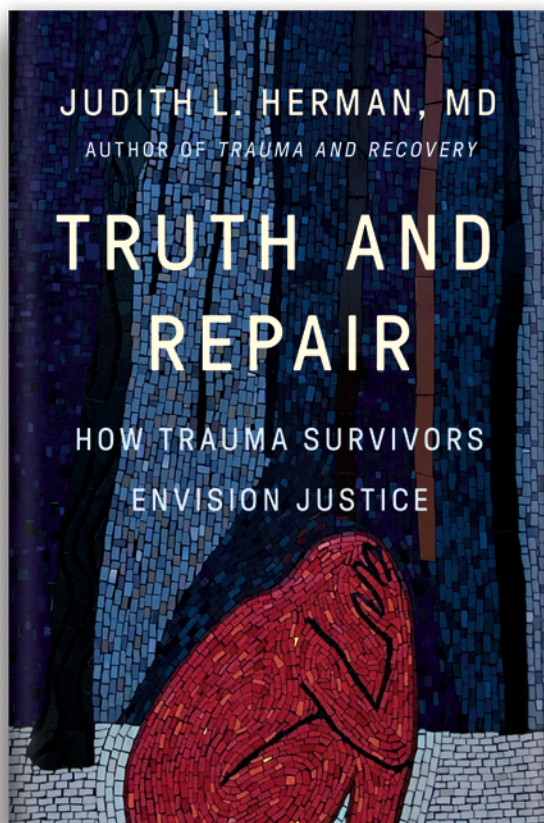
The #MeToo movement brought worldwide attention to sexual violence, but while the media focused on the fates of a few notorious predators who were put on trial, we heard far less about the outcomes of those trials for the survivors of their abuse.

The conventional retributive process fails to serve most survivors; it was never designed for them. Renowned trauma expert Judith L. Herman argues that the first step toward a better form of justice is simply to ask survivors what would make things as right as possible for them. In *Truth and Repair*, she commits the radical act of listening to survivors. Recounting their stories, she offers an alternative vision of justice as healing for survivors and their communities.

Deeply researched and compassionately told, *Truth and Repair* envisions a new path to justice for all.



**JUDITH L. HERMAN, MD,** is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and is a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.



**From one of America's most influential psychiatrists, a powerful manifesto for reimagining justice, based on the testimony of trauma survivors**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH

Social Science • \$28.00 / \$35.00 CAN

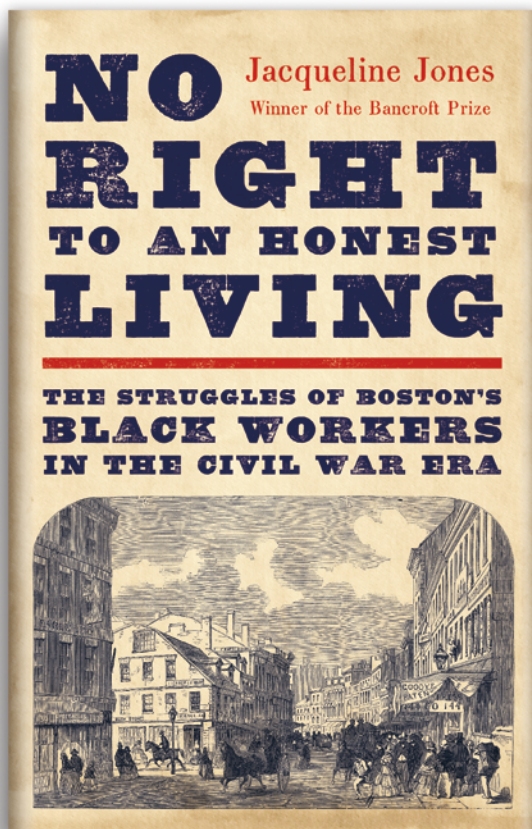
5½ x 8¼ • 288 pages

**978-1-5416-0054-6**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0056-0

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Bill Atkinson



**From a Bancroft Prize winner,  
a harrowing portrait of  
Black workers and white hypocrisy  
in nineteenth-century Boston**

**NEW HARDCOVER • JANUARY**

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 544 pages

**978-1-5416-1979-1**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1980-7

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Courtney Meador

## JACQUELINE JONES

NO RIGHT TO AN HONEST LIVING

*The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers  
in the Civil War Era*

Impassioned antislavery rhetoric made antebellum Boston famous as the nation's hub of radical abolitionism. In fact, however, the city was far from a beacon of equality.

In *No Right to an Honest Living*, historian Jacqueline Jones reveals how Boston was the United States writ small: a place where the soaring rhetoric of egalitarianism was easy, but justice in the workplace was elusive. Before, during, and after the Civil War, white abolitionists and Republicans refused to secure equal employment opportunity for Black Bostonians, condemning most of them to poverty. Still, Jones finds, some Black entrepreneurs ingeniously created their own jobs and forged their own career paths.

Highlighting the everyday struggles of ordinary Black workers, this book shows how injustice in the workplace prevented Boston—and the United States—from securing true equality for all.



**JACQUELINE JONES** is the Ellen C. Temple Professor of Women's History Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin and the past president of the American Historical Association. Winner of the Bancroft Prize for *Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow* and a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, she lives in Concord, Massachusetts.

