Creative Writing
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Glory Days
MELISSA FRATERRIGO

- Named a Top Fall Indie Fiction book by Library Journal
- Named a Best Fiction Book of 2017 by Chicago Review of Books

The novel Glory Days combines gritty realism with magical elements as Melissa Fraterrigo interweaves a slate of arresting characters from a small, former farming town in Nebraska who must grapple with painful losses and transitions—forging a narrative of lives rippling through each other to surprising effect. The past and the present collide to reveal deeper truths about our times and how the landscape of one culture can be the ruin of another.

“A quiet Midwestern ghost story with prose as clear and cold as the Nebraska plains in winter.” —Chicago Review of Books

“Astonishing writing about a world that deserves greater attention in contemporary literature.”—Library Journal starred review

“A stunning tour de force centered in a small cattle ranching town.” —Paige Van de Winkle, Foreword starred review

“If Willa Cather and Cormac McCarthy had a love child, she would be a writer such as Fraterrigo.” —Carol Haggas, Booklist

“Melissa Fraterrigo’s novel strikes with the unexpected force of a summer tornado. . . . Characters worthy of a Flannery O’Connor story struggle and self-medicate to make sense of lives marked by loss, violence, and despair. These characters yearn for one another, across time, even across death, and they take comfort in the past and in one another, however fragile their connections.” —Bonnie Jo Campbell, National Book Award finalist and author of Mothers, Tell Your Daughters

2017 • 180 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0132-4

FLYOVER FICTION
RON HANSEN, SERIES EDITOR

The books in the Flyover Fiction series are set on the Great Plains, a region located in the center of the country and referred to either sentimentally as the Heartland or dismissively as flyover country, a region more clearly defined by what it is not than by what it is. Books in this series actively engage—through plot, character, setting, or theme—with what it means to inhabit this region.
How Winter Began

Stories

JOY CASTRO

Thematically linked by the lives of women, especially Latinas, and their experiences of poverty and violence, How Winter Began is a delicately wrought collection of stories in which Joy Castro’s vulnerable yet fiercely determined characters seek compassion from each other and from themselves as they negotiate their white-dominated, wealth-obsessed world. The question at the heart of this riveting book is how or whether to trust one another after the rupture of betrayal.

“To read Joy Castro’s stories is to witness the world as beautiful and horrible, light and dark, and to see people who are both lovely and ugly. Joy Castro will hold your heart.” —Los Angeles Review

“Joy Castro’s writing is like watching an Acapulco cliff diver. It takes my breath away every time.” —Sandra Cisneros, author of The House on Mango Street

“With these stories, Castro lulls the reader with beautiful, exquisitely crafted sentences. But before we realize it, she reveals the dark contours of her characters’ lives—lives that are often desperate and broken, but not without hope for something better.” —El Paso Times

2015 • 210 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7660-4

In Reach

PAMELA CARTER JOERN

• 2015 Nebraska Book Award in Fiction/Short Story

In writing both rich and evocative, Pamela Carter Joern conjures the fictional small plains town of Reach, Nebraska, where residents are stuck tight in the tension between loneliness and the risks of relationships. With insight, wry humor, and deep compassion, Joern renders a cast of recurring characters engaged in battles public and private, epic and mundane. In the town of Reach, where there is hope and hardship, connections may happen in surprising ways or lie achingly beyond grasp.

“These stories are raw and wrenching. . . . [Joern’s] deeply empathetic prose masterfully captures nuanced emotions that linger after the tales conclude.” —Emily Case, Nebraska Life

“Joern’s fictional village of Reach, Nebraska, is populated by people you have known, or known of, all your life.” —Linda M. Hasselstrom, author of No Place Like Home

2014 • 216 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-5483-1
Haven’s Wake

Ladette Randolph

• 2014 Nebraska Book Award in Fiction

When a tractor accident fells the patriarch of an eastern Nebraska Mennonite family, the threads holding them together are suddenly drawn taut, singing with the tensions of a lifetime’s worth of love and faith, betrayal and shame. Through the competing voices of those gathered for Haven Grebel’s funeral, acts of loyalty and failures, long-suppressed resentments, and a tragic secret are brought to light, expressing a larger, complex truth.

“A song of a story—uplifting, tender, heart-shattering. Ladette Randolph is a master. These characters are so real to me I feel I could drive to Nebraska and find them, easily.”—Debra Magpie Earling, author of Perma Red

“With prose that vivifies the intricate patchwork of characters and captures the landscape’s simplicity, Haven’s Wake explores ‘the various attempts to explain the unexplainable.’”—Booklist

2013 • 256 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4357-6

It’s Not Going to Kill You, and Other Stories

Erin Flanagan

“It’s not going to kill you,” a mother tells her protesting child. And maybe it won’t, but that doesn’t mean anyone is getting off scot-free. A no-man’s-land between exoneration and repercussion—this is the place where people in Erin Flanagan’s stories live. These stories accept that we all make mistakes, but it’s what we do in the aftermath that defines us. Sharp-witted and tenderhearted, these are stories in which readers will find people they recognize but never really knew until now.

“Flanagan’s characters sit right next to you and tell you everything, even the details they don’t realize are all too personal, too private.”—Greg Baldino, Booklist

“Smart, lively, and full of skillful turns, It’s Not Going to Kill You, and Other Stories offers a poignant and unforgettable look at who we are when we have to face the complicated and necessary ways in which we all matter to one another.”—Lee Martin, author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist The Bright Forever

2013 • 208 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4629-4
Telling Stories
The Craft of Narrative and the Writing Life
LEE MARTIN

Award-winning author Lee Martin offers practical techniques with encouragement and advice for demystifying the writing process and perfecting the art of the scene, characterization, detail, point of view, language, and revision—in short, the art of writing. His discussion of the study of the craft in his own life draws from memories and experience, adding a more personal perspective on the elements of writing.


“Lee Martin has long been one of my favorite writers of fiction and memoir, and now he’s one of my favorite writers of advice about the writer’s craft. Everyone who writes, or wants to, should read this wise and inspiring book.” —David Jauss, author of On Writing Fiction

2017 • 258 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0202-4

ALSO OF INTEREST BY LEE MARTIN

Such a Life
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3647-9

From Our House
A Memoir
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-2290-8

Turning Bones
$21.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-3231-0
Family Trouble
Memoirists on the Hazards and Rewards of Revealing Family
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY JOY CASTRO

Revisiting our pasts and exploring our experiences, we often reveal more of our nearest and dearest than they might prefer. This volume navigates the emotional and literary minefields that any writer of family stories or secrets must travel when depicting private lives for public consumption. A sustained and eminently readable lesson in the craft of memoir, Family Trouble serves as a practical guide for writers to find their own version of the truth while respecting family boundaries.

“For any writer of memoirs . . . a must-read.” —Publishers Weekly

“A well-balanced panoply of family-centric musings from authors conflicted between responsibility and retribution.” —Kirkus Reviews

2013 • 232 pp. • 6 x 9
$25.00 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4692-8

Blurring the Boundaries
Explorations to the Fringes of Nonfiction
EDITED BY B.J. HOLLARS

This collection features twenty genre-bending essays that experiment with structure, style, and subject matter, each accompanied by the writer’s personal reflection on the work itself, illuminating his or her struggles along the way. Readers also receive a practical approach to craft thanks to the unique writing exercises provided by the writers themselves.

Part groundbreaking nonfiction collection, part writing reference, Blurring the Boundaries serves as the ideal book for literary lovers and practitioners of the craft.

“Inspire[s] oblique imitation by simply collecting so much excellent writing in one place. . . . Well-suited to student-writers, which should include all of us, because [the essays] allow us to look under the hood and see the machinery that makes such moving creative nonfiction.”

—Fourth Genre

2013 • 280 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 3 photographs, 3 figures
$30.00 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3648-6
Thinking Continental

Writing the Planet One Place at a Time
Edited by Tom Lynch, Susan Naramore Maher, Drucilla Wall, and O. Alan Weltzien

This volume collects articles, essays, personal narratives, and poems by more than forty authors in conversation about “thinking continental”—connecting local and personal landscapes to planetary systems and processes—to articulate the concept of a global citizenship. Thinking Continental braids together abstract approaches with strands of narrative and poetry, showing how our imaginations can encompass the planetary while being true to our own concrete life experiences in the here and now.

