



OVERLOOK PRESS

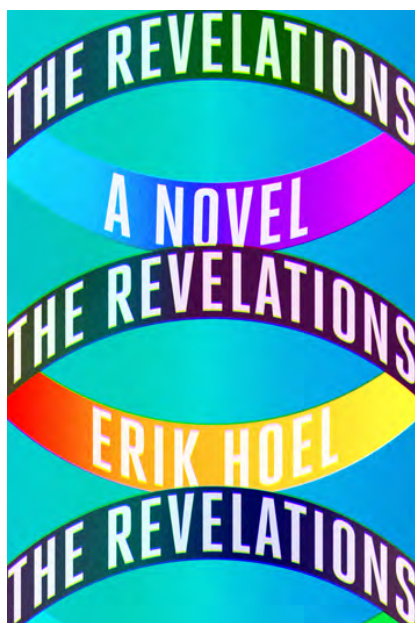
From *The Portrait of a*

The Revelations

A NOVEL

● BY ERIK HOEL

An edgy and ambitious debut about neuroscience, death, and the search for the theory of human consciousness, by a powerful new voice in contemporary literary fiction



RIGHTS SOLD

Italian (Carbonio)

Monday, Kierk wakes up. Once a rising star in neuroscience, Kierk Suren is now homeless, broken by his all-consuming quest to find a scientific theory of consciousness. But when he's offered a spot in a prestigious postdoctoral program, he decides to rejoin society and vows not to self-destruct again. Instead of focusing on his work, however, Kierk becomes obsessed with another project—investigating the sudden and suspicious death of a colleague. As his search for truth brings him closer to Carmen Green, another postdoc, their list of suspects grows, along with the sense that something sinister may be happening all around them.

The Revelations, not unlike its main character, is ambitious and abrasive, challenging and disarming. Bursting with ideas, ranging from Greek mythology to the dark realities of animal testing, to some of the biggest unanswered questions facing scientists today, *The Revelations* is written in muscular, hypnotic prose, and its cyclically dreamlike structure pushes the boundaries of literary fiction. Erik Hoel has crafted a stunning debut of rare power—an intense look at cutting-edge science, consciousness, and human connection.



Erik Hoel received his PhD in neuroscience from the University of Madison–Wisconsin. He is a research assistant professor at Tufts University and was previously a postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University in the NeuroTechnology Lab, and a visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Hoel is a 2018 Forbes “30 under 30” for his neuroscientific research on consciousness and a Center for Fiction Emerging Writer Fellow. *The Revelations* is his debut novel. He lives in Massachusetts.

SELLING POINTS

For readers of Richard Powers, Michel Faber, Neal Stephenson, and Jeff Vandermeer

The author draws extensively from his experience as a neuroscientist to create an authentic novel steeped in real research

SPECIFICATIONS

* 368 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **APRIL 2021**

FICTION

ISBN 978-1-4197-5022-9

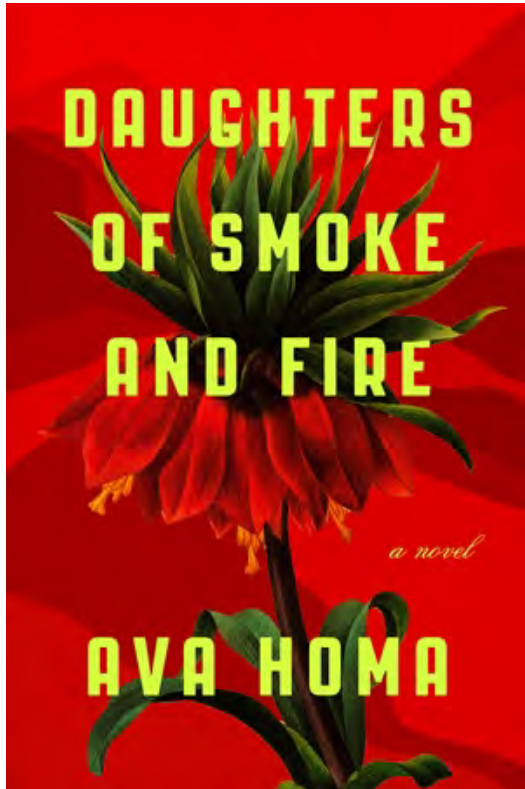
US \$27.00

Daughters of Smoke and Fire

A NOVEL

● BY AVA HOMA

The unforgettable, haunting debut novel of a young woman's perilous fight for freedom and justice for her brother



RIGHTS SOLD

Greek (Brainfood Media)

English (Canada) (HarperCollins Canada)

SELLING POINTS

The first novel published in English written by a female Kurdish writer

Trump's decision to withdraw US troops from Syria will disproportionately affect the Kurds

The author's compelling personal story as a Kurdish woman will make her a great interview subject and produce really unique off-the-book-page features

SPECIFICATIONS

* 320 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: **MAY 2021**

FICTION

ISBN 978-1-4197-4309-2

US \$26.00

Set in Iran, this extraordinary debut novel takes readers into the everyday lives of the Kurds. Leila Dilan dreams of becoming a filmmaker, but she is instead expected to help her mother with household chores until she finds a husband, and her family struggles with the repercussions of her father's imprisonment years before. When Leila's younger brother Chia is accepted to a university in Tehran, she joins him in the city. But Chia's political activism grows increasingly risky and one day he disappears. Seeking answers about her brother's whereabouts, Leila begins protesting with other Kurds. But when she publishes Chia's writings online, she soon finds herself in grave danger.

Warrior Butterflies is an evocative portrait of the lives and stakes faced by 40 million stateless Kurds and a powerful story that brilliantly illuminates the meaning of identity and the complex bonds of family, perfect for fans of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*.