# HEINRICH PÄS

## THE ONE

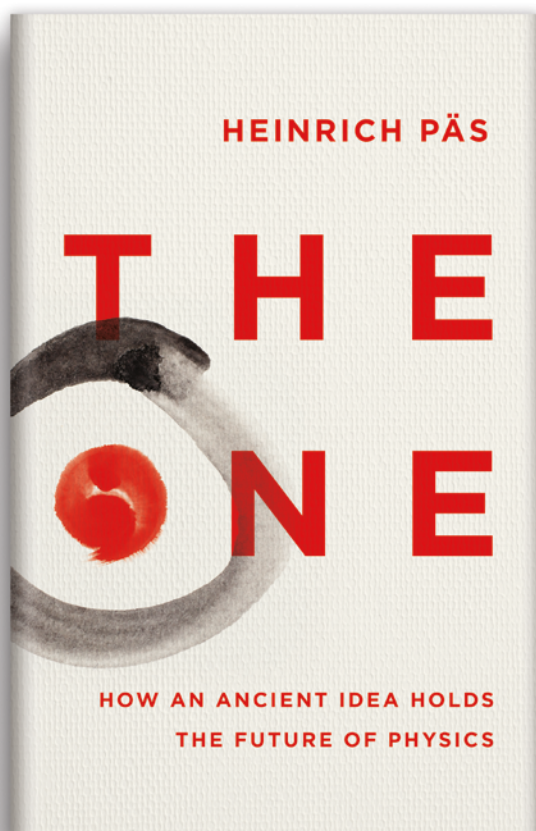
*How an Ancient Idea Holds  
the Future of Physics*

In *The One*, particle physicist Heinrich Päs presents a bold idea: fundamentally, everything in the universe is an aspect of one unified whole. The idea, called monism, has a rich three-thousand-year history. Plato believed that “all is one” before monism was rejected as irrational and suppressed as a heresy by the medieval Church. Nevertheless, monism persisted, inspiring Enlightenment science and Romantic poetry. Päs aims to show how monism could inspire physics today, how it could slice through the intellectual stagnation that has bogged down progress in modern physics and help the field achieve the grand theory of everything it has been chasing for decades.

Blending physics, philosophy, and the history of ideas, *The One* is an epic, mind-expanding journey through millennia of human thought and into the nature of reality itself.



**HEINRICH PÄS** is a professor of theoretical physics at TU Dortmund University in Germany. He has held positions at Vanderbilt University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Hawai‘i and has conducted research visits at CERN and Fermilab. He lives in Bremen, Germany.



**A particle physicist makes the  
scientific case for an ancient idea  
about the nature of the universe:  
that all is One**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • JANUARY

Science • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

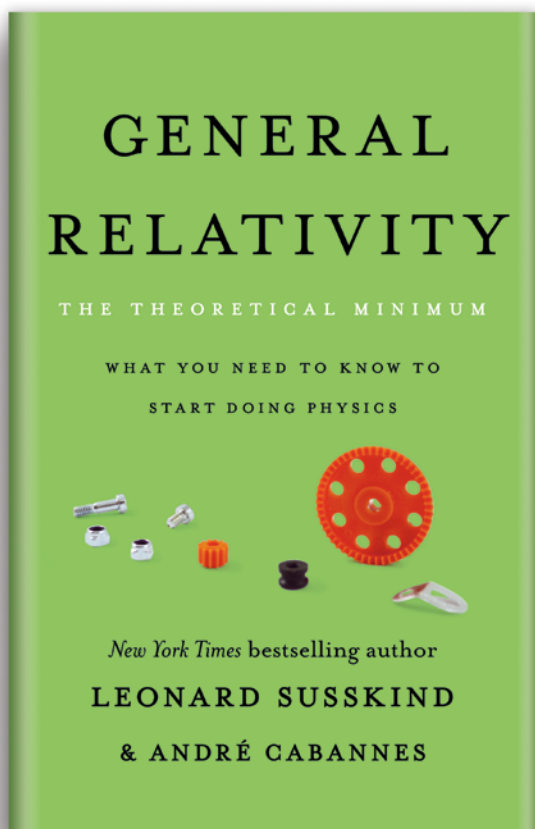
6 x 9¼ • 384 pages

**978-1-5416-7485-1**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7484-4

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Emilia von Dombrowski  
and Bogumil Longowski



**The latest volume in the *New York Times*–bestselling physics series explains Einstein’s masterpiece: the general theory of relativity**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • JANUARY**

Science • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 400 pages

**978-1-5416-0177-2**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0179-6

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo: Susskind © Anne Warren; Cabannes

© Atelier Photo Marie

# LEONARD SUSSKIND and ANDRÉ CABANNES

## GENERAL RELATIVITY

*The Theoretical Minimum*

He taught us classical mechanics, quantum mechanics, and special relativity. Now, physicist Leonard Susskind, assisted by a new collaborator, André Cabannes, returns to tackle Einstein’s general theory of relativity. Starting from the equivalence principle and covering the necessary mathematics of Riemannian spaces and tensor calculus, Susskind and Cabannes explain the link between gravity and geometry. They delve into black holes, establish Einstein field equations, and solve them to describe gravity waves. The authors provide vivid explanations that, to borrow a phrase from Einstein himself, are as simple as possible (but no simpler).

An approachable yet rigorous introduction to one of the most important topics in physics, *General Relativity* is a must-read for anyone who wants a deeper knowledge of the universe’s real structure.



**LEONARD SUSSKIND** is a professor of physics at Stanford University and the author of the previous three books in the *Theoretical Minimum* series. He lives in Palo Alto, California.



**ANDRÉ CABANNES** taught mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and translated the *Theoretical Minimum* series into French. He lives in France.

