

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
LONDON BOOK FAIR 2019

RIGHTS GUIDE AND SALES UPDATE

DEBBIE ENGEL
VP & DIRECTOR OF SUBSIDIARY RIGHTS
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FICTION

DeWitt, Jasper

THE PATIENT

UK and Translation rights

20th Century Fox Films partnered with New Regency and acquired film rights at auction with Ryan Reynolds as producer

Pub: Spring 2020

In a series of online posts, Parker H., a young psychiatrist, chronicles the harrowing account of his time working at a dreary mental hospital in New England. Through an internet message board, Parker hopes to tell the world of his effort to cure one bewildering patient. We learn, as Parker did on his first day at the hospital, of the facility's most difficult, profoundly dangerous case – a 30-year-old man who was originally admitted to the hospital at the age of 6. This patient has no known diagnosis. His symptoms seem to evolve over time. Every person who has attempted to treat him has been driven to madness or suicide. Desperate and fearful, the hospital's directors keep him strictly confined and allow minimal contact with staff for their own safety, convinced that releasing him would unleash catastrophe on the outside world. Parker, brilliant and overconfident, takes it upon himself to discover what ails this mystery patient and finally cure him. Parker wins official permission to begin treatment, but from his first encounter with the patient, things spiral out of control and, facing a possibility beyond his wildest imaginings, Parker is forced to question everything he thought he knew.

Jasper DeWitt is the pseudonym for an American journalist. This is his first novel.

BACKLIST FICTION:

Petry, Ann

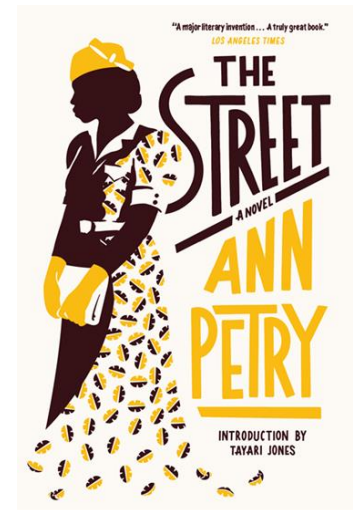
THE STREET

Introduction by Tayari Jones

World rights

Pub: January 2020 reissue

Originally published in 1946, *The Street* follows Lutie Johnson, a newly single mother whose efforts to claim a share of the American Dream for herself and her young son meet frustration at every turn in 1940s Harlem. Opening a fresh perspective on the realities and challenges of black, female, working-class life, *The Street* became the first novel by an African American woman to sell more than a million copies.



Last fall, novelist Tayari Jones, author of the bestseller *An American Marriage*, published an appreciation of this novel in the *New York Times* in which she says:

“Petry is the writer we have been waiting for; hers are the stories we need to fully illuminate the questions of our moment, while also offering a page-turning good time. Ann Petry, the woman, had it all, and so does her insightful, prescient and unputdownable prose.”

Rights sold: UK/Commonwealth: Virago/Little Brown; Dutch: Atlas Contact; French: Belfond; German: Nagel & Kimche; Italian: Mondadori; Spanish: Seix Barral.

NONFICTION

Barron, Jason

THE VISUAL MBA: Two Years of Business School Packed into One Priceless Book of Pure Awesomeness

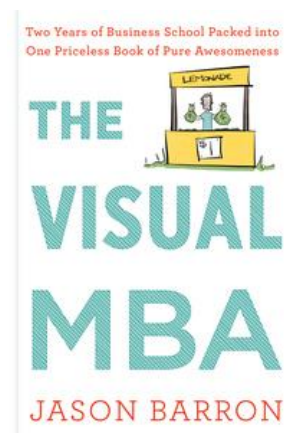
Business/self-help

World rights

Pub: April 2019

Jason Barron spent 516 hours in class, completed mountains of homework and shelled out tens of thousands of dollars to complete his MBA. Along the way, rather than taking boring notes that he would neither read nor use again, Jason created sketch notes for each class—visually capturing the essential points of his education, and providing an engaging and invaluable resource.

Once he obtained his MBA, Jason launched a successful Kickstarter campaign to fund a self-published book that distills these notes into this highly entertaining and useful guide.



