

NEW RELEASES

CITY LIGHTS PUBLISHERS

FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021
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Natch

CITY LIGHTS SPOTLIGHT SERIES NO. 20

Sophia Dahlin

SEPTEMBER 2020

Funeral Diva

Pamela Sneed

OCTOBER 2020

Under the Dome: Walks with Paul Celan

Jean Daive

NOVEMBER 2020

Dispatches from the Race War

Tim Wise

DECEMBER 2020

Build Bridges, Not Walls

Todd Miller

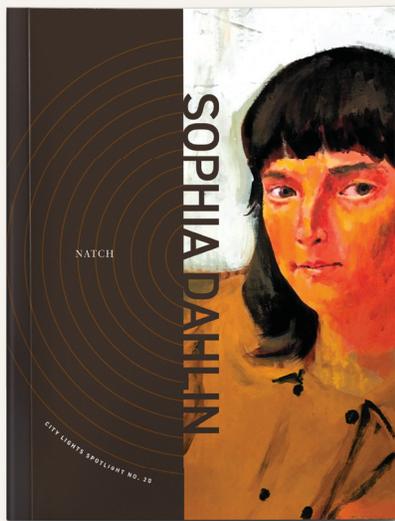
FEBRUARY 2021

Eat the Mouth That Feeds You

Carribeau Fragoza

MARCH 2021

Queer pastoral lyrics take on the romantic sublime in a stunningly assured debut collection.



pISBN: 978-0-87286-810-6
Rights: UK and Translation;
Dramatic
\$15.95 | 104pp | Paperback
September 2020

Natch

CITY LIGHTS SPOTLIGHT SERIES NO. 20

Sophia Dahlin

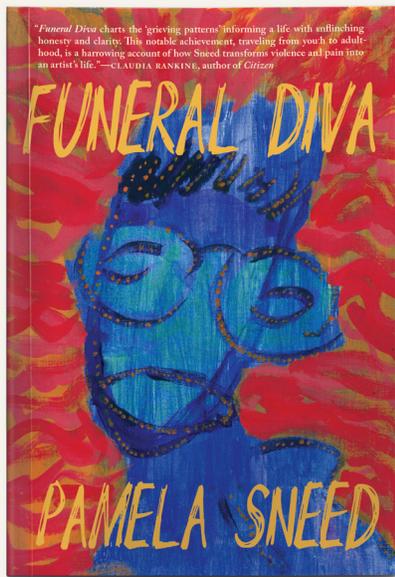
In her first full-length collection, Sophia Dahlin fashions a dazzling array of queer pastoral lyrics as a means to interrogate received notions of the romantic sublime. By turns funny, passionate, and erotic, the poems of *Natch* express an intensity of longing and desire, a poetics of queer bodies narrated with a stunningly assured voice, compounded of bravado and vulnerability. *Natch*, as Dahlin herself writes, “is about feeling taking over the body’s functioning, desiring leading you past deciding. This book is about trusting and mistrusting certain parts of the body, so the body is parts, each part with its own dynamism. It’s about being so lustful that you are not dead when you have finished dying.”

SOPHIA DAHLIN earned her BA from Bard College and her MFA from the University of Iowa, where she was an Iowa Arts Fellow. With Vi Khi Nao, she is the coauthor of the chapbook *Some Sapphic Movements* (MO(o)ON/IO, 2020). Her work has appeared in many journals, including *BOMB*, *Fence*, *Lambda Literary*, *Denver Quarterly*, and *The Recluse*. With Jacob Kahn, she edits the chapbook press Eyelet. She lives in Oakland, California, where she teaches with California Poets in the Schools, conducts generative writing workshops, and hosts readings.

“*Natch* is pure ebullience, poetry written at the pitch of a brilliant mind, expressed with rare lucidity.”

—Kit Schluter

A black lesbian poet's coming-of-age account of the AIDS era and its effects on life and art.



pISBN: 978-0-87286-811-3
Rights: UK and Translation; Audio
\$16.95 | 160pp | Paperback
October 2020

Funeral Diva

Pamela Sneed

In this collection of personal essays and poetry, acclaimed poet and performer Pamela Sneed details her coming of age in New York City during the late 1980s. *Funeral Diva* captures the impact of AIDS on Black Queer life, and highlights the enduring bonds between the living, the dying, and the dead. Sneed's poems not only converse with lovers past and present, but also with her literary forebears—like James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde—whose aesthetic and thematic investments she renews for a contemporary American landscape.