# MATTHEW DALLEK

## BIRCHERS

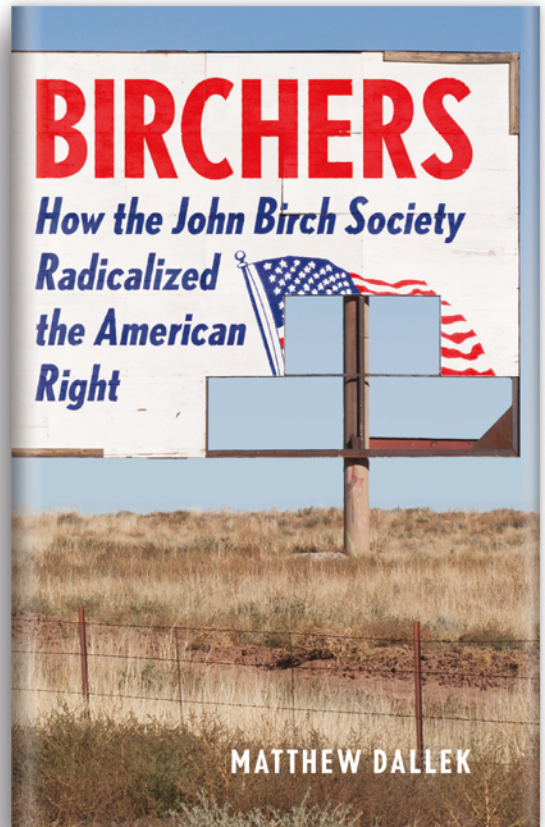
*How the John Birch Society  
Radicalized the American Right*

At the height of the John Birch Society's activity in the 1960s, critics dismissed its members as a paranoid fringe. After all, "Birchers" believed that a vast communist conspiracy existed in America and posed an existential threat to Christianity, capitalism, and freedom. But as historian Matthew Dallek reveals, the Birch Society's extremism remade American conservatism. Most Birchers were white professionals who were radicalized as growing calls for racial and gender equality appeared to upend American life. Conservative leaders recognized that these affluent voters were needed to win elections, and for decades the GOP courted Birchers and their extremist successors. The far right steadily gained power, finally toppling the Republican establishment and electing Donald Trump.

*Birchers* is a deeply researched and indispensable new account of the rise of extremism in the United States.



**MATTHEW DALLEK** is a professor at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management. The author of *The Right Moment* and *Defenseless Under the Night*, his writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Politico*, and the *Atlantic*. He lives in Washington, DC.



**How a notorious far-right organization  
set the Republican Party on  
a long march toward extremism**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9 1/4 • 368 pages

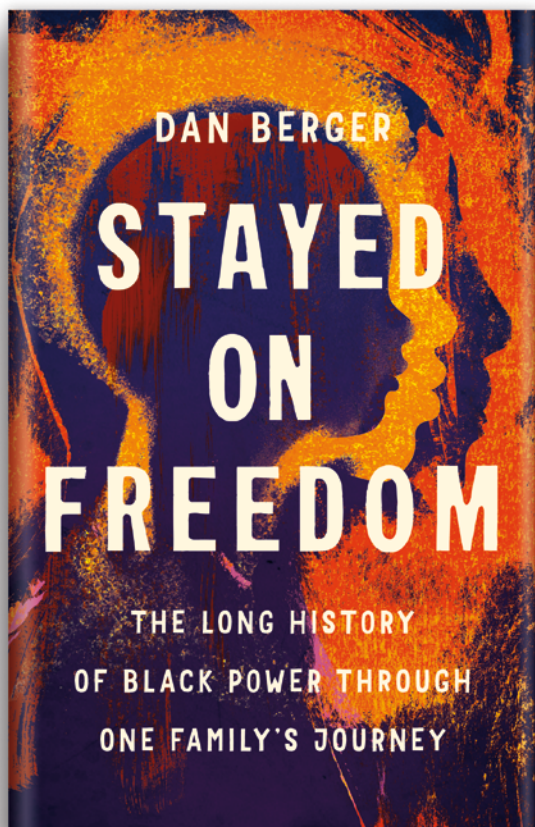
**978-1-5416-7356-4**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7357-1

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Sammy Sarathy-Dallek





**A new history of Black Liberation,  
told through the intertwined story of  
two grassroots organizers**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • JANUARY**

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 384 pages

**978-1-5416-7536-0**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7537-7

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Marc Studer

## DAN BERGER

### STAYED ON FREEDOM

*The Long History of Black Power  
Through One Family's Journey*

**T**he Black Power movement, often associated with its iconic spokesmen, derived much of its energy from the work of people whose stories have never been told. *Stayed on Freedom* brings into focus two unheralded Black Power activists who dedicated their lives to the fight for freedom.

Zoharah Simmons and Michael Simmons fell in love while organizing tenants and workers in the South. Their commitment to each other and to social change took them on a decades-long journey that traversed first the country and then the world. In centering their lives, historian Dan Berger shows how Black Power united the local and the global across organizations and generations.

Based on hundreds of hours of interviews, *Stayed on Freedom* is a moving and intimate portrait of two people trying to make a life while working to make a better world.



**DAN BERGER** is professor of comparative ethnic studies and associate dean for faculty development and scholarship in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington Bothell. His book *Captive Nation: Black Prison Organizing in the Civil Rights Era* won the 2015 James A. Rawley Prize.