Ava Homa was born and raised in the Kurdistan Province in Iran and now divides her time between Toronto and Los Angeles. A journalist, activist, and political analyst specializing in women's issues and Middle Eastern affairs, Homa addressed the United Nations on the issue of self-immolation among Kurdish women.

THE OVERLOOK PRESS

SPRING 2021

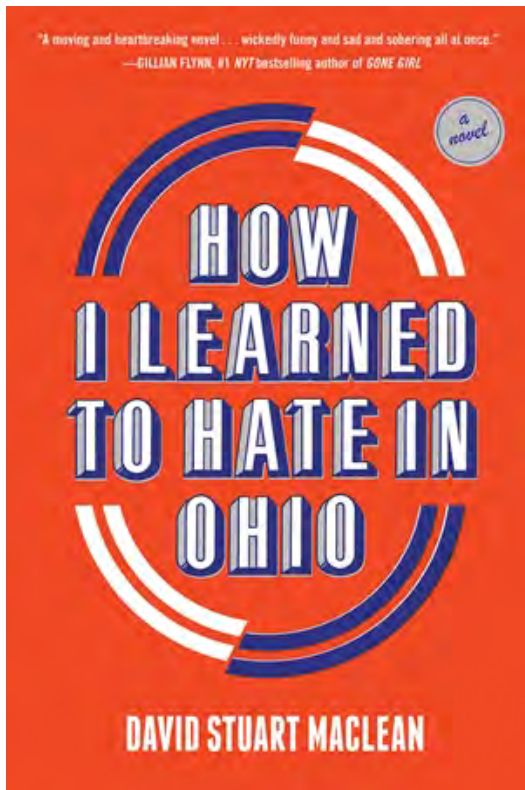
● 62

How I Learned to Hate in Ohio

A NOVEL

● BY DAVID STUART MACLEAN

**A brilliant, hilarious, and ultimately devastating novel about
the beginnings of racial discord in America**



In late-1980s rural Ohio, bright but mostly friendless Barry Nadler begins his freshman year of high school with the goal of going unnoticed as much as possible. But his world is upended by the arrival of Gurbaksh, Gary for short, a Sikh teenager who moves to his small town and instantly befriends Barry and pulls him into a series of increasingly unlikely adventures. As their friendship deepens, Barry's world begins to unravel, and his classmates and neighbors react to the presence of a family so different from theirs. Through darkly comic and biting intelligent asides and wry observations, Barry reveals how the seeds of xenophobia and racism find fertile soil in this insular community, and in an easy, graceless, unintentional slide, tragedy unfolds.

How I Learned to Hate in Ohio shines an uncomfortable light on the roots of white middle-American discontent and the beginnings of the current cultural war. It is at once bracingly funny, dark, and surprisingly moving, an undeniably resonant debut for our divided world.

David MacLean teaches creative writing at the University of Chicago. His work has appeared widely in places such as the *New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *Guernica*, and on the radio program *This American Life*. He is the winner of the PEN Emerging Writing Award for Nonfiction, and he is the author of the award-winning memoir *The Answer to the Riddle Is Me*. He grew up in central Ohio and now lives in Chicago.

SELLING POINTS

MacLean is the winner of the
PEN Emerging Writer Award
for Nonfiction

SPECIFICATIONS

* 256 pages

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **JANUARY 2021**

FICTION

ISBN **978-1-4197-4719-9**

US \$26.00

The Portrait of a Mirror

A NOVEL

● BY A. NATASHA JOUKOVSKY

A stunning reinvention of the myth of Narcissus as a modern novel of manners, about two young, well-heeled couples whose parallel lives intertwine over the course of a summer, by a sharp new voice in fiction



Wes and Diana are the kind of privileged, well-educated, self-involved New Yorkers you may not want to like but cannot help sympathizing with. With his boyish good looks, blue-blood pedigree, and the recent tidy valuation of his tech startup, Wes would have made any woman weak in the knees—any woman, that is, except perhaps his wife. Brilliant to the point of cunning, Diana possesses her own arsenal of charms, handily deployed against Wes in their constant war of wills and rhetorical sparring.

Vivien and Dale live in Philadelphia, but with ties to the same prep schools and management consulting firms as their New York City counterparts, they're of the same ilk. With a wedding date on the horizon and a carefully curated life of coupledness, Vivien and Dale make a picture-perfect pair—at least on Instagram. But when Vivien becomes a visiting curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art just as Diana is starting a new consulting project in Philadelphia, the two couples' parallel lives cross and tangle together in the summer of 2015, threatening to undo both relationships in the creation of others.

In this wickedly fun debut, A. Natasha Joukovsky crafts an absorbing portrait of modern romance, rousing real sympathy for these flawed characters even as she skewers them. Shrewdly observed, whip-smart, and shot through with wit and good humor, *The Portrait of a Mirror* is a piercing exploration of narcissism, desire, self-delusion, and the great mythology of love.



A. Natasha Joukovsky holds a BA in English from the University of Virginia and an MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business. She spent five years in the art world, working at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. After business school, she began a career in management consulting, joining Accenture Strategy in 2014. *The Portrait of a Mirror* is her debut novel. She lives in Washington, D.C.

