

A surreal photograph of a woman in a long, flowing teal dress sitting on a beach. She is looking up at a large, billowing, white cloud that appears to be rising from her head. The background shows the ocean and a cloudy sky. The text 'Mad Creek Books' is overlaid on the image in a white serif font.

Mad
Creek
Books

AN IMPRINT OF THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY PRESS



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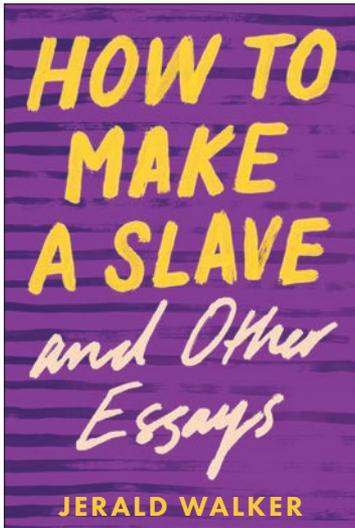
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HOW TO MAKE A SLAVE AND OTHER ESSAYS

Jerald Walker

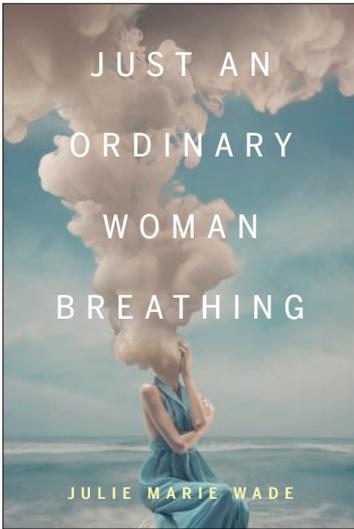
November 2020
\$19.95 paperback

Available Fall 2020

“No one—absolutely no one—I’ve read is writing better than Jerald Walker about race, being black, and the depths and complexities of our humanity.” —**Charles Johnson**, author of *Middle Passage*

“These extraordinarily candid essays crackle with humor and dramatic tension. Jerald Walker is one of the most gifted essayists of our time.” —**Robert Atwan**, series editor, *Best American Essays*

For the black community, Jerald Walker asserts in *How to Make a Slave*, “anger is often a prelude to a joke, as there is broad understanding that the triumph over this destructive emotion lay in finding its punchline.” It is on the knife’s edge between fury and farce that the essays in this exquisite collection balance. Whether confronting the medical profession’s racial biases, considering the complicated legacy of Michael Jackson, paying homage to his writing mentor James Alan McPherson, or attempting to break free of personal and societal stereotypes, Walker elegantly blends personal revelation and cultural critique. The result is a bracing and often humorous examination by one of America’s most acclaimed essayists of what it is to grow, parent, write, and exist as a black American male. Walker refuses to lull his readers; instead his missives urge them to do better as they consider, through his eyes, how to be a good citizen, how to be a good father, how to live, and how to love.



JUST AN ORDINARY WOMAN BREATHING

Julie Marie Wade

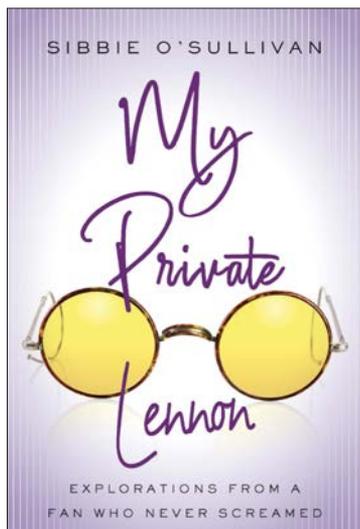
2020
\$18.95 paperback

“Intelligent and lyrical, the narrative mingles often comic musings on female embodiment with insightful observations about the meaning of love and self-acceptance. A sharp, innovative text.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“These smart, language-rich, self-knowing essays manage a beautiful balance of the comic and the rueful. Whether affirming or rebutting the notion that ‘anatomy is destiny,’ they fulfill our contemporary longing for an embodied literature.” —**Phillip Lopate**

You have a history, and a body. You are a history, and a body. Your body has (is) a history, too. As a girl, Julie Marie Wade was uninterested in makeup, boy-watching, and other trappings of conventional girlhood, much to her mother’s disappointment. Grace Kelly and Marilyn Monroe—movie stars immortalized as feminine ideals, even as they both died tragically and young—were lodestars who threw Wade’s own definition of beauty into relief as she stumbled into adulthood.

Now, in *Just an Ordinary Woman Breathing*, Wade traces the intimate story of coming of age in one particular body (as a lesbian, an only child, a Protestant attending Catholic school). She uses the language and tenets of music, math, religion, fairy tales, poetry, and art to reckon with the many facets of embodiment, sexuality, and love in our contemporary world. The diet industry, popular culture, and her own family all provide rich material for what is ultimately a lyrical and unflinching investigation into the questions that prickle deep within the human heart.