# ECKART FRAHM

## ASSYRIA

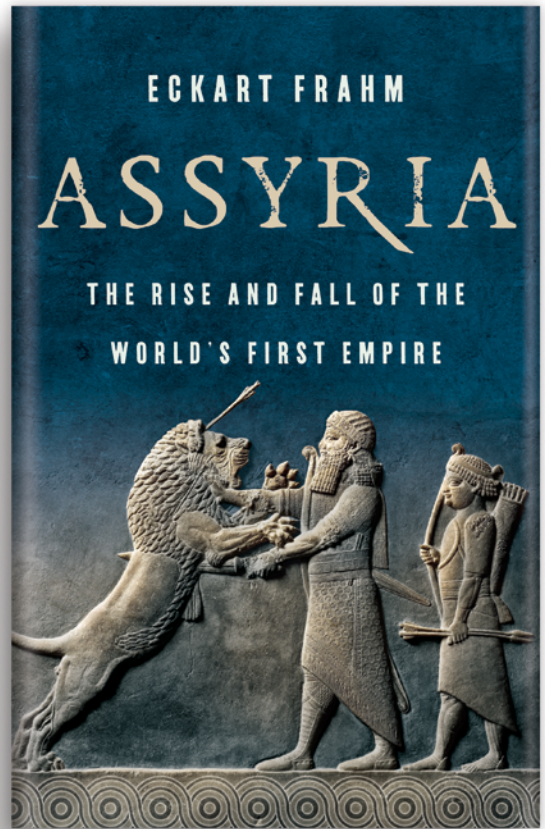
*The Rise and Fall of the  
World's First Empire*

At its height in 660 BCE, the kingdom of Assyria stretched from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf. It was the first empire the world had ever seen. Here, historian Eckart Frahm tells the epic story of Assyria and its formative role in global history. Assyria's wide-ranging conquests have long been known from the Hebrew Bible and later Greek accounts. But nearly two centuries of research now permit a rich picture of the Assyrians and their empire beyond the battlefield: their vast libraries and monumental sculptures, their elaborate trade and information networks, and the crucial role played by royal women.

Although Assyria was crushed by rising powers in the late seventh century BCE, its legacy endured from the Babylonian and Persian empires to Rome and beyond. *Assyria* is a stunning and authoritative account of a civilization essential to understanding the ancient world and our own.



**ECKART FRAHM** is professor of Assyriology in the department of Near Eastern languages and civilizations at Yale. One of the world's foremost experts on the Assyrian Empire, he is the author or coauthor of six books on ancient Mesopotamian history and culture. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut.



**A new history of Assyria,  
the ancient civilization that set the  
model for future empires**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • APRIL

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

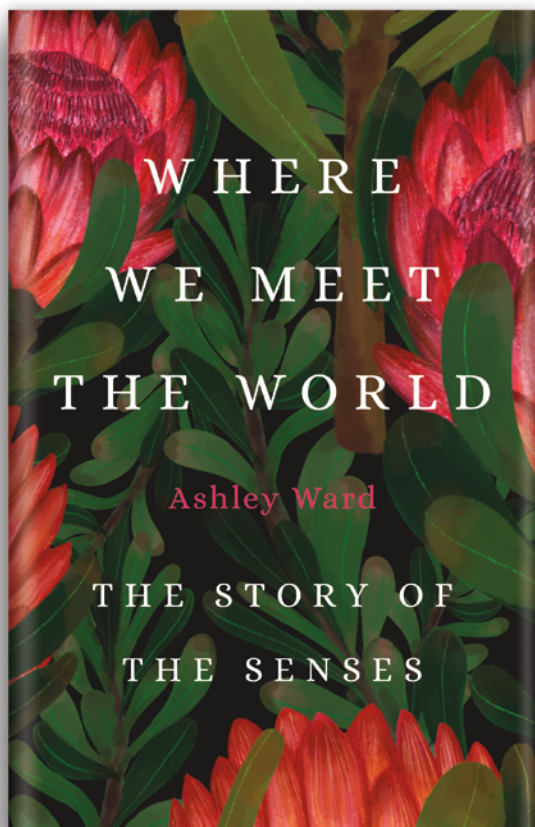
6 x 9 1/4 • 528 pages

**978-1-5416-7440-0**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7439-4

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Paul Slanski Frahm



**The thrilling story of how  
our senses evolved and how they shape  
our encounters with the world**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH**

Science • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 304 pages

**978-1-5416-0085-0**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0086-7

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Ashley Ward

## ASHLEY WARD

WHERE WE MEET THE WORLD

*The Story of the Senses*

Our senses are what make life worth living. They allow us to appreciate a sip of an ice-cold drink, the sound of laughter, the touch of a lover. But only recently have incredible advances in sensory biology given us the ability to understand how and why our senses evolved as they have.

In *Where We Meet the World*, biologist Ashley Ward takes readers on a breathtaking tour of how our senses function. Ward looks at not only the five major senses—vision, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—but also a host of other senses, such as balance and interoception, the sense of the body’s internal state. Drawing on new research, he explores how our senses interact with and regulate each other, and he uncovers what we can learn from how other animals—and even bacteria—encounter the world.

Full of warmth and humor, *Where We Meet the World* shows how new insights in biology transform our understanding of the relationship between ourselves and our environment, revealing the vibrancy—and strangeness—of both.



**ASHLEY WARD** is a professor and director of the Animal Behaviour Lab at the University of Sydney, where he researches social behavior, learning, and communication in animals. His work has been published in top journals including *PNAS*, *Biological Reviews*, and *Current Biology*. The author of *The Social Lives of Animals*, he lives in Sydney.

