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Frankfurt – 2020

**THE INVENTION OF MIRACLES (S&S)**

*Language, Power, and Alexander Graham Bell's Quest to Cure Deafness*

By Katie Booth

**An astonishingly revisionist biography of Alexander Graham Bell, telling the true—and troubling—story of the inventor of the telephone.**

“Fascinating. *The Invention of Miracles* tells the story of how Alexander Graham Bell’s invention of the telephone was intertwined with his sincere but misguided passion for teaching the deaf how to speak. It’s a tale of great love, brilliant innovation, personal drama, and the unintended consequences of good intentions.”

— **Walter Isaacson**

**#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Steve Jobs***

NA: S&S, UK: Scribe, Translation: CLA  
MS available, publishing April, 2021

We think of Alexander Graham Bell as the inventor of the telephone, but that’s not how he saw his own career. Bell was an elocution teacher by profession. As the son of a deaf woman and, later, husband to another, his goal in life from adolescence was to teach the deaf to speak. Even his tinkering sprang from his teaching work; the telephone had its origins in a machine that would make visible the vibrations of speech. And yet by the end of his life, despite his best efforts—or perhaps, more accurately, because of them—Bell had become the American Deaf community’s most powerful enemy. *The Invention of Miracles* recounts an extraordinary piece of forgotten history. Weaving together a moving love story with a fascinating tale of innovation, it follows the complicated tragedy of a brilliant young man who set about stamping out what he saw as a dangerous language: Sign. The book offers a heartbreaking look at how heroes can become villains and how good intentions are, unfortunately, nowhere near enough—as well as a powerful account of the dawn of a civil rights movement and the triumphant tale of how the Deaf community reclaimed their once-forbidden language. Katie Booth has been researching this story for over a decade, poring over Bell’s papers, Library of Congress archives, and the records of deaf schools around America. But she’s also lived with this story for her entire life. Witnessing the damaging impact of Bell’s legacy on her family would set her on a path that upturned everything she thought she knew about language, power, deafness, and the telephone.

Katie Booth’s writing has appeared in *The Believer*, *Aeon*, *Catapult*, and *Harper’s Magazine*, and has been highlighted on Longreads and Longform; “The Sign for This” was a notable essay in the 2016 edition of *Best American Essays*. Booth received a number of prestigious fellowships to support the research for *The Invention of Miracles*, including from the Library of Congress and the Massachusetts Historical Society. She was raised bilingually and biculturally in a mixed hearing/Deaf family.

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**A MOST REMARKABLE CREATURE (Knopf)**

*The Hidden Life and Epic Journey of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey*

By Jonathan Meiburg

**An enthralling account of a modern voyage of discovery as we meet the clever, social birds of prey called caracaras, which puzzled Darwin, fascinate modern-day falconers, and carry secrets of our planet's deep past in their family history.**

NA: Knopf, UK: Bodley Head, Translation: CLA

MS available, publishing, March 2021

In 1833, Charles Darwin was astonished by an animal he met in the Falkland Islands: handsome, social, and oddly crow-like falcons that were "tame and inquisitive . . . quarrelsome and passionate," and so insatiably curious that they stole hats, compasses, and other valuables from the crew of the *Beagle*. Darwin wondered why these birds were confined to remote islands at the tip of South America, sensing a larger story, but he set this mystery aside and never returned to it. Almost two hundred years later, Jonathan Meiburg takes up this chase. He takes us through South America, from the fog-bound coasts of Tierra del Fuego to the tropical forests of Guyana, in search of these birds: striated caracaras, which still exist, though they're very rare. He reveals the wild, fascinating story of their history, origins, and possible futures. And along the way, he draws us into the life and work of William Henry Hudson, the Victorian writer and naturalist who championed caracaras as an unsung wonder of the natural world, and to falconry parks in the English countryside, where captive caracaras perform incredible feats of memory and problem-solving. *A Most Remarkable Creature* is a hybrid of science writing, travelogue, and biography, as generous and accessible as it is sophisticated, and absolutely riveting.

