



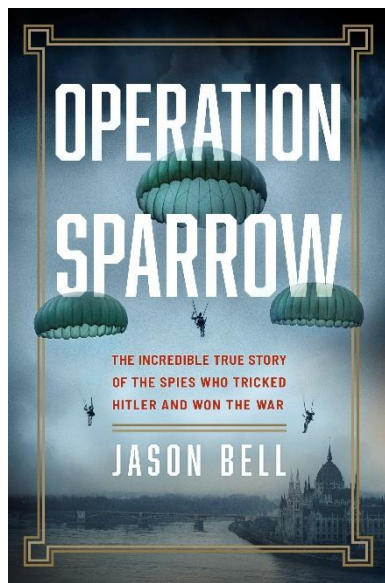
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2026 RIGHTS

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JASON BELL, PH.D.

<https://jasonbell.org/>

Jason Bell, Ph.D. is a professor of philosophy at the University of New Brunswick, Canada. He has served as Fulbright Professor at Göttingen in Germany, and has taught at universities in Belgium, the United States, and Canada.



OPERATION SPARROW: *The Incredible True Story of the Spies Who Tricked Hitler and Won the War* (Hanover Square Press & HarperCanada h.c. co-publication, September 29, 2026; Non-documentary film rights optioned to Wildling Pictures)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

HSP-HCC Rights—UK, Audio, 1st Serial

Final Book PDF Available

For fans of World War II history and spycraft, this is the extraordinary true story of three soldiers who parachuted into Hungary, deep in Axis territory, and fed game-changing false D-Day intelligence to the Nazis who captured them.

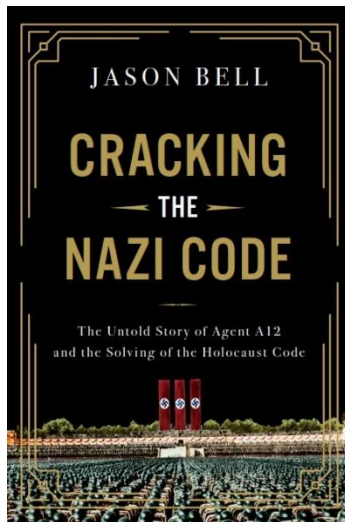
As D-Day looms, three commandos parachute into enemy territory on a high-stakes mission of lies and deception. To succeed—and to save D-Day—they'll need to get captured by the Nazis. By March 1944, World War II had raged for four and a half years. Tens of millions

were already dead. Adolf Hitler knew an Allied invasion was coming and planned to crush it—if only he knew where it would land. If German forces were in the right place, the Nazis could stop D-Day and continue their murderous control of Europe. But the Allies had a plan. Operation Sparrow called for an elite three-man commando team to drop behind enemy lines, walk into German hands, and craft a web of lies strong enough to sway Hitler. The mission seemed impossible: survive Nazi interrogation while making D-Day lies sound true. The three men would risk everything to convince the führer the invasion would strike the Balkans, two thousand kilometres away from Normandy. It was either genius or suicidal. Probably both. *Operation Sparrow* is the never-before-told story of one of the most daring and successful missions of World War II—a razor's-edge campaign that diverted millions of Axis troops from Normandy's beaches through cunning, espionage, and audacity.

Operation Sparrow reveals:

- The heroes who turned their own capture into a weapon
- The Gestapo interrogation rooms that became a secret Allied battlefield
- The top-secret deception that kept Hitler's divisions away from Normandy

Meticulously researched and told at the pace of a thriller, *Operation Sparrow* is narrative history for readers of *Operation Mincemeat* and *Unbroken*.



CRACKING THE NAZI CODE: *The Untold Story of Agent A12 and the Solving of the Holocaust Code* (Pegasus Books US h.c., May 2024; HarperCollins Canada h.c., September 2023; HarperCollins UK h.c., October 2023; Portugal/Leya; Russia/Azbooka-Atticus; Non-documentary film rights optioned to Wildling Pictures)
VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film
Pegasus Rights—USA & USA Audio
HCC Rights—Canada, UK, World English Audio (excl. US), 1st Serial

Final Book PDF Available

The thrilling true story of Agent A12, the first enemy of the Nazis

In public life, Dr. Winthrop Picard Bell was a Harvard philosophy professor and wealthy businessman. As MI6 Secret Agent A12, he evaded gunfire and shook pursuers to break open the emerging Nazi conspiracy in electrifying 1919 Berlin. His reports, the first warning of the Nazi plot for WWII, went directly to the man known as C, the mysterious founder of MI6, and to prime ministers. But a powerful fascist politician quietly worked to suppress his alerts. Nevertheless, his intelligence sabotaged the Nazis in ways only now revealed. Bell became a spy once again in the face of WWII. In 1939, he was the first to crack Hitler's deadliest secret code: the Holocaust. At that time the Führer was a popular politician who said he wanted peace. Could anyone believe Bell's shocking warning? Fighting an epic intelligence war from Ukraine, Russia, and Poland to France, Germany, Canada and Washington, D.C., A12 was the real-life 007, waging a single-handed fight against madmen bent on destroying the world. Without Bell's astounding courage, the Nazis might just have won the war.

