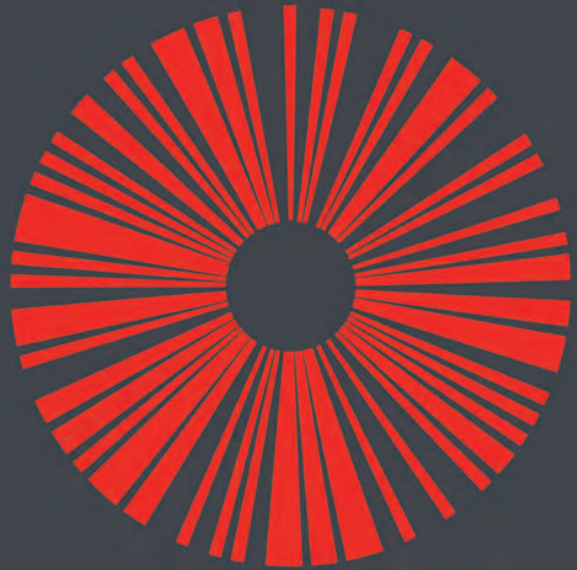


THE
OVERLOOK
PRESS

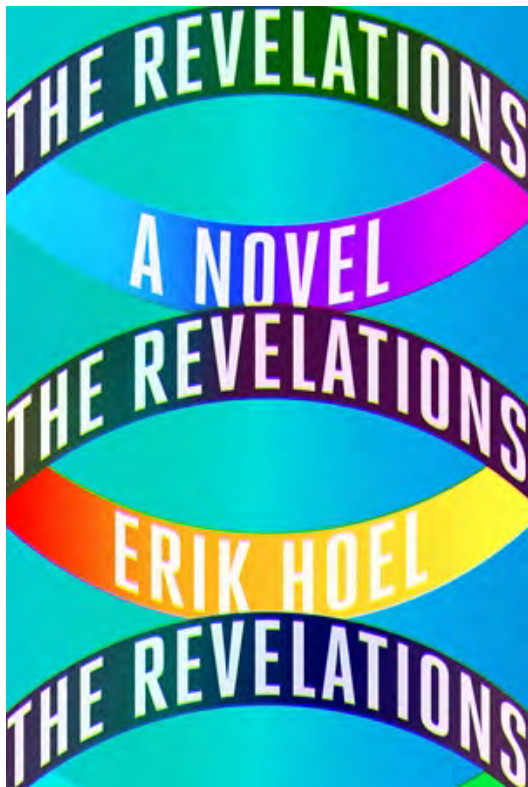


The Revelations

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

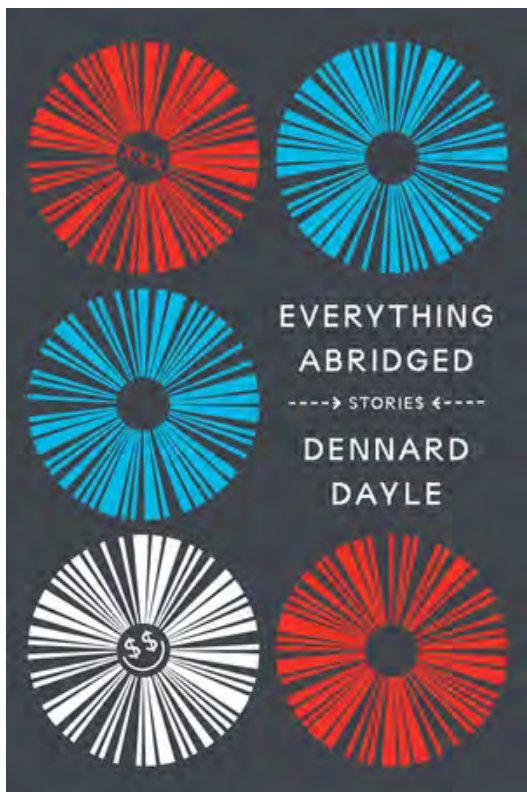
US \$27.00

Everything Abridged

STORIES

● BY DENNARD DAYLE

For readers of David Wong, Paul Beatty, and George Saunders, an electrifying and wholly original collection of satirical stories that create a biting funny portrait of American racism, capitalism, and politics



Framed as a reference work of humorous “entries” that offer trenchant social commentary, *Everything Abridged* presages a dark vision of the near future but tells jokes in the face of it: An intelligence agency operative uncovers a conspiracy to generate conspiracies and realizes his participation in the scheme. A Caribbean monarch meets four decades of American presidents and adjusts his country’s foreign policy accordingly. Experiment participants are asked to bring back a gun as quickly as possible. A copywriter on a space colony advertises a weapon with the potential to destroy his home during an intergalactic war.

These and other linked stories, many of which feature a speculative bent—about being Black in America, law enforcement practices in an android society, Olympic speed walking, consumerism, nuclear war, and more—are interspersed with hilarious, one-line definitions for words ranging from *abolition* to *zygote*, creating a sharply humorous portrait of American inequality. With his singular wit, sharp prose, and shrewd observations, Dennard Dayle captures the struggles his characters face to keep hold of their sanity in a society collapsing into chaos and absurdity.



