

Rights Guide: 2022

Forthcoming Titles, Recent Publications, and Select Submissions



LAURA GROSS LITERARY AGENCY

39 Chester Street Newton, Massachusetts, 02461, United States

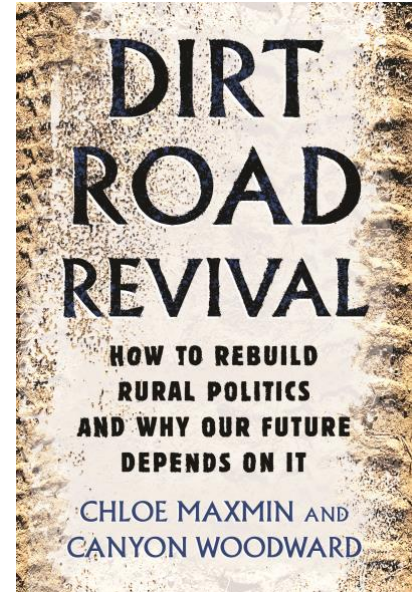
Dirt Road Revival

Chloe Maxmin & Canyon
Woodward

{Political Campaign Nonfiction}

US Publisher: Beacon Press

Publication Date: May 2022



***Dirt Road Revival* is an urgent call to action by two millennials to fight for the future of rural America and reclaim long-lasting political power for the Democratic Power.**

Community organizer, Chloe Maxmin was elected to the Maine State Senate in November 2020, having served as the youngest woman the Maine State legislature. She is the first Democrat elected in a district which had voted Republican by a 16-point margin over the past three elections. Her historic campaign, led by her campaign manager and co-author, Canyon Woodward, earned the attention of national media, including an article about their victory in the *Washington Post* titled “Progressives point the way to recapturing the rural vote.” The author/activist team will be launching a multi-pronged approach in 2022 aimed at deploying programs to revive and reinvigorate progressives’ connection with rural voters. The release of *Dirt Road Revival* will coincide with the release of the film *Rural Runners*, which builds out the team’s origin story organizing for fossil fuel and the narrative and footage of their 2020 campaign. *Rural Runners* is scheduled to premiere at Mountainfilm Festival in Telluride in May.

Rights held by Publisher:

- North American

Rights held by LGLA:

- All foreign rights and British Commonwealth

Five-Part Invention

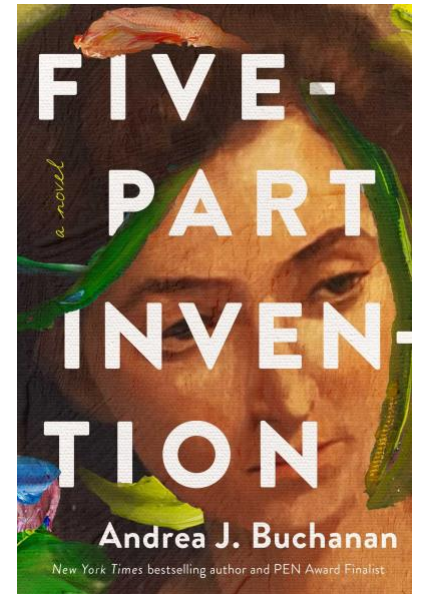
Andrea Buchanan

{Family Saga Literary Fiction}

US Publisher: Pegasus Books

Publication Date: July 2022

Spanning five generations of women, *Five-Part Invention* wrestles with the question—if trauma echoes through generations, can love echo, too? Is the love we transmit enough to undo the trauma of the past that we unwittingly carry with us and often re-enact in the present?



“Original, startling and gorgeous. Five generations of extraordinary women grapple with the mystery of inherited trauma in Andrea J. Buchanan’s stunningly original new novel. As gorgeously written as a master’s symphony, the story is also so immersive that I became fiercely invested in each indelible character’s changing lives and their struggles with secrets, loves, losses, until love begins to trump calamity. This isn’t just a novel you read: it’s a miracle you live. I loved it.” — Caroline Leavitt, New York Times bestselling author of *With or Without You*

Andrea J. Buchanan is a New York Times bestselling author whose latest book, *The Beginning of Everything*, was shortlisted for the PEN E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. Her other work includes the *New York Times* and international bestseller *The Daring Book for Girls*, *Mother Shock*, and six other books. Before becoming a writer, Andrea trained as a pianist, at the Boston Conservatory of Music and received her master’s from the San Francisco Conservatory. Her last recital was at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. She lives with her family in Philadelphia.