SELLING POINTS

Debut novel by an assured and exceptionally promising new stylist whose prose is as dazzling and elegant as it is cutting

A smart and entertaining read that will appeal to readers of *Where'd You Go Bernadette*, Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney's *The Nest*, and Sally Rooney's *Normal People*

Joukovsky has carefully interwoven art and mythology into a thoroughly modern novel for book-club readers

A perfect "summer read" as it spans one tumultuous summer, beginning with Memorial Day weekend and ending with a Labor Day party at The Met

SPECIFICATIONS

* 320 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **JUNE 2021**

FICTION

ISBN 978-1-4197-5216-2

US \$26.00

THE OVERLOOK PRESS

SPRING 2021

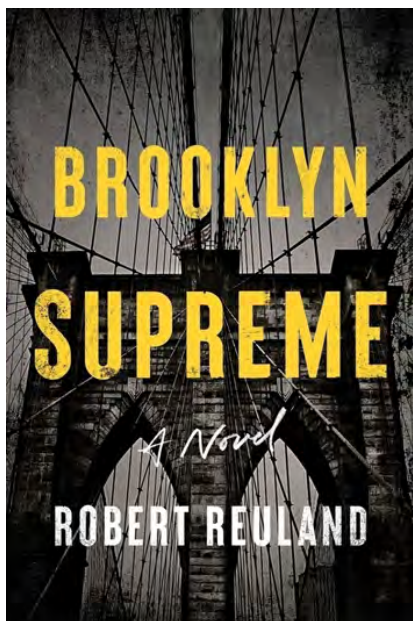
●64

Brooklyn Supreme

A NOVEL

● BY ROBERT REULAND

A hard-edged literary thriller about a racially charged police shooting, by one of “crime fiction’s most gifted writers”
(George Pelecanos)



No one knows better than Will Way that it's not so easy to get out of Brooklyn. Seeking escape, Will finds possible upward mobility in a relationship with Regine Pomeroy, the daughter of Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Henry K. Pomeroy. But Regine is a troubled young woman, and one day Will is called upon by her father to fix a situation that proves beyond fixing.

Two decades later, Will has returned to the borough and, like many of his peers, joined the NYPD. Now it's his job to get beat cops out of trouble—cops like Georgina Lee, an inexperienced officer who shot and killed an African American teenager after he robbed a bodega. But when it turns out the perpetrator might not have been armed, Lee's case becomes a publicity firestorm. Several men vying for higher office in Brooklyn use it to further their ambitions, and Will finds himself caught not only in the bureaucracy of the NYPD and Brooklyn politics, but also in his deeply confused conscience.

As he tries to unravel so many different versions of the truth, Will's past catches up with him; his distant father and Regine Pomeroy reenter his life, and her father tries to capitalize on the case for political gain. As lines are drawn across the city, Will must make decisions he never expected he would have to make, whose outcomes will cost him dearly.

Brooklyn Supreme is a clear-eyed exploration of the fault lines of class, gender, and race in America, and a stunning portrayal of Brooklyn's justice system. A standout crime novel by a writer with an undeniable gift, *Brooklyn Supreme* is a gritty and gut-wrenching read.



Robert Reuland is a writer and criminal defense attorney. A graduate of Cambridge University and the Vanderbilt University School of Law, he worked in the litigation departments of two major Wall Street law firms before becoming a senior assistant district attorney in Brooklyn, where he was assigned to the homicide bureau for many years. He now heads a private practice where he specializes in murder defense at trial and in exonerating persons wrongfully convicted. *Brooklyn Supreme* is his third novel. He lives in Brooklyn.

SELLING POINTS

ACCLAIMED NOVELIST:

Robert Reuland's work has been praised by Dennis Lehane, Kathy Reichs, Alan Furst, James Patterson, and Marilyn Stasio of the *New York Times Book Review*, among others.

STANDS ALONGSIDE THE

BEST IN THE GENRE: With *Brooklyn Supreme*, Reuland does for Brooklyn what George Pelecanos did for Washington, D.C., Richard Price for the Lower East Side, and Dennis Lehane for Boston.

EXPERT AUTHOR: Reuland draws upon his extensive experience as a criminal defense attorney to craft an authentic novel of the criminal justice system in Brooklyn.

MODERN CRIME NOVEL:

Reuland tackles the complicated topics of police brutality and political cover-ups in *Brooklyn Supreme*, making it a timely read for today's crime fan.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 368 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **NOVEMBER 2021**

FICTION

ISBN 978-1-4197-5065-6

US \$27.00

THE OVERLOOK PRESS

SPRING 2021

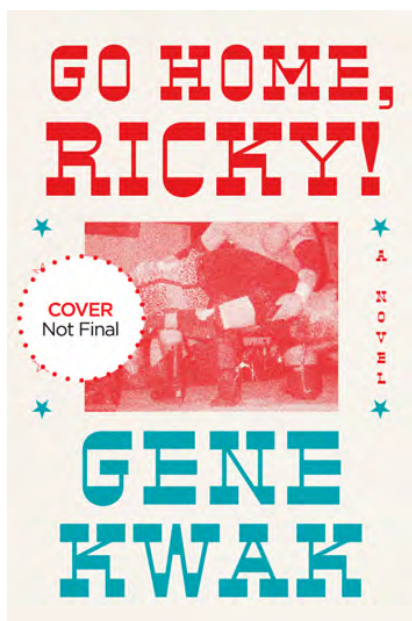
● 65

Go Home, Ricky!

A NOVEL

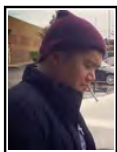
● BY GENE KWAK

From a rising literary star comes a fresh, satirical novel about masculinity and tenderness, fatherhood and motherhood, set in the world of semi-professional wrestling



After seven years on the semi-pro wrestling circuit, Ricky Twohatchet, a.k.a. Richard Powell, needs one last match before he gets called up to the big leagues. Unlike some wrestlers who only play the stereotype, Ricky believes he comes by his persona honestly—he's half white and half Native American—even if he's never met his father. But the night of the match in Omaha, Nebraska, something askew in their intricate choreography sets him on a course for disaster. He finishes with a neck injury that leaves him in a restrictive brace and a video already going viral: him spewing profanities at his ex-partner, Johnny America. Injury aside, he's out of the league.

