

Melville House
 9781612196787
 Pub Date: 3/13/18
 \$16.99
 Trade Paperback
 208 Pages
 Fiction / Humorous

Lacking Character

Curtis White

Summary

Curtis White's long-awaited return to fiction reminds us that the founder of one of American literature's most vibrant and innovative movements is still the King of "transcendental buffoonery."

The story begins when a masked man appears in the night at the door of the Marquis, proclaiming a matter of life and death: "I stand falsely accused of an atrocity!"

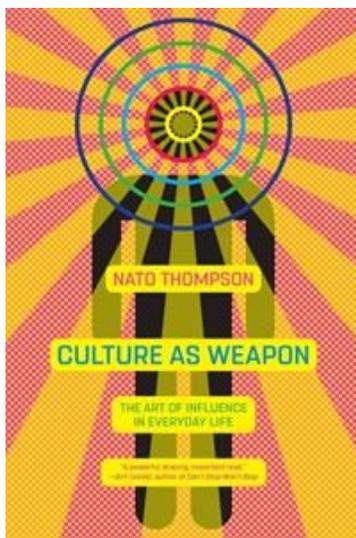
Except he's not, really; he's just trying to get the attention of the Marquis (a video game-playing burnout) to help him enroll in some community college vocational classes. And so the exchange gets badly botched, and our masked man is soon lost in a maddening America, encountering its absurdities at every turn, and cursing his cruel fate.

In a time with the crisis du jour, White asks us to remember what it's like to laugh—to be a little silly even—in order to reclaim what used to be fundamental to us: the strength to create our own worlds.

Contributor Bio

Curtis White is a founder of The Fiction Collective 2. His latest books are *We, Robots* and *The Science Delusion*. His novels include *Memories of My Father Watching TV* and *Monstrous Possibility*. He lives in Port Townsend, Washington.

Author Residence: Port Townsend, WA



Melville House
9781612196800
Pub Date: 3/6/18
\$16.99
Trade Paperback

288 Pages
Social Science / Anthropology

Culture as Weapon

The Art of Influence in Everyday Life

Nato Thompson

Markup Note: :
Rights Sold: Japanese (Shunju-Sha), Korean (FlatB)

Summary

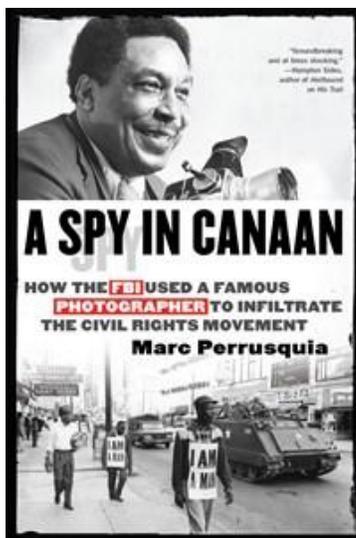
One of the country's leading activist curators explores how corporations and governments have used art and culture to mystify and manipulate us.

The production of culture was once the domain of artists, but beginning in the early 1900s, the emerging fields of public relations, advertising and marketing transformed the way the powerful communicate with the rest of us. A century later, the tools are more sophisticated than ever, the onslaught more relentless.

In *Culture as Weapon*, acclaimed curator and critic Nato Thompson reveals how institutions use art and culture to ensure profits and constrain dissent—and shows us that there are alternatives. An eye-opening account of the way advertising, media, and politics work today, *Culture as Weapon* offers a radically new way of looking at our world.

Contributor Bio

NATO THOMPSON is chief curator at Creative Time, one of New York's most prestigious and exciting art organizations. He is the editor of *The Interventionists: A Users' Manual for the Creative Disruption of Everyday Life*; *Experimental Geography: Radical Approaches to Landscape, Cartography, and Urbanism* (Melville House), and *Ahistoric Occasion: Artists Making History*. And he is the author of *Seeing ...*



Melville House
 9781612193410
 Pub Date: 3/27/18
 \$28.99
 Hardcover
 368 Pages
 History / United States

A Spy in Canaan

How the FBI Used a Famous Photographer to Infiltrate the Civil Rights Movement

Marc Perrusquia

Summary

Only Ernest Withers, a key figure in the civil rights movement, could have delivered such iconic photographs—and the kind of information the FBI wanted...