Dennard Dayle is a Jamaican–American writer from New York City. He is a graduate of Princeton University and received his MFA from Columbia University. His short fiction has been published by *ClarksWorld*, *Matchbook*, the *Hard Times*, and *McSweeney’s Internet Tendency*. *Everything Abridged* is his debut collection.

SELLING POINTS

AUTHOR CONNECTIONS: The author is well-connected in literary circles and with writers, including Paul Beatty, Jessi Jezewska Stevens, Gary Shteyngart, and Paul La Farge, all of whom will be approached for support of the book’s publication.

TARGETED AUDIENCE: For readers of David Wong’s *This Book is Full of Spiders*, Paul Beatty’s *The Sellout*, George Saunders’s *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline* and *Lincoln in the Bardo*, and Neal Stephenson’s *Snow Crash*.

SATIRE AS AUTHOR’S BRAND:

Dayle is a political performance artist whose most recent stunt—a series of satirical political mailers skewering the New York City mayoral candidates—was shared on Twitter thousands of times and amassed nearly 50,000 likes.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 320 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: APRIL 2022

FICTION

ISBN 978-1-4197-6096-9

US \$27.00

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

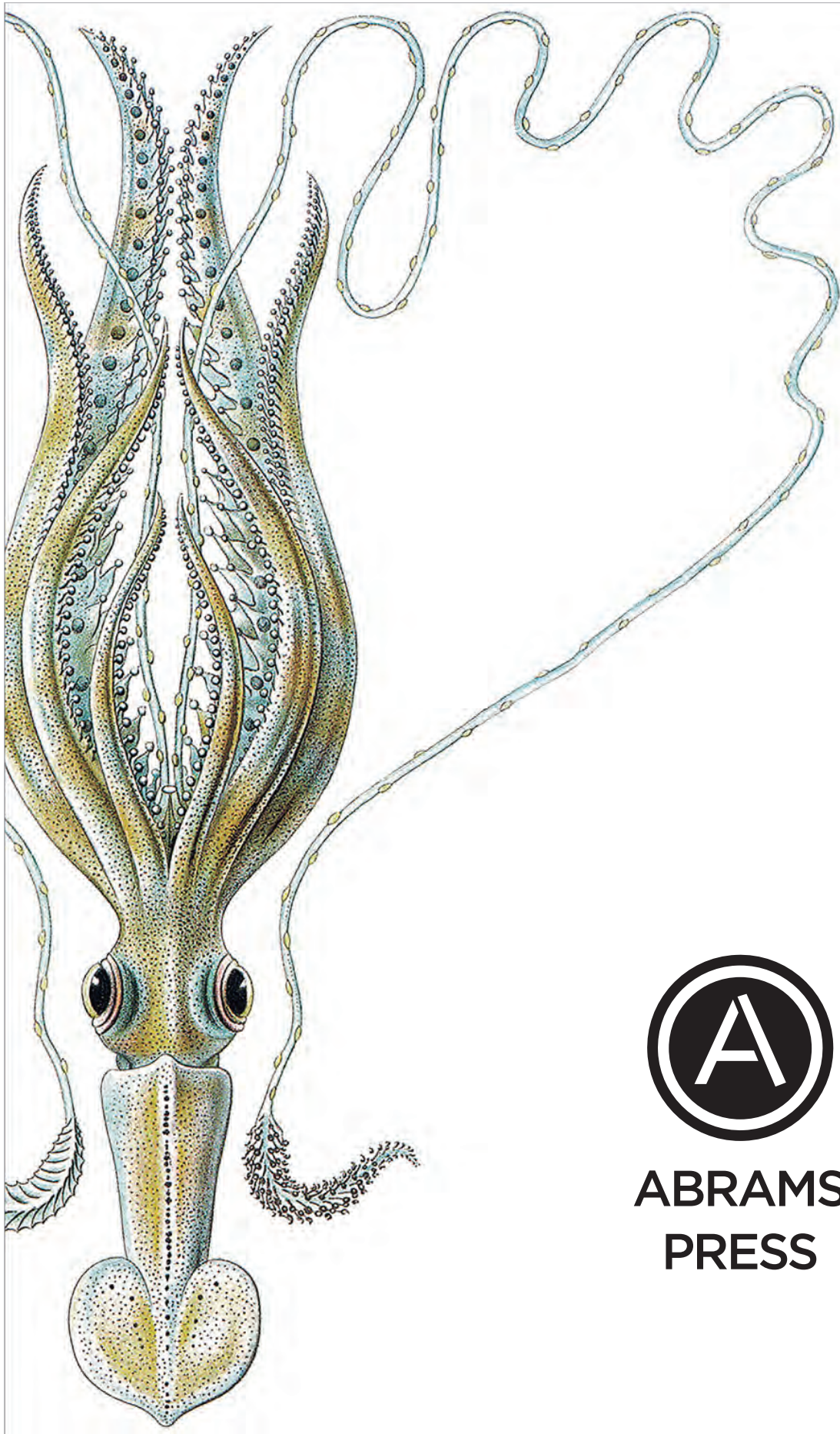
* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: JUNE 2021

FICTION

ISBN 978-1-4197-5216-2

US \$26.00



**ABRAMS
PRESS**

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



One in ten American adults tried intermittent fasting last year, 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's resurgence in recent years.