# KATE COOPER

## QUEENS OF A FALLEN WORLD

*The Lost Women of  
Augustine's Confessions*

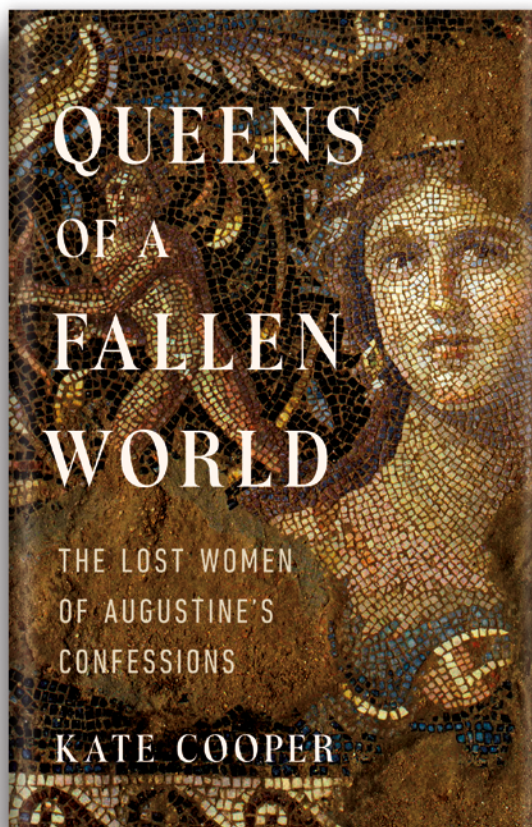
While many know of Saint Augustine and his *Confessions*, few are aware of how his life and thought were influenced by women.

*Queens of a Fallen World* tells a story of betrayal, love, and ambition in the ancient world as seen through a woman's eyes. Historian Kate Cooper introduces us to four women whose hopes and plans collided in Augustine's early adulthood: his mother, Monnica of Thagaste; his lover; his fiancée; and Justina, the troubled empress of ancient Rome. Drawing upon their depictions in the *Confessions*, Cooper skillfully reconstructs their lives against the backdrop of their fourth-century society. Though they came from different walks of life, each found her own way of prevailing in a world ruled by men.

A refreshingly complex and compelling portrait of Augustine, *Queens of a Fallen World* is the riveting story of four remarkable women who set him on course to change history.



**KATE COOPER** is professor of history at Royal Holloway, University of London. She writes for many publications such as the *Times of London*, the *Guardian*, and *History Today*. Her books include *Band of Angels*, *The Fall of the Roman Household*, and *The Virgin and the Bride*. She lives with her husband and Niko, a border collie.



**The vibrant and surprising  
lives of the women in  
Augustine's Confessions**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • APRIL**

Biography / History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

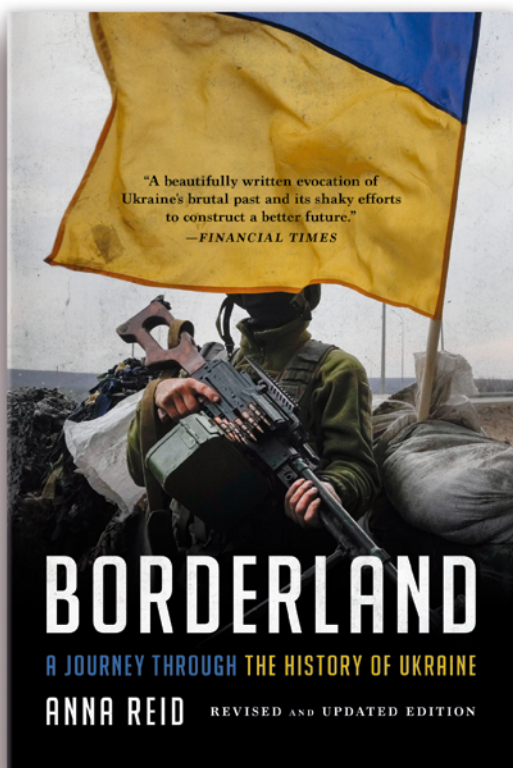
6 x 9¼ • 352 pages

**978-1-5416-4601-8**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4600-1

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Hester Leyser



**“A beautifully written evocation of Ukraine’s brutal past and its shaky efforts to construct a better future.”**

**— Financial Times**

**PAPERBACK REISSUE • FEBRUARY**

History • \$19.99 / \$24.99 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 448 pages

**978-1-5416-0348-6**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0349-3

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Stacey Mutkin

# ANNA REID

## BORDERLAND

*A Journey Through  
the History of Ukraine*

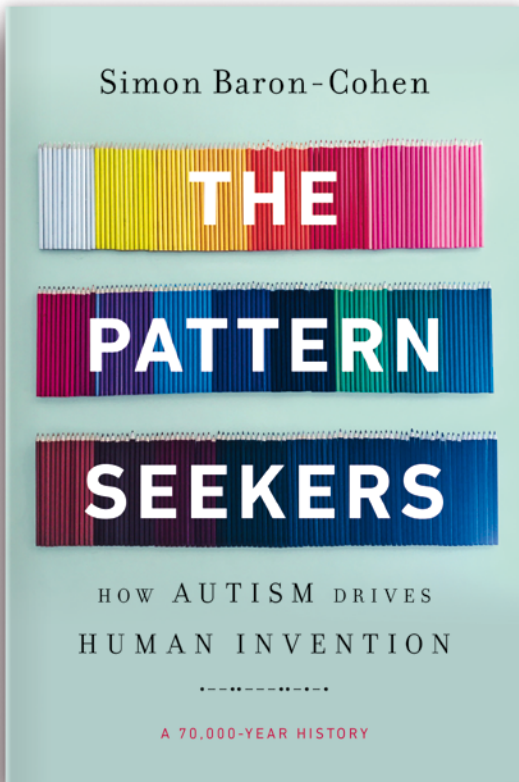
Ukraine is gripped in a bloody crisis that has killed tens of thousands, displaced millions, and is transforming the world’s energy policies and security architecture. As journalist Anna Reid shows in *Borderland*, this conflict is the latest of many. Ukraine has been a borderland, and a battlefield, for more than seven centuries, from the Mongol invasion of 1240 to the Maidan protests of 2014—and, of course, the devastating Russian invasion of 2022.

