CREATIVE WRITING
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FOR SUBMISSION INQUIRIES, CONTACT:
ALICIA CHRISTENSEN
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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.

“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

January 2017 • 156 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9522-3

ALSO OF INTEREST by John W. Evans

Young Widower
A Memoir

*Foreword Reviews’ 2014 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Silver Winner

“In this honest depiction of his deceased wife and their loving but complicated marriage, and in his willingness to end his story without easy redemption, Evans avoids the predictable arc of many memoirs. . . . Thanks to honest and sadly beautiful books like Young Widower, we are at the very least helpless together. We can’t go on, we’ll go on.”

—Los Angeles Review of Books

2014 • 200 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4952-3
River Teeth Literary Nonfiction Prize Series
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

March 2017 • 204 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9991-7
The Solace of Stones
Finding a Way through Wilderness
JULIE RIDDLE

Everything changes when Julie Riddle’s parents stumble across a wilderness survival guide and the family moves from the city to the foot of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in northwestern Montana. There, Riddle grapples with her painful secrets as well as the demands of living in a rural, mountain community dependent on boom-and-bust mining and logging industries. 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. • 5½ x 8½ • 1 photograph
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7686-4

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

• 2015 Association for Mormon Letters Award in Creative Nonfiction

Modern manhood is confusing and complicated, but Joey Franklin, a thirtysomething father of three, is determined to make the best of it. In My Wife Wants You to Know I’m Happily Married he offers frank, self-deprecating meditations on everything from male-pattern baldness to grand theft auto to the staying power of first kisses. With honesty and wit Franklin explores what it takes to raise kids, succeed in a relationship, and survive as a modern man.

“A candid, subtly profound collection.” —Kirkus

“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
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

“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. • 5½ x 8½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-5414-5

Body Geographic
BARRIE JEAN BORICH

• Lambda Literary Award winner in Lesbian Memoir/Biography
• 2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards Gold Medal Winner in Essay/Creative Nonfiction
• 2013 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award, Bronze winner in essays, from Foreword Reviews

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 cartography of high literary order, Borich plots routes, real and imagined, to put an alternate landscape on the map.

“A stunningly original memoir.”—Kirkus starred review

2013 • 272 pp. • 5½ x 8½ • 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 dizzyly 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. • 5¼ x 8¼ • 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. • 5½ x 8½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4520-4

Save 30% on all books in this catalog | nebraskapress.unl.edu
Just Breathe Normally
PEGGY SHUMAKER

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

2009 • 280 pp. • 5¾ x 8¼
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-2641-8

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. • 5½ x 8¾
$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.


“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. • 5½ x 8¾ • 19 photographs, 2 maps
$21.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4496-2
Sleep in Me
JO N P INEDA

- 2010 Barnes & Noble Discover New Writers Selection
- Named one of the top memoirs of 2010 by Library Journal

Lyrical in its approach and unflinching in its honesty, Sleep in Me is a heartrending memoir of Jon Pineda’s coming-of-age amidst the irreparable damage that a tragedy brings to his Filipino American family.

“Pineda lays bare his struggles with family duty and identity in this literary standout.” —Library Journal

2012 • 168 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4341-5

Descanso for My Father
FRAGMENTS OF A L IFE
HARRISON CANDELARIA FLETCHER

- 2014 International Book Awards Best New Nonfiction from USA Book News
- Winner of the Creative Nonfiction category in the 2013 Colorado Book Awards
- 2013 Independent Publisher Book Awards Bronze Medal Winner, Essay/Creative Nonfiction category

When his father died, Harrison Candelaria Fletcher’s mother packed up his father’s belongings, put them in a closet, and closed the door. Here is Fletcher’s literary descanso, piecing together moments and objects and words of a father’s life, the life lived without that father, and his mixed-race identity.

2012 • 168 pp. • 5½ x 8½
18 illustrations
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3839-8

Such a Life
LEE M ARTIN

From the beginning as a solemn and observant child, Lee Martin has collected impressions and observations, negotiated silences and sadness, and plumbed the intricacies of this world. Such a Life offers his finely wrought and richly detailed personal view that effortlessly expands to illuminate our reality.