“Exactly the kind of book that helps us to understand where and who we are, what it means to be ‘emplaced’ on this planet.”
—Scott Slovic, coeditor of Ecocritical Aesthetics: Language, Beauty, and the Environment

“With the help of literature, these essays and poems lead us from personal particulars to our shared planet, and in so doing, they nourish our filamentary imaginations.”
—SueEllen Campbell, author of The Face of the Earth: Natural Landscapes, Science, and Culture

“Time and again I found articles, essays, and poems working together like facets of a prism, a succeeding work illuminating the one before it and setting up resonances with the one to follow.”
—Robert Root, author of Postscripts: Retrospections on Time and Place

2017 • 378 pp. • 6 x 9 • 15 photographs
$29.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9958-0

ALSO OF INTEREST

Exceptional Mountains
A Cultural History of the Pacific Northwest Volcanoes
O. Alan Weltzien
$40.00 * hardcover * 978-0-8032-6547-9

Deep Map Country
Literary Cartography of the Great Plains
Susan Naramore Maher
$45.00 * hardcover * 978-0-8032-4502-0
The Shell Game
Writers Play with Borrowed Forms
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY KIM ADRIAN
FOREWORD BY BRENDA MILLER
POSTSCRIPT BY CHEYENNE NIMES

The Shell Game is an anthology of intriguing hermit crab essays that borrow their structures from ordinary, everyday sources: a recipe, a crossword puzzle, a Craig’s List ad. Like their zoological namesake, these essays do not simply wear their borrowed “shells” but inhabit them so perfectly that the borrowed structures are wholly integral rather than contrived, both shaping the work and illuminating and exemplifying its subject.

“Daring, innovative, and mind-bending, this anthology showcases the best of what is arguably the most exciting new thing on the literary landscape today: the borrowed-form essay.” —Kathy Fish, coauthor of Rift and author of Wild Life

“Virginia Woolf asked of the essay ‘simply that it should give pleasure.’ The Shell Game fulfills this request, even exceeds it, bringing startling diversity of subject, voice, and form. Each essay is a new surprise, a prettier shell than ordinary, demonstrating astonishing originality in mimicry and providing, for this reader at least, pure joy.” —Patrick Madden, author of Sublime Physick and Quotidiana

April 2018 • 276 pp. • 6 x 9 • 3 illustrations
$24.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9676-3
This is the story of Julija Šukys’s paternal grandparents, Ona, a Siberian exile, and Anthony, an accused Nazi war criminal, their twenty-five-year forced separation, and their subsequent reunion. A journey that began as a testament to her grandparents’ wartime hardship, *Siberian Exile* chronicles Ona and Anthony’s lives as well as Šukys’s painful reconciliation with the truth and her eventual understanding of how forgiveness operates across generations and across the barriers of life and death.

"Interweaving coincidences and reversals with historical precision in a narrative that layers, folds, zags, and spikes, Julija Šukys wanders the ghost-filled streets of the present, mingling with kin, real and imagined, and corresponding with multiple unspeakable pasts. I can’t recall the last time I read so gripping and so delicate a documentary of atrocity, complicity, dispossession, and survival. *Siberian Exile* is remarkable, daunting, and disarmingly real." —Mary Cappello, author of *Life Breaks In: A Mood Almanack*

“All families harbor secrets. What if, in blithe innocence, you set out to research your family history, only to discover that your grandfather was guilty of the most heinous of crimes? Šukys pursues her tragic family memoir with courage and self-examination, often propelled to her painful discoveries by what she believes is a bizarre synchronicity. This is not a book written at a safe distance.” —Rosemary Sullivan, author of *Stalin’s Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva*

*ALSO OF INTEREST BY JULIJA ŠUKYS*

*Epistolophilia*  
*Writing the Life of Ona Šimaitė*  
*$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-3632-5*

*Silence Is Death*  
*The Life and Work of Tahar Djaout*  
*$30.00 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-4320-0*
The Turtle’s Beating Heart
One Family’s Story of Lenape Survival
DENISE LOW

In this exceptional book, former Kansas poet laureate Denise Low recovers the life and times of her grandfather, Frank Bruner (1889–1963), whose expression of Lenape identity was largely discouraged by mainstream society. As an adult, Low comes to understand her grandfather’s legacy of persecution and heroic survival in the southern plains of the early 1900s, where the Ku Klux Klan attacked Native people along with other ethnic minorities. As Low unravels this hidden family history of the Lenape diaspora, she discovers the lasting impact of trauma and substance abuse, the deep sense of loss and shame related to suppressed family emotions, and the power of collective memory.

“An engagingly written mix of research, reportage, and memoir, infused with the passion of discovery.” — Kirkus Reviews

“This book is a deep and important gift from a master word crafter.” — Kim Shuck, World Literature Today

“The Turtle’s Beating Heart pierces the veil of anonymity and mystery surrounding [Denise Low’s] Delaware grandfather. As she examines his life and times, she not only discovers much about his identity; she also learns a great deal about herself and the rest of her family and other Delaware-descended people. . . . As she learns, so, too, does the fortunate reader.” — Geary Hobson, professor of English and Native American Literatures at the University of Oklahoma

2017 • 200 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 26 illustrations, 1 map
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-9493-6
When History Is Personal
MIMI SCHWARTZ

Here, Mimi Schwartz narrates twenty-five moments in her life, each shaped by political, historical, and social issues. Each essay looks both inward and outward so that these individualized tales tell a larger story—of assimilation, the women’s movement, racism, anti-Semitism, end-of-life issues, ethics in writing, digital and corporate challenges, or courtroom justice. As a child of German-Jewish immigrants, a wife of over fifty years, a breast cancer survivor, a mother, and a widow, Schwartz invites readers to consider her personal take alongside “official” histories.

“Perfect-pitch, impeccable observation, penetrating insight. . . . A fresh and vivid approach to many dominant themes long cherished by American writers—the dynamics of remembering and forgetting, the significance of place, the conflict of individuals and institutions, the inseparability of past and present.” —Robert Atwan, series editor of Best American Essays

“In a world racked by conflict, Schwartz is a clear-eyed advocate of storytelling that connects things with their supposed opposites. . . . ‘Both sides’ is her mantra. And how to write about aging without self-pity? With humor, thank you, and also—as in tennis—‘[while] leaning toward the ball, however hard and fast it comes.’” —Alicia Ostriker, author of Waiting for the Light

“This is creative nonfiction at its finest.” —Nancy Sommers, Harvard University

March 2018 • 264 pp. • 6 x 9 • 24 photographs, 2 illustrations
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0630-5

ALSO OF INTEREST BY MIMI SCHWARTZ

Good Neighbors, Bad Times
Echoes of My Father’s German Village
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-2640-1

Thoughts from a Queen-Sized Bed
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9299-4
When We Were Ghouls
*A Memoir of Ghost Stories*

**AMY E. WALLEN**

In this quick-paced and engaging story, Amy E. Wallen exorcises haunted memories to clarify the nature of her family and, by extension, her own character. Plumbing the slipperiness of memory and confronting what it means to be a “good” human, *When We Were Ghouls* links the fear of loss and mortality to childhood ideas of permanence. It is a story about family but also a representation of how a combination of innocence and denial can cause us to neglect our most precious earthly treasures: our children and our own humanity.

“Amy Wallen’s beautiful memoir, replete with fantastic stories, will carry you across continents and introduce you to amazing characters.” — Claire Messud, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Emperor’s Children*

“Haunting, exquisitely written. . . . A perfect balance of dark and light forces in this memory palace.” — Phillip Lopate, author of *Portrait Inside My Head*

“Amy Wallen has what Virginia Woolf called ‘a Gothic memory.’” — Howard Norman, author of *My Darling Detective*

March 2018 • 294 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 5 photographs
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9695-4

**AMERICAN LIVES SERIES**

The singular American life is a source of endless diversity, and the methods of telling this life are as important as the details themselves. The American Lives series, called “splendid” by *Newsweek*, features works of creative or literary memoir that, whether evoking moments of death or disease, in family or marriage, history, politics, religion, or culture, provide glimpses into individual American lives. Taken together, these stories coalesce into a richly textured and colorful portrait of our contemporary culture.
Pain Woman Takes Your Keys, and Other Essays from a Nervous System
SONYA HUBER

This is Sonya Huber’s literary experiment on the experience of living with the invisible disability of chronic pain. Huber makes pain a lens of inquiry, finds its humor and complexity, describes its irascible character, and explores its temperature, taste, and even its beauty. Though the topic can be impenetrable and utterly individual, these essays are not a record of the author’s specific condition but an unflinching look at the universal human experience of pain.

