

# 2025 RIGHTS CATALOG



Painting by Mari Lyons

**JENNIFER LYONS  
LITERARY AGENCY, LLC**

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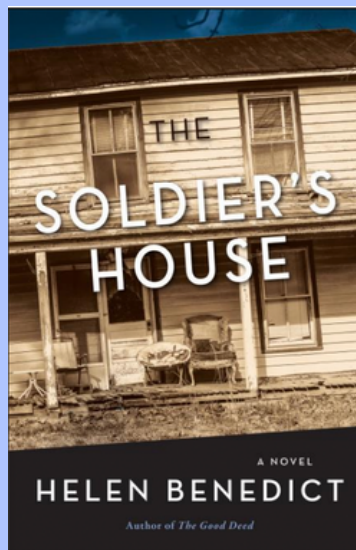
# ADULT FICTION

## A SOLDIER'S HOUSE

Helen Benedict

RED HEN PRESS, APRIL 2025

In *THE SOLDIER'S HOUSE*, Helen Benedict tells the story of an Iraq War veteran who saves the lives of his assassinated Iraqi interpreter's widow, child, and mother by bringing them to his upstate New York home. For the soldier, this is a way of making amends, but the widow finds being rescued by the enemy both humiliating and compromising. This is a compassionate tale that examines whether redemption and forgiveness are even possible in the wake of war. In light of the increasing displacement of people all over the world, *The Soldier's House* is particularly timely and poignant.



### Praise for A SOLDIER'S HOUSE

**"Keen-eyed and warm-hearted,** *THE SOLDIER'S HOUSE* is a page-turning story of both American and Iraqi lives shattered by America's Iraq War, and the long struggle to rebuild a safe place to call home. Helen Benedict brings years of research to bear in her compassionate, sharply-observed portraits of Army Sergeant Jimmy Donnell; his soldier wife, Kate Brady; and their terrible debt to Naema Jassim, an Iraqi mother, and her captivating young son, Tariq. This moving novel brings to searing life the toll of violence and the balm of healing as these characters make their halting progress toward finding home, toward trust and truth, and building life anew. *The Soldier's House* is an important novel for our time, adding crucial depth of compassion and complexity to our understanding of war's trauma and the importance of forgiveness and healing."

—Kate Manning, author of *My Notorious Self* and *Gilded Mountain*

**Writing with rare passion and integrity,** Helen Benedict brings to light—and Life—the wreckage of the American misadventure in Iraq. This is not only a massively good book, it is absolutely necessary."

—Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya, author of *The Storyteller of Marrakesh* and *The Watch*

Agent: Jennifer  
Lyons  
Materials Available:  
Full Manuscript  
  
Rights Sold:  
  
Rights Available:  
  
World, exclusive of U.K>

## About Helen Benedict, the Author

Helen Benedict has been writing about refugees and war for many years, both in her three most recent novels, *The Good Deed*, (a finalist for the 2025 Dayton Literary Peace Prize), *Wolf Season*, and *Sand Queen*, and in her 2022 book of nonfiction, *Map of Hope & Sorrow: Stories of Refugees Trapped in Greece*. *The Good Deed*

A recipient of the PEN/Jean Stein Grant for Literary Oral History, the Ida B. Wells Award for Bravery in Journalism, and the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, Benedict is also the author of *The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq*. Her writings inspired a class action suit against the Pentagon on behalf of those sexually assaulted in the military and the 2012 Oscar-nominated documentary *The Invisible War*. She is a professor at Columbia University in New York.



# CROWN: A NOVEL

**Evanthia Bromiley**

**GROVE PRESS JUNE 17, 2025**

**“Lyrical, unflinching, and emotionally compelling”** (Dominic Smith), a debut novel tracking three days leading up to the eviction of a single mother and her nine-year-old twins from a trailer park in the American Southwest

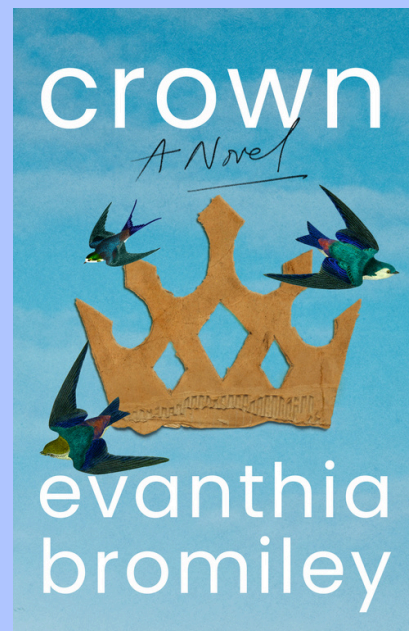
Jude Woods is on the brink of eviction. Pregnant, jobless, and mother to Evan and Virginia, she has three days to box up her family’s life and find a safe place to live. In the Woods’ quiet trailer park, neighbors keep to themselves, but it’s no secret Jude and her twins are in jeopardy—the eviction notice slapped on their front door like a white shout.

When Jude’s contractions flare just as their power is shut off, she rushes to the hospital instructing Evan and Virginia to hide in their car in the surrounding fields. If the children are discovered outside alone, they will be taken from her. Jude labors through the night in a crowded emergency room while the twins, desperate in the heat of the cramped car and spurred by their wild imaginations, strike out along the dangerous riverbank in search of a new home for their growing family. As night hurtles toward morning lockout, both mother and children reckon with what it means to live and dream in a modern America insistent on slamming doors.

Poetic and distinct, the voices of the three Woods open to a chorus of waitresses and oil men, veterans and graffiti artists as CROWN trawls the laundromats, public bus systems, and waiting rooms of a forgotten blue-collar city. In this mesmerizing, singular debut, the tenacious spirit of a young family and their community comes to profound and moving life.

## Advance praise for CROWN

“Evie has a particular strength in the way she portrays this family in jeopardy, never skimping on their emotional lives, but instead creating complex, layered scenes and moments of deep characterization. She has found opportunities to render beauty within otherwise bleak circumstances.” —Dominic Smith, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*



Agent: Jennifer Lyons

Materials Available:

Finished Book

Rights Sold:

North American Grove/Atlantic

Rights Available:

All translation rights available.

[Evanthia Bromiley] is a writer who clearly has studied many great novels and then emerged with a voice wholly her own; a voice that shimmers with the kind of verve and light that arrives when a writer finds her true subject, then fearlessly accepts the challenge of writing about it.” —Dean Bakopoulos, author of *Summerlong*

## About Evanthia Bromiley, the Author

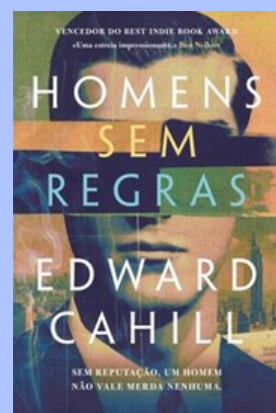
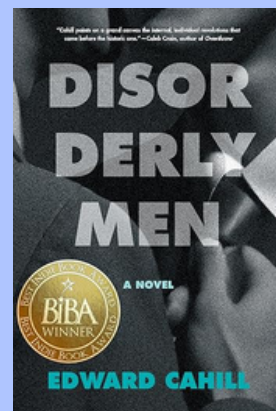
Evanthia Bromiley is a graduate of the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers and the recipient of scholarships from the Aspen Institute, a Lighthouse Fellowship, a Lisel Mueller scholarship, and Elizabeth George and Carol Houck-Smith awards. Her short fiction and creative nonfiction can be found in *AGNI*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Five Points*, and elsewhere. When not writing, she works in impacted schools with young writers and their teachers as they sharpen their craft and voices, telling stories of growing up in the American Southwest. She lives in Durango, Colorado.

# DISORDERLY MEN

**Edward Cahill**

**Fordham University Press—Empire State Editions  
(U.S. and Canada) JUNE 2025 (Paperback)  
SEPTEMBER 2023 (Hardcover)**

- 2024 Gold Medal, LGBTQ+ Fiction, Independent Publishers Awards
- 2023 Best Indie Books Award for LGBT fiction
- Shortlisted for Cabell First Novelist Award
- For fans of period dramas about LGBT life such as “Queer”, “Fellow Travelers”, “Ripley”
- “Not since Edmund White’s *The Beautiful Room Is Empty* has pre-Stonewall queer New York been so expertly rendered.” — QueerReader.com
- “Faceted, compelling . . . evokes a pre-Stonewall era of subversion, persecution, and growing defiance.” — ForewordReviews



DISORDERLY MEN is set in NYC’s gay subculture in the period before the Stonewall Riots (the start of the gay rights movement in the US) and involves three men whose fates are thrown together when they’re all caught in the police raid of a Greenwich Village bar. Three stories move in tandem, then intersect:

Roger Moorhouse, Wall Street banker and Westchester family man, sees his preciously guarded secret, and the safeguard of social status, threatened with ruin.

Columbia University literature professor Julian, living a careful but comparatively uncloseted life, finds his first committed relationship tested to its limits.

For Danny, a Bronx boy with a broadly diverse group of friends, the drama is a galvanizing, Spartacus moment: an injustice that he will not let stand. He is bent on violent revolt.

Blackmail, a private investigator, and Danny’s personal quest for bloody retribution propel the novel to its conclusion, as each man meets the boundaries of his own fear, love, and shame. The stakes for each man are different – defined partly by social class – but all of them confront a fundamental question: how much happiness is he allowed to have ...and what share of it will he lay claim to? It’s a novel that captures the period before organized protest begins, when a sense of mission, agency, and a correctable grievance is taking shape and power.

Agent: Pamela Malpas/JLLA  
Materials Available:  
Finished Book  
Rights Sold:  
Portuguese/Portugal (Alma dos Livros); all other translation rights available  
Film/tv rights via  
Independent Artist Group  
(Debbie Deuble-Hill)

## Praise for **DISORDERLY MEN**

"[B]right, vivid, funny, smart... A novel at once timeless and timely"—David Leavitt

"Story and style are perfectly aligned ... utterly absorbing."—*Passport* magazine

"A moving and deeply engaging portrait of pre-Stonewall New York . . . deftly uncovers the emotional and political complexity of the period."—Michael Bronski, author of *A Queer History of the U.S.*

## Excerpt from **DISORDERLY MEN**

Roddy held up a copy of the *Post*.

"It's in the back," he said. "Next to last page."

Danny's face flashed hot as he searched his brain for some explanation or smoke screen or anything to deflect the truth. He knew that by simply taking the paper he'd practically admitted his guilt, but he couldn't think what else to do.

He went back to his office, closed the door, and on the next to last page of the paper found the article: "Police Raid Pervert Nest." It was a brief notice and the headline took up nearly as much space as the single sentence that followed: 'Early Friday morning, New York City Police arrested thirty-three men on charges of disorderly conduct at Caesar's Palace, a tavern on Bethune Street, after having received numerous complaints that homosexuals and other immoral persons were loitering on the premises.' Then there was a list of names and right near the top he saw his own: 'Daniel J. Duffy, age 23, 120 Starling Avenue, Apt. 8B, Bronx, grocery manager.'

He knew he'd given the cops all the information himself, but reading it on the page, so correct and precise—even the J. for St. Jude, who seemed to have given up on him altogether—was a terrible shock. He didn't just feel exposed. He felt dead. More than anything else, the notice looked like an obituary.

~~

"He's a painter, I think you mentioned," Roger said. "Your friend. Do you like his paintings?"

"Oh, I like them very much," Julian said, with a solemnity that was modulated by obvious pleasure. "They're big and messy but rather moving abstractions, very easy to stare at for half an hour. He's promised me one he's been working on."

"And he lives here with you?"

Julian seemed to bristle at the question at first but then smiled sadly. "He's been staying here most weekends," he said.

Roger tried to imagine how it all worked—eating, sleeping, friends, sex. He wondered if it was like two men living as unusually close roommates. But it was hard to picture Julian cooking bacon and eggs and Gus coming into the kitchen in his robe to give him a peck on the cheek. All he saw was naked bodies in a bed.

"It's all quite ordinary," Julian offered. "Just like men and women, really."



## About Edward Cahill, the Author

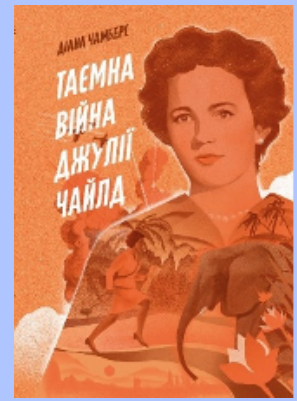
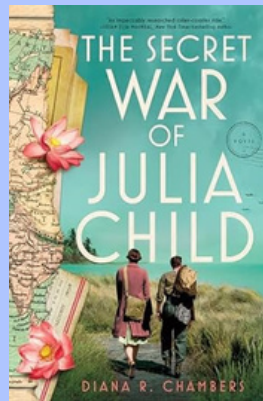
**Edward Cahill** is a literary historian and professor at Fordham University in NYC and a 2025 judge for Publishing Triangle's Edmund White debut novel award.

# THE SECRET WAR OF JULIA CHILD

**Diana R. Chambers**

**Sourcebooks/Landmark (World English)**

**October 2024**



- National bestseller (*USA Today*)
- International bestseller (*Globe & Mail*)
- On the *Washington Post*'s list of Best Historical Fiction of 2024
- Popular bookclubs/reading group selection
- Sequel forthcoming from Sourcebooks in 2027

It's a little-known fact that before she became America's first television cooking star, Julia Child worked in the secrets trade in Asia during World War II.

Single, 6 foot 2, and thirty years old, Julia McWilliams took a job working for America's first espionage agency, years before cooking or France entered her mind. *THE SECRET WAR OF JULIA CHILD* traces Julia's transformation from ambitious Pasadena blue blood to Washington, DC file clerk, to head of General "Wild Bill" Donovan's secret File Registry as part of the Office of Strategic Services (precursor to the CIA).

The wartime journey takes her to the Far East, to Asia's remote frontlines of then-Ceylon, India, and China, where she finds a purpose, adventure, self-knowledge—and love with mapmaker Paul Child. The spotlight has rarely shone on this fascinating time in the life of Julia Child. It is the world of a woman in a World War II spy station who has no idea of the impact she'll eventually have on the world. Her journey will delight both historical fiction fans and lovers of America's most beloved home chef.

Agent: Pamela Malpas/JLLA  
Materials Available:  
Finished books  
Rights Sold:  
**Hungarian** (Kossuth, sold at auction); **Ukrainian** (Fabula-One More Page); all other translation rights available  
**Film/tv rights** via Amy Schiffman at Echo Lake Entertainment

## Praise for **THE SECRET WAR OF JULIA CHILD**

"A compelling example of how fiction can create an alternate narrative . . . brings to life a forgotten period of Asian history." —*Financial Times* (Sri Lanka)

"The celebrated chef's zest, humor and generous spirit come through brilliantly in this captivating fictional take on her WWII work in Asia for a U.S. spy agency." —*People* magazine

"A work of alternative history as delectable as Child's coq au vin" —*The Washington Post*

"Fans of romance novels will spot the makings of an enemies-to-lovers tale...the sweet, slightly old-fashioned romance is fueled by lots of spicy, delicious-sounding food." —*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"Deeply researched and written with verve, this imagining of a little-known part of chef Julia Child's life—one rife with courage and resilience—shines." —*The Toronto Star*

"Written with flair and charm, Chambers's novel really heats up whenever sex, danger, or dinner come into view." —*Library Journal*

"Chambers excels at explaining the complex geopolitics of wartime Asia and describing the landscape and delicious foods found there" —Booklist

"At turns charming, funny, and inspiring, **THE SECRET WAR OF JULIA CHILD** is a vividly written and deeply imaginative new take on World War II. By letting us see this historic moment through the eyes of a beloved American icon, Chambers beautifully captures the spirit of the women of the greatest generation." —Dr. Lena Andrews, author of nationally bestselling *Valiant Women: The Extraordinary American Servicewomen Who Helped Win World War II*

"Riveting twists and turns . . . not only a vivid exploration of a lesser-known chapter in the life of one of America's most beloved personalities, it's also an impeccably researched roller-coaster ride, with spies, danger, deception and heroics." —Susan Elia MacNeal, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mr. Churchill's Secretary*

"In this gripping novel, a young and intrepid Julia Child tumbles headlong into espionage and romance in World War II Asia. Diana Chambers merges little-known details from Child's personal history with true wartime events to build a dynamic story. More, please!" —Sujata Massey, award-winning author of *The Mistress of Bhatia House*

"An exciting, little-known reveal of the story behind Julia Child's WWII service. A must read." —Rhys Bowen, bestselling author of *The Paris Apartment*

"This novel has everything I love—romance, intrigue, mouthwatering food, and a woman who makes no apologies for her voracious appetite for life!" —Kim Fay, bestselling author of the national bestseller *Love & Saffron*

"Chambers' impressive research informs this engaging novel—and yes, the food is spectacular!" —Laura Kalpakian, author of *The Great Pretenders*

## Excerpt from **THE SECRET WAR OF JULIA CHILD**

It was already hot in the postage-stamp studio she'd been lucky to find in overcrowded Washington. When she leaned over the sink to push up the window, a blast of humid air bounced off the dawn-streaked alley wall, almost near enough to touch. A long diagonal crack down the bricks reminded her of the Italian coastline, those valiant fellows preparing to wade out of their landing craft into the Salerno surf—and the unknown. Last night, she'd learned of Italy's imminent surrender, but also of German forces massing outside Rome.

She sniffed. Coffee boiled is coffee spoiled, their cook often declared. Turning to the hotplate, she sniffed again. Burnt toast. "Oh, my."

Mother Caro used to say she could burn water, but with such tenderness Julia felt embraced rather than criticized. Feeling the warmth of her smile, she closed her eyes. With your bright future, Jukie, you need never step into a kitchen. You'll be too busy to cook.

She dropped the toast in the waste bin. Fortunately, the OSS cafeteria produced delicious, deep-fried doughnuts.

~

"Scuttlebutt I picked up last night at Hotel Galle is there's some rivalry between US and British clandestine services." Jane zipped her lips.

"Whoever fed you that line obviously had too much to drink." Julia looked into her glass. "Speaking of which, I could use a refill."

"Me, too." Jane raised her hand for the waiter, surveying the attractive males. "A pity you're married, Betty."

"If you knew Alex you wouldn't say that," she replied coolly.

Jane smiled. "Well, Julia might get lucky."

Sometimes she could smack her. As a fragrant breeze wafted through the open doors, moist but pleasant, skin warm, a couple splashed around the swimming pool, tossing a ball and laughing. Betty's husband was chasing down intel in the Burmese jungles, while they were drinking cool gin-and-tonics, cosseted in colonial luxury.

But Julia had her own intel to pursue. Intel that might inform the decisions of the President of the United States. She pushed her drink aside.

## About **Diana R. Chambers, the Author**

Diana R. Chambers was born with a book in one hand and a passport in the other. She studied Asian art history at university, worked at a Paris translation agency, then began an export business in India. She is an experienced scriptwriter and has followed her stories around the world. Diana lives in Northern California and Aix-en-Provence, France, with her fellow-traveler husband, artist daughter, and feral cat, Marco Polo.



# THE SANHEDRIN CHRONICLES

**J.S. Gold**

**Histria Books, November 2024**

**“Elaborate and engaging, setting the stage for what could easily become a compelling and gritty fantasy series” (Kirkus), this debut novel is the first in a high concept, urban fantasy series featuring the exploits of a reluctant Jewish hero who fights demons as part of the ancient Jewish order of the Sanhedrins.”**



College student and certified nerd Arthur Rose has issues: he’s estranged from his Jewish faith, he needs a recommendation for grad school, and getting back with his ex, Lynn, is going to take more than an apology and chocolate. He’s trying to balance it all when he starts seeing shapes in the dark. Soon after, a mysterious young woman approaches. She tells him she killed his father and is now seeking a stone blessed by God Himself.

What follows is a tale ripped out of Arthur’s wildest fantasies: to protect the world from evil, he must join a secret order of Jewish demon-hunters that have spanned millennia. He’ll have to master Hebrew magic, uncover the secrets of his past and embrace his family heritage. In so doing, he won’t just reclaim his faith but become . . . SANHEDRIN.

## **Praise for THE SANHEDRIN CHRONICLES**

**“With THE SANHEDRIN CHRONICLES, J.S. Gold does for Judaism what ‘Percy Jackson’ did for Greek mythology.” —Forbes**

## **About J.S. Gold, the Author**

J.S. Gold has been a fantasy enthusiast for as long as he can remember and has been writing for more than a decade. By day, he teaches history to high schoolers on Long Island, New York.

Agent: Jeff Ourvan  
Materials Available:  
Published manuscript  
Rights Sold:  
World English  
Rights Available:  
Translation, Film/TV

# THE WINTER FOLK

Jen Julian

Orbit/Run For It, June 2026

- Eerie, atmospheric, and fantastical, **THE WINTER FOLK** is a tale steeped in nostalgia
- Like *Succession* meets *Spirited Away*, set in the Appalachians
- A story of one young woman's obsession and longing for something greater than the hand she's been dealt and what she'll give up to be special
- For fans of T. Kingfisher, Alix Harrow, and Susanna Clarke

Working at Deerhaven is dangerous for humans, but the impossible rewards are worth it to those who have nothing to lose.

Every year, the Winter Folk gather at a secret lodge in the Appalachians, a place known as Deerhaven, refuge for the time-worn and weary. As a child, Moth heard warnings from her mother: *They are heartless, wild creatures—and they got no concern of us*. But now, Moth is a twenty-one-year-old college dropout, indebted, impoverished, desperate for better things. She falls instantly for Deerhaven's beautiful antlered Host and Master of the House, the mild-mannered Mr. Oslin. When he offers her a housekeeper's contract—one wish granted for a winter of service—she signs without question

But Deerhaven is a dangerous place. Staff must follow strict rules or else face dire consequences, and the guests can be unpredictable and savage. And yet, Moth endures, enticed by a rumor that Mr. Oslin is looking for a protégé—a singular worker who would stay with him at Deerhaven forever and be transformed.

Decades later, under the pretense of a winter vacation, Moth returns to Appalachia with her husband and teenage daughter. Throughout her visit, she recounts her harrowing experiences at Deerhaven—the friends and rivals she made there, her growing obsession for Mr. Oslin, and her inevitable tragic exile—all the while searching for a way back inside.

## Excerpt from **THE WINTER FOLK**

My name is Moth.

Let me say that a different way. I would prefer, listener, that you think of me as Moth.

**THE WINTER FOLK**  
Jen Julian

**TEMPORARY COVER**

Agent: Jessica Felleman  
Materials Available:  
Accepted Manuscript  
Wordcount: 107,000 words  
Rights Sold:  
North American to HBG/Orbit  
Rights Available:  
UK, Translation, Film/TV

*Continued*

Moth is the name I received while serving the Winter Folk, the only name in the world that has ever felt like it belonged to me, much more so than Vera, the schizophrenic great-aunt my mother named me after, or Stoker, handed down through my father's erudite Germanic kin, or Whitfield, my husband's name, which I carry around now the way one carries ID, with perfunctory privilege. My mother said it was a curse to let the Winter Folk name you, but she stopped telling those kinds of stories before I was even old enough to know how valuable they were. I've lost count of how many of her lessons I ignored since then.

As I tell you this story, I'm vacationing in the same place I fled over twenty years ago, renting an Airbnb with my husband and our daughter, Cass. Our cabin is on the south side of a mountain called Piggin's Peak. The cabin's name—which greets us on a smug signpost at the bottom of a windy gravel driveway—is “Once Upon a Pine.”

It is not lost on me that I've become one of those bourgeois assholes I always despised.

## **Praise for Jen Julian's RED RABBIT GHOST**

“A chilling dark fantasy that readers will savor.” – *Publisher's Weekly*

“Julian's queer, southern-gothic debut is a heady and atmospheric rumination on grief and belonging that will appeal to readers who enjoyed *The Hollow Places* (2020), by T. Kingfisher, and *Summer Sons*, by Lee Mandelo (2021), and is a perfect pick for fans of *Twin Peaks*.” – Booklist 6/1/25

## **About Jen Julian, the Author**

Jen Julian is the author of *RED RABBIT GHOST* (Orbit/Run For It, 2025) and her previous publications include a short story collection, *Earthly Delights and Other Apocalypses* (Press 53, 2018), which was the winner of Press 53's Short Fiction Prize, as well as work in numerous literary journals, most recently a story in *Third Coast Magazine*, which received distinction in Best American Short Stories 2023. Jen holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Missouri and an MFA in Fiction from UNC Greensboro. A 2016 Clarion Alumna, she has contributed fiction both to the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the Texas Book Festival. These days, Jen lives in the mountains of North Georgia with her enormous ginger cat and teaches creative writing at Young Harris College.

# THE DISTRACTIONS

**Liza Monroy**

**Regalo Press, distributed by Simon and Schuster,**

**January 14, 2025**

At a professional convention, solitary tech worker Mischa Osborn, who is mourning the shelving of her passion project—an algorithm capable of love—has a chance encounter with a HighlightReel celebrity, Nicolás Adán Luchano. Mischa experiences a brief but intense connection she mistakenly believes is going to last forever and will grant her a starring role and partnership she'd never admit to having wanted, least of all to herself.

After Nic vanishes, she watches him relentlessly on Reel until she discovers the truth about what happened, which, rather than giving her the answer she thinks she needs in order to move on, only leads her further down a spiraling rabbit hole of obsession and even “realspace” stalking, all the way from New York to Paris to Los Angeles.

When her journey and its ensuing deceptions land Mischa square in the life and world of “momfluencer” Ari Tyler-McKenna, who on the surface couldn't be more different from Mischa, Mischa discovers that what connects us are the common feelings simmering below the surface, feelings of tech-induced disconnection, and the desire for something that seems just out of reach no matter who or where you are, threads that cannot be watched on Reel.

Meanwhile, as Mischa obsessively watches Nic and his new love, someone is equally obsessed with Mischa, tracking her every move, perhaps even controlling her story.

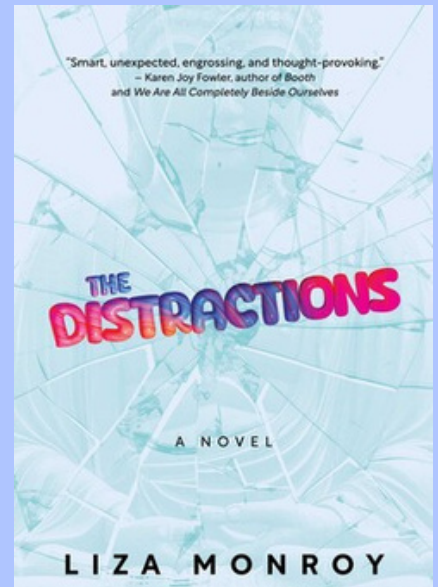
THE DISTRACTIONS invites us to reflect on who we are watching, and why.

## Advanced Praise for THE DISTRACTIONS

“Smart, unexpected, engrossing, and thought-provoking. I'm honestly in awe.” —Karen Joy Fowler, author of *Booth*, Pen Faulkner award-winner and Man Booker Prize finalist for *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*

“It's the rare novel that has made me see the world differently.” —Elizabeth McKenzie, National Book Award longlisted author of *The Portable Veblen* and *The Dog of the North*

“Philip K. Dick meets *Bridget Jones's Diary*.” —Kristin Wilson, author of *Others Milk*



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Final PDF

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Film/TV rights available. Film  
Agent: Michael Cendejas for  
Lynn Pleshette Agency.



## About Liza Monroy, the Author

After getting her start in the storied William Morris Agency mailroom, Liza left the business side of creativity to pursue her calling as a writer. Her books include the memoir *The Marriage Act: The Risk I Took to Keep My Best Friend in America and What It Taught Us About Love* (Counterpoint/Soft Skull 2014), the debut novel *Mexican High* (Spiegel & Grau/Random House 2008), and *Seeing As Your Shoes Are Soon To Be On Fire* (Counterpoint/Soft Skull Press 2016), a collection of personal essays based on one of the “most popular, provocative, and unforgettable” columns for *The New York Times*’ “Modern Love” column and a voicemail from an ex. Another of her “Modern Love” installments was selected and read by Malin Ackerman for the series’ podcast. Her Longreads essay “Soli/dairy/ty” was selected for *The Best American Food Writing 2021*. Liza’s work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New York Times* magazine, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *O, Marie Claire*, *Longreads*, and many other publications and anthologies, including *The New York Times*’ *Best of Modern Love*, *Goodbye To All That: Writers on Loving and Leaving New York*, *O’s Little Book of Calm and Comfort*, and *Wedding Cake for Breakfast*. She was the inaugural John E. Nance Writer-in-Residence at the Thurber House in Columbus, Ohio and has been awarded residencies at the Jack Kerouac Project of Orlando and Kimmel Nelson Harding Center. She earned an M.F.A. from Columbia University in 2010 and lives in Santa Cruz, CA.

# TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Cory O'Brien

Pantheon, March 4, 2025

- From the beloved internet humorist, a debut novel that introduces an unforgettable investigator to the drowned streets of L.A. in a hugely imaginative and heartfelt blend of noir and cyberpunk.
- A Publisher's Weekly Most Anticipated Book!
- "Sci-fi at its absolute very best." –Peter Clines, NYT bestselling author of *Paradox Bound* and *The Broken Room*
- Starred reviews from Library Journal and Booklist



In a mostly underwater near-future Los Angeles, aging combat-drone veteran Orr Vue now lives a simple and small life, trading snippets of what's become the most valuable currency: information. So when the cops show up at his door looking for data on a murder he's not even aware has happened, things get interesting for the first time in 25 years.

At first, Orr is happy to exchange whatever he knows about the demise of InfoDrip's top exec to buy booze and pay rent on his memory storage, but that plan goes to hell when Orr's old boyfriend, Auggie Wolf, shows up as the number one suspect. Forced to stretch his atrophied spy skills and take his illegal horde of drones out of retirement alongside his busted knees, Orr finds himself in the crosshairs of the militarized police, a family of megarich corporate heirs, a clan of emancipated AIs, and a cult. Barely avoiding getting killed with every clue he collects, Orr realizes he's uncovered not just a murder, but a conspiracy that threatens Auggie's very existence. Ahh, the things we do for love...

But in a world where memories can be bought and sold, how can you truly know who anyone is—or what you yourself are capable of? Fast paced, funny, and shockingly romantic, *Two Truths and a Lie* is Raymond Chandler reinvented for the 22nd century.

## Praise for TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

"O'Brien keeps your head in the action with antic, lyrical wit and vivid . . . action scenes as Orr's search for Mahoney's killer becomes more brutally complex. It all works out in extremely weird, perversely satisfying ways." —Kirkus Reviews

Agent: Jessica Felleman  
Materials Available:

Final PDF

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Rights Available: UK,  
Translation, Film/TV

"Ross McDonald meets William Gibson in this superb cyberpunk mystery. . . .  
The noir narrative is cyberpunk perfect." —Don Vicha, Booklist (starred review)  
January 1, 2025 print edition

"O'Brien's . . . fiction debut is a highly intriguing vision of the near future that  
examines the role of memory in a functional aspect, which also underscores the  
utility of forgetting: 'Funes the Memorious' by Jorge Luis Borges meets *Total Recall*  
by Philip K. Dick, with a wry narration that balances the grim reality.—Henry  
Bankhead, Library Journal, Don't-Miss Books | December 2024 Starred Reviews Round Up

"TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE is a masterpiece of shifting memory with twist after twist you'll  
never see coming. Sci-fi at its absolute very best."—Peter Clines, New York Times bestselling author  
of *Paradox Bound* and *The Broken Room*

"Boldly inventive, peppered with breakneck action and a blend of speculative wonder  
and humor, Cory O'Brien's TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE packs an unforgettable punch.  
Utilizing the vehicle of a thrilling, emotional, often hilarious cyberpunk detective story,  
it pokes at the delicate line between memory and truth, ultimately wondering whether there  
is even a difference. The result is ambitious, masterful, and hugely entertaining."  
— Jinwoo Chong, author of *Flux* and *I Leave It Up to You*

"O'Brien's imagination has the raw power to go toe-to-toe with Neal Stephenson  
and Philip K. Dick. This hardboiled cyberpunk gem is packed with dark wonders at every turn."  
—Daniel Hornsby, author of *Sucker*

"TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE is a compulsively readable debut novel, an intricately plotted  
cyberpunk-noir mystery that takes the idea that information is currency to hilarious and shocking  
extremes."—Dexter Palmer, author of *Version Control*

"A stunning achievement, TWO TRUTH AND A LIE is many things at once: a hilarious  
satire, a gripping thriller, a meditation on memory and identity, and a love story that  
will have you wiping tears from your eyes, all set in a carnivalesque future where the  
darkest dreams of capitalism have come true. Like other great comic novelists—Thomas  
Pynchon, Rachel Yoder, Charles Yu—Cory O'Brien balances humor and pathos  
to marvelous effect, a literary magician who can do almost anything on the page."  
—Scott Guild, author of *Plastic*

"TWO TRUTH AND A LIE hit me square in the sweet spot: a propulsive story and crazy  
cool tech mixed with healthy doses of noir, humor, and romance. But it's more than that,  
too; a meditation on the amorphous and delicate nature of memory. Don't sleep on this  
knockout of a debut."—Rob Hart, author of *Assassins Anonymous*

## Excerpt from **TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE**

The L.A. sun squeezed in through my building’s cracked roof and poured itself onto the sheet-metal ceiling of my compartment, cooking me awake almost an hour before my kortiko would’ve zapped me conscious otherwise. Mornings are worthless. Nobody wants to buy a memory of bloodshot eyeballs and nostalgia for last night’s liquor, so my archives are loaded with identical copies of the same seven minutes of suffering, stretching all the way back to when I took the fact-checking gig at InfoDrip a decade and a half ago. Still better than your job, though.

I have some sympathy for you, since we’re in the same business. Difference for me was, I corrected a higher class of information than you kids on the municipal blockchain. More work to verify, but worth more. I’m sure most of the stuff you get on commission is nothing but conspiracy theories—“No, the mole men are not invading your teeth,” “Yes, gravity is a universal force, unaffected by how much raw beef you eat.” This, I assure you, is not that. Listen till the end, and I promise to make this submission worth your while. And, just for you, I’ve included plenty of irrelevant detail to line your pockets with. So where was I?

Right. A perfectly awful Wednesday morning in July. I peeled off sheets that would’ve been drier if I’d pissed in them and began the forty-five-minute process of convincing my atrophied muscles to crawl out of bed and carry me to work. My commute was five steps long, bed to table. At my age, that’s five steps too long, but I find that if I stay in bed to work my spine’s a solid rod by the end of the day, and not the kind of solid rod I like. At the table, I poured myself a bowl of Grape-Nuts drowning in caffeinated milk and slapped a handful of knockoff Think tablets into my mouth. Gotta keep the brain slippery, as the kids say. I stuck a lunch pack to my arm, strapped the Frosty to my face, and—with nothing else to do—made the fateful decision to clock in forty-five minutes early.

## About Cory O’Brien, the Author

Cory O’Brien is the author of *Zeus Grants Stupid Wishes* and *George Washington Is Cash Money*. He has written for numerous award-winning video games, including *Monster Prom* and *Holovista*, and designed multiple tabletop games, including *Inhuman Conditions* and *Hand to Hand Wombat*. He lives in Chicago.



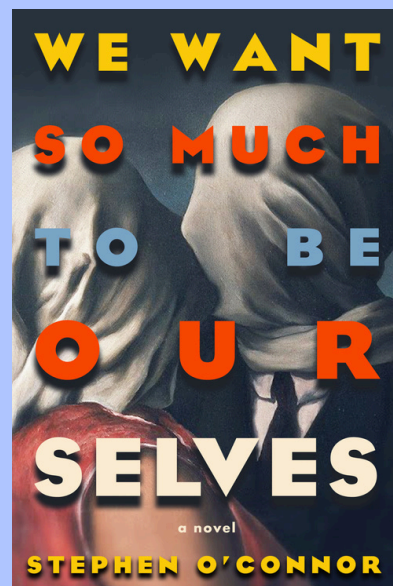
# WE WANT SO MUCH TO BE OURSELVES

**Stephen O'Connor**

**Bellvue Literary Press, June 9, 2026**

A German psychoanalyst, his Jewish wife, and their young daughter are swept up in the rising tide of fascism.

Günter Zeitz, psychoanalyst-in-training and the son of a Catholic country doctor, and Josine Rosen, Sigmund Freud's patient and the daughter of a Jewish shipping magnate, first meet in 1924, in Freud's Viennese waiting room. As their intense affair develops, Freud arranges for Günter's appointment to the newly created Berlin Psychoanalytic Institute. Shortly after the move, their daughter Hannah is born. But less than a decade later, all their hopes and ideals are profoundly challenged by political realities so horrific that they are, initially, beyond comprehension.



A heartrending story of love in a time of hatred, an absorbing investigation into the Nazis' exploitation of psychoanalysis, and a cautionary tale about self-deception and the failures of a people to recognize the lies of their charismatic leader, *We Want So Much to Be Ourselves* examines the ways science can be corrupted and one's very identity transformed by historical circumstance.

## Advance Praise for *We Want So Much to Be Our Selves*

"In beautiful, unsentimental prose, this gripping novel asks, Who is complicit in times of evil? Who resists? And how can ordinary life and love carry on in the face of madness? A fraught love affair and the omnipresent threat of violence make this a tense and propulsive story. Rich in fascinating historical detail, ideas, and psychological insight, O'Connor's story brims with compassion, and sounds a warning siren."

—Kate Manning, author of *My Notorious Life* and *Gilded Mountain Improvement and Mercy*

"WE WANT SO MUCH TO BE OURSELVES is a vivid, sorrowing novel about the power of ideas. As Nazi ideology rises, the story conveys the compromises and sacrifices of a decent man faced with the impossible. It does what Stephen O'Connor has long done in his work—trace the interior path of moral trouble, with all its inherent suspense. A really superb book." —Joan Silber, author of

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## About Stephen O'Connor, the Author

Stephen O'Connor is the author of seven books including two novels, *Thomas Jefferson Dreams of Sally Hemings* and *We Want So Much to Be Ourselves*, and the short story collection *Here Comes Another Lesson*. His fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *Best American Short Stories*, among other publications, and his nonfiction has been published in the *New York Times*, *Nation*, *Boston Globe*, and elsewhere. He teaches fiction and nonfiction writing at Sarah Lawrence College and lives in Manhattan.

# THE SHAPE OF DREAMS

**April Reynolds**

**Alfred A. Knopf, February 2026**

A trio of women bond in friendship as a neighborhood tries to seek justice from a system that has forgotten them.

It's the mid-eighties in East Harlem: a twelve-year-old black boy's murdered body is found by Mathilda "Twin" Johnson, an unlikely hero who's both the neighborhood's troublemaker and its conscience. When she breaks a cardinal rule, "don't call the cops," her decision ensnares a community and brings unmanageable grief to a mother.

Anita, a postal worker and army widow is determined to solve her son Tyrone's murder, and her quest for justice galvanizes the neighborhood, which is itself a complex character in this teeming novel, with its Mets fans and gossips, immigrant shop owners and latch-key kids who are desperate to help a friend. The local dreamers include a charismatic man of the cloth, a teenage girl with a Whitney Houston voice and no prospects, and Anita's opinionated friend Wanda, whose truant son the police harass and arrest on a regular basis.

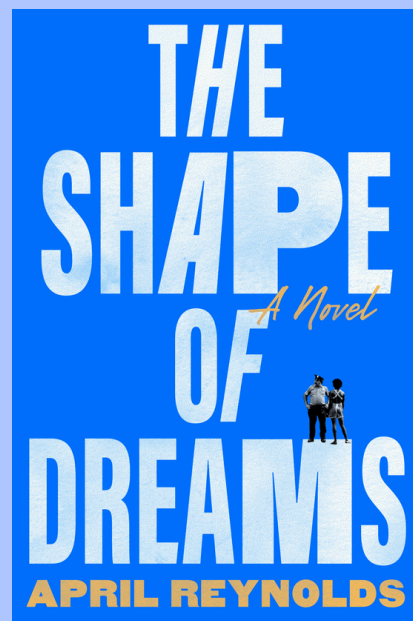
Everyone is struggling.

Anita, Wanda and Twin, the triad of this vibrant novel, are drawn into the neighborhood drug trap, while a singer, a preacher, and the church ladies who follow him believe their dreams can shape a city. Will the three be able to break away from crack's dangerous allure? Will the reverend's pressure on the authorities to find Tyrone's killer yield answers? Will justice come to East Harlem?

In the end, during the New York Mets' banner summer of 1986, this community will come together to mourn, fight for a better life, and shape their dreams as best they can.

## Advance Praise for The Shape of Dreams

Set in East Harlem in the mid-eighties, at the dawn of America's crack epidemic, April Reynold's THE SHAPE OF DREAMS is ostensibly the tale of a child's tragic murder and a mother's desperate quest for justice. But like all revelatory novels about New York, it also tells the secret history of a community, of its neighborhood's written-off eccentrics who are also its eyes and ears, of its all-too-fallible leaders tasked with holding it together, and its denizens trying to forge dignified lives without losing their humanity in their struggle to survive. Vivid and heartbreaking, unyielding and gritty, it is, in the end, about the alliance of three unforgettable women who refuse to succumb to the overwhelming forces determined to rob them of their agency. A story, then, for right now. —Adam Ross



Agent: Jennifer Lyons

Materials Available:

Manuscript avail. 10/30, less copy edits

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THE SHAPE OF DREAMS offers a loving tribute to Harlem and the restorative power of female friendship while exposing the tiny soul fractures sustained by good people trying to get by in a broken world. With exquisite grace and reverence, Reynolds explores the inevitable heartbreaks of motherhood and wearying loneliness as the three women at the novel's center seek justice for a murdered son. Reynolds captivates as much as she reminds us that in the midst of unspeakable tragedy, the strength of the human spirit endures. Elegant, powerful and truly unforgettable.—Laura Warrell, author of *Sweet, Soft Plenty Rhythm*

## **About April Reynolds, the Author**

April Reynolds is a novelist and professor of Creative Writing at Sarah Lawrence College. She is a recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Award and a PEN Prize. She lives in New York City with her two sons.

# DAY ZERO

## Jesse Sherwood

**Blackstone Publishing, 2026**

Jaime, a web developer in New York City, is disillusioned by both humanity's dependence on the digital world and his role in it. So when a coworker returns from a wilderness survival school in the Catskill Mountains, showing off an arrowhead he made there, Jaime decides, what the hell, why not?

Making fire with sticks, butchering animals, crafting a bow—these are a few of the things Jaime learns. He also learns about Day Zero, an apocalyptic theory of the school's mysterious and magnetic founder, a woman called simply A. As Jaime becomes captivated with A, Day Zero—the end of civilization—occurs. It is the day A and her followers have been preparing and wishing for. But as the post-apocalypse days grow, so do A's attempts to control her followers. She will do anything to see her vision become a reality, even as blood starts to spill. And as things begin to fray, Jaime finds signs that Day Zero might not be the end they think it is.

### About Jesse Sherwood, the Author

The son of a factory worker and a waitress, Jesse Sherwood is originally from Western New York and holds an MFA from Columbia University where he studied with Paul Beatty, Binnie Kirshenbaum, Charles Bock, and Joshua Cohen, among others. He has been published in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Guernica*, and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*

DAY ZERO  
Jesse Sherwood

TEMPORARY COVER

Agent: Jennifer Lyons  
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## ***COMING TO THE 2026 LONDON RIGHTS CATALOG***

### **AMERICAN BONEYARD**

**Dale Maharidge**

**Red Hen Press**

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dale Maharidge's AMERICAN BONEYARD, in which a mysterious mobster is selling bad batches of an opioid named after the blast furnace in "Youngstown," a Bruce Springsteen song inspired by the author's first book, killing former steelworkers and inciting a mob war, at Red Hen Press, in a deal for publication in fall 2027. —**Publisher's Marketplace**



# ADULT NON-FICTION

## Ancient Wisdom for Polarized Times:

**Why Humanity Needs Herodotus, the Man Who Invented History**

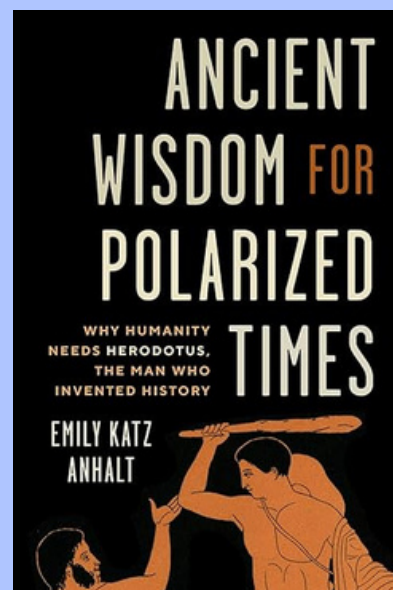
**Emily Katz Anhalt**

**Yale University Press, October 7, 2025 (Hardcover)**

How the wisdom of Herodotus can fortify us against political falsehoods and violent extremism

Nearly 2,500 years ago, the Greek writer Herodotus introduced the concept of objective truth derived from factual investigation and empirical deduction. Writing just before the start of the catastrophic Peloponnesian War (431–404 BCE), Herodotus addressed an increasingly polarized Greek world. His *Histories* demonstrates that the capacity for humane moral action depends on the ability to resist unthinking allegiance to authoritative fictions. Herodotus offers an indispensable, nonpartisan approach for countering poisonous ideologies and violent conflict emanating from all extremes of the political kaleidoscope.

Interpreting some of Herodotus's most compelling stories, Emily Katz Anhalt illuminates this ancient writer's vital insights concerning sexual violence, deception, foreign ways, political equality, and more. The *Histories* urges us to value reality, restrain destructive passions, and acknowledge the essential humanity of every human being—crucial guidance for navigating our own divisive and volatile political climate. Inviting us to take responsibility for our own choices and their consequences, Herodotus exposes autocratic leadership and abuses of power as self-defeating. Herodotus guides readers in assembling and assessing information, distinguishing fact from fiction, and making compassionate moral evaluations. The ancient Greeks never achieved an egalitarian, just society. Herodotus equips us to do better.



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Audio book:  
World, English

## Praise for Ancient Wisdom for Polarized Times

"Emily Katz Anhalt enlists the magic of pioneer historian Herodotus to re-enchant contemporary humanity. A historian who believed civil war to be much worse than external war surely still has much to teach us."

—Paul Cartledge, author of *Thebes: The Forgotten City of Ancient Greece*

"Anhalt's thoughtful, thorough study offers both an excellent introduction to Herodotus and a valuable refresher on this crucial author. But above all, Anhalt brilliantly uses Herodotus's timeless insights to shed a clarifying cautionary light on our own polarized times." —Rachel Hadas, author of *Pastorals*

"A most timely book, sorely needed in our own troubled age, where even the study of humanities is endangered." —Gregory Nagy, author of *Ancient Greek Heroes, Athletes, Poetry*

"A compelling case for turning to the multivocal world of Herodotus's Histories at a time when polarization threatens to dampen nuance and cheapen the rich texture of human experience and potential." —Jennifer T. Roberts, author of *Out of One, Many: Ancient Greek Ways of Thought and Culture*

## About Emily Katz Anhalt, the Author

Emily Katz Anhalt is professor of classics at Sarah Lawrence College. She is the author of *Embattled: How Ancient Greek Myths Empower Us to Resist Tyranny* and *Enraged: Why Violent Times Need Ancient Greek Myths*. She lives in Guilford, CT.

# How to Get What You Want

**Mastering the Art and Science of Persuasion**

**Joshua Bandoch**

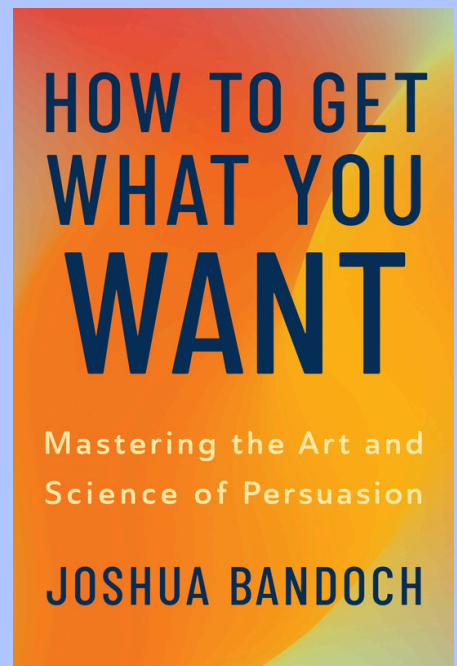
**BenBella Books, Spring 2026 (Hardcover)**

**Brilliance, (Audio book)**

Joshua Bandoch, Ph.D. brings a unique blend of mastery applying insights from a wide range of fields to any persuasion situation and extensive practical communications work as a speechwriter, consultant, elite university instructor, and policy advocate as Head of Policy at the Illinois Policy Institute to teaching anyone how to become a persuasion genius.

As politics and technology increasingly divide us, we're losing the ability to communicate and persuade others. In political discussions, we dismiss anyone who doesn't think like us, making constructive conversation, let alone agreement, impossible. As technology gets better every day at sucking us in, we're forgetting how to even talk to each other. Far from being persuasive, we push people away or don't even interact with them in the first place. Most books on persuasion either double down on how to make your point and move on if someone doesn't agree, or offer surface tactics that quickly dissipate.

HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT is different. It combines groundbreaking research with practical experience persuading at the highest levels to give you a fresh approach that will get you what you want and need when it matters. It has three simple steps. Adopt the "persuader's mindset." Use knowledge of how our brains work to your advantage. And apply tested techniques to any situation. Whether you're trying to get a job, negotiate a salary, have a tough conversation, reduce your rent, deal with a lawyer, score a great price on a new car, or get a free room upgrade at check in, Persuasion Genius teaches you how to navigate any political, professional, or personal situation more effectively to get what you want and need each and every day.



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Audio book:  
World, English

## Excerpt from **HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT**

Take a piece of paper, roll it up into a ball, throw it at someone, and try to make it stick to them. Did it? Nope. It just annoyed, and maybe offended them.

And yet, that's how we usually try to "persuade." We take our logic, roll it up, then throw it at others, certain it'll stick. If we hit someone in the head with our logic-rock, we'll knock something loose and make them start thinking like us. If we just collect enough data, discern the "truth," get our logic locked and loaded, then fire it at our opponent, we'll win, making them a loser in the process, which will motivate them to join us and become a winner.

Totally unrelated question: Has anyone ever persuaded you of anything this way? Nope.

We like to think persuasion is a "rational" endeavor. After all, if reason doesn't guide us, what does? Irrationality? The "Age of Reason" that reigned a few centuries ago during the Enlightenment held up reason as the ideal, and the best means of improving the world.

There's just one minor problem with viewing "persuasion" as primarily "rational": it fundamentally misunderstands the human mind, so it's counterproductive. An abundance of neuroscience and psychology research definitively shows reason doesn't come first in our cognitive processes. Which means our persuasive endeavors can't start with it.

The crucial upshot of this misunderstanding is that we focus on being "right," which prevents of us from making a difference, which is what persuasion is all about.

So: How does persuasion happen?

It starts with feelings. How come? Because our cognitive sequence always (yes, always) works like this: We feel first, then reason. Reason is never first. All human brains are wired this way. Sure, sometimes we feel then, a fraction of a second later, reason. Often, though, there's a notable delay before reasoning kicks in. Reasoning frequently arrives too late to matter in what we think, say, and do; sometimes, it never arrives. Just think of a time you were so overcome with anger you could only feel, and did something you still regret.

## About Joshua Bandoch, the Author

Josh Bandoch is the Head of Policy at the Illinois Policy Institute. His policy research focuses on empowering people to rise out of poverty, increasing social mobility, improving housing affordability, and removing barriers to opportunity (e.g. burdensome regulations). His writing has appeared in popular outlets like *National Review*, *Real Clear Policy*, *Real Clear Markets*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, *The Washington Examiner*, *The Washington Times*, and *Discourse*. He is the author of *The Politics of Place: Montesquieu, Particularism, and the Pursuit of Liberty* (University of Rochester Press, 2017). He was a postdoctoral fellow at Brown University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his bachelor's in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, and his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame.

# The Parenting Paradox

## Loving Our Children by Giving them Space to Grow

### Dr. Jenny Brown

### Bloomsbury, Coming June 2026

- For parents who have read Jonathan Haidt’s *The Anxious Generation* and are feeling more anxious themselves
- Foreword from Dr. Kathleen Smith, author of *True To You & Everything Isn’t Terrible*
- With empathic writing, exercises, and examples based on real families, Dr. Jenny Brown presents a way for parents to find balance in supporting and connecting with their children while also fostering independence

Parenting is a paradox: to truly love our children, we must also give them the space to grow.

Many committed parents instinctively step in to protect and guide their children, yet struggle knowing when to step back. While “helicopter parenting” is widely discouraged, parents are often left without clear, practical alternatives

In *THE PARENTING PARADOX*, Dr. Jenny Brown offers a new perspective—not about loving less, but about shifting the anxious energy that often comes with deep parental care to a more constructive type of love. Grounded in Family Systems Theory, her vision emphasizes the power of self-awareness and emotional steadiness in the parent-child relationship. Dr. Brown sheds light on the cultural forces shaping today’s intensive

parenting norms and invites fresh thinking about how well-meaning professional advice can, at times, unintentionally undermine a parent’s own growth and confidence. Through real-life experiences and professional insights, she challenges the message that constant intervention is necessary for a child to flourish and instead provides a thoughtful, long-term approach to fostering resilience and independence. This book will guide parents in developing awareness of relationship patterns and gaining clarity about their role, so they can become the loving leaders they aspire to be.

The Parenting Paradox

Temporary Cover

Dr. Jenny Brown

Agent: Jessica Felleman  
Materials Available:  
Accepted manuscript  
Word Count: 82,000 words  
Rights sold: North American to Bloomsbury/ Rowman & Littlefield  
Rights Available: AUS, UK, Translation, Film/TV

*Continued*



Rather than offering a quick fix or the latest parenting trend, *The Parenting Paradox* provides a sustainable path forward, helping parents navigate their own fears while giving space for their children to develop the confidence, strength, and independence they need to thrive.

## **Excerpt from *The Parenting Paradox***

Truly loving our children means not loving or focusing on them too much. It requires knowing ourselves in our parenting relationships, recognizing our responsibility, and understanding when and how to step aside so they can grow.

This book aims to make sense of the age of anxious, intensive parenting in a way that helps today's parents reclaim their clarity and confidence. It won't advocate for a sentimentalized return to previous eras. Parents of every generation have had their versions of self-doubt about their role, and today's societal landscape is dramatically different for families. Instead, it will help parents channel their conscientiousness effectively, allowing their child to develop age-appropriate independence and coping skills. It will help parents to become proficient observers of themselves in their relationships so they can make informed choices about what to adjust.

## **About Dr. Jenny Brown, the Author**

Jenny Brown, PhD, has worked in child and family mental health for the past four decades. She is regularly sought out as a thought leader in children's mental health through her research, writings, social media, and speaking platforms. Dr. Brown developed The Parent Hope Project that provides psychoeducation for parents and training for professionals to use a unique

# A WRITING MARRIAGE

**Lori Carlson-Hijuelos**

**With excerpts from the unpublished novel, *BLUE ANTIQUITY* by Oscar Hijuelos**

**Regalo Press with distribution by Simon and Schuster**

A uniquely styled memoir that blends fiction and nonfiction to illuminate the love, faith, and artistry of two writers.

In December 1998, novelist Oscar Hijuelos and writer/editor Lori Marie Carlson were married in the Riverside Church in New York City. One love story, one Pulitzer Prize, and one untimely death later, Lori is left to unveil the creativity and faith that were at the center of their marriage.

In a narrative of recollections inspired by the setting of a Lutheran cathedral library, Lori delves into the archaeology of their union. Her memories are coupled with excerpts from Oscar's unpublished opus, *Blue Antiquity*, which he was writing at the time of his passing in 2013. *Blue Antiquity* is Oscar's distillation of a lifetime of pondering human passion, familial love, personal identity, death, and eternity.

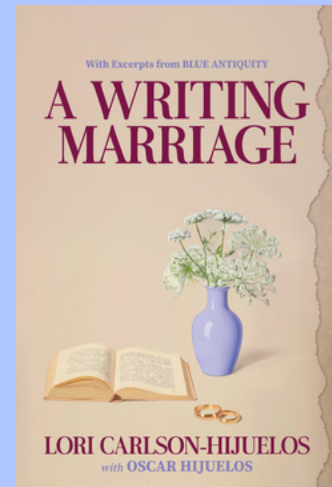
A WRITING MARRIAGE is a literary one-off in style and story that memorializes down-to-earth love and its endurance set against a background of bright lights and certain blessings.

## Excerpt from A WRITING MARRIAGE

A few months after my husband, Oscar Hijuelos, died in 2013, I began thinking about how to handle the bulk of his extraordinary archive.

When I was informed that there were some 2,000 pages of a novel in several boxes among the many, I was relieved and curious. The novel had two titles: *So Imagined Mercado* and *Blue Antiquity*. I knew that Oscar had decided on the latter as the final choice because we had discussed, quite often over the years, which of the two was more compelling. I preferred *Blue Antiquity*, and, in the end, so did he.

When Gretchen Young, the publisher of Regalo Press, heard from my agent, Jennifer Lyons, that I was writing about my life with Oscar, she asked to see some of my pages. Jennifer also asked her to look at Oscar's work-in-progress. She graciously accepted to do so and started to read both of our offerings immediately. Gretchen realized, soon thereafter, that *Blue Antiquity* referred to the culmination of Oscar's artistic vision and was also an allusion to ancient history and the beginnings of civilization. This capstone novel—in effect a summation of what he believed about life, love, death, and eternity—



Agent: Jennifer Lyons

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full 10/14

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*Continued*

centers on a scholar, Victor Mercado, who is facing his mortality.

After reading both my proposal and Oscar's first pages, Gretchen got in touch with Jennifer and said that she would like to publish my memoir.

The book you have in your hands is the result of that conversation. My words and Oscar's are woven together. I have chosen excerpts from *Blue Antiquity* to harmonize with and expand upon my select recollections of our life together. A Writing Marriage has been more than a writing exercise for me. It has been an unexpected pilgrimage to the heart of our union. Essentially in the years since Oscar's passing, I have been excavating our marriage and pondering it. The writing of this book has been a soulful examination, a symbolic unearthing of certain memories and stories that Mercado might understand as a labor necessary to capture the fullness of a history, the ephemera and evidence of, in this case, a love story.

## About Lori Carlson-Hijuelos the Author

**Lori Carlson-Hijuelos** is an editor, translator, and writer whose career began at the Americas Society in New York City. She is the anthologist of many books, most notable among them *Cool Salsa* and *Red Hot Salsa*. She is also the author of three novels, including *The Sunday Tertulia*.

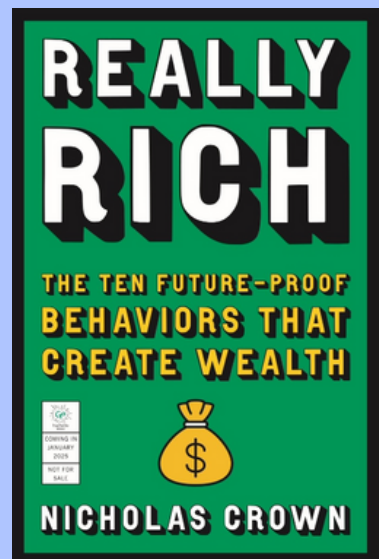
**Oscar Hijuelos** was one of America's finest novelists of the late 20th century. He was the first American of Latino ethnicity, specifically Cuban-American, to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his beloved novel, *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*. Among his other works is his acclaimed *Mr. Ives' Christmas*, which reveals his Christian faith in the tradition of Catholicism.

# REALLY RICH

## The Ten Future-Proof Behaviors That Create Wealth Nicholas Crown

Hachette Go, January 26, 2025

From viral social media phenomenon Nicholas Crown of the Rich vs. Really Rich series comes a modern formula for personal and financial success in today's economy.



Crown has demonstrated for the TikTok masses that without the social grease of kindness immeasurable value would be robbed from society and innovation would grind to a halt. In Really Rich, he provides his ten-point formula for building wealth and happiness, including:

- Get rich by making someone else's life easier
- Optimize for quality of life, not a dollar amount
- Iterate until someone starts clapping
- Own creativity to become future-proof

Crown encourages his readers to embrace humility and realize that our world, due to continuing advances in technology and communication, is now a non-zero-sum game in which everyone can contribute to the growth of an ever-expanding economic pie without taking resources from another.

### Excerpt from REALLY RICH

The lottery isn't itself lucky, only the person who cashes in the winning numbers is lucky; everyone else is an unlucky loser. Same with casinos – for every winner there are six thousand losers clutching a warm beer over a cold hand. A casino is certainly not generating luck. Is the universe lucky, or are the people that have life the lucky ones? The universe is a jumble of data and matter and whatever else it's made of – luck is as much a real part of the universe as life is. It's defined only from the perspective of the recipient.

If you succeed in business, I guarantee that you didn't just get lucky. And anyone who thinks you did must believe that luck is the only way to

Agent: Jeff Ourvan

Materials Available:

Advance Reading Copy

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World English to Hachette Go  
Rights Available: Translation,  
Film/TV

get what they want out of life. Nothing can be further from the truth, and in fact this is a disempowering belief. Iteration – constant and deeply considered – is the only path to success.

The innovator who has a great idea that just hadn't yet matured or wasn't framed right for his or her market—an idea that somebody else picks up for a song and then creates something with it five or ten years later—that innovator is not unlucky. Rather, he's someone who did not iterate enough.

## **About Nicholas Crown, the Author**

About Nicholas Crown: Nicholas Crown began his career as a fixed income trader in London, and is now a top voice on TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube, best known as the creator of the viral social media series "Rich vs Really Rich." He is also a serial entrepreneur and founder of Revise Annuity. He lives in Chicago.



# THE CHINESE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR

**NAN Z. DA**

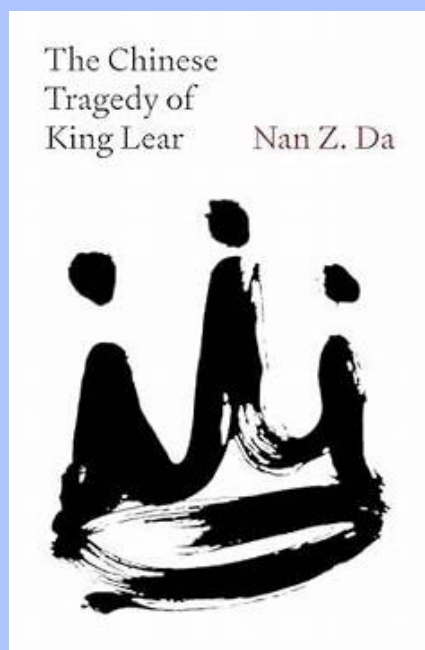
**Princeton University Press**

A compelling new reading of *The Tragedy of King Lear* that finds parallels in twentieth-century Chinese history

At the start of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, King Lear promises to divide his kingdom based on his daughters' professions of love, but portions it out before hearing all of their answers. For Nan Da, this opening scene sparks a reckoning between *The Tragedy of King Lear*, one of the cruelest and most confounding stories in literature, and the tragedy of Maoist and post-Maoist China. Da, who emigrated from China to the United States as a child in the 1990s, brings Shakespeare's tragedy to life on its own terms, addressing the

concerns it reflects over the transition from Elizabeth I to James I with a fearsome sense of what would soon come to pass. At the same time, she uses the play as a lens to revisit the world of Maoist China—what it did to people, and what it did to storytelling.

Blending literary analysis and personal history, Da begins in her childhood during Deng Xiaoping's Opening and Reform, then moves back and forth between Lear and China. In her powerful reading, the unfinished business of Maoism and other elements of Chinese thought and culture—from Confucianism to the spectacles of Peking Opera—help elucidate the choices Shakespeare made in constructing Lear and the unbearable confusions he left behind.



Agent: Jennifer Lyons  
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## Praise for THE CHINESE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR

"An ambitious blend of literary criticism and political analysis. . . . Da's grasp of China's 20<sup>th</sup> century history demonstrates how hauntingly Shakespeare prefigures the horrors unleashed by Mao's coercive authority."—Ron Charles, *Washington Post*

"Compelling and enjoyable."—Peter Gordon, *Asian Review of Books*

"Da's new book . . . [serves] as axiom, intuition, experimental hypothesis, and knowing provocation. . . . The Chinese Tragedy of 'King Lear' is not about how King Lear became a Chinese play; it is about why Da instinctively knew that it had been one all along."

—Catherine Nicholson, *New York Review of Books*

## About Nan Z. Da, the Author

Nan Z. Da is associate professor of English at Johns Hopkins University and the author of *Intransitive Encounters: Sino-US Literatures and the Limits of Exchange*.

# A NOBLE MADNESS

## The Dark Side of Collecting from Antiquity to Now

James Delbourgo

W.W. Norton, Fall 2025

A NOBLE MADNESS is a new cultural history of collectors from ancient looters and medieval idolaters to fin de siècle decadents and the modern-day hoarder. It tells the story of a singular idea repeated again and again down the ages: that collectors are mad.

The diagnosis of this madness has changed dramatically over the centuries, from theories of demonic possession to accusations of superstition, pathological greed, sexual perversion, political subversiveness and the psychiatric diagnosis of Hoarding Disorder.

The dark heart of collecting has a silver lining, however, because “mad” collectors have often been seen in a positive light. In Ming China, obsessive collectors were praised as highly sophisticated people. But it was in nineteenth-century Europe that the collector became one of the great anti-heroes of modernity. Because true collectors collected out of passion, not for profit, even the most deranged collector was an authentic self.

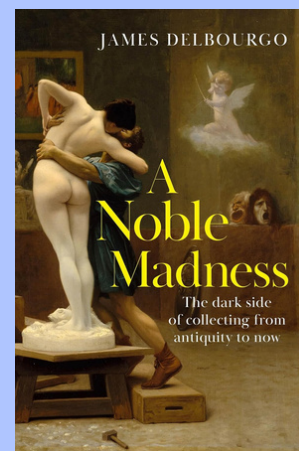
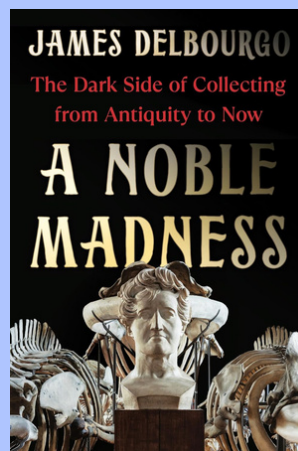
In the twentieth century, some saw collectors as threats to the political and social order. But to others, assembling even the weirdest collections became a symbol of freedom, integrity and truth to oneself. Collectors might be mad, bad, even dangerous—but they risk ridicule and ruin to create a rich private world of meaning and self-expression. Their love's a noble madness.

## Praise for A NOBLE MADNESS

Richly detailed as it is researched . . . Delbourgo has a deft touch  
—*New York Times Book Review*

“An amusing and enjoyable book. Covering art, relics, natural science, books and even Don Giovanni and his quantitative approach to seduction, it is nothing if not stimulating.”

—The Literary Review



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"This witty, anecdote-filled history ranges across the ages, taking in notorious real-life collectors (Adolf Hitler for art; Imelda Marcos for shoes) and fictional ones (such as Psycho's Norman Bates)." —The *Independent's* round up of the best books for August

## About James Delbourgo, the Author

James Delbourgo holds the James Westfall Thompson Chair and is Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers University, where he has taught the history of science, collecting, and museums since 2009. Educated at the University of East Anglia, Cambridge and Columbia, he has also taught at McGill and Harvard Universities. His last book *Collecting the World: Hans Sloane and the Origins of the British Museum* (Penguin & Belknap, 2017) won prizes from the American Historical Association, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the British Society for the History of Science, made numerous shortlists and was widely reviewed on both sides of the Atlantic.

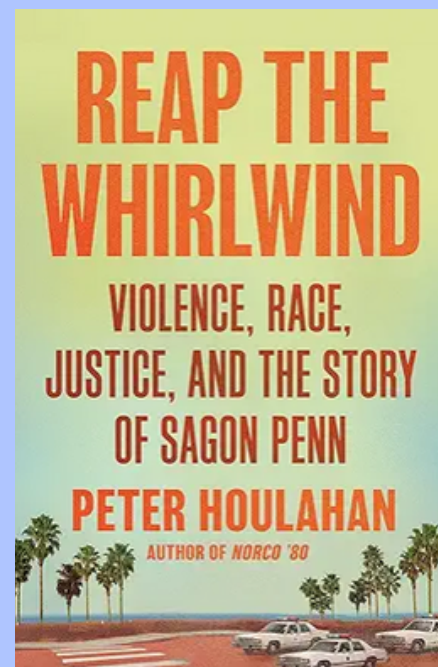
# REAP THE WHIRLWIND

## Violence, Race, Justice, and the Story of Sagon Penn

**Peter Houlahan**

**Counterpoint, July 23, 2024**

The bestselling author of *Norco '80* returns with a riveting story of mid-1980s San Diego that placed one young Black man at the center of a whirlwind of crime and punishment that profoundly altered Southern California.



March 31, 1985. Two white patrol officers in search of a gang member followed a pickup truck carrying seven young Black men up a dirt driveway in the Encanto neighborhood of Southeastern San Diego. Minutes later, gunshots rang out, and the truck's driver, Sagon Penn, fled the scene in an officer's patrol car. The incident stunned the city. What followed would change it forever.

Penn was an idealist who believed in the power of Buddhist chants to bring about the oneness of humanity. The two police officers were rising stars in one of the most progressive police departments in the country, yet one that had suffered more officers killed in the line of duty than any other. While the facts of the case were never in dispute, what remained unresolved was what, if anything, could justify such a violent confrontation? For over two years, a determined prosecutor and a charismatic defense attorney engaged in a sensational courtroom drama that revolved around matters of mental health, racial biases, and the self-image of a once-sleepy beach town grappling with its transformation into a major metropolitan area. The Sagon Penn incident forever altered how San Diego would respond to incidents involving police and communities of color.

Based on court transcripts, personal interviews, and archival police reports, *Reap the Whirlwind* is a gripping true-crime narrative set against the evocative backdrop of Southern California.

## Praise for REAP THE WHIRLWIND

"[A] propulsive legal thriller with deep insight into Southern California policing history." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

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Rights Sold:  
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Translation



"[A] fast-paced narrative . . . An assumption-shaking true-crime narrative that transports readers onto the street and into the courtroom." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"In meticulous yet utterly spellbinding detail, Houlahan lays out all aspects of the case, from the backstories of the principal figures to the tragic shootings that evening and in particular, the intriguing courtroom battle between prosecution and defense." —Booklist (starred review)

## Excerpt from REAP THE WHIRLWIND

The sound of a terrified woman's voice coming over the San Diego Police Department radio frequency was chilling: "We need help. We need help." Police racing through the streets in response to the desperate cry for help barely took notice of the police cruiser that passed them going the opposite direction, its light bar whirling blue and red. Behind the wheel, a police revolver on the seat beside him, was a twenty-three-year-old named Sagon Penn.

In the aftermath of the horrifying incident, the city of San Diego was left wondering how a police force considered one of the most progressive in the country when it came to issues of race and use of force could see two of its rising stars pull over a truck full of innocent young men on their way back from a day at the park, and still have everything go so terribly wrong. Sagon Penn, a soft-spoken and idealistic young man who believed his Buddhist chants could bring about the oneness of humanity, never disputed the violent events that occurred on that driveway in Encanto. San Diego was left to decide: Was there anything that could possibly justify such an act? For the city's older, white establishment with their deep military traditions and rigid ideas of law and order, there could be no conceivable justification. But the Black community, numbering less than 7 percent of the population, had no trouble conceiving of such a scenario.

## About Peter Houlahan, the Author

About Peter Houlahan: Peter Houlahan is an author, freelance writer, and book review contributor. His work has appeared in *CrimeReads*, *Salon*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Police1*, *Hearst*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Daily Mirror*, and *The Orange County Register*. His first book, *Norco '80: The True Story of the Most Spectacular Bank Robbery in American History*, was a finalist for an Edgar Allan Poe Award, the Hammett Prize, and a Macavity Award. The book has been chosen as a *New York Times* summer pick; a best book of the year by NPR, *The Wall Street Journal*, and Amazon; and a Gold Standard selection by the Junior Library Guild. Originally from Southern California, Houlahan now lives in Connecticut, where he works as an emergency medical technician.

# UNDESIRABLE: A Father's Odyssey

Laura Kalpakian

University of New Mexico Press (World English)

Summer 2026

- A story of paternal devotion to a 'prodigal son'
- A reflection on the cost of war on soldiers and their families
- *Saving Private Ryan* meets *A Few Good Men*

Undesirable  
A Father's Odyssey

Temporary Cover

Laura Kalpakian

UNDESIRABLE is a story about the cost of war, the tragedy of addiction, and the dedication of a father to his son.

When Doug Johnson enlisted to serve in the war in Viet Nam, he was an immature 19-year-old, proud of his new mustache, angry at his father, eager to return and marry his high-school girlfriend. For nearly the entirety of Doug's short time in the U.S. Army, his father struggled to bring his son home: from the moment he landed in Viet Nam, Doug's war service was a disaster. Bill Johnson's campaign on behalf of his son was extraordinary, making repeated appeals directly to then-president Richard Nixon and numerous other figures in government, including a key figure indicted for conspiracy in the Watergate scandal. Bill Johnson drew on his disparate—and unique connections to both the Mormon and Armenian diasporas in the US, desperate for sympathy and assistance. With dramatic twists, including court martial, prison, medical evacuation, disappearance and discovery through a miraculously timed photograph in Time magazine, the story is ultimately a tragedy. Through the efforts of a dedicated military attorney, Doug comes home but is never the same. The bright young man whose future potential his father had so ardently argued for, no longer exists.

Agent: Pamela Malpas  
Materials Available:  
Complete manuscript  
94,000 Words  
Rights available:  
Translation

The avidity with which Laura Kalpakian pursues the story mirrors her father's own ferocious devotion to his son. Doug Johnson's story is the story of a generation of veterans who returned from war deeply damaged, and, deprived of veteran's benefits, utterly abandoned by the country they had served.

This family memoir is written with a novelist's flair for character and story development, following a dramatic arc. It reflects the personal cost of war, and the extraordinary, obsessive effort of a father (himself a veteran of the Second World War) to reverse the charges.

## Excerpt from UNDESIRABLE

In a single envelope in the basement I found a thick sheaf of papers stapled together, labeled, "In The Order They Were Received" written in my mother's neat hand across the top.

The pitch and intensity of my father's letters that summer of 1970 escalate to near-insane. Reading them I was reminded of the Tim O'Brien story "The Things They Carried," that I assigned to students when I taught

Creative Writing. The narrative gathers momentum as the reader moves into it; the reader feels the weight, the burden, the velocity, stress and terror that the characters endured. The same is true of my father's letters; they gather momentum, fear and rage.

As June moves into July, Bill slathers letters on one and all, far and wide, military, politicians, chaplains. The tone and content change again in mid-July, awash in rage, and unleavened desperation. "Please in the name of God, do something today." He writes to Congressman Mendel Rivers (Chair of the Armed Services Committee). At the peak of his anguish, Bill is increasingly unhinged; his letters are enraged and incautious.

The Johnsons felt certain their phone was being tapped that summer; Helen and Mom watched from the kitchen window as a truck parked down the street working on the phone lines for days.

July 6 Bill Johnson to the Confinement Officer: "I am advised that my son, Pfc. Douglas S. Johnson is being held in pre-trial confinement...I am requesting the following information:

1. Has this trial been held? If so what was the outcome. If not, what is the date of the trial?
2. Name and address of his defense counsel.
3. When may I expect the Army to return my son to the US?
4. Is my son hospitalized?"

~

July 16 "Sir, this is the second court martial my son will have received in the matter of 14 months in Vietnam. You and the court may ask yourselves why should the court be lenient to the point of exoneration in this situation when the first time apparently failed? Perhaps Mr. Commander I can answer your intelligent and natural question in this letter."

## About Laura Kapalkian, the Author

Laura Kalpakian is an award-winning novelist, (*The Great Pretenders*, *The Memoir Club*, ietc.) and the author of the nonfiction *Memory Into Memoir: A Writer's Handbook*. She has taught memoir writing for more than two decades.

# Legal and Political Foundations of Capitalism

## Economics as Social Theory

Routledge

Jamee K. Moudud

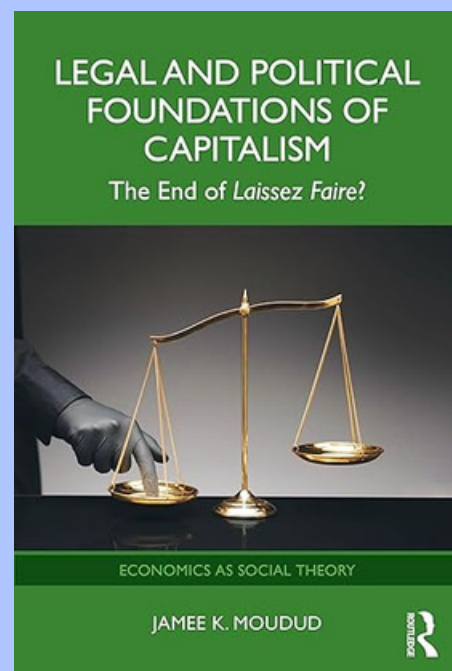
"Institutions matter" is a common refrain among all economists—including many who have proposed progressive alternatives to free market fundamentalism. However, this sentiment does not go far enough.

This book draws principally on the Original Institutional Economics and American Legal Realist traditions to propose a theory of legal institutionalism or institutional political economy. By arguing that society is a political community it challenges the private law versus public law or state versus markets distinction. Focusing on property, money and credit, constitutional law, and corporations this book argues that laissez-faire has never existed and that "state intervention versus de-regulation" and "market failures versus free markets" are false dichotomies. This book proposes the need to engage with legal-economic theory and history to understand what institutions are, what economic regulation means, law's intrinsic connection to the economy, and the distribution of power relations within capitalism.

This book will be of interest to readers of economics, law, public policy, international and development studies, and all those seeking to explore progressive alternatives in this period of multiple crises.

## About Jamee K. Moudud, the Author

Jamee K. Moudud (PhD) is a Professor of Economics at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York. He is Co-Founder and Board Member of the Law and Political Economy Collective (LPE-C), on the Steering Committee of the Association for the Promotion of Political Economy and Law (APPEAL), and is also a Co-Founder of the Journal of Law and Political Economy.



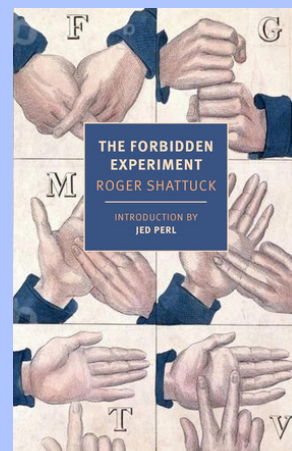
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# THE FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENT

## The Story of the Wild Boy of Aveyron

**NYRB Classics, August 19, 2025**

**Roger Shattuck with an introduction  
by Jed Perl**



The true story of the nineteenth century's so-called "Wild Boy of Aveyron"—an abandoned French child who lived for years alone in the wilderness before being brought under the care of an innovative young physician.

Before dawn on January 9, 1800, a remarkable creature came out of the woods near the village of Saint-Sernin in southern France." So begins Roger Shattuck's book about the so-called Wild Boy of Aveyron—a child abandoned by his caretakers and captured, years later, while scavenging food from a garden. Unable to speak, he was sent to the National Institute for the Deaf in Paris, declared a hopeless case, and left to languish.

Agent: Jennifer Lyons  
Rights Sold: World  
English; Spanish and  
Polish. Interest is great.

One day, however, Jean Itard, a young medical student from the provinces, took notice of the boy. Itard began to spend time with him, and soon the two found ways to interact. With games and toys Itard engaged the boy's senses and imagination, developing methods of education (some of which went on to form a basis for special education and the Montessori method) that brought him out further. For a while Victor—as Itard named him—made progress, but soon it stalled. Isolated behind institutional walls, the boy lived out the rest of his life a stone's throw from the Luxembourg Gardens.

THE FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENT tells the story of a tragic young man and the extraordinary doctor who tried, however imperfectly, to help him. It is a story of compassion, like the case studies of Oliver Sacks—a figure whom Itard foreshadows. It is also a story that leads Shattuck to ask deep questions about the human animal: What is language, how do we acquire it, and what do we become if we are deprived of it?

## Praise for THE FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENT

Roger Shattuck's THE FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENT is a marvelous book. I am delighted to learn it is being revived; it should never have been out of print."—Oliver Sacks

"A beautiful story . . . we feel grateful to Shattuck for telling it so well."

—Robert Darnton, *The New York Review of Books*

"Beautiful . . . a resonant story . . . the mystery will always be there, but on it Shattuck shines a warm and clarifying light." —*The Boston Globe*

“Roger Shattuck has done a beautiful job of recreating the story, skillfully using a wealth of known documents and discovering a few new ones. Although there have been other good books about the wild child, Mr. Shattuck’s has the merits of conciseness, humanity, and just enough detachment.” —H. E. Gruber, *The New York Times Book Review*

“A touching story, told with insight and compassion . . . evokes the theme and myth, the fantasy of the flight from society, not only to the woods but deeper into the self.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“Shattuck’s sensitive, balanced, and reflective study . . . bring[s] exactly before us what was before Itard—the unnerving claim of Victor’s human face.”—Clifford Geertz, *The New Republic*



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