“Both frank and compassionate, Martin’s tales will entertain memoir readers as well as fans of his novels.” —Booklist

“[Martin] articulate[s] weighty truths, but he does so with such clarity that he reflects this truth-seeking light back on the reader.” —Brenda Miller, author of Season of the Body

2012 • 232 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3647-9

Island of Bones
Essays
JO Y CASTRO

- Winner of the International Latino Book Award for the Most Inspirational Nonfiction Book in English

What is “identity” when you’re adopted as an infant by a Cuban American family of Jehovah’s Witnesses? In personal essays that plumb the depths of not-belonging, Joy Castro considers the raw materials of her adolescence and young adulthood through the prism of time to create literary alchemy in this exquisite memoir.

“With undeniably strong prose, Castro is equally uncompromising in her anger, intelligence, empathy, and confusion, each essay turning and enriching the one before without repetition or break in rhythm.” —Publishers Weekly starred review

2012 • 144 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7142-5
ALSO OF INTEREST by B.J. Hollars

**From the Mouths of Dogs**

*What Our Pets Teach Us about Life, Death, and Being Human*

What have dogs done to earn the title of “man’s best friend”? B.J. Hollars attempts to find out with firsthand reports recounting a range of stories revealing much about our pets—and even more about the humans who share their lives.

“This inspiring study is recommended for animal lovers, and for lovers of life in general.” —*Portland Book Review*

2015 • 224 pp. • 5½ x 8½ • 1 photograph
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-7729-8

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**Flock Together**

*A Love Affair with Extinct Birds*

B.J. Hollars

Part memoir, part research-based journalism, *Flock Together* is a personal exploration of the decline of avian species throughout the world and its various ramifications, including what it might mean for humanity. Told with charm and wit, *Flock Together* shows how “knowing” the natural world—even just a small part—illuminates what it means to be a global citizen and how only by embracing our ecological responsibilities do we ever become fully human. A moving elegy to birds we’ve lost, B.J. Hollars’s exploration of what we can learn from extinct species will resonate in the minds of readers long beyond the final page.

“You’d think that nonfiction about extinct birds would be a trip into the void, but not in B.J. Hollars’s capable hands. Hollars takes us from specimen cabinets to his own backyard in a ceaseless pursuit of birds. ‘They become a kind of compass for human morality in *Flock Together*. Lest that sound too heavy, be assured there is joy here too, in the very act of being attentive.’” —Christopher Cokinos, author of *Hope Is the Thing with Feathers*

“Hollars conveys an infectious sense of awe and excitement for every bird he spots. Yet this is so much more than just a catalog of sightings. It is also about the author’s entry into a community of intriguing characters—some brilliant, some eccentric, yet all bound by their fierce love for birds.” —Justin Hocking, author of *The Great Floodgates of the Wonderworld*

February 2017 • 224 pp. • 5½ x 8½ • 9 photographs, 4 drawings
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-9642-8
This River Beneath the Sky
*A Year on the Platte*
Doreen Pfost

“Doreen Pfost’s personal homage to Nebraska’s Platte River is a powerful collection of twelve essays encompassing a year, bounded by its spring crane migration. They reveal a Willa Cather–like affection for the place and its people and an Aldo Leopold–like capacity to describe its wildlife, especially the iconic sandhill cranes.”—Paul A. Johnsgard, author of *Seasons of the Tallgrass Prairie: A Nebraska Year*

2016 • 198 pp. • 5½ x 8½ • 1 map
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7679-6

Canoeing the Great Plains
*A Missouri River Summer*
Patrick Dobson

Tired of an unfulfilling life in Kansas City, Patrick Dobson set off on foot across the Great Plains and then, after 1,450 miles, undertakes the return journey down the Missouri in a canoe, hoping this enigmatic course would reconnect him with his life.

“This is a work of strength and beauty, of care and courage. Patrick Dobson’s voyage down the length of the Missouri River is not simply one of self-discovery, but a journey that allows the reader to look inward as well. . . We are fortunate to be able to share in his odyssey of exuberance and discovery.”—Alan Boye, author of *Just Walking the Hills of Vermont*

May 2015 • 208 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-7188-3

Shenandoah
*A Story of Conservation and Betrayal*
Sue Eisenfeld

In *Shenandoah* Sue Eisenfeld tells the story of the relics and memories a few thousand mountain residents left behind when the government used eminent domain to kick the people off their land to create the park.

“Beautifully captures the mountain people and the official vendetta that made them refugees from their own land.”—*Washington Times*

“Eisenfeld writes about Shenandoah the way Annie Proulx writes about Wyoming or Edward Abbey about the deserts of the Southwest: pristine, unsentimental, eloquent prose.”—*Kirkus*

2015 • 216 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3830-5

The Turtle’s Beating Heart
*One Family’s Story of Lenape Survival*
Denise Low

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.

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

“Readers interested in the twentieth-century American Indian experience will find this to be a valuable account.”—*Library Journal*

2017 • 200 pp. • 6 x 9 • 26 images, 1 map
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-9493-6
What They Saved

Pieces of a Jewish Past
NANCY K. MILLER

• Winner of the 2012 Jewish Journal Book Prize

After her father’s death, Nancy K. Miller discovered a miniscule family archive in a drawer. Miller, a third-generation descendant of Eastern European Jews, uses these items to trace her roots and discovers that the hidden lives of her ancestors reveal as much about the present as they do about the past. In the end, an odyssey to uncover the origins of her lost family becomes a memoir of renewal.

2011 • 248 pp. • 5½ x 8½ • 25 illustrations, 1 genealogy
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-3001-9

A Far Corner

Life and Art with the Open Circle Tribe
SCOTT EZELL

When Scott Ezell moved to Dulan on Taiwan’s remote Pacific coast, he fell in with the Open Circle Tribe, a confederation of aboriginal woodcarvers, painters, and musicians who lived on the beach. A Far Corner draws on his experiences of life at the margins to explore global issues.

“Reading Scott Ezell’s A Far Corner I gradually became absorbed and actually delighted. Like true adventures this story is about something which, chances are, you will know nothing and consequently become pleasurably informed.”
—Jim Harrison, author of Returning to Earth

2015 • 344 pp. • 6 x 9 • 1 map, 2 appendixes
$27.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-6522-6

We Are Here

Memories of the Lithuanian Holocaust
ELLEN CASSEDY

• 2013 Grub Street National Book Prize for Nonfiction
• 2013 Prakhin International Literary Foundation Award
• 2013 Towson University Prize for Literature
• 2012 ForeWord Reviews Best Book of the Year Award, Silver Medal in History
• 2014 Best Book, Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies

We Are Here is one woman’s investigation of Lithuania’s Jewish history and of her own family’s place in it. What started as a personal journey broadened into a larger exploration of how Lithuanians, Jews and non-Jews alike, are confronting their past to move into the future.

March 2012 • 288 pp. • 5½ x 8½ • 13 illustrations, 1 genealogy, 1 map, 1 chronology
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3012-5

Pot Farm

MATTHEW GAVIN FRANK

• 2012 Grand Prize Winner of the New York Book Festival

Pot Farm details the strange, sublime, and sometimes dangerous goings-on at Weckman Farm, a place with hidden politics and social hierarchies. Through firsthand observations and experiences (some influenced by the farm’s cash crop), interviews, and research, Frank exposes a thriving but unsung faction of contemporary American culture.

“Pot Farm is a simultaneously beautiful, dark, and life-affirming story.” — Inside Higher Ed

2012 • 232 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3784-1
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.

"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’s writing sparkles with wit and self-deprecating humor, provoking laughter that hurts with the recognition of our own foibles and faults. His keen observations transcend the ‘small’ subjects of these short, powerful essays.” —Jim Daniels, author of *Rowing Inland*

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

July 2017 • 204 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0119-5
Sublime Physick

*Essays*

**PATRICK MADDEN**

In *Sublime Physick* Patrick 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 *The Best American Essays*

“The essays in *Sublime Physick* are more than self-reflective; they connect internal states with the marvelous world.”—Renée E. D’Aoust, *Inside Higher Ed*

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.

Quotidiana

*Essays*

**PATRICK MADDEN**

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*

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

• 2015 International Latino Book Award

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

“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
Against Joie de Vivre

Personal Essays

PHILLIP LOPATE

“Over the years I have developed a distaste for the spectacle of joie de vivre, the knack of knowing how to live,” begins the title essay, kicking off this dazzling showcase of Phillip Lopate’s gift for melding sophisticated cultural commentary and engaging honesty. By turns humorous, learned, celebratory, and elegiac, Lopate displays a keen intelligence and a flair for language that turn bits of common, everyday life into resonant narrative.

“Lopate entertains by blasting write-your-own-vows weddings, camaraderie in bars, and the enforced gaiety of dinner parties but expounds more positively on movies, friendship, and subletting as a lifestyle. . . . Despite its cranky title, this lively, unpredictable collection of essays is a joy to read, and read again.”—Publishers Weekly

“Subtle, profound (and slightly devilish). Phillip Lopate can express the nuances of the urban mind better than anyone else I know. Phillip Lopate is one of the best essayists in America.”—Noel Perrin

2008 • 336 pp. • 5¼ x 8¼
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-2273-1

Occasional Desire

Essays

DAVID LAZAR

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. Lazar also turns his attention on the essay itself, affording us a three-dimensional look at the craft and the art of reading and writing in a literary form that maps the world as it charts the peregrinations of the mind.

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

“The spirits of past masters (Montaigne and Charles Lamb among them) animate and infuse the enthralling essays of David Lazar, a succinct virtuoso whose gift is rueful, charming introspection. His recollections and avowals unfurl with stellar melodiousness and with a skilled comic’s perfect timing.”—Wayne Koestenbaum, author of Humiliation

2013 • 232 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$21.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4638-6
**THE CRAFT OF WRITING**

**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 authors allow us to look under the hood and see the machinery that makes such moving creative nonfiction.”—Fourth Genre

2013 • 280 pp. • 5½ x 8½ • 3 photographs, 3 figures  
$30.00 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3648-6

**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

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

2015 • 210 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$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. • 5½ x 8½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-5483-1

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.
Haven’s Wake
LADETTE RANDOLPH
• 2014 Nebraska Book Award in Fiction, Honor

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. • 5½ x 8½
$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. • 5½ x 8½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4629-4
Twelfth and Race
ERIC GOODMAN

Life takes a strange turn when Richard Gordon discovers that, as a result of identity theft, an African American five-year-old named Jada bears his name. Love, race, and identity intersect in *Twelfth and Race* when Richie, a man as white as they come, falls in love with Jada’s mother, LaTisha. Ultimately, the couple is forced to examine their relationship in light of a terrible event that catapults their midwestern city into chaos.

“Goodman’s writing is raw and honest, with a deep and evident appreciation of some fairly sensitive themes. . . . Passionate, complex, and insightful.”—Booklist

“A unique discussion about race and identity is wrapped in a powerful love story, allowing readers to feel more passionately about the issue of racism as they sympathize with the characters.”—Deseret News

2012 • 288 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3980-7

Water and Abandon
ROBERT VIVIAN

When the body of the pregnant teen Kelsey is recovered from the Sicangu River, her loved ones are left to question their own lives’ trajectories and reexamine their relationships with each other. Haunted by Kelsey’s death, each struggles with his or her own demons of blame and guilt, despair and fury—until one, in a confusion of pain, grief, and unrequited love, decides to do something dire.

“Mesmerizing. . . . Vivian deftly illustrates the fragility of life and the consuming nature of loss. Readers who enjoy literary fiction that delves into the nuances of the human psyche will want to read this novel.”—Library Journal

“Eloquent. . . . *Water and Abandon* is rich in mystery—and insight and horror, as well.”—Tom Zelman, Minneapolis Star Tribune

“In prose that is at once lush and startlingly luminous, Robert Vivian’s latest novel lays bare the complexities of loss and grace. *Water and Abandon* reminds us of the power of language to reveal the mysterious wonders of deeply felt truths. Vivian understands the human heart like few others.”—Connie May Fowler, author of *How Clarissa Burden Learned to Fly*

2012 • 248 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3806-0
You Will Never See Any God
Stories
ERVIN D. KRAUSE
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY TIMOTHY SCHAFFERT

Grim and gritty but with the rhythm and resonance of classic folklore, these stories take place in a world of shadowy figures and childhood fears, in a countryside peopled by witches and skinflints and by men and women mercilessly unforgiving of one another’s trespasses, and in nights prowled by wolves and scrutinized by an “agonized and lamenting” moon. Ervin Krause’s portrayal of the matter-of-fact cruelty and hopeful fragility of humanity is a critical addition to the canon of twentieth-century American literature.

“Krause is a brilliant and important writer without a book. His death at an early age cut short what surely would have been an important literary career. . . . You Will Never See Any God is both an act of rescue and a critical consideration of a body of work.”—Hilda Raz, author of What Happens and former editor of Prairie Schooner

2014 • 180 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4976-9

Tell Me a Riddle, Requa I, and Other Works
TILLIE OLSEN
FOREWORD BY LAURIE OLSEN
INTRODUCTION BY REBEKAH EDWARDS

Tillie Olsen wrote with a clarity and passion that is as relevant now as when it first appeared; indeed, her vision and style have, if anything, become more striking over time. Collected for the first time are several of Olsen’s nonfiction works, early journalism pieces, and short fiction. In her hands, hard truths about motherhood, marriage, domestic life, labor, and political conviction found expression in such poetic intensity and depth that their influence continues to be felt today.

“They are alive, her people. . . . [Olsen] creates them with a feeling and understanding so deep as to be literally painful.”—New York Times Book Review

“[The Tell Me a Riddle collection] exists in the realm in which craftsmanship is transformed into mystery, and criticism comes close to irrelevance.”—Saturday Review of Literature

2013 • 192 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4577-8
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 hardscapers, 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 thoroughly memorable read.”—*Publishers Weekly*

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

“Utterly unique and so very important.”—Donald Ray Pollock, author of *The Devil All the Time*

“Heartfelt and humorous and always keen to the ways our working lives serve to reveal our more personal hopes and dreams. I won’t soon forget these stories, which thrilled and moved me page after page.”—Matt Bell, author of *Scrapper*

2016 • 186 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8854-6
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 storyteller.” — 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. • 5½ x 8½
$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, Most Inspirational Fiction
• 2016 Independent Publisher Book Award Silver winner in Multicultural Fiction

Now We Will Be Happy is a collection of stories about Afro-Puerto Ricans, U.S.-mainland-born Puerto Ricans, and displaced native Puerto Ricans living between spaces while attempting to navigate the unique culture that defines their identity. Amina Gautier’s characters deal with the difficulties of bicultural identities in a world that wants them to choose only one. Crossing boundaries of culture, language, race, and tradition in unexpected ways, these characters struggle valiantly to reconcile their fantasies of happiness with the realities of their existence.

“Beautifully rendered, Gautier’s collection breathes life into America’s racial and immigrant conflicts, going well below the skin-deep surface of her characters to expose the passions and hopes that unite diverse people.” — Georgia Review

2014 • 140 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$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.

“Often out of control and goofy, Domesticated Wild Things is also extremely funny and mordant. The wild energy of Aliu’s diction mocks and illuminates the English language.”—Sherman Alexie

2013 • 156 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$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. • 5½ x 8½
$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. Fantastic, 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. • 5½ x 8½
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3644-8

Bliss and Other Short Stories
TED GILLEY

This daring collection of nine stories introduces readers to an edgy vision and a world in which certainties are tested and found wanting. Finding bliss, it seems, is as much about pain as about pleasure, and in Ted Gilley’s writing the discovery is always exquisite.

“A great collection by a gifted writer.”—Boston Globe

“As startling as stumbling upon a full, immense moon—scarred white and sharp above the trees—and just as quiet.”—Rumpus

2010 • 136 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$14.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3261-7
Cannibal
SAFIYA SINCLAIR

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 multiform collage of beautiful and explosive poems.

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

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

“With exquisite lyrical precision, Safiya Sinclair is offering us a new muscular music that is as brutal as it is beautiful. Intelligent and elemental, these poems mark the debut of a poet who is dangerously talented and desperately needed.” — Ada Limón, author of Bright Dead Things

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
• Listed by the Washington Independent Review of Books as a “best book” of poetry for 2015

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

In Reliquaria R. A. Villanueva 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. Breathe in: ‘black eggs,’ ‘pomade,’ ‘concertina wire,’ ‘wreathed in gauze,’ and ‘Nakalimutan mo na ako. You have already forgotten me.’ I dare say you will not forget these remains that Villanueva has saved for us.”—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. • 5½ x 8½
$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. • 5½ x 8½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4338-5

The Book of What Stays
JAMES CREWS

• 2011 ForeWord Book of the Year honorable mention in Adult 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. • 5½ x 8½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3635-6

Ceiling of Sticks
SHANE BOOK

• Winner of the Great Lakes College Association New Writers Award

Ceiling of Sticks is a powerful and unflinching collection, bearing elegiac witness to the effects of global politics on individual lives. Filled with experiences of Africa and Latin America, California and the Caribbean, these poems resonate with the intensity of truth as it is lived and written.

“An impressive, far-reaching first collection from an artist with many stories to share. Shane Book crosses boundaries with both urgency and ease, transporting his reader from the arena of the personal to more remote worlds of significance.” — Harvard Review

2010 • 80 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-1558-0

Save 30% on all books in this catalog | nebraskapress.unl.edu
After the Ceremonies
New and Selected Poems
AMA ATA 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.

Although Aidoo is best known for her novels Changes: A Love Story and Our Sister Killjoy, which are widely read in women’s literature courses, and her plays The Dilemma of a Ghost and Anowa, which are read and performed all over the world, her prowess as a poet shines in this collection.

March 2017 • 270 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9694-7

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. Vivid evocations of the landscape of Zimbabwe filter critiques of contemporary political conditions and ecological challenges, veiled in the multiple meanings of poetic metaphor. These poems reflect on how diasporic life shapes family relations and explore the genre of praise poetry.

“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

“The gravel and gravitas of Beating the Graves lies in its ferociously polyglot density. Peep that diction, peeps! As this moving book reminds us in its deep listening to our noisy dead (diaspora), any border can be crossed by sound.”—Christian Campbell, author of Running the Dusk

March 2017 • 108 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9960-3
Logotherapy
MUKOMA WA NGUGI

Written as a tribute to family, place, and bodily awareness, Mukoma Wa Ngugi’s poems speak of love, war, violence, language, immigration, and exile. From a baby girl’s penchant for her parents’ keys to a warrior’s hunt for words, Wa Ngugi’s poems move back and forth between the personal and the political. In the frozen tundra of Wisconsin, the biting winds of Boston, and the heat of Nairobi, Wa Ngugi is always mindful of his physical experience of the environment. Ultimately it is among multiple homes, nations, and identities that he finds an uneasy peace.

“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

The January Children
SAFIA ELHILLO
FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES

• Winner of the 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 relentless examination of the postcolonial experience, Safia Elhillo’s poems mythologize family histories until they break apart. Sudan’s history of colonial occupation, dictatorship, and diaspora provides the book’s rhetorical grounding, but it is Elhillo’s mindfully articulated narrative layering that allows the collection’s distinctive craft to emerge.

“The first sound of what will be a remarkable noise in African poetry. Safia Elhillo has already laid out in this collection a complex foundation for a rich and complex body of work. What is unmistakable is her authority as a poet—she writes with great control and economy, but also with a vulnerability that is deeply engaging. Above all, her poems are filled with delight—a quality of humor that is never trite but always honest and insightful.”—from the foreword by Kwame Dawes

March 2017 • 90 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9598-8
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.

Wesley, a native Liberian, calls on deeply rooted African motifs and proverbs, utilizing the poetics of both the West and Africa to convey her grief. Autobiographical in nature, the poems highlight the hardships of a diaspora African and the devastation of a country and continent struggling to recover.

*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

Fuchsia
Mahtem Shiferraw

Foreword by Kwame Dawes • Winner of the 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. But the stories, each shaped and textured by true feeling, are also ours because they beckon to us.”—Yusef Komunyakaa, author of *The Emperor of Water Clocks*

“*Fuchsia* is a richly promising debut.”
—David Wojahn, author of *World Tree*

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

• Winner of the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets

The Kitchen-Dweller’s Testimony asks: Whose testimony is valid? Whose testimony is worth recording? Specters of race, displacement, and colonialism are often present, 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.

“In a world that too often plugs its ears to voices it thinks unworthy, Osman shows that it’s actually more inappropriate to be decorous.”—Chicago Tribune

“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

• Winner of the 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.

Gachagua’s is a world fully grounded in the postmodern Kenyan cultural cauldron, a world in which people speak with “satellite mouths,” with bodies that are “singing machines,” and in which the most we can do is “collide against each other.” 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.

“Without a doubt, we are experiencing in this book the opening noises of a poet who will make a great deal of important noise in the future.”—from the foreword by Kwame Dawes

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

Collected Poems

GABRIEL OKARA

EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY BRENDA MARIE OSBEY

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. The introduction by Brenda Marie Osbey contextualizes Okara’s work in the history of Nigerian, African, and English language literatures. 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

The Promise of Hope

New and Selected Poems, 1964–2013

KOFIG 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.

“We pay homage to Kofi Awoonor as a poet not only with a profound vision and articulation of the world, our world, but also with a gift of words that is at home in poetry, in prose, in critical literary studies, and equally in major essays about our African, our human condition.”—Kofi Anyidoho

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

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

Previous praise for Fleda Brown's poetry:

“To read these poems is to look through a newly washed window; the world is strangely bright and, at the same time, frighteningly familiar. This is a difficult effect to achieve—one that only succeeds when it is not an effect but something effortless. In [Brown's] hands, effort is invisible.”—Judith Kitchen, The Georgia Review

“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

March 2017 • 300 pp. • 6 x 9
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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.

“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*

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—Danny Heitman, *Christian Science Monitor*

2016 • 204 pp. • 6 x 9
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Darkened Rooms of Summer
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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*

2014 • 220 pp. • 6 x 9
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4857-1
The Lady in White
CHRISTIAN BOBIN
TRANSLATED BY ALISON ANDERSON

Emily Dickinson remains a beloved and enigmatic figure in American poetry and, as a reclusive writer himself, contemporary French author Christian Bobin feels a kindred tie to the poetess. *The Lady in White* honors Dickinson in the form of a brief, poetically imagined account of her life and the work that she gave the world. This fresh and personal interpretation of Dickinson's life leaves one with an impression of knowing Dickinson though her work and the sparse facts we have about her.

“A text of luminous, intuitive grace.” —Christine Ferniot, *Lire Magazine*

“There is a Bobin style, a way of approaching literature through the joy that words radiate, the light they hold within.” —Guy Goffette, *Le Monde*

“A portrait full of empathy that cares little for chronology and facts, since what really matters to the author is elsewhere. . . . 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 1/2 x 8 1/2
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-4565-5

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 full picture of the lasting effects this event had on those involved. Through the fragments of their stories we see the history of the war: its atrocities, its horrors, and its hatreds. Laurent Mauvignier shows how the Algerian War, always present yet always repressed, has sickened everyone it touched emotionally and morally—and perhaps France itself.

“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*

“Mauvignier’s novel is one of the most impressive fictional portrayals of the Algerian war to date.” —Patricia M. E. Lorcin, *H-France.net*

2015 • 242 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3987-6
A French Voices publication
Savage Seasons
KETTLY MARS
TRANSLATED BY JEANINE HERMAN
AFTERWORD BY MADISON SMARTT BELL

Port-au-Prince, the 1960s: Baby Doc Duvalier and his militia are systematically eliminating opponents to the regime, including Nirvah’s husband. To ensure his survival and protect her family, she submits to an official’s desires, living with the benefits and disadvantages tied to that choice. Kettly Mars’s Savage Seasons describes a pivotal and painful period in Haitian history by weaving together the personal story of Nirvah and her family and the universal story of Duvalier’s abusive dictatorial regime.

“A breathless novel that combines fiction and reality with both dexterity and pugnacity.” —Brune

“[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
A French Voices publication

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

In sixteen ferocious short stories Luc Lang encapsulates the brutality of everyday life. Each tale is a mixture of tragedy, comedy, ridicule, and pain. Compassion lurks somewhere, perhaps, but pity is conspicuously absent. Lang’s curt, agitated prose disassembles daily life with an unflinching hand and a sharp, analytic eye. Interpreting human interactions as a series of precise jabs and desperate flailings, 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] works with enormous talent on ellipsis and on the unsaid. . . . His 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

“An extraordinary fabulist of subterranean aggression.” —Christine Ferniot, Télérama

2015 • 116 pp. • 5½ x 8½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-3747-6
A French Voices publication
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. • 5½ x 8½
$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, young 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.

“An uncharacteristically accessible and dramatic narrative about Europeans in Africa from one of the avatars of the French New Wave novel . . . The most surprising work of Le Clézio’s long career, and one of his best.”—Kirkus

1997 • 206 pp. • 6½ x 8
$15.00 • paperback • 978-0-8032-7966-7
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

1998 • 139 pp. • 5¼ x 8
$16.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8229-2

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

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