



**LARB**  
BOOKS

**2019-2020**

## Praise for LARB and LARB Books

“*The Los Angeles Review of Books* is one of the bright spots, a phoenix rising from the ashes.”

– Margaret Atwood

“If you’ve got your tortillas together, you better publish in *the LA Review of Books!*”

– US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera

“Immediately notable for both the quality of its writing, the range of its interests, and the names of its contributors.”

– National Book Critics Circle Critical Mass

“*The Los Angeles Review of Books*, the non-profit online literary review has planted a flag in the scorched earth of Sunday books supplements...”

– *New York Observer*

“One of the most exciting, ambitious publications to launch in the last few years.”

– Longform.org

“One of the instant jewels of the internet.”

– *The New Yorker*

[www.larbbooks.org](http://www.larbbooks.org)

[www.lareviewofbooks.org](http://www.lareviewofbooks.org)

# LARB Books

LARB Books is the publishing wing of the Los Angeles Review of Books, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and disseminating rigorous, incisive, and engaging writing on every aspect of literature, culture, and the arts. The addition of this publishing project extends LARB's mission of bringing the best that is thought and written to readers around the world.

Dedicated to a curious and global readership, LARB Books combines the precision of academic inquiry with the spirit of Los Angeles's vibrant literary lineage. We publish four series: Classics, revivals of exemplary Southern California literature; Provocations, philosophical approaches to the contemporary intellectual condition; True Stories, the first of its kind, a series of novella-length creative nonfiction; and Libros, a new series for emerging Latinx talent. We also house two imprints, Les Figues Press and Outcaste Press.

Essay

## THE CIVIL WAR: FOR THE SOUL OF BLACK AMERICA

Jody Armour

Racialized mass incarceration is not just cell blocks brimming with black bodies. It's a pervasive and deep-seated way of talking and thinking about morality, law, and politics in matters of blame and punishment; it's a punitive impulse and retributive urge that runs so strong and deep in most Americans that taming it will take a revolution in consciousness. Through radical critiques of conventional morality, conventional legal theory, and conventional politics in criminal justice matters, this book fuels this revolution. Drawing on the phenomenon moral philosophers call moral luck, Armour's book humanizes these most otherized, monsterized criminals by challenging the widespread belief that there is a deep and wide moral gulf between "them" and law-abiding, noncriminal, nonviolent "us." Legally, his book roots out where bias lives in the black letter law and adjudication of just deserts; that is, it shows how murderers and other morally condemnable criminals are not merely "found" in criminal trials like discoverable facts of nature, but rather they are socially constructed, often by racially biased prosecutors, judges, and jurors. And politically, Armour both examines and exemplifies the way a transgressive word or symbol, like the troublesome and disreputable N-word itself, can, when wielded with care and precision by critical black writers and artists, signal a sharp rejection of respectability politics, promote political solidarity with the most reviled black criminals, and spark a revolution in consciousness about racialized mass incarceration.

The Civil War

*for the Soul of  
Black America*

Jody Armour

Nonfiction, 5 x 8  
Paperback, \$18.00  
**October 2020**  
Rights: World

**Jody David Armour** is the Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law at the University of Southern California. He has been a member of the faculty since 1995. Armour's expertise ranges from personal injury claims to claims about the relationship between racial justice, criminal justice, and the rule of law. Armour studies the intersection of race and legal decision making as well as torts and tort reform movements.

# LARB True Stories

LARB True Stories is the first of its kind: a series of novella-length creative nonfiction, ranging from memoir to essay, travel to humor. Like a good béarnaise, these are rendered into their most highly flavored essence, appearing simple but offering layers of complexity.

Memoir

## IN THE BELLY OF HER GHOST

Colin Dayan

Colin Dayan's searing personal narrative is as much a Southern Gothic story as a haunting family portrait. A tale of love and resentment, *In the Belly of Her Ghost* is a memoir and meditation on the author's dead mother — a Haitian woman attempting to assimilate into white Southern belle high society during the Civil Rights era. A literary ghost story, *In the Belly of Her Ghost* grapples with our complicated notions of race, identity, and femininity.