**Jonathan Meiburg** is a writer, ornithologist, and adventurer who's best known as the singer of the band Shearwater. His pieces on science, nature, and music have appeared in *The Believer*, *Talkhouse*, and *The Appendix*. He lives in central Texas

**SPOOKED (HarperCollins)**

*Inside the Secret World of Private Spies*

By Barry Meier

**A Pulitzer Prize winning investigative journalist's journey into a billion-dollar secret industry that is secretly shaping our world – the booming business of private spying, operatives-for-hire retained by companies, political parties and the powerful to dig up dirt on their enemies and, if need be, destroy them.**

NA: HarperCollins, UK: Sceptre, Translation: CLA

MS available October, 2020, publishing March, 2021

For decades, private eyes from Allan Pinkerton, who formed the first detective agency in the U.S., to Jules Kroll, who transformed the investigations business by giving it a corporate veneer, private spies were content to stand in the shadows. Now, that is all changing. High-profile stories grabbing recent headlines – the Steele Dossier, Black Cube, the Theranos scandal, Harvey Weinstein's attacks on his accusers – all share a common

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thread, the involvement of private spies. Today, operatives-for-hire are influencing presidential elections, the news media, government policies and the fortunes of companies.. They are also peering into our personal lives as never before, using off-the shelf technology to listen to our phone calls, monitor our emails, and decide what we see on social media. Private spying has never been cheaper and the business has never been more lucrative—just as its power has never been more pervasive. Spooked is a fast-paced, disturbing and, at times, hilarious tour through the shadowlands of private spying and its inhabitants, a grab-bag collection of ex-intelligence operatives, former journalists and lost souls. In this hidden world, information is currency, double-crosses are commonplace, and hacking can be standard procedure. Drawing on his journalistic expertise and unique access to sources, Barry Meier uncovers the secrets private spies want to keep hidden.

**Barry Meier** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning former *New York Times* investigative reporter. He's twice won the George Polk award for Investigate Reporting and he is the author of *MISSING MAN* (FSG, 2016) and *PAINKILLER* (Rodale, 2003/Random House, 2018).

**PAIN KILLER (Random House)**

*An Empire of Deceit and the Origins of America's Opioid Epidemic*

By Barry Meier

**Netflix is adapting into PAINKILLER, a series to air globally in 2021. Peter Berg (Friday Night Lights) will direct, Eric Newman (Narcos) and Alex Gibney (Going Clear, the Inventory) will produce. The show runners are Micah Fitzerman-Blue and Noah Harpster, who wrote the screenplay for "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."**

NA: Random House, UK: Sceptre, Translation: CLA (Japan/Shobun-Sha,  
Poland/Poradnia)

MS is available, updated edition published May, 2018

Between 1999 and 2017, an estimated 250,000 Americans died from overdoses involving prescription painkillers, a plague ignited by Purdue Pharma's aggressive marketing of OxyContin. Families, working class and wealthy, have been torn apart, businesses destroyed, and public officials pushed to the brink. In *Pain Killer*, Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* reporter Barry Meier exposes the roots of the most pressing health epidemic of the twenty-first century. Powerful narcotic painkillers, or opioids, were once used as drugs of last resort for pain sufferers. Purdue turned OxyContin into a billion-dollar blockbuster by launching an unprecedented marketing campaign claiming that the drug's long-acting formulation made it safer to use than traditional painkillers for many types of pain. Even in its prescribed form, Oxy proved fiercely addictive. As OxyContin's use and abuse grew, Purdue concealed what it knew from regulators, doctors, and patients. Here are the people who profited from the crisis and those who paid the price, those who plotted in boardrooms and those who tried to sound alarm bells. In this updated edition of *Pain Killer*, Barry Meier breaks new ground in his decades-long investigation into the opioid epidemic. He takes readers inside Purdue to show how long the company withheld information about the abuse of OxyContin and gives a shocking account of the Justice Department's failure to alter the trajectory of the opioid epidemic and protect thousands of lives. Equal parts crime thriller, medical detective story, and business exposé, *Pain Killer* is a hard-hitting look at how a supposed wonder drug became the gateway drug to a national tragedy.

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**NEARLY, NOT QUITE (37 Ink)**

*Observations on Race, Bodies, and Gender*

By Savala Nolan Trepczynski

**A memoir in essays in the vein of Roxane Gay and Tressie McMillan Cottom**

NA: S&S, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

MS Available October, 2020, Publishing: July, 2021

Trepczynski is the daughter of a black father and a white mother and, as she says, her light complexion contrasts with her kinky hair and broad nose to embody what old folks used to call “a whole lot of yellow wasted.” She started her first diet at age 3 or 4 and has been nearly skeletal and truly fat, multiple times, which is to say, she knows “things about womanhood that you can’t know if your body is normal or your weight hasn’t fluctuated wildly.” She has lived in poverty and had an elite education, with regular access to wealth and privilege. Savala has always lived between races, between classes, and between body types, and this in-between status is what gives the essays in *NEARLY, NOT QUITE* their strikingly clear and refreshing point of view on the defining tension points in our culture. But as centered in themes of identity as her writing is, and as sophisticated an academic and thinker as she is, these autobiographical pieces are most defined by her storytelling style. Her writing is accessible, human, often humorous, self-aware, candid, and as full of appetites as it is anxieties. The result is an inclusive and magnetic memoir in essays that sheds light on the center from the edge, while giving voice and a counter-narrative to those on the outside.