Rights sold: UK/Commonwealth: Penguin Business (Portfolio); Brazil/Portuguese: Sextante; simplified Chinese: CITIC; French: Leducs; French Africa: Nouveaux Horizons; Japanese: Diamond; Korean: Angle Books; Russian: Alpina; Spanish (Latin America only): Oceano; Turkish: Sola Unitas; Vietnamese: Nha Nam.

DeJong, David

NAZI BILLIONAIRES

History (proposal available)

Translation rights

Manuscript delivery: Fall 2019

Projected Pub: Fall 2020

Using the story of the iconic Quandt family as a focal point, *Nazi Billionaires* tells how these industrialists profited from their relationships with the Nazi regime during WWII, and how the U.S. did not hold them accountable for their collaboration and complicity as war criminals.

DAVID DE JONG, a reporter at *Bloomberg News*, has been covering the “billionaire beat,” with a special focus on western Europe, since 2011. A year into his reporting, he wrote a story about Germany’s wealthiest family, the Quandts, that became one of Bloomberg’s most read stories ever. Not unlike the path of the Koch brothers in the U.S. – in which Charles and David Koch transformed their father Fred’s business into a multi-billion-dollar empire – the Quandts rose to global prominence after Gunther Quandt’s two sons took over the family business in 1954. Today the family owns 47% of BMW and has an estimated worth of \$60 billion. Although Gunther tried to keep this history a secret, the truth is that his business was built on the bodies of Allied soldiers, civilians, and at least 50,000 concentration camp laborers. The family has since gone public with this information, and they have opened their archives to the author for his research.

Rights sold: UK: William Collins; Dutch: Meulenhoff; German: Kiepenheuer; Hebrew: Matar Triwaks; Polish: Sonia Draga; Portuguese/Portugal: SAIDA de Emergencia; Romanian: Corint.

Fairless, Chelsea, and Garroni, Lauren

WE SHOULD ALL BE MIRANDAS: Life Lessons from Sex and the City's Most Underrated Character
World rights

Pub: October 2019

Fairless and Garroni are co-creators of the viral Instagram sensation Every Outfit on Sex and the City (@everyoutfitonsatc). With nearly 500,000 followers, they have support from SATC stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon, and Kristin Davis. The millennials and Gen Z-ers, who were not old enough to watch the show during its original run, have subsequently streamed it and can relate to the show's depiction of female friendship and to Miranda's pragmatic, straightforward approach to work, love, and sex. These young women now lionize Miranda as a modern feminist icon, and the authors capture the nostalgia in this cheeky, smart, and hilarious send-up to the world of SATC. The book distills Miranda's core principles into a strategic guide for navigating life's ups and downs, with sharp humor, great takes on the show's iconic moments, and an attractive aesthetic. Fairless, a former fashion editor-turned-designer, recently launched the home goods line Female Trouble. Garroni is a writer and director who is currently in pre-production for her directorial debut.

Rights sold: UK/British Commonwealth: Hodder; Spanish: Planeta Libros Cupula.

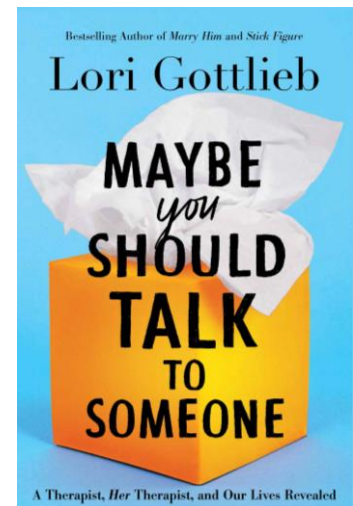
Gottlieb, Lori

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed

Translation rights

Pub: April 2019

Lori Gottlieb, bestselling author and therapist, gives the reader an eye-opening look at the therapeutic process – from the therapist's perspective. She introduces the reader to a narcissistic Hollywood producer; a young newlywed recently diagnosed with a terminal illness; a senior citizen threatening to end her life; and a 20-something who can't stop hooking up with the wrong guys. As Gottlieb guides them, she discovers that helping other people recognize their blind spots does not cure her of her own. Because, all of a sudden, her own life has gone off the rails. Enter Wendell, the therapist who helps Gottlieb unearth the hidden roots of her current crisis, gradually transforming her as a therapist, a patient, a mother, and a human being. Personal, revealing, funny, and wise, *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* lets readers peer in as both the therapist and her patients struggle to answer: How can I be happy? What am I willing to live with? How do we grow and change? This book offers an enlightening tour of an elusive process.