Cracking the Nazi Code, informed by recently declassified documents, is the first book to illuminate the astounding exploits of Winthrop Bell, Agent A12.

Publicity

- Six months on the *Toronto Star* Canadian nonfiction bestseller list
- [Starred review in Kirkus](#)
- [Starred review in Library Journal](#)
- [Strong review in Publishers Weekly](#)
- [Strong review in Booklist](#)
- [Strong review in Foreign Affairs](#)
- [Indigo.com Nonfiction Pick of the Month](#) October 2023

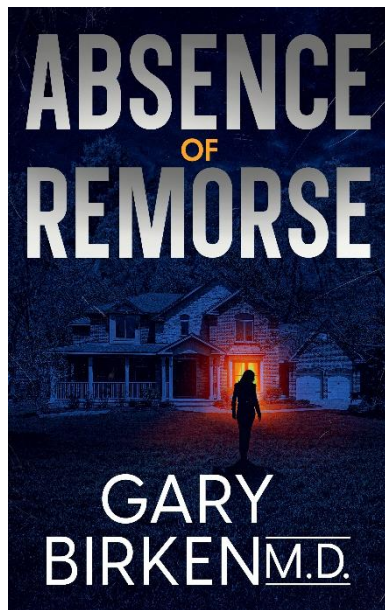
GARY BIRKEN, M.D.

<https://garybirkenmd.com/>

When **Dr. Gary Birken** published his first novel FINAL DIAGNOSIS with Berkley Books in 2001, he was a busy full-time pediatric surgeon at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in South Florida, where he served as the Surgeon-in-Chief. He has since published ten other medical thrillers, selling hundreds of thousands of copies. He is a member of the Mystery Writers of America and has had the opportunity to teach writing at various conferences and in other forums, including serving as a panel member at the SleuthFest Conference. He is a private pilot, an avid tennis player, holds a black belt in martial arts, and frequently teaches courses in women's self-defense while continuing to audit university level medical courses. His approach to storytelling has always been to utilize fiction not only as a means to entertain, but also to offer some insight into an interesting or controversial topic in medicine.

Download Five Gary Birken Novels Here

Dr. Quinn Trescott Series



ABSENCE OF REMORSE

(Book #1 in the New Dr. Quinn Trescott Series)

(Erupen Titles Digital Original, Upcoming - October 13, 2026)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

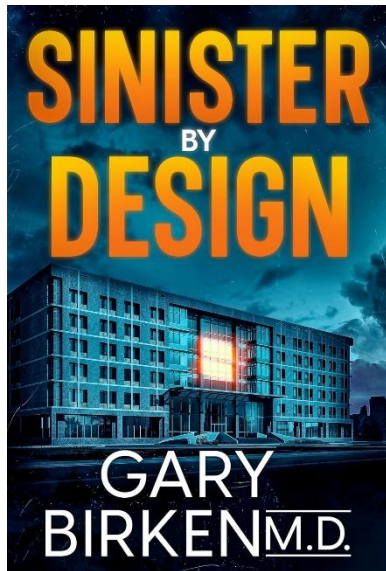
Final Book PDF Available

Some secrets should stay buried...

For eight years, medico-legal specialist Dr. Quinn Trescott split her time between the emergency room and the courtroom. But since the sudden and horrific death of her twin sister Palmer, Quinn has found herself at a crossroads. Burned out and grieving, she returns to her hometown in Maine to rest and recover. Ten months previous, Palmer was found mauled on a wooded trail, the victim of an obvious bear attack. The county closed the case fast, a judge sealing the autopsy file for reasons that no one will explain, and the town has moved on. But as Quinn spends time around the people who knew Palmer best, it

becomes clear that the last few months of her sister's life were filled with secrets...the kind of secrets that can turn deadly. There are people in power who want Palmer's past kept quiet, and though everyone she loves begs Quinn not to dig deeper, she was trained to read bodies and build cases, not bury grief. Quinn is determined to learn more about her sister's fate, but is uncovering the truth about Palmer's life worth risking her own?

