

# ALGONQUIN BOOKS



## FALL 2021

# The Archer

## A Novel

Shruti Swamy

Kiese Laymon called Shruti Swamy's debut, *A House Is a Body*, "one of the greatest short story collections of the 2020s." Now, Swamy brings us an accomplished and immersive coming-of-age novel set in the Bombay of the 1960s and 1970s.

As a child, Vidya exists to serve her family, watch over her younger brother, and make sense of a motherless world. One day she catches sight of a class where the students are learning Kathak, a precise, dazzling form of dance that requires the utmost discipline and focus. Kathak quickly becomes the organizing principle of Vidya's life, even as she leaves home for college, falls in love with her best friend, and battles demands on her time, her future, and her body. Can Vidya give herself over to her art and also be a wife in Bombay's carefully delineated society? Can she shed the legacy of her own imperfect, unknowable mother? Must she, herself, also become a mother?

Intensely lyrical and deeply sensual, with writing as rhythmically mesmerizing as Kathak itself, *The Archer* is about the transformative power of art and the possibilities that love can open when we're ready.

"This novel swallowed me whole. *The Archer* is the kind of book you always hope for: lush and sensual, tasted and felt, with striking images that play out like film behind the eyes. Swamy evokes an India that resists flat stereotype and teems with exuberance, beauty, and life. *The Archer* is timeless yet utterly modern as it asks what it means for a woman to make a life of art." —C PAM ZHANG, author of *How Much of These Hills Is Gold*

"Shruti Swamy is a writer to celebrate. Her fiction is provocative, precise, and gorgeously inventive." —MEGHA MAJUMDAR, author of *A Burning*

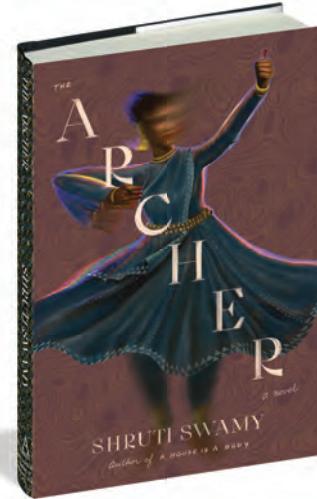
"This is a singular work, a story of a dancer, and of a hungry self seated at the table of womanness and desire and art, told with unparalleled originality and elegance. Swamy writes with a thrilling clarity of vision that wakes the sleepwalker right into joyful consciousness. Every word is intimate, honest, ecstatic—utterly alive."

—MENG JIN, author of *Little Gods*



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**Shruti Swamy** is the author of *A House Is a Body*: Stories, which was shortlisted for the the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize and the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction. The winner of two O. Henry Awards, her fiction has been published in the Paris Review, McSweeney's, and elsewhere. She lives in San Francisco.



- A promising debut from a rapturously reviewed story writer whose work was heralded for its "rich, mesmeric" quality (*BuzzFeed*)

- For readers of original, bold, and lyrical literary works, like those of Megha Majumdar, Yaa Gyasi, and C Pam Zhang

- A connected and prize-winning young author who has received coverage and placed essays in venues like the *Paris Review*, *BuzzFeed*, and *The Millions*

### The Archer

320 pages • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

Hardcover: \$25.95/\$34.95 Can./£19.99

ISBN: 9781616209902

No. 73990

Ships: August



9 781616 209902



### A House Is a Body

224 pages • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

Paperback: \$15.95/\$23.95 Can./£12.99

ISBN: 9781643751450

No. 74145



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# Carry the Dog

## A Novel

Stephanie Gangi

A captivating and sophisticated novel about a woman reckoning with the events that shaped her life, especially the scandals and family secrets that stand in her way of making peace with her past.

For Bea Seger, life has meant years of running away: first from her home at age 17, when she elopes with a rock star, and then from herself, as an old scandal continues to haunt her. When she was a child, her mother, a photographer, was investigated by the FBI on charges of child pornography when, over several years, she took controversial photographs of Bea and her older brothers.

With her mother dead, Bea finds herself responsible for the library of work her mother created. When a film producer suddenly becomes interested in doing a biographical film about her mother, and MoMA's photography curator decides to do a retrospective of her work, Bea finds herself having to deal with her mother's past and her legacy, exposing old wounds that she hoped had begun to heal.

*Carry the Dog* brims with truths about the human condition of a sophisticated yet earthy late-blooming feminist, and it reverberates with the echoes of the rock 'n' roll world thanks to Bea's ex-husband, an aging rock star who still is a part of her life. To read this novel is to be swept into Bea's world, to bear witness as the little girl in the photographs and the woman in the mirror meet at the blurry intersection of memory and truth, disappointment and gratitude, trauma and—most especially—resilience.

"Stephanie Gangi's *Carry the Dog* is powered by insight and true wit as it explores families and their aftershocks, as well as art, regret, and the state of being an older, desiring female in a world that too often looks away. I enjoyed it immensely."

—MEG WOLITZER, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Female Persuasion*

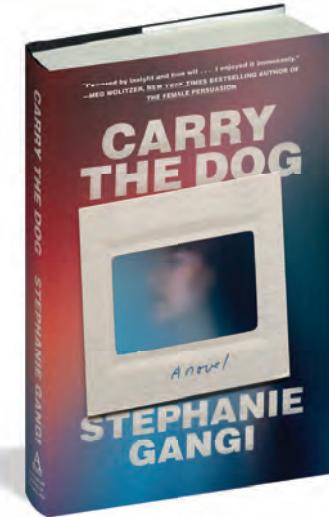
"I can't remember the last time I was as completely bewitched by a fictional character as I was by Bea Seger . . . What a treat to view life through the eyes of this funny, smart, gutsy woman." —RICHARD RUSSO, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

"A book about resilience, and the imperative of defining yourself to yourself, and a riveting reminder that nothing in this life is ever too late. I loved it."

—MARY BETH KEANE, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ask Again, Yes*



**Stephani Gangi** is a poet, essayist, and novelist. Her award-winning poem, "Four," was published in the Hippocratic Prize Anthology. Her acclaimed debut novel, *The Next*, was a finalist in the Writers@Work Annual Writing Competition. Her essays have been published in Literary Hub, Catapult, The Woolfer, Bust, TueNight, and NextTribe. Gangi wrote the first draft of *Carry the Dog* at the Leopardi Writing Conference in Recanati, Italy, after winning the Jeannine Cooney Scholarship for Excellence in Fiction. She lives in New York City.