LORI GOTTLIEB is also the author of **MARRY HIM: The Case for Settling for Mr. Good Enough**, and **I LOVE YOU, NICE TO MEET YOU: A Guy and a Girl Give the Lowdown on Coupling Up**.

Rights sold: UK/British Commonwealth: Scribe; Brazil/Portuguese: Autentica; Dutch: Arbeiderspers; Korean: Cocoon; Norwegian: Tiden Norsk Forlag; Turkish: Teas.

Lichtblau, Eric

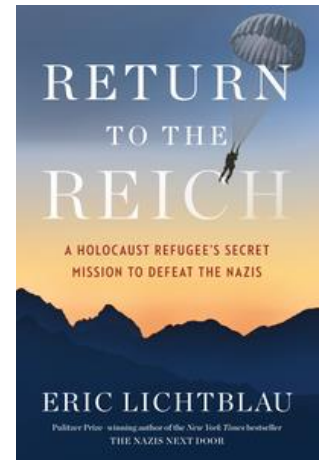
RETURN TO THE REICH: A Holocaust Survivor's Secret Mission to Help End the War (formerly DEAD DROP)

Narrative history

World rights

Manuscript available

Pub: October 2019



By the author of *The Nazis Next Door*, this is narrative history at its best: the remarkable, little known story of Fred Mayer, a German-born Jew, who with his family fled to the U.S. from Nazi Germany soon after Kristallnacht. His story would sound like paperback fiction if it weren't so well documented in the files of the U.S. National Archives. Mayer enlisted in the U.S. Army and was soon recruited by the Office of Strategic Services (forerunner of the CIA) to lead an audacious spy mission, parachuting into Austria and posing undercover in three different disguises as a Nazi loyalist. His work provided invaluable intelligence to the Allies that helped to defeat Hitler. Captured and tortured by the Germans, he conducted negotiations with his captors to secure his own release – and his captors' surrender – as Allied forces closed in. Fans of Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken* will want to read **RETURN TO THE REICH**.

THE NAZIS NEXT DOOR was sold to: Czech: Jota; Dutch: Meulenhoff; Greek: Potamos; Italian: Boringhieri; Japanese: Shinchosha; Polish: Literackie; Romanian: Meteor; Swedish: Svenska Historiska; Turkish: Kalkedon

McGrath, Rita

SEEING AROUND CORNERS: How to Spot Inflection Points in Business

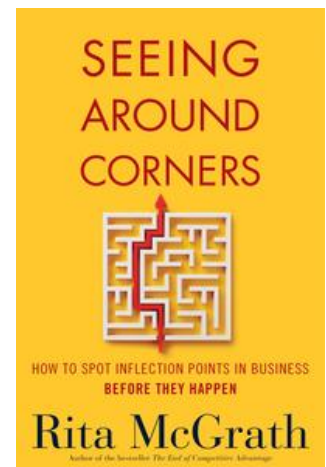
Before They Happen

Business

World rights

Manuscript available

Pub: September 2019



Columbia Business School professor and business consultant Rita McGrath uses timely and topical case studies to show that one of the best ways for businesses to advance is by developing the ability to pinpoint subtle trends that have been gestating for a while but are now at an inflection point to take off in a major way. By being able to spot these developing trends, smart companies can learn how to benefit from them before they become an everyday global reality. *Seeing Around Corners* will provide both a real prescriptive overview of how to become a trend spotter and a clear road-map for how best to capitalize on these trends.

McGrath is a veteran consultant and speaker. Her most recent book, *End of Competitive Advantage* (2013), published by Harvard Business Review Press, has sold more than 30,000 copies.

Rights sold: complex Chinese: CommonWealth Magazine; simplified Chinese: CITIC; Korean: Chunggrim.