“Sonya Huber works magic by articulating the indescribable. With her lyrically written and witty account, she better describes her own pain experience than a patient rating scale of 1 to 10 ever could.” —Paula Kamen, author of All in My Head

“This is an important book, a necessary book, a book that, in the right hands, could change how our medical establishment deals with pain. These essays are at once vulnerable and fierce, funny and smart, unflinching and dappled with stunning metaphor.” —Gayle Brandeis, author of Fruitflesh

“Huber has captured what it is to be a woman who lives with chronic pain in all its nuanced complexity.” —Sarah Einstein, author of Mot: A Memoir

Should I Still Wish
A Memoir
JOHN W. EVANS

In this candid and moving memoir, John W. Evans articulates the complicated joys of falling in love again as a young widower. Though heartbroken after his wife’s violent death, Evans realizes that he cannot remain inconsolable and adrift, living with his in-laws in Indiana. Motivated by a small red X on a map, Evans musters the courage for a cross-country trip. Should I Still Wish chronicles Evans’s efforts to leave an intense year of grief behind, to make peace with the natural world again, and to reconnect with a woman who promises, like San Francisco itself, a life of abundance and charm.

“Poignant. . . . [Should I Still Wish] offers candid insight into the baffling interplay of love, loss, and the balm of memory.” —Kirkus Reviews

“A profoundly moving memoir of love’s recovery. . . . The brilliance of this insightful book is in its honest articulation of great paradox—love can rise complete and uncompromised even as grief endures, and the human heart can belong simultaneously to both life and death, neither of which triumphs forever.” —Jonathan Johnson, author of Hannah and the Mountain: Notes toward a Wilderness Fatherhood

2017 • 204 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9991-7

2017 • 156 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9522-3
The Solace of Stones
Finding a Way through Wilderness
JULIE RIDDLE

*The Solace of Stones* explores Riddle’s coming of age and the complexities of memory, loss, and identity borne by a family homesteading in the modern West.

“Heartbreaking, courageous, and written with rare beauty. *The Solace of Stones* will be a western classic.” —Mary Clearman Blew, author of *All But the Waltz*

“Julie Riddle is a natural storyteller, and her tale of innocence, loss, and a family’s log cabin in the Montana mountains is beautifully revealed in exquisite, sensory prose.” —Dinty W. Moore, author of *Between Panic and Desire*

2016 • 300 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 1 photograph
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7686-4

My Wife Wants You to Know I’m Happily Married
JOEY FRANKLIN

*My Wife Wants You to Know I’m Happily Married*, Franklin offers frank, self-deprecating meditations on what it takes to raise kids, succeed in a relationship, and survive as a modern man.

“A candid, subtly profound collection.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Curious yet compassionate, deft yet relentlessly frank, Joey Franklin explores the inner lives of men, reveals the intimacies and complexities of marriage and fatherhood, and dignifies the lives of ordinary people—all in utterly lucid and graceful prose.” —Lia Purpura, author of *Rough Likeness: Essays*

2015 • 194 pp. • 5 x 8
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7844-8

The Pat Boone Fan Club
My Life as a White Anglo-Saxon Jew
SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN

Follow Sue William Silverman, a one-woman cultural mash-up, on her exploration of identity among the mishmash of American idols and ideals in this searching, bracing, hilarious, and moving book.

“A masterly stylist continues her uncompromising examination of the inner life.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Silverman’s language is, by turns, blunt, wrenching, sophisticated, lyrical, tender, hilarious. She writes with wicked dark humor, splendid intelligence, wry wit, and honest confrontation. There’s no other book quite like it.” —Lee Martin, author of *From Our House*

2014 • 248 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-6485-4

Queen of the Fall
A Memoir of Girls and Goddesses
SONJA LIVINGSTON

Livingston weaves strands of memory into richly imagined interactions with figures such as Susan B. Anthony, the Virgin Mary, and Ally McBeal to mine the terrain of her own femininity, fertility, and longing in this dazzling meditation on loss, possibility, and, ultimately, what it means to be human.

“Livingston writes with a fierce strength and intelligence that not only makes for compelling reading but an absolutely unforgettable voice.” —Kristen Iversen, author of *Full Body Burden*

“Much more than a touching portrayal of an American Roman Catholic girlhood of the 1980s… This is a book that sheds light.” —Kathleen Norris, author of *The Cloister Walk*

2015 • 168 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8067-0
Get Me Through Tomorrow
_A Sister’s Memoir of Brain Injury and Revival_
MOJIE CRIGLER

Jason Crigler was onstage in a nightclub when a blood vessel burst in his brain. _Get Me Through Tomorrow_ is Mojie Crigler’s intimate and unflinching chronicle of her brother’s rehabilitation and the family’s fight against a healthcare system geared toward their defeat.
*A heartfelt memoir of devotion and determination._—Kirkus Reviews

“A profoundly moving story about the unbreakable bond between siblings, and a beautifully written testament to the tremendous healing power of love.”—Mira Bartók, author of _The Memory Palace_

2015 • 200 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-5414-5

Body Geographic
_BARRIE JEAN BORICH_

Barrie Jean Borich’s _Body Geographic_ turns personal history into an inspired reflection on the points where place and person intersect and where dislocation means finding oneself.
*A stunningly original memoir._—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

2013 • 272 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 25 illustrations
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3985-2

Between Panic and Desire
_DINTY W. MOORE_

2009 Grub Street National Book Award in Nonfiction

Blending narrative and quizzes, memory and numerology, and imagined interviews and conversations with dead presidents on TV, _Between Panic and Desire_ dizzily documents the disorienting experience of growing up in a postmodern world.

“More autopsy than memoir—a strange new hybrid. It’s a fantasy of letting go of the things that have haunted Moore his entire life. These things do, in fact, float off the pages.”—Los Angeles Times

2010 • 168 pp. • 5 ¾ x 8 ½ • 2 illustrations
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-2982-2

This Is Not the Ivy League
_A Memoir_
MARY CLEARMAN BLEW

Pressured by husband and parents to be the conventional 1950s wife, Mary Clearman Blew persisted in her quest for an education instead. _This Is Not the Ivy League_ is the account of a woman who refuses to be told what she can and cannot be.

“The author of this lucid, elegant memoir was a pioneer both literally and figuratively; raised on a Montana homestead, she became a trailblazing woman in the academy.”—Ms. Magazine

2013 • 226 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4520-4
In *Just Breathe Normally* Peggy Shumaker searches for meaning within extremity in the wake of a near-fatal accident. Shumaker’s memoir enacts our desire to understand the fragmented self and shows the power of words to restore what medical science cannot: the fragile human psyche and its immense capacity for forgiveness.

“Shumaker displays a rare gift. . . . Her scattered memories come together to form a riveting and exceptionally touching story. . . . An entrancing meditation on absolution and memory.” —Kirkus Reviews

“*Just Breathe Normally* is very much a poet’s memoir. . . . [It] will make you feel the price that we all pay as ‘we push off, wobbly, into the rest of our lives.’” —*Western American Literature*

*Works Cited*

*A Alphabetical Odyssey of Mayhem and Misbehavior*  
BRANDON R. SCHRAND

With finely calibrated wit, a dose of humility, and the strong supporting cast of characters from the books that signpost Brandon Schrand’s life, *Works Cited* charts the story of a dreamer thrown out of school as many times as he’s thrown in jail until he finally comes of age—in spite of himself.

“Often forgiven, Schrand has led an oddly charmed life, which he reveals through twenty-seven essays about the benefits and dangers of reading particular books, which he arranges alphabetically by author. This has strong book-discussion possibilities.” —Booklist, starred review

*The Days Are Gods*  
LIZ STEPHENS

Liz Stephens transplants from Los Angeles to Utah unprepared for the real West. In *The Days Are Gods* Stephens searches for connections to her new community, knowing she will never truly belong. As an outsider, however, Stephens’s perspective offers insight into the culture of memory, our short attention spans, and brief lives.