In this penetrating book, Reid charts Ukraine’s tragic past and uncertain future. Talking to peasants and politicians, rabbis and racketeers, dissidents and paramilitaries, survivors of Stalin’s famine and of Nazi labor camps, she reveals the layers of myth and propaganda that wrap this divided land. Updated to include firsthand reporting from the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war, *Borderland* is essential reading for anyone looking to understand how history is shaping Ukraine’s destiny.



**ANNA REID** was Kiev correspondent for the *Economist* and the *Daily Telegraph* from 1993 to 1995, and has since covered the country for *Newsweek* and the

*Spectator*. She is the author of *The Shaman’s Coat: A Native History of Siberia*, and *Leningrad: Tragedy of a City Under Siege, 1941–44*, which was shortlisted for the Duff Cooper Prize. She is a trustee of the Ukrainian Institute London.



## SIMON BARON-COHEN

THE PATTERN SEEKERS

*How Autism Drives Human Invention*

**A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE PICK**

**An "ambitious work" (*Washington Post*)  
tracing the links between autism  
and ingenuity**

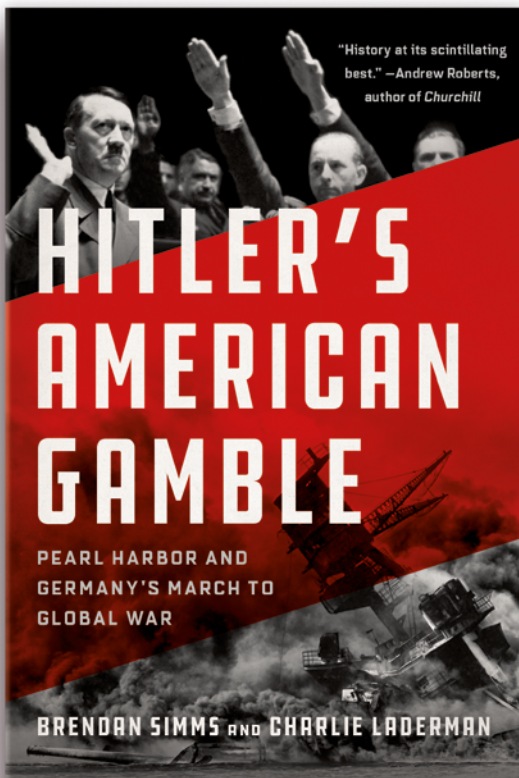
**NEW PAPERBACK • JANUARY**

Psychology • \$18.99 / \$23.99 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 272 pages

**978-1-5416-4715-2**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4713-8



## BRENDAN SIMMS *and* CHARLIE LADERMAN

HITLER'S AMERICAN GAMBLE

*Pearl Harbor and Germany's March to Global War*

**An "absorbing" and "visceral" (*New York Times*) account of the five most crucial days  
in twentieth-century diplomatic history:  
from Pearl Harbor to Hitler's declaration of  
war on the United States**