Mersini-Houghton, Laura

**BEFORE THE BIG BANG: The Origin of the Universe and What Lies Beyond
Science**

Translation rights: HMH

UK rights sold to Bodley Head

Manuscript delivery: May 2019

Pub: Spring 2020

What existed before the Big Bang? For thousands of years, humans have pondered the possibility of other universes beyond our own. Until now, our knowledge of this "multiverse" has been limited to our imaginations and our mathematical models. Today, though, as pioneering astrophysicist Mersini-Houghton explains, new scientific tools have given us the ability to test our theories about what might exist beyond our universe. These findings are poised to revolutionize not only physics itself, but also our sense of humanity's place in the vastness of the cosmos. Other books have focused on the multiverse, but the latest of these was published in 2011, and none of them account for the cutting-edge observational evidence that Mersini-Houghton will present to support her theory about how our universe originated from the multiverse.

Laura Mersini-Houghton, an Albanian-American cosmologist and theoretical physicist, is an associate professor of physics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a visiting professor at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge. She has been the subject of hundreds of articles in leading popular science magazines, and has appeared on the Science Channel's *Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman*, as well as documentaries on the Discovery Channel and the BBC.

Montgomery, Sy, and with illustrations by Rebecca Green

HOW TO BE A GOOD CREATURE: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals

World rights

Pub: September 2018

Understanding a living thing that belongs to another species can be transformative. No one knows this better than Sy Montgomery. Naturalist, adventurer, and the author of more than 20 books, many of them award winners, Montgomery has hiked the Altai Mountains of Mongolia looking for snow leopards and tracked tree kangaroos in Papua New Guinea. In her travels, she has encountered some of the planet's rarest and most beautiful animals. Her life continually intersects with and is changed by the creatures she meets. Among the animals you will meet in these pages are dogs who shared her home, a pig who lived in her barn, huge flightless birds, two tree kangaroos, and a spider, a weasel, and an octopus. The book also explores vast themes: the otherness and sameness of people and animals; the ways we learn to love and become empathetic; how we find our passion; how we create our families; coping with loss; gratitude; forgiveness; and most of all, how to be a good creature in the world.



Rights sold: complex Chinese: Global Group Holdings; German: Diogenes; Japanese: Kawade Shobo; Korean: Forest Books; Russian: Alpina; Spanish: Errata Naturae; Turkish: Sola Unitas.

O'Brien, Tim

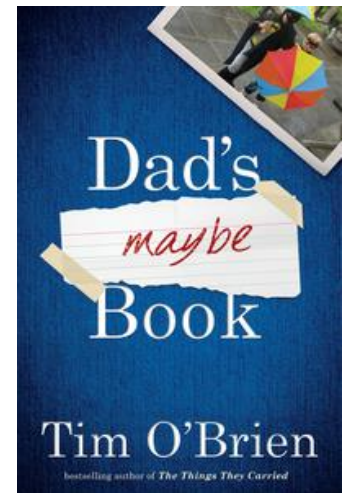
DAD'S MAYBE BOOK: A Father's Love Letter to His Sons

Memoir

Translation rights

Pub: October 2019

Tim O'Brien's career has been defined by such hallmark works of literary fiction as *The Things They Carried* and *Going After Cacciato*. Now, he turns to what has defined his life in the last 20 years: fatherhood. As a late-life father to two young sons, and as the son of an alcoholic, distant father, he wanted to put into words all the love, wisdom, and reflections that fathers so often feel but cannot articulate. He relates stories from his sons Timmy and Tad's mouths; he reflects on the joys of witnessing their growth, marvels at his own transformation since their birth, and, sadly, wonders about future events in their lives that he may never witness. He recalls scenes with his own father; key moments of his time in Vietnam; lessons from the literature of war; and how to prepare for life and death. *DAD'S MAYBE BOOK* is an ode to fatherhood for the ages.



Panek, Richard

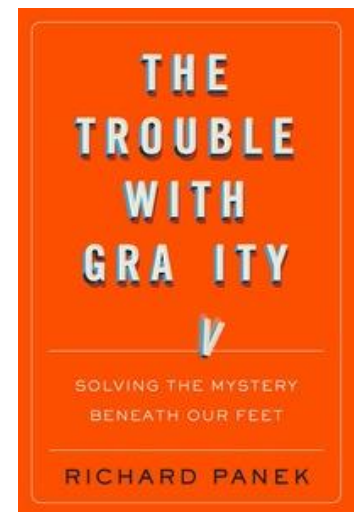
THE TROUBLE WITH GRAVITY: Solving the Mystery Beneath Our Feet

Science

World rights

Pub: July 2019

What is gravity? Nobody knows. How something so pervasive can also be so mysterious, and how that mystery can be so wholly unrecognized outside the field of physics, is one of the great conundrums in modern science. But as award-winning author Richard Panek shows in this groundbreaking investigation, gravity is a cold case that we are on the verge of cracking. Part history of science, part metaphysical farce, and part pop culture romp, the book is the first in-depth study of this ubiquitous, elusive force for a popular audience. Panek invites the reader to experience gravity in ways that leave our preconceptions ("what goes up must come down") in the dust, and which open up new vistas onto the universe and humanity's place in it.