“Filled with rich description and personal stories, Stephens’s focused memoir recounts days of important self-discovery.” —Booklist

2013 • 216 pp. • 5 ⅞ x 8 ⅞
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4354-5

*Weeds*  
*A Farm Daughter’s Lament*  
EVELYN I. FUNDA

• 2014 Evans Handcart Award from Mountain West Center for Regional Studies

The story of Evelyn Funda’s family unfolds within the larger context of our country’s rich immigrant history, western culture, and farming as a science and art. Part cultural history, part memoir, and part elegy, *Weeds* offers a clear view of the nature, cost, and transformation of the American West.

“A moving look back at a lost way of life.” —*New York Times Sunday Book Review*

“This book stands among the best works in the genre, and it should attract the attention of those interested in narrative scholarship, agriculture, and theories of place.” —*ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

2013 • 336 pp. • 5 ⅞ x 8 ⅞ • 19 photographs, 2 maps
$21.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4496-2
I’ll Be Your Mirror
Essays and Aphorisms
DAVID LAZAR
ILLUSTRATED BY HEATHER FRISE

A collection of personal essays, pieces exploring the essay form, and aphorisms, *I’ll Be Your Mirror* explores memory, pain, historical essayists, contemporary creative nonfiction, all in the distinct voice of premier essayist David Lazar.

“This collection is a weird and wonderful conglomeration of form that invites the reader to ruminate with a brilliant and savvy mind. . . . There is no posturing here, but a sophisticated sifting through of moments, memories, and the relationships that comprise a single life, thoughtfully engaged with the world, reflecting much more than its own singularity.” —Angela Pelster-Wiebe, author of *Limber*

“Traditional aphorisms are stand-alone wisecracks, but David Lazar’s are more like stairs up into a strange isolation or down into the stranger isolation of our community with each other. . . . They are an ultraviolet that illuminates without lightening; they are genially at home in the dark. Exhilarating and unpredictable reading.” —James Richardson, author of *By the Numbers: Poems and Aphorisms*

2017 • 248 pp. • 6 x 9 • 16 illustrations
$22.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0206-2

**ALSO OF INTEREST BY DAVID LAZAR**

*Occasional Desire*
Essays

In *Occasional Desire* David Lazar explores, in his concentrically self-aware, amused, and ironic voice, what it means to be occasionally aware that we are surviving by our wits, and that our desires, ulterior or obvious, are what keep us alive.

“Jagged pieces of a mirror that reveal a quirky, informed, and immensely curious character.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

2013 • 232 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$21.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4638-6
American English, Italian Chocolate
Small Subjects of Great Importance
RICK BAILEY

This memoir in essays begins in the American Midwest and ends in north-central Italy. From a bumbling extra in a college production of Richard III to staggering in clogs across the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Rick Bailey explores growing and knowing, finding the surprise and the sublime in the ordinary detail of daily life.

“The essays read like the best of short stories: their significance extends beyond what is on the page.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

“Readers will find short essays filled with poetic language and the feel of a satisfying short story. In writing that is filled with quick humor and poignant tenderness, Bailey’s experiences reflect our own humanity back to us.” —M. L. Liebler, poet, editor, and author of I Want To Be Once

“Rick Bailey is insatiably honest, additively affable, meticulously observant, and beautifully precise.” —Lisa Catherine Harper, author of The Cassoulet Saved Our Marriage

2017 • 222 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0119-5
**Sublime Physick**
*Essays*
**PATRICK MADDEN**

- 2017 Independent Publisher Book Award, gold medal, essays/creative nonfiction category
- 2016 Foreword Reviews Indies Award, Silver
- 2016 Association for Mormon Letters Award, winner

In *Sublime Physick* Madden seeks to discern the ways in which the natural world (*fisica*) transcends and joins the realm of ideas (*sublime*) through the application of a meditative mind. In twelve essays that straddle the classical and the contemporary, Madden transmutes the ruder world into a finer one, articulating with subtle humor and playfulness how science and experience abut and intersect with spirituality and everyday life.

“No one writing essays today does so with a greater awareness of the genre’s literary traditions than Patrick Madden. Irresistible, with their meditative musicality and erudite reflections, these essays brilliantly balance a tough-minded pragmatism with a warm embrace of the impossible.” — Robert Atwan, series editor of Best American Essays

2016 • 264 pp. • 6 x 9 • 24 photographs, 24 illustrations
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-3984-5

*For teaching resources, visit this book’s page on the UNP website.*

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**Quotidiana**
*Essays*
**PATRICK MADDEN**

- Winner of the 2011 Independent Publisher Book of the Year Award
- Winner of the 2011 Association for Mormon Letters Award
- 2011 Foreword Reviews Book of the Year Award, Bronze
- Finalist for the 2011 PEN Center USA

Patrick Madden illuminates the seemingly commonplace, making connections that revise and reconfigure the overlooked and underappreciated. Sparked by considerations of selling garlic, washing grapes, changing a diaper, or chipping a tooth, his essays are a reminder that we are surrounded by wonders that whisper to the curious and attentive. With a beguiling wit, Madden examines the intricate tapestry of ordinary life in its extraordinary patterns, offering a poetic and engaging exploration of the unexpectedly wide scope of our everyday existence.

“Words form constellations; they glitter on the pages. . . . There is a religiosity here, though not the usual kind. It’s a glow on the horizon, a low light, something to think our way toward.” — *Los Angeles Times*

“At once an approachable and postmodern composition, *Quotidiana* presents an enthralled, reflexive mind at work.” — *Foreword Reviews*

2014 • 224 pp. • 6 x 9 • 17 photographs, 24 illustrations
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4924-0
Hemingway on a Bike
ERIC FREEZE

• 2014 Association for Mormon Letters Award Winner in Creative Nonfiction

A collage-like mash-up of personal anecdote, popular culture, masculinity, sports, and parenting, Hemingway on a Bike takes readers through the many and varied twists and turns of the life and mind of its author, Eric Freeze. Freeze’s essays—by turns playful, poignant, celebratory, and searching—display a keen intelligence with insights on topics as diverse as Mormonism and foosball, Angry Birds and professional wrestling, Ernest Hemingway and Star Trek.

“Freeze artfully captures not only his meditations on . . . varied subjects, but his enticing imagination as well. And his playfulness is contagious.” —Brevity

“A wonderful book of essays, wry and wise, in which Eric Freeze considers what it is to be a twenty-first-century literary man’s man in all his house-remodeling, sweet-parenting, foosball-playing glory.” —Jess Walter, author of Beautiful Ruins

2014 • 164 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4975-2

Wise Latinas
Writers on Higher Education
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY JENNIFER DE LEON

Wise Latinas is a collection of personal essays addressing the varied landscape of the Latina experience in higher education. Featuring acclaimed writers such as Sandra Cisneros, Norma Cantú, and Julia Alvarez, among others, Wise Latinas shows that there is no singular Latina college experience. This thoughtful, engaging collection gives a voice to the many Latina women who have taken risks, embraced the new, confronted change, and maintained (and in some cases found) their roots.

“The abundance of high-quality material makes the book hard to put down.” —Kirkus Reviews

“An extraordinary collection of testimonies. . . . These essays elicit the gamut of emotions from the reader, from chuckles to gasps to tears. An excellent anthology.” —Rigoberto González, author of Butterfly Boy

 “[Wise Latinas] holds relevance for any young person setting out of their homes for the first time.” —Ru Freeman, Huffington Post

2014 • 240 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$25.00 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4593-8
Awu’s Story
A Novel
JUSTINE MINTSA
TRANSLATED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY CHERYL TOMAN
FOREWORD BY THÉRÈSE KUOH-MOUKOURY

This novel follows the life of Awu in a village-turned-small-town in the Fang region of northern Gabon at the dawn of the twenty-first century. Awu’s Story is an essential piece of African women’s writing and the only literary work that focuses with such penetrating vision on the Fangs. Justine Mintsa, a pioneer of Gabonese literature, expertly interweaves Awu’s story with Fang legend and oral history, simultaneously drawing on tradition and the evolution of customs and thought in modern African society.