Renowned photographer Ernest Withers captured some of the most stunning moments of the civil rights era—from the age-defining snapshot of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., riding one of the first integrated buses in Montgomery, to the haunting photo of Emmett Till's great-uncle pointing an accusing finger at his nephew's killers. He was trusted and beloved by King's inner circle, and had a front row seat to history...but few people know that Withers was also an informant for the FBI.

Memphis journalist Marc Perrusquia broke the story of Withers's secret life after a long investigation culminating in a landmark lawsuit against the government to release hundreds of once-classified FBI documents. Those files confirmed that, from 1958 to 1976, Withers helped the Bureau monitor pillars of the movement including Dr. Martin Luther King and others, a...

Contributor Bio

Marc Perrusquia is a journalist for *The Commercial Appeal*, the daily newspaper in Memphis, Tennessee, where he has worked the past twenty-nine years. He has won numerous national awards for both feature writing and investigative reporting.

Author Residence: Memphis, TN



Melville House
9781612197135
Pub Date: 4/10/18
\$16.99
Trade Paperback

256 Pages
Fiction / Humorous

Who's Who When Everyone is Someone Else

C. D. Rose

Markup Note: :
Rights Sold: French (Editions du Seuil)

Summary

A hilariously charming novel about a heartbroken man trying to redeem himself by championing forgotten books

Fleeing heartbreak, an unnamed author goes to an unnamed city to give a series of lectures at an unnamed university about forgotten books...only to find himself involved in a mystery when the professor who invited him is no where to be found, and no one seems quite sure why he's there....

So begins this Wes Anderson-like novel hilariously spoofing modernist literature even as it tells a stirring—and eerily suspenseful—story about someone desperate to prove the redeeming power of reading—and writing—books.

And as the narrator gives his lectures, attends vague functions where no one speaks English, never quite meets his host professor and wonders the city looking for the grave of his literary hero, the reader begins to suspect this man's relentless faith in literature may be the only thing getting him through the mystery enveloping him.

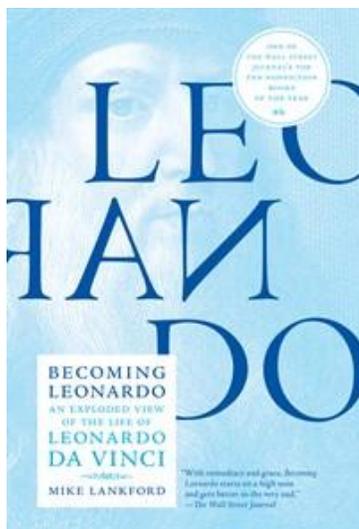
Story Locale: indeterminate Middle European city

Contributor Bio

C. D. ROSE is the author of the satirical book *The Biographical Dictionary of Literary Failure* (Melville House) and is an award-winning short story writer. He currently teaches at the University of East Anglia, where he also earned an MFA in writing.

Author Residence: Norwich, England

Author Hometown: Manchester, England



Becoming Leonardo

An Exploded View of the Life of Leonardo da Vinci

Mike Lankford

Markup Note: :

Rights Sold: Turkish (Nemesis Kitap), Polish (Wydawnictwo Marginesy), Mainland Chinese (JIC Bookstore)

Summary

"I found Mr. Lankford's writing thought-provoking and Mr. Isaacson's thought-stifling. Mr. Lankford proposes a great many insights...With immediacy and grace, *Becoming Leonardo* starts on a high note and gets better to the very end."—*WALL STREET JOURNAL*

A Wall Street Journal 2017 Book of the Year

A Spectator 2017 Book of the Year

Melville House
9781612197159
Pub Date: 4/3/18
\$18.99
Trade Paperback

304 Pages
Biography & Autobiography /
Artists, Architects, Photographers

Why did Leonardo Da Vinci leave so many of his major works uncompleted? Why did this resolute pacifist build war machines for the notorious Borgias? Why did he carry the Mona Lisa with him everywhere he went for decades, yet never quite finish it? Why did he write backwards, and was he really at war with Michelangelo? And was he gay?