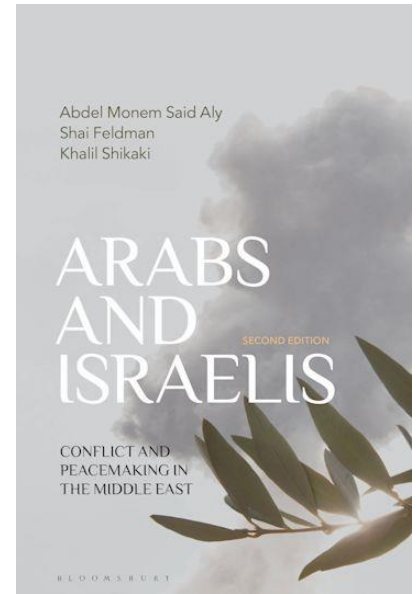
Arabs & Israelis

Shai Feldman, Abdel Monem Said Aly, Khalil Shikaki

{Middle Eastern Political Textbook}

US Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic

Publication Date: September 2022
(2nd Edition)



An innovative textbook that offers a balanced and nuanced introduction to a highly contentious subject, written by an Israeli, a Palestinian and an Egyptian.

Shai Feldman is a Senior Fellow and member of Harvard University's Board, where he co-chaired the Crown-Belfer Middle East Project. He directed Tel Aviv University's Center for Strategic Studies, has served on the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. Until recently Director of the Crown Center for Middle Eastern Studies, he now serves as president of Israel's Sapir University. CEO and Director of the Regional Center for Strategic Studies in Cairo and Chairman of Al-Masry Al-Youm, a leading Arabic language daily in Egypt, Said Aly previously served as President of the Al-Ahram Center for Political & Strategic Studies in Cairo and Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Al-Ahram Publishing House. Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah, Khalil Shikaki is a world-renowned expert on Palestinian public opinion and a widely published author. Since 2000, he has conducted dozens of joint polls among Palestinians and Israelis.

Rights held by Publisher:

- World

Mermaids Dream of Trilobites

Martha Riva Palacio Obòn

{Middle Grade Fiction in Translation}

US Publisher: Bloomsbury Children's

Publication Date: 2023

Told through beautiful marine imagery and funny observations, *Mermaids Dream of Trilobites* follows a young girl who comes to believe—in order to process the hardships around her—that she is a mermaid and those around her are various aquatic creatures.

Martha Riva Palacio Obòn is an award-winning writer and artist whose work includes novels, poetry, stories, and television for children of all ages. She won the 2011 Premio Barco de Vapor for *Mermaids Dream of Trilobites* (which was also selected in 2013 for the White Ravens International Children's Library Catalog), as well as the 2014 Premio Hispanoamericano de Poesía para Niños for her illustrated poetry book *Lunática*. Her bilingual picture book *Beso / Kiss* was published in the US by Scholastic in 2017 and in Malta in 2018. She has a degree in psychology.

Rights held by Publisher:

- World English

Rights held by LGLA:

- All foreign rights except Spanish

Rights sold:

- Spanish — SM de Ediciones, 2011
- Italian — Mondadori, 2021

Generation Queer

Kimm Topping

{LGBTQ Young Adult Illustrated Biography}

US Publisher: Tu Books (Lee & Low)

Publication Date: 2023

The first illustrated biography collection of its kind to focus on queer and trans youth who are leaders in social change.

Kimm Topping is a writer, queer educator, and feminist historian. Kimm has trained thousands of people to better support LGBTQ+ youth in their work as a facilitator for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students and kyriQ, which they co-founded with their partner in 2016. By sharing stories and providing folks with tools to authentically support youth, Kimm believes that we can create safer and more welcoming environments. Kimm's publications include *Identity*, *Relationships*, and *Media and Mapping Feminist Cambridge*. Kimm will complete an M.Ed. at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2020 and they look forward to continuing to advocate for LGBTQ+ youth at local and national levels. Kimm lives in Cambridge, MA with their partner and two cats.

Rights held by Publisher:

- North American

Rights held by LGLA:

- All foreign rights and British Commonwealth

War Made Invisible

Norman Solomon

{Progressive Military Nonfiction}

US Publisher: The New Press (under agreement)

Publication Date: 2023

***War Made Invisible* fills in a big gap in public discourse and exposes grim realities that remain hidden in plain sight – how tactical taboos in mass media and politics routinely obscure the U.S. government’s daily killing of civilians overseas in the name of fighting terrorism.**

Norman Solomon, an award-winning and nationally syndicated columnist on media and politics, wrote the weekly “Media Beat” column from 1992-2009. His most recent publications include *Made Love Got War: Close Encounters with America’s Warfare State*, *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us To Death*, and *Target Iraq: What the News Media Didn’t Tell You* (co-authored with Reese Erlich).