Offering critical focus on matters from police brutality to LGBTQ+ rights, *Funeral Diva* confronts today's most pressing issues with acerbic wit and audacity. The collection closes with Sneed's reflections on the two pandemics of her time, AIDS and COVID-19, and the disproportionate impact of each on African American communities.

Poet, professor, and performer, PAMELA SNEED is the author of *Sweet Dreams*, *Kong*, and *Imagine Being More Afraid of Freedom than Slavery*. Her work is widely anthologized and appears in Nikki Giovanni's, *The 100 Best African American Poems*. Sneed has held various academic posts including Visiting Critic at Yale and Visiting Professor at Columbia University's School of the Arts, and is currently a member of the online faculty at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, teaching courses on Human Rights and Writing Art. She has performed at the Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Public Theater, among numerous other venues.

COMPARABLE TITLES:

Mean by Myriam Gurba (9781566894913, Coffee House Press, 2017)

Citizen by Claudia Rankine (9781555976903, 2014)

The Argonauts by Maggie Nelson (9781555977351, Graywolf Press, 2015)

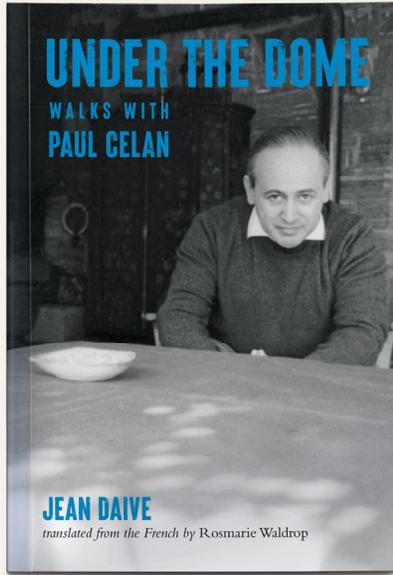
Chelsea Girls by Eileen Myles (9780062394668, Ecco, 2017)

Night Sky Exit Wounds by Ocean Vuong (978-1556594953, Copper Canyon Press, 2016)

"She is a writer for the future, in that she defies genre."

—Hilton Als

An arresting memoir of the final years and tragic suicide of one
of twentieth-century Europe's greatest poets.



pISBN: 978-0-87286-808-3
eISBN: 978-0-87286-812-0
Rights: UK
\$15.95 | 200pp | Paperback
November 2020

Under the Dome: Walks with Paul Celan

Jean Daive

Translated by Rosmarie Waldrop

Introduction by Robert Kaufman and Philip Gerard

Paul Celan (1920–1970) is considered one of Europe's greatest post-World-War II poets, known for his astonishing experiments in poetic form, expression, and address. *Under the Dome* is French poet Jean Daive's haunting memoir of his friendship with Celan, a precise yet elliptical account of their daily meetings, discussions, and walks through Paris, a routine that ended suddenly when Celan committed suicide by drowning himself in the Seine. Daive's grief at the loss of his friend finds expression in *Under the Dome*, where we are given an intimate insight into Celan's last years, at the height of his poetic powers.

Jean Daive illuminates Celan's process of thinking about poetry, where it comes from and what it does, its relation to history and ethics. This new edition of Rosmarie Waldrop's masterful translation includes an introduction by scholars Robert Kaufman and Philip Gerard, which provides critical, historical, and cultural context for Daive's enigmatic, timeless text.

Author of over 15 collections of poetry and seven volumes of fiction, JEAN DAIVE has been an important voice in French letters for over 35 years. He has also published French translations of the poetry of Paul Celan, Robert Creeley, Norma Cole, and others. He lives and works in Paris.