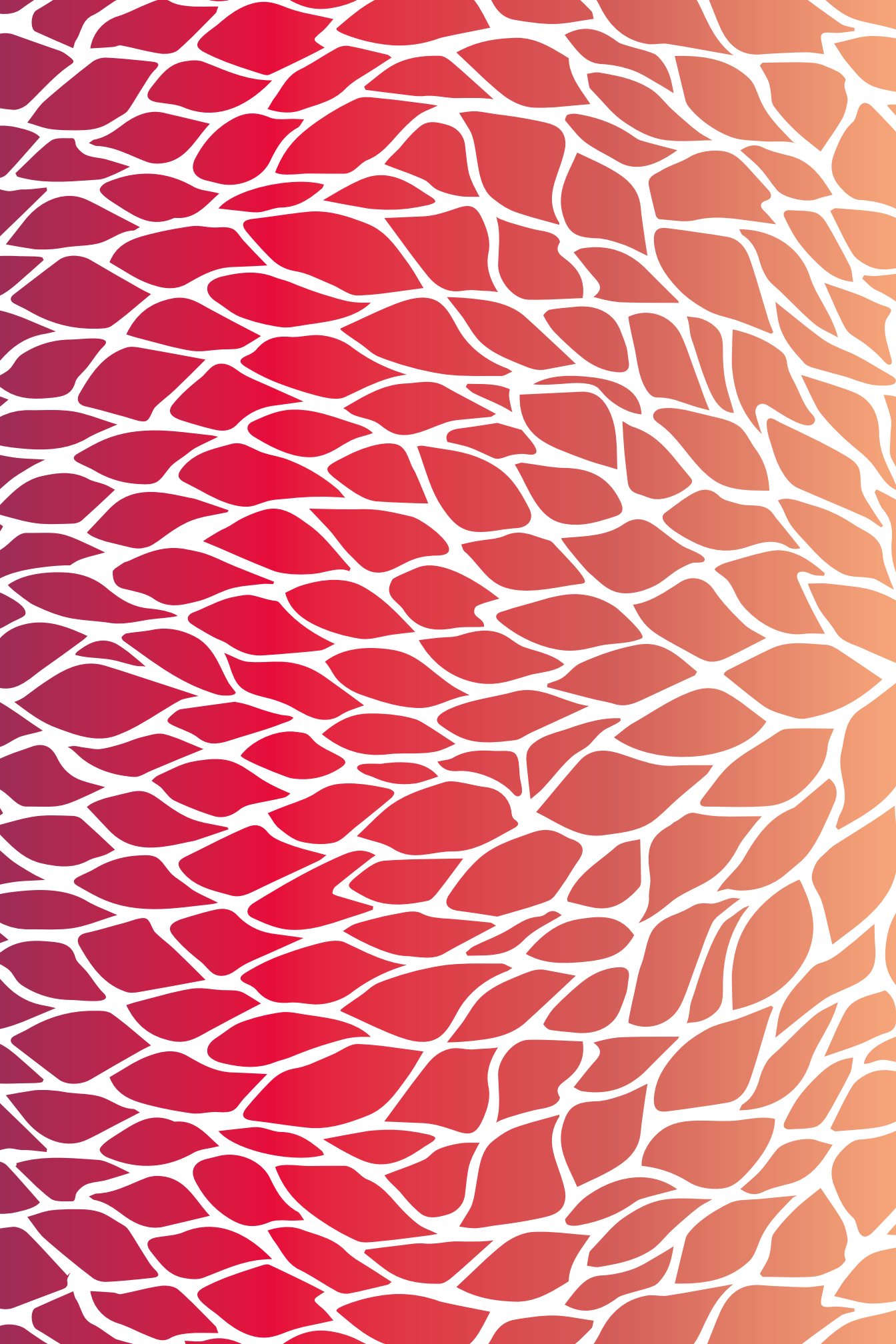
**NEW PAPERBACK • APRIL**

History • \$23.99 / \$29.99 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 528 pages

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E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1908-1

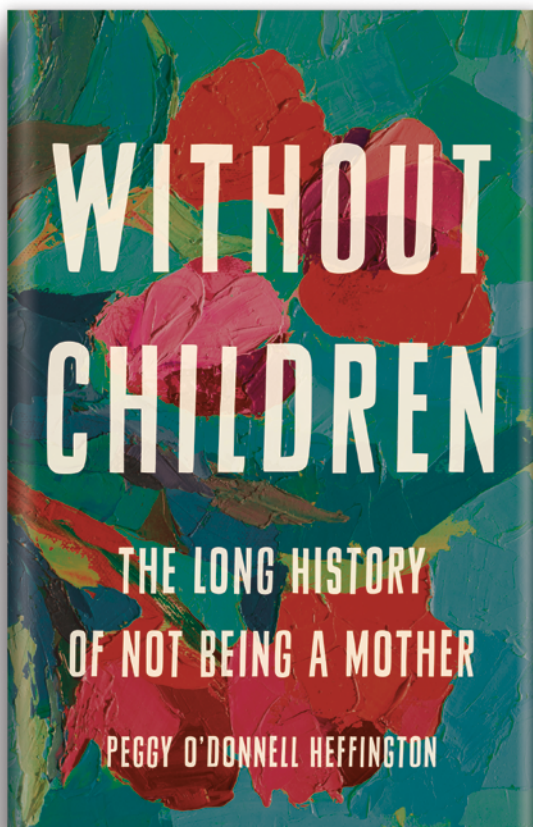


## ABOUT



Seal Press was founded in 1976 and stands as one of the most enduring feminist publishing houses to emerge from the women's press movement of the 1970s. What began as a letterpress in a Seattle garage has grown to an award-winning publishing house in New York and an imprint of Hachette, the third largest publisher in the world. Seal's list is devoted to groundbreaking, boldly conceived books that inspire and challenge readers, lift up original voices, and imagine a better future. Publishing highlights include Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Julia Serano's *Whipping Girl*, Michelle Tea's *Valencia*, Minda Harts's *The Memo*, and Susan Stryker's *Transgender History*.





**A historian of gender explores the complicated relationship between womanhood and motherhood**

**NEW HARDCOVER • APRIL**

History • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 304 pages

**978-1-5416-7557-5**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7556-8

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © AF Photography

## PEGGY O'DONNELL HEFFINGTON

WITHOUT CHILDREN

*The Long History of  
Not Being a Mother*

In an era of falling births, it's often said that millennials invented the idea of not having kids. But history is full of women without children: some who chose childless lives, others who wanted children but never had them, and still others—the vast majority, then and now—who fell somewhere in between.

Drawing on deep research and her own experience as a woman without children, historian Peggy O'Donnell Heffington shows that many of the reasons women are not having children today aren't new: a lack of support, their jobs or finances, environmental concerns, infertility, and the desire to live different kinds of lives. Understanding this history—how normal it has always been to not have children, and how hard society has worked to make it seem abnormal—is key, she writes, to rebuilding kinship between mothers and non-mothers, and to building a better world for us all.



**PEGGY O'DONNELL HEFFINGTON** is an instructional professor of history at the University of Chicago and teaches on feminism, women's movements, and human rights. Her writing can be found in *Jezebel*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the *Boston Globe*, and elsewhere. She received her PhD in history from the University of California, Berkeley.