MY PRIVATE LENNON

Explorations from a Fan Who Never Screamed

Sibbie O'Sullivan

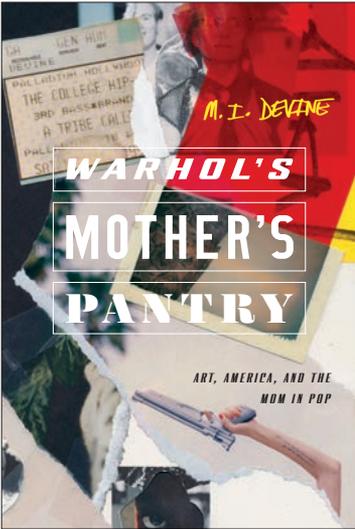
2020
\$17.95 paperback

“O’Sullivan makes connections between the adolescent world of Beatlemania, the poetry of T. S. Eliot, the sound of ‘No Reply,’ and the untidy nature of memory that no writer has made before. Finely written, insightful, and unusually candid, her book will capture its readers.” —David Hepworth, author of *Nothing Is Real: The Beatles Were Underrated and Other Sweeping Statements About Pop*

“Given how much support women and girls provided the Beatles before they became cultural icons, it’s astounding how absent female voices have been from Beatles history even fifty-plus years later. *My Private Lennon* fills that gap and will inspire other female voices to be heard.” —Caryn Rose, author of *B-Sides and Broken Hearts*

My Private Lennon: Explorations from a Fan Who Never Screamed offers a new point of view from which to consider the Beatles’ impact on society and on the individual. In a series of linked autobiographical essays that explore the musical, cultural, and personal aspects of intense music fandom, Sibbie O’Sullivan dismantles the grand narrative of the fifteen-year-old hysterical female Beatles fan and replaces it with an introspective and often humorous tale about how the band shaped her intellectual and artistic development.

My Private Lennon charts the author’s realization that the Beatles, especially John Lennon, were a crucial force in her development. A radical departure from other books written by Beatles fans, *My Private Lennon* invites its readers to consider subjects not usually found in works about Lennon and the band, such as the constraints of memory, the male body, grief, the female breast, race, cultural issues, and the importance of privacy in our over-mediated world. In pieces that engage cultural issues and historical contexts, *My Private Lennon* creates a witty and provocative intimacy with readers who value the power of art to change one’s life and who love John Lennon and the Beatles.



WARHOL'S MOTHER'S PANTRY

Art, America, and the Mom in Pop

M. I. Devine

Experimental essays, inspired by Andy Warhol's mother, Julia, that provide a literary and cultural history of a new pop humanism.

November 2020

\$24.95 paperback

Winner of the 2019 Gournay Prize

Available Fall 2020



DON'T LOOK NOW

Things We Wish We Hadn't Seen

Edited by Kristen Iversen and David Lazar

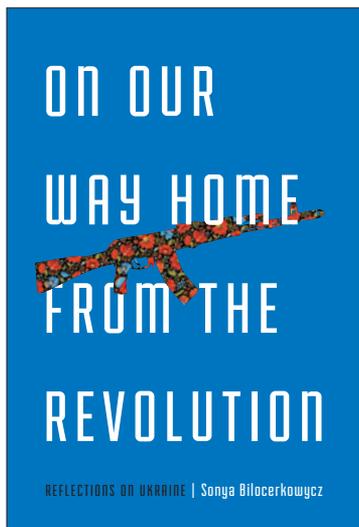
“How does the heart bear unbidden shock? What are the rules of engagement with ferocious memories? These gorgeous essays perform acts of homage, bravery, and forgiveness; show what can be made of the searing left by life-altering experiences; and point us toward a deeper understanding of both vulnerability and the capacity to rebuild at the blast site.” —**Lia Purpura**

Essays about the things we see that we can't unsee and how we carry on in the wake of those moments.

October 2020

\$21.95 paperback

Available Fall 2020



ON OUR WAY HOME FROM THE REVOLUTION

Reflections on Ukraine

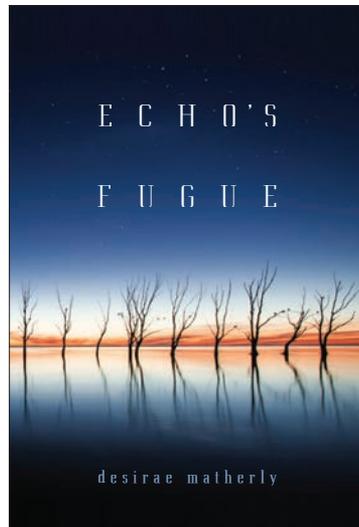
Sonya Bilocerkowycz

“The essays build to a shocking discovery that provides a thud of misunderstanding about our collective pasts—our very ideas of ourselves—that is so profound that I have a hard time imagining a reader who will not feel equally stunned and seen. . . . A] magnificent debut.” —**Annie McGreevy**, *Chicago Review of Books*

Following the 2014 Ukrainian revolution, a child of the Ukrainian diaspora challenges her formative ideologies, considers innocence and complicity, and questions the roots of patriotism.

2019
\$19.95 paperback

Winner of the 2018 Gournay Prize



ECHO'S FUGUE

Desirae Matherly

“*Echo's Fugue* transforms the personal essay into a listening essay, a fugue-flight, a ‘covert correspondence,’ and an interactive diagram of the heart. Marked by the signature attunement that is the hallmark of her art, Desirae Matherly’s wide-ranging experiments with form and vantage achieve a self-betraying clarity that is unsurpassed.” —**Mary Cappello**

As love, sex, and art intersect in an elaborate game, these essays explore a mystery encoded in Bach’s *The Art of Fugue*.

2019
\$19.95 paperback



THE TROUBLE WITH MEN

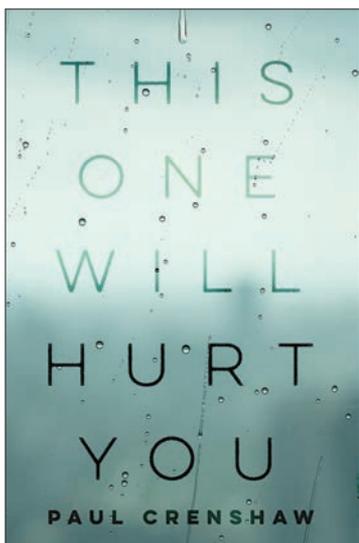
Reflections on Sex, Love, Marriage, Porn, and Power

David Shields

“I often found this book beguiling, and moving. There is always the temptation, in writing about sex, to sound superior, arch, immune to its power. But Shields writes from a place of genuine curiosity and confusion. He is ridiculous and brave, he never conflates sincerity with genuine candor, and he poses the kinds of questions that only ever bring trouble (and are the only kind worth reading about).” —*Parul Sehgal, The New York Times*

An unnervingly naked examination of one man’s sexual psyche and marriage as a window onto the operation of power between men and women.