Journalist Steve Hendricks's *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, and become a media celebrity in the process. Hendricks introduces us to the people who are reviving this long-lost remedy, including open-minded doctors, Silicon Valley-based biohackers, and everyday people eager for a cure to what ails them.

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: **SEPTEMBER 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



RIGHTS SOLD: Complex Chinese (Business Weekly Publication)
Simplified Chinese (Ginkgo [Beijing] Book Co., Ltd)

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

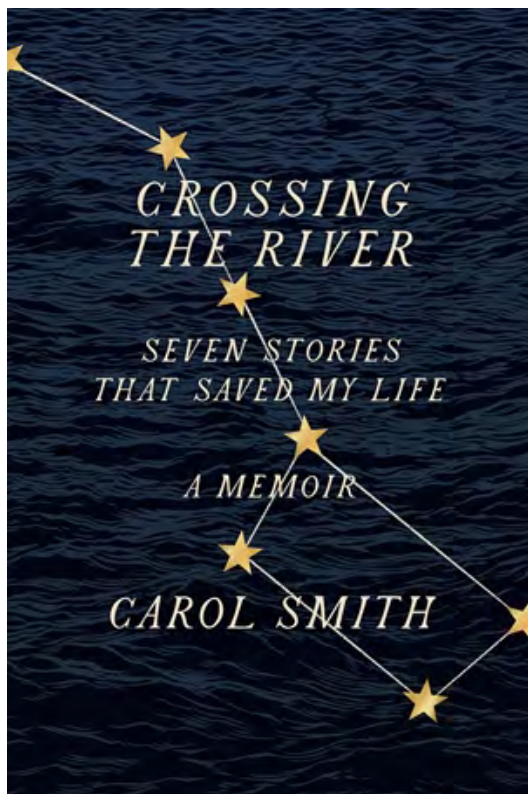
US \$27.00

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: Simplified Chinese (Beijing Guangchen Culture Communication Co., Ltd.)
Korean (Munhakdonge Publishing Corp)
Portuguese (SA) (Darkside)

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**

ISBN 978-1-4197-5013-7

US \$26.00

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.



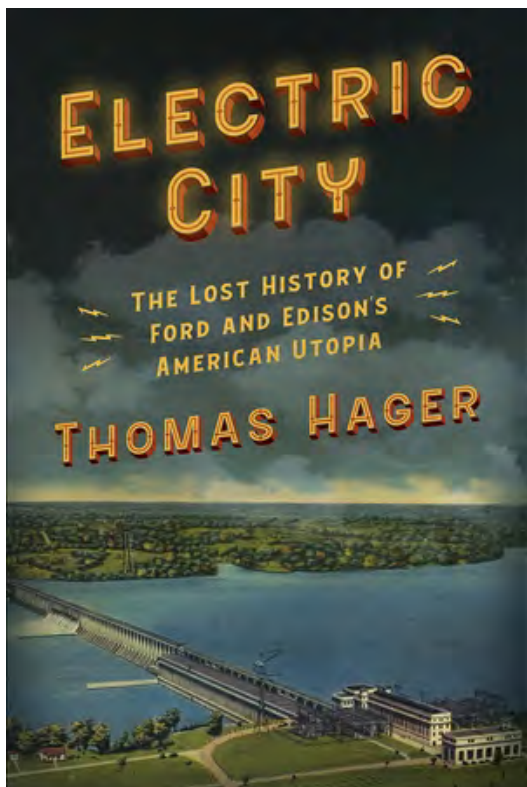
Carol Smith is an award–winning journalist and editor for NPR affiliate KUOW in Seattle. Previously she worked for the *Seattle Post–Intelligencer* and the *Los Angeles Times*. Her newspaper work has won dozens of national and regional awards and has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize a remarkable 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.

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



RIGHTS SOLD: Japanese (Hakusuisha Publishing Co., LTD.)

Vietnamese (Tan Viet Cultural and Educational JSC)