Solomon’s articles and op-eds have appeared in a wide range of publications, including the *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Newsday*, the *New York Times*, and *USA Today* and he has been a guest on many popular media outlets, including PBS, CNN, Fox News, C-SPAN and NPR. Solomon is also the founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Public Accuracy, a national consortium of policy researchers and analysts.

Rights held by Publisher:

- World

[Untitled]

Shalash

Translator: Luke Leafgren

{Arabic Satire in Translation}

US Publisher: And Other Stories

Publication Date: Forthcoming

A collection of stories satirizing Iraqi society, written by an anonymous Iraqi blogger.

Anonymous Iraqi blogger known as Shalash published seventy posts between 2005 and 2006 and remains anonymous to this day due to concerns for his safety. Shalash’s satiric writings painted Americans as deliberately incompetent and Iraqis as foolish, opportunistic stooges, or a mixture of the three. Wildly popular across the Arab world, his writings made anxious Iraqis laugh at themselves shortly after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. Shalash’s writings are in the colloquial Baghdadi dialect with additional local phrases and expressions thrown in—a rarity for published Arabic. Shalash’s “Iraqiness” is not jingoistic patriotism, but a kind of intimate and profoundly personal “love of country”. The writer calls himself Shalash “the Iraqi”, even though the word Iraq appears very rarely in his stories.

Rights held by Publisher:

- World English

Rights held by LGLA:

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Belonging & Betrayal

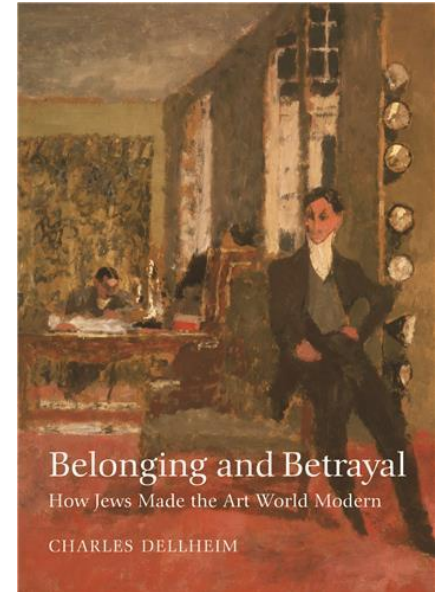
Charles Dellheim

{Jewish History/Art History}

US Publisher: Brandeis University Press

Hardcover: September 2021

An epic story that charts the fortunes and misfortunes of a small number of Jewish art dealers and collectors from the late-19th century to the present and spans both Europe and the United States.



"(An) exceptional work of scholarship. A brilliant account of Nazi pillage and the ongoing efforts at restitution." — *Kirkus* (starred review)

Charles Dellheim, Professor of History, came to Boston University in 2001, after a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. He was previously Professor of History and Humanities and Director of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Program at Arizona State University, where he won a Distinguished Teaching Award. His chief publications in modern British history include *The Face of the Past: The Preservation of the Medieval Inheritance in Victorian England*; *The Disenchanted Isle: Mrs. Thatcher's Capitalist Revolution*; and "The Creation of a Company Culture: Cadburys, 1861-1931."

Rights held by Publisher:

- North American

Rights held by LGLA:

- All foreign rights and British Commonwealth

Rights sold:

- Simplified Chinese — Social Sciences Academic Press
- World English Audio — Penguin Random House Audio

What Could Be Saved

Liese O'Halloran Schwarz

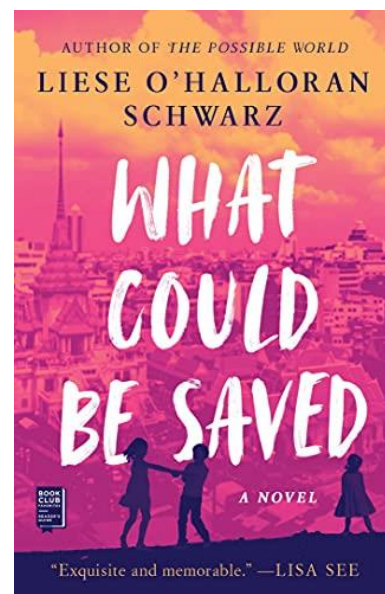
{Literary Fiction}

US Publisher: Atria (Simon & Schuster)

Paperback: August 2021

Hardcover: January 2021

A sweeping novel following the unfolding mystery of a man in present day claiming to be a child abducted in mid-century Bangkok.