• A powerful, engaging feminist narrative about a woman acknowledging past mistakes and coming to terms with what she must do to move forward

• A moving New York-centric story with both commercial and literary appeal, partially inspired by the controversial work of photographer Sally Mann

• A page-turning and sophisticated story: Stephanie Gangi's first novel, *The Next*, was acclaimed as "fast-paced and engrossing" and "dripping with psychological genius"

### Carry the Dog

288 pages • 6" x 9"

Hardcover: \$26.95/\$35.95 Can./£20.99

ISBN: 9781643751276

No. 74127

Ships: October



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# Honor

## A Novel

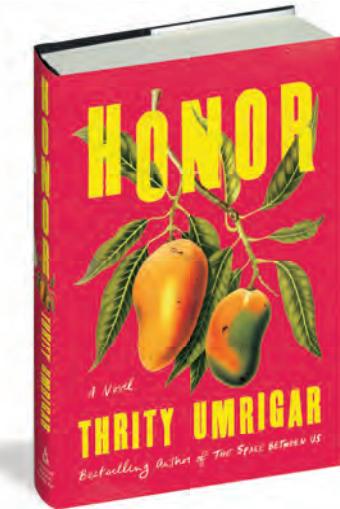
Thrity Umrigar

**Bestselling author Thrity Umrigar tells the story of two Indian women, one a victim of a brutal crime and the other an Americanized journalist returning to India to cover the story, and the courage they inspire in each other.**

**W**hen Indian American journalist Smita returns to India to write the story of a young widow Meena and the murder of her husband, it's Smita's first time back since her family left when she was a child. Both Smita and Meena were raised in a culture where a woman exercising a basic human right—the right to love and marry whoever she chooses—is met with brutal punishment. While Meena's fate hangs in the balance, Smita must reckon with the privilege that becoming an American has given her, as well as face the trauma that shaped her as a child and led to her family leaving.

Dual love stories propel the narrative, as different as the cultures from which they emanate. We follow how Meena fell headfast in love with a person forbidden to her due to his religion and faced the violent consequences of her choice; and Smita's freedom to have a casual love affair and to decide, later, how much it means to her.

Moving, perceptive, and heartbreakingly honest, *Honor* is perfect for fans of Etaf Rum's *A Woman Is No Man* and Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. It is a story about two women and what they inspire in each other as they navigate a home where terrible things have occurred, and are allowed to keep occurring, a country that they want, more than anything, to love.



- A bestselling author with a strong record of writing accessible and smart fiction
- A heartrending depiction of two love stories that lays bare how the trajectory of a love affair is fully determined by one's culture
- A topical story about gender, caste, and religion

### Honor

304 pages • 6" x 9"

Hardcover: \$26.95/\$35.95 Can./£20.99

ISBN: 9781616209957

No. 73995

Ships: December



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**Thrity Umrigar** is the bestselling author of *The Space Between Us*, which was a finalist for the PEN/Beyond Margins Award, as well as six other novels, a memoir, and three picture books. Her books have been translated into several languages and published in over fifteen countries. She is the winner of a Lambda Literary Award and the Seth Rosenberg Prize and is a Distinguished Professor of English at Case Western Reserve University.

# Clean Air

A Novel

Sarah Blake

**"We couldn't breathe the air. To some people it seemed quick, sudden even. To some it seemed gradual. In hindsight, everyone said the signs were there."**

A decade has passed since *The Turning*. The climate apocalypse has come and gone, and in the end it wasn't the waters rising, as the scientists predicted, nor the temperature climbing, nor the forest fires spreading. It was pollen—spring allergies becoming worse and worse until the air became unbreathable, the world overgrown with trees.

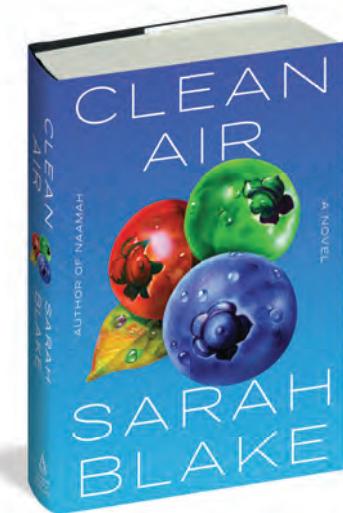
In the past ten years, humanity has rebuilt, and Izabel has gotten used to the airtight domes that now contain her life. She raises her young daughter and attempts to make peace with her mother's death. She tries hard to be satisfied with this new world, safe and prosperous as it is. Instead she feels stuck.

And then the peace of the new world is shattered. Someone starts slashing through the domes at night, exposing people to the deadly pollen—a serial killer. Almost simultaneously, Izabel's daughter Cami begins sleep-talking, having whole conversations about the murders that she doesn't seem to remember after she wakes. Izabel becomes fixated on the killer, both tracking him down and figuring out the type of man he might be. What could compel someone to kill, after ten years dedicated to sheer survival, with humanity finally flourishing again?

Suspenseful and startling, but also written with a wry, observant humor, *Clean Air* will appeal to readers of *The Need*, *The Leftovers*, and *Fever Dream* as it probes motherhood and grief, control and choice.

*"Clean Air is the work of a rare and casually powerful literary imagination. It is set in a future that feels all too real, a post-apocalyptic novel that is both a family story and a thriller."* —JOAN SILBER, author of *Improvement*

*"Sarah Blake has travelled into the future to create a precise portrait of motherhood in this current moment, complete with one of the most fully realized children I have ever met on the page. Told with a poet's economy and logic, *Clean Air* is a clear-eyed look at the terror and tenderness of motherhood, and a parent's ordinary devotion in an extraordinary world."* —SHRUTI SWAMY, author of *A House Is a Body* and *The Archer*



- An award-winning author whose debut won the 2019 National Jewish Book Award for Debut Fiction

- *The Overstory* by Richard Powers meets *The Need* by Helen Phillips, combining nature elements and a tense, escalating thriller-like plot

- Tackles big and relatable issues, such as grief and motherhood, through a speculative lens as part of the growing "cli-fi" genre

## Clean Air

320 pages • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

Hardcover: \$25.95/\$34.95 Can./ UK

ISBN: 9781643751061

No. 74106

Ships: January



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**Sarah Blake**'s novel *Naamah* won the National Jewish Book Award for debut fiction. Blake is also the author of the poetry collections *Mr. West* and *Let's Not Live on Earth*. In 2013, she was awarded a literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She currently lives in the U.K.