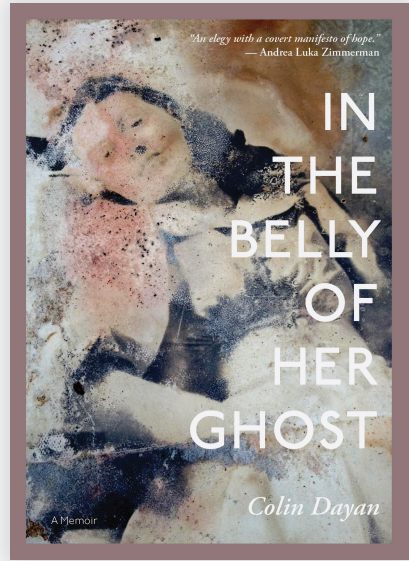
### Praise for *In the Belly of Her Ghost*:

"I really loved this book for its refusal to accept the usual academic rejection of emotion, fantasy, superstition, magic, intuition, and the power and energy of material things. Life in Dayan's universe is a lot more mixed-up, complicated, interesting, ecstatic, scary, and full of possibility than the standard version."

—Jane Tompkins, literary theorist  
and author of *Reading through the Night*

"This is no ordinary family story: it is a lyrical telling of how racial terror and patriarchy reverberate in our most intimate relationships; it is about love aborted and love forged in violence and repression. As rejection, loss, and self-loathing simmer on the surface, this beautiful and desolate work recounts social harms and personal grievances. But it also bears witness to the persistent longing for connection that we carry with us and reminds us of what remains: an abiding faith that love can make you whole, even in death."

—Deborah Chasman



Nonfiction, 170 pages, 5 x 7  
Paperback, \$15.00

**March 2019**

9781940660486

Ebook Available

Rights: Negotiable

Colin (Joan) Dayan is the Robert Penn Warren Professor in the Humanities at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of *Haiti, History, and the Gods*, *The Story of Cruel and Unusual*, *The Law is a White Dog*, and *With Dogs at the Edge of Life*. Her memoirs of growing up in Georgia have been published in *The Yale Review*, *Southwest Review*, *Arizona Quarterly*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *The Boston Review*. In 2012 she was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

## LARB Libros

LARB Libros highlights emerging Latinx talent. Each title published in this new series will be the winner of the Tomás Rivera Book Prize, a unique partnership between UC Riverside and the Los Angeles Review of Books. Open to any author writing in English about the Chicax/Latinx experience, the Rivera Book Prize is committed to the discovery and fostering of extraordinary writing by a first-time or early career author whose work examines the long and varied contributions of Chicax/Latinx in the US. The Rivera Book Prize aims to provide a platform that showcases the emerging literary talent of the Chicax/Latinx community, to cultivate the next generation of Chicax/Latinx writers, and to continue the rich literary memory of Tomás Rivera, Chicano author, poet, activist, and educator. Known for his seminal collection of stories, *...and the Earth Did Not Devour Him*, Rivera was the first Latino Chancellor of the UC system and a champion of higher education and social justice. The Rivera Book Prize honors his legacy and his belief in the power of education, activism, and stories to change lives.

The inaugural title will be *The Five Acts of Diego León* by Alex Espinoza.