Savala Nolan Trepczynski is the executive director of the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice at UC Berkeley School of Law. The center focuses on the intersection of law and social justice with an emphasis on race and gender. As executive director she speaks publicly, leads workshops, and teaches about race, gender, subordination, privilege and power. She’s the co-creator of the law school’s first Race and Law concentration and she also created the law school’s first racial justice fellowship.

**THE PUZZLE SOLVER (Hachette)**

*A Scientist’s Desperate Hunt to Cure the Illness that Stole his Son*

By Tracie White and Ron Davis, Ph.D.

**Based on a viral article, the gripping medical mystery story of Ron Davis, a world-class Stanford geneticist who has put his career on the line to find the cure for chronic fatigue syndrome, the disease killing his son.**

NA: Hachette, UK: Allen & Unwin, Translation: CLA

MS Available, publishing January, 2021

For the past six years, Whitney Dafoe has been confined to a bedroom in the back of his parents' home, unable to walk, to eat, to speak. The sound of music causes him pain. At one point, the formerly healthy, young, freelance photographer, faced starvation as his 6'3" frame withered to 115 pounds. In desperation, Whitney and his parents went from one specialist to another, and still no answers. Then, finally, a diagnosis: the mysterious disease myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS). Whitney's story is heartbreaking, but it's also one of redemption. It reaches far beyond just one family's harrowing tale. Today, ME/CFS affects

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20 million people around the world. Those afflicted largely suffer in silence because the disease is little known and much misunderstood. In one way, Whitney has been lucky. He could reach out to his father, a world renowned, scientist, for answers. This book is the story of one father's desperate hunt for the insidious illness that stole his son away. *The Puzzle Solver* follows Ron as he unravels the molecular trail within his own son's donated blood and genome, to begin to find answers. He confirms this is a biological disease and uncovers new possibilities for treatments and potentially a cure. At its heart, *The Puzzle Solver* is about more than just cutting edge research or a race to find the cure for ME/CFS--it's about the unbreakable bond between a father and his son, and the lengths to which a parent will go to save their child's life.

**BELOW THE EDGE OF DARKNESS (Random House)**

*A Memoir of Exploring Light and Life in the Deep Sea*  
By Edie Widder, Ph.D.

**A marine biologist's quest to study and understand the language of light in the breathtaking darkness of the deep ocean, the largest and least understood habitat in the world.**

NA: Random House, UK: Virago, Australia: Text, Translation: CLA  
MS available, October 2020, publishing July, 2021

Edie Widder is a scientist, an explorer, an inventor, and a trailblazer. Her career as an ocean-going marine biologist is a highlight reel of adventure and discovery. In hundreds of deep dives her quest to observe, understand, and even interact with bioluminescent animal life has taken her to some of the most remote and inhospitable places on Earth. She's the first person to film a living giant squid, she's the recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant, she has given three TED talks (7 million cumulative views). Edie grew up determined to be a marine biologist but a botched surgery during college caused her to go blind, a temporary condition that left in her a fascination with both light and the power of optimism. Her focus turned to oceanic bioluminescence, a scientific frontier requiring a brave and very literal leap into the darkness. On her first ever visit to the deep ocean, in an experimental diving suit that took her to a depth of 800 feet, she turned off the suit's lights and immediately witnessed a dazzling display of lights and colors made by creatures invisible with the lights on. Concerns about her career went out the window. "I just wanted to know why. Why was there so much light down there?" **BELOW THE EDGE OF DARKNESS** takes readers deep into our planet's oceans as Widder pursues her questions about one of the most important and widely used forms of communication in nature. In the process, she reveals hidden worlds and a dazzling menagerie of behaviors and animals, from leviathans to shrimp, many never-before-seen. We live through life and death equipment malfunctions, witness breakthroughs in technology and understanding, all of it set against a growing awareness of the deteriorating health of this, our largest and least understood habitat.

Dr. Edith (Edie) A. Widder is a former senior scientist at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution and co-founder of the Ocean Research and Conservation Association.