# Perpetual West

A Novel

Mesha Maren

The riveting, brilliant new novel by the critically acclaimed author of *Sugar Run*.

When Alex and Elana move from small-town Virginia to El Paso, they are just a young married couple, each the other's best friend, intent on a new beginning. Born in Mexico but adopted by white American Pentecostal parents, Alex is hungry to learn about the place where he was born. He spends every free moment across the border in Juárez—perfecting his Spanish, hanging with a collective of young activists, and studying Mexican professional wrestling, “lucha libre,” for his graduate work in sociology. Though Elana has enrolled at the local university as well, she feels disillusioned by academia and struggles to find her place in their new home. She also has no idea that Alex has fallen in love with Mateo, a lucha libre fighter.

When Alex goes missing and Elana can't determine whether he left of his own accord or was kidnapped, it's clear that neither of them is able to face who they really are. Spanning their journey from Virginia to Texas to Mexico, Mesha Maren's thrilling and fiercely intelligent follow-up to *Sugar Run* takes us from missionaries to wrestling matches to a luxurious cartel compound, and deep into the psychic choices that shape our identities.

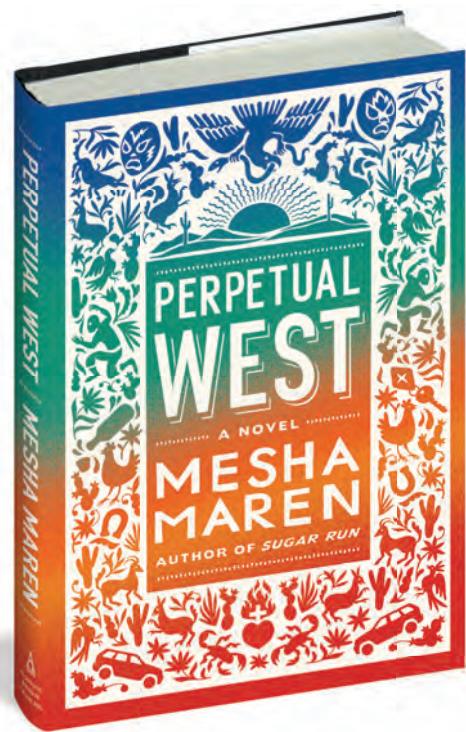
A sweeping novel that tells us as much about America and Mexico as it does about our own natures and desires, *Perpetual West* is an utterly engaging look at the false divide between high and low culture, and a suspenseful story of how harrowing events can bring our true selves to the surface.

“With its corrupt world of maquiladoras and drug cartels, Mesha Maren’s Juárez may seem familiar, but the truly dangerous borders her characters have to cross are within themselves. *Perpetual West* recalls no other novel so much as *The Sheltering Sky*, as its innocents cast aside their masks and surrender to more elemental truths.”

—STEWART O’NAN, author of *A Prayer for Dying*

“A complex novel full of suspense in the tradition of *Under the Volcano*. Maren takes our modern mythos of the border and weaves a story that is entirely her own.”

—FERNANDO A. FLORES, author of *Tears of the Trufflepig*



© Natalia Weedy

**Mesha Maren** is the author of *Sugar Run*. Her work has appeared in the *Oxford American*, the *Guardian*, *Tin House*, the *Southern Review*, and elsewhere. She was the recipient of the *Thomas Wolfe Fiction Prize*, an *Elizabeth George Foundation grant*, and fellowships from the *MacDowell Colony* and the *Ucross Foundation*. She is an assistant professor at Duke University and also serves as a NEA Writing Fellow at the federal prison camp in Alderson, West Virginia.

## Praise for *Sugar Run*:

- **BuzzFeed Books Book Club February Selection**
- **The Lily Lit Club February Selection**
- **PureWow Book Club January Selection**

"The literary lineages here are hard-boiled fiction and film noir, but on every page of her debut novel, Mesha Maren creates bold new takes on those venerable genres, a much needed refresh of worn tropes and clichés. Maren is masterly at describing America's modern wastelands, the blasted towns not yet and maybe never to be the beneficiaries of rehabilitation and reoccupation. You can almost see Maren—like Raymond Chandler—cutting each typed page into three strips and requiring each strip to contain something delightful (startling simile, clever dialogue, brilliant description) offered to the reader as a recompense for a world that presses up against you all raw and aggressive and dangerous. A language that fully owns its power to capture just that 'heart-wild magic.'"

—CHARLES FRAZIER, *The New York Times Book Review*

"A darkly steamy first novel . . . ravishingly rugged . . . a literary page-turner, hair-raising in both plot and prose. Maren writes with windswept grace and stark sensuality." —*O, The Oprah Magazine*

"*Sugar Run* is a shining debut, with a heady admixture of explosive plot and taut, burnished prose. This is a book that loves its wounded characters and troubled places, and in so deeply loving, it finds a terrible truth and beauty where other writers wouldn't have found the courage to look. I'm glad to be among the first to sing the praise of this young writer when I say that Mesha Maren writes like a force of nature." —LAUREN GROFF, author of *Fates and Furies*

"We love Mesha Maren's *Sugar Run*, a gritty noir novel like you've never read before." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"*Sugar Run* throttles . . . The clip is fast and exciting." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"The effect . . . is like hearing birdcall in the wake of a gruesome shootout, or finding a swallowed heist diamond glinting in the sawed-open guts of a cadaver. It comes so unexpected—a weird, tender gift. We barely recognize it for the mercy it grants us. Heartbreaking. *Sugar Run*'s flashes of pastoral beauty amid so much violence and ruin translate at the end of the novel into a kind of grace . . . Profound."