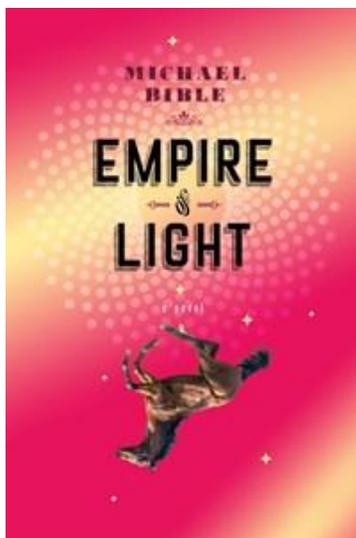
In a book unlike anything ever written about the Renaissance genius, Mike Lankford explodes every cliché about Da Vinci and then reconstructs him based on a rich trove of available evidence—bringing to life for the modern reader the man who has been studied by scholars for centuries, yet has remained as mysterious as ever.

Seeking to ...

Contributor Bio

Mike Lankford's *Becoming Leonardo* was selected by the *Wall Street Journal* as a **2017 Book of the Year**. He is also the author of *Life in Double Time: Confessions of an American Drummer*, selected best music book of the year by eight major newspapers including the *Chicago Tribune*. He lives in Bend, Oregon.

Author Residence: Bend, OR



Melville House
9781612196442
Pub Date: 4/24/18
\$15.99
Trade Paperback

112 Pages
Fiction / Absurdist

Empire of Light

Michael Bible

Summary

"A singular new voice...[Michael Bible] is so open, so easy, so fluid, you'll smile with joy turning every page." —Barry Hannah

After an adolescent prank leads to a stranger's death, Alvis Maloney rambles westward. He lands in a small North Carolina town and falls in love—in love with his neighbor Molly, with a lonesome quarterback called Miles, with a whole community of enduring misfits and losers.

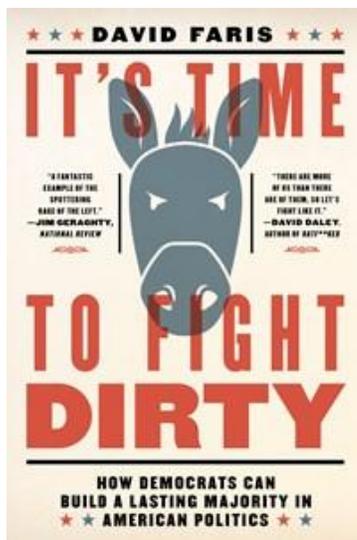
But at the same time, another life takes shape in Maloney's dreamlike visions: a horse named Forever, a princess with hypochondria, and an electric city that's always just out of reach. As these two promises of home fight for their hold on Maloney, the story careens toward disaster, and in the end Maloney must choose between love and redemption.

From the author *Electric Literature* called "one of the most interesting and exciting new novelists in years," Michael Bible's *Empire of Light* blooms with mystical imagination and a hopeful heart.

Contributor Bio

MICHAEL BIBLE is originally from North Carolina. His work has appeared in the *Oxford American*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Al-Jazeera America*, *ESPN The Magazine*, and *New York Tyrant Magazine*. He is a former bookseller at Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, and lives in New York.

Author Residence: New York, NY



Melville House
9781612196954
Pub Date: 4/10/18
\$24.99
Hardcover

208 Pages
Political Science / Political
Process

It's Time to Fight Dirty

How Democrats Can Build a Lasting Majority in American Politics

David Faris

Summary

It's time to do more than protest

The American electoral system is clearly falling apart—as evidenced by the 2016 presidential election. In *It's Time to Fight Dirty*, David Faris offers accessible, actionable strategies for American institutional reform which don't require a constitutional amendment, and would have a lasting impact on our future.

