UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS
CREATIVE WRITING
## CONTENTS
### NEW & SELECTED BACKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Memoir &amp; Creative Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Essays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Literature in Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>The Raz/Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize Winners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**SAVE 40% ON ALL BOOKS IN THIS CATALOG BY USING DISCOUNT CODE 6CW22**

Cover: photo © DBenitostock via Getty Images
Let Me Count the Ways is the memoir of a journey into obsessive-compulsive disorder, a mechanism to survive a childhood filled with pain, violence, and unpredictability. Tomás Q. Morín’s compulsions were a way to hold onto his love for his family in uncertain times until OCD became a prison he would struggle for decades to escape. Tender, unflinching, and even funny, Let Me Count the Ways challenges our ideas about fatherhood, drug abuse, and mental illness.

“In this fearsome, beautiful memoir, Tomás Q. Morín takes us on ‘a journey exploring the limits of suffering and love.’ Those are the words he uses to praise a fellow poet, but the story of his upbringing is just such a wild trip. The young Tomás constantly searches for the right words to say to his beloveds, his abusers. And in Let Me Count the Ways, every episode is a prose poem.”—Maxine Hong Kingston, author of China Men and The Woman Warrior

“An origin poem wrapped in a travel essay, rocking the full wings of fiction. This means it is a memoir, a stunning memoir about the worn glory of counting up, counting down, and counting in. It is simply the layered work of a soulful magician welcoming us behind our own curtains. Genius.”—Kiese Laymon, author of Heavy: An American Memoir

2022 • 198 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2649-5
THIS JADE WORLD
IRA SUKRUNGRUANG

This Jade World centers on a Thai American who has gone through a series of life changes. Ira Sukrungruang married young to an older poet. On their twelfth anniversary, he received a letter asking for a divorce, sending him into a despairing spiral. How would he define himself when he was suddenly without the person who shaped and helped mold him into the person he is? Through ancient temples and the lush greenery of Thailand, to the confines of a stranger’s bed and a devouring couch, This Jade World chronicles a year of mishap, exploration and experimentation, self-discovery, and eventually healing.

“In this rare and beautiful offering, we experience a man undone by love and his journey to salvage hope in the face of incredible loneliness and doubt, a search for salvation found first in a dream.” —Kao Kalia Yang, author of Somewhere in the Unknown World

“A double love story, laced with wonder, grief, downward spirals and mature reinventions. This gorgeously written book illuminates the necessity and complexity of intimate joy.” —Barrie Jean Borich, author of Body Geographic

“This Jade World is beautifully candid, funny, and heartbreaking, a startling meditation on intimacy and marriage, family history and legacy, and the strangeness of how relationships change.” —Beth (Bich Minh) Nguyen, author of Stealing Buddha’s Dinner

2021 • 280 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2601-3
SHADOW MIGRATION
Mapping a Life
SUZANNE OHLMANN

Suzanne Ohlmann launches the reader into flight over miles of migration, from a childhood in Nebraska to college in Minnesota, musician life in New York, health work in rural India, and finally the haunted basement of her home in San Antonio. There, the ghost of a teenage suicide victim forces Ohlmann to make a choice: uncover the truth of her biological past or, like that boy, surrender to the depths of her own darkness.

“Ohlmann reveals herself to be a brave soul who reaches for the light while never turning from the dark. Her story sparkles with such insight and honesty, gutsy humor and restrained (midwestern) bravado, I felt bereft when I had to turn the last page and leave her.”—Beverly Donofrio, author of Riding in Cars with Boys

“I was moved and awed by Ohlmann’s honesty about the deep pain surrounding her adoption, her ability to take me from a choral performance (that goes gastrically awry) to her mother’s table—which you better be at by 5:30—to Nebraska’s multitudinous sandhill cranes (those cranes!). Although we couldn’t be much more different on paper, I couldn’t have related more.”—Patricia Resnick, screenwriter of 9 to 5 and Better Things

“What’s unique about Suzanne Ohlmann’s Shadow Migration is the way in which she brings the many layers of her identity into the urgent search for her source. . . . I’d follow her anywhere.”—Jill Christman, author of Darkroom: A Family Exposure

2022 • 192 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 1 illustration
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2686-0
KNOCKED DOWN
A High-Risk Memoir
AILEEN WEINTRAUB

A laugh-out-loud memoir about a free-spirited, commitment-phobic Brooklyn girl who, after a whirlwind romance, finds herself living in a rickety farmhouse, pregnant, and faced with five months of doctor-prescribed bed rest because of unusually large fibroids. As the farmhouse collapses around her and her marriage does the same, she confronts her grief for her father while fighting for the survival of her unborn baby. In her precarious condition, will she stay or will she run away from it all?

“Aileen Weintraub has written a profoundly honest memoir that is sometimes painful but always loving, as she walks us through her journey from Brooklyn childhood to rural living. Heartfelt and often humorous Jewish culture meets rural farming culture, all coming together in the glorious Hudson Valley. It took us back to the best moment of our lives—the beginning of making a family.” —Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody

“This memoir of an almost inconceivably difficult pregnancy (pun intended) involves multiple dichotomies: urban/rural, male/female, Jew/non-Jew, life/death. Weintraub handles these oppositions with the deft, stunning, and mesmerizing touch of a writer who knows when to weep and when to laugh, when to hold on and when to let go. Whatever the opposite is of ‘elegy,’ this is it.” —Sue William Silverman, author of How to Survive Death and Other Inconveniences

“A gripping blend of humor and poignancy.” —Sari Botton, author of And You May Find Yourself

2022 • 316 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$22.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-3020-1

MEMOIR & CREATIVE NONFICTION / AMERICAN LIVES
TO HELL WITH IT
Of Sin and Sex, Chicken Wings, and Dante’s Entirely Ridiculous, Needlessly Guilt-Inducing Inferno
DINTY W. MOORE

Dinty W. Moore started questioning the world of religion at a young age, quizzing—and often stumping—the nuns in his Catholic school, and has been questioning it ever since. Yet after years of Catholic school, religious guilt, and persistent cultural conditioning, Moore still can’t shake the feelings of inadequacy, and asks: What would the world be like if eternal damnation was not hanging constantly over our sheepish heads? In To Hell with It, Moore intersects narratives of his everyday life, reflections on his childhood, the world of religion and its influence on contemporary culture and society.

“Unstrap your backpack of guilt and sit down for a laugh.”—Kirkus Reviews

“A madcap, deep, hopeful, absurd, learned, solemn, silly, and somehow redeeming look at the hell we make for ourselves, the hell the world offers, and the heaven to be found if only we look in the heart of each of our hearts, plus cartoons!”—Bill Roorbach, author of Life among Giants

2021 • 180 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 31 illustrations, index
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2460-6

ANYTHING WILL BE EASY AFTER THIS
A Western Identity Crisis
BETHANY MAILE

After dropping out of college in Boston, Bethany Maile flies home to Idaho, intent on exploring the mythic Wild West wonderland she (mis)remembers. She trails rodeo queens, bids on cattle, shoots guns, and searches for wild horses. Maile recounts her evolution from a girl willingly suckered by a busted-down tale to a more knowing woman who discovers a new narrative that enchants without deluding.

“Blending personal insight with sharp-eyed cultural analysis, the author celebrates the West and Western identity without ever losing sight of the myriad complexities that underlie both. An eloquent and perceptive memoir in essays.”—Kirkus Reviews

“Pairs old school journalistic immersion with formal ingenuity and weds Maile’s healthy skepticism to her legit enthusiastic love for the West’s stories. Half excellent memoir and half blade-sharp cultural critique, this terrific book made me a convert to the complicated appeal of the state.”—Ander Monson, author of Vanishing Point

2020 • 234 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2021-9
SKY SONGS
Meditations on Loving a Broken World
JENNIFER SINOR

Sky Songs is a collection of essays that takes inspiration from the ancient seabed in which Jennifer Sinor lives, an elemental landscape that reminds her that our lives are shaped by all that has passed through. Sinor offers a lyric exploration of language, love, and the promise inherent in the stories we tell: to remember. Writing as a mother, teacher, and yoga instructor, Sinor meditates on how to live in a broken world, one full of suffering and grace.

“Sinor’s skills in interweaving different stories within the essays and finding the hidden connections between them are evident throughout. Together, they work to create a tapestry that is both searching and insightful. A lyrically profound collection.” —Kirkus Reviews

“The meditations in Sky Songs are narratively as well as meditatively driven, a combination that gives her book particular power.” —Gaynell Gavin, Western American Literature

2020 • 216 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2264-0

WHAT BECOMES YOU
New Edition
AARON RAZ LINK AND HILDA RAZ

Turning from female to male and from teaching scientist to theatre performer, Aaron Raz Link documents the extraordinary medical, social, legal, and personal processes involved in a complete identity change. Hilda Raz, a well-known feminist writer and teacher, observes the process as both an “astonished” parent and as a professor who has studied gender issues. All these perspectives come into play in this collaborative memoir, which travels between women’s experience and men’s lives, explores the art and science of changing sex, maps uncharted family values, and journeys through a world transformed by surgery, hormones, love, and clown school. This edition is updated with discussion questions.

“The deepest pleasure of memoir is that it can teach us to see truths through eyes other than our own, and What Becomes You accomplishes exactly that.” —Gayle Salamon, Great Plains Quarterly

“A vital contribution to the oeuvre of transgender literature. . . . It is careful and tender while simultaneously confrontational and challenging.” —Julie R. Enszer, Lambda Book Report

2021 • 324 pp. • 6 x 9
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2784-3
GOOD NEIGHBORS, BAD TIMES REVISITED
New Echoes of My Father’s German Village
MIMI SCHWARTZ
Ten years after the publication of Mimi Schwartz’s memoir about Christian and Jewish neighbors in the tiny German village where her father was born, Schwartz receives a fan letter from South Australia. The man, Max Sayer, had grown up Catholic in this village during the Third Reich. Sayer, it turns out, had written an unpublished memoir about his village boyhood during the Hitler years, and it greatly deepened Schwartz’s perspective on the village history they share. Weaving excerpts from Sayer’s memoir and a yearlong correspondence with the whole family, Schwartz enlarges our understanding of neighbors under pressure to hate.

“In this new edition Mimi Schwartz brings us back to her father’s ancestral village of Rexingen in the German Black Forest to show us that, generations later, it still has much to teach us about decency then and now.” —Frank Mecklenburg, director of research and chief archivist of the Leo Baeck Institute

2021 • 318 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 • 25 photographs, 2 illustrations, discussion questions
$24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2120-9

BAD TOURIST
Misadventures in Love and Travel
SUZANNE ROBERTS
Both a memoir in travel essays and an anti-guidebook, Bad Tourist takes us across four continents to fifteen countries, showing us what not to do when traveling. A woman learning to claim her own desires and adventures, Suzanne Roberts encounters lightning and landslides, sharks and piranha-infested waters, a nightclub drugging, burning bodies, and brief affairs as she searches for the love of her life and finally herself. Fearlessly confessional, shamelessly funny, and wholly unapologetic, Roberts offers a refreshingly honest account of the joys and absurdities of confronting new landscapes and cultures, as well as new versions of herself.

“Authentic, surprising, and irresistible, Bad Tourist is a travel text worth getting lost in.” —Foreword Reviews

2020 • 280 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2284-8
At the sound of the bell on the last day of kindergarten, B.J. Hollars and his six-year-old son, Henry, hop in the car to strike out on a 2,500-mile road trip retracing the Oregon Trail. Their mission: to rediscover America, and Americans, along the way. Throughout their two-week adventure, they endure the usual setbacks (car trouble, inclement weather, and father-son fatigue), but their most compelling drama involves people, privilege, and their attempt to find common ground in an all-too-fractured country.

“Go West, Young Man is a sweet read, part memoir, part history, part awakening—both for Henry and for his dad.” —Laurie Hertzel, Minneapolis Star Tribune

“Hollars resists easy ideas and easy answers, but the insights that he does reach are presented effectively and compellingly. . . . Go West, Young Man asks big questions about the multiplicity of American identities and narratives, and offers us a view toward how a father and son can answer them.” —Colin Rafferty, author of Execute the Office

“In this mock adventure, father and son endure prairie swales and cyclonic winds, KOAs and interpretive centers, and self-inflicted dad jokes—all to answer this country’s most enduring question: Who are we?” —John Hildebrand, author of Long Way Round: Through the Heartland by River

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN
A Father and Son Rediscover America on the Oregon Trail
B.J. HOLLARS

2021 • 264 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 23 photographs, 14 illustrations, 1 map
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2590-0
NEW IN PAPERBACK

FLOCK TOGETHER
A Love Affair with Extinct Birds
B.J. HOLLARS

Named by Forbes as one of the 12 Best Books About Birds and Birding in 2017

Part memoir, part research-based journalism, Flock Together is a personal exploration of the decline of avian species throughout the world, its ramifications, and what it might mean for humanity. Told with charm and wit, Flock Together is a remarkable memoir that 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 wonderful read. . . . It reminds us that while we need to strive and protect species that are at risk, we must also place value on keeping common species common.”—Tianna Burke, Canadian Field-Naturalist

“Lively, passionate, melancholy, joyful, and quirky. . . . An endearing and highly readable book.”—Pamela Miller, Minneapolis Star Tribune

2022 • 224 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 9 photographs, 4 illustrations
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2980-9

NEW IN PAPERBACK

FROM THE MOUTHS OF DOGS
What Our Pets Teach Us about Life, Death, and Being Human
B.J. HOLLARS

What have dogs done to earn the title of “man’s best friend”? More broadly, how have all of our furry, feathered, and four-legged brethren managed to enrich our lives? B.J. Hollars attempts to find out with firsthand reports recounting a range of stories revealing much about our pets—but even more about the humans who share their lives. From the Mouths of Dogs provides a much-needed reminder that the world would be a better place if we took a few cues from man’s best friends.

“An honest, heartwarming choice for animal lovers.”—Eric Liebetrau, Kirkus Reviews

“Part anthropology, part ethnography, part memoir, fully awesome, From the Mouths of Dogs is one of the loveliest, smartest, and most intimate celebrations [and] interrogations of heartbreak . . . that I’ve read in quite some time. . . . Hollars brilliantly reveals us as a species with equal need for the body and the dust, for history, for memory, for miracle.”—Matthew Gavin Frank, author of Preparing the Ghost

2022 • 224 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 1 illustration
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2981-6
A HARP IN THE STARS
An Anthology of Lyric Essays
EDITED BY RANDON BILLINGS NOBLE

Randon Billings Noble has collected a range of lyric essays in a variety of forms. Whether flash, segmented, braided, or hermit crab essays, these pieces showcase the form’s openness to experimentation, reliance on authentic voice, and potential to explore complex subject matter. Because lyric essays can be so difficult to pin down, each contributor has supplemented their work with a short meditation on this boundary-breaking form, further highlighting the malleable ingenuity of this untraditional genre.

“I’ve been searching for a book like this for over twenty years. Its remarkable dazzle—a sharp, eclectic anthology combined with whip-smart craft essays—carves out a fascinating look into the bright heart of what the lyric essay can be.”—Aimee Nezhukumatathil, author of World of Wonders

“I can easily imagine assigning this book in any forward-thinking class, graduate or undergraduate, that involves writing or analyzing expressive prose.”—Elena Passarello, author of Let Me Clear My Throat: Essays

“A stellar collection of lyric essays that truly highlights the best these forms have to offer. This book will be pulled from my shelf again and again—for my own reading and as a resource for my students.”—Brenda Miller, author of An Earlier Life

2021 • 310 pp. • 6 x 9 • 17 illustrations
$24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1774-5
ANIMAL BODIES
On Death, Desire, and Other Difficulties
SUZANNE ROBERTS

Suzanne Roberts explores the link between death and desire and what it means to accept our own animal natures, the parts we most often hide, deny, or consider only with shame—our taboo desires and our grief. With lyricism, insight, honesty, and dark humor, these essays illuminate the sometimes terrible beauty of what it means to be human, deepening the conversation on death and grief, sexuality, and the shame that comes from surviving the world in a female body with all of its complexities.

“Suzanne Roberts’s essays are eloquent and vibrantly imaginative. They are lyrical in the best sense: the language is rhythmic, pulsing on the page, but never poetized, flowery, or vague. Roberts’s wisdom and humor are evident throughout. I so welcome a collection of her essays, all in one place.”
—Carolyn Forché, author of What You Have Heard Is True

“No one travels the depths of place and experience more phenomenally than Suzanne Roberts. . . . Animal Bodies gathers our questions about life and brings them to the only place where meaning might emerge: adaptation. This book is a triumph that transcends humans and gives us a chance to re-story ourselves into the larger world.”
—Lidia Yuknavitch, author of The Chronology of Water

“Animal Bodies is a marvel, a heartbreaking road map of living, loving, and grieving. . . . This is hard-earned wisdom and liberation. I can’t stop thinking about it.”—Lee Herrick, author of Scar and Flower

2022 • 252 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-3102-4
THE GREAT INDOORSMAN
Essays
ANDREW FARKAS

Many authors have traveled and explored the out-of-doors, proving themselves stalwart, audacious, even heroic; Andrew Farkas is not among them and is brave enough to admit that the outdoors isn’t for him. In these essays Farkas boldly surveys kitchens, malls, bars, theaters, and other places that feature temperature control, protection from predators, and a higher degree of comfort than can be found outside. Along the way, Farkas discovers that, just as the mannered and gloriously artificial indoors influences us greatly, our lives are also controlled much more by fiction than by anything “real.”

“Absurdist and absurdly amusing, Andrew Farkas takes readers on a sublime tour through dive bars and coffeehouses, dilapidated movie theaters and dying malls. A doctor of knowledge, erudite but humble, Farkas creates an enchanting yet down-to-earth collection perfect for indoors, outdoors, or anywhere in between.” —Kathleen Rooney, author of Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey

“Andrew Farkas, the master renovator in these crafted and crafty essays, is the ultimate interior decorator of all things turned inside out. Here the reflections reflect infinite rooms where we are, at once, lost and found, found and lost with-in hallways of infinite with-in-ings.” —Michael Martone, editor of The Complete Writings of Art Smith, the Bird Boy of Fort Wayne

“Throughout this deliriously inventive collection, Andrew Farkas operates like a 1930s Rube Goldberg cartoon jalopy, nimbly galumphing through mundane worlds—a waiting room, a hamburger joint, Tuscaloosa. The elevated performance is grounded by a sincere, persistent question: Where is home?” —David Giffels, author of Barnstorming Ohio: To Understand America

2022 • 174 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-3051-5
DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR
American Essays
JOEY FRANKLIN
Part cultural critique, part parental confessional, Delusions of Grandeur embraces the notion that the personal is always political and reveals important, if sometimes uncomfortable, truths about our American obsessions with race, class, religion, and family.

“I’m a serious admirer of Joey Franklin’s work, and this book gathers some of his very best and most culturally and politically relevant, nuanced, balanced, and penetrating essays.”
—David Shields, author of The Trouble with Men

2020 • 222 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 1 illustration
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1210-8

GET THEE TO A BAKERY
Essays
RICK BAILEY
Part memoir, part travelogue, Get Thee to a Bakery explores both humorous and harrowing aspects of growing older and making sense of social, technological, and environmental change.

“Few essayists convey such joy in being alive. Bailey’s prose is sharp and the essays in Get Thee to a Bakery are as accessible as they are profound.”
—Cal Freeman, author of Fight Songs

2021 • 228 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2551-1

CELESTE HOLM SYNDROME
On Character Actors from Hollywood’s Golden Age
DAVID LAZAR
Longlisted for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay

Celeste Holm Syndrome is a series of essays about character actors, both the famous and lesser known, from Hollywood’s Golden Age.

“Lazar’s writing is both erudite and ardent. He is both professor and cinéaste.”
—Elizabeth Bales Frank, Brevity

2020 • 168 pp. • 5 x 8 • 22 photographs
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0045-7

NEW IN PAPERBACK
SUBLIME PHYSICK
Essays
PATRICK MADDEN
2016 Foreword Reviews Indies Award, Silver
2016 Association for Mormon Letters Award
2017 Independent Publisher Book Award, Gold

Comprised of twelve essays that straddle the classical and the contemporary, Sublime Physick 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.

“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 series

2022 • 264 pp. • 6 x 9 • 24 photographs, 24 illustrations
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-3064-5

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The University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) holds the distinction of offering the longest continuous LGBTQ+ programming of any institution of higher education in the country. The Department of English offered UNL's first LGBTQ+ course in 1970—the first LGBTQ+ class to be taught at a university by an openly gay scholar. Zero Street Fiction emerges from this historical moment and UNL’s decades of commitment to LGBTQ+ literature that followed. The series name “Zero Street” is how Allen Ginsberg referenced Lincoln’s “O” Street in a poem he composed in 1966 while traveling to Nebraska for a reading on UNL’s campus.

Zero Street Fiction invites submissions of novels and short story collections, from LGBTQ+ authors new and established, that feature LGBTQ+ characters and/or themes. We are particularly interested in BIPOC authors, trans authors, and queer authors over 50. Zero Street is committed to literary fiction with commercial potential, and to providing marginalized authors opportunities for a wide readership in the trade fiction market. We are seeking literary fiction of all kinds, from stories of modern life to innovations on traditions of genre.

Submission guidelines for the series can be found online at www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/series/zero-street-fiction/.
For additional inquiries about the series, please contact Courtney Ochsner at cochsner2@unl.edu.
PRIVATE WAY
A Novel
LADETTE RANDOLPH

After being cyber-bullied, Vivi Marx—the founder and owner of a successful social media platform—leaves Southern California for Lincoln, Nebraska, with a plan to cut her cord with the internet and take her life offline for a year. With the help of her neighbors, Willa Cather’s novels, and her own imagination, Vivi finds something she hadn’t known she was searching for.

“A wonderfully wise, vividly written, and deeply absorbing novel that delves into Willa Cather’s question about what is required of ‘a civilized society.’ By turns funny, reflective, and harrowing . . . Private Way is that rare novel that acknowledges the real hazards of civic life while also celebrating its transformative power.”—Suzanne Berne, author of The Dogs of Littlefield

“Ladette Randolph carefully attends to quiet revelations. As with her previous evocative work, the seeming periphery of Nebraska centers the story as the state continues to transform, in unexpected places, for those who take the time to look.”—Gretchen E. Henderson, author of The House Enters the Street

“In richly evocative prose Ladette Randolph describes the triumphs and failures of Vivi’s new life offline. With its complicated characters and lovely evocations of Nebraska, Private Way is a surprising and utterly absorbing novel.”—Margot Livesey, author of The Boy in the Field

2022 • 242 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-3049-2
DEER SEASON
ERIN FLANAGAN

It’s the opening weekend of deer season, and Hal Bullard has gone hunting with some of the locals. That same weekend, a teenage girl goes missing, and Hal returns with a flimsy story about the blood in his truck and a dent near the headlight. When the situation escalates, Alma Costagan and her husband are forced to confront what Hal might be capable of, as rumors fly and townspeople see Hal’s violent past in a new light.

“This is a standout novel of small-town life, powered by the characters’ consequential determination to protect their loved ones at any cost.”—Publishers Weekly, starred review

“With incisive prose and finely wrought tension, Deer Season is an absorbing tale of a small town that is both severed and knitted together by tragedy. This book does not just return us to a forgotten place and time; it recreates it for us. This is fiction at its finest.”—Melissa Fraterrigo, author of Glory Days

“Flanagan subverts the traditional whodunit by pointing the reader not just to multiple suspects but, more importantly and humanely, to the many victims of a single act of violence. She also does it with grace and humor, and without fetishizing or parodying her Nebraskan characters. . . . That it’s compelling, fun, and highly readable is simply the cherry on top.”—Xhenet Aliu, author of Domesticated Wild Things, and Other Stories
THE FRONT
JOURNEY HERBECK

Taking place in the span of twenty-four hours, The Front follows a man and his nine-year-old niece as they try to escape the apocalyptic circumstances that have come to their home. Traveling north through outbreaking war, the pair navigate the disintegrating balance between rival powers. As new lines are drawn, the neutral spot their family had come to occupy is no longer recognized by either side, and the only chance for safety is to try to cross the Northern Line.

“Spare and singular, Journey Herbeck’s haunting The Front is a tender quest story set in a landscape worn thin by violence and privation. Riven with suspense and also much sweetness, this harshly beautiful tale enthralls, cautions, and inspires.”
—Adrianne Harun, author of A Man Came Out of a Door in a Mountain

“Rarely do I come upon a novel that’s genuinely original. The Front is. I’ve never heard a voice like this, never seen a vision like this, never read a story like this. An unforgettable debut by a remarkable talent.”—Ann Pancake, author of Me and My Daddy Listen to Bob Marley

“Here is a book that will make you think. About the future of our planet. About the violence in our hearts. About where the human story is going. But mostly it will make you think about your humanity, about what you’d do to save the ones you love. . . . Herbeck is the real thing.”—Sterling HolyWhiteMountain, lecturer in the Department of English at Stanford University

2021 • 196 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2599-3
THE LEAVE-TAKERS
A Novel
STEVEN WINGATE

Four years ago Jacob Nassedrine from Boston and Laynie Jackman from Los Angeles came within an inch of getting married before things blew apart. They never expected that fate would hurl them back together in a windblown, isolated house on the plains of South Dakota, but that’s where they end up fighting for the future of their relationship—and for their own emotional survival—amid a minefield of ghosts.

“This is overwhelmingly a love story, and a surprisingly sweet one.”—Pamela Miller, Minneapolis Star Tribune

“The novel shimmers with the regenerative possibilities of family and creativity. This is a novel about woundedness but also about the rituals that allow us to free ourselves from the past and find home and healing right where we are.”—Kent Meyers, author of The Work of Wolves

“A book to be savored, a novel you will dwell in during the moments you are away from it, suspended in its incantations and contemplations.”—Chris Harding Thornton, Colorado Review

2021 • 336 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2502-3

RUBY DREAMS OF JANIS JOPLIN
A Novel
MARY CLEARMAN BLEW

When Ruby joins a band and leaves her small hometown, she doesn’t expect to return—especially not bruised and disillusioned. Plying her signature lyrical yet muscular prose, Mary Clearman Blew deftly braids together Ruby’s memories of the past with her present to explore how women contend with the isolation of small towns, the enduring damage done when a community turns against itself, the lasting effects of the abuse of power on the vulnerable, and our capacity to confront the past and heal.

“Ruby Dreams of Janis Joplin represents the latest achievement in Mary Clearman Blew’s distinguished career across several genres. ... Ruby Dreams demonstrates that you can go home again and that home can lead to health. But the return is harrowing.”—O. Alan Weltzien, Western American Literature

“This is a stunning narrative told in vivid detail with the insights of someone who has been there. You will not be able to put it down.”—Annick Smith, coeditor of Wide Open

2018 • 246 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0758-6
NEWLY AVAILABLE FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS

THIS IS NOT THE TROPICS
Stories
LADETTE RANDOLPH

The stories collected in This Is Not the Tropics come from the geographic center of a divided nation, and its protagonists evoke a split personality—one half submerged in America’s own diehard mythology, the other half searching to escape tradition.

“Ladette Randolph’s stories have the sly, subtle intensity of a snake gliding through grass. They sneak up on their characters and the reader alike, invoking humor, grace, and wisdom before pouncing on us with exhilarating epiphanies that are as dark and brutal as they are hopeful.”—Meghan Daum, author of The Quality of Life Report

“[These stories] brim with timeless truths about love, insecurity, and the glue that holds relationships together. . . . Randolph gets each and every character just right.”—Booklist

“Ladette Randolph’s stories sink their teeth into the deep Nebraska Midwest the way that Flannery O’Connor tore into the heart of Georgia. There’s a wonderfully sly, deadpan sweetness at work here, so that it may take a moment to realize how odd and twisty the stories are. . . . These are beautifully crafted, beguiling stories: witty, wise, and wicked.”—Dan Chaon, author of You Remind Me of Me

2022 • 292 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2986-1

nebraskapress.unl.edu | unpblog.com
MAHAGONY
A Novel
ÉDOUARD GLISSANT
TRANSLATED BY BETSY WING

A New York Times New and Noteworthy Book

Unlike the old mahogany tree on Martinique that centers Édouard Glissant’s rich meditation on the island’s troubled history, Martinique’s people were deprived of natural continuity—brought as slaves from Africa, their forced illiteracy prevented them from creating a written record. Glissant’s geographically fixed narrators grapple with place, not only in Africa but in the wider world, where they are more closely related to the other plantation cultures of the West.

“Canonized in the Caribbean for his poetry, novels, and critical theory, [Glissant] offers a dazzling history of colonialism in Martinique, originally published in 1997 and here translated into English for the first time. . . . Glissant (1928–2011) is as comprehensive as he is unconcerned with the encumbrance of linearity, and has found the perfect form to explore the inescapable and reverberating legacies of colonialism. This is a transcendent work of art.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

2021 • 186 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0178-2

OVER SEAS OF MEMORY
A Novel
MICHÀEL FERRIER
TRANSLATED BY MARTIN MUNRO
FOREWORD BY PATRICK CHAMOISEAU

In this novel based loosely on the author’s life, the narrator recounts his journey following the footsteps of his Mauritius-born grandfather, Maxime, who abruptly boarded a boat bound for Madagascar in 1922 and never returned. Ferrier narrates a tale of discovery interwoven with the colorful story of Maxime’s life in Madagascar. Over Seas of Memory weaves personal stories with the island’s history, including its period at the center of what was termed “Project Madagascar,” the Nazi plan to relocate Europe’s Jewish population to the island.

“Resplendent.”—Bertrand Leclair, Le Monde

“Remarkable. . . . Michaël Ferrier explodes all boundaries, all borders, geographical and mental. . . . This very topical book is essential reading.”—Muriel Mingaud, Le Populaire

“What is the only thing that can fight against death? Memory. That’s it. Ferrier has written an adventure novel on memory, a singularly intelligent novel.”—Vincent Roy, Art Press

2019 • 228 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1320-4
THE BACKWATERS PRESS

Founded in 1997, The Backwaters Press has published award-winning books by some of America’s finest writers. The University of Nebraska Press acquired the Backwaters Press in 2018, with its impressive backlist in poetry and prose that contributes to the cultural landscape of our state and region, and continues to plant its roots firmly in the Great Plains.

The Backwaters Prize in Poetry is an international poetry book competition. One poetry manuscript is selected each year as the winner and one as an honorable mention by a committee of preliminary judges and one final judge for inclusion in this series. Cash prizes are awarded to each, and the selected volumes are published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Submission guidelines for the prize series can be found online at www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/the-backwaters-press-prize-in-poetry/. For additional inquiries about the prize, please contact Emily Casillas at emily.casillas@unl.edu.
LONG RULES
An Essay in Verse
NATHANIEL PERRY

A book-length poem in six sections, Long Rules takes readers to five Trappist monasteries in the southeast United States to consider the intersections of solitude, family, music, and landscape. Its lines unspool in a loose and echoing blank verse that investigates monastic rules, sunlight, Saint Basil, turnips, Thomas Merton, saddle-backed caterpillars, John Prine, fatherhood, and everything in between. Long Rules is an essay in verse that contemplates the meaning of solitude and its unique contemporary ramifications in a time of uncertainty.

"In blank verse that is flexible and assured, the poet's attention runs the gamut from Saint Basil to Willie Nelson, from dulcimer acoustics to the caterpillars that eat his blueberry plants. The voice here is neighborly, its pacing exquisite. Perry's rich meditation on nature, community, and the different forms of love brims with music and insight." —Don Bogen, author of Immediate Song

"Long Rules is a joy to read. . . . The skill in putting these poems together is amazing to experience as a reader. The poet teaches about theology and contemplation through musings on songwriters and musicians, making centuries-old thoughts seem at home with us today." —Matt Mason, state poet of Nebraska

2021 • 76 pp. • 6 x 9 • 1 illustration
$15.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2798-0
AN OTHERWISE HEALTHY WOMAN
AMY HADDAD

The poems in An Otherwise Healthy Woman delve into the complexity of modern health care, illness, and healing, offering an alternative narrative to heroics and miracles. Drawing on Amy Haddad’s firsthand experiences as a nurse and patient, the poems in this collection teach us what should be the human response to suffering: take a moment to stop and respond to the longing for compassion in each of us.

“A clear-eyed look at what it is to be on both sides of America’s health care system, this book of poems offers rare insight into the humanity of the health care professional and the humanity of the patient. Sparse and truthful, sorrowful and wise, these poems are necessary in both their deep empathy and their fierce gaze into mortality.”—Ada Limón, author of The Carrying, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award

“Amy Haddad’s poems impress and move as much for their implacable precision as their empathetic alertness to the variations of human pain in the twenty-first century, across a family, an individual life, a world.”—Robert Polito, author of Hollywood and God

“Here is a poet who, when the tension gets to be almost more than the reader can bear, offers up her own brilliant brand of comic relief. One of the strongest collections of poetry I have read in years.”—Cathy Smith Bowers, former poet laureate of North Carolina

2022 • 88 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2785-0

THE BACKWATERS PRIZE IN POETRY HONORABLE MENTION
FOXLOGIC, FIREWEED
JENNIFER K. SWEENEY
The Backwaters Prize in Poetry Winner
Foxlogic, Fireweed follows a lyrical sequence of five physical and emotional terrains—floodplain, coast, desert, suburbia, mesa—braiding themes of nature, domesticity, isolation, and human relationships to recover a connectivity and wonder that seems drained from the screen-tick of daily life.

“In Jennifer K. Sweeney’s beautiful new collection, poems serve as altars for the fierce hearts and fairytales that center our lives. . . . These poems recognize how sacred attention can be. In Foxlogic, Fireweed nothing escapes hiding and nothing escapes love.”—Traci Brimhall
2020 • 114 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2269-5

UNHOLY HEART
New and Selected Poems
GRACE BAUER
Unholy Heart is a collection of Grace Bauer’s best selected poems, marking her twenty-five years as an award-winning poet.

“Grace Bauer is a first-rate narrative metaphorician, telling stories as ideas and ideas as stories. . . . A keen inventiveness lights up every poem in this new and selected collection, in which the beautifully, uniquely observed detail exists not for its own sake but as one more clue leading us toward unsettling discoveries.”—Dorothy Barresi, author of What We Did While We Made More Guns
2021 • 192 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2594-8

EVERYBODY’S JONESIN’ FOR SOMETHING
INDIGO MOOR
The Backwaters Prize in Poetry Honorable Mention
Everybody’s Jonesin’ for Something takes an imagistic leap through the darker side of our search for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, perusing what we lose, what we leave behind, and what strange beauty we uncover.

“Indigo Moor’s new collection shuttles between searing rebuke and hopeful anguish with accents of hard-edged humor. What I love most is the clarity of thought—the no-holds-barred, no-punches-pulled sharpness of the language.”—Tim Seibles, author of One Turn around the Sun
2021 • 114 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2270-1

SKIN MEMORY
JOHN SIBLEY WILLIAMS
The Backwaters Prize in Poetry Honorable Mention
Skin Memory scours a wild landscape haunted by personal tragedy and the cruel consequences of human acts in search of tenderness and regeneration.

“Throughout the pages of this mesmerizing book John [Sibley Williams] allows us time to ponder about the concepts he places into poems—grief, loss, death and dying, identity, tragedy, awakening to some greater aura of being. . . . There is no doubt that John Sibley Williams is a major voice in poetry today.”—San Francisco Review of Books
2019 • 96 pp. • 6 x 9
$15.95 • paperback • 978-1-935218-50-0
IN THE NET

HAWAD

TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY CHRISTOPHER WISE
TRANSLATED FROM TUAREG (TAMAJAGHT) INTO FRENCH BY THE POET AND HÉLÈNE CLAUDOT-HAWAD
FOREWORD BY HÉLÈNE CLAUDOT-HAWAD

In the face of amnesia, how does one exist?
In this poem, Hawad speaks to Azawad, a silent figure named for a portion of Tuareg lands divided among five nation-states created in the 1960s. This evanescent being, deprived of speech, space, and the right to exist, has experienced such misery and oppression that it acquiesces to its own erasure. Through an avalanche of words, sounds, and gestures, Hawad attempts to free this creature from the net that ensnares it.

"Thanks to the excellent forewords by the translators, who contextualize both the original Tuareg text and its metamorphoses into French and then English, these poems retain their explosive quality without sacrificing the sociohistorical context from which they were born. For whom is this book? Students of African studies, translators, artists of all kinds, those searching for homeland, and those seeking the shelter that can be found, for a time, on the page."—Kristiana Kahakauwila, author of This Is Paradise

"Essential" is an overused word in book endorsements, but in this case, it is brilliantly, searingly, the only one possible."—Susanne Paola Antonetta, author of The Terrible Unlikelihood of Our Being Here

2022 • 88 pp. • 6 x 9 • 6 illustrations
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2969-4
YOUR CRIB, MY QIBLA
SADDIQ DZUKOGI

Your Crib, My Qibla interrogates loss, the death of a child, and a father’s pursuit of language able to articulate grief. In these poems, the language of memory functions as a space of mourning, connecting the dead with the world of the living.

“Your Crib, My Qibla journeys through a father’s grief after the loss of his beloved daughter. It takes admirable courage and striking language to seek solace after experiencing the unimaginable.”—Rigoberto González, Oprah Daily

“Perfect for someone who needs to be held in the body until the ‘mind feels like a mind.’”—Amanda Auerbach, Kenyon Review

“With incredible fidelity Dzukogi unravels a series of poems that wrestle with his loss and make meaning of our most unbearable moments. His is a song of embodied witness and recollection shaped by a voice skilled in the musicality of duality. These are poems that find their way to the reader’s depth and open a window to the otherworld.”—Matthew Shenoda, author of Tahrir Suite

2021 • 108 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2577-1

THE RINEHART FRAMES
CHESWAYO MPHANZA
FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES

National Book Critics Circle Finalist in Poetry
Winner of the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poetry, The Rinehart Frames questions the boundaries of diaspora and narrative through a tethering of voices and forms that infringe upon monolithic categorizations of Blackness and what can be intersected with it. The poems are rifts, extensions of an ongoing history, figures, and ultimately are their own labyrinths, which continue the conversations of the infinite possibilities of the imagination to dabble in, with, and out of history.

“A brilliant and formally accomplished reworking of the cento in a collection that conjures the elegance of geometric theorems, while simultaneously revealing a capacious knowledge of, and deep engagement with, art, politics, Afrasporic issues, and the difficult condition of being human.”—M. NourbeSe Philip, author of Zong!

“[An] electrifying debut. . . . This debut marks the arrival of a brilliant and intrepid voice.”—Publishers Weekly, starred review

2021 • 126 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2576-4
‘MAMASEKO
THABILE MAKUE
Named after the poet’s mother, ‘mamaseko is a collection of introspective lyrics and other poems dealing with the intersections of blood relationships and related identities.

“The author’s focus on blood as both the root and the salve for violence is an ingenious metaphor employed throughout the book under numerous guises.” —Veronica Schorr, New York Journal of Books

2020 • 144 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1960-2

EXODUS
‘GBENGA ADEOBA
FOREWORD BY KWAME DAWES
Winner of the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poetry, the collection Exodus explores themes of migration—both forced and free—and of memory, transition, and the intersections between the imagined and the historic.

“There is both passion and beauty in Adeoba’s work, framed by what seems an acute sense of the power of language to capture reality. To capture and reveal truth, shrouded in all its scars, alive somehow with hope.” —Alicia Ostriker, New York state poet laureate

2020 • 78 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1964-0

SACRAMENT OF BODIES
ROMEO ORIOGUN
In the poetry collection Sacrament of Bodies, Romeo Oriogun examines queerness in Nigerian society, masculinity, and the place of memory in grief and survival.

“Oriogun’s tension between the high style of a sermon and the earthiness of love songs gives these poems a particularly memorable touch. . . . But it is his music that finally sways me, it’s music that lifts it all, that makes out of truth-telling a song. The music works here because Oriogun is a master of incantation.” —Ilya Kaminsky, author of Deaf Republic

2020 • 78 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1964-0

MODERN SUDANESE POETRY
An Anthology
TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY ADIL BABIKIR
FOREWORD BY MATTHEW SHENODA, SUPERVISING EDITOR
Spanning more than six decades of Sudan’s postindependence history, this collection features poetry by some of Sudan’s most renowned poets.

“This is an unprecedented accomplishment not only in translation of modern Sudanese poetry but also scholarship on its history, evolution, poetics, and aesthetics. . . . This book is a great addition to the library of Arab poetry in translation.” —Salah M. Hassan, Goldwin Smith Professor of Africana Studies and History of Art and Visual Studies at Cornell University

2019 • 186 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1563-5
PRODUCE WAGON
New and Selected Poems
ROY SCHEELE
INTRODUCTION BY TED KOOSER

The poems in Produce Wagon explore a number of areas of the human experience: the poet's love for his wife, his love of nature, his love for the family he grew up in, and his love of stories. In this collection, Roy Scheele uses a variety of traditional verse forms as well as free verse and syllabics, carefully fitting the form of each poem to his subject matter.

“Roy Scheele is a poet of deep observation and patient discernment. Exquisite in prosody and immaculate in precision, each poem is a hall of mirrors where memory and desire refract off the sharp edges of the observable world.”—Nina Murray, author of Alcestis in the Underworld

“A lifetime’s collection of small and precious things: the pinpoints of the senses, the topography of the soul, these myriad wonders of eloquent plainsong—Roy Scheele’s incomparable, revelatory landscapes of acuity and affection.”—Stephen Behrendt, author of Refractions

“Ted Kooser’s observation has it right: this gorgeous book is first and always music, but enriched by unforgettable imagery, compelling narrative, and ekphrasis. Scheele creates Nebraska—that former sea now prairie—as the setting of the poet’s life, here hauntingly worded, inhabited, and enlivened by intimate memory.”—Rhina P. Espaillat, author of And After All

2022 • 238 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-3057-7

TED KOOSER CONTEMPORARY POETRY
TED KOOSER, SERIES EDITOR
THE TRACK THE WHALES MAKE
New and Selected Poems
MARJORIE SAISER
INTRODUCTION BY TED KOOSER

The Track the Whales Make includes poems from Marjorie Saiser’s seven previous books, along with new poems. Saiser’s poetry originates from the everyday things we might overlook in the hurry of our daily routines, giving us a chance to stop and appreciate the little things while wrapped in her comforting diction.

“Marjorie Saiser is a poet of ephemera, a poet who looks east at sunset to watch subtle light changing: ‘The glow is, and then is gone.’ And so is everyone and everything we love. Saiser tells this truth: ‘Every last thing is transitory.’ She looks at the difficult moments, at the precious fleeting moments: ‘That’s what it was like, though there is no record of it. / Let me be the record of it.’

When a whale’s flukes slip underwater, a trace shimmers for a fraction of a liquid second. That’s the moment of Saiser’s poetry, a poetry of generations of profound compassion, passed down.”—Peggy Shumaker, author of Cairn

“Marjorie Saiser writes, ‘I wanted / the luminous coin, big sky over rooftops, / the celestial and the neighborhood.’ In these pages she finds both and gives them to us in an extraordinary volume of new and selected poems. With one poem, ‘Charmed by the Dirt Road,’ she explains generations of women. I move from delight to tears reading these brilliant, compassionate, and beautifully wrought poems. Saiser is a great poet.”—Hilda Raz, author of Letter from a Place I’ve Never Been

2021 • 200 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2812-3
CARRYING WATER TO THE FIELD
New and Selected Poems
JOYCE SUTHPHEN
INTRODUCTION BY TED KOOSER

Carrying Water to the Field evokes the author’s deeply personal view of life on a small farm, her coming of age in the late 1960s, and her search for balance in a very modern world. The collection includes forty new poems on the themes of luck, hard work, and the ravages of time.

“Precise in the language of everyday, rich in wisdom and maturity, Joyce Sutphen’s newest collection, her eighth, speaks to her comfort with farm life, travel, aging, the distortions of memory.”—Matt Sutherland, Foreword Reviews

“The writing in Carrying Water to the Field is faultless. . . . And even more satisfying is the fact that this brilliant technique justifies and is justified by the truth value of these poems, which usher us into the reality of time, change, loss, and memory’s belated and beautiful insights.”—Vijay Seshadri, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of Three Sections: Poems

2019 • 240 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1636-6

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.

“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

“Costanzo is a grief-ridden observer of the kulchur. 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.”—Gerald Stern

“Costanzo’s wit and satire and vision of the grotesque world of America get to the center of much of the madness of our culture.”—Peter Balakian

2018 • 156 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0586-5
LETTER FROM A PLACE I’VE NEVER BEEN
New and Collected Poems, 1986–2020

HILDA RAZ
EDITED BY KWAME DAWES
INTRODUCTION BY JOHN KINSELLA

Hilda Raz has spent a lifetime with books, loving them, writing them, teaching and editing them. Letter from a Place I’ve Never Been shows the evolution of an American poet whose many collections reveal a writer of immense power and relevance. Including more than twenty new poems, the collection showcases an influential American poet’s work over the past three and a half decades.

“Hilda Raz makes an argument for poetry as a way of healing our brokenness. These are poems that remake the world of ‘melt and fracture’—using language that growls from the page—so that it belongs to everyone, all the ‘odd and splendid’ parts of ourselves worthy of examination, of praise.”—Jehanne Dubrow, author of Dots & Dashes

2021 • 480 pp. • 6 x 9
$29.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2682-2

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM HILDA RAZ

TRANS
Trans grew out of Hilda Raz’s experience with her son’s journey to a transgender identity. The collection of poems moves between past and present, allowing Raz to reflect on her own childhood and on her experience with breast cancer to find ways to connect with her son, Aaron.

2021 • 96 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2816-1

ALL ODD AND SPLENDID
This collection of poems is an exploration of lives and selves transformed by choice and by chance.

2021 • 102 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2817-8

DIVINE HONORS
This elegant and moving collection of poems documents Hilda Raz’s experience with breast cancer.

2021 • 120 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2815-4

WHAT HAPPENS
The musically wrought and emotionally candid poems explore the pleasure and pain of family relationships, the complicated joy of being a woman, and the unconventional beauty of the Great Plains.

2021 • 138 pp. • 6 x 9
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2818-5
WHAT ISN’T REMEMBERED
Stories
KRISTINA GORCHEVA-NEWBERRY
Longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection
The stories in What Isn’t Remembered explore the burden, the power, and the nature of love between people who often feel misplaced and estranged from their deepest selves and the world, where they cannot find a home. The characters yearn not only to redefine themselves and rebuild their relationships but also to recover lost loves—a parent, a child, a friend, a spouse, a partner.

“In Russian Armenian Gorcheva-Newberry’s vibrant collection, a series of immigrants embrace their adopted culture while remaining rootless and shackled to the past. . . .

Throughout, the situations are arresting and the images indelible. Gorcheva-Newberry’s luminous prose will remain vivid in the reader’s mind.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

“Every reader who treasures powerful, surprising, and memorable short stories will find much to appreciate in this stunning first book.” —Lindsay Harmon, Booklist, starred review

“The stories of What Isn’t Remembered run an emotional marathon. They are virtuosic, bold, and unsparing as they talk about ‘history and personal experiences, hunger and pain as [we continue] living through them, as though nothing ever ended but coexisted in parallel worlds.’” —Letitia Montgomery-Rodgers, Foreword Reviews, starred

2021 • 266 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2913-7
IF THE BODY ALLOWS IT
Stories
MEGAN CUMMINS

Divided into six parts, If the Body Allows It is framed by the story of Marie, a woman in her thirties living in Newark, New Jersey. Suffering from a chronic autoimmune illness, she also struggles with guilt about the overdose and death of her father, whom she feels she betrayed at the end of his life. Within this frame are the stories the narrator writes after she meets and falls in love with a man whose grief mirrors her own.

“Cummins’s innovative work delivers well-crafted stories, vivid characters, and unsettling emotional gravitas.”—Publishers Weekly

“In this collection of stories, the art of truth-telling has been combined with the magic of fortune-telling. . . . Moving and haunting, edgy and searching, reaffirming and devastating. To read it is to be dazzled, and to be changed. A serious accomplishment.”—Laura Kasischke, author of Mind of Winter

“There is great wisdom here, and solace, and brilliance, and surprising laughs. I loved this book so much.”—Alice Elliott Dark, author of In the Gloaming

2020 • 270 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2283-1

EXTINCTION EVENTS
Stories
LIZ BREAZEALE

This collection of short stories explores the connections between humans and the natural world by examining the processes and history of our planet. Dark, angry, and apocalyptic, Extinction Events is a compendium of all the ways in which life can be annihilated.

“In Breazeale’s world a climatologist anticipates the destruction of Kiribati, her island home: ‘We won’t let ourselves be eroded. You can’t disappear us.’ These stories pit our most intimate aspirations against cosmic extinctions—truly spellbinding, essential stories of our time.”—Wendell Mayo, author of Survival House

“With a bold contemporary relevance, this collection captures the giddy wonder inside our panic. . . . Liz Breazeale stands her characters in the dusty history of the Chicxulub crater as they recite the poetry of humanity’s everyday aches, the breath of the dinosaurs on their necks. In the face of a mandatory evacuation, one is tempted to batten down the hatches and curl up with this marvel of a book.”—Jennifer Murvin, graphic narrative editor of Moon City Review

2019 • 138 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1562-8
DEAR DIASPORA
SUSAN NGUYEN

Dear Diaspora sheds light on the intersections of girlhood and diaspora. In this collection we follow Suzi, caught between enjoying a rundown American adolescence and living with the inheritances of war, as she explores the multiplicities of identity and selfhood against the backdrop of the Vietnamese diaspora. Through a collage of lyric, documentary, and epistolary poems, the collection scrutinizes our turning away from the trauma of our past and our complicity in its erasure.

“Nguyen’s poetry reveals a remarkable embrace of complexity while accounting for the difficulties of complicity, witness, and forgiveness. The final poem opens, ‘I am learning how to hold grief / in my mouth.’ This powerful debut attests to that endeavor, and the way in which such work is necessary, beautiful, and full of complexity.”—Publishers Weekly, starred review

“Susan Nguyen’s gorgeous book maps out the longing of a particular Vietnamese immigrant experience . . . and also captures, through its documentary research, a collection of voices of Vietnam War refugees in the aftermath . . . Dear Diaspora is a heartbreaking and breathtaking debut.”—Cathy Linh Che, author of Split

“‘Last night I had the American dream,’ Nguyen writes, puncturing the dream bubble in which ‘America’ exists as the only and inevitable state of success and belonging . . . . The poems in Dear Diaspora offer us a lexicon we’ve needed to imagine how we might arrive at and receive one another better in land and language, in memory and touch.”—Natalie Diaz, author of Postcolonial Love Poem

2021 • 78 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2790-4
SOME ARE ALWAYS HUNGRY
JIHYUN YUN

Some Are Always Hungry chronicles a family’s wartime survival, immigration and heirloom trauma through the lens of food, or the lack thereof. Through the vehicle of recipe and butchery poems, the collection negotiates the myriad ways diasporic communities comfort and name themselves in other nations, as well as the ways cuisine is inextriably linked to colonization, history, and survival.

"Unflinching in subject matter and elegant in expression. This contrast of painful moments, beautifully rendered, makes for compelling reading." —Sylvia Santiago, Kenyon Review

"Image by clear-eyed image, sound by tightly wrought sound, the poems in Some Are Always Hungry are a thundering revelation. At once a reckoning with immigration and historical trauma and rooted in the sensorial world, these poems are timeless and ongoing." —Ada Limón, author of The Carrying

"Yun shows us how hope can be fashioned out of the desire to speak on and through atrocities. This book is one of those rare collections that stuns me back to my own life, somehow renewed, somehow better, kinder, and less alone." —Ocean Vuong, author of Night Sky with Exit Wounds

2020 • 90 pp. • 6 x 9
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2218-3

HARD DAMAGE
ARIA ABER

Hard Damage charts the intergenerational damage caused by war, environmental loss, and the collective grief of exile. The book revolves around questions of the legitimacy of "inherited exile": what is one allowed to feel homesick for and why? How is the self complicit in warfare? By challenging the traditional codes of metaphor and myth and by manipulating etymology, syntax, grammar, and different languages, Aria Aber’s lyric poems and essayistic fragments explore the rich complexity of identity.

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