—*Los Angeles Review of Books*

• A stunning follow-up to *Sugar Run*, which was a *BuzzFeed*, *Lily Lit*, and *PureWow* book club selection, received glowing reviews from national media, and was an Indie Next List pick

• For fans of ambitious literary novels with page-turning plots, such as *Lost Children Archive* by Valeria Luiselli and *Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips

• A rich novel about our public and private selves—one strong and one vulnerable—and how every personality contains many facets

### Perpetual West

352 pages • 6" x 9"

Hardcover: \$26.95/\$35.95 Can./ UK

ISBN: 9781643750941

No. 74094

Ships: December



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### Sugar Run

336 pages • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

Paperback: \$15.95/\$22.95 Can./ UK

ISBN: 9781616209810

No. 73981

Ships: Month



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# Pump

## A Natural History of the Heart

Bill Schutt

A journey into the heartbeat of life on Earth.

Millennia ago, when we first began puzzling over the mysteries of the human body, one organ stood out as vital. The heart was warm, it was central, and it moved as it pumped blood. The ancient Egyptians treated it with reverence, mummifying it separately from the body so that the soul inside it could be weighed. Aristotle believed that it was the seat of consciousness. Over the centuries, science has dispelled the myths, but our fascination with the heart has endured.

From the origins of circulation, still evident in some microorganisms today, to the enormous hearts of blue whales, we journey with Bill to beaches where horseshoe crabs are being harvested for their life-saving blood, and under the sea to learn about the world's most natural antifreeze, flowing through the veins of icefish. And we follow him through human history, too, as scientists hypothesize wrongly and rightly about what is arguably our most important organ, ultimately developing the technologies that have helped us study the heart—and now, in the most cutting-edge labs, the tools that will help us regenerate it.

Deeply researched and engagingly told, *Pump* is a fascinating natural history sure to be loved by readers of Mary Roach and Bill Bryson.

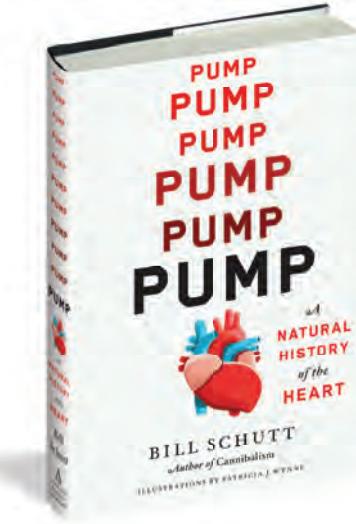
*"Pump* is an absolutely fascinating journey through the human heart by way of our animal kin. It's so packed with cool details, you'll want to read it twice."

—JENNIFER S. HOLLAND, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Unlikely Friendships* series

"*Pump* takes readers on a fantastic and fascinating voyage of all matters of the heart." —CAT WARREN, author of *What the Dog Knows*

"As Bill Schutt delightfully shows us in his new book, hearts have gripping stories to tell about a huge range of topics, from the history of life on our planet to the foibles of humankind." —IAN TATTERSALL, coauthor of *The Accidental Homo Sapiens*

"Schutt brings his usual intelligence and humor to this well-curated natural history of the heart and circulatory system . . . A rich and entertaining read that will leave you feeling smarter." —DARRIN LUNDE, author of *The Naturalist*



- An informative and entertaining popular science work that is both deeply researched and presented in an accessible voice

- For fans of Mary Roach and other popular science writers whose books delve into the natural world

- The second book in Schutt's popular science/natural history series, with another title already in the works

### Pump

288 pages • 6" x 9"

Hardcover: \$26.95/\$32.95 Can./UK

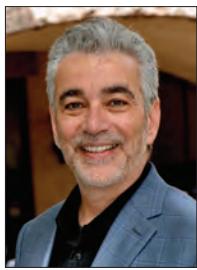
ISBN: 9781616208936

No. 73893

Ships: August

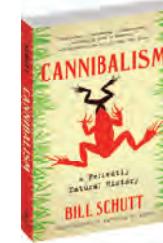


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**Bill Schutt** is a vertebrate zoologist and author of five nonfiction and fiction books, including the *New York Times* Editor's Choice, *Cannibalism: A Perfectly Natural History*. Recently retired from his post as professor of biology at LIU Post, he is a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History, where he has studied bats all over the world. His research has been featured in *Natural History* magazine as well as in the *New York Times*, *Newsday*, *the Economist*, and *Discover*.

© Jerry Ruotolo



### Cannibalism

352 pages • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

Paperback: \$16.95/\$24.95 Can./UK

ISBN: 9781616207434

No. 73743



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# Letter to a Stranger

## Essays to the Ones Who Haunt Us

Edited by Colleen Kinder; Foreword by Leslie Jamison

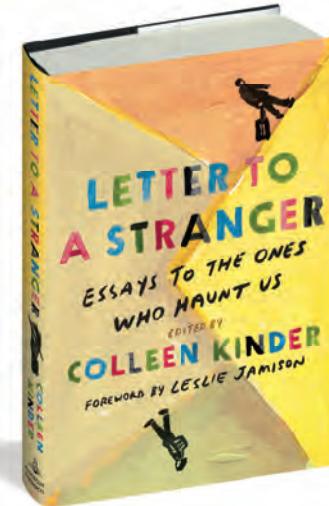
Lauren Groff, Elizabeth Kolbert, Pam Houston, Pico Iyer, T Kira Madden, Gregory Pardlo, Maggie Shipstead, and Peter Orner are among the 65 writers who grapple with this mystery: How can an ephemeral encounter leave an eternal mark?

When Colleen Kinder put out a call for authors to “write a letter to a stranger who haunts you,” she opened the floodgates. The responses—intimate and addictive, all in the form of letters, all written in the second person—began pouring in. These short, insightful essays by today’s best literary minds are organized around such themes as Gratitude, Wonder, and Farewell, and guide us both across the globe and through the mysteries of human connection.

Bestselling author Leslie Jamison, who provides the foreword, reveals she has been haunted for years by a traveling magician she met in Nicaragua. Journalist Ted Conover writes his missive to a stranger he met on a *New Yorker* assignment in Rwanda. From the story of Vanessa Hua’s shoe shopper in China to the tale of Michelle Tea’s encounter in a Texas tattoo parlor, these pieces are replete with observations about how to live and what to seek, and how a stranger’s loaded glance, shared smile, or question posed can alter the course of our lives. Moving and unforgettable, *Letter to a Stranger* is an irresistible read for any literary traveler and the perfect gift for anyone who is haunted by a person they met once but will remember forever.