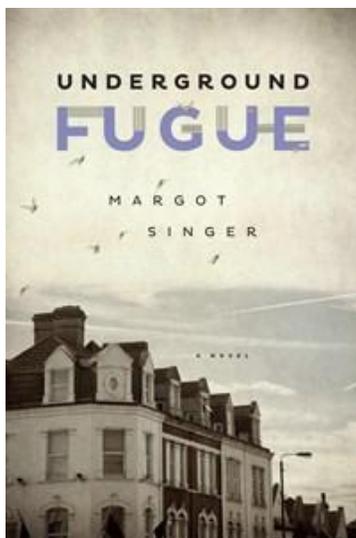
With equal amounts of playful irreverence and persuasive reasoning, Faris describes how the Constitution's deep democratic flaws constantly put progressives at a disadvantage, and lays out strategies for "fighting dirty" though obstructionism and procedural warfare: establishing statehood for D.C. and Puerto Rico; breaking California into several states; creating a larger House of Representatives; passing a new voting rights act; and expanding the Supreme Court.

The Constitution may be the world's most difficult document to amend, but David Faris argues that many of America's democratic failures can be fixed within its rigid confines—and, at a tim...

Contributor Bio

David Faris is the author of *Dissent and Revolution in a Digital Age: Social Media, Blogging and Activism in Egypt*, the co-editor of *Social Media in Iran: Politics and Society after 2009*, and a regular contributor to *The Week*. He is associate professor of political science at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Author Residence: Chicago, IL



Melville House
9781612197302
Pub Date: 5/1/18
\$16.99
Trade Paperback

304 Pages
Fiction / Political

Underground Fugue

Margot Singer

Summary

A New York Times Editors' Choice

"A pleasure to read from beginning to end." —Geraldine Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *March*

Esther, an American art conservator, has fled New York for London—partly to escape her failing marriage, partly to tend to her dying mother. On her first night there, she spots a young man returning home very late, wet and muddy, to the house next door. Their eyes connect and he disappears inside.

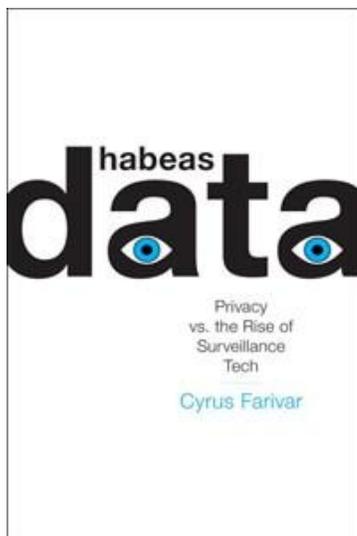
This first encounter sparks Esther's curiosity about her new neighbors: Amir, the moody college student she caught sneaking in, and, more intriguing still, Amir's father, Javad—a neuroscientist from Iran.

Throughout the spring, a tentative friendship blossoms, but when terrorists attack London's tube and bus lines in July, Esther finds her relationship with Javad strained by her gnawing suspicions about Amir...suspicions that will ultimately upend the possibilities for the future, and reveal the deep stamp of the past.

Sweeping, suspenseful, and exquisitely ...

Contributor Bio

Margot Singer won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, the Reform Judaism Prize for Jewish Fiction, the Glasgow Prize for Emerging Writers, and an Honorable Mention for the PEN/Hemingway Award for her story collection, *The Pale of Settlement*. Her work has been featured on NPR and in the *Kenyon Review*, the *Gettysburg Review*, *Agni*, and *Conjunctions*, among other publications. She is a profe...



Melville House
9781612196466
Pub Date: 5/8/18
\$27.99
Hardcover

304 Pages
Political Science / Privacy &
Surveillance

Habeas Data

Privacy vs. the Rise of Surveillance Tech

Cyrus Farivar

Summary

A book about what the Cambridge Analytica scandal shows: That surveillance and data privacy is every citizens' concern

An important look at how 50 years of American privacy law is inadequate for the today's surveillance technology, from acclaimed *Ars Technica* senior business editor Cyrus Farivar.