“Electrifying, striking, and raw, Awu’s Story recounts the realities women face within the family and society in a small village in Gabon. . . . This text incites debate about cultural differences, plunging the reader to the very heart of Gabonese traditions.” —Lire le Monde

“This novel that invites the reader to rethink the very foundation of inherited customs is still very valid today.” —Africultures

May 2018 • 138 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0693-0
Perla

FRÉDÉRIC BRUN
TRANSLATED BY SARAH GENDRON AND JENNIFER VANDERHEYDEN

Written as a hymn to Frédéric Brun’s mother, Perla—a Holocaust survivor who never escaped the legacy of her experience—this autobiographical novel considers the seemingly irreconcilable multiplicities of life—past and present, personal and collective, self and other, life and death. Perla’s story is told from her son’s point of view as, not long after losing her, he learns that he is about to become a parent. Ultimately, this novel represents a universal, particularly postmodern quest to reconcile seemingly incommensurate things.

“[Frédéric Brun’s] first novel strikes its reader by its questioning, its humility, and its necessity.” —Alexandre Fillon, Livres-Hebdo

“Startling in its resplendent gentleness.” —Valérie Marin La Meslée, Le Point

“The delicate and pure style of an author one absolutely must discover.” —Mohammed Aïssaoui, Le Figaro Littéraire

“Simple and clear in its language yet still capable of spanning a large and complicated subject. . . . A beautiful book and a glowing bright epitaph. But also—in all its beauty—a defiant act against the great darkness. In all its shapes.” —Jeppe Krogsgaard Christensen, Berlinske

2017 • 90 pp. • 5 x 8 • 9 photographs, 8 illustrations
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0102-7
The Lady in White
CHRISTIAN BOBIN
TRANSLATED BY ALISON ANDERSON

Emily Dickinson remains a beloved and enigmatic figure in American poetry. As a reclusive writer himself, author Christian Bobin felt a kindred tie to the poet. *The Lady in White* honors Dickinson in the form of a brief, poetically imagined account of her life and work.

“Bobin preserves Emily Dickinson’s fervor, her attentiveness to small things, to nothing, to simplicity. . . . This is a biography full of grace and vision.” —Gérard Pussey, *Elle Magazine* (France)

2014 • 86 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4565-5

Savage Seasons
KETTYL MARS
TRANSLATED BY JEANINE HERMAN
AFTERWORD BY MADISON SMARTT BELL

Kelly Mars’s *Savage Seasons* describes a pivotal and painful period in Haitian history by weaving together the personal story of Nirvah, who submits to an official’s desires to protect her family, and the universal story of Baby Doc Duvalier’s abusive dictatorial regime of the 1960s.

“[Savage Seasons] makes clear the Haitian misfortune beyond pathetic clichés for those who want to understand a country that suffers not only from the cruelty of nature but also from the violence of political history.” —*La Vie*

2015 • 258 pp. • 5 x 8
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7148-7

The Wound
LAURENT MAUVIGNIER
TRANSLATED BY DAVID BALL AND NICOLE BALL
FOREWORD BY NICK FLYNN

Chronicling the lives of two cousins in the present and during the Algerian War of Independence in the 1960s, *The Wound* is a picture of the lasting effects this event had on those involved. Through their stories we see the history, atrocities, and hatreds of the war.

“The Wound gives us a France that few American readers will recognize, a land and a people marked by a history in which memory and violence can seem indistinguishable. . . . David and Nicole Ball’s translation is as elegant as a flick-knife—a superb version of this viscerally important novel.” —Michael Gorra, author of *Portrait of a Novel*

2015 • 242 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3987-6

Cruel Tales from the Thirteenth Floor
LUC LANG
TRANSLATED BY DONALD NICHOLSON-SMITH

Luc Lang encapsulates the brutality of everyday life in these sixteen ferocious stories—each a mixture of tragedy, comedy, ridicule, and pain. *Cruel Tales from the Thirteenth Floor* tells truths about the darker sides of our potential and our well-meaning urges dimmed by chance.

“[Luc Lang’s] electrifying writing presents events in all the banality of their ugliness or sadness: the firing of a good worker injured on the job, the foiled attempts of a superior to wrest sexual favors from a subordinate, the failing memory of an old man. . . . Lang shows the cruelty of the world without ever pronouncing the word ‘cruelty.’” —*Les Inrockuptibles*

2015 • 116 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3747-6
Mondo and Other Stories
J. M. G. LE CLÉZIO
TRANSLATED BY ALISON ANDERSON
Haunting and beautiful, Mondo and Other Stories speaks to the universal longing for life beyond the trappings of a world marginalized by complacent, indifferent modernity. In each tale, a child appreciates places with wonder and knowledge, understanding “so many things, not the things you find in books.”

“In J. M. G. Le Clézio’s fictional universe, the world exists in a prelapsarian state of timeless grace, at least until the inevitably corrupt and destructive world of adults comes crashing in.” — Washington Post

2011 • 248 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3000-2

The Round and Other Cold Hard Facts
J. M. G. LE CLÉZIO
TRANSLATED BY C. DICKSON
These tragic and evocative short stories depict the harsh realities of life for the less-privileged inhabitants of the French Riviera, giving a voice to the dispossessed and exploring familiar themes of alienation, immigration, poverty, violence, indifference, the loss of beauty, and the betrayal of innocence.

“Le Clézio is an intensely atmospheric, nearly hallucinatory writer, and in his riveting and eviscerating short stories, dreams turn inexorably into nightmares.” — Booklist

2002 • 214 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8007-6

Onitsha
J. M. G. LE CLÉZIO
TRANSLATED BY ALISON ANDERSON
In Onitsha, a young boy named Fintan travels to Africa in 1948 and is initially enchanted by the exotic world he discovers. Gradually he recognizes the intolerance and brutality surrounding him in this startling account—and indictment—of colonialism written with a forthrightness that ably portrays both Nigeria and a boy’s outrage.

“Onitsha also includes a scathing critique of colonialism. . . . Le Clézio’s writing always moves back toward the richness and the responsibilities of the present, highlighting the necessity of undergoing a veritable apprenticeship enabling one to experience the present fully. His fiction, whose scenes and details usually stand at only a slight remove from the facts of his own life, is thereby warmly personal in tone and thoroughly credible in effect.” — Michigan Quarterly Review

1997 • 206 pp. • 6 ½ x 8
$15.00 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7966-7
Nadirs
HERTA MÜLLER
TRANSLATED AND WITH AN
AFTERWORD BY SIEGLINDE LUG

Juxtaposing reality and fantasy, nightmares and dark laughter, Nadirs is a collection of largely autobiographical stories based on Herta Müller’s childhood in the Romanian countryside. Seamlessly mixing reality with dream-like images, the stories brilliantly convey the inner, troubled life of a child, and at the same time, capture the violence and corruption of life under an oppressive state.

“The world of the village, as Müller celebrates it, rustles on these pages. Each line, each paragraph, such a wedding of insight and the fantastic that I could scarcely hold the book without trembling.” —Alan Cheuse, All Things Considered

“[Nadirs features] prose whose power manifests itself in the psychological observations of its author/narrator. . . . Owing gratitude to Lug’s splendid translation, Nadirs is a grave yet compellingly told series of vignettes.” —Review of Contemporary Fiction

1999 • 126 pp. • 6 x 9
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8254-4

Out of the Dark
PATRICK MODIANO
TRANSLATED BY JORDAN STUMP

Out of the Dark is a moody, expertly rendered tale of a love affair between two drifters. In this profoundly affecting story told in a dream-like arrangement, the narrator considers his enigmatic and aimless relationship with Jacqueline, begun thirty years prior. Patrick Modiano’s acclaimed novel is poignant, strange, delicate, melancholy, and sadly hilarious.

“Modiano’s existential noir novel employs a moody, atmospheric prose (smoothly translated by Jordan Stump) to create a strange love story that somehow manages to be both suspenseful and contemplative.”
—New York Times Book Review

“[Out of the Dark] introduces to American readers one of the most prolific and critically esteemed French novelists of the last thirty years. . . . A whiff of Jeanne Moreau’s corrupted glamour in Truffaut’s Jules and Jim hangs over this affecting story of loss.” —Kirkus Reviews

1998 • 139 pp. • 5 ½ x 8
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8229-2
Black Jesus and Other Superheroes

Stories

VENITA BLACKBURN

Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, *Black Jesus and Other Superheroes* focuses a contemporary magical-realist lens on sexuality, race, and family. Venita Blackburn chronicles ordinary people achieving vivid extrasensory perception while under extreme pain. The stories tumble into a universe of the jaded and the hopeful, in which men and women burdened with unwieldy and undesirable superhuman abilities are nonetheless resilient in subtle and startling ways.