“The symphony of voices in *Letter to a Stranger* is at times rousing and exhilarating, at other times piercing and plaintive. The human condition is on full display, here in these fleeting glimpses of our essential connectedness. This beautiful book is a perfect one for our times. It reminds us that we are witnesses to one another’s joys and heartaches, even if we never exchange a word.”

—DANI SHAPIRO, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Inheritance*



- Short, addictive essays by prominent and diverse writers include those by Lauren Groff, Elizabeth Kolbert, Pico Iyer, T Kira Madden, Gregory Pardlo, Pam Houston, Vanessa Hua, and many more

- Foreword by celebrated *New York Times* bestselling Leslie Jamison, who contributes her own haunting encounter with a stranger and sets the tone for the book

- Perfect for fans of the true stories from *The Moth* and readers of the *Paris Review* and the *New Yorker*

### Letter to a Stranger

336 pages • 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

Paperback with flaps: \$19.95/\$26.95 Can./£15.99

ISBN: 9781643751245

No. 74124

Ships: September



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**Colleen Kinder** is an essayist and editor whose work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New Republic*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Salon.com*, and the *Best American Travel Writing* series. She has taught writing at Yale University, the Chautauqua Institution, and Semester at Sea. A Fulbright Scholar, Kinder received her MFA at the University of Iowa and is the author of *Delaying the Real World* and the cofounder of the online magazine Off Assignment.

# Flesh & Blood

## Reflections on Infertility, Family, and Creating a Bountiful Life

### A MEMOIR

N. West Moss

**A poetic, witty, and empowering memoir that breaks the silence about miscarriage, infertility, and hysterectomy—and that will resonate with millions of women.**

**W**hen N. West Moss finds herself bleeding uncontrollably in the middle of a writing class, she drives herself to the hospital. Doctors are baffled, but eventually a diagnosis—hemangioma—is determined and a hysterectomy is scheduled. We follow Moss through her surgery, complications, and recovery as her thoughts turn to her previous struggles with infertility, to grief and healing, to what it means to leave a legacy.

Moss's wise, droll voice and limitless curiosity lift this beautiful memoir beyond any narrow focus. Among her interests: yellow fever, good cocktails, the history of New Orleans, and always, the natural world, including the praying mantis in her sunroom, whom she names Claude. And we learn about the inspiring women in Moss's family—her mother, her grandmother, and her great-grandmother—as she sorts out her feeling that this line will end with her. But Moss discovers that grief is not a stopping place but a companion that travels along with us through everything, even happiness.

Fans of Lena Dunham, Leslie Jamison, and Jenny Lawson—along with readers of medical memoirs like *When Breath Becomes Air* and *The Bright Hour*—will find that connection in Moss's *Flesh & Blood*.

"Part journey into the dark crevices of illness, but also a paean to the joys of the daily world, N. West Moss opens her arms wide and embraces the reader with her brilliant—and hilarious—observations."

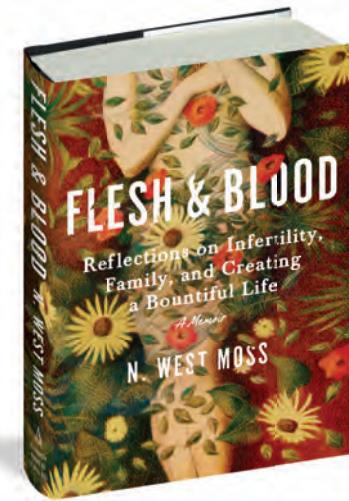
—MARIE MYUNG-OK LEE, author of *Somebody's Daughter*

"N. West Moss brings us on a journey that is both medical and spiritual . . . Honest, thoughtful, and courageous." —DANIELLE OFRI, MD, PhD, author of *When We Do Harm: A Doctor Confronts Medical Error*

"With a series of gentle incisions, this memoir cuts deep. Moss shows us a grief and gladness that, until now, we could not name." —MARTHA WITT, author of *Broken As Things Are*



**N. West Moss** has published a collection of short stories, and her award-winning essays and poems have appeared in the New York Times, Salon.com, McSweeney's, and many other publications. She has a certificate in narrative medicine and works at a university in NJ, where she lives.



- Reveals truths about how women's pain is not always taken seriously, an issue that has resonated with readers of memoirs by Leslie Jamison, Jenny Lawson, and Porochista Khakpour

- Speaks to the wider conversation now as celebrities from Chrissy Teigen to Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, are opening up about their experiences with infertility and miscarriage

- An honest and relatable story that both acknowledges illness and charts a path forward

#### Flesh & Blood

288 pages • 5" x 7"

Hardcover: \$25.95/\$32.95 Can./£19.99

ISBN: 9781643750705

No. 74070

Ship: September



9 781643 750705

# Volunteers

## Growing Up in the Forever War

Jerad W. Alexander

A boyhood where the military is the only way of life.

In this passionate and provocative memoir, Jerad W. Alexander takes readers deep into the “kingdom”—the insular realm of military families growing up on bases around the world—and vividly evokes a childhood infused with all things war. As a young boy on an Air Force base in Utah, he lies in bed listening to the fighter jets take off outside his window, and captures the sense of duty and also the loss his family felt when his stepfather deploys to Iraq. As a teen on a base in Japan, he wears the uniform and plays glorified war games and falls deep down the rabbit hole of Vietnam War literature. And always, always, there are the guns—toy and real—the movies, and the books, all part of a distinctly American sort of heroism and patriotism that Alexander fantasizes someday making his own.

The minute he is old enough, he enlists, like his parents and stepfather and grandparents before him, and he, too, lands in Iraq as an eager Marine, desperate to see some action. Soon, though, he comes to realize he is fighting a lost cause, a skirmish in the ongoing war on terror that is really about a fruitless display of American might. Everything Alexander has based his life on, has obsessed over, he realizes, is a mirage.

With *Volunteers*, Jerad W. Alexander joins the canon of great war writers, helping readers understand the self-replicating violence and mythologies of American patriotism, offering a view of a war most of us only know about through accounts of elite officers or Navy Seals, not those of the average enlisted men and women.

“Riveting and morally complex, *Volunteers* is not only an insider’s account of war. It takes you inside the increasingly closed culture that creates our warriors. In the case of Jerad W. Alexander, that culture has also created a writer of remarkable talent.”