COMPARABLE TITLES:

Malina by Ingeborg Bachmann (9780811228725, New Directions, 2019)

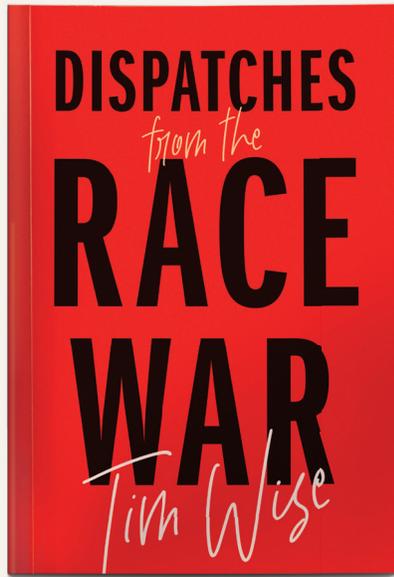
Inri by Raul Zurita (9781681372785, New York Review Books, 2018)

White Decimal by Jean Daive (9781632430281, Omnidawn, 2017)

"This fluid and indefinable work by Jean Daive has never been far from my thoughts since I first read it decades ago.
It breathes with Celan . . . while speaking for the deeply human necessity of poetry."

—Michael Palmer

Essays on racial flashpoints, white denial, violence, and the manipulation of racial fears in America today.



pISBN: 978-0-87286-809-0
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Rights: UK and Translation;
Dramatic
\$17.95 | 352pp | Paperback
December 2020

Dispatches from the Race War

Tim Wise

In this collection of essays, renowned social-justice advocate Tim Wise confronts racism in contemporary America. Seen through the lens of major flashpoints during the Obama and Trump years, *Dispatches from the Race War* faces the consequences of white supremacy in all its forms. This includes a discussion of the bigoted undertones of the Tea Party's backlash, the killing of Trayvon Martin, current day anti-immigrant hysteria, the rise of openly avowed white nationalism, the violent policing of African Americans, and more. Wise devotes a substantial portion of the book to explore the racial ramifications of COVID-19, and the widespread protests which followed the police murder of George Floyd.

Concise, accessible chapters, most written in first-person, offer an excellent source for those engaged in the anti-racism struggle. Tim Wise's proactive approach asks white allies to contend with—and take responsibility for—their own role in perpetuating racism against Blacks and people of color. *Dispatches from the Race War* reminds us that the story of our country is the history of racial conflict, and that our future may depend on how—or if—we can resolve it. “To accept racism is quintessentially American,” writes Wise, “to rebel against it is human. Be human.”

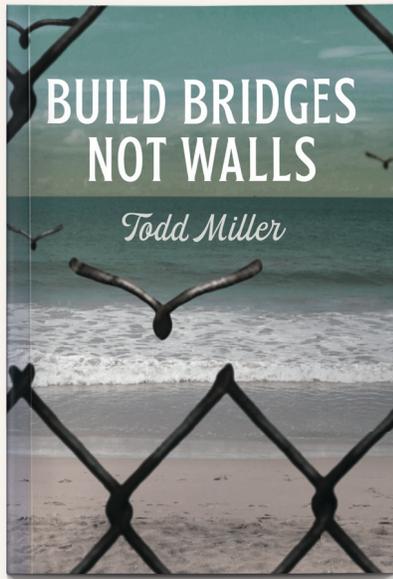
TIM WISE is the author of seven previous books and has been featured in many documentaries, including Chelsea Handler's *Hello, Privilege. It's Me, Chelsea*, in which Tim has a lead role. He appears regularly on CNN, MSNBC and NPR. His weekly podcast is *Speak Out with Tim Wise*.

COMPARABLE TITLES:

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism
by Robin DiAngelo (9780807047415, Beacon Press, 2018)
So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo (9781580058827,
Seal Press, 2019)
How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi (9780525509288,
One World, 2019)

“What Tim Wise has brilliantly done is to challenge white folks’ truth . . . to see that they have a responsibility to do more than sit back and watch, but to recognize their own role in co-creating . . . a fair, inclusive, truly democratic society.”
—Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*

In personal stories from twenty years of activism and reporting,
an award-winning journalist calls on readers to imagine a world without borders.



pISBN: 978-0-87286-834-2
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Rights: UK and Translation;
Dramatic
\$10.95 | 96pp | Paperback
February 2021