Without a routine or identity, Ricky spirals downward, finally setting off to learn about his father, and what he finds will explode everything he knows about who he is—as a man, a friend, a son, a partner, and a wrestler. *Go Home, Ricky!* is a sometimes-witty, sometimes-heart-wrenching, but always gripping look into the complexities of identity.



Gene Kwak has published fiction and nonfiction both in print and online in the *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Rumpus*, *Wigleaf*, *Redivider*, *Hobart*, *Electric Literature*, and in the flash anthology *Forward: 21st Century Flash Fiction*. He teaches at the University of Nebraska Omaha. *Go Home, Ricky!* is his debut novel.

SELLING POINTS

NEW VOICE IN FICTION:

Kwak is a writer of true voice and immense talent, and his debut novel, written in strong, often hilarious prose, offers a story about identity that we haven't read before, in a world we haven't seen before.

CONNECTED AUTHOR:

Kwak has many fans and supporters in the literary community, from *The Rumpus* and Electric Lit to connections forged at residencies at Tin House and Yale.

AUDIENCE: For readers of Tommy Orange and Joshua Ferris.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 256 pages

* WIDTH: 5 1/2" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 8 1/4" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **OCTOBER 2021**

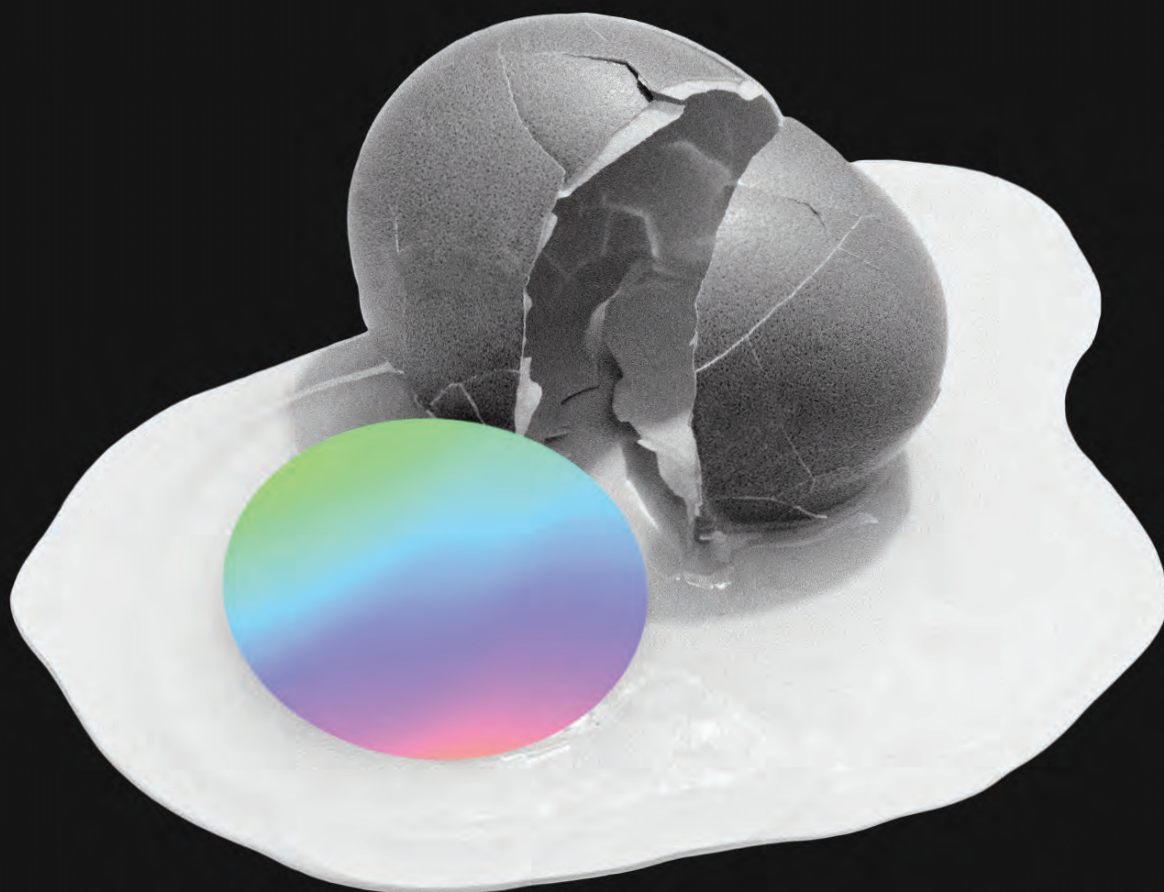
FICTION

ISBN 978-1-4197-5361-9

US \$26.00



ABRAMS PRESS



From Technically Food

The Oldest Cure in the World

ADVENTURES IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FASTING

● BY STEVE HENDRICKS

A talented journalist takes curious readers deep into the science and history of fasting, an ancient practice in the middle of a red-hot resurgence



Millions of Americans tried intermittent fasting in recent years, and they may be on to something. The latest research shows that fasting repairs cellular damage, improves the outcomes for chemotherapy patients, and helps with keeping a healthy weight—leading to fasting resurgence in recent years.