Drs. Madison Shaw & Jack Wyatt Series



SINISTER BY DESIGN

(Book #4 in the Madison Shaw & Jack Wyatt Series)

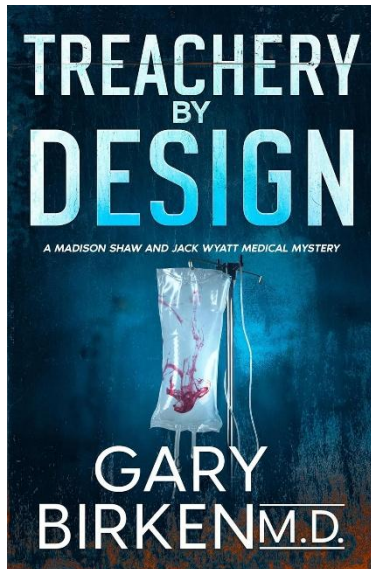
(Erupen Titles Digital Original, February 10, 2026)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

Final Book PDF Available – 1,427 Reviews Averaging 4.5 Stars on Amazon / 987 Averaging 4.5 on Goodreads

A mysterious illness is attacking new mothers, its root cause unknown. It's fast. It's deadly. And it may not be random.

An outbreak of a new illness involving women who are all one-month postpartum leads a colleague to call on Drs. Shaw and Wyatt. When the high-profile daughter of the Governor becomes a victim of this seemingly random ailment, their unique mystery-solving skills are caught in the spotlight. In their race to save the women, they uncover odd similarities amongst the mothers that point to disturbing conclusions about its root cause. The more they learn, the more dangerous and complex the situation becomes. And when related parties are found murdered, they must race against time to uncover the truth. But with an increasing number of lives on the line, can they unwind the twisted knot before it's too late?



TREACHERY BY DESIGN

(Book #3 in the Madison Shaw & Jack Wyatt Series)

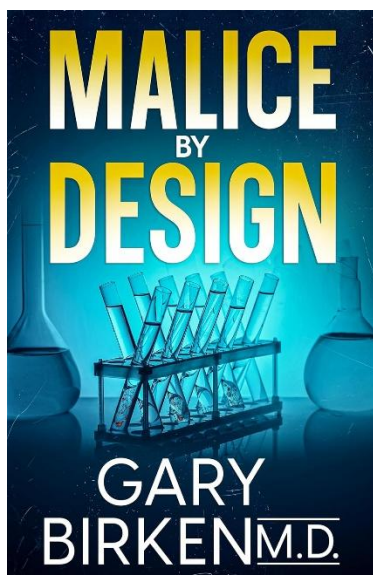
(Erupen Titles Digital Original, December 19, 2024)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

Final Book PDF Available – 3,188 Reviews Averaging 4.5 Stars on Amazon / 2,273 Averaging 4.4 on Goodreads

An untreatable illness. A dangerous misdiagnosis. A deadly plot that hits too close to home.

Drs. Jack Wyatt and Madison Shaw have finally settled in to a comfortable life together. But during a friendly college tour with Jack's daughter Anise, they learn that her mother, Jack's ex-wife, is suffering with a perplexing combination of symptoms. Within days, she and ten of her work colleagues are in the ICU with an identical untreatable illness. Wyatt and Shaw soon find themselves embroiled in another medical mystery. All the brightest doctors in D.C. are scratching their heads, while Anise's mother and her co-workers steadily worsen. As Jack races against increasingly dangerous symptoms to nail down a diagnosis, Madison and Anise investigate the stunning events that led to their illness. And now that the truth is out, no one is safe.



MALICE BY DESIGN

(Book #2 in the Madison Shaw & Jack Wyatt Series)

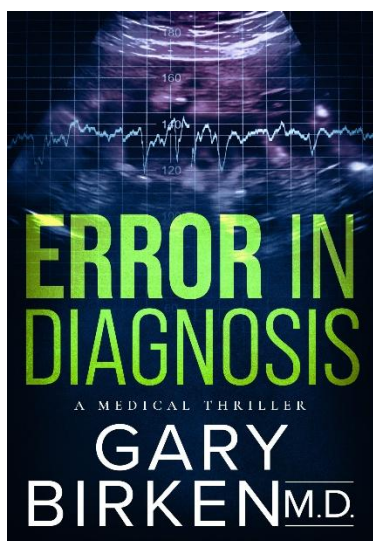
(Erupen Titles Digital Original, November 15, 2023)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

Final Book PDF Available – 3,882 Reviews Averaging 4.5 Stars on Amazon / 2,957 Averaging 4.3 on Goodreads

In a prestigious oncology hospital, a deadly new disease threatens children already fighting for survival. But with a cure as controversial as the cause, can a dedicated doctor balance ethics and research to save lives?

Dr. Jack Wyatt is renowned for solving the unsolvable. When a colleague approaches him about a dangerous new malady affecting only Leukemia patients at a prestigious oncology hospital, the mysterious case is too intriguing to pass up. So, he and the brilliant Dr. Madison Shaw, a physician who shares not only his expertise but also his secrets, embark in a race against time to save the children as cases mount. Within the hospital walls, they confront a labyrinth of medical conundrums, hostile colleagues guarding their territory, and a web of political intrigue. Their only clue: the cryptic journals of a brilliant scientist haunted by an atrocious past. But as they inch closer to a breakthrough, they must navigate a treacherous path where betrayal, sacrifice, and justice blur the line between right and wrong. Their pulse-pounding race for a cure will confront the ultimate question: can medical progress justify using research born of evil for the greater good?