2019
\$18.95 paperback



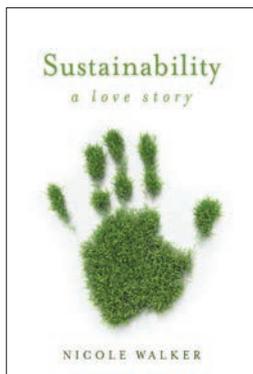
THIS ONE WILL HURT YOU

Paul Crenshaw

“The author is a consummate craftsman, whether of concision . . . or in a longer illumination of the elliptical slipperiness of truth.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

Essays on place and violence and the faith it takes to hold a family together in the world in which we live.

2019
\$19.95 paperback



SUSTAINABILITY

A Love Story

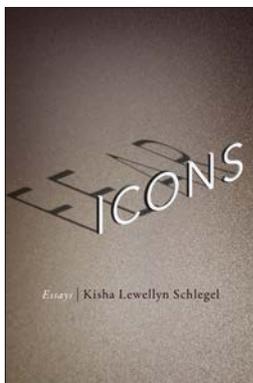
Nicole Walker

“With her sobering and at times darkly humorous writing, Walker brings a refreshingly original perspective to sustainability. She is at once pessimistic and optimistic, somewhat fearful and cautiously hopeful. . . . Her book is a challenge to others to think about the unique role they can play in sustaining the planet.”

—*Foreword Reviews*

Personal essays examining what it means to live and love sustainably while still being able to have Internet and eat bacon.

2018
\$23.95 paperback



FEAR ICONS

Essays

Kisha Lewellyn Schlegel

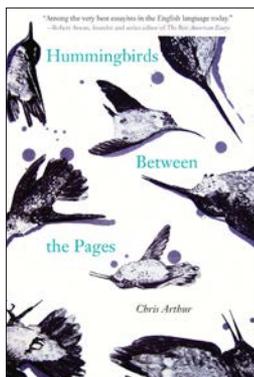
“*Fear Icons* embraces an assemblage of forms to dissect the topics that obsess her: those directly informed by love and fear.”

—*Los Angeles Review of Books*

Reflections on the myriad forms that fear takes and an examination of the ways that love and fear intensify each other.

2018
\$19.95 paperback

Winner of the Inaugural Gournay Prize



HUMMINGBIRDS BETWEEN THE PAGES

Chris Arthur

“Among the very best essayists in the English language today.”

—**Robert Atwan, founder and series editor of the *Best American Essays***

An acclaimed writer’s ruminations on the layer beneath life’s quotidian moments, from Darwin to Buddha and back.

2018
\$23.95 paperback



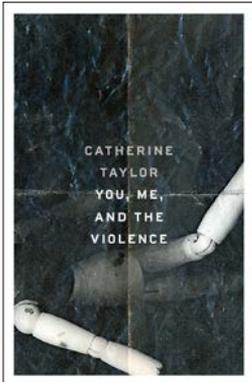
LOVE'S LONG LINE

Sophronia Scott

"In her first collection of essays, the American novelist Sophronia Scott writes about her life as a mother, a daughter, and a person of faith. . . . Scott's calm confidence in her craft and her generosity with her subjects give consistent pleasure." —*Times Literary Supplement*

A rumination on faith, motherhood, race, and human connection after the shooting at her son's school, Sandy Hook Elementary.

2018
\$19.95 paperback



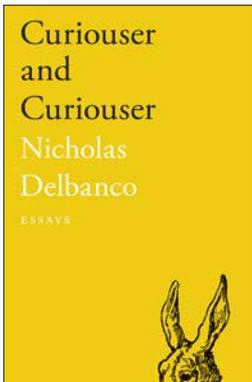
YOU, ME, AND THE VIOLENCE

Catherine Taylor

"While art might not have the power to end violence or manufacture the empathy of first-person witness to traumatic events *You, Me, and the Violence* shows that it does have the capacity to push us beyond the forms we have been given, drawing us closer together and activating the agency to articulate truths that without art we cannot know." —*Los Angeles Review of Books*

Pairs puppetry and drone warfare to create a collage of meditations on family, politics, violence, autonomy, and, ultimately, hope.

2017
\$19.95 paperback



CURIOSER AND CURIOSER

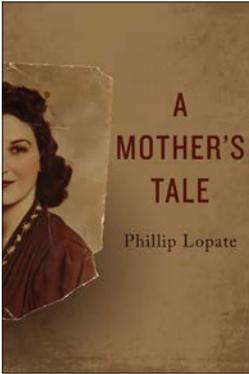
Essays

Nicholas Delbanco

"Delbanco has a fine intellect and a sharp pen, and he wields both with precision." —*Harvard Review*

Essays on literary life, music, and the visual arts that, taken together, stand as installments "towards an autobiography" of a preeminent author and critic.

2017
\$19.95 paperback



A MOTHER'S TALE

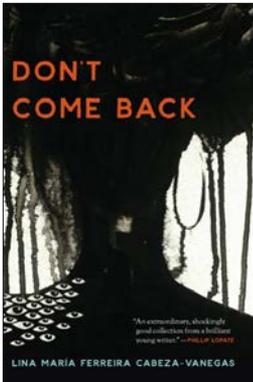
Phillip Lopate

"[A] fascinating and deftly constructed book." —**Jerald Walker**,
The New York Times Book Review

"*A Mother's Tale* shines with pain and laughter. . . . Lopate's book is an antisentimental tour de force."—**Benjamin Taylor**, author of
Proust: The Search

Trying to break open the family myths, rationalizations, and self-deceptions, *A Mother's Tale* is about family members who love each other but who can't seem to overcome their mutual mistrust.

2017
\$18.95 paperback
\$24.95 jacketed cloth



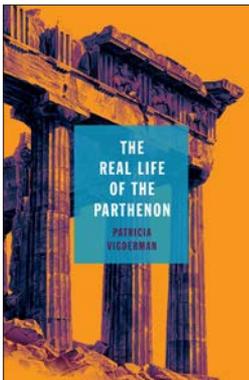
DON'T COME BACK

Lina María Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas

"*Don't Come Back* is Ferreira's unflinching look at the space between languages—life, she shows her readers, is always in translation."—*The Paris Review*

An exploration of home and identity through personal essays about growing up in Colombia amidst its conflicting myths and histories.

2017
\$22.95 paperback



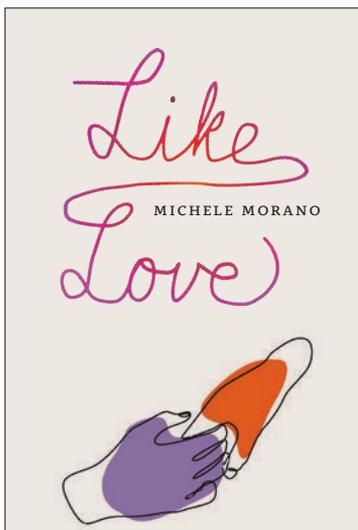
THE REAL LIFE OF THE PARTHENON

Patricia Vigderman

"The work is a sequence of beautifully interwoven meditations. Like any wide-awake traveler, Ms. Vigderman asks questions. . . . Owing to bravura writing, this book is as rewarding for an armchair traveler as for a first-time or seasoned one." —*The Wall Street Journal*

Gathers present meaning for antiquity's remains, illuminating a crucial element of contemporary cultural life: the dynamic between loss and delight.

2018
\$21.95 paperback



LIKE LOVE

Michele Morano

September 2020
\$21.95 paperback

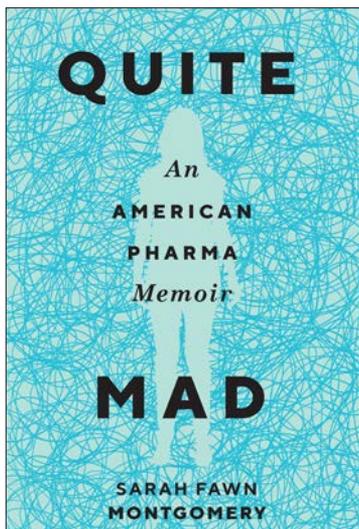
Available Fall 2020

“In this breathtaking memoir-in-essays, Michele Morano illuminates romantic love in its many complex manifestations: romantic friendship, maternal love, the intense desire for contact that isn’t exactly sexual but almost is. Her portrayals of the people who have inspired these feelings are always astute and generous. This daring book expands our notion of what love is.” —**Kyoko Mori**

Crushes. Infatuations. Attractions. Unexpected, inexplicable allure. Entanglements steeped in taboo and disruption. In *Like Love*, nothing is off limits.

In these remarkable essays, Michele Morano explores the pleasures, possibilities, strangeness, and lessons of unconsummated romance. With insight and imagination, *Like Love* interweaves poignant, humorous episodes from adulthood with the backstory of a young family’s turbulent breakup. When Morano was an adolescent in blue-collar Poughkeepsie, New York, her mother left her father for a woman in an era when LGBTQ parents were widely viewed as “unfit.” Through the turmoil, adolescent Morano paid attention, tucking away the stories that were shaping her and guiding her understanding of love.

Turning romantic clichés inside out and challenging us to rethink our notions about what it means to love, *Like Love* tells hard and necessary truths about the importance of desire in growing, teaching, traveling, mourning, parenting, and figuring out who you are—and who you can be—in the world. With precision and depth, Morano doesn’t shy away from the taboo as she explores what it means to find ourselves in relationships that are not quite—but almost—like love.



QUITE MAD

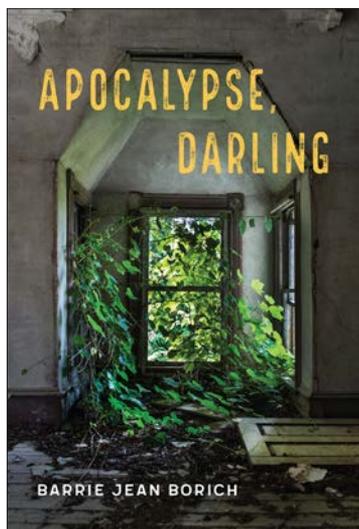
An American Pharma Memoir

Sarah Fawn Montgomery

“A wrenching account of a difficult upbringing and a chaotic brain that will leave readers marveling at the author’s endurance. . . . The author offers a gripping picture of the real pain and suffering of someone diagnosed with chronic mental illness.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

A young woman’s fiercely vulnerable memoir about seeking cure and speaking truth in the midst of America’s mental health crisis.

2018
\$23.95 paperback



APOCALYPSE, DARLING

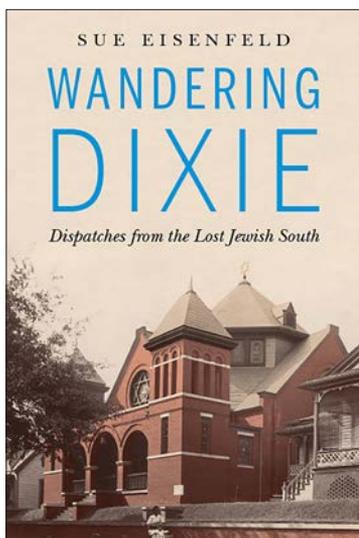
Barrie Jean Borich

“Every page reveals the depth of Borich’s craft. . . . *Apocalypse, Darling* is a book for attentive readers, and is best read in one sitting. The magic of Borich’s prose makes it difficult to look away.” —*Lambda Literary*

An award-winning author offers an urgent collision of broken spaces, dysfunctional affections, and the reach toward familial and environmental repair.

2018
\$18.95 paperback

Nominated for 2018 Lambda Book Award



WANDERING DIXIE

Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South

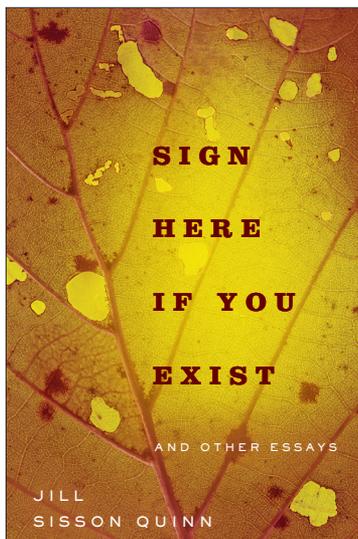
Sue Eisenfeld

2020
\$19.95 paperback

“[Eisenfeld] grounds her historical analysis in personal reflection as she travels to small towns with lost or vanishing Jewish histories. . . . Her ruminations highlight both Jewish history and lack of current resources to maintain sites and records. . . . Her stories provide many revealing tidbits for those who enjoy self-reflective historical writing.” —*Publishers Weekly*

Sue Eisenfeld is a Yankee by birth, a Virginian by choice, an urbanite who came to love the rural South, a Civil War buff, and a nonobservant Jewish woman. In *Wandering Dixie*, she travels to nine states, uncovering how the history of Jewish southerners converges with her personal story and the region’s complex, conflicted present. In the process, she discovers the unexpected ways that race, religion, and hidden histories intertwine.

From South Carolina to Arkansas, she explores the small towns where Jewish people once lived and thrived. She visits the site of her distant cousin and civil rights activist Andrew Goodman’s murder during 1964’s Freedom Summer. She also talks with the only Jews remaining in some of the “lost” places, from Selma to the Mississippi Delta to Natchitoches, and visits areas with no Jewish community left—except for an old temple or overgrown cemetery. Eisenfeld follows her curiosity about Jewish Confederates and casts an unflinching eye on early southern Jews’ participation in slavery. Her travels become a journey of revelation about our nation’s fraught history and a personal reckoning with the true nature of America.



SIGN HERE IF YOU EXIST AND OTHER ESSAYS

Jill Sisson Quinn

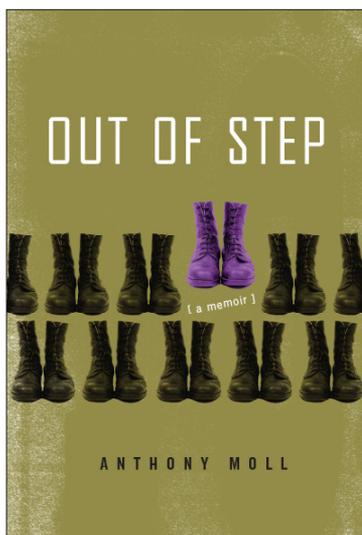
August 2020
\$19.95 paperback

Available Fall 2020

“Quinn’s prose—burnished by her deep knowledge of the natural world and by the honesty and eloquence with which she shares her fears and desires—knocks me flat.” —**Mary Roach**, author of *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*

“Quinn, like Thoreau, is an explorer and namer of things, always curious, giving equal attention to the worlds inside and outside of us. Her voice is at once poetic and scientific—exactly what we need in today’s overheated world.” —**David Gessner**, author of *Leave It As It Is: A Journey Through Theodore Roosevelt’s American Wilderness*

Sign Here If You Exist explores states of being and states of mind, from the existence of God to sense of place to adoptive motherhood. In it, Jill Sisson Quinn examines how these states both disorient and anchor us as she treks through forests, along shorelines and into lakes and rivers as well as through memories and into scientific literature. Each essay hinges on an unlikely pairing—parasitic wasps and the afterlife, or salamanders and parenthood—in which each element casts the other in unexpectedly rich light. Quinn joins the tradition of writers such as Annie Dillard, Scott Russell Sanders, and Eula Biss to deliver essays that radiate from the junction of science and imagination, observation and introspection, and research and reflection.



OUT OF STEP

A Memoir

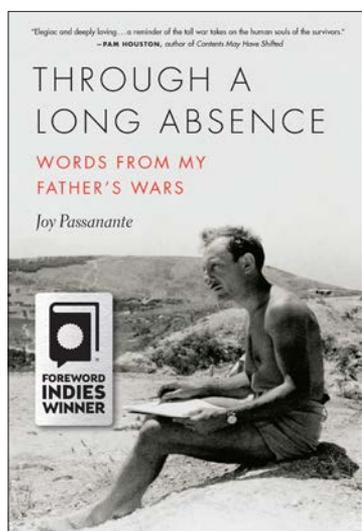
Anthony Moll

“Filled with raw emotion, wry humor, and unselfconscious reflection, the story conveys Moll’s unwavering sense of self in a refreshing, inspiring way. *Out of Step* is a personal story whose impact is far reaching and life affirming.” —*Foreword Reviews*

A queer coming-of-age-story set against the backdrop of the US military during the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” era.

2018
\$18.95 paperback

Lambda Literary Award Winner
Winner of *The Journal* Non/Fiction Prize



THROUGH A LONG ABSENCE

Words from My Father's Wars

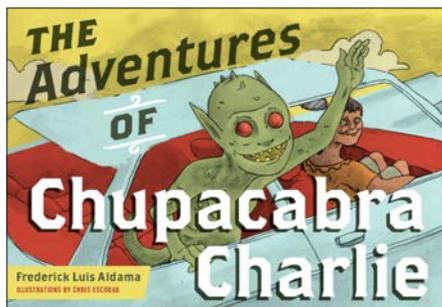
Joy Passanante

“It’s absorbing and affecting in every detail. *Through a Long Absence* is one from the heart. It’ll take a piece out of you.”
—Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

This book tells the story of one man coming of age as a young surgeon performing operations in tents under fire, struggling in St. Louis as a child bootlegger and the son of Sicilian immigrants, and taking up a passionate love affair with his Jewish wife.

2017
\$23.95 paperback

Foreword Indies Winner



THE ADVENTURES OF CHUPACABRA CHARLIE

Written by Frederick Luis Aldama

Illustrated by Chris Escobar

2020

\$9.95 paperback

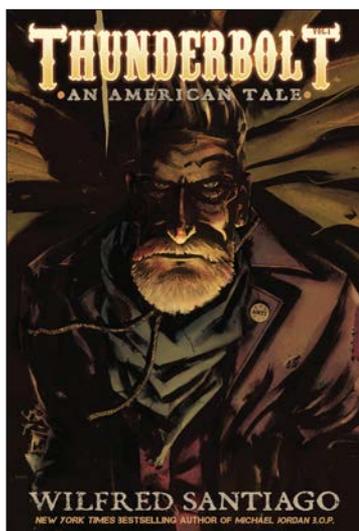
“A riveting adventure where a human and a chupacabra join forces to free the *niños* held by the Big People in Green.” —Norma Elia Cantú, author of *Meditación Fronteriza*

“A breathtaking story that inspires us with the help of a chupacabra and a little girl to care for those who have sacrificed everything!” —Raúl the Third, author/illustrator and winner of the Pura Belpré Award

“As an author, parent, and appreciator of great art: I LOVE this book. Fantastically imaginative, poignant, and artful, this is a story that resonates beyond the adventure of Chupacabra Charlie. It’s about us Latinxs, our struggles, and our dreams—and the will within us to achieve them. A must for our children, us adults, and all our libraries.”

—Daniel Chacón, author of *Kafka in a Skirt* and *Hotel Juárez*

Chupacabra Charlie is a polite, handsome, and unusually tall ten-year-old chupacabra yearning for adventure beyond the edge of los Estados Unidos, not far to the north. Little does Charlie know when he befriends a young human, Lupe, that together, with only some leftover bacon quesadillas and a few cans of Jumex, they might just encounter more adventure than they can handle. Along the way, they meet strange people and unexpected dangers at the US–Mexico border that put their bravery to the test. Thankfully, Charlie never doubts that he and Lupe will return safely home.



THUNDERBOLT

An American Tale, Vol. 1
Wilfred Santiago

2019
\$17.95 paperback

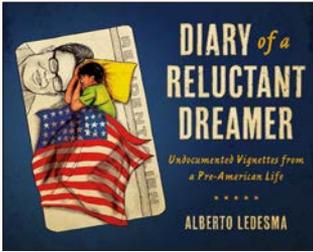
“A firecracker exploration about our national origins.”
—**Ilan Stavans**, author of the best-selling *Don Quixote of La Mancha: The Graphic Novel*

“Set in an increasingly divided America, Santiago vividly brings alive the abolitionist John Brown’s violent war against slavery. We need compelling stories of our past like *Thunderbolt* to wake us all to our present. What a gift!” —**Roberta Gregory**, *Naughty Bits*

Hero. Terrorist. Martyr. Madman. *Thunderbolt: An American Tale* tells the true story of Old John Brown: abolitionist, insurrectionist, and American legend.

As a young boy in nineteenth-century America, Captain John Brown swore to dedicate his life to the struggle against slavery. Years later, he and his sons have joined the fight in Kansas, the epicenter of the national debate over slavery. As the territory nears statehood, abolitionists and proslavery border ruffians clash in increasingly violent conflict across the territory. But John Brown has more in mind than border skirmishes. He aims to eliminate slavery from US soil once and for all—even if that means raiding a government armory in order to arm a national slave revolt. From the Pottawatomie Massacre to the Battle of Black Jack and the Battle of Osawatimie, this first installment in the story of the legendary John Brown traces the rise of the insurrection in stunning detail.

Gritty, gripping, and masterfully illustrated, Wilfred Santiago’s telling of John Brown’s tale pulls no punches as it unflinchingly recounts the epic struggle across pre-Civil War America. And while John Brown’s methods may be questionable, his story is unforgettable. After all, dying is part of the plan.



DIARY OF A RELUCTANT DREAMER

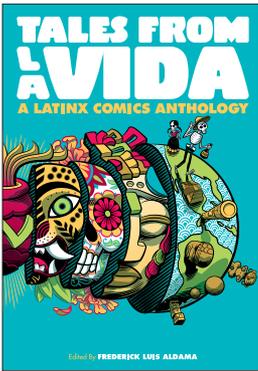
Undocumented Vignettes from a Pre-American Life

Alberto Ledesma

From undocumented to “hyper documented,” one man’s illustrated memoir about personal and national identity.

2017

\$17.95 paperback



TALES FROM LA VIDA

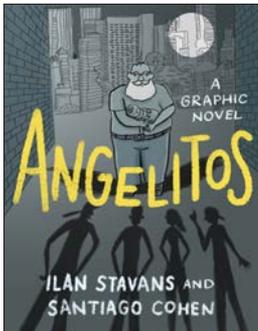
A Latinx Comics Anthology

Edited by Frederick Luis Aldama

One-of-a-kind collection of Latinx comics that sheds light on Latinx experiences, exploring language, culture, history, and more.

2018

\$17.95 paperback



ANGELITOS

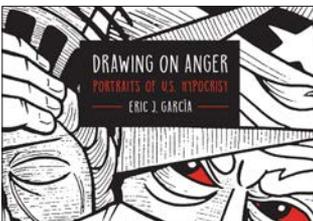
A Graphic Novel

Ilan Stavans and Santiago Cohen

A graphic novel about the volatile nature of existence on the fringes of society in Mexico City.

2018

\$17.95 paperback



DRAWING ON ANGER

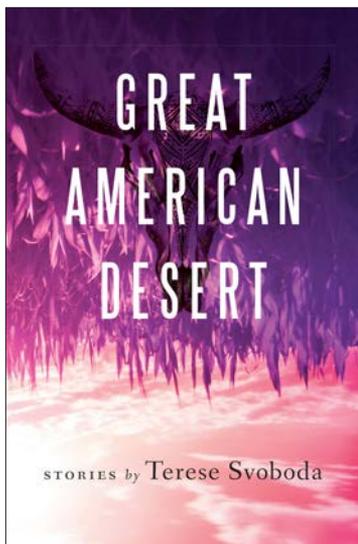
Portraits of U.S. Hypocrisy

Eric J. García

Over a decade’s worth of satirical illustrations of Uncle Sam’s hypocritical foreign and domestic policies through a Chicano lens.

2018

\$18.95 paperback



GREAT AMERICAN DESERT

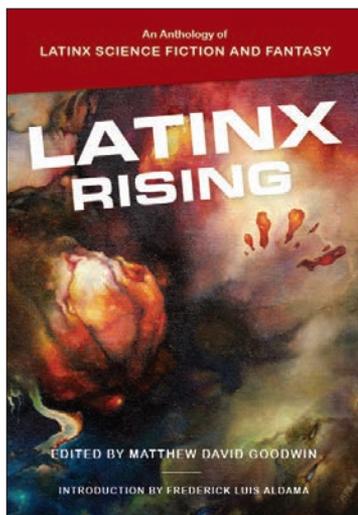
Stories

Terese Svoboda

“[Svoboda’s] enigmatic sentences, elliptical narratives, and percussive plots delve into the possibilities of form, genre, and plausible futures, but always with an eye on the vast subterranean psychologies of her all-too-real creations.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Stories from prehistoric times to the future—about land, our abuse of the land, and the impact on the people who come after.

2019
\$21.95 paperback



LATINX RISING

An Anthology of Latinx Science Fiction and Fantasy

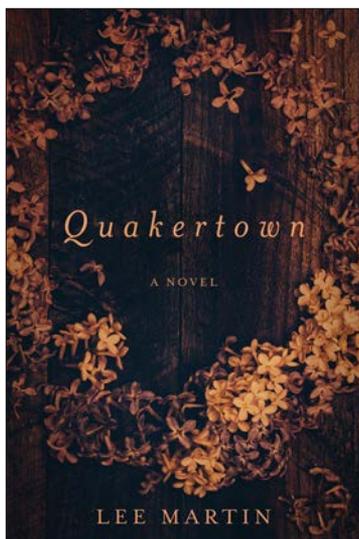
Edited by Matthew David Goodwin

Introduction by Frederick Luis Aldama

“Matthew D. Goodwin has assembled a dynamic team of creative heavy-hitting intellectuals to tackle the provocative synthesis of Latino expressivity with Science Fiction and Fantasy literature. The result is an incisive and entertaining book that not only challenges the intellect but expands the imagination.” —*Adilifu Nama, author of Super Black: American Pop Culture*

A collection of Latinx science fiction and fantasy writing by new and established writers.

2020
\$19.95 paperback



QUAKERTOWN

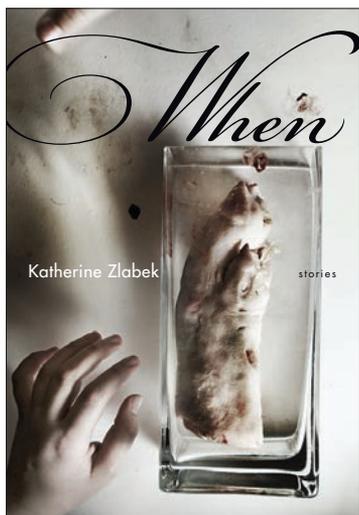
Lee Martin

“A consistently impressive and often dazzling new novel. Lee Martin has written one of the best books of the year.” —*The Washington Post*

“His gently melancholy style strikes a fine balance between literary fiction and accessible, emotion-driven storytelling.” —*Publishers Weekly*

The story of a flourishing black community segregated from its white brethren, and the remarkable gardener who was asked to do the unimaginable.

2017
\$23.95 paperback



WHEN

Stories

Katherine Zlabek

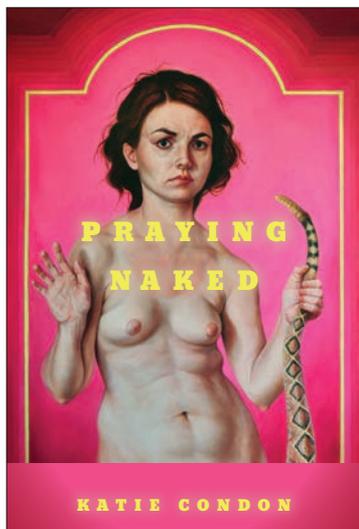
“Katherine Zlabek is a writer with an honest style. Her prose is so clear that you can see the ache and hope shimmering at the bottom of these stories. This is a sad, lovely, and utterly convincing collection.”

—Chris Bachelder

Stories illuminating harsh Midwest realities vibrate with yearning and beauty in this debut collection.

2019
\$22.95 paperback

The Journal Non/Fiction Prize



PRAYING NAKED

Katie Condon

2020
\$14.95 paperback

“*Praying Naked* kicks ass and elbows the sky as Condon follows the desire that created her, a gift from her mother. Each prayer is a poem of sacred abandon. Condon is a poet who looks you in the eyes as she sings.” —**Joy Harjo, US Poet Laureate**

“Katie Condon’s first collection of poems wrestles with belief and flesh in equal measure. God appears alongside lovers, the sacred alongside the profane, with desire—both the ecstasy and weight of it—woven inside and through it all. Beautiful, thrilling, strange, and surprising—a cautious celebration, a hopeful elegy.” —**Nick Flynn, author of *I Will Destroy You***

Through language both reverent and reckless, Katie Condon’s debut collection renders the body a hymn. *Praying Naked* is Eden in the midst of the fall, the meat of the apple sweet as sex. In this collection, God is a hopeless and dangerous flirt, mothers die and are resurrected, and disappointing lovers run like hell for the margins. With effortless swagger and confessional candor, Condon lays bare the thrill of lust and its subsequent shame. In poems brimming with “the desire / to be desired” by men, by God, by lovers’ other women, by oneself, she renders a world in which wildflowers are coated in ash and dark bedrooms flicker with the blue light of longing. The speaker implores like an undressed wound: “is it wrong to feel a hurt kind of beautiful?” Ecstatic and incisive, *Praying Naked* is a daring sexual and spiritual reckoning by a breathtaking new poet.

Winner of *The Journal* Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize



LETHAL THEATER

Susannah Nevison

“*Lethal Theater* is a powerful, nuanced accounting of the physical and spiritual price violence exacts on its victims and perpetrators.” —**Erika Meitner**

A collection of poetry that reckons with the rituals of violence that underpin the American prison system.

2019
\$16.95 paperback

Winner of *The Journal* Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize



RADIOAPOCRYPHA

BK Fischer

“Fischer produces a work as smart, satisfying, and nuanced in its climax as it is as a whole.”
—**Publishers Weekly**

A suburban retelling of the gospel set in 1989 Maryland, *Radioapocrypha* is a gritty story of loners, losers, and lovers.

2018
\$16.95 paperback

Winner of *The Journal* Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize



JUNE IN EDEN

Rosalie Moffett

“Such a disturbing and solacing book! These poems startle, charm, deepen. . . . These are poems we need in our age of terrible troubles.” —**Marianne Boruch, author of *Eventually One Dreams the Real Thing***

Gives us a speaker bewildered by and in awe of the world: the miracles and failures of technology, medicine, and imagination. These darkly humorous poems are works of grief and wonder and give us a landscape that looks, from some angles, like paradise.

2017
\$14.95 paperback

Winner of *The Journal* Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize

A Rumpus Poetry Book Club Book

Series from Mad Creek Books

Latinographix, Frederick Luis Aldama, Series Editor

This series showcases trade graphic and comic books—graphic novels, memoir, nonfiction, and more—by Latinx writers and artists, with any balance of text and visual narrative, taking up themes of all kinds and exploring topics from immigration to family, education to identity, and more. Submissions accepted yearlong.

Machete, Joy Castro, Series Editor

The Machete literary nonfiction series showcases fresh stories, innovative forms, and books that break new aesthetic ground in nonfiction—memoir, personal and lyric essay, literary journalism, cultural meditations, short stories, hybrid essays, graphic pieces, and more—from authors whose writing has historically been marginalized, ignored, and passed over. The series is explicitly interested in diversity in all of its manifestations. Submissions accepted yearlong.

21st Century Essays, David Lazar and Patrick Madden, Series Editors

The first and only major series that announces its focus on the essay, 21st Century Essays is a vehicle to discover, publish, and promote some of the most daring, ingenious, and artistic nonfiction, focusing on that central, frequently chimerical, and invariably supple form: the essay. Submissions to the series are accepted March 15th through April 15th.

Book Awards from Mad Creek Books

The Gournay Prize

The Gournay Prize selects one book-length collection of essays each year to receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and publication in the 21st Century Essays series. Submissions are accepted March 15th through April 22nd. For more information or to submit: madcreek.submittable.com/submit.

The Journal Non/Fiction Prize

The Journal, the literary magazine of The Ohio State University MFA Program in Creative Writing, selects one book-length collection of short prose each year for publication by Mad Creek Books. The prize carries a cash award of \$1,500. Submissions are accepted January 15th through March 10th. For more information or to submit: thejournal.submittable.com/submit.

The Journal Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize

The Journal also selects one full-length manuscript of poetry each year for publication by Mad Creek Books. The winning author receives the Charles B. Wheeler prize of \$2,500. Submissions are accepted during the month of September. For more information or to submit: thejournal.submittable.com/submit.