Journalist Steve Hendricks' *THE OLDEST CURE IN THE WORLD* tells the history of fasting, from the ancient world (Jesus treated an epileptic with fasting), to its rediscovery centuries later, thanks in part to a heartbroken doctor who resolved to starve himself to death only to find renewed vigor. Hendricks introduces us to the people who are reviving this long-lost remedy, including Silicon Valley-based biohackers, as well as everyday people.

With a fascinating look at the science behind the counterintuitive concept of going without food for our health, and chronicling the author's own illuminating and entertaining forays into fasting, this is a smart, narrative look at a very hot topic.

Steve Hendricks is a freelance reporter and the author of two previous books, *A Kidnapping in Milan* and *The Unquiet Grave*. He has written for *Harpers*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *Outside*, *The Columbia Journalism Review*, and *The New Republic*, among others. He was raised in Arkansas and Texas, educated at Yale, and lives in Boulder, Colorado, with his wife, a law professor, and a teenage son.

SELLING POINTS

·HOT SUBJECT: Intermittent fasting is one of the hottest subjects in health and diet these days, but most books are purely prescriptive.

·GREAT VOICE: In the tradition of Mary Roach and Michael Pollan, Hendricks mixes smart science with personal experience, all told in an engaging voice.

·EXPERIENCED AUTHOR: Hendricks has written for many leading publications and is the author of two previous well-reviewed books on serious subjects.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 304 pages

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **MARCH 2022**

ISBN 978-1-4197-4847-9

US \$26.00

Technically Food

INSIDE SILICON VALLEY'S MISSION TO CHANGE WHAT WE EAT

● BY LARISSA ZIMBEROFF

The full inside story of the technology paradigm shift transforming the food we eat and who is making it



Ultra-processed and secretly produced foods are roaring back into vogue, cheered by consumers and investors because they are vegetarian—often vegan—and help address societal issues. And as our food system leaps ahead to a sterilized lab of the future, we think we know more about our food than we ever did, but because so much is happening so rapidly, we actually know less. This isn't stopping the companies or the consumers, however. We want a more transparent food system—but we don't know what questions to ask. In *Technically Food*, investigative reporter Larissa Zimmeroff pokes holes in the marketing mania behind today's changing food landscape and clearly shows the trade-offs of replacing real food with technology-driven approximations.

Larissa Zimmeroff is a well-known freelance journalist who covers the intersection of food, technology, and business. Her work has appeared in publications including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and many others. Zimmeroff's reporting ranges from the business of food to sustainability, science, food systems, and the new rush of technology into food. She is often called in to present, moderate, and lead panels on food tech including at Stanford, reThink Food at CIA/Napa, and IACP.

SELLING POINTS

Current events: Start-ups like Beyond Meat, Impossible Foods, Hampton Creek, and many others are big news and big business. This is the first book to include a comprehensive survey of these companies and technology behind what they do

On trend: In the same way that *Bad Blood* turned a biomedical start-up on its head, *Technically Food* dispels wholesale belief in what food start-ups are up to. Their aims may be well intentioned, but in reality, most of the technology behind popular new foods haven't been tested or researched

Breaking News: Author Larissa Zimmeroff has been breaking news stories on food technology

for *Bloomberg Businessweek*, the *New York Times*, and others

SPECIFICATIONS

- * 15 color
- * 240 pages
- * WIDTH: 6" - 152mm
- * HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: **JUNE 2021**

TECHNOLOGY &
ENGINEERING, FOOD &
WINE

ISBN 978-1-4197-4709-0

US \$27.00

ABRAMS PRESS

SPRING 2021

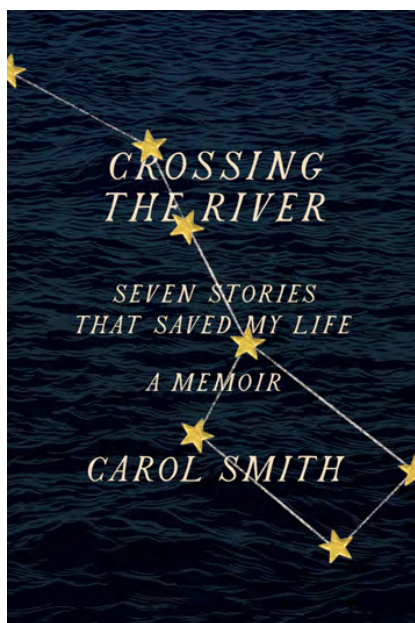
● 69

Crossing the River

SEVEN STORIES THAT SAVED MY LIFE, A MEMOIR

● BY CAROL SMITH

A powerful exploration of grief following the death of the author's son that combines memoir, reportage, and lessons in how to heal



RIGHTS SOLD

Korean (Munhakdongne Publishing Group)

Everyone deals with grief in their own way. Helen MacDonald found solace in training a wild goshawk. Cheryl Strayed found comfort in hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. For Carol Smith, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist struggling with the sudden death of her seven-year-old son Christopher, the way to cross the river of sorrow was through work.

In *Crossing the River*, Smith recounts how she faced down her crippling loss through reporting a series of profiles of people coping with their own intense challenges, whether a freak accident, a debilitating injury, or a terrifying diagnosis. Smith deftly mixes the stories of these individuals and their families with her own account of how they helped her heal. General John Shalikashvili, once the most powerful member of the American military, taught Carol how to face fear with discipline and endurance. Seth, a young boy with a rare and incurable illness, shed light on the totality of her son's experiences, and in turn helps readers see that the value of a life is not measured in days.

This is a beautiful and profoundly moving book, an unforgettable journey through grief, and a valuable, illuminating read for anyone coping with loss.