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

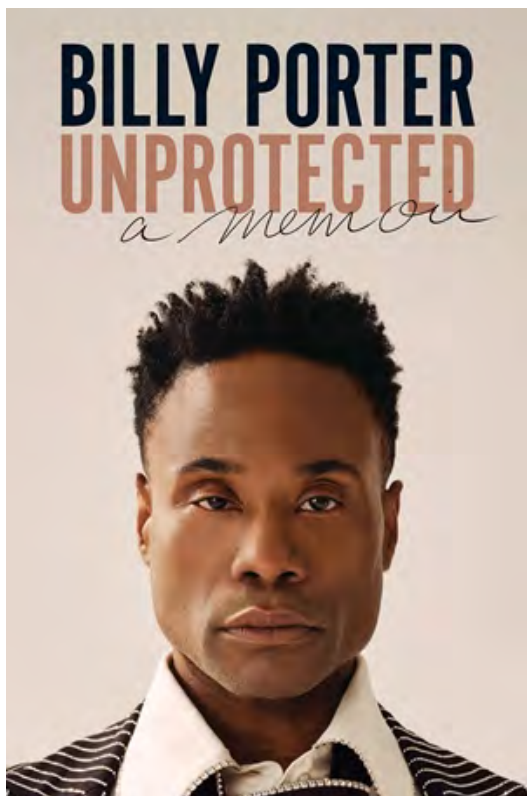
US \$26.00

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

PUB MONTH: **OCTOBER 2021**

ISBN 978-1-4197-4619-2

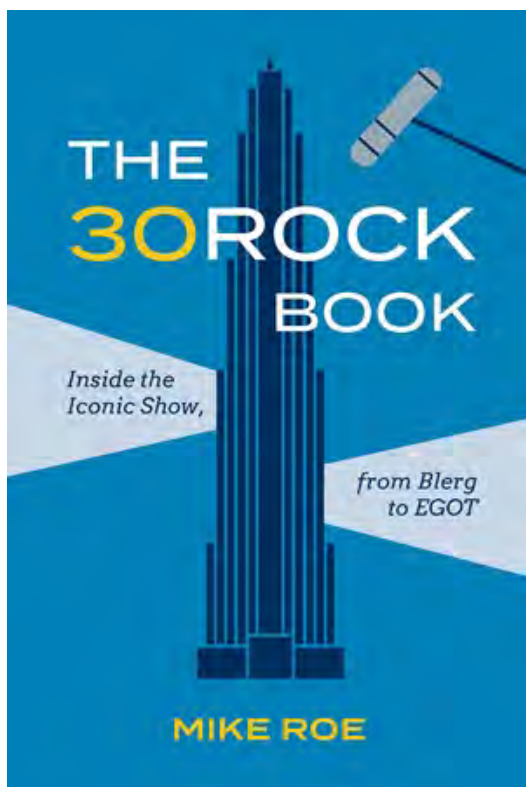
US \$28.00

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

* 304 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: NOVEMBER 2021

ISBN 978-1-4197-5044-1

US \$26.00

ALSO AVAILABLE

Monsters of the Week

ISBN 978-1-4197-3247-8

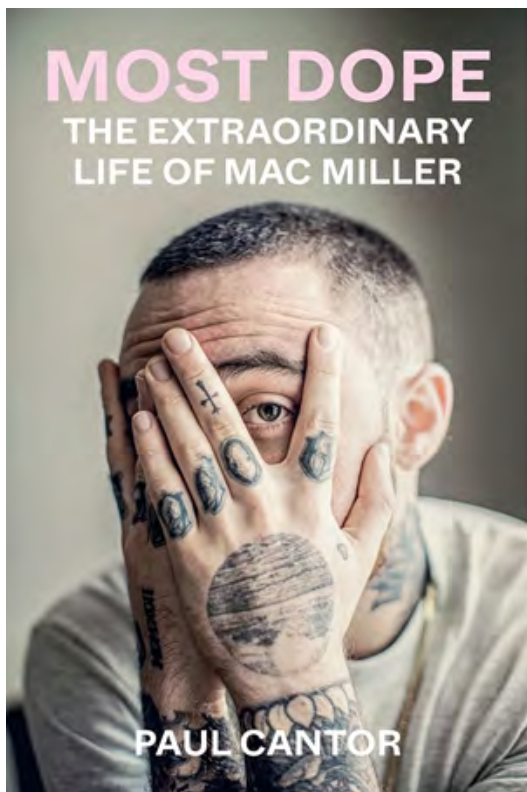
US \$30.00

Most Dope

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF MAC MILLER

● BY PAUL CANTOR

The first biography of rapper Mac Miller, the Pittsburgh cult favorite—turned—rap superstar who touched the lives of millions before tragically passing away at the age of twenty—six



Malcolm James McCormick was born on January 19, 1992. He began making music at a young age and by fifteen was already releasing mixtapes. One of the first true viral superstars, his early records earned him a rabid legion of die—hard fans—as well as a few noteworthy detractors. But despite his undeniable success, Miller was plagued by struggles with substance abuse and depression, both of which fueled his raw and genre—defying music yet ultimately led to his demise.

Through detailed reporting and interviews with dozens of Miller's confidants, Paul Cantor brings you to leafy Pittsburgh, seductive Los Angeles, and frenzied New York, where you will meet Miller's collaborators, producers, business partners, best friends, and even his roommates. Traveling deep into Miller's inner circle, behind the curtain, the velvet ropes, and studio doors, *Most Dope* tells the story of a passionate, gifted young man who achieved his life's ambition, only to be undone by his personal demons.

Most Dope is part love letter, part cautionary tale, never shying away from the raw, visceral way Mac Miller lived his life.



Paul Cantor is a writer whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *XXL*, *Esquire*, *Billboard*, MTV News, *Vice*, *FADER*, *Complex*, and elsewhere. Born and raised in New York City, he began his career as a music producer and is now among the most authoritative voices in music journalism. In nearly two decades documenting hip—hop culture, he has interviewed and written about luminaries such as: J. Cole, Kendrick Lamar, Nicki Minaj, 50 Cent, the Wu—Tang Clan, Logic, Common, Scarface, Wyclef, Damon Dash, Young Jeezy, M.I.A., Action Bronson, and Suge Knight, among others. This is his first book.