Novel

## THE FIVE ACTS OF DIEGO LEÓN

Alex Espinoza

Growing up in a rural village at the height of the Mexican Revolution, Diego León has many first loves: singing, dancing, and hearing the stories of his ancestors, the P'urhépecha. But when tragedy strikes, young Diego is sent to the city to live with his white, aristocratic grandparents, who insist he forget his roots and groom him to take over the family business. Under pressure to enter a profession—and a life—he cares nothing for, and haunted by the violence once again erupting all around him, Diego flees his war-torn country to forge his own destiny. Diego arrives in Hollywood in 1927, when silent films are giving way to talkies, Prohibition is in full swing, and “Latin lover” types are sought out even as they are looked down upon. Working his way up in the movie business with talent and ingenuity, Diego soon figures out that getting one’s face on the silver screen has as much to do with what goes on behind the camera as what goes on in front of it. But the closer Diego comes to stardom, the more he finds that the past is not so easily escaped, as he is drawn again and again to the painful legacy of history and the wounds of his homeland. A sweeping, sensual novel of love, ambition, and identity, *The Five Acts of Diego León* bears all the marks of a classic Hollywood story: romance, betrayal, glamour, and an underdog hero to root for till the end.

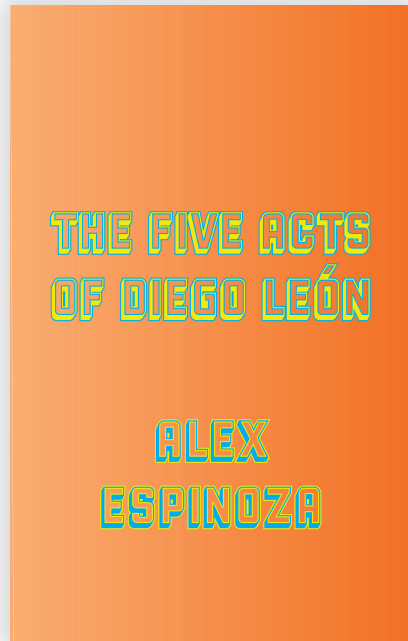
### Praise for *The Five Acts of Diego León*:

“Alex Espinoza’s vivid storytelling leads us through a hall of mirrors that’s as fragmented and multifaceted as identity itself.”

—LA Magazine

“A story undertaken with gusto, imagined with daring.”

—The Washington Post Book World



Nonfiction, 336 pages, 5 x 8

Paperback, \$16.00

**March 2020**

9781940660585

Ebook Available

Rights: World

Alex Espinoza was born in Tijuana, Mexico. He came to the United States with his family at the age of two and grew up in suburban Los Angeles. Author of the novel *Still Water Saints*, he received an MFA from the University of California, Irvine. A recipient of the Margaret Bridgman Fellowship in Fiction at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Espinoza is currently an associate professor of English at California State University, Fresno.



# LARB Provocations

LARB Provocations is a series of political works, tackling controversial and complicated issues of our time. The first books in this series are by Brad Evans (founder of the Histories Of Violence series of publications and events), noted writer Henry A. Giroux, and novelist and lawyer Yxta Maya Murray.

One-Act Play

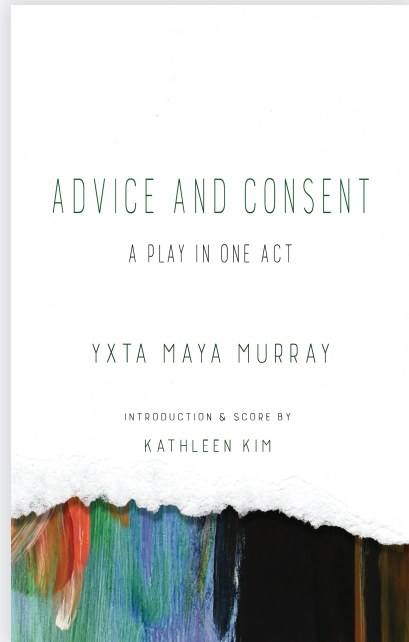
# ADVICE AND CONSENT

A Play in One Act

Yxta Maya Murray

Introduction and score by Kathleen Kim

On September 27, 2018, the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings concerning Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's allegations that then-Supreme Court Justice nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her in the mid-1980s. *Advice and Consent* is a play formed of interviews, found text, and transcripts, re-arranged, selected, and edited for poetic and provocative effect. The drama is designed as a thought experiment about power, pathos, tragedy, politics, gender, race, and truth. Accompanied by a score written by law professor and violinist Kathleen Kim, it may be either read or performed.