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Prescriptive – How-To

**EMBRACE THE SUCK (Hachette Go)**

*The Navy Seal Way to an Extraordinary Life*

By Brent Gleeson

**A raw, brutally honest, in-your-face self-help guide based on the Navy SEAL mindset to thrive on adversity**

NA: CLA, UK, Abner Stein, Translation: CLA  
MS Available, Publishing January, 2021

During the brutal crucible of Navy SEAL training, the instructors often tell the students to "embrace the suck." Meaning that the students should start getting comfortable being very uncomfortable and lean into the pain--enjoy it even. Those that are successful in this transformation go on to become the most elite warriors the modern world has ever known. As a Navy SEAL combat veteran turned business speaker and consultant, Brent Gleeson details the principles he learned as a Navy SEAL, which can empower anyone to continually expand their comfort zones and to live more fulfilling purpose-driven lives. Through candid story-telling, behavioral science research, fascinating historical references and plenty of self-deprecating humor, Gleeson shows the reader how to:

- Remove temptation and build self-discipline
- Do something that sucks every day
- Choose wisely what you suffer for
- Learn how to fail successfully
- Get off your ass and execute

**Brent Gleeson** is a business consultant, a serial entrepreneur, and a decorated Navy SEAL. He has degrees in finance and economics from Southern Methodist University, English and history from Oxford University, and a graduate business degree from the University of San Diego. Brent Gleeson's first book *Taking Point* was published by S&S in the US and licensed in China to Beijing Mediatime.

**FREE YOUR SELF (HarperWave)**

*Releasing Old Coping Styles to Become Who You Really Are*

By Dr. Sam Rader

**A groundbreaking new paradigm of personality types in the vein of IT DIDN'T START WITH YOU and THE CHILD IN YOU.**

NA: HarperWave, UK: Yellow Kite, Translation: CLA  
Proposal is available, MS due September, 2021, publishing: first half of 2022

Many of us think we know who we are. But often we are blind to the automatic defense mechanisms that we developed as children, which manifest as our personalities today. These are what Dr. Sam calls our Coping Styles and they are not who we really are. In fact, they are standing between us and our true selves. FREE

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YOUR SELF offers “a clear map that navigates readers out of their lifelong negative unconscious patterns,” bringing them face to face with the eleven different coping styles (we all have at least one, if not many), their origins, and their antidotes. “The matrix of coping styles that we take on determines how we relate and how we live, well into adulthood. They become our fears and our habits, our familiar ruts, the limits to our personal and professional fulfillment. Our styles inform the stories that we tell about ourselves and everything else.” Readers will be struck by the power of recognizing themselves in the universal day-to-day adult struggles, relationship challenges and core beliefs associated with the coping styles that they have (until now) unconsciously employed. They are shown the clear path toward healing and integration via journaling prompts, insights to inspire greater self-awareness, and other dynamic mental, physical, relational and behavioral practices. This groundbreaking, accessible and actionable therapeutic approach is brought to life through stories of Dr. Sam’s clients’ transformations as well as the narrative of her own process of healing. FREE YOUR SELF will appeal to readers who loved IT DIDN’T START WITH YOU, ATTACHED, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE, and the million copy international bestseller from Germany, THE CHILD IN YOU. The popularity of personality types, from Enneagram to Myers-Briggs suggests the potential for widespread adoption and the hardcover release will be complemented by an online test that will identify the coping styles of potential readers.

Dr. Sam Rader is the owner and clinical director of Jade Tree Psychotherapy in Los Angeles where she supervises a team of therapists. A practicing psychologist for fifteen years, she has appeared on *Access Live*, *Dr. Drew’s Lifechangers*, and the BuzzFeed video “A Therapist Answers Questions You’re Too Afraid to Ask,” which has over three million views. She is also the owner and perfumer of Dasein Fragrance, an independent unisex fragrance line carried in over 80 boutiques worldwide and which has been featured in *The New York Times*, *W Magazine*, *Vogue.com*, and *New York Magazine*, among many others.

**RELENTLESS SOLUTION FOCUS (McGraw-Hill)**

*Train Your Mind to Conquer Stress, Pressure, and Underperformance*

By Jason Selk and Ellen Reed

NA & UK: McGraw-Hill, Translation: CLA (**Taiwan**/CommonWealth Magazine)

MS Available: publishing January, 2021

Humans are hardwired to focus on problems. Over millennia, our very survival relied on our ability to be alert to any potential dangers that could threaten our existence. But today this negativity bias significantly limits our potential and increases stress, pressure, and underperformance. The one characteristic all phenomenally successful people share is mental toughness. Mentally tough people are better at making decisions more quickly and with better results. They possess the uncanny ability to control what goes on between their ears. Instead of allowing their minds to focus on their problems when adversity strikes, the most successful people have learned to direct their thoughts in a systematic manner that produces positive emotions and productive actions: they have a Relentless Solution Focus. In this book, top performance coach Jason Selk provides the insight, tools, and proven step-by-step framework for you to do the same. When you master this practice, weakness shrinks and strength grows, creating confidence and momentum, taking you and your team to higher levels of performance and achievement.