# MYISHA BATTLE

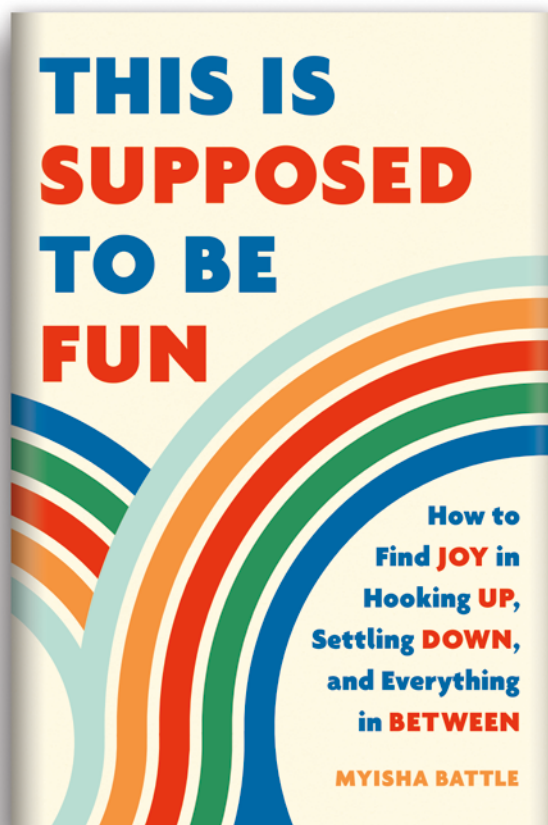
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN

*How to Find Joy in Hooking Up,  
Settling Down, and  
Everything in Between*

**S**wipe. Match. Get ghosted. Repeat. Modern dating can quickly start to feel like an overwhelming slog. It's easy to forget the point of it all: this is supposed to be fun. Enter professional sex and dating coach Myisha Battle. Drawing on an engaging and diverse collection of client stories, *This Is Supposed to Be Fun* is a uniquely inclusive, sex-positive guide to help you skip past the games and get what you really want out of dating and relationships—no matter what that may be. Whether you're trying to create the perfectly imperfect dating profile, stay true to your authentic self on dates, match with people interested in kink, or break up with compassion, Battle's friendly, proven advice is indispensable. *This Is Supposed to Be Fun* will help make the world of dating and relationships more enjoyable (and bearable!) for everyone.



**MYISHA BATTLE** is a certified clinical sexologist and sex and dating coach, educator, and speaker. Her expertise has been featured in the *Washington Post*, *New York Magazine*'s the *Cut*, *Refinery29*, *Oprah Magazine*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Playboy*, *Nylon*, and many other outlets. She lives in San Francisco, California.



**A certified clinical sexologist's  
radically inclusive guide to  
sex and dating**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • JANUARY**

Relationships • \$28.00 / \$35.00 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 288 pages

**978-1-5416-0221-2**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0213-7

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Helena Price

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## MEET THE EDITORS

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### LARA HEIMERT

SVP, PUBLISHER

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Lara Heimert joined Basic Books in 2005. Previously, she was publisher of the trade division at Yale University Press. She has published numerous prize-winning and *New York Times* best-selling titles. Highlights include Edward Baptist's *The Half Has Never Been Told*, Eugene Rogan's *The Fall of the Ottomans*, Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands*, Bee Wilson's *Consider the Fork*, Victor Davis Hanson's *The Dying Citizen*, Neil Price's *Children of Ash and Elm*, and Jason Riley's *Maverick*. A graduate of Princeton University, Lara acquires primarily in the field of history, broadly conceived—from world wars to marginalia, from culinary history to political theory, from diaspora to doodles.

### THOMAS KELLEHER

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Thomas Kelleher joined Basic Books in 2009, and publishes predominantly in science, mathematics, and economics. He has published Eric Topol, Sherry Turkle, Edward Frenkel, Thor Hanson, Eugenia Cheng, and Leonard Susskind, among many others. Recent highlights include Azra Raza's *The First Cell*, Lucy Cooke's *Bitch*, William MacAskill's *What We Owe the Future*, Adam Becker's *What Is Real?*, Rob Dunn's *A Natural History of the Future*, and Sabine Hossenfelder's *Lost in Math*. He is also responsible for the publishing program surrounding *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*.

### BRIAN J. DISTELBERG

VP, EDITOR IN CHIEF

P: 212-364-0655

E: brian.distelberg@hbgusa.com

Brian J. Distelberg joined Basic Books in 2015 and acquires primarily in history. Books he has edited and published include Martha Jones's *Vanguard*, Peniel Joseph's *The Sword and the Shield*, Martyn Rady's *The Habsburgs*, Marc David Baer's *The Ottomans*, Walter Johnson's *The Broken Heart of America*, Erika Lee's *America for Americans*, and Alice Baumgartner's *South to Freedom*. He also publishes a select number of books in politics; highlights include Jonathan Metzl's *Dying of Whiteness* and Jonathan Sacks's *Morality*. Brian worked previously at Harvard University Press and holds a PhD in US history from Yale University.

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## MEET THE EDITORS

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### EMMA BERRY

SENIOR EDITOR

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Emma Berry joined Basic Books in 2020 and acquires in law, psychology, medicine, and the social sciences, with a particular interest in feminism and queer studies. Forthcoming acquisitions include Steve Vladeck's *The Shadow Docket*, Jedediah Purdy's *Two Cheers for Politics*, and June Thomas's untitled book on lesbian spaces. Before joining Basic, she was an editor at Crown, where she acquired and edited books including *The Whiteness of Wealth* by Dorothy Brown and *Let the Lord Sort Them* by Maurice Chammah.

### KYLE GIPSON

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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