Until the 21st century, most of our activities were private by default, public only through effort; today anything that touches digital space has the potential (and likelihood) to remain somewhere online forever. That means all of the technologies that have made our lives easier, faster, better, and/or more efficient have also simultaneously made it easier to keep an eye on our activities. Or, as we recently learned from reports about Cambridge Analytica, our data might be turned into a propaganda machine against us.

In 10 crucial legal cases, *Habeas Data* explores the tools of surveillance that exist today, how they work, and what the implications are for the future of privacy.

Contributor Bio

Cyrus Farivar is the Senior Business Editor at *Ars Technica* and the author of *THE INTERNET ELSEWHERE*. He is also a radio producer and has reported for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, National Public Radio, Public Radio International, *The Economist*, *Wired*, *The New York Times*, and others.



Melville House
9781612196978
Pub Date: 6/5/18
\$26.99
Hardcover

272 Pages
Social Science / Popular Culture

Strange Stars

David Bowie, Pop Music, and the Decade Sci-Fi Exploded

Jason Heller

Summary

A Hugo Award-winning author and music journalist explores the weird and wild story of when rock 'n' roll met the sci-fi world of the 1970s

As the 1960s drew to a close, and mankind trained its telescopes on other worlds, old conventions gave way to a new kind of hedonistic freedom that celebrated sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. Derided as nerdy or dismissed as fluff, science fiction rarely gets credit for its catalyzing effect on this revolution.

In *Strange Stars*, Jason Heller recasts sci-fi and pop music as parallel cultural forces that depended on one another to expand the horizons of books, music, and out-of-this-world imagery.

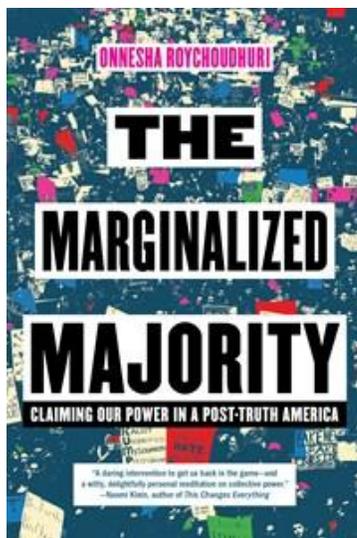
In doing so, he presents a whole generation of revered musicians as the sci-fi-obsessed conjurers they really were: from Sun Ra lecturing on the black man in the cosmos, to Pink Floyd jamming live over the broadcast of the Apollo 11 moon landing; from a wave of Star Wars disco chart toppers and synthesiser-wielding post-punks, to Jimi Hendrix distilling the "purp...

Contributor Bio

Jason Heller has written for publications including the *New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, *Pitchfork*, NPR, and *The AV Club*. His latest book was *Taft 2012*.

Author Residence: Denver, CO

Author Hometown: Denver, CO



Melville House
9781612196992
Pub Date: 7/10/18
\$16.99
Trade Paperback

224 Pages
Political Science / Commentary &
Opinion

The Marginalized Majority

Claiming Our Power in a Post-Truth America

Onnesha Roychoudhuri

Summary

"This book is a daring intervention to get us back in the game—and a witty, delightfully personal meditation on collective power." —Naomi Klein, author of *No Is Not Enough* and *This Changes Everything*

Ever since the 2016 election, pundits have been saying our country has never been more divided—that if progressives want to reclaim power, we need to be "pragmatic," reach across the aisle, and look past identity politics.

But what if we're getting the story all wrong?

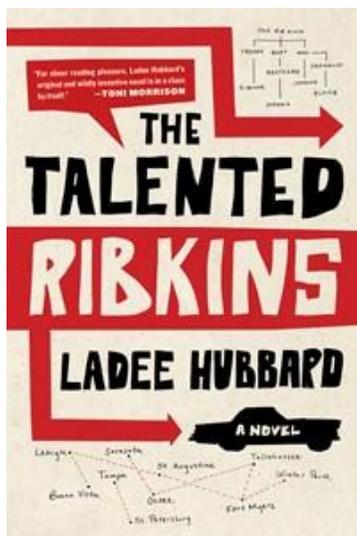
In *The Marginalized Majority*, Onnesha Roychoudhuri makes the galvanizing case that our voices are already the majority—and that our plurality of identities is not only our greatest strength, but is also at the indisputable core of successful progressive change throughout history.