“With thoughtful subtext and symbols that address themes of race, sexuality, family, love and (dis)ability, Blackburn’s remarkably short stories are characterized by a wild imagination and beautiful prose.” — Ms. Magazine

“Venita Blackburn makes an indelible impression with her first collection of short stories. . . . Whether she embarks on writing novels or sticks with more short work along the line of *Black Jesus and Other Superheroes*, Blackburn is a writer to watch, but more importantly, to read.” — Peter Dabbene, Foreword starred review

“These are short, high-octane stories, funny and dark; open this book and read the story ‘Chew’ right now! It will lead you to the rest. This is an exhilarating debut.” — Ron Carlson, author of *Return to Oakpine*

“Electrically alive, funny, real—this is work that just begs to be read aloud and when it is it will fill a room with crackle and ache. What a delight!” — Aimee Bender, author of *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

2017 • 168 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0186-7
**One-Hundred-Knuckled Fist**  
*Stories*  
**DUSTIN M. HOFFMAN**  

Set in the Midwest, *One-Hundred-Knuckled Fist* tells the stories of blue-collar workers with dark humor and a gritty, experimental style, revealing the reality of the daily grind with striking details. The characters at the heart of these sixteen stories strive to escape invisibility and hunt the ghost of recognition. They are painters, drywall finishers, carpenters, roofers, oil refinery inspectors, and hardscrapers, all aching to survive the workday. They are Air Force firemen, snake salesmen, can pickers, ice-cream truck drivers, and Jamaican tour guides. Dustin M. Hoffman invites readers to peek behind the curtain of the invisible-but-ever-present ‘working stiff’ as he reveals their lives in full complexity, offering their gruff voices —so often ignored— without censorship.

“A compelling trip through the pressure-cooker world of the blue-collar worker.” *—Shelf Awareness*

“A thoroughly memorable read.” *—Publishers Weekly*

2016 • 186 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½  
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8854-6

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**When Are You Coming Home?**  
*Stories*  
**BRYN CHANCELLOR**  

Humans have always connected deeply to the idea of home. For the characters in Bryn Chancellor’s nine stories, home means, in part, physical spaces but also love—familial, romantic, and unrequited. It is grief. It is the memories that surface late at night. It is mystery and longing and a shining flicker of hope. Throughout this book, characters leave and return, time and again, trying desperately to find their way home.

“A knockout! These nine stories turned me into an emotional pinball, zinging from humor to heartbreak and back again. Bryn Chancellor is the real thing, a true artist and one hell of a story-teller.” *—Tayari Jones, author of* Silver Sparrow

“These masterful and moving stories whisk us to the brittle edge, the place where pain splinters the husk from which understanding emerges.” *—Lorraine López, author of* Homicide Survivors Picnic, and Other Stories

2015 • 136 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½  
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7722-9
Now We Will Be Happy

AMINA GAUTIER

• 2015 President’s Book Award Gold Medal in Short Fiction from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association
• 2015 USA Book Award in Fiction: African American
• 2016 International Latino Book Award
• 2016 Independent Publisher Book Award

A collection of stories about Afro–Puerto Ricans, U.S.-mainland-born Puerto Ricans, and displaced native Puerto Ricans dealing with the difficulties of bicultural identities in a world that wants them to choose only one.

“[The stories] vividly evoke Puerto Rico’s intoxicating, comforting atmosphere—that unbreakable tether binding struggling people in crowded Northeastern U.S. cities to their tropical homeland. . . . Gautier captures the unique experience, and predicament, of Puerto Ricans living in the mainland U.S.” —Publishers Weekly

2014 • 140 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-5539-5

Domesticated Wild Things, and Other Stories

XHENET ALIU

Connecticut’s rusty underbelly is the wretched, used-up sort of place where you might find Xhenet Aliu’s Domesticated Wild Things: reluctant mothers, delinquent dads, and not-quite-feral children, yet dreamers all. They share a biting humor, an eye for the absurd, and fumbling attempts at connection in this edgy and endearing collection.

“Offering sharp dialogue and a sense of the absurd, the book’s eleven stories evoke compassion rather than pity for this cast of wretched souls. Humorous and vibrant.” —Publishers Weekly

2013 • 156 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7183-8

Little Sinners, and Other Stories

KAREN BROWN

• 2013 Binghamton University John Gardner Fiction Book Award

Little Sinners features a sad, strange mosaic of women and men grappling with the loss and pain of everyday existence. These stories capture the domestic world in all its blighted promise—where women’s roles have been all too well-defined, where characters recklessly fashion their methods of escape.

“Karen Brown pulls off a Steinbeck-ian trifecta (powerful realism, literary depth, and unpretentious storytelling) with Little Sinners. This is a powerful and rare achievement that defines only topnotch authors.” —New York Journal of Books

2012 • 208 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4342-2

Destroy All Monsters, and Other Stories

GREG HRBEK

• One of Library Journal’s 2011 Top Ten Short Story Collections

Destroy All Monsters is a collection that explores what it means to be human—and inhuman. Whether set in the historical past or in a speculative future, these ten tales are wildly imaginative and shockingly real. Fantastical, horrific, painfully familiar, here is the work of a consummate storyteller.

“Masterfully merges the everyday and the mythic, poetic, futuristic, and seemingly impossible.” —Booklist

2011 • 192 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3644-8
The Zoo at Night
SUSAN GUBERNAT

Reflecting on the dark side of love, death, the family romance, carnality, and lofty aspirations, Susan Gubernat’s poems are both experimental and classic, with a combination of formal and free verse elements. A (mostly) unrhymed sonnet sequence seeks to recall the world of a pre-digital childhood when physical objects—tactile, mechanical—took on totemic import and magical significance, while other poems echo the Rilkean principle that poetry can be empathetic by looking outward at the thingness of the world.

“Beauty is always strange,’ says Baudelaire, and in Susan Gubernat’s brilliant The Zoo at Night, we have a grand tour of the many ways that the world, arriving directly under our noses, can remain, everlastingly, embodied and mysterious.” —Mark Svenvold, author of Empire Burlesque

“For those of us who believe in words—their merit as instruments of inquiry, their aptitude for beauty, their power of linking soul to soul—these are difficult times. Open these pages, and find your hope restored. Susan Gubernat’s are poems of meticulous craftsmanship, luminous apprehension, and unfailing heart. I’m grateful beyond measure for this book.” —Linda Gregerson, author of Magnetic North

2017 • 114 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0205-5
Cannibal
SAFIYA SINCLAIR

- 2017 RUSA Notable Books List
- 2017 Addison M. Metcalf Award

Colliding with and confronting *The Tempest* and postcolonial identity, the poems in Safiya Sinclair’s *Cannibal* explore Jamaican childhood and history, race relations in America, womanhood, otherness, and exile. She evokes a home no longer accessible and a body at times uninhabitable, often mirrored by a hybrid Eve/Caliban figure. Blooming with intense lyricism and fertile imagery, these full-blooded poems are elegant, mythic, and intricately woven. Sinclair shocks and delights her readers with her willingness to disorient and provoke, creating a multitextured collage of beautiful and explosive poems.

“[A] stunning debut collection.” —*Publishers Weekly* starred review

“Reading (and rereading) Sinclair is an urgently necessary, absolutely unparalleled experience.” —*Booklist* starred review

“An entrancing debut that reveals the teeming intellect and ravishing lucidity of a young poet in full possession of her literary powers. Here is a poetry that richly interrogates power and history while also eloquently and furtively asserting the possibilities of nature, desire, and the body as ceremonial and spiritual sources of resistance and affirmation.” —Major Jackson, author of *Roll Deep*

2016 • 126 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9063-1

No Confession, No Mass
JENNIFER PERRINE

- 2016 Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry from the Publishing Triangle

Whether exploring the porous borders between sin and virtue or examining the lives of saints and mystics to find the human experiences in stories of the divine, the poems in *No Confession, No Mass* move toward restoration and reunion. Through the play of language in received forms—abecedarian, sonnet, ballad, ghazal, villanelle, ballade—and in free verse buzzing with assonance, alliteration, and rhyme, these poems sing their resistance to violence in all its forms.