ERROR IN DIAGNOSIS

(Book #1 in the Madison Shaw & Jack Wyatt Series)

(Erupen Titles Digital Original, October 15, 2023)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

Final Book PDF Available – 7,102 Reviews Averaging 4.5 Stars on Amazon / 6,538 Averaging 4.4 on Goodreads

A mysterious illness with disturbing symptoms is plaguing pregnant women. With the nation on the brink of panic, two doctors must put their past aside to find a cure. But as the stakes get personal, can they uncover a treatment before it's too late?

Dr. Jack Wyatt is done sulking. When he's called to help his frantic best friend, whose newly-pregnant wife has been hospitalized, it's the distraction he needs to finally get over his divorce. But the search for a cure forces him to work with the brilliant and beautiful Dr. Madison Shaw, with whom he has a rocky past. Confronted by a disease they've never seen before, Jack and Madison must put their differences aside as severe symptoms plague more and more women. With the numbers multiplying and the nation on the brink of an epidemic, finding a cure may mean risking innocent lives. The disease is spreading. Patients are dying. And no one can guess what will happen next...

DR. ZACH BURNS

<https://www.movingmedforward.org/our-team>

Zach Burns, DO, MPH is a family physician, public health expert, and prominent advocate for sustainable food systems and lifestyle medicine. He serves as [Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center](#) and Associate Director of [Moving Medicine Forward](#), working alongside the renowned [Dr. Michael Klaper](#) to emphasize nutrition in medical curricula. He regularly translates complex medical and public health science into accessible information, helping thousands of patients and the public understand the power of nutrition to prevent and reverse chronic diseases. Dr. Burns earned his medical degree as a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), his training emphasizing a holistic understanding of human health. He has a Master's in Public Health (MPH), bringing expertise in health policy, preventive medicine, and bioethics. Early in his career, Dr. Burns worked as a political organizer, testified on behalf of various health legislation, and now speaks regularly at medical conferences, community events, and in educational settings nationwide. A Millennial physician deeply committed to addressing the ethical, environmental, and health crises of our food systems, Dr. Burns brings both youthful urgency and seasoned professional insight to this topic. He offers a distinct and timely perspective as one of the few physicians actively engaging with the alternative protein industry to shape its public health potential.

COVER
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COME

THE PROTEIN REVOLUTION: How Plant-Based and Cultivated Meat Can Slash Chronic Disease and Save the Planet (Square One Publishing TPB Original, Fall 2027)

VIA Rights—UK, Translation, Audio, TV/Film

Square One Rights—1st Serial

Proposal Available – MS Due November 2026

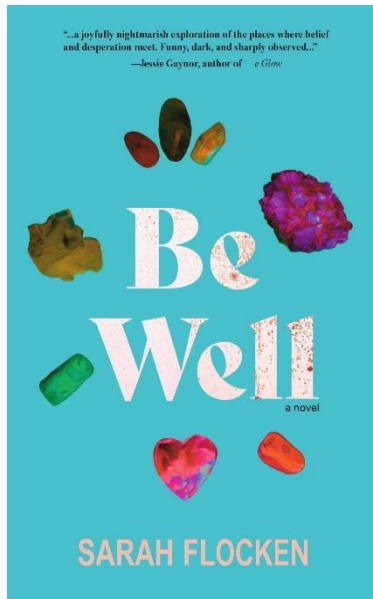
Protein is one of the body's essential building blocks, powering muscles, supporting the immune system, and helping every cell function properly. Today, a major transformation is underway in how we produce and consume protein—one that has the potential to improve human health while reducing the environmental burden of our food system. For decades, most of our protein has come from large-scale animal agriculture. While this system has produced abundant food, it has also contributed to pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and rising rates of diet-related disease. In its place, plant-based and synthetic

animal proteins produced through advanced fermentation and other innovative technologies are emerging as nutritious, sustainable alternatives that are poised to become part of the mainstream food supply. Like any major technological shift, the protein revolution raises important questions. Who will control these new technologies? How can we ensure they remain affordable and accessible? And how do we establish nutritional standards that prioritize health rather than simply creating more highly processed foods? The ethical implications are equally significant, challenging us to rethink our relationship with animals, food production, and the natural world. Amid the excitement and debate, one perspective has been largely missing: that of a physician focused on both human health and the future of our planet. Drawing on years of caring for patients with chronic disease, Dr. Zach Burns explains the science behind the protein revolution in clear, accessible language, showing how better proteins can improve our health, protect the environment, and help create a more sustainable food future.