“Superb...Schwarz is a remarkable storyteller...[This] stellar work is riveting.” — *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A richly imagined page-turner that delivers twists alongside thought-provoking commentary.” — *Kirkus*

Liese O'Halloran Schwarz grew up in Washington, DC after an early childhood overseas. Following Harvard, she attended University of Virginia medical school, where she won the Henfield/Transatlantic Review Prize and also published her first novel, *Near Canaan*. Her next novel, *THE POSSIBLE WORLD* was published in 2018 by Scribner.

Rights held by Publisher:

- World with exclusions

Rights held by LGLA:

- Spanish, French, Polish, Italian, British Commonwealth

Rights sold:

- The Netherlands — House of Books, 2020 (by Atria)
- Australia/New Zealand — Allen & Unwin, 2021
- Film & TV — Echo Lake Entertainment, 2021

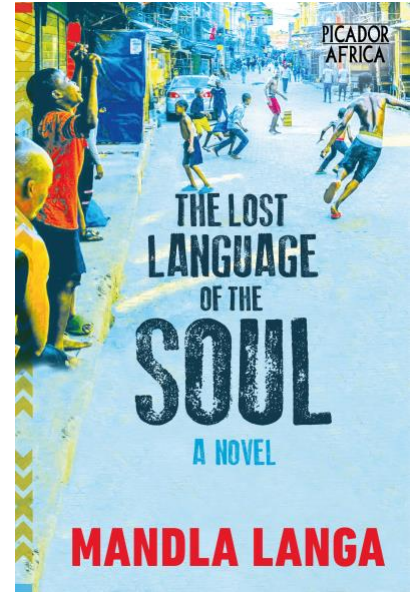
The Lost Language of the Soul

Mandla Langa

{Coming-of-Age Literary Fiction}

Publisher: Picador (South Africa)

Publication Date: September 2021
(South Africa)



A coming-of-age epic following a fourteen-year-old son of a freedom fighter as he attempts to find his missing mother in apartheid-era South Africa.

“Despite all of the politics – and the politics are fascinating if disturbing – Langa doesn’t lose sight of the fact that this is the story of a young man growing up and finding his feet in a slippery, dangerous adult world. It is a potent and sobering read.” – *Witness*

Mandla Langa holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of the Witwatersrand. In 1980 he won the *Drum* story contest for and in 1991 he was awarded the Arts Council of Great Britain Bursary for creative writing, the first for a South African. Langa’s published works include *Tenderness of Blood* (1987), *A Rainbow on a Paper Sky* (1989), *The Naked Song and Other Stories* (1997), *The Memory of Stones* (2000), the award-winning *The Lost Colours of the Chameleon* (2008), the bestselling *The Texture of Shadows* (2014), and *Dare Not Linger*, co-authored with Nelson Mandela’s archives (2017).

Rights held by Publisher:

- South African

Rights held by LGLA:

- World English and all territories except South Africa

If You Keep Digging

Keletso Mopai

{Short Stories}

Publisher: Blackbird Books (South Africa)

Publication Date: October 2019 (South Africa)

***If You Keep Digging* is a moving collection of short stories that is an essential addition to current and on-going discussions that affect the youth including those around migration, gender, sexuality and identity.**

Named one of the 2019 Top 15 Debut Books in Africa by *Brittle Paper*

Keletso Mopai is a storyteller who was born and raised in a small township in South Africa, Limpopo. Her debut collection of short stories titled *If You Keep Digging* was published in 2019 in South Africa by Blackbird Books. She was selected as one of the 2020 *Mail & Guardian's* Top 200 Young South Africans. Her work is published in numerous journals such as *Catapult*, *The Johannesburg Review of Books*, *The Temz Review*, *Fresh Ink*, *Omenana*, *Lolwe*, and anthologies such as *Joburg Noir*. Her work mostly focuses on social and political issues that affect the ordinary and marginalized. Keletso studied geology and chemistry, and has a Bachelor of Science honors degree in Geology. She is currently working on her debut novel.

Rights held by Publisher:

- South African

Rights held by LGLA:

- World English and all territories except South Africa

Expert Witness

Katherine Nichols

{Familial Thriller}

On Submission

Told from the viewpoint of six different characters entangled in a *Succession*-style family conflict, *Expert Witness* is a fast-paced commercial thriller with a satirical flair.