“Lyrical, inventive, and full of surprises, offering us fresh ways of seeing old stories. The music is a delight throughout—agile and apt—language enjoying itself! Jennifer Perrine writes: ‘and returned her whole, startled raw, launched her back into the world.’ This is what fine poetry can do—and *No Confession, No Mass* does it.” —Ellen Bass, author of *Like a Beggar*

2015 • 82 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7723-6
Reliquaria  
R. A. VILLANUEVA

Reliquaria embraces liminal, in-between spaces in considering an ever-evolving Filipino American identity. Part haunting, part prayer, part prophecy, these poems resonate with the voices of the dead and those who remember them.

“The texture of R. A. Villanueva’s words stay in the mouth, shards of what is sacred, still is sacred: linguistic memento mori, if you will, that preserve and keep alive. Take your time with this glorious collection.” —Kimiko Hahn, author of Toxic Flora

“Reliquaria convokes a public hymn that genuflects in the presence of the world’s lucent crumbs and fragments. Villanueva’s elegant argument with, within, and beyond Roman Catholicism infuses this collection with a classical urgency.” —G. C. Waldrep, author of Archicembalo

2014 • 82 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9638-1

Fetish  
Poems  
ORLANDO RICARDO MENES

From sensual pleasures and perils, moments and memories of darkness and light, the poems in Ricardo Menes’s new collection sew together stories of dislocation and loss, of survival and hope, of a world patched together by a family over five generations of diaspora.

“Well versed in the uprooted life of an immigrant, Menes’s profound references not only convey local color but also bring the essence of his family history to eye level with the reader in these striking verses.” —World Literature Today

2013 • 96 pp. • 5 ⅜ x 8 ⅝
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-6491-5

A Mind Like This  
SUSAN BLACKWELL RAMSEY

A Mind Like This is an unexpectedly delightful reflection on the oddness of everyday life, the natural world, literary history, popular culture, and more. Everything is fair game for Susan Blackwell Ramsey in this wise, funny, and deeply felt collection.

“A Mind Like This covers so much ground with such unbridled enthusiasm at the joy of language and the mysteries of mind that only poetry can attempt to illuminate that, fifty-four poems later, the reader will be on the lookout for Ramsey’s next book.” —Foreword Reviews

2012 • 112 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4338-5

The Book of What Stays  
JAMES CREWS

• 2011 Foreword Book of the Year honorable mention in Nonfiction Poetry

For any of us, what stays? With an unflinching eye, James Crews gives us the forbidden love, forbidden unions, and secret lives that, whatever the loss, the attrition, the cost, we must acknowledge, must hold, must keep. And here, in Crews’s finely wrought poems, is their testimony.

“Crews has presented us with portraits, rendered as much by absence as by presence. There is an elegant perseverance in these poems that challenges loss and finds strength and beauty in the present, and in presence.” —Big Muddy

2011 • 96 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3635-6
**Stray**  
**BERNARD FARAI MATAMBO**  
**FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES**

Winner of the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, Zimbabwean writer Bernard Farai Matambo’s collection *Stray* not only captures the essence of identity but also articulates the pain of displacement and migration.

“Bernard Farai Matambo casts images that quiver with terror and desire. These images root within us as if we were the very landscape the poet renders spectral with the residue of human passions: cities of ruined arches and potshards underfoot, the human cost of conflict, populations bowed in reverence and fear. Matambo is an archer of lyric poetry. His words are ‘drawn out and taut, anxious as catapults.’” — Gregory Pardlo, author of the Pulitzer Prize–winning *Digest*

“*Stray* is a work of great sensual intelligence and evocative urgency, consistently intimate and political. With painstaking concentration and dazzling lyricism, Matambo dismembers the cult of pitiless masculine strength and paints a portrait of a ‘half man, half anger’ in the ‘empire of the zoo.’ Then he puts this ‘man with an ape inside him’ through the meat mincer of African and American histories. Matambo’s short prose poems are gulped down like bitter pills of remembrance and forgetting.” — Valzhyna Mort, author of *Collected Body*

“Lush, yet urgent, determined to design a language that can feed the hunger for truth. . . . Follow Matambo’s poems as they stray from Zimbabwe to the U.S. and back, through landscapes haunted and illuminated by unforgettable images: ‘Once I caught a bough leaping into the air, a thicket of birds lifting off of it, dissolving among the stars.’” — Evie Shockley, author of *semiautomatic*

March 2018 • 96 pp. • 6 x 9 • none  
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0558-2

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**AFRICAN POETRY BOOK SERIES**  
**KWAME DAWES, SERIES EDITOR**

This series highlights African poetry with a wide-ranging scope from classic works to modern and contemporary voices. The greatest challenge facing African poetry in English is a lack of access to both classic works and the stream of works from new African writers. Currently there is no press in the United States, or elsewhere, that devotes itself entirely to the publication of African poetry written in English. This series looks to rectify this gap and also collect works of classic African poetry that have otherwise been forgotten.
Think of Lampedusa
Josué Guébo
Translated by Todd Fredson
Introduction by John Keene
This collection of serial poems addresses the 2013 shipwreck that killed 366 Africans attempting to migrate secretly to Lampedusa, an Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea.
“Defiantly elegant. It is elegy and evocation, a summoning of the dead as a chorus speaking to those who do not see, or do not care, to remind them of the consciousness of Earth and of history’s will to life, and the ordering of change... The poet’s hand is essential to our redemption.” —Afaa M. Weaver, author of The Plum Flower Dance
2017 • 90 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0042-6

In a Language That You Know
Len Verwey
South Africa is a strange, contradictory, and haunted place. In a Language That You Know captures the chronological trajectory of life in this place, dealing with childhood, war, marriage, divorce, and death.
“Contemplative and lyrical... ‘When I cannot find you / I give your name to everything.’ Such poems employ the periphery as an active, sometimes disquieting space from which to imagine. Such poems disarm me into sorrow, into hope.” —Aracelis Girmay, author of The Black Maria
2017 • 72 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9098-3

The January Children
Safia Elhillo
Foreword by Kwame Dawes
• Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets
The January Children collects accounts of displacement and longing while also questioning accepted truths concerning geography, history, nationhood, and “home.”
“A taut debut collection of heartfelt poems.” —Publishers Weekly
“Safia Elhillo’s triumph is not that she sings about novel love and heartbreak, but that she does so in an unforgettable voice.” —Irene Mathieu, Muzzle
2017 • 90 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9598-8

Beating the Graves
Tsitsi Ella Jaji
Tsitsi Ella Jaji’s Beating the Graves gathers together poems that meditate on the meaning of living in diaspora, an experience increasingly common among contemporary Zimbabweans.
“An outstanding offering. Forceful. Fresh. And not afraid. This offering shows Tsitsi Jaji to be an explorer of the textures of lived experience with admirable clarity of vision and expression, in short, a poet deep to the marrow of her sensibility.” —Keorapetse Kgositsile, South Africa’s poet laureate
“Packed with a stunning, virtuosic range of occasion and disposition (praise, imprecation, prayer, play, to name only a few).” —Nathaniel Mackey, author of Blue Fasa
2017 • 114 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9960-3
After the Ceremonies
New and Selected Poems
AMA AT A AIDOO
EDITED AND WITH A FOREWORD BY HELEN YITAH

Born in Ghana, Ama Ata Aidoo is one of the best-known African writers today. Spanning three decades of work, the poems in this collection address themes of colonialism, independence, motherhood, and gender in intimate, personal ways alongside commentary on broader social issues. After the Ceremonies is arranged in three parts: new and uncollected poems, some of which Aidoo calls “misplaced or downright lost”; selections from Aidoo’s An Angry Letter in January and Other Poems; and selections from Someone Talking to Sometime.