SARAH FLOCKEN

<https://www.sarahflocken.com/>

Sarah Flocken is an upmarket fiction author, public relations professional, comedian, improviser, and pun contest host ([it's a thing](#)). In her writing, she likes to explore language's ability to shape our thinking and the nature of belief, whether in institutions, people, or ideas. Ideally, she's funny in the process, too. Sarah's poetry, essays, and short stories were published in school literary journals throughout her teen and early adult years, and her flash fiction has been published online in literary magazines such as *The Periwinkle Pelican*. In addition to her PR day job, Sarah has written short plays, sketch comedy and stand-up routines for over 10 years. This included a run with a sketch comedy show at the 2011 Edinburgh Festival Fringe while writing her master's thesis about women in comedy. She has performed stand-up comedy in multiple cities since she was a teenager, and yes, a lot of her cringey early stuff is still on YouTube. Notably, Sarah is the host of [Pundemonium! San Diego's Only Pun Competition](#). In May 2024, she [won MVP](#) at the national O. Henry Pun-Off World Championships in Austin, TX. She regularly performs with two improv groups in addition to doing plenty of yoga. She is a member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association, and has completed multiple craft seminars through the organization. She was also a member of [The Shit No One Tells You About Writing's](#) Deep Dive 2024 writing and publishing education cohort. Sarah received her bachelor's degree in English and Comparative Literary Studies from Occidental College in Los Angeles, and a master's in Literature & Modernity: 1900-Present from the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland. She lives in San Diego, California with her husband. For more about Sarah and her writing, please subscribe to her Substack, ["What the Flock?"](#) or follow her on Instagram at [@sarahflockenwrites](#).



BE WELL (Heliotrope Books TPB Original, June 23rd, 2026)
VIA Rights—UK, Translation, Audio, TV/Film
Heliotrope Rights—1st Serial

Final Book PDF Available

It's the summer of 2009 and, despite sending out nearly three hundred applications, recent college graduate Ann Ward can't find a job with a salary high enough to pay her student loans and stay in Los Angeles—let alone move to an expensive new dream apartment with her best friend Lindsay, or at least give Lindsay the money she already owes her for it. Ann is desperate to avoid going back to her desert hometown of Blanco Valley, where she'd live in the shadow of her fame-hungry televangelist father and with her burnout brother and divorced, world-weary mother, who is at risk of losing her house in the housing crash. After a humiliating job interview at the city's Natural History Museum, Ann meets Tori, the magnetic founder of Sagebrush, an upscale but shambolically run holistic wellness center. Ann is quickly drawn into

the privileged, crunchy world of Sagebrush, which offers her an aspirational sense of community, and with it a sense of confidence that boosts both her job search and a burgeoning flirtation with a museum security guard, in the process inventing "Anneliese", a new persona to fit in. When her father reveals that a loan from him requires a live-broadcast baptism and other terms Ann can't abide by, she throws her faith into the Sagebrush lifestyle and crystal healing sessions, doing increasingly questionable (and criminal) things to maintain her Sagebrush membership. But when her funds run out, a job interview isn't

what she thought, and her lies blow up, Ann must choose between facing reality or doing whatever she thinks it takes to achieve the future she wants. A relatable, humorous coming-of-age story that explores how easy it is to believe in something unquestioningly—and lie to ourselves and others—when the future feels uncertain, *BE WELL* features the wellness and self-improvement culture satire of *Self Care* by Leigh Stein and *The Glow* by Jessie Gaynor.

Praise for *Be Well* ([Click here to see all *Be Well* media](#))

"Sarah Flocken has written a joyfully nightmarish exploration of the places where belief and desperation meet. Funny, dark, and sharply observed, *Be Well* is both a satire of pre-GOOP, Recession-era wellness and a nail-biting thriller (in which, of course, the villain was within us all along)."

- Jessie Gaynor, Author of *The Glow*

"Reading *Be Well* feels like living inside the world's most devastatingly accurate *Reductress* headline. With razor-sharp humor and an uncanny eye for millennial absurdity, Sarah Flocken captures the particular cocktail of hope, humiliation, and existential dread that defined coming of age in 2009. A hilarious, addictive novel that will make many readers feel thrillingly—and terrifyingly—seen.

- Candice Wuchle, Author of *Monarch*, an NPR Best Book of the Year

"Sarah Flocken's debut novel brilliantly captures the chaos of what it's like to be an unprepared college graduate desperate for a slice of solid ground in a ruthlessly shaky world. As someone who also came of age in the late aughts — and who may or may not have gone through a deeply misguided crystal phase of my own circa 2009 — Ann's character arc made me laugh, cry, and shriek in recognition. Calling all elder millennial book clubs: *Be Well* is a must-discuss for your next meeting!"

- Nicolas DiDmoizio, Author of *A Murder Most Camp*

"Sharp, funny, and fast-paced. *Be Well* is an unflinching look at the sticky, alluring world of wellness and of a young woman's search for direction and meaning as she attempts to answer the question: where do I belong? Steeped with humor, heart, and candor. A must read!"