—ELLIOT ACKERMAN, author of the National Book Award finalist *Dark at the Crossing*

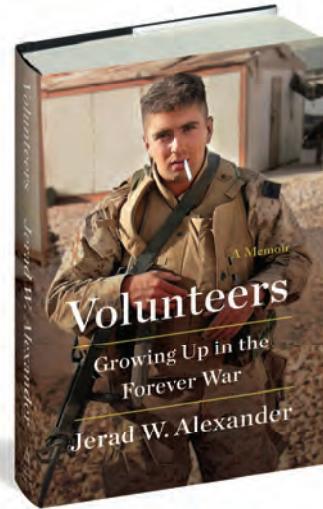
“With this work, Jerad W. Alexander has staked his claim as one of the most necessary voices while contributing to a necessary and overdue examination of our military culture and what it means to be an American. An absolute triumph.”

—JARED YATES SEXTON, author of *American Rule*



© Denise R. Rosenhaft

**Jerad W. Alexander** has written for *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *the Nation*, *Narratively*, and elsewhere. He holds an MFA in Literary Reportage from the New York University Arthur L. Carter School of Journalism. From 1998 to 2006, he served as a U.S. Marine, deploying to the Mediterranean, East Africa, and Iraq. He grew up on military bases, from the east coast of the United States to Japan. He currently lives in New York City, but calls Atlanta home.



- The newest literary entry in a tradition with proven appeal and interest, including authors like Tim O’Brien, Sebastian Junger, and Anthony Swofford

- A vivid examination of the culture of war and why it has imprinted so strongly on many American citizens

- A vital work as we continue to grapple with the consequences of both toxic masculinity and the Iraq War

### Volunteers

320 pages • 6" x 9"

Hardcover: \$26.95/\$35.95 Can./£20.99

ISBN: 9781616209964

No. 73996

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# The Genome Defense

## Inside the Epic Legal Battle to Determine Who Owns Your DNA

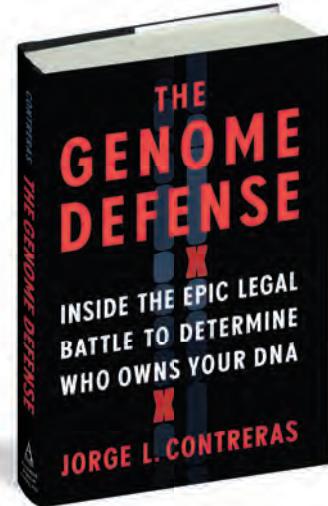
Jorge L. Contreras

In this riveting, behind-the-scenes courtroom drama, a brilliant legal team battles corporate greed and government overreach for our fundamental right to control our genes.

When Chris Hansen, an ACLU lawyer, learned that the US government was issuing patents for human genes to biotech companies, his first thought was: How can a corporation own what makes us who we are? Then he discovered that women were being charged exorbitant fees to test for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer—all because Myriad Genetics had patented the famous BRCA genes. So he sued them.

*The Genome Defense* gives us a front-row seat as Hansen and a team of ACLU lawyers, along with a committed group of activists, scientists, and physicians, take their one-in-a-million case all the way to the US Supreme Court. Jorge L. Contreras, an attorney at the forefront of genetics law, interviews more than a hundred key players as he lays out the groundbreaking legal strategy to challenge human gene patents. The culmination of years of work, his book is both an intimate look at the cancer survivors whose lives have been affected by this case and a sweeping investigation into the fallout from our technological age of discovery.

Like *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *The Genome Defense* is a powerful and compelling story about how society struggles to balance scientific advancement, corporate profits, and the rights of all people.



- An enthralling courtroom drama that will appeal to readers of *A Civil Action* as well as *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

- Author Jorge Contreras played a personal role in the proceedings as one of the leading experts on the case

- At the center of an urgent national conversation about privacy and human rights, with arguments about the commercial use of private information more relevant than ever

### The Genome Defense

320 page • 6" x 9"

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ISBN: 9781616209681

No. 73968

Ships: October



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Courtesy of the Author

**Jorge L. Contreras** received his law degree from Harvard and teaches intellectual property, science policy and the law, and ethics of genetics at the University of Utah and has served on high-level governmental advisory committees. His articles have appeared in *Science*, *Nature*, *Harvard Journal of Law and Technology*, among others. He has been featured on *NPR*, *PRI* and *BBC* radio, and his opinions have been cited in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Economist*, and *Washington Post*.

# Off the Edge

## Flat Earthers, Conspiracy Culture, and Why People Will Believe Anything

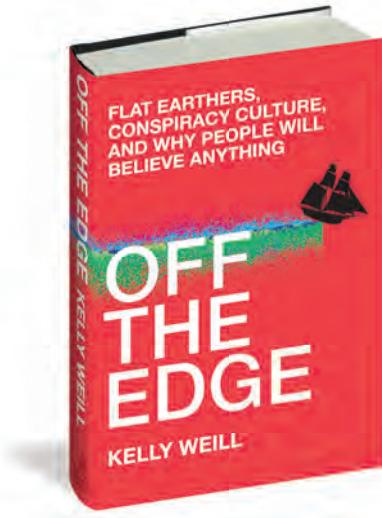
Kelly Weill

At once a definitive and compelling history of the Flat Earth movement and a gripping, up-close-and-personal look at the recent boom in conspiratorial thinking in America.

Since 2015, there has been a spectacular boom in a nearly two-hundred-year-old delusion—the idea that we all live on a flat plane, under a glass dome, ringed by an impossible wall of ice. It is the ultimate in conspiracy theories, a wholesale rejection of everything we know to be true about the world in which we live. Where did this idea come from? Weill draws a straight line from today's conspiratorial movement back to the early days of Flat Earth theory in the 1830s, showing the human impulses behind divergences in belief. Faced with a complicated world out of our individual control, we naturally seek patterns to explain the inexplicable. The only difference between then and now? Social media. And, powered by Facebook and YouTube algorithms, the Flat Earth movement is growing.

At once a definitive history of the movement and a readable look at its expansive, absurd, and dangerous present, *Off the Edge* introduces us to a cast of larger-than-life characters, from 19th-century grifters to 20th-century small-town tyrants to the provocateurs of Alex Jones's early-aughts internet, whose rancor sowed the early seeds of our modern division. We accompany Weill to Flat Earther conferences, where we meet moms on vacation, hard-line creationists, scammy YouTube celebrities and their victims, neo-Nazi rappers, and even a man determined to fly into space in a homemade rocket-powered balloon—whose tragic death proves as senseless and absurd as the theory he set out to prove.