**Dr. Jason Selk**, one of the nation’s premier performance coaches, has worked with business titans and superstar athletes. As Director of Mental Training for the St. Louis Cardinals, he played an important role in the team’s

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first World Series victory in over 20 years, in 2006, and their second in 2011. He is the bestselling author of *Executive Toughness*, *10-Minute Toughness*, *Organize Tomorrow Today*, and *Lead Any Team to Win*.

**Dr. Ellen Reed** has worked side by side with Dr. Selk for 15 years, and has extensive experience in mental training for consistency, accountability, and execution in business, athletics, academics, and the performing arts. She helps business leaders and elite athletes reach their peak performance by developing the mental toughness necessary for success.

FICTION

**BOOM BOOM BOOM, a novel (Reservoir)**

By Nicolás Giacobone

**The new novel by the Academy-Award winning author of *The Crossed-Out Notebook*, a love story involving a tragic accident and a dramatic plan for revenge involving five characters whose lives unexpectedly intersect, including a transexual woman, her artist husband, and a reclusive writer who won't leave her bedroom until she finishes her novel, listening all the while to the boom, boom, boom of drum and bass music.**

NA: On Submission, CLA: Abner Stein, Translation: (**Spain**/Reservoir)

-Reservoir Books will publish the Spanish language edition in early 2022, part of a two-book deal including a book of stories.

-Spanish MS is available along with the first 15,000 words translated into English.

-Submissions to option publishers for *The Crossed-Out Notebook* are ongoing.

*The Crossed-Out Notebook's* publishers:

NA: Scribner, UK: Corsair, Translation (**China**/Citic Sight, **France**/Editions

Sonatine, **Germany**/HeyneHardcore, **Italy**/Bompiani, **Portugal**/Presença, **Spain**/Reservoir)

Latest Film News: Nico wrote the screenplay for *John and the Hole*, a new film about a boy who throws his family in a hole (starring Jennifer Ehle and Michael C. Hall). It was an official selection of Cannes for 2020 and it will debut at Sundance at end of January. It is worth noting that Pablo, the character in *The Crossed-Out Notebook*, is kidnapped by the director because of his screenplay for a film about a boy who throws his family in a hole. In addition, Nico and Alejandro Iñárritu have co-written the screenplay that will be Iñárritu's next film, a top-secret project to begin production shortly.

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BACKLIST

**THE BIG ONES (Doubleday)**

*How Natural Disasters Have Shaped Us (and What We Can Do About Them)*

By Lucy Jones, Ph. D.

**A surprising history of natural disasters, their impact on our culture, and new ways of thinking about the ones to come by the foremost authority in her field.**

NA: **Doubleday**, UK: **Icon**, Translation: (**China**/SSTE, **Estonia**/Tänapäev, **Japan**/Hara Shobo, **Korea**/Nulwa, **Portugal**/20-20, **Spain**/Capitan Swing)

Books are available, published April, 2018

**THE MASTER OF DECEPTION (Rare Bird)**

*A memoir*

By John-Ivan Palmer

**The story of son's search for his father amid the fabric of family, guilt, renunciation, and hidden history in the borderlands of 1950s stage show and trailer park culture.**

NA: Rare Bird, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

MS is available, published August, 2020

**John-Ivan Palmer** is a widely published essayist and journalist. His writing has appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *Milwaukee Journal*, *Oregon Journal*, *Minneapolis Star*, *Exquisite Corpse*, *Wisconsin Review*, *New Oregon Review*, *Film Threat*, *Fortean Times* and numerous anthologies in the US, Britain and Japan. His short fiction has been awarded a Pushcart Prize. He and his wife live in Minnesota.

**THE DIVINE MISS MARBLE (Dutton)**

*A True Story of Hollywood, Tennis, and Triumph*

By Robert Weintraub

**The story of 1930s tennis icon Alice Marble, and her life of sports, celebrity, and incredible mystery.**

NA & UK: Dutton, Translation: CLA

MS available, published July, 2020