Nonfiction, 70 pages, 5 x 8

Paperback, \$16.00

**March 2019**

9781940660509

Ebook Available

Rights: World

**Yxta Maya Murray** is the author of *The Conquest* – winner of the Whiting Award – and *The King's Gold*, the second novel in her acclaimed Red Lion series. She is a professor at Loyola Law School and lives in Los Angeles.

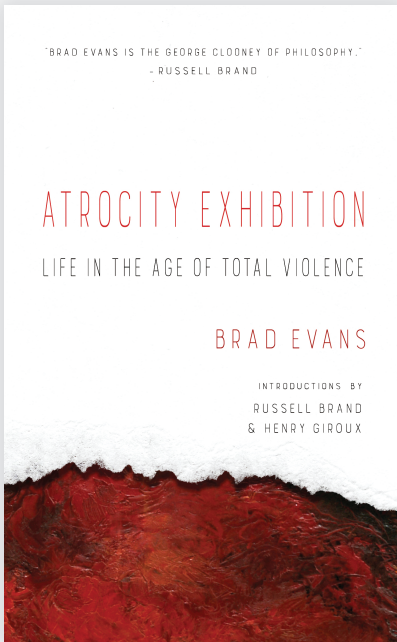
**Professor Kathleen Kim** is a nationally-recognized expert on immigrants' rights and human trafficking. She is also a musician and composer with backgrounds in improvisational, avant jazz, and classical theories. She studied with Yusef Lateef and Jim Nadel, and performed at the openings of the 2017 Venice Biennale and 2012 Whitney Biennial.

## ATROCITY EXHIBITION

### Life in the Age of Total Violence

Brad Evans

Introductions by Henry A. Giroux  
and Russell Brand



Nonfiction, 264 pages, 5 x 8  
Paperback, \$17.00  
**February 2019**  
9781940660462  
Ebook Available  
Rights: World

**Brad Evans** is a political philosopher, critical theorist, and writer who specializes in the problem of violence. The author of some 10 books and edited volumes, along with over 50 academic and media articles, he serves as Professor of Political Violence & Aesthetics at the University of Bath, UK.

**Henry A. Giroux** currently holds the McMaster University Chair for Scholarship in the Public Interest at McMaster University.

**Russell Brand** is an English comedian, actor, author, and activist. His books include *My Booky Wook*, *Revolution*, and *Recovery: Freedom from Our Addictions*.

A collection of writings, reflections, and interviews from political philosopher and critical theorist Brad Evans, written between 2010 and 2017. Evans collaborates with and interviews Simon Critchley, Julian Reid, Adrian Parr, Henry Giroux, Grace Pollock, Tyler Pollard, and Victoria Harper in his considerations of our era of violence and confusion. Brad Evans has studied and written about the history of violence for years and has been collaborating with and interviewing the world's greatest artists, humanists, and philosophers about the human propensity for violence.

#### Praise for *Atrocity Exhibition*:

“What has really changed in the way we conceive violence after September 11, 2001? With a gripping and immediate pace of dialogue, Brad Evans leads the reader into the heart of this debate, showing with deep meaning and critical insight what it means to live in times that leave us all ‘dangerously exposed.’”

—**Simona Forti**, author of *The New Demons: Rethinking Power and Evil Today*

“Brad Evans is one of those rare thinkers who continue to show that our contemporary predilection for fear is a vain reification of the very violence we reject. Ignore Evans at your own peril.”

—**Jake Chapman**, of the Chapman Brothers

Theory

# THE TERROR OF THE UNFORESEEN

Henry A. Giroux

Introduction by Julian Casablancas

In a searing takedown of the populist authoritarian vision of America, *The Terror of the Unforeseen* tackles the resurgence of fascism in the age of Donald Trump's presidency. Through protests, strikes, and education, Giroux proposes an international social movement that joins together various modes of resistance to illuminate a democratic renewal, and proves himself once again as one of the great public intellectuals of our time.