Incisive and clear-eyed, *Off the Edge* tells a powerful story about belief, exploring how we arrived at this moment of polarized realities and explaining what needs to happen so that we might all return to the same spinning globe.



- An incredible insider point-of-view and deep reporting on the roots and personalities of the Flat Earth movement
- For fans of engaging social histories like *Going Clear* and smart, up-to-the minute nonfiction like *Culture Warlords*
- Strong publicity potential, with links to most fringe, extremist, and conspiratorial movements

### Off the Edge

320 pages • 6" x 9"

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ISBN: 9781643750682

No. 74068

Ships: January



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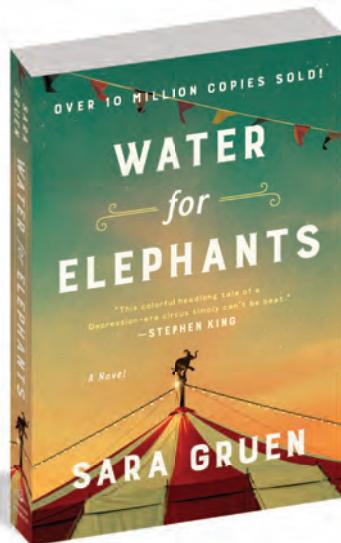
**Kelly Weill** is a journalist at the *Daily Beast*, where she covers extremism, disinformation, and the internet. As a leading media voice on the role of online conspiracy theories in current affairs, she has discussed Flat Earth and other digital fringes on ABC's *Nightline*, CNN, *Al Jazeera*, and other national and international news outlets. She lives in New York.

# Water for Elephants

A Novel

Sarah Gruen

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With over ten million copies sold, this Depression-era circus story “simply can’t be beat” (Stephen King). Rediscover Jacob, Marlena, and—of course—Rosie the elephant, with this beautifully redesigned anniversary edition.

**Sara Gruen** is the #1 New York Times and USA

Today bestselling author of *At the Water’s Edge*, *Water for Elephants*, *Ape House*, *Riding Lessons*, and *Flying Changes*. She lives in western North Carolina with her husband and three sons, along with their dogs, cats, horses, birds, and the world’s fussiest goat.

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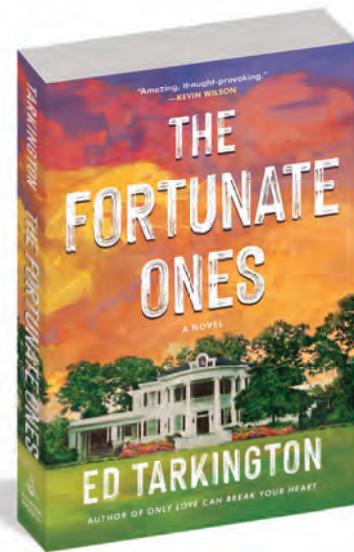
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# The Fortunate Ones

A Novel

Ed Tarkington

An Indie Next pick in hardcover.



When young Charlie Boykin gains entry into the society of the rich in the most exclusive part of Nashville, he falls under its spell. But he soon learns what he'd have to give up in return, in this novel that asks why we envy and worship a class of people that so often exhibits the worst excesses.

**Ed Tarkington**’s debut novel, *Only Love Can Break Your Heart*, was an ABA Indies Introduce selection, an Indie Next pick, a Book of the Month Club Main Selection, and a Southern Independent Booksellers Association bestseller. His work has appeared in a variety of publications, including the Nashville Scene, Memphis Commercial Appeal, Knoxville News Sentinel, and Lit Hub. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

## The Fortunate Ones

336 pages • 5½" x 8¼"  
Paperback: \$16.95/\$22.95 Can./£12.99

ISBN: 9781643752006

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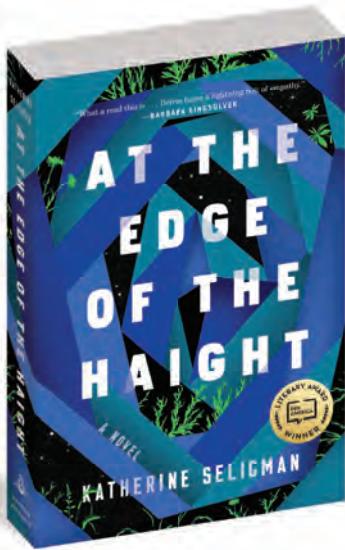
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# At the Edge of the Haight

A Novel

Katherine Seligman

10th Winner of the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction



**M**addy Donaldo, homeless at twenty, has made a family of sorts in the dangerous spaces of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. She knows whom to trust, where to eat, when to move locations, and how to take care of her dog. But when she witnesses the murder of a young homeless boy, her relatively stable life is upended.

**Katherine Seligman** is a journalist and author who lives in San Francisco. She has been a writer at the San Francisco Chronicle Magazine, a reporter at the San Francisco Examiner, and a correspondent at USA Today. Her work has appeared in Redbook, Life, Money, California Magazine, the anthology Fresh Takes, and elsewhere.

## At the Edge of the Haight

320 pages • 5½" x 8¼"

Paperback: \$16.95/\$22.95 Can./£12.99

ISBN: 9781643752082

No. 74208

Ships: September



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# Let's Get Back to the Party

A Novel

Zak Salih

A Most-Anticipated Book of 2021: *BuzzFeed* • *The Millions*

- *Cosmopolitan* • *Electric Literature* • *Advocate*
- *LGBTQ Reads*



**I**n this probing, provocative debut, estranged childhood friends Oscar and Sebastian—both too young to have a personal relationship with the AIDS crisis but too old to have enjoyed the freedom of an out adolescence—spend a year grappling with cultural identity, generational change, and what they see in, and owe to, each other.

**Zak Salih** lives in Washington, D.C. His writing has appeared in *Crazyhorse*, the *Chattahoochee Review*, *The Millions*, *The Rumpus*, and other publications. This is his first novel.