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

* 304 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **JANUARY 2022**

BIOGRAPHY, MUSIC, POP CULTURE

ISBN 978-1-4197-4800-4

US \$26.00

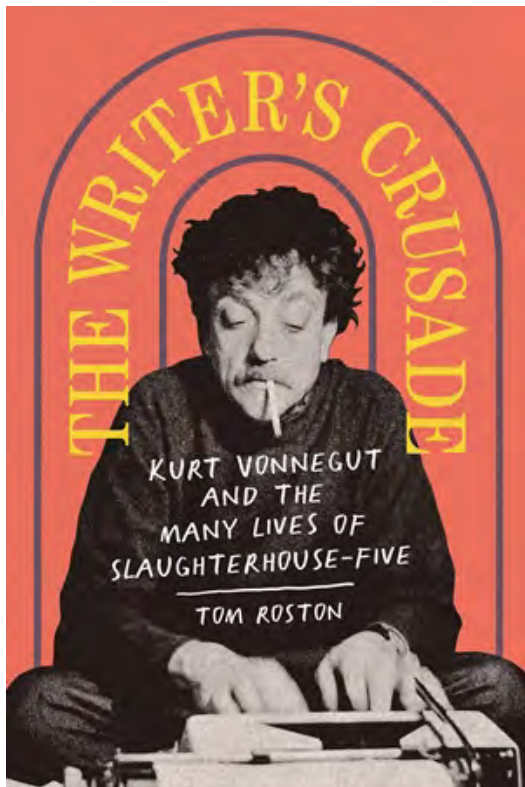
BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS

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

* 272 pages

* WIDTH: 5 1/2" - 140mm

* HEIGHT: 8 1/4" - 210mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: OCTOBER 2021

ISBN 978-1-4197-4489-1

US \$26.00

ALSO AVAILABLE

On Nineteen Eighty-Four

ISBN 978-1-4197-3800-5

US \$24.00

In Search of The Color

Purple

ISBN 978-1-4197-3530-1

US \$26.00

My Greatest Save

THE BRAVE, BARRIER-BREAKING JOURNEY OF A HALL-OF-FAME GOALKEEPER

● BY BRIANA SCURRY WITH WAYNE COFFEY; FOREWORD BY ROBIN ROBERTS

A deeply moving and painfully honest memoir from the trailblazing, World Cup–winning, Olympic gold medalist, and US Women’s soccer goalie Briana Scurry



Briana Scurry was a pioneer on the US Women’s National Team. She won gold in Atlanta in 1996, the first time women’s soccer was ever played in the Olympics. She was a key part of the fabled “99ers,” making an epic save in the decisive penalty–kick shootout in the final. Scurry captured her second Olympic gold in 2004, cementing her status as one of the premier players in the world. She was the only Black player on the team, and she was also the first player to be openly gay. It was a singularly amazing ride, one that Scurry handled with her trademark generosity and class—qualities that made her one of the most popular players ever to wear a US jersey.

But Scurry’s storybook career ended in 2010 when a knee to the head left her with severe head trauma. She was labeled “temporarily totally disabled,” and the reality was even worse. She spiraled into depression, debt, and endured such pain that she closed out her closest friends and soccer soulmates. She pawned her gold medals. She walked to the edge of a waterfall and contemplated suicide. It seemed like the only way out until Scurry made her greatest save of all.

A memoir of startling candor, *My Greatest Save* is a story of triumph, tragedy, and redemption from a woman who has broken through barriers her entire life.

Briana Scurry is one of the greatest players of the US Women’s National Soccer team. Her epic contributions to her sport and her country are recognized in a permanent exhibit in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. **Wayne Coffey** is the author or coauthor of more than 30 books, including bestsellers *The Closer* (with Mariano Rivera) and *When Nobody Was Watching* (with Carli Lloyd).

SELLING POINTS

LEGENDARY ATHLETE: Scurry was a key part of the 1999 US Women’s National soccer team. She is the only female goalkeeper and the only Black woman in the US Soccer Hall of Fame.

MAJOR PUBLICITY: Multiple national network television appearances are already confirmed, and Scurry will have an extensive speaking schedule on publication.

AUTHOR PLATFORM: Scurry is the subject of a documentary on CBS and Paramount+ scheduled to air in late 2021 or early 2022, and she will be appearing on CBS as a soccer analyst starting in January 2022.

KEY ANNIVERSARY: June 23, 2022, will be the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, a moment Scurry can speak to—she is featured prominently in the National Museum of African American History and Culture’s Title IX exhibit.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 256 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: JUNE 2022

SPORTS, MEMOIR

ISBN 978-1-4197-5767-9

US \$26.00

ALSO AVAILABLE

The National Team

ISBN 978-1-4197-3449-6

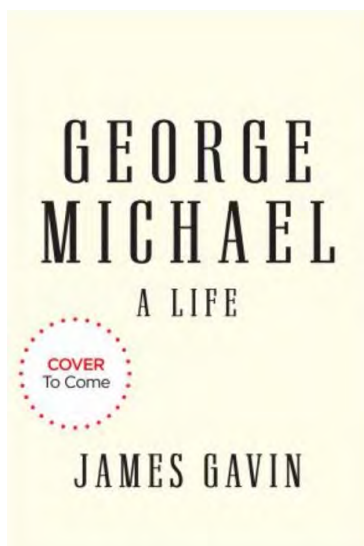
US \$26.00

George Michael

A LIFE

● BY JAMES GAVIN

An expansive look at the troubled life of legendary singer, songwriter, and producer George Michael—written by an acclaimed music biographer



Christmas night of 2016 brought the jarring news that, in the morning hours, George Michael had died in bed of heart failure at the age of 53; his boyfriend had discovered the body. Suddenly he was all over the news after nearly three years of mostly silent reclusion. It's said that he spent those years hidden away in his British mansion, bloated, chronically depressed, musically inactive, and high.