Build Bridges, Not Walls

Todd Miller

Every year an untold number of people perish attempting to cross the border into the United States. Thousands of families who do make it across are apprehended and separated, often with children languishing in cages. In light of the harm it unleashes, does our increasingly militarized border policy make anyone more secure? To answer that question, Todd Miller draws upon over twenty years of work investigating international borders. In a series of anecdotes, he relates his encounters with U.S. Border Patrol agents, deportees, migrants, human-rights activists, and scholars, taking readers on a journey from the deserts of the Southwest, to the mountains of Chiapas and Guatemala, and to border zones across the globe. Through the lens of his stories and personal reflections, Miller tackles big questions in clear and inviting prose, encouraging us to honestly reckon with our own beliefs about how best to meet the critical challenges of a world in migration.

TODD MILLER lives in Tucson, Arizona. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, and *Guernica*. He is the author of *Empire of Borders*, *Storming the Wall*, and *Border Patrol Nation*.

COMPARABLE TITLES:

Capitalism: A Ghost Story by Arundhati Roy (9781608463855,
Haymarket, 2014)

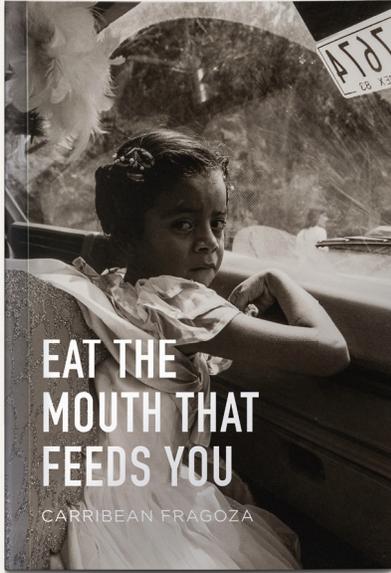
Our Only World by Wendell Berry (9781619027008, Counterpoint, 2015)

Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions by Valeria Luiselli
(9781566894951, Coffee House Press, 2017)

“[In *Storming the Wall*] Miller delivers a prescient and sober view of our increasingly dystopian planet as the impacts of human-caused climate disruption continue to intensify.”

—Dahr Jamail, author of *The End of Ice*

In gritty, sometimes fantastical stories about Latinx life, women challenge feminine stereotypes and make sense of fractured family histories.



pISBN: 978-0-87286-833-5
eISBN: 978-0-87286-835-9
Rights: UK and Translation;
Dramatic
\$16.95 | 144pp | Paperback
March 2021

Eat the Mouth That Feeds You

Carribean Fragoza

This stunningly original collection of stories illuminates a spectrum of Latinx, Chicanx, and immigrant women's voices. In confrontations with fraught matrilineal lines, absent or abusive fathers, and the effects of historical violence, these women and girls rely on a resilient *mujer* network to get them through sometimes supernatural obstacles.

Fragoza's imperfect characters are drawn with an authentic, sympathetic tenderness as they struggle against circumstances and conditions designed to defeat them. A young woman returns home from college, only to pick up exactly where she left off: a smart girl in a rundown town with no prospects for the future. A brother and sister worry as their distraught mother works out a deep, angry sorrow by taking an ax to everything in her path. Victories are excavated from the rubble of personal hardship, and women's wisdom is forged from the violence that continues to unfold on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

CARRIBEAN FRAGOZA'S stories have appeared in *BOMB*, *Huizache*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She is the co-editor of *East of East: The Making of Greater El Monte* (Rutgers University Press, 2020). She is the co-editor of *Boom California*, and a senior writer at *Tropics of Meta*.

COMPARABLE TITLES:

Her Body and Other Parties by Carmen Maria Machado (9781555977887, Graywolf Press, 2017)

Mouthful of Birds by Samanta Schweblin (9780399184635, Riverhead Books, 2019)

Homesick for Another World by Ottessa Moshfegh (978-0399562907, Penguin Books, 2017)

Things We Lost in the Fire by Mariana Enriquez (9780451495112, Hogarth, 2017)

"Her Chicanx gothic tales root horror in the most terrifying of places, the family. The creepiest pockets of the Brown imagination are her playground. *Eat the Mouth that Feeds You* renders the feminine grotesque at its finest."

—Myriam Gurba, author of *Mean*

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