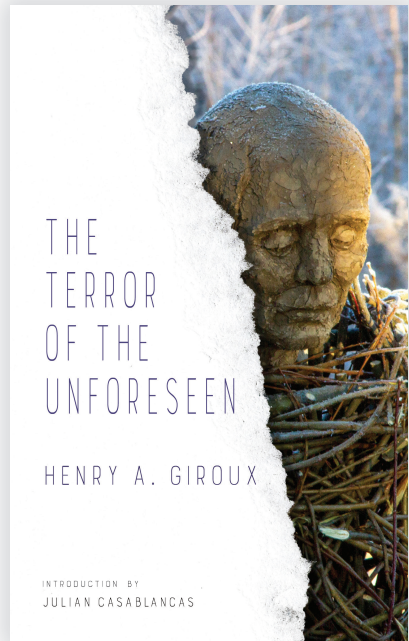
### Praise for *The Terror of the Unforeseen*:

"Henry Giroux, a brilliant and revolutionary thinker, helps us understand why we must refuse to equate capitalism and democracy, or to normalize greed or accept individualism as the highest form of human life."

—Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun Magazine* and author of *Revolutionary Love*

"Henry Giroux's *The Terror of the Unforeseen* provides an urgent warning in response to Donald Trump's collapsing of language, showing us an alternative path through his own thoughtful, compassionate, sincere, and sophisticated writing."

—Nick Pemberton



Nonfiction, 260 pages, 5 x 8

Paperback, \$17.00

**July 2019**

9781940660493

Ebook Available

Rights: World

**Henry A. Giroux** currently holds the McMaster University Chair for Scholarship in the Public Interest at McMaster University. He is the author of several books, including *Neoliberalism's War on Higher Education* and *Dangerous Thinking in the Age of the New Authoritarianism*. He currently lives in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

**Julian Casablancas** is the lead singer of the American rock bands The Strokes, founded in 1998, and The Voidz, founded in 2013. Casablancas founded the independent record label Cult Records in 2009.

# LARB Classics

LARB Classics series is a line of forgotten Los Angeles and California literature, re-contextualized for a modern audience with introductions by contemporary Los Angeles authors. The first offering is *A Stab in the Dark*, the earliest Chicano text yet discovered, written by a reporter from Mexico while he lived and worked in Los Angeles in the 1910s and early 1920s. Many of the Classics will be “genre” books, or books by genre authors. LARB Classics aims to illuminate and celebrate the literary culture of Los Angeles, informing our understanding of LA as an intellectual city and its history as such.

Poetry

## A STAB IN THE DARK

Facundo Bernal

Translated by Anthony Seidman  
Introductions by Gabriel Trujillo Muñoz  
& Josh Kun  
Foreword by Yxta Maya Murray

Facundo Bernal's *A Stab in the Dark* (*Palos de ciego*) is a poetic chronicle of the struggles and joys of the Spanish-speaking community in Los Angeles and in the burgeoning border town of Mexicali in the early 1920s. Sharply satirical, yet deeply empathetic, Bernal's poems are both a landmark of Chicano literature and a captivating read. Anthony Seidman's energetic translation — the first into English — preserves the prickly feel of Bernal's classic, down to the last stab.

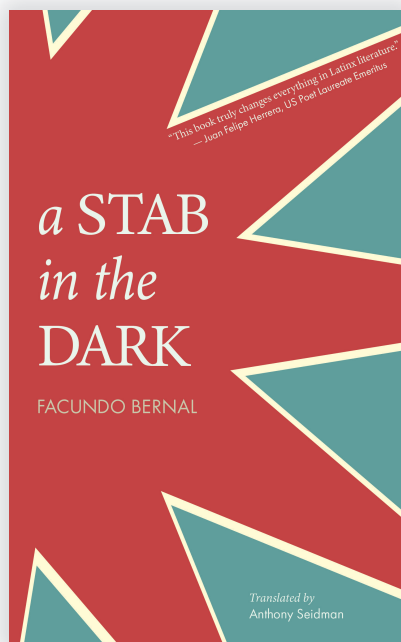
### Praise for *A Stab in the Dark*:

"Bernal delivers the sounds and images of a critical epoch when a large number of Mexicans were making new lives (and a new idiom and culture) in California. His poems are caricatures, dramatic monologues, provocations."