From the Civil Rights Movement to the Women's March, *Saturday Night Live* to the mainstream media, Roychoudhuri holds the myths about our disenfranchisement up to the light, illuminating narratives from history that reveal we have far more power than ...

Contributor Bio

Onnesha Roychoudhuri is a Brooklyn-based writer, editor, and educator. Her work has appeared in publications such as *Rolling Stone*, *n+1*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Boston Review*, *The Nation*, *The American Prospect*, *Salon*, and *Mother Jones*. She is the co-founder of Speech/Act, and organization working at the intersection of storytelling and social justice.

Author Residence: Brooklyn, NY



Melville House
9781612197289
Pub Date: 8/7/18
\$16.99
Trade Paperback

304 Pages
Fiction / African American

The Talented Ribkins

Ladee Hubbard

Markup Note: :
Rights Sold: French (Belfond)

Summary

"For sheer reading pleasure Ladee Hubbard's original and wildly inventive novel is in a class by itself." —Toni Morrison

"The Talented Ribkins is a charming and delightful debut novel with a profound heart, and Ladee Hubbard's voice is a welcome original." —Mary Gaitskill

- An INDIE NEXT 2017 pick
- **Winner of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award**
- **Winner of the William Faulkner - William Wisdom Prize**

At seventy-two, Johnny Ribkins shouldn't have such problems: He's got one week to come up with the money he stole from his mobster boss or it's curtains.

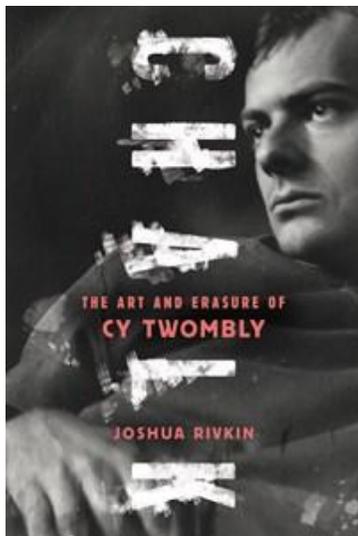
What may or may not be useful to Johnny as he flees is that he comes from an African-American family that has been gifted with super powers that are a bit, well, odd. Okay, very odd. For example, Johnny's father could see colors no one else could see. His brother could scale perfectly flat walls. His cousin belches fire. And Johnny himself can make precise maps of any space you name, whether he's been there or not.

In the old days...

Contributor Bio

Ladee Hubbard is the winner of the 2016 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award and the William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition for the Short Story. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. *The Talented Ribkins* is her first novel.

Author Residence: New Orleans, LA



Melville House
 9781612197180
 Pub Date: 10/16/18
 \$32.00
 Hardcover

464 Pages
 Biography & Autobiography /
 Artists, Architects, Photographers

Chalk

The Art and Erasure of Cy Twombly

Joshua Rivkin

Summary

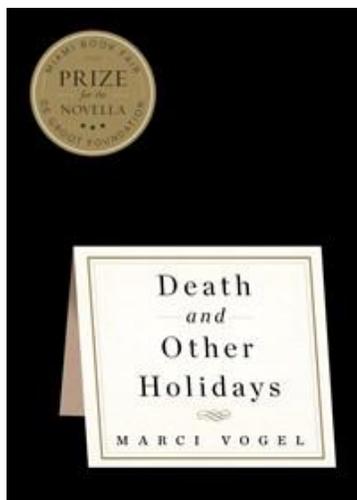
This first biography of Cy Twombly, one of the most important and least understood American artists of the 20th Century, explores the enduring mysteries of his work and life.