2017 • 276 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9694-7

Logotherapy
MUKOMA WA NGUGI

In the frozen tundra of Wisconsin, the biting winds of Boston, and the heat of Nairobi, Mukoma Wa Ngugi is always mindful of his physical experience of the environment. This moving collection of poems tackles the nuances of love and body in relation to place. “Mukoma Wa Ngugi’s energetic voice leaps out of poems that roll effortlessly and often joyously off the tongue. They are a wonderful adventure into his world of family and friendship, history, memory, and the imagination.” —Bernardine Evaristo, author of Mr. Loverman

2016 • 96 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9067-9

When the Wanderers Come Home
PATRICIA JABBEH WESLEY

Described by African scholar and literary critic Chielozona Eze as “one of the most prolific African poets of the twenty-first century,” Patricia Jabbeh Wesley composed When the Wanderers Come Home during a four-month visit to her homeland of Liberia in 2013. She gives powerful voice to the pain and inner turmoil of a homeland still reconciling itself in the aftermath of multiple wars and destruction. When the Wanderers Come Home is a woman’s story about being an exile, a survivor, and an outsider in her own country; it is her cry for the Africa that is being lost in wars across the continent, creating more wanderers and world citizens.

2016 • 126 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8857-7

Gabriel Okara
Collected Poems
GABRIEL OKARA
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY BRENDA MARIE OSBAY

The first Modernist poet of anglophone Africa, Gabriel Okara is a prize-winning author whose literary career spans six decades and is rightly hailed as the elder statesman of Nigerian literature. Arranged in six sections, this collection includes the poet’s earliest lyric verse along with poems written in response to Nigeria’s war years; literary tributes and elegies to fellow poets, activists, and loved ones long dead; and recent dramatic and narrative poems. This volume is at once a treasure for those long in search of a single authoritative edition and a revelation and timely introduction for readers new to the work of one of Africa’s most revered poets.

2016 • 168 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8687-0
Fuchsia
MAHTEM SHIFERRAW
FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES

• Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets

Mahtem Shiferraw’s Fuchsia examines conceptions of the displaced, disassembled, and nomadic self. Though evoking painful memories of trauma, war, and the diaspora, Shiferraw roots these losses and dangers in opportunities for mending, suggesting a distinct sense of hope.

“Fuchsia, culled from robust life and a finely tuned imagination, captures mysteries of the heart and mind alongside everyday rituals. Each poem dares us line by line, and suddenly we’re inside the delicate mechanism of a deep song. The magical, raw, bittersweet duende of Fuchsia speaks boldly. The personal history and emotional architecture of Ethiopia and Eritrea reside in every portentous poem here.” — Yusuf Komunyakaa, author of The Emperor of Water Clocks

2016 • 108 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8556-9

The Kitchen-Dweller’s Testimony
LADAN OSMAN
FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES

• Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets

Specters of race, displacement, and colonialism are present in The Kitchen-Dweller’s Testimony, providing momentum for speakers to reach beyond their primary, apparent dimensions and better communicate. Ladan Osman’s poetry is about love and longing, divorce, desire, and all the ways we injure ourselves and one another.

“Osman is a worldly and acutely sensitive writer who knows how to reach right through the sequined veil of fashion and put her hand squarely on the reader’s heart, with frank and candid expression, with unaffected wonder.” —Ted Kooser, Pulitzer Prize–winning poet

2015 • 108 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-6686-5

Madman at Kilifi
CLIFTON GACHAGUA
FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES

• Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets

Grounded in the postmodern Kenyan cultural cauldron, Clifton Gachagua’s Madman at Kilifi takes on the immediacy of cultures in flux, cybercommunication and the language of consumerism, sexual ambivalence and studied whimsy, and the mind of a sensitive, intelligent, and curious poet amidst it all. Here light is graceful, and we glow like undiscovered galaxies and shifting matter. And here as well, we find new expression in a poetry that moves as we do.

2014 • 78 pp. • 6 x 9
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4962-2

The Promise of Hope
New and Selected Poems, 1964–2013
KOFI AWOONOR
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY KOFI ANYIDoho
FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES

Kofi Awoonor, one of Ghana’s most accomplished poets, had for almost half a century committed himself to teaching, political engagement, and the literary arts. The Promise of Hope is a beautifully edited collection of Awoonor’s most arresting work, including recent unpublished poetry and classic poems.

“Valuable for its vivid attempts to make new, locally rooted forms.” — Publishers Weekly

March 2014 • 336 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4989-9
**Regular Haunts**

*New and Previous Poems*

**Gerald Costanzo**

**Introduction by Ted Kooser**

Long known as one of the best contemporary poets of satire, Gerald Costanzo focuses specifically on American themes that, though presented as parables, fables, jokes, and put-ons, remain darkly serious in tone. *Regular Haunts* is a retrospective collection of Costanzo’s work, featuring nearly thirty new poems, along with poems that were written and published between 1968 and 2016.

“Costanzo is a grief-ridden observer of the kultur. He reminds us of what we had, what we lost, perhaps what we never knew—and he does it in a mature, wise, lovely cadence. He is smart yet humble, full of pity for all of us, full of amazement. ‘When I first heard about America,’ he says, ‘it was already too late.’ He is one of our prophets.” —Gerald Stern

“This is truly poetry in the American grain. Costanzo looks unflinchingly at our totems, artifacts, and folkways and sets them down just as they are, with a deadly but affectionate irony.” —Carolyn Kizer

March 2018 • 144 pp. • 6 x 9

$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0586-5

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**The Woods Are On Fire**

*New and Selected Poems*

**Fleda Brown**

**Introduction by Ted Kooser**

With unadorned clarity of vision, Fleda Brown’s poetic voice gives the reader a haunting glimpse into family dynamics. With topics ranging from molecules to worms to Gilgamesh and the TV show *Law and Order*, her poetry explores the breadth and depth of our everyday lives. *The Woods Are On Fire* includes nearly fifty new poems, along with poems selected from seven previous books, showcasing an influential American poet’s work from the last several decades.

“Reading a poem by Brown is a lesson in how to read one’s life, how each small thing, each seemingly casual detail, is in fact connected to perceptions and understandings of profound significance that we can all divine if only we calm our vision enough to fully experience the perishing present.” —*World Literature Today*

2017 • 300 pp. • 6 x 9

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**TED KOOSER CONTEMPORARY POETRY**

Pulitzer Prize-winner Ted Kooser has selected the life works of poets whose works deserve attention from a broad audience.
Rival Gardens
New and Selected Poems
CONNIE WANEK
INTRODUCTION BY TED KOOSER
Connie Wanek shows us that poetry is everywhere, encountered as easily in the waterways, landscapes, and winters of Minnesota as in the old roofs and darkened drawers of a home long uninhabited. *Rival Gardens* includes more than thirty unpublished poems, along with poems selected from three previous books—all in Wanek’s unmistakable voice: plainspoken and elegant, unassuming and wise, observant and original.

“An instant favorite of mine.” —Danny Heitman, *Christian Science Monitor*

“Connie Wanek’s beautiful poems travel effortlessly among our various realms—the human, the natural, and the cosmic, inhabited by gods who may have some resemblance to ourselves. The light is wonderfully clear in these accounts, as is the darkness, each one illuminating the other.” —Charles Baxter, author of *There’s Something I Want You to Do*

“[These selections] are works of wit and subtlety, of clarity, great generosity, and precise vision that make this book a treasure to read again and again.” —Louis Jenkins, author of *Before You Know It*

2016 • 204 pp. • 6 x 9
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Darkened Rooms of Summer
New and Selected Poems
JARED CARTER
INTRODUCTION BY TED KOOSER
For nearly half a century Jared Carter has been quietly mapping the American heartland. Line by line, his poetry has shown us the landscape, sounded the voices, conjured the music, and tested the silence of the ever-changing and yet ever-constant Midwest that figures so prominently in the American story. And yet what we find in Carter’s poetry is endlessly new. Here, in poems selected from his first five books, is true poetry in the American grain.

“Carter’s is a poetry of a resolute middle distance, firmly of this world: between the dust under the earth and the dust of space there exists the place that the poem can illumine.” —*New York Review of Books*

“[Carter] writes American poetry the way that William Faulkner wrote American novels. . . . [Carter’s poems] have the homespun flavor of our native music—ballads, country blues, and sweet, clear, understated lyrics.” —*Publishers Weekly*

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