Michael was an extravagantly gifted, open-hearted soul singer whose work was both pained and smolderingly erotic; he was a songwriter of craft and substance. Prior to his death, however, the press had shown no sympathy for this self-sabotaging superstar. He lived a life of ultimate privilege, yet seemed so tortured by everything he had coveted that he could not face life sober. Fans stayed loyal, but the press was unforgiving, almost exclusively citing reports about his DUIs, his jail sentence for having crashed into a storefront, and his European tour that was canceled due to a near-fatal bout with pneumonia.

Michael's story follows an arc that many who have raw talent and find fame come to know: He was a troubled, chemically dependent artist who poured his struggles into music of deep psychological complexity, musical sophistication, and soul. His mystique looms large over the work and is, in turn, not easily forgotten. *George Michael: A Life* explores the tragically predictable story of an utterly unpredictable artist—how he found and then lost himself in the music.



James Gavin is a writer and music biographer whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Time Out New York*, and *Vanity Fair*. He is the author of *Stormy Weather: The Life of Lena Horne* and *Deep in a Dream: The Long Night of Chet Baker*. He lives in New York City.

SELLING POINTS

MOST COMPREHENSIVE

BIOGRAPHY: Gavin is committed to creating the first full-scale biography of George Michael. He intends to tell the whole story, from Michael's youth in the UK with his Greek and English parents to his early days as the real engine behind Wham! and more. Gavin also honestly investigates and reports the artist's later, darker years filled with reckless behavior and substance abuse, which could have contributed to his early death.

LEGENDARY MUSICIAN:

Over the course of his life, Michael sold more than 80 million records worldwide and achieved eight number-one songs on the US Billboard Hot 100 and seven number-one songs on the UK Singles Chart.

EXPERIENCED WRITER:

Gavin has written several substantial and acclaimed volumes on important musicians such as Lena Horne, Chet Baker, and Peggy Lee.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 512 pages

* WIDTH: 6" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 9" - 229mm

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **JUNE 2022**

BIOGRAPHY, MUSIC, POP CULTURE

ISBN 978-1-4197-4794-6

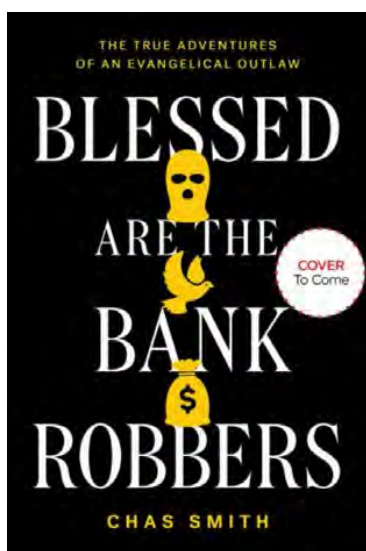
US \$32.50

Blessed Are the Bank Robbers

THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF AN EVANGELICAL OUTLAW

● BY CHAS SMITH

A rollicking true story of Bibles and bank robberies in Southern California, from a talented and highly praised gonzo journalist



Chas Smith grew up deeply enmeshed in the evangelical Christian world that grew out of Southern California in the late 1960s. His family included famous missionaries and megachurch pastors, but his cousin Daniel Courson was Grandma's favorite. Smith looked up to Cousin Danny. He was handsome, adventurous, and smart, earned a degree from Bible college, and settled into a family and a stable career.

Needless to say, it was a big surprise when Cousin Danny started robbing banks. Known as the "Floppy Hat Bandit," Courson robbed 19 of them in a torrid six-week spree before being caught and sentenced to seven years. When he tried to escape, they tacked on another year. And when he finally got out, despite seeming to be back on the straight and narrow, Cousin Danny disappeared. Banks started getting robbed again. It seemed Cousin Danny might be gunning for the record.

Smith's *Blessed Are the Bank Robbers* is the wild, and wildly entertaining, story of an all-American anti-hero. It's a tale of bank robberies, art and jewel heists, high-speed chases, fake identities, encrypted Swiss email accounts, jilted lovers, and the dark side of an evangelical family (and it wasn't just Danny; an uncle was mixed up with the mujahideen). It's a book about what it means to live inside the church and outside the law.

Chas Smith is the author of *Cocaine + Surfing*, *Welcome to Paradise*, *Now Go to Hell*, which was a finalist for the PEN Center USA Award for Nonfiction, and *Reports from Hell*. Smith began his career as a foreign correspondent, writing pieces for *Vice*, *Paper*, and *Blackbook*, among others, from Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Somalia, Azerbaijan, and Colombia, which led to a brief career as a war correspondent for Current TV. He lives in Los Angeles.

SELLING POINTS

HOT CATEGORY: The true-crime boom in books, TV shows, and podcasts continues. And this is a great, media-friendly story mixing faith, family, and the quintessential American crime of knocking over banks.