- Deborah Hemming, Author of *Goddess*

"*Be Well* paints a nostalgic portrait of coming of age in late-2000s Southern California. Sarah Flocken crafts a relatable heroine you can't help but root for, even as her life spirals out of control by her own doing. Ideal for readers drawn to stories of messy ambition, complicated daughters, and the seductive pull of communities that promise to make everything better."

- Holly James, Author of *The Big Fix*

"*Be Well* is a blazing debut that skewers the 'wellness' industry with wry humor and delicious irony. Packed with mid 2000s nostalgia and post-recession desperation, it builds and builds until...well, you'll have to read to find out."

- Charlee Dyroff, Author of *Loneliness & Company*

STUART HORWITZ

<https://www.bookarchitecture.com/about/>

Stuart Horwitz is the founder of Book Architecture, whose clients have reached the *New York Times* best seller list in both fiction and nonfiction, have appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, TODAY, the Tonight Show, and in the most prestigious journals in their respective fields. He is author of three books on writing, which together comprise the Book Architecture Trilogy: *Blueprint Your Bestseller: Organize and Revise Any Manuscript with the Book Architecture Method* (TarcherPerigee 2013), which *The Writer* magazine named one of 2013's best books about writing; *Book Architecture: How to Plot and Outline Without Using a Formula*, which became an Amazon best seller; and *Finish Your Book in Three Drafts: How to Write a Book, Revise a Book, and Complete a Book While You Still Love It*. In addition to being a [TODAY.com](https://www.today.com) contributor, Stuart has written for *The Good Men Project: Real Stories from the Front Lines of Modern Manhood*, *Wide Awake. Every Week: 52 Voices, 365 Aha!*, *Writer's Digest*, and *The Writer* magazine and has contributed dozens of posts to high-profile writing websites, including Jane Friedman's blog, *Writer Unboxed*, *The Book Designer*, and *The Creative Penn*. He has one master's degree in literary aesthetics from New York University, and another in East Asian studies from Harvard.

COVER
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COME

AMNESTY DAY (Or How to Talk About the Hard Stuff)

(Bloomsbury Academic h.c., Fall 2027)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

Heliotrope Rights—UK, Audio, 1st Serial

Final Edited Manuscript Available

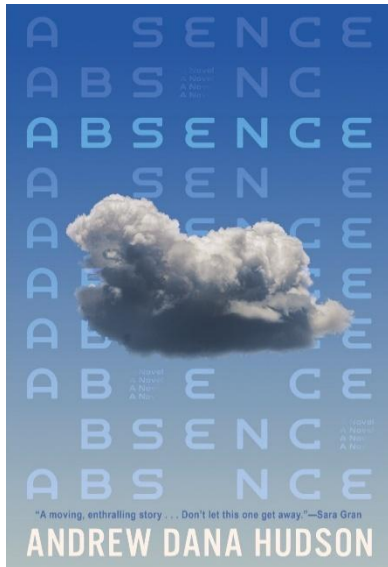
When Stuart Horwitz wrote a piece for Today.com in June 2020 titled "[Amnesty Day: How I Got My Teenager to Tell Me the Truth](#)", he recounted how he and his eldest daughter, Fifer, developed an agreement before she left for college where, once a month, she could tell him absolutely anything she had done without punishment. The only stipulation: they had to talk about it. Since then, the piece has garnered over 641 million impressions, with syndication to Scary Mommy, MSN, and Yahoo! Life. And thus, *Amnesty Day* the book project was born.

Picking up where Anne Lamott's *Operating Instructions* left off, the book recounts each of Fifer and Stuart's "Amnesty Days" and tells the story of how a father and daughter grew closer and learned so much about each other and about life through their own form of honest communication. Incorporating expert advice and analysis throughout, Stuart also draws on his own experiences dealing with abuse, trauma, addiction, and recovery to detail how he tried to help guide Fifer away from making some of the same mistakes he made, and toward entering adulthood as a young woman who knew how to make good decisions while staying true to herself. And while it maybe a controversial parenting approach to some, *Amnesty Day* is meant to spark a conversation, and in the end the evolution of their father-daughter relationship is a truly moving and inspiring story.