Carol Smith is an award-winning journalist and editor for NPR affiliate KUOW in Seattle. Previously she worked for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and the *Los Angeles Times*. Her newspaper work has won dozens of national and regional awards and has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize a remarkable seven times, and her writing has appeared in more than a dozen literary journals. Smith was recently named Editor of the Year by Public Media Journalists Association. One of Carol's great passions is working with KUOW's youth radio group, Radioactive, which teaches high school students from diverse backgrounds to tell their personal stories for radio in their own voices.

SELLING POINTS

Beautiful and inspiring: A touching and inspiring book. Carol Smith writes superbly about her own loss, but also about how others faced grief and how they survived

A proven category: For readers of books like *Blue Nights* by Joan Didion and *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb

Connected author: Smith is well connected in media, a former highly decorated journalist and now an editor in public radio in Seattle

SPECIFICATIONS

* 272 pages

* WIDTH: 5 1/2" - 140mm

* HEIGHT: 8 1/4" - 210mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **MAY 2021**

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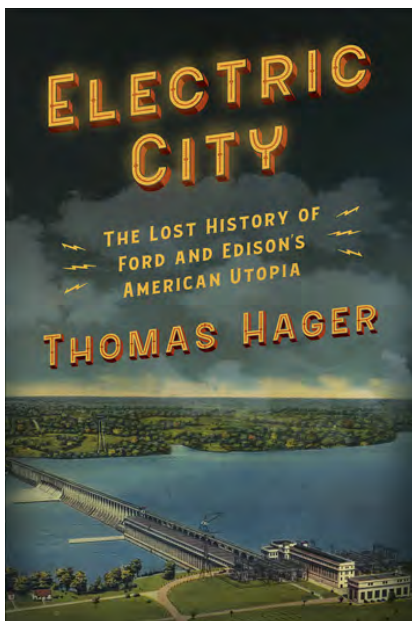
US \$26.00

Electric City

THE LOST HISTORY OF FORD AND EDISON'S AMERICAN UTOPIA

● BY THOMAS HAGER

The extraordinary, unknown story of two giants of American history—Henry Ford and Thomas Edison—and their attempt to create an electric-powered city of tomorrow on the Tennessee River



During the roaring twenties, two of the most revered and influential men in American business proposed to transform one of the country's poorest regions into a dream technological metropolis, a shining paradise of small farms, giant factories, and sparkling laboratories. Henry Ford and Thomas Edison's "Detroit of the South" would be ten times the size of Manhattan, powered by renewable energy, and free of air pollution. And it would reshape American society, introducing mass commuting by car, use a new kind of currency called "energy dollars," and have the added benefit (from Ford and Edison's view) of crippling the growth of socialism.

The whole audacious scheme almost came off, with Southerners rallying to support what became known as the Ford Plan. But while some saw it as a way to conjure the future and reinvent the South, others saw it as one of the biggest land swindles of all time. They were all true.

Electric City is a rich chronicle of the time and the social backdrop, and offers a fresh look at the lives of the two men who almost saw the project to fruition, the forces that came to oppose them, and what rose in its stead: a new kind of public corporation called the Tennessee Valley Authority, one of the greatest achievements of the New Deal. This is a history for a wide audience, including readers interested in American history, technology, politics, and the future.



Thomas Hager is an award-winning author of books on the history of science and medicine, including *The Alchemy of Air* and *Ten Drugs: How Plants, Powders and Pills Have Shaped the History of Medicine*. He is a courtesy associate professor of journalism and communication at the University of Oregon.

SELLING POINTS

Untold story: Ford and Edison are figures of enduring fascination, but this important chapter in their lives is almost entirely forgotten

Modern relevance: Turns on dueling visions of America's future—public programs and big government versus the profits of private industry

Expert author: Hager is a highly skilled, experienced writer, top-notch at bringing to life distant times and unusual people

SPECIFICATIONS

* 304 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: MAY 2021

ISBN 978-1-4197-4796-0

US \$28.00

ALSO AVAILABLE

Ten Drugs

ISBN 978-1-4197-3440-3

US \$26.00

Unprotected

A MEMOIR

● BY BILLY PORTER

From the incomparable Emmy, Grammy, and Tony Award winner, a powerful and revealing autobiography about race, sexuality, and art



It's easy to be yourself when who and what you are is in vogue. But growing up Black and gay in America has never been easy. Before Billy Porter was slaying red carpets and giving an iconic performance in the celebrated TV show *Pose*; before he was the Tony Award-winning star of Broadway's *Kinky Boots*; and before he was an acclaimed recording artist, actor, playwright, and all-around diva, Porter was a young boy who didn't fit in. At five years old he was sent to therapy to fix his effeminacy. He was endlessly bullied at school, sexually abused by his stepfather, and came of age in a world where simply being himself was a constant struggle.

Unprotected is the story of a singular artist in his own words. It is the story of a boy whose talent, courage, and desperate determination led him through countless hard times to where he is now; an icon whose refusal to back down in the face of adversity has made him an inspiration to millions. Porter is a multitalented, multifaceted treasure at the top of his game. A soaring, resonant story full of new revelations and shot through with his stunning wit, *Unprotected* will entertain and inspire.

Billy Porter is an actor, singer, director, composer, and playwright from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is currently appearing as Pray Tell on the hit TV series *Pose*, for which he won the 2019 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series—the first openly gay Black man to be nominated and win in any lead acting category. Porter won the 2013 Tony, Grammy, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his groundbreaking performance as Lola in *Kinky Boots*. As a director, among other shows, Porter helmed the revival of Suzan-Lori Parks's *Topdog/Underdog* at Boston's Huntington Theatre, where he was awarded the Elliot Norton Award for Best Director. Porter lives in New York City.

SELLING POINTS

SUPERSTAR: Porter is an international superstar, a captivating figure whose every career move and awards show outfit are chronicled by the press.

MESMERIZING WRITING: Porter's unique voice and sense of humor shine through this intense chronicle of abuse, artistic development, and triumph.

IN THE NEWS: Porter has major upcoming roles, including the Fairy Godmother in Disney's live-action *Cinderella* (in theaters summer 2021) and another season of *Pose*. In addition, he will be directing his first feature film for a relaunched Orion Pictures in 2021, and (soon to be announced) he just signed a major new recording deal and sold a pilot he wrote to a major streaming platform.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 288 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

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US \$28.00

ABRAMS PRESS

SPRING 2021

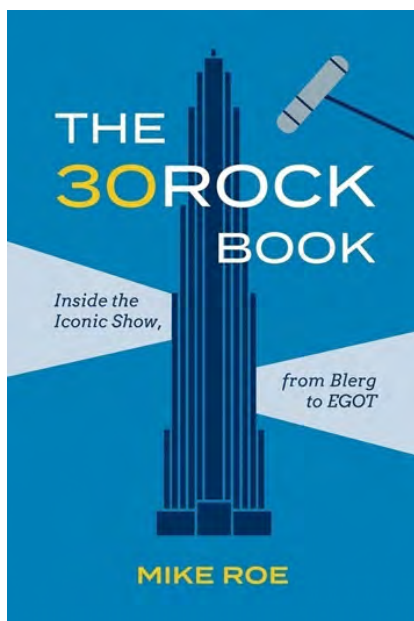
●72

The 30 Rock Book

INSIDE THE ICONIC SHOW, FROM BLERG TO EGOT

● BY MIKE ROE

A fascinating and hilarious deep dive into *30 Rock*, Tina Fey's beloved modern classic comedy



In the fall of 2006, NBC somehow unveiled two new shows set in the world of late-night sketch comedy: *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip* and *30 Rock*. It was Aaron Sorkin versus Tina Fey, and it was clear which series critics thought was more promising. The *Baltimore Sun* called it a competition *30 Rock* “can’t win.” By November, the *New York Times* was noting lackluster ratings for both shows, and adding that *30 Rock* was “perilously close to a flop.”

But while *Studio 60* was canceled after 22 episodes, Fey’s madcap buddy comedy lasted 138 episodes. It resurrected the career of Alec Baldwin, survived an extended absence by Tracy Morgan, and permeated the culture—it’s breakneck pacing, oddball characters, and extremely rich joke writing are deeply beloved by millions of fans.

In this combination of narrative and oral history, culture writer and editor Mike Roe brings to life the history of the gloriously goofy show through interviews with the creators, stars, writers, and bit players.



Mike Roe has been a journalist for the past 12 years, working in both digital and radio for NPR station KPCC. He’s currently the arts & entertainment editor for KPCC’s digital site LAist, and recently won an L.A. Press Club award for a popular oral history of *30 Rock*’s “Werewolf Bar Mitzvah” song. His other oral histories include a look at *Parks and Recreation*’s “Galentine’s Day,” as well as a more dramatic piece on *Blade Runner* and its connections to Los Angeles. He has written and performed comedy around Los Angeles as part of several theater sketch comedy teams, including house teams at IO West and the Pack Theater, and has written and produced comedy videos that have been featured on Funny or Die. He lives in Los Angeles.

SELLING POINTS

TRIED AND TRUE

CATEGORY: With books such as *Seinfeldia* and *Generation Friends*, as well as our own titles *The Soprano Sessions* and *Mad Men Carousel*—not to mention the recent rise in popularity of TV show–recap podcasts like *Fake Doctors*, *Real Friends*, and *Showmance*—it’s clear that audiences are hungry to learn more about their favorite shows.

POPULAR SHOW:

30 Rock ran for 138 episodes over seven seasons from 2006 to 2013 and has endured—it is still well-loved today and streams on Hulu, Peacock, and Amazon Prime.

VOICES OF THE CAST:

The book is based on extensive research and a host of interviews with cast, writers, directors, and crew.

ANNIVERSARY TIE-IN:

October 2021 marks the 15th anniversary of the start of the show.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 288 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **NOVEMBER 2021**

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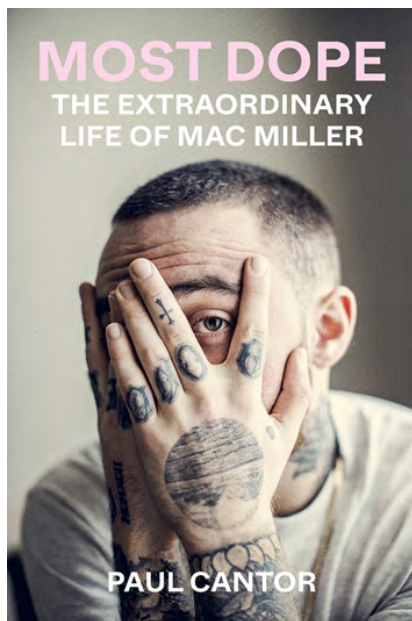
US \$26.00

Most Dope

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF MAC MILLER

● BY PAUL CANTOR

The first biography about rapper Mac Miller—the Pittsburgh cult favorite—turned—global—superstar who died a tragic death at 26



Malcolm James McCormick was born on January 19, 1992. By the age of six, he was playing piano, guitar, drums, and bass, and by 15 he had released his first mixtape under the name EZ Mac. A career soon followed, bringing him a record deal with the independent label Rostrum Records and projects with Wiz Khalifa, XXL, Kendrick Lamar, and Meek Mill. Despite the success and accolades that would follow over the next eight years, Miller was continually plagued by his struggles with substance abuse and depression, which ultimately led to his untimely death from an accidental overdose in 2018. *Most Dope* offers a comprehensive look at the life of a musician whose legacy of unparalleled creativity and diverse collaboration still echo in recording studios and arenas today.



Paul Cantor is a writer and journalist whose work has appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, *Billboard*, *MTV News*, *Vice*, *FADER*, *Complex*, *Huffington Post*, and the *Village Voice*. He has carved out a reputation for himself as one of the most authoritative and fresh-thinking voices in music journalism and has interviewed a roster of hip-hop's heavyweights, including 50 Cent, Lil Wayne, Scarface, Damon Dash, Young Jeezy, M.I.A., and Suge Knight.

SELLING POINTS

FIRST MAC MILLER

BIOGRAPHY: Since Miller's sudden and shocking death, fans have clamored for a deeper understanding of his life. Full of on-the-ground reporting from people who knew him intimately, this is the first book to tell Miller's full story—from starting out in "frat rap" with an indie label, to pushing his own creative boundaries, to becoming a global rap icon who ultimately could not escape his own demons.

DEDICATED FAN BASE:

Three years after Miller's death, his music and story continue to get lots of attention. In January 2020, his first posthumous album, *Circles*, was released by his family, debuting at #3 on the Billboard 200 and garnering major media coverage and widespread critical acclaim. Fans have also created vigils and remembrances for him around the world.

WELL-CONNECTED

AUTHOR: Cantor writes regularly for prominent publications including the *New York Times*, *Complex*, and *Vulture*, and anticipates endorsements and coverage in support of this book from J. Cole, Logic, G-Eazy, MC Serch, Shea Serrano, Dan Charnas, Elliott Wilson, Rob Markman, Sway Calloway, and Charlamagne Tha God.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 272 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **JANUARY 2022**

BIOGRAPHY, MUSIC, POP
CULTURE

ISBN 978-1-4197-4800-4

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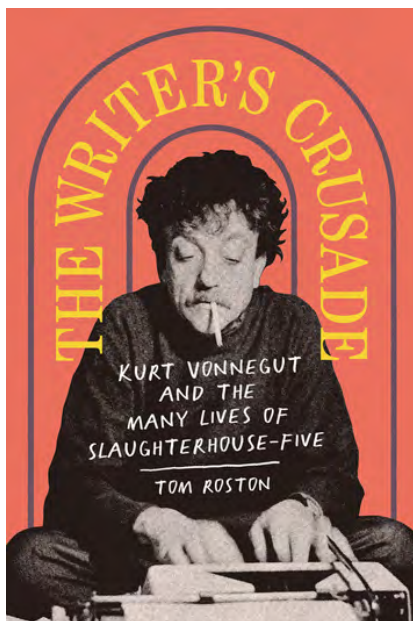
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The Writer's Crusade

KURT VONNEGUT AND THE MANY LIVES OF SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE

● BY TOM ROSTON

The story of Kurt Vonnegut and his beloved masterpiece, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, a novel born in the destruction of Dresden in World War II and written during the tumultuous days of Vietnam



During the Vietnam War, Kurt Vonnegut, after surviving the horrors of Dresden as a POW during World War II, would lose his temper while watching the nightly news, point at the screen and shout, "The liars!" According to his family and friends, *Slaughterhouse-Five* was Vonnegut's attempt to exorcize his demons. "He was writing to save his own life," his daughter Nanette has said, "and in doing it I think he has saved a lot of lives."

Tom Roston's *The Writer's Crusade* is a book about how books save lives. Two decades after World War II had ended, Vonnegut's sixth book became a significant part of a vital storytelling tradition that has eased the trauma of war for both the writer and the reader. Although *Slaughterhouse-Five* was championed by the anti-war movement, it became a bulwark for veterans who found in its pages a voice that spoke to them with an intimate, shared understanding of wartime PTSD.

Mixing together the story of Vonnegut's life, the writing and publishing of his most enduring work, and forays into the experiences of soldiers and writers today—people who have made the novel a touchstone in their lives—*The Writer's Crusade* is built on research into Vonnegut's life, from papers and interviews with his children, scholars, psychologists, and writers, including Tom O'Brien, Kevin Powers, and Karl Marlantes. This will be a captivating book for fans of Vonnegut and anyone touched by war and its aftermath.



Journalist **Tom Roston** worked at *The Nation* and *Vanity Fair*, and was a senior editor at *Premiere* for more than a decade. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New York* magazine, LitHub, and more. He is the author of two previous books, *I Lost It at the Video Store: A Filmmaker's Oral History of a Vanished Era* and *The Most Spectacular Restaurant in the World*. He lives in Brooklyn.

SELLING POINTS

BIG IDEAS AND LOTS OF

EMOTION: Like Salamishah Tillet's *In Search of the Color Purple*, this is an expansive book that mixes biography, original reportage, and cultural history to explore big subjects: war, memory, PTSD, and the power of art.

NEW INSIGHT: *The Writer's Crusade* is filled with fresh insight and details from Vonnegut's life and includes fascinating interviews with Vonnegut's children soldiers, scholars, psychologists, and writers, including Tim O'Brien, Karl Marlantes, Kevin Powers, Steve Almond, and others.

ENDURING SUBJECT:

Slaughterhouse-Five is a book that has mattered to millions of readers over many decades, and understanding how to cope with trauma is always important.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 240 pages

* WIDTH: 5 1/2" - 140mm

* HEIGHT: 8 1/4" - 210mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **OCTOBER 2021**

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