WICKEDLY ENTERTAINING: Smith writes with verve and a dark sense of humor, perfectly suited to the material. This reads like *Ballad of the Whiskey Robber* by way of Jon Krakauer, with a little *Dirty John* and *Lodge 9* mixed in.

AUTHOR PLATFORM: Well-known in the surfing community, Smith has useful media connections and has written for publications including *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 256 pages

* WIDTH: 5 1/2" - 152mm

* HEIGHT: 8 1/4" - 229mm

* Hardcover with jacket

PUB MONTH: **MARCH 2022**

BIOGRAPHY, MEMOIR,
RELIGION

ISBN 978-1-4197-5473-9

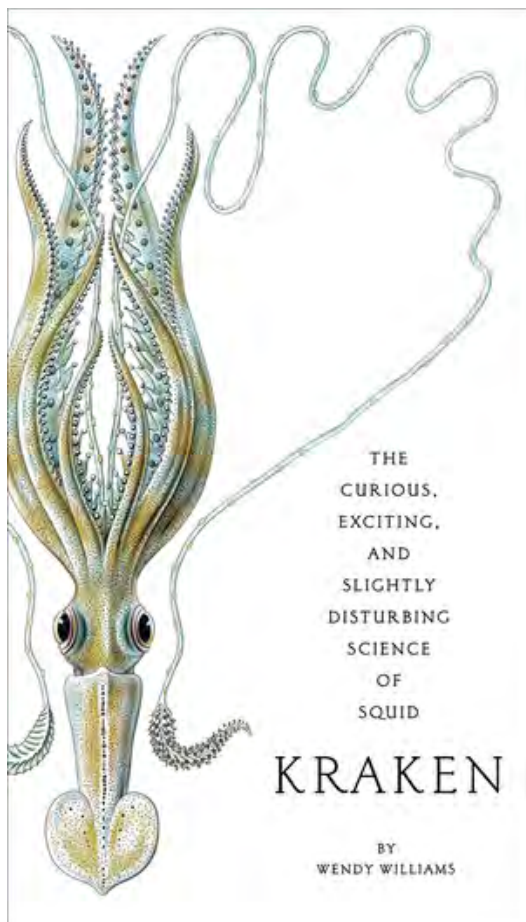
US \$26.00

Kraken

THE CURIOUS, EXCITING, AND SLIGHTLY DISTURBING SCIENCE OF SQUID

● BY WENDY WILLIAMS

The enthralling examination of one of the most popular and most intriguing animals in the deep blue sea



The ocean is the last remaining source of profound mystery and discovery on Earth with eighty percent of it still largely unexplored; thus, it is of perennial fascination. In *Kraken: The Curious, Exciting, and Slightly Disturbing Science of Squid*, journalist Wendy Williams introduces one of the ocean's most charismatic, monstrous, enigmatic, and curious inhabitants: the squid. More than just calamari, squid species are fascinatingly odd creatures, with much to teach us about our own species, not to mention the obsessive interest so many of us can't help but have for the enormous beast that is the giant squid, which is quick to attack sperm whales, and even submarines and boats. Williams also examines other equally enthralling cephalopods, including the octopus and the cuttlefish, and explores their otherworldly abilities, such as camouflage and bioluminescence. *Kraken* takes the reader on a wild ride through the world of squid science and adventure, along the way answering some riddles about how the human brain works, what intelligence really is, and what monsters lie in the deep. Wendy Williams weaves a rich narrative tapestry around her subject, drawing powerfully on the passions and discoveries of scientists, fisherman, and squid enthusiasts around the world.

Wendy Williams is a journalist and author. She has written for the *Boston Globe*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times* and the *Christian Science Monitor*, among other publications. She is also the author of several books, including the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Horse*, which was also chosen by the *Wall Street Journal* as a 2015 Best Book of The Year and won a Nautilus Book Award.

SELLING POINTS

SUCCESSFUL HARDCOVER WITH BACKLIST POTENTIAL:

The book was enthusiastically received by critics and the scientific community and sold about twelve thousand copies, and the author gets requests for it to come back in print often. This book will have a long life in paperback.

FASCINATING SCIENCE:

Scientists joke that squids should win the Nobel Prize for all the discoveries they've facilitated. Current squid-enabled research includes finding a cure for Alzheimer's, figuring out how to stretch or regenerate damaged human nerves, and finding better camouflage technologies.

STRONG CATEGORY: *Kraken*

falls squarely into the popularly-written, single subject books on natural history like Mark Kurlansky's *Cod* and *The Big Oyster*.

SPECIFICATIONS

- * 30 black-and-white illustrations throughout
- * 224 pages
- * WIDTH: 5 1/2" - 140mm
- * HEIGHT: 8 1/4" - 210mm

* Paperback

PUB MONTH: JULY 2022

NATURE, EDUCATION, NONFICTION

ISBN 978-0-8109-8466-0

US \$17.00

Crumb + Crust

AN UNORTHODOX HISTORY OF AN ICONIC AMERICAN DESSERT

● BY ROSSI ANASTOPOULO

A delicious and delightful narrative gastronomic history of pie in America, from the colonial era through the Civil Rights movement and beyond



From the pumpkin pie gracing the Thanksgiving table to the apple pie at the Fourth of July picnic, nearly every American shares a certain nostalgia for a simple circle of crust and filling. But while it's a simple and scrumptious dessert, America's history with pie has not always been so sweet. After all, it was a slice of cherry pie at the Woolworth's lunch counter on a cool February afternoon that sparked the Greensboro sit-ins and ignited a wave of anti-segregation protests across the South during the civil rights movement. It was the gentle quiche that became a flashpoint for shifting gender norms in the last century. We all know the warm comfort of the so-called "All-American" apple pie . . . but just how did pie become the symbol of a nation?