ANDREW DANA HUDSON

<https://andrewdanahudson.com/about/>

Andrew Dana Hudson is a speculative fiction writer, sustainability researcher, and futurist. He is the author of *Our Shared Storm: A Novel of Five Climate Futures*, as well as over twenty-five short stories appearing in *Slate Future Tense*, *Lightspeed Magazine*, *Escape Pod*, *Vice Terraform*, *MIT Technology Review*, *Grist*, and many more. His nonfiction has appeared in *Slate*, *Jacobin*, and others. His fiction has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, longlisted for the BSFA, and [translated into Italian](#). In 2016 his story “Sunshine State” won the first [Everything Change Climate Fiction Contest](#), and in 2017 he was runner up in the [Kaleidoscope Writing The Future Contest](#). His 2015 essay “[On the Political Dimensions of Solarpunk](#)” has helped define and grow the “solarpunk” subgenre. He is an active member of SFWA and attended the prestigious 2022 Clarion Workshop. Andrew has a master’s degree in sustainability from Arizona State University, where he is now pursuing an MFA in creative writing (fiction). He is also an Imaginary College Fellow at the ASU Center for Science and the Imagination. His research, partnering with institutions like [Luleå University of Technology](#) in Sweden, uses speculative fiction to explore the entwined social and technical dynamics of future scenarios, particularly the challenges and opportunities of decarbonization and climate repair. He often teaches, lectures, and advises on climate fiction and solarpunk, including serving as a story reviewer on [Grist’s Imagine 2200 Climate Fiction Contest](#) and teaching an online craft class with [Clarion West](#). He has been invited to speak at top conferences and venues, such as the Museum of the Future in Dubai, Re:Publica in Berlin, and C2MTL in Montreal. He has previously worked in journalism, political consulting, and healthcare innovation. He also teaches yoga. Follow his work via [solarshades.club](#).



ABSENCE (Soho Press h.c., May 26, 2026)

VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film

Soho Press Rights—UK, Audio, 1st Serial

Final Book PDF Available

The City & The City meets The Leftovers...

A moving, richly detailed speculative crime debut in which the world is unraveling from an epidemic of human vanishing, and two novice investigators are dispatched to small-town Kansas to interview a woman who claims to have returned from Absence, offering answers to everything.

People are “popping,” disappearing one-by-one, into thin air: an ongoing global cataclysm known as Spontaneous Human Absence. In a world where prospects for survival are increasingly grim,

hopelessness prevails, political rifts widen, and doomsday predictions flourish.

Harvey Ellis works the night shift for the Bureau of Depopulation Affairs, an ad hoc federal agency meant to contain and catalogue the crisis. His job: to investigate claims of Absence, and, if validated, issue a standard government stipend to boost morale. Still recovering from losses of his own, Harvey is content in his routine—until his life is shaken up by an unexpected assignment from the central office. A woman long thought Absent has reappeared in her hometown of Dawnville, Kansas, claiming she’s been to the other side and back. Is her story true, or is she just the latest false prophet, offering hope to a world

Rev. Sept. 21st, 2026

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Vertical Ink Agency – Frankfurt Book Fair 2026 – Page 10

<https://www.vertical-ink-agency.com/authorstyles>

desperate for answers? Together with his no-BS partner Shonda Erins, Harvey travels to Dawnville to find out.

A sweeping portrait of a world beset by confusion and dismay, Andrew Dana Hudson's debut novel is a vividly imagined speculative mystery of cosmic proportions, examining the stories we tell to get by.

Praise for *Absence*

"Hudson (*Our Shared Storm*) gives a skillful metaphysical twist to a tale of apocalyptic horror in this strikingly original novel...The thoroughness with which Hudson imagines how individuals and society would have to rewire themselves to contend with this bizarre phenomenon lends his tale impressive philosophical heft. The result is a poignant exploration of loss, grief, hope, and the fragility of existence that will resonate with readers beyond the fantasy and horror genres."

- Publishers Weekly Starred Review

"Hudson brings refreshing common sense and keen intelligence to this fantastical tale about the afterlife and what its proximity can do to a community's sanity...A haunted story about unfinished lives, the persistence of hope, and the consequences of grief without end."

- Kirkus Reviews

"Unsettling...unexplained disappearances strain people's faith...in a measured meditation on belief and institutional strains."

- Foreword Reviews

"Andrew Dana Hudson's debut novel succeeds on every level—an original and compelling mystery, told with assurance, intelligence, craft, and all of it fueled by an extraordinary imagination."

- Karen Joy Fowler, author of *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*

"A wild, inventive, and extraordinarily prescient novel, Andrew Dana Hudson's *Absence* unspools a moody detective yarn that quickly vaults sky-high, weighing humankind's slow numbing against daily horrors and faith's struggle against the impossible. And yet most impressively, within its nightmare of spontaneous gradual depopulation, much is made clear of our species' capacity for hope. There simply aren't enough books like it."

- Jinwoo Chong, author of *I Leave It Up to You* and *Flux*

"In this engaging, closely observed and intensely humanistic story that reads like Mulder and Scully collecting the immanent evidence of the end of the world, Andrew Dana Hudson helps us see how the real path to a better tomorrow is through rediscovery of the connection and community we have lost."

- Christopher Brown, author of *Tropic of Kansas*

"*Absence* is fascinating, shiningly clever, and thought-provoking. A thriller wrapped in dystopian almost-horror wrapped in a perfect enigma, anchored by a grounded and methodic agent named Harvey Ellis. Brilliant!"