Chalk follows the life and career of the great American painter Cy Twombly, from his life as a young painter, to his expatriate years in Italy; his obsession with myths and history, to his struggle for recognition. Twombly carefully managed his own image, writing almost nothing about his life and work, and giving only a handful of interviews. Through years of scholarship and archival research, first-person interviews, and a sensitive eye to Twombly's art, Joshua Rivkin—who received a Fulbright grant to pursue this story—separates the myth from the reality to bring to life a more complicated and fascinating Twombly than we've ever known.

Contributor Bio

Joshua Rivkin's poems and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in the *New Yorker*, *Slate*, *Southern Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Best New Poets*, and elsewhere. A former Fulbright Fellow in Rome, Italy, he has most recently worked as a poetry editor at the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and a Resident Associate at the National Humanities Center in Research in Triangle Park, NC.

Author Residence:...



Melville House
 9781612197364
 Pub Date: 11/13/18
 \$23.00
 Hardcover

112 Pages
 Fiction / Family Life

Death and Other Holidays

Marci Vogel

Summary

The 2017 Miami Book Fair/de Groot Prize winner, this debut fiction introduces a distinctive new American voice

Funny, tender, and wholly original, *Death & Other Holidays* is a year in the life of a young woman coming to terms with the death of her beloved stepfather, while attempting to find love in LA. We are introduced to her friends and family, as she struggles to launch herself out into the world, to take the risks of love—the one constancy in all the change.

Told with a great good humor and underlying affection for all her characters, *Death and Other Holidays* announces a brilliant and assured new voice in American fiction.

Story Locale: Los Angeles

Contributor Bio

Marci Vogel is an award-winning writer, translator and poet. *Death & Other Holidays* is her fiction debut, and won the inaugural Miami Book Fair/ de Groot Prize, the only American literary award honoring the novella.

Author Residence: Los Angeles, CA

Author Hometown: LA, California



Ways to Hide in Winter

Sarah St.Vincent

Summary

In a remote corner of Pennsylvania's Blue Ridge Mountains, a woman befriends a fugitive from Uzbekistan, setting in motion this suspenseful, atmospheric, politically-charged debut

After a freak car accident left her widowed, Kathleen has retreated to Pennsylvania's Blue Ridge Mountains, where she works in an isolated corner of the state park. There she meets a stranger who seems to be hiding from the authorities in his native Uzbekistan. As the violent secrets of their pasts unfold, the difference between good and evil proves more complicated than we might think...and a surprising final twist casts Kathleen in a new light altogether.

Story Locale: Pennsylvania's Blue Ridge Mountains

Contributor Bio

Sarah St.Vincent grew up in a rural Pennsylvania community similar to the one in which this novel is set. She has worked as a legal fellow at the Center for Democracy & Technology and as a clerk at the International Court of Justice. She is currently a researcher and advocate on national security, surveillance, and domestic law enforcement for Human Rights Watch. She frequently writes on these top...

Melville House
9781612197203
Pub Date: 11/6/18
\$25.99
Hardcover

240 Pages
Fiction / Thrillers



Melville House
 9781612197531
 Pub Date: 12/4/18
 \$16.99
 Trade Paperback

224 Pages
 Political Science / Political
 Process

How We Win

A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning

George Lakey

Summary

A lifetime of activist experience informs this playbook for building and conducting nonviolent direct action campaigns—teaching us how to achieve real progressive change.

Today's new direct action campaigns require a new, down-to-earth guide to effective campaigning. George Lakey's *Living Revolution* is that timely guide. The Women's March of January 21, 2017, was estimated at four million people - the largest assembly of activist protest in U.S. history. Many of those assembled were in the streets for the first time, or returning after a period of inactivity.

Lakey, a lifelong activist, helps us understand our political moment (extreme polarization, ripe for political change), teaches us how to plan a campaign to overcome that polarization, demonstrates how to launch these ideas into action, and shows us how to grow and sustain our movements.

Contributor Bio

George Lakey has been active in direct action campaigns for six decades. Recently retired from Swarthmore College, where he was the Eugene M. Lang Visiting Professor for Issues in Social Change, Lakey's first arrest was at a civil rights demonstration in March 1963, and his most recent was March 24, 2018 during March For Our Lives. He lives in Philadelphia.

Author Residence: Philadelphia, PA