—**Forrest Gander**, author of  
*Core Samples from the World*

"Seidman's inventive translation recovers Bernal's essential work from a historical and geographical margin."

—**Bernardo Jáuregui**, founder of Bagatela Press  
and editor-in-chief of *Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporanea*

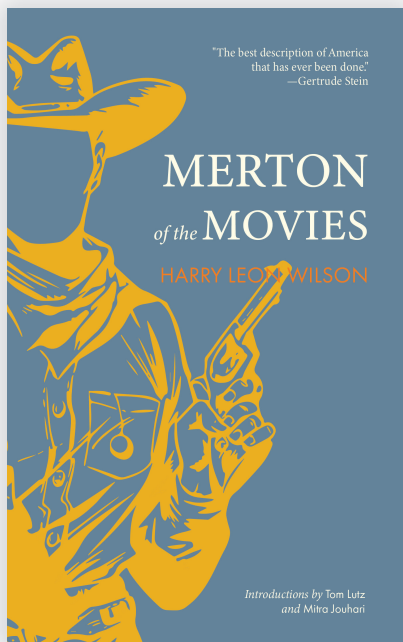


Poetry, 280 pages, 5 x 8  
Paperback, \$16.00

**January 2019**  
9781940660394  
Ebook Available  
Rights: World

**Facundo Bernal** was a poet and journalist. He grew up in Hermosillo, Mexico during a time of political and social conflict, coming of age just before the Mexican Revolution. With his brother Francisco, he is representative of the bohemian Mexican literature of the era. He died in 1962.

**Anthony Seidman** is the author of three collections of poetry, including *Where Thirsts Intersect*. His latest collection of poetry, *A Sleepless Man Sits Up In Bed*, was published in 2016 from Eyewear Publishing of London, England.



Nonfiction, 336 pages, 5 x 8

Paperback, \$16.00

**November 2019**

9781940660608

Ebook Available

Rights: World

**Harry Leon Wilson** (1867-1939) was an American novelist and dramatist best known for his novels *Ruggles of Red Gap* and *Merton of the Movies*. His novel *Bunker Bean* helped popularize the term “flapper.”

**Tom Lutz** is the founder and editor of *Los Angeles Review of Books*. His books include *Doing Nothing*, *Crying*, *Cosmopolitan Vistas*, and *American Nervousness, 1903*.

**Mitra Jouhari** is a writer and performer based in Los Angeles. She has written for *High Maintenance*, *Pod Save America*, and *The President Show*, for which she was nominated for a WGA Award.

Novel

## MERTON OF THE MOVIES

Harry Leon Wilson

Foreword by Tom Lutz

Introduction by Mitra Jouhari

*Merton of the Movies* follows midwestern bumpkin Merton Gill’s unlikely journey from a Kansas stockroom to the star-studded set of a silent film. Unfortunately, the actors he’s idolized from afar lose their luster up close, which fuels his desire to become a dramatic leading man — not some slapstick fool. His natural oafishness catches the eye of stuntwoman Flips Montague, and before long he’s a comic star — the only problem is, it’s all a spoof, and he doesn’t know it.

First published in 1919 in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Harry Leon Wilson’s cartoonish tale has earned its place as an essential California classic. This freewheeling romp gets to the heart of any Angeleno’s worst nightmare: what if I’m not in on the joke?

### Praise for *Merton of the Movies*:

“The best description of America that has ever been done.”

—Gertrude Stein

“[*Merton of the Movies*] remains a prescient and hilarious examination of the performative nature of the modern self in a culture dominated by film and media images.”