- Manda Scott, Edgar-nominated bestselling author of *No Good Deed*

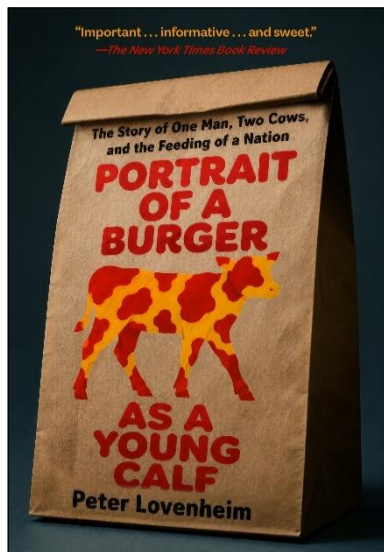
"A moving, enthralling story, set in a fully realized, beautifully examined world. Don't let this one get away."

- Sara Gran, author of *Come Closer* and the Claire DeWitt mysteries

PETER LOVENHEIM

<https://peterlovenheim.com/>

Peter Lovenheim is the Washington Correspondent for the Rochester Beacon, and his articles and essays have appeared in the New York Times, New York magazine, The Los Angeles Times, Parade, Moment magazine, The Washington Post, and other publications. He has written four books, notably *In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street*, *One Sleepover at a Time*, which won a Barnes & Noble Discover Award and the First Annual Zócalo Public Square Book Prize. He holds a degree in journalism from Boston University and in law from Cornell Law School, and he teaches narrative non-fiction at The Writers Center in Bethesda, MD while splitting his time between his hometown of Rochester, NY, and Washington, DC.



PORTRAIT OF A BURGER AS A YOUNG CALF: *The Story of One Man, Two Cows, and the Feeding of a Nation*
(Open Road Integrated Media, January 2027 (e-book) & May 2027 (TPB) - (Originally published by Crown/Harmony in 2002)

Final Book PDF Available

After getting a Teenie Beanie Baby with his daughter's Happy Meal at McDonald's, journalist Peter Lovenheim was struck by the realization that his child would be cuddling a stuffed cow while cheerfully chowing down on a hamburger. Prompted by the profound disconnect he saw between what we eat and where it comes from, Lovenheim did the next logical thing: he bought a cow. Actually, two young calves. Following the lives of his animals from birth to slaughter, Lovenheim chronicles the daily operations of a contemporary dairy farm, providing details on everything from the artificial insemination of cows to the technology behind feeding and milk production. He

gets to know the hard-working people behind the scenes of the agriculture industry. He even contemplates the inner lives of cows with the kind of curiosity that engenders affection for the animals he will ultimately bring to the slaughterhouse--or will he? Filled with insights about animal behavior and the ethics of raising livestock only to put food on America's already abundant tables, *Portrait of a Burger as Young Calf* will change the way you think about food and the animals that provide it to us.

Praise for *Portrait of a Burger as a Young Calf*

An "important" book with a "lofty [goal] to observe up close...every single aspect of... animals' lives, "conception to consumption" —New York Times Book Review

*"Lots of people—including those who actually work with farm animals—are going to like this book." —Temple Grandin, author of *Thinking in Pictures**

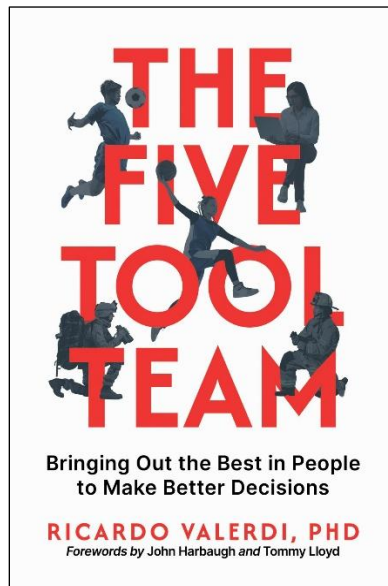
"A graphic portrait of those whose labor and lives feed a nation and world." —Booklist

"An absorbing first-hand account." —Publishers Weekly

DR. RICARDO VALERDI

<https://www.ricardovalerdi.com/>

Dr. Ricardo Valerdi is an engineer, social entrepreneur, sports scientist, and engineering professor at the University of Arizona. Through his work developing teams that think clearly and decide confidently, he has helped a variety of organizations make better decisions including SpaceX, the US Army, Major League Baseball, and the National Collegiate Athletics Association. He is also a passionate advocate for STEM education for young learners. He founded the nonprofit [Science of Sport](#), which has impacted over seven hundred thousand students by reframing math and science through the lens of sports. Ricardo enjoys life in Tucson, Arizona, with his wife, their three kids, and two energetic dogs. They keep him grounded, laