

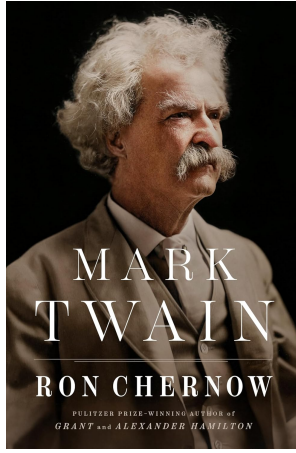
Melanie Jackson Agency, LLC
Rights List

Winter 2026

Contact: Matt Dissen, *Rights Manager*
m.dissen@mjalit.com

New and Upcoming

Ron Chernow
MARK TWAIN
US & Canada: Penguin Press (May 2025)
NONFICTION



IN THIS BRILLIANT WORK OF LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP, acclaimed biographer Ron Chernow reveals the magnificent and often maddening life of one of the most original figures in American history.

Born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in 1835, under Halley’s Comet, Mark Twain was an early teller of tall tales. He left his home in Missouri at an early age, piloted steamboats on the Mississippi, and arrived in the Nevada Territory. Before long, he accepted a job at the local newspaper, and then upon moving to San Francisco, published stories that attracted national attention, writing under a pen name soon to be immortalized.

Chernow draws a richly nuanced portrait of the man who shamelessly sought fame and fortune and crafted his celebrity persona with meticulous care. Twain eventually settled in Hartford, where he wrote some of his most well-known works, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Life on the Mississippi*, and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He threw himself into American politics, emerging as the nation’s most notable pundit. While his talents as a writer and speaker flourished, his madcap business ventures eventually forced him into bankruptcy; to economize, Twain and his family spent several eventful years in exile in Europe. He suffered the death of his wife and two daughters, and the last stage of his life was marked by heartache, political crusades, and increasingly eccentric behavior.

Drawing on Twain’s bountiful archives, including his notebooks, letters, and unpublished manuscripts, Chernow masterfully captures a man whose career reflected the country’s westward expansion, industrialization, and foreign wars. Today, more than one hundred years after his death, Twain’s writing continues to be read, debated, and quoted.

A #1 New York Times Bestseller

Named a Best Book of 2025 by Kirkus, TIME, The Washington Post, New York Times Book Review (Notable), Amazon, and Barnes & Noble

“Comprehensive, enthralling . . . flows like the Mississippi River.” —*The Boston Globe*

“A masterful exploration of the magnificent highs and unutterable lows of an American literary genius.” —*Los Angeles Times*

“An admirably animated, readable account of one of the modern world’s first celebrities.” – *The Guardian*

“This monumental achievement will stand as the definitive life of Mark Twain.” – *Booklist* (starred)

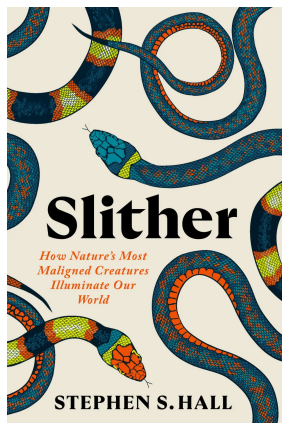
“[Chernow] again proves himself among his generation’s finest biographers.” – *Publishers Weekly* (starred)

RON CHERNOW is the bestselling author of *GRANT*, *ALEXANDER HAMILTON* (finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography), *THE HOUSE OF MORGAN* (winner of the National Book Award for Nonfiction), *TITAN: The Life of John D. Rockefeller* (finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography), and *WASHINGTON* (winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Biography), among others.

International Sales to Date: **UK:** Allen Lane/Penguin UK; **Ukraine:** Fabula/Ranok.

Previous Publishers: **Brazil:** Intrinseca; **China:** Shanghai Dook; **Italy:** Mondadori; **Japan:** Nikkei Business Publications; **Korea:** Book21; **Lithuania:** AUKSO PIEVA; **Poland:** Znak; **Vietnam:** Alpha Books.

Stephen S. Hall
SLITHER:
HOW NATURE'S MOST MALIGNED CREATURES ILLUMINATE OUR WORLD
US & Canada (World English): Grand Central (April 2025)
NONFICTION



A SPELLBINDING SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL STUDY OF SNAKES, the fascination and fear they inspire, and how new science is indelibly changing perceptions of these stunning creatures.

For millennia, snakes have been alternatively depicted as both beautiful and menacing in religious texts, mythology, and poetry. From the foundational deities of ancient Egypt through our modern sensibilities, it is a longstanding belief that snakes are devious, dangerous, even evil. But where there is hatred and fear, there is also fascination and reverence. How is it that these creatures – so despised and sinister, so foreign in movement and ostensibly devoid of emotion – have fired the imaginations of poets, prophets, and painters across time and cultures?

Here, Hall presents a naturalistic, cultural, ecological, and scientific meditation on these magnetic creatures, ranging from snakes' cold-blooded metabolism, venomous nature, mythology, artistic depictions, and cultural veneration. In doing so, he explores not only what neurologically triggers our wary fascination with these animals, but also how a current generation of scientists is using cutting-edge technologies to discover new truths about these evolutionarily ancient creatures—truths that may ultimately affect and enhance human health.

"A book about snakes has to be a great read if it is going to overcome our profound dislike of these creatures. This one does." — *Wall Street Journal*

"Drawing from a rich vein of history, anthropology and cutting-edge biology, science writer Stephen S. Hall uncoils the complexity of snakes and humans' love-hate relationship with them...Personal histories of snake researchers and enthusiasts, along with Hall's own field reporting, bring the science to life." —*Science News*

"A revelatory take on the much feared reptiles." – *Publishers Weekly (starred)*

"For readers willing to shed inherited fears, Hall's treatise is not just a defense of snakes, but a celebration of their enduring power to both unsettle and inspire." – *The Quarterly Review of Biology*

"Hall's deep and tender love for snakes radiates from every incandescent page." – *Sy Montgomery*

"No matter how you feel about snakes, you are going to love this fun and fascinating book." — *Dan Fagin*

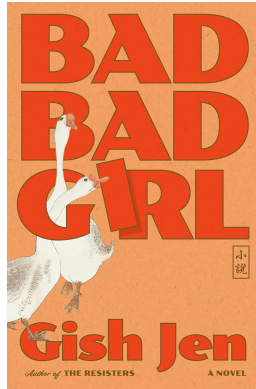
"Wise and wondrous." —*David Quammen*

STEPHEN S. HALL is the author of such books as *WISDOM* and *MERCHANTS OF IMMORTALITY*, and his work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *National Geographic*, *Wired*, *Scientific American*, and *Smithsonian*. He has received the Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism from the American Geophysical Union and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

International Sales to Date: **Japan:** Hayakawa; **Poland:** Muza; **Russia:** Alpina.

(*UK rights handled via Grand Central/Hachette*)

Gish Jen
BAD BAD GIRL
US & Canada: Knopf (October 2025)
FICTION



AN ENGROSSING, BLISTERINGLY AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL
reconstructing her mother’s traumatic childhood in pre-revolutionary Shanghai and immigrant life in New York
in an effort to understand – and forgive – her harshness.

Gish’s mother is born into a wealthy family in 1920’s Shanghai, where girls are expected to behave and be quiet. Every act of disobedience prompts the same reprimand: “Bad bad girl!” After being sent to Catholic school, she is baptized, re-named for St. Agnes, and, unusual for a girl, given an internationally-minded education. Still, she is told: “If you were a boy, you could accomplish a lot.” Aggie finds solace in books, reading every night with a flashlight and an English-Chinese dictionary, before finally announcing her intention to pursue a Ph.D in America. In 1947, with the forces of Communist revolution on the horizon, she leaves her home, never to return.

Lonely and adrift in Manhattan, Aggie begins dating an engineering student also from Shanghai. While news of their country and their families grows increasingly dire, the couple set out to make a new life together: marriage, a son, a house in the suburbs. But by the time Gish is born, her parents’ marriage is unraveling, and her mother, struggling to understand her strong-willed American daughter, begins to repeat the refrain that punctuated her own childhood: “Bad bad girl!”

Gish Jen gives us a heartbreaking mother–daughter relationship, as well as a deeply compelling exploration of the immigrant experience, East–West cultural divides, and internalized misogyny.

Named a Best Book of 2025 by *TIME*, *Los Angeles Times*, and Amazon

“A transcendent work of art.” – *The Boston Globe*

“Remarkable and heartbreaking ... How rich this book is, and how humane.” – *Los Angeles Times*

“A poignant, genre-bending novel.” – *San Francisco Chronicle*

“As portraits of tough mother-daughter relationships go, it’s as moving as they come.” – *Kirkus* (starred)

“Astute and revelatory... blends sharp-witted autofiction with powerful images.” – *Publisher’s Weekly* (starred)

“Heartbreaking and stunning.” – *Library Journal* (starred)

“A uniquely faceted, cross-cultural mother-daughter drama.” – *Booklist* (starred)

“Unsentimental, insightful, and brutally honest.” – *Jung Chang*

“Gish Jen has written *the* multigenerational mother-daughter epic of our new century.” — *Junot Diaz*

GISH JEN is the author of *THANK YOU MR. NIXON*, *THE RESISTERS*, *THE LOVE WIFE*, *WHO’S IRISH*, and *TYPICAL AMERICAN* (finalist for the National Book Critics’ Circle Award), among others. Her writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, and *The Best American Short Stories*. Jen is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has been awarded a Lannan Literary Award for Fiction, a Guggenheim fellowship, a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study fellowship, and a Mildred and Harold Strauss Living. She is a finalist for the 2025 John Dos Passos Prize for Literature.

International Sales to Date: UK: Granta; Russia: Azbooka-Atticus.

Tom McCarthy
THE RHYL POSTER

US: New York Review Books (October 2026)
FICTION



FROM THE TWO-TIME BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST,

a new novel exploring money and power—featuring mind-altering substances, shadowy power players, and EU politics.

Benjamin Stanton—decorated Gulf War veteran, celebrated legal theorist, orphan, addict, spy—embodies both the dynamism and the risk, the promise and the trauma, of our twenty first-century moment. A star jurist at the Court of Justice of the European Union, he is responsible for transforming Europe’s biggest cases into laws that shape the lives of millions. But when he meets the enigmatic Pirotti at a conference in the Swiss Alps, his allegiance begins to shift. Introduced by his new handler to the *petit bleu* pills that soothe the pain of the war wound which still troubles him, he finds himself surrendering to intermittent visions: of sublime nerve-rays conjoining all spaces and all humanity in a great web of pure benevolence—a web or labyrinth, too, in which lurk traces of a primal violent incident back in Iraq.

Soon Stanton finds himself passing out Court documents to Pirotti’s colleagues—or just passing out. When the Court begins to detect leaks in security, its suspicion falls on anyone but Stanton, who can do no wrong. Indeed, it is he who has been charged with the task of drafting an epochal, landmark ruling, more important and far-reaching than anything he has written before. But Stanton has been working on something else: a vast, sprawling document made up of markings, patterns and revelations, that has the power to change the world which he and those around him have so carefully constructed—to destroy it, certainly, but maybe also, from that very act of ruination, to draw into view, and bring down to the people, the new Law, new beginning, founding the new dispensation that our era desperately craves.

THE RHYL POSTER crafts a hallucinatory landscape in which the literary descendant of Dostoevsky’s Raskolnikov and Conrad’s Razumov is cast adrift in the gamespace of *Grand Theft Auto*, the spirit of Kafka’s Franz or K. amidst the environs of *Bad Lieutenant*; a world where guilt—our own, and our whole era’s—is endlessly replayable, but never quite expungeable.

“Tom McCarthy, the most visionary of contemporary writers, is light years ahead of anyone writing anywhere currently.”
—Neel Mukherjee

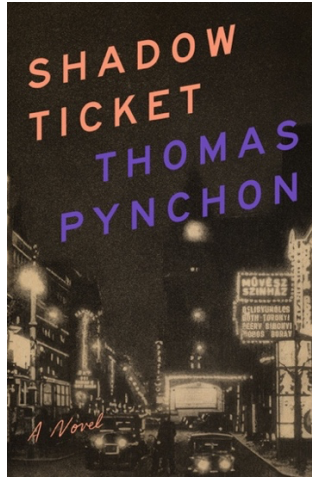
TOM MCCARTHY is the author of the novels *THE MAKING OF INCARNATION*, *REMAINDER*, *C* (a Booker Prize finalist), and *SATIN ISLAND* (a Booker Prize finalist). He is also author of the study *TINTIN AND THE SECRET OF LITERATURE* and the essay collection *TYPEWRITERS, BOMBS, JELLYFISH*. He contributes regularly to publications such as *The New York Times*, *The London Review of Books*, *Harper’s*, and *Artforum*. In 2013 he was awarded the inaugural Windham-Campbell Prize for Fiction.

International Sales to Date: **UK:** Jonathan Cape; **Germany:** Diaphanes.

Previous Publishers: **China:** Shanghai Translation Publishing House; **Croatia:** OceanMore; **France:** Editions de l'Olivier; **Italy:** Bompiani; **Spain:** De Conatus; **Turkey:** Jaguar.

Thomas Pynchon
SHADOW TICKET

US & Canada: Penguin Press (October 2025)
FICTION



THE NEW NOVEL FROM THOMAS PYNCHON.

Milwaukee 1932, the Great Depression going full blast, repeal of Prohibition just around the corner, Al Capone in the federal pen, the private investigation business shifting from labor-management relations to the more domestic kind. Hicks McTaggart, a onetime strikebreaker turned private eye, thinks he's found job security until he gets sent out on what should be a routine case, locating and bringing back the heiress of a Wisconsin cheese fortune who's taken a mind to go wandering. Before he knows it, he's been shanghaied onto a transoceanic liner, ending up eventually in Hungary where there's no shoreline, a language from some other planet, and enough pastry to see any cop well into retirement—and of course no sign of the runaway heiress he's supposed to be chasing. By the time Hicks catches up with her he will find himself also entangled with Nazis, Soviet agents, British counterespies, swing musicians, practitioners of the paranormal, outlaw motorcyclists, and the troubles that come with each of them, none of which Hicks is qualified, forget about being paid, to deal with. Surrounded by history he has no grasp on and can't see his way around in or out of, the only bright side for Hicks is it's the dawn of the Big Band Era and as it happens he's a pretty good dancer. Whether this will be enough to allow him somehow to Lindy-hop his way back again to Milwaukee and the normal world, which may no longer exist, is another question.

A New York Times Bestseller

Named a Best Book of 2025 by *TIME*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The New Republic*, *Financial Times*, *New York Times Book Review* (Notable), *Los Angeles Times*, *Vulture*, *Lit Hub*, and *Barnes & Noble*

“A masterpiece.” – *The Telegraph*

“It's not just that no one else writes quite like Pynchon; it's that no one even tries.” – *The Washington Post*

“A gloriously language-driven detective novel.” — *Boston Globe*

“Pynchon has written his most urgent novel yet.” — *Vulture*

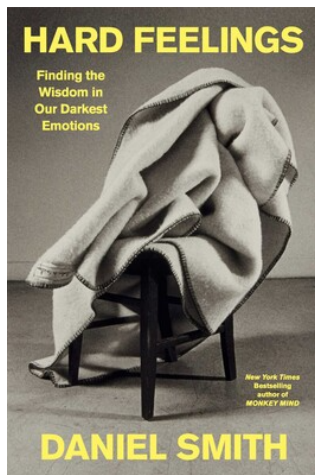
“A very funny book... What might seem like improvisation is always an illusion, and as for structure he has been a master of the art since he put the structure of his first novel in its very title.” — *BookForum*

“This book is a gift.” — *New City*

THOMAS PYNCHON is the author of *V.*, *THE CRYING OF LOT 49*, *GRAVITY'S RAINBOW* (winner of the National Book Award), *SLOW LEARNER*, *VINELAND*, *MASON & DIXON*, *AGAINST THE DAY*, *INHERENT VICE*, and *BLEEDING EDGE*.

International Sales to Date: **UK:** Jonathan Cape; **Brazil:** Companhia das Letras; **China:** Yilin Press; **France:** Editions Bourgois; **Germany:** Rowohlt; **Greece:** Dardanos; **Hungary:** Jelenkor; **Italy:** Einaudi; **Japan:** Shinchosha; **Korea:** Eunhangnamu; **Norway:** Gyldendal; **Poland:** ArtRage; **Portugal:** Bertrand; **Romania:** Polirom; **Russia:** Azbooka; **Serbia:** Stampar Makarije; **Spain:** Tusquets.

Daniel Smith
HARD FEELINGS:
FINDING THE WISDOM IN OUR DARKEST EMOTIONS
US & Canada: Simon & Schuster (March 2026)
NONFICTION



FROM THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *MONKEY MIND*,
a thoughtful, deeply personal exploration of our most difficult emotions, arguing that they are not obstacles to overcome
but essential messengers that can lead us toward wisdom and wholeness.

When two birthday gifts—a centuries-old treatise on melancholy and a book of Bosch’s hellscapes—arrived just months before the birth of Daniel Smith’s second child, he began questioning our culture’s dismissal of difficult feelings and his own lifelong struggle against these so-called “negative” emotions. Moving between intimate personal narrative and rich intellectual exploration, Smith investigates how our relationship with negative emotions has evolved through history—from the Seven Deadly Sins to modern psychology’s sometimes equally damning classifications. He explores what science, psychology, art, and philosophy can and cannot tell us about the nature of emotion itself, challenging conventional wisdom about what our feelings really are and how they function.

With unflinching honesty about his own emotional turbulence and the insights gained from his work as a psychotherapist, Smith makes a compelling case that our negative emotions serve crucial purposes—if only we would listen to what they’re trying to tell us. Whether examining the striking absence of anger among the Inuit or confronting his own emotional inheritance as a new father, Smith offers a perspective that is both deeply humane and surprisingly hopeful, discovering that even our darkest emotions contain intelligence, meaning, and the potential for profound transformation.

"Insightful and exhilarating."—**Susannah Cahalan**

"A book that transforms self-judgment into self-knowledge."—**Robert J. Waldinger, MD**

"A marvelous book about unpleasant emotions that leaves you full of awe and compassion."—**Lisa Feldman Barrett, PhD**

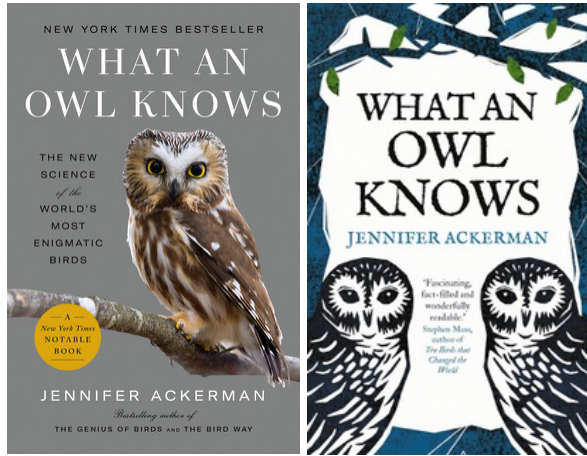
"A beautiful and funny meditation on self-awareness and self-acceptance." – **Rachel Aviv**

DANIEL SMITH is a psychotherapist and the bestselling author of *Monkey Mind* and *Muses, Madmen, and Prophets*. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *The New Yorker*, among other publications.

Previous Publishers: **China:** Beijing Huazhang Graphics; **Germany:** Hans Huber; **Korea:** Book 21;
Turkey: Okuyan Us Yayin.

Recent Frontlist

Jennifer Ackerman
WHAT AN OWL KNOWS
US & Canada: Penguin Press
NONFICTION



FOLLOWING THE INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING *THE GENIUS OF BIRDS* and *THE BIRD WAY*, an investigation into the remarkable nature of owl behavior and biology, including new insights on owls’ astonishing stealth, hunting skills, communication, and sensory prowess.

Our fascination with these mysterious birds was first documented over 30,000 years ago, and our enduring awareness and curiosity of their forward gaze and nearly silent flight has cemented the owl as a symbol of wisdom and knowledge, foresight and intuition. But what, really, does an owl know? While more than 270 species exist today, residing on six continents, owls are far more difficult to find and study than other birds – because while not only cryptic and camouflaged, owls are most active in the dark of night.

Joining scientists on this maddening and elusive treasure hunt, Ackerman explores the rich biological history of these animals and reveals the remarkable scientific discoveries into their brains and behavior, as well as her own personal field observations, diving deep too into why this bird endlessly inspires and beguiles us.

A New York Times Bestseller

Named a Best Book of 2023 by *The Times*, *The Economist*, *Publisher’s Weekly* and *New York Times Book Review*

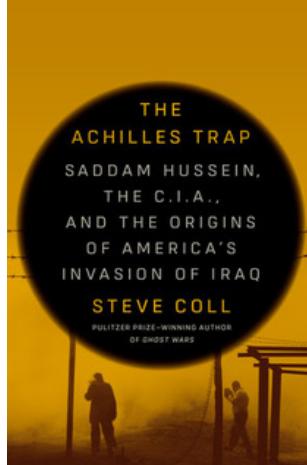
“Should do for hooting what a wave of octopus books did for slithering.” – *Chicago Tribune*

“A gripping history . . . *WHAT AN OWL KNOWS* is a treat.” – *Financial Times*

JENNIFER ACKERMAN is the bestselling author of *THE GENIUS OF BIRDS* (longlisted for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award), *THE BIRD WAY* (finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award), *BIRDS BY THE SHORE*, *SEX SLEEP EAT DRINK DREAM*, *AH-CHOO*, and *CHANCE IN THE HOUSE OF FATE*. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in Nonfiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Bunting Fellowship, and a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

International sales to date: **UK:** One World; **Australia:** Scribe; **Brazil:** Editora Fósforo; **Catalan:** Cossetania; **China:** People’s Literature Publishing House; **Czech Republic:** Kazda; **Estonia:** Tänapäev; **France:** Marabout; **Germany:** dtv; **Italy:** La Nave di Teseo; **Japan:** Nikkei National Geographic; **Spain:** Ariel/Planeta.

Steve Coll
THE ACHILLES TRAP:
SADDAM HUSSEIN, THE C.I.A., AND THE ORIGINS OF AMERICA'S INVASION OF IRAQ
US & Canada: Penguin Press
FICTION



FROM THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF *GHOST WARS* and *DIRECTORATE S*, the definitive story of the decades-long relationship between the United States and Saddam Hussein, a deeply researched and news breaking investigation into how human error, cultural miscommunication, and hubris led to one of the costliest geopolitical conflicts of our time.

When the US invaded Iraq in 2003, its message was clear: Iraq, under the control of Saddam Hussein, possessed weapons of mass destruction which, if left unchecked, posed grave danger to the world. Yet when no WMDs were found, the US and its allies were forced to examine the political and intelligence failures that had led to the invasion, occupation, and civil war that followed. The integral question: Why had Saddam seemingly sacrificed his long reign in power by giving the false impression he possessed hidden stocks of dangerous weapons?

Calling on unpublished and under-reported sources, interviews with surviving participants, and Saddam's own transcripts, Coll untangles the people, ploys of power, and geopolitics that led to America's disastrous war with Iraq, including America's fundamental miscalculations during its decades-long relationship with Hussein. Beginning with his rise to power and secret nuclear weapons program, Coll traces Saddam's motives by way of his inner circle, who had no choice but to defer to their leader, as well as examine the CIA and successive presidential administrations who failed to grasp his critical nuances when the stakes were incredibly high.

Finalist for the 2024 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction

Finalist for the 2024 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction

Named a Best Book of the Year by *The New Yorker*, *New York Times Book Review* (Notable), and the *Washington Post* (Notable)

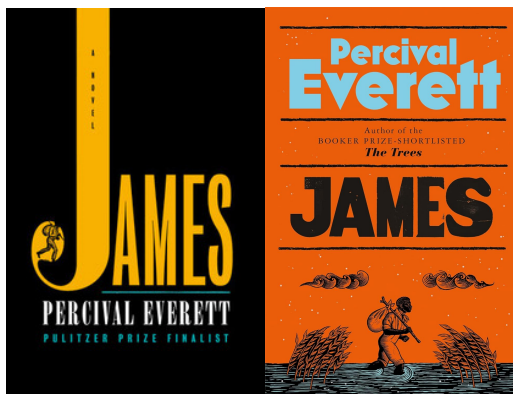
"Voluminously researched and compulsively readable." —*Air Mail*

STEVE COLL is the bestselling author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *GHOST WARS* and dean emeritus of the Columbia Journalism School. He is an editor at *The Economist* in London, was a staff writer at *The New Yorker* for nearly two decades, and before that was a writer and editor at *The Washington Post*, where he received a Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism. He is the author of nine books, including *PRIVATE EMPIRE* and *DIRECTORATE S*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction.

International Sales to Date: UK: Allen Lane/Penguin UK.

(*All international rights handled via Penguin Press*)

Percival Everett
JAMES
US & Canada: Doubleday
FICTION



FROM THE ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF *DR. NO* and *THE TREES*,
a harrowing and hilarious retelling of Mark Twain's classic *THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN*,
now told from the enslaved Jim's point of view in which his agency, intelligence, and compassion
are seen in a radical new light.

Winner of the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

Winner of the 2024 National Book Award for Fiction

Winner of the 2024 Kirkus Prize for Fiction

Winner of the 2025 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction

Finalist for the 2024 Booker Prize

Finalist for the 2024 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction

Finalist for the 2025 LA Times Book Prize for Fiction

Finalist for the 2025 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction

Finalist for the 2025 Aspen Words Literary Prize

Finalist for the 2025 Dublin Literary Award

A #1 New York Times Bestseller & Sunday Times Bestseller

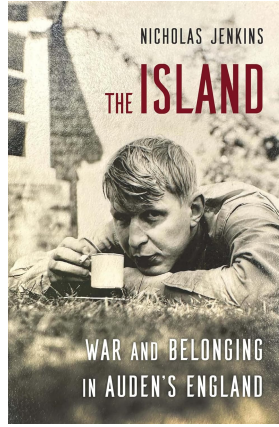
A Best Book of the Year by The New Yorker, New York Times Book Review, The Atlantic, TIME, Washington Post, The Guardian, Vanity Fair, The Economist, Sunday Times, Telegraph, Financial Times, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, Irish Times, Amazon, NPR, Lit Hub, and Barnes & Noble

Film rights optioned by Universal Pictures, with Steven Spielberg to executive produce

PERCIVAL EVERETT is the author of *DR. NO* (winner of the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award), *THE TREES* (finalist for the Booker Prize), *TELEPHONE* (finalist for the Pulitzer Prize), and *ERASURE*, among others. He has received the NBCC Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award, the Windham-Campbell Prize, and the PEN Center USA Award for Fiction.

International Sales to Date: **UK:** Mantle/Picador; **Albania:** DITURIA; **Arabic:** Dar Tashkeel; **Brazil:** Todavia; **Bulgaria:** Colibri; **Catalan:** Angle Editorial; **China:** Beijing Ruyi Xinxin Cultural Development Co; **Croatia:** HENA COM; **Czech Republic:** Euromedia; **Finland:** Gummerus; **France:** Editions de l'Olivier; **Georgia:** Sulakauri; **Germany:** Hanser; **Greece:** Psychogios; **Hungary:** Jelenkor; **Italy:** La Nave di Teseo; **Japan:** Kawade Shobo; **Korea:** Munhakdongne; **Lithuania:** Jotema; **Mongolia:** Bolor Sudar; **Netherlands:** Atlas Contact; **Poland:** Marginesy; **Portugal:** Porto; **Romania:** Litera; **Russia:** Corpus; **Serbia:** Publik Praktikum; **Slovakia:** Grada; **Spain:** De Conatus; **Sweden:** Norstedts; **Taiwan:** China Times; **Turkey:** Nemesis Yayıncılık; **Ukraine:** Ranok; **Vietnam:** Rainbow Books.

Nicholas Jenkins
THE ISLAND: War and Belonging in Auden's England
US & Canada: Belknap Press / Harvard University Press
NONFICTION



REEXAMINING ONE OF THE 20th CENTURY'S MOST MOVING AND CONTROVERSIAL POETS, *THE ISLAND* is a fresh account of Auden's early works and a striking parable about the politics of modernism.

From his first poems in 1922 to the publication of his landmark collection *ON THIS ISLAND* in the mid-1930s, W. H. Auden wrestled with the meaning of Englishness. His early works are prized for their psychological depth, yet they are political poems as well, illuminating Auden's intuitions about a key aspect of modern experience: national identity.

Here, Jenkins presents a new picture of the poet and the man, as he explored a genteel, lyrical form of nationalism. His poems reflect on a world in ruins, while cultivating visions of England as a beautiful—if morally compromised—haven. They also reflect aspects of Auden's personal search for belonging—from his complex relationship with his father, to his quest for literary mentors, to his negotiation of the codes that structured gay life. Yet as Europe veered toward a second immolation, Auden began to realize that poetic myths centered on English identity held little potential. He left the country in 1936 for what became an almost lifelong expatriation, convinced that his role as the voice of Englishness had become an empty one.

A Times Literary Supplement Best Book of 2024

"A revelatory and often exciting book that presents a new and convincing account of Auden's early years." –
Edward Mendelson

"In this wonderful study of the early Auden, he brings to bear history, biography, and an acute sense of the artistic moment to fashion for us a young genius who is conservative, bucolic, gay, a patriotic adherent of post-imperial Little England...
Jenkins gives us a new, unexpected image of a poet developing." – **Edmund White**

"A big, wonderfully textured and thought-provoking study...a genuinely fascinating foray into understanding not only the young, forming Auden [but] the forces that did the forming." — **Open Letters Review**

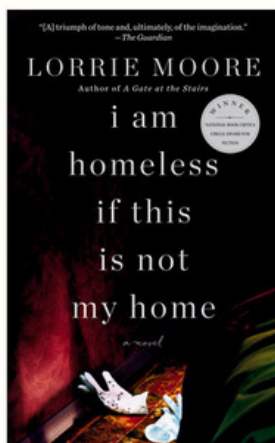
"Exemplary scholarship and profound sensitivity combine in Stanford English professor Jenkins' nuanced reading of the early work of W.H. Auden... A deeply informed, perceptive literary study." – **starred Kirkus**

"A robust study... a scholarly yet accessible portrait of an important literary enigma." – **Booklist**

NICHOLAS JENKINS teaches English Literature at Stanford University, and his writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, and the *New Republic*.

International Sales to Date: **UK:** Faber & Faber.

Lorrie Moore
I AM HOMELESS IF THIS IS NOT MY HOME
US & Canada: Knopf
FICTION



FROM ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED VOICES IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE,
a haunting (yet wryly humorous) magic-box of a novel, both a love story and a ghost story.

High up in a New York hospice, Finn sits with his beloved brother, who is slipping from one world into the next. But when a phone call summons Finn back to a troubled old flame, a strange journey begins, opening a trapdoor in reality that prompts questions of life and death, grief and the past, comedy and tragedy, and the diaphanous separations that lie between them all.

And in the midst of it all, there is the mystery of a strange 19th century journal, stolen from a boarding house, following the story of an assassin, presumed dead.

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction

Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR and *The New Yorker*

***A New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice**

A National Bestseller

“An almost violent kind of achievement: a writer knifing forward, slicing open a new terrain.” – *The New Yorker*

“A triumph of tone and, ultimately, of the imagination.” – *The Guardian*

“One of the most singular and affecting on-the-road stories in the American canon.” – *NPR*

“This slender ghost story haunts long past the time when the final page is turned.” — *Sunday Times*

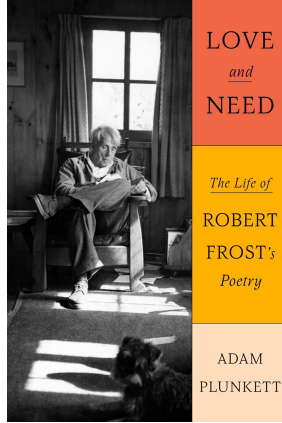
“Compelling and surreal... The prose might be her finest.” – *Harper's*

“As with all the best fiction, Moore offers a way of looking at the world that brings a fresh perspective... a time trip well worth taking.” – *The Independent*

LORRIE MOORE is the author of *BARK*, *A GATE AT THE STAIRS*, and *BIRDS OF AMERICA*, among others. The Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English at Vanderbilt University, Moore is the recipient of the Irish Times International Prize for Literature, a Lannan Foundation fellowship, the PEN/Malamud Award, and the Rea Award for her achievement in the short story. In 2020, her collected stories were released in Everyman's Library Contemporary Classics Series.

International Sales to Date: **UK:** Faber and Faber; **France:** Actes Sud; **Hungary:** Park; **Italy:** La Nave di Teseo; **Japan:** Shinchosha; **Korea:** Munhakdongne; **Portugal:** Relógio D'Água; **Spain:** Seix Barral.

Adam Plunkett
LOVE AND NEED: The Life of Robert Frost's Poetry
US & Canada (World English): Farrar, Straus and Giroux
NONFICTION



BRAIDING TOGETHER BIOGRAPHY AND CRITICISM,
a new portrait that challenges our understanding of Robert Frost's life and poetic legacy.

By the middle of the 20th century, Robert Frost was one of the best-loved poets in America – a national bard, simple and sincere. After Frost's death, however, certain cliches gave way to broad (though opposed) portraits sketched by his biographers, asking whether anyone could avoid the conclusion that Frost was in fact a "monster."

Now, Plunkett reveals a new Frost through a careful look at the poems and people he knew best, showing how the stories of his most important relationships, heretofore partly told, mirror dominant themes of Frost's enduring poetry: withholding and disclosure, privacy and intimacy. Moving through Frost's most important work and closest relationships with the attention to detail necessary to see familiar things anew, Plunkett offers an original interpretation of Frost's poetry, tracing his distinctive achievement to an engagement with poetic tradition far deeper and more extensive than he ever let on. Frost invited his readers into a conversation like the one he sustained with his literary forebears, intimate and profound, yet Frost kept his private self at a remove.

Here, Plunkett brings the two together— poet and poetry—and draws us back into conversation with an icon.

Named a Best Book of 2025 by *Kirkus*, *The New Yorker*, and *Times Literary Supplement*

"As in the best critical biographies, Plunkett does not merely track down real-world inspiration for a given work. Rather, he brings together Frost's personal life, literary sources, and publication history to enrich our understanding of the poems, then uses the poems to enhance our understanding of the life. The result is a thorough, elegant, and, at times, surprising study." – *The New Yorker*

"A fresh re-examination. Plunkett's own prose is smooth and compelling, inviting readers into a writer and a life more surprising than we suspected." – *The Boston Globe*

"A capacious exploration of Frost's complicated life and poetry... A superb biography that neatly weaves in nuanced and insightful readings of many poems." —*Kirkus (starred)*

"This is a book I have needed for years... *LOVE AND NEED*, precisely titled, tells the story of great art attained in the course of ordinary human foibles and affections, varieties of decency and rage." —**Robert Pinsky**

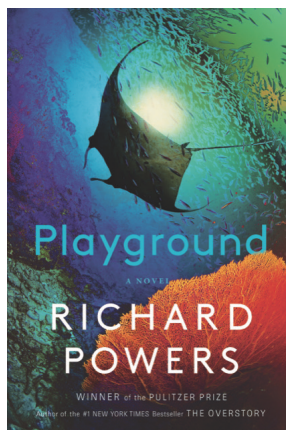
"A fresh, expansive, and intimate account... Blending literary criticism and life writing in innovative ways, Plunkett offers new perspectives on Frost as a poet, friend, husband, lover, and father, and interrogates the damaging myths perpetuated by Frost's past biographers... a brilliant tribute." —**Heather Clark**

ADAM PLUNKETT, a literary critic, has received fellowship support from organizations such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Leon Levy Center for Biography.

(*UK rights handled via FSG*)

Richard Powers
PLAYGROUND

US: W.W. Norton
FICTION



FROM THE PULITZER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR of *THE OVERSTORY* and *BEWILDERMENT*,
a stunning new novel that follows what happens when a friendship destroys itself
but still changes the world.

Set in the world's largest ocean, four lives are drawn together as they meet on the history-scarred island of Makatea in French Polynesia, whose deposits of phosphorus once helped to feed the world. Now the tiny atoll has been chosen for humanity's next adventure: a plan to send floating, autonomous cities out onto the open sea. But first, the island's residents must vote to greenlight the project or turn the seastealers away.

This novel explores that last wild place we have yet to colonize in a still-unfolding oceanic game, interweaving profound themes of technology and the environment, and a deep exploration of shared humanity.

Longlisted for the 2024 Booker Prize

Finalist for the 2024 Kirkus Prize for Fiction

A New York Times Bestseller

A Best Book of the Year by the *Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *The New Yorker*, and NPR

"Richly hued... Gorgeous... No author has done more to turn our gaze outward to the mysteries of the universe, above our heads and below our feet." — *Boston Globe*

"*Playground* is brilliant, captivating, and important—and the best book I've read this year."— **Andrea Wulf**

RICHARD POWERS is the author of *BEWILDERMENT*, *THE OVERSTORY*, *ORFEO*, *THE ECHO MAKER*, *THE TIME OF OUR SINGING*, and several other novels. He is the recipient of a MacArthur grant, the Pulitzer Prize, and the National Book Award, as well as a two-time Booker Prize finalist and four-time NBCC finalist.

International Sales to Date: **Canada:** Random House Canada; **UK:** Hutchinson Heinemann;

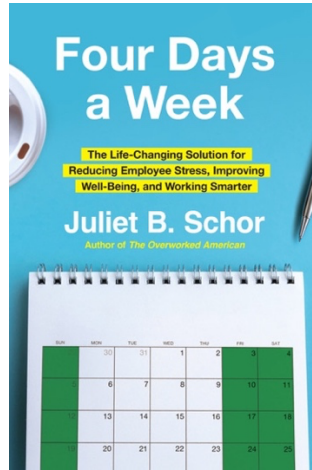
Brazil: Todavia; **Bulgaria:** Colibri; **Catalan:** AdN/Alianza; **Croatia:** Fraktura; **Estonia:** Varrak;

Finland: Gummerus; **France:** Actes Sud; **Germany:** Penguin Verlag; **Greece:** Dardanos/Gutenberg; **Italy:** La Nave di Teseo; **Japan:** Shinchosha; **Korea:** Random House Korea; **Netherlands:** Atlas Contact; **Poland:** Poznańskie;

Portugal: Presença; **Romania:** Trei; **Russia:** AST; **Serbia:** Dereta; **Slovenia:** Beletrina; **Spain:** AdN/Alianza;

Taiwan: China Times; **Turkey:** İthaki Yayınları; **Ukraine:** Ranok.

Juliet Schor
FOUR DAYS A WEEK:
THE LIFE-CHANGING SOLUTION FOR REDUCING EMPLOYEE STRESS,
IMPROVING WELL-BEING, AND WORKING SMARTER
US & Canada: Harper Business
NONFICTION



A FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK:
a change that once seemed radical but is now within reach.

Around the world, long hours and intense pressure are taking their toll. When the pandemic hit in 2020, work-induced stress and burnout skyrocketed. Many reached a breaking point. Now, three-quarters of the world’s employees are disengaged and struggling, including in the US and Canada, where half are experiencing high levels of daily stress. Our current work culture, the five-day, forty-hours-a-week model—which has gone unchanged for nearly a century—is failing. But a remedial countertrend has emerged: the four-day work week. Kickstarter, Bolt, Basecamp, ThredUp, and hundreds of other employers have eliminated the fifth day of work, successfully figuring out how to maintain productivity while seeing remarkable improvements in employee well-being. Hiring is easier and fewer people are quitting. These results are global. Working a four-day week, people feel energized, capable, and more optimistic about their lives—and their jobs.

Juliet Schor—an expert who has researched and written about work for more than four decades, beginning with her *New York Times* bestseller *THE OVERWORKED AMERICAN* — shares her pioneering analysis of the benefits of a shorter work week, how companies can achieve them, why the concept has taken so long to emerge and gain acceptance, and why doing so will help a company’s employees and its bottom line.

JULIET SCHOR is Professor of Sociology at Boston College and the bestselling author of numerous books, including *THE OVERWORKED AMERICAN*, *AFTER THE GIG*, and *THE OVERSPENT AMERICAN*. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and she has been featured across national and international media, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *People*, *60 Minutes*, the *Today* show, and *Good Morning America*. Her 2022 TED Talk, making the case for the four-day workweek, has been viewed over three million times.

International Sales to Date: **UK:** Harper 360; **Japan:** Toyo Keizai Publishers.

(*All international rights handled via HarperCollins*)

Select Backlist

Fiction

Jim Grimsley / *The Dove in the Belly* (Levine Querido)

Mary-Beth Hughes / *The Ocean House* (Grove)

Eliza Minot / *In the Orchard* (Knopf)

Howard Norman / *Come to the Window* (W.W. Norton)

Cynthia Ozick / *Antiquities* (Knopf)

Matt Ruff / *Lovecraft Country* (HarperCollins)

Wole Soyinka / *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth* (Pantheon)

Dana Spiotta / *Wayward* (Knopf)

Nonfiction

Nicholson Baker / *Finding A Likeness* (Penguin Press)

Christopher Benfey / *If* (Penguin Press)

Susan Faludi / *In the Darkroom* (Metropolitan Books)

David Finkel / *An American Dreamer* (Random House)

Michael Hardt / *The Subversive Seventies* (Oxford University Press)

Annik LaFarge / *Chasing Chopin* (Simon & Schuster)

Roger Lowenstein / *Ways and Means* (Penguin Press)

David Michaelis / *Eleanor* (Simon & Schuster)

Rick Moody / *The Long Accomplishment* (Henry Holt)

Cynthia Saltzman / *Plunder* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)