## Let's Get Back to the Party

304 pages • 5½" x 8¼"

Paperback: \$16.95/\$22.95 Can./UK

ISBN: 9781643752075

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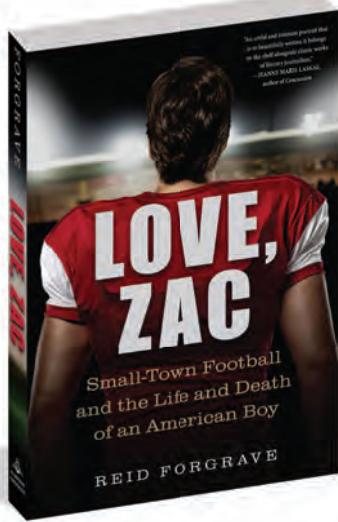
## Love, Zac

### Small-Town Football and the Life and Death of an American Boy

Reid Forgrave

"Love, Zac is not just a vital contribution to the national conversation about traumatic brain injury in athletes . . . It belongs on the shelf alongside classic works of literary journalism."

—JEANNE MARIE LASKAS, author of *Concussion*



**A**n emotionally gripping page-turner about one young man from small-town Iowa who took his own life rather than continue his losing battle against the traumatic brain injuries he had sustained as a school football player.

**Reid Forgrave** writes about sports and other topics for GQ, the New York Times Magazine, and Mother Jones, and has covered football for FoxSports.com and CBS Sports. The article in which he first wrote about Zac Easter is included in Best American Sports Writing 2018. Currently, he lives in Minneapolis and he writes for the StarTribune in Minneapolis.

#### Love, Zac

288 pages • 5½" x 8¼"

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ISBN: 9781643752020

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Ships: August



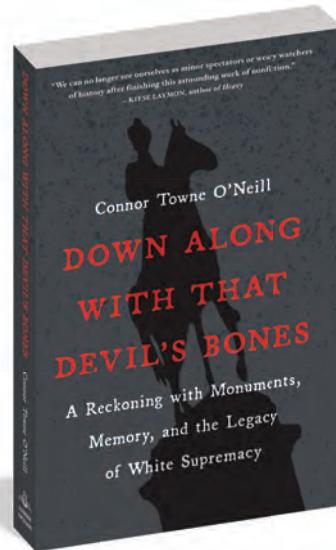
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## Down Along with That Devil's Bones

### A Reckoning with Monuments, Memory, and the Legacy of White Supremacy

Connor Towne O'Neill

"We can no longer see ourselves as minor spectators or weary watchers of history after finishing this astonishing work of nonfiction." —KIESE LAYMON, author of *Heavy*



**A** journalist's memoir of reporting about modern-day conflicts over Southern monuments to Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate hero and original leader of the Ku Klux Klan, as well as a personal examination of the legacy of white supremacy through the U.S. today, tracing the through line from Appomattox to Charlottesville.

**Connor Towne O'Neill**'s writing has appeared in New York magazine, Vulture, Slate, and elsewhere, and he works as a producer on the NPR podcast White Lies, a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Audio Reporting. He lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and teaches at Auburn University and for the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project.

#### Down Along with That Devil's Bones

272 pages • 5½" x 8¼"

Paperback: \$16.95/\$22.95 Can./£12.99

ISBN: 9781643752037

No. 74203

Ships: September



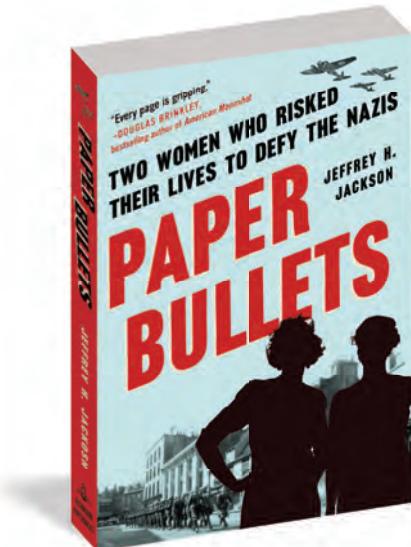
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# Paper Bullets

Two Artists Who Risked Their Lives to Defy the Nazis

Jeffrey H. Jackson

Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction



The Stonewall Honor book tells the history of an audacious anti-Nazi campaign undertaken by an unlikely pair: two French women, Lucy Schwob and Suzanne Malherbe, who drew on their skills as Parisian avant-garde artists to write and distribute “paper bullets”—wicked insults against Hitler, calls to rebel, and subversive fictional dialogues designed to demoralize Nazi troops.

**Jeffrey H. Jackson**, a professor of history at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, is an expert on European history and culture, and the author of *Paris Under Water* and *Making Jazz French*. He has appeared in documentary films and helped develop “*Harlem in Montmartre: A Paris Jazz Story*” for PBS’s Great Performances.

## Paper Bullets

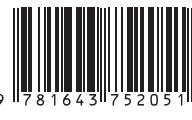
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Paperback: \$16.95/\$22.95 Can./£12.99

ISBN: 9781643752051

No. 74205

Ships: October



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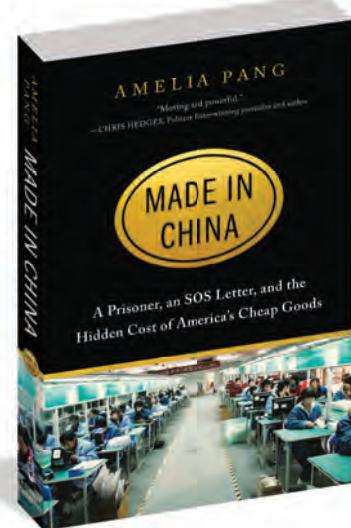
# Made in China

A Prisoner, an SOS Letter, and the Hidden Cost of America’s Cheap Goods

Amelia Pang

“Timely and urgent . . . Pang is a dogged investigator.”

—The New York Times



After an Oregon mother finds an SOS letter in a box of Halloween decorations, journalist Amelia Pang chases the story of the man who wrote it: a Chinese political prisoner, sentenced without trial to work grueling hours at a “reeducation” camp—manufacturing the products sold in our own big-box stores.

**Amelia Pang** is an award-winning journalist who has written for publications such as *Mother Jones* and *the New Republic*. In 2017, the Los Angeles Press Club awarded her first place in investigative journalism for her undercover reporting on the exploitation of smuggled immigrants who are recruited to work in Chinese restaurants. Amelia grew up in a Mandarin-speaking household in Maryland, and holds a BA in literary studies from the New School. She lives near Washington, DC.

## Made in China

288 pages • 5½" x 8¼"

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