Rights sold: Hungarian: Scolar; Italian: Cortina.

Penn, Kal

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS: The Adventures of Playing a Stoner and Working for a President
World rights

Manuscript delivery: April 2019

Pub: February 2020

Kal Penn has never been the type to follow rules. As the son of immigrant parents, he was expected to take the prescribed path of “doctor, lawyer, or accountant”—and then turned all of that on its head when he decided to pursue acting. Eventually, Penn became a famous face known for roles in *Harold & Kumar* and *House M.D.* But when he started volunteering with the Obama campaign in 2008, Penn realized his passion for politics ran just as deep as his love of acting. In this memoir, Penn shares the story of his unusual path, reflecting on the bizarre, unlikely, and inimitable moments that have shaped his career. From his early experiences with racist casting directors to being called out by the First Lady for technology gaffes, ***YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS*** is an honest take on ambition, success, and what it means to define your own American dream.

Rights sold: UK/British Commonwealth: Quadrille.

LIFESTYLE

Kite, Drs. Lindsay and Lexie

MORE THAN A BODY

World English

Translation rights: Chalberg & Sussman

Pub: Fall 2020

From identical twin sisters and body image experts Lindsay and Lexie Kite comes an action plan to help women overcome the negative effects of manufactured beauty standards.

We are Lexie and Lindsay Kite, PhD, identical twins and co-directors of Beauty Redefined, a nonprofit working to help girls and women improve their body image and self-worth as they wade through harmful cultural ideals. We want to tell you about our (very twin-like) path from self-conscious young women to body image scholars and activists. Our story is in Lindsay’s words, but it belongs to both of us. This is our story, and the transformation we have experienced can be part of your story, too.

Activists, influencers, and brands often advocate for “body positivity,” meaning beauty at any size and color. But the Kite sisters want women to see their bodies as “instruments, not ornaments,” and through their research have developed an action plan to show us how—when consuming media, exercising, practicing self-reflection and self-compassion, and finding purpose in life.

You can see the full extent of their work on their website, beautyredefined.org, and by watching Lindsay’s TEDx talk. The Kite sisters have garnered local media in Utah and are frequent speakers at conferences, universities, Girl Scout events, and regional congregations of the LDS church. Their background as academics sets them apart from others who write about similar topics.

Pomroy, Haylie

COOKING FOR A FAST METABOLISM: Hearty, Healthy Recipes to Eat More Food and Lose More Weight (tentative)

World rights

Full color throughout

Manuscript delivery: Spring 2019

Pub: Spring 2020

From Haylie Pomroy, author of the mega bestseller *The Fast Metabolism Diet*, comes a book of 100 metabolism-boosting recipes to help people lose weight and overcome health challenges.

This new cookbook, Haylie’s first since *The Fast Metabolism Diet Cookbook* was published in 2013, will have recipes for use on all of her programs. Haylie provides delicious, fun meals that fans and newcomers alike can make to eat healthfully, speed up their metabolisms, and lose weight. It will include trending topics like slow cooker and instant-pot meals, and a meta-tag index for quick reference. Haylie’s messaging has always been “eat more food to lose more weight,” and this cookbook will have the kind of hearty, tasty food her readers have come to expect—healthful recipes that promote weight loss without deprivation or the sacrifice of variety and flavor.

Prout, Sarah

DEAR UNIVERSE: 200 Mini-Meditations for Instant Manifestations

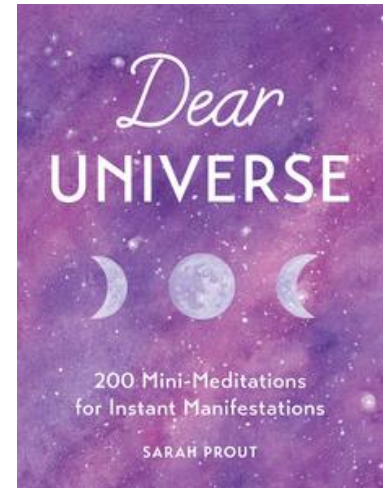
Inspirational

World rights

Pub: April 2019

This is a dip-in/dip-out, highly accessible guide to manifestation and the law of attraction, written by a rising new star in the mindfulness community. In just a couple of years, Prout has amassed 442,000 Facebook followers, hosts a podcast with over 100,000 monthly downloads, has a 250,000-person email subscriber list, and gets over one million monthly hits on her website. Prout went from being an abused wife living on welfare to running a million-dollar business to now being an award-

winning entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of The Manifesting Academy. She began her life transformation by turning to the power of manifesting, asking the universe for inspiration when she had hit rock bottom. The book is organized around 100 fear-based emotions, such as feeling anxious, ashamed, bored, lost, misunderstood, or paranoid. Readers are guided to a mini-meditation and then to a few of the 100 love-based emotions most appropriate to their situation, such as feeling loved, beautiful, cherished, or inspired. You use it when you need it, rather than read the book cover to cover. The book is aimed at people who are feeling uncertain or lost in the world today, and looking for a higher meaning or purpose.



Rights sold: UK/Commonwealth: Piatkus; French: Editions Tredaniel (France) and Editions de l'Homme in Québec for North America; German: Integral/Heyne; Hebrew: Or Am; Spanish: Urano.

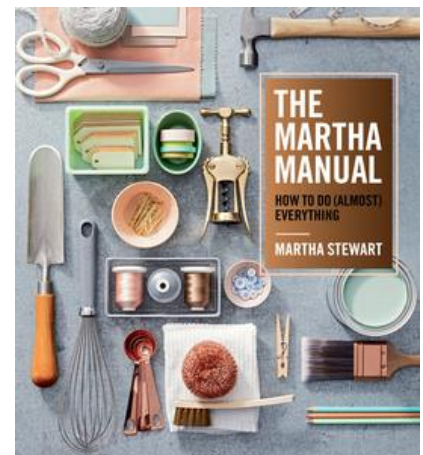
Stewart, Martha

THE MARTHA MANUAL: How to Do (Almost) Everything

World rights

Pub: January 2019

In this bestselling addition to the Martha Stewart canon, she advises on everything from creating a cutting garden and setting the table to playing classic lawn games or building a campfire. Whether it's organizing, celebrating, cleaning, decorating, or any number of other life skills, this manual includes time-tested, Martha-approved strategies for frequent challenges and basic how-to knowledge that everyone should have at the ready. Martha also offers plenty of solutions for less common conundrums, such as how to transport a decorated cake, bathe a cat, or fold an American flag. With hundreds of expert tips and useful insights in an easy-to-follow format, this is the manual you need to learn how to do everything—the Martha way.



Rights sold: Czech: Zoner; German: Michael Fisher Verlag.

SCIENCE FICTION

Banker, Ashok

UPON A BURNING THRONE (April 2019) and THE BLIND KING'S WRATH (Spring 2020)

World rights, except for India and all local Indian languages

This two-book series, “the Indian Game of Thrones,” revolves around two princes, Pandu and Dri, who are born in Hastinapura, capital of the vast Kuru empire. One is blind, the other is an albino. The queen and prince regent assure everyone that these obstacles will be overcome and that the princes will together form one great warrior. Any rumblings of dissent are quickly squelched by Bhishma, himself a demi-god and formidable warrior. When a demonlord fails to destroy the Kuru family directly, he turns his effort to pitting the brothers against one another. The rift he creates between them passes to the next generation – and what was a family disagreement soon grows into an epic feud over the inheritance of the world’s largest empire.



ASHOK BANKER is the pioneer of the speculative fiction genre in India, where he is well known for his best-selling Ramayana series. Banker is the author of 52 books, and they have been translated into 18 languages. He lives in Los Angeles and is of Irish-Portuguese-Sri Lankan-Indian parentage.

Cawdron, Peter

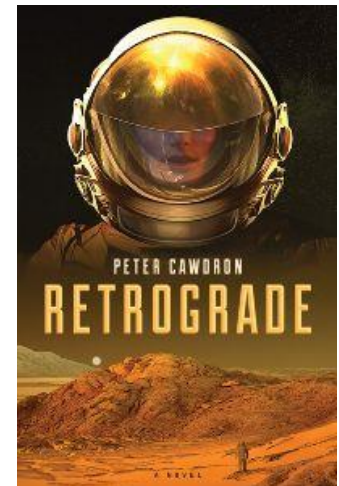
RETROGRADE

Science fiction

World rights

Pub: September 2017

This is a gripping novel about the Mars Endeavor colony, an establishment that is buried deep underground to protect its inhabitants from the harsh radiation that sterilizes the surface of the planet. Mars Endeavor, which consists of 120 scientists, astronauts, medical staff, and engineers, is prepared for every eventuality except one – what happens when disaster strikes Earth?



Venturing into space and traveling to Mars sounds like an exotic adventure, but the reality of living in lava caves hundreds of feet below the surface of a rocky, frozen, lifeless planet is exacting a heavy toll on the Mars Endeavor crew. When Connor, Harrison, and Liz, senior members of the group, learn that war has broken out on Earth, they find their core principles rocked by the devastation and by the loss of friends and family. Who can you trust on an international mission when your countries are at war? As the colonists struggle to figure out what really happened on Earth, grief and anger threaten to overwhelm the camaraderie and the spirit of exploration.

Rights sold: French: Denoel; German: Random House/Heyne.

Cawdron, Peter

RE-ENTRY

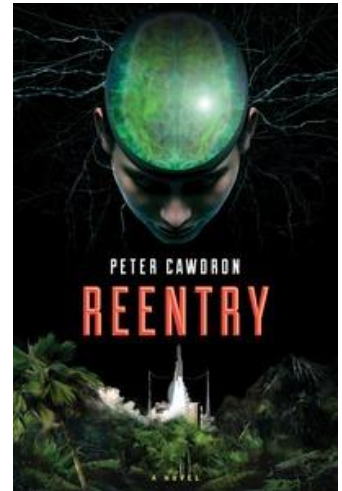
Science fiction

World rights

Pub: June 2019

In a sequel to Cawdron's *Retrograde*, *Reentry* applies realistic technology to examine not just interstellar exploration, but also the dangerous potential of Artificial Intelligence. This is perfect for fans of Andy Weir, Gregory Benford, and Philip K. Dick.

After almost dying on Mars, astronaut Liz Mathieson returns to Earth, but not to a hero's welcome. America is in turmoil. The war is over, but the insurgency has just begun. So while life on Mars may have been deadly, at least up there she knew who the enemy was. Along with her, Mathieson has brought the remnants of the artificial intelligence that waged war on two planets. Buried somewhere deep within the cold electronic circuits lies the last vestiges of her dead partner, Jianyu. Liz is torn, unsure whether he's somehow still alive in electronic form or if this is just a ploy by an adversary who will go to any lengths to win.



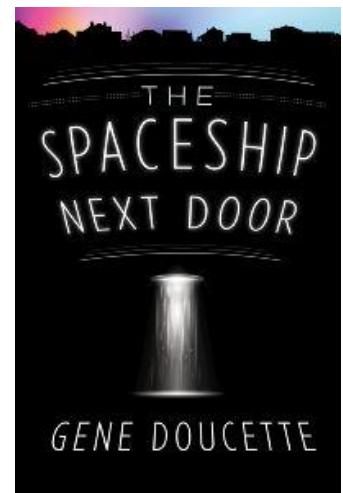
Doucette, Gene

THE SPACESHIP NEXT DOOR

World rights

Pub: September 2018

A spaceship lands in an open field in the quiet mill town of Sorrow Falls, Massachusetts, and for three years the ship does nothing other than sit quietly in that field. Nobody understands the full extent of this "nothing" better than the people who live right next door. Then, late one August morning, Edgar Somerville arrives in town. Ed's a government operative posing as a journalist, which is obvious to 16-year-old Annie Collins -- and pretty much everyone else he meets -- almost immediately. He has a lot of questions that need answers, because he thinks everyone is wrong: The ship *is* doing something, and he needs Annie's help to figure out what that is. Annie is a good choice of tour guide. She already knows everyone in town, and when Ed's theory is proven correct -- that something is apocalyptically wrong in Sorrow Falls -- she's a pretty good person to have around. As a matter of fact, Annie Collins might be the most important person on the planet. She just doesn't know it.



Glover, Nicole

THE CONDUCTORS

Fantasy/Historical

World English

Pub: Spring 2020

This compelling fiction debut by an original new voice in fantasy fiction features the magic and mystery of Jim Butcher's *Dresden Files* written with the sensibility of Octavia Butler's *Kindred*.

As a conductor on the Underground Railroad, Hetty Rhodes helped dozens of people escape to the North using her wits as well as her magical powers. Now that the Civil War is over, Hetty and her husband Benjy have settled in Philadelphia, solving murders and mysteries that the white authorities won't bother with. When they find one of their friends slain in an alley, Hetty and Benjy bury the body and set off to find answers. But the secrets and intricate lies of the elites of black Philadelphia only serve to dredge up more questions. Hetty and Benjy will have to face ugly truths all around them, including the ones about each other.

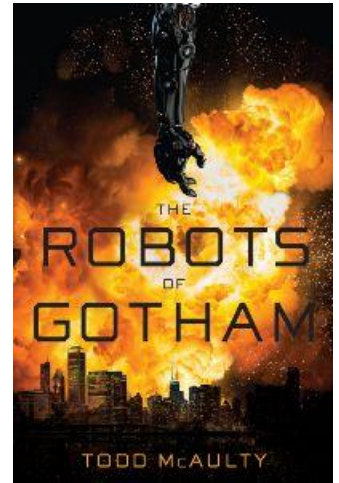
McAulty, Todd

ROBOTS OF GOTHAM

World rights

Pub: June 2018

In this near-future novel set in Chicago in 2083, one-quarter of the U.S. is under foreign occupation, Manhattan has been annexed by a robot monarchy, and the world is on the verge of total subjugation by machines. After long years of war, a Canadian businessman named Barry Simcoe arrives in Chicago, hoping to profit from the rebuilding, and stumbles on a machine plot to exterminate all life in North America. He assembles an unlikely team of foreign peacekeepers, American resistance fighters, and robots to stop it. Together they stumble on a machine conspiracy to unleash a horrific plague. Simcoe races against time to prevent the extermination of all life on the continent . . . and uncovers a secret that America's machine conquerors are desperate to keep hidden.



TODD MCAULTY earned a Ph.D. using supercomputers to solve problems involving massive amounts of data. He was a manager at the start-up that created Internet Explorer, and currently is a director at a machine learning company. This is his first novel.

Rights sold: Japanese: Take Shobo.

Skillingstead, Jack

CHAOS FUNCTION

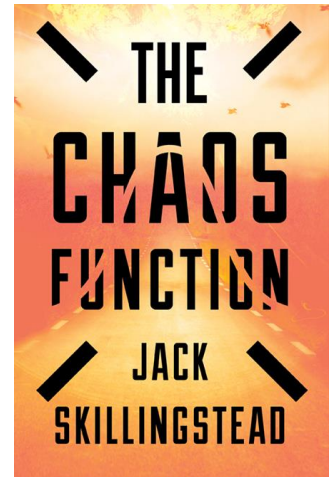
World rights, including film and TV

Pub: March 2019

Our lives are a series of chances and decisions – a branching tree of probabilities. But what if there was a secret machine that controlled each branch, each decision, and could change them? And what if a secret society of monk-like guardians protected the machine, and could manipulate it?

Olivia Nikitas, a war reporter, sees her boyfriend Brian die in Syria. Unbeknownst to her, the power of the guardians transfers to her and she enters a bizarre world in which she can bring him back to life. As Olivia begins to doubt her grasp on reality, she finds herself pursued by mysterious agents of the Society who abduct her and plan to reassert their power by sacrificing her. With the aid of two young apostates, Olivia escapes and begins seeking a probability that will save both the world and Brian. Her choices threaten to unleash biological and nuclear apocalypses until her all-too-human final decision. The fate of humanity depends on it.

JACK SKILLINGSTEAD's first novel, *Harbinger*, blurred the line between mainstream and science fiction, and was nominated for a Locus Award for best first novel. His second novel, *Life on the Preservation*, was a finalist for the Philip K. Dick Award. He is also the author of more than 40 short stories.



HMH SUBAGENTS

As of 3/2019

BRAZIL

Luciana Villas-Boas
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