In *Crumb + Crust: An Unorthodox History of an Iconic American Dessert*, food writer Rossi Anastopoulou cracks open our relationship to pie with wit and good humor. For centuries, pie has been a malleable icon, coopted for new social and political purposes. Here, Anastopoulou traces the pies woven into our history, following the evolution of our country across centuries of innovation and change. With corresponding recipes for each chapter and sidebars of quirky facts throughout, *Crumb + Crust* is an entertaining, informative, and utterly charming food history for bakers, dessert lovers, and history aficionados alike. Ultimately, the story of pie is the story of America itself, and it's time to dig in.

Rossi Anastopoulou is an award-winning writer whose work has appeared in *TASTE*, *Saveur*, *Food52*, *Bon Appetit*, and *Eaten Magazine*. In 2019, she was the recipient of the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) Award for Narrative Food Writing for her piece on the bean pie and the Nation of Islam. She works in culinary PR as the blog editor for King Arthur Baking Company.

SELLING POINTS

RECIPES INCLUDED:

Historic pie recipes conclude each chapter of *Crumb + Crust*, allowing readers to bake through four hundred years of history

HOLIDAY GIFT POTENTIAL: With a gifty package timed to publish ahead of Thanksgiving, *Crumb + Crust* will make a perfect holiday gift for pie bakers (and eaters).

STRONG CATEGORY:

Pie books tend to be strong sellers in the food and drink category, and we expect the excitement and sales potential will cross into the narrative format as well

AUTHOR PLATFORM:

Anastopoulou is very well-connected with the LA food scene through her job in culinary PR and in the South; she's originally from Charleston, where her family still lives, and she's written for *Garden & Gun* and has connections with the editors at *Gravy*.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 30 black-and-white photographs
* 256 pages

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **Fall 2022**

FOOD NARRATIVE,
HISTORY

ISBN 978-1-4197-5487-6

US \$25.00

Fierce Love

A MEMOIR OF BLACK QUEER MOTHERHOOD

● BY FRANCESCA ROYSTER

A brilliant literary memoir of chosen family and chosen heritage, told against the backdrop of Chicago's South Side



Like Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts*, Francesca Royster's lyrical and affecting memoir focuses on a unit of three: the author; her wife Annie, who's white; and Cecilia, the Black daughter they adopt as a couple in their forties. As a multiracial household in Chicago's South Side, race is at the core of their world, influencing their everyday acts of parenting and conception of what family truly means. *Fierce Love* chronicles this journey to motherhood while examining the messiness and complexity of adoption and parenthood from a Black, queer, and feminist perspective. Royster also explores her memories of the matriarchs of her childhood and the homes these women created in Chicago's South Side—itsself a dynamic character in the memoir—where “family” was fluid, inclusive, and not necessarily defined by marriage or other socially-recognized contracts.

Calling upon the work of some of her favorite queer thinkers, including Jose Esteban Munoz and Audre Lorde, Royster interweaves her experiences and memories with queer and gender theory to argue that many Black families, certainly her own, have historically had a “queer” attitude toward family: configurations that sit outside the white normative experience, and are the richer for their flexibility and generosity of spirit. A powerful, genre-bending memoir of family, identity, and acceptance, *Fierce Love*, ultimately, is about joy—about claiming the joy that society did not intend to assign to you, or to those like you.

Francesca Royster is a native of Chicago's South Side and Professor of English Literature at DePaul University in Chicago, where she teaches classes on African American Literature and Culture, Shakespeare, and Gender and Queer Theory. She is the author of two academic books, *Becoming Cleopatra: The Shifting Image of an Icon* and *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul Era*. She received her PhD in English Literature from University of California, Berkeley. Her essays have appeared in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Chicago Literati*, and *Feminist Studies*, among others.

SELLING POINTS

FILLS A GAP IN THE MARKET:

There is a dearth of memoirs about motherhood written by Black women; Black queer motherhood memoirs are virtually nonexistent. This memoir is an opportunity to bridge that gap, and Royster is a powerful writer whose motherhood journey will resonate with many readers who do not see themselves represented.

AUTHOR CONNECTIONS:

The author has a burgeoning network of writers who she will call upon to help with promotion, including Salamishah Tillet, Cheryl L. West, Haki Madhubuti, Nadine Kenney Johnstone, Miles Harvey, and more.

INTERSECTIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY:

Fierce Love combines queer theory and criticism with a powerful personal narrative to discuss adoption and parenthood from a Black, queer, and feminist perspective.

SPECIFICATIONS

* 272 pages

* **Hardcover with jacket**

PUB MONTH: **Fall 2022**

MEMOIR, LGBT INTEREST,
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY AND CULTURE

ISBN 978-1-4197-5617-7

US \$26.00