Katherine Nichols is the author of *Deep Water*, a debut YA nonfiction from Simon & Schuster, optioned for screen adaptation by Sony Pictures. As a staff writer and freelancer for over 20 years, she has written numerous articles for publications including the *New York Times Magazine*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Harvard Magazine*, and the *Associated Press*. She's also written, co-produced, and hosted travel and sports features for television. In her work as a consultant for real estate development and hospitality businesses, she fuses analysis and storytelling for capital raises, web development, rebranding, and performance optimization. Katherine earned an M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management, and a B.A. and master's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, where she graduated in three years and was a member of the intercollegiate cross-country and track teams. An athlete since age 7, she has competed in numerous running, swimming, and triathlon events, and is a five-time qualifier and finisher of the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kona, Hawaii.

Rights sold:

- Film/TV — Optioned by Lester Entertainment Betsy Brandt of *Breaking Bad* to produce and star

Just Lizzie

Karen Wilfrid

{LGBTQ Young Adult Fiction}

On Submission, with interest

***Just Lizzie* is an “Own Voices” young adult novel in which fourteen-year-old Lizzie’s study of asexuality in biology class leads her to discover her own asexual identity.**

Karen Wilfrid is seventh-grade English teacher. She specializes in fiction, essays, and teaching middle schoolers the finer points of comma usage. After receiving her degree in Creative Writing and Spanish from Oberlin College, she taught English in Spain for two years on a Fulbright grant before settling in Massachusetts. Her work has appeared in *Cicada* magazine, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Embark* literary journal. *Just Lizzie* is her first novel.

The Kittery Affair

Andrew Burstein

{Chinese/Uigher Espionage Fiction}

On Submission

Based on real events, *The Kittery Affair* follows former-CIA analyst Ryn Kittery as he attempts to disentangle himself from a web of injustice in contemporary China.

Andrew Burstein has been, since 2008, the Charles P. Manship Professor of History at Louisiana State University. He is the author of eleven previous books. As a noted Jefferson scholar and biographer, he has been a consultant on several documentary films and was prominently featured in the Ken Burns PBS documentary “Thomas Jefferson.” His books have received praise in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and various other recognized periodicals. Among his best-known titles are: *The Passions of Andrew Jackson* (Knopf) and *Jefferson’s Secrets* (Basic Books), along with the two books he coauthored with Nancy Isenberg, *Madison and Jefferson* (Random House, 2010) and *The Problem of Democracy* (Viking, 2019). As a frequent opinion writer, he has written extensively for Salon.com, plus occasional reviews and opinion pieces in national news outlets. He received a Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of Virginia after having earlier studied Chinese politics and culture at Columbia University and the University of Michigan.

Shatterproof Glass

Ann Faison

{Nostalgic Young Adult Fiction}

On Submission

Based on a true story, *Shatterproof Glass* follows a young protagonist who becomes engrossed in the 1980's punk scene following the death of her mother.

Ann Faison grew up in Brooklyn and saw the B-52's first show at the Mudd Club in 1978 a few months after her mother died. As a grief specialist today, she helps families understand the process. She has given presentations at national conferences and has teenage children. She's a long-time member of SCBWI, NACG (National Alliance for Children's Grief). She has also given presentations and workshops at Our House.

The Petrova Project

Brenda Horrigan

{CIA Espionage Thriller}

On Submission

***The Petrova Project* is a fast-paced thriller set in Washington DC, unfolding as Alex Benedict, a young CIA Soviet analyst, pursues the person she knows is killing off ex-Soviets who defected or emigrated to the US.**

Brenda L. Horrigan's Russia obsession started in a high school language class and led to stints as a Soviet specialist at CIA, the State Department and SAIC. She earned her bachelor's degree in Russian area studies and a doctorate in political theory and comparative politics. The Faulkner-Wisdom International Creative Writing Competition named her first novel to its 2017 novel-in-progress shortlist. She's published in scholarly journals like *Demokratizatsiya* and the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Report and also in lifestyle magazines including *La Vie Claire*, *Cape & Island Homes*, and *Martha's Vineyard Magazine*. A Navy brat born on the island of Oahu, Brenda now lives on Martha's Vineyard and is a senior managing editor for an international IT media corporation.

Darling

Rachel Klein

{Family Saga Literary Fiction}

On Submission

***Darling* is a family saga and subtle reimagining of *Peter Pan* that traces three generations of an American Jewish family as they confront the weight of inherited trauma and the power of communal healing.**

Rachel Klein is a writer living in Boston, MA. She writes everything from short humor to personal essays. She studied at The University of Chicago under Elizabeth Alexander and Maureen McLane and more recently at the Tin House Summer Workshop under Rebecca Makkai. Her work has been featured in Catapult, Electric Literature, McSweeney's, The New Yorker, Bitch Media, The Toast, Slate and more. You can find her on twitter @racheleklein