—John Parris Springer,  
author of *Hollywood Fictions*:  
*The Dream Factory in American  
Popular Literature*

Novel

# THE GIRL FROM HOLLYWOOD

Edgar Rice Burroughs

Introduction by Steph Cha

In *The Girl from Hollywood*, Edgar Rice Burroughs turns his eye to the seamy underbelly of Prohibition-era Hollywood. This gritty tale of the Jazz Age is a captivating thriller about drug addiction, manipulation, and other sordid Hollywood secrets, as well as the regenerative power of nature and family. *The Girl from Hollywood* remains as timely today as it was a century ago.

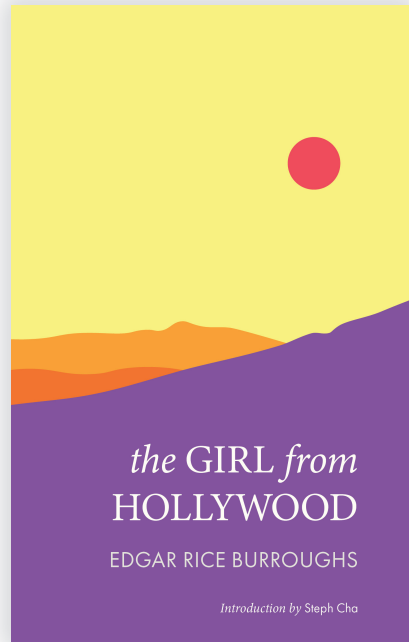
## Praise for *The Girl from Hollywood*:

“This is a melodramatic page-turner that by turns enralls and shocks while presenting a keyhole into a vanished era with haunting resonance to our own. Drop everything and buy *The Girl From Hollywood*. This is an imprint to watch, and as a student of L.A. history, I can’t wait to see what LARB publishes next.”

—Denise Hamilton, former *LA Times* reporter, crime novelist, and editor of the award-winning *Los Angeles Noir I* and *Los Angeles Noir 2: The Classics* short story anthologies

“This Hollywood story of 1924 by the creator of *Tarzan* reflects the tensions between the agrarian dream of California — utopian life on the bountiful land — and the tawdry modernity of the Jazz Age represented by Los Angeles: a cesspit of rapacious directors, the sex trade, drug addiction, alcoholism, and crime. Most interesting is the novel’s moral conundrum — in a utopia, what outlet is there for youth’s restlessness and ambition, besides out and, most likely, down?”

—Janet Fitch, author of *White Oleander* and *The Revolution of Marina M.*



Nonfiction, 312 pages, 5 x 8

Paperback, \$16.00

**March 2019**

9781940660479

Ebook Available

Rights: World

Edgar Rice Burroughs was an American fiction writer best known for his celebrated and prolific output in the adventure and science-fiction genres. Among the most notable of his creations are the jungle man Tarzan, the heroic Mars adventurer John Carter and the fictional landmass within Earth known as Pellucidar. He died in 1950.

Steph Cha is the author of *Follow Her Home*, *Beware, Beware*, and *Dead Soon Enough*. Ecco will publish her fourth novel in 2019. She’s the noir editor for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and a regular contributor to the *Los Angeles Times*. She lives in her native city of Los Angeles.



# LARB

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The Los Angeles Review of Books is a nonprofit community of writers, critics, artists, and scholars dedicated to promoting conversations about society, culture and the literary arts. We've published over 5,000 articles and 500 multimedia pieces since we launched in April 2011, creating one of the most diverse, evergreen, and ever-growing literary archives on the web, on the radio, and in print.

LARB Books is the publishing wing of the Los Angeles Review of Books. The addition of this publishing project extends LARB's mission of bringing the best that is thought and written to readers around the world.

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Designed by Tom Comitta

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LARB Books is the publishing wing of the Los Angeles Review of Books, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and disseminating rigorous, incisive, and engaging writing on every aspect of literature, culture, and the arts. The addition of this publishing project extends LARB's mission of bringing the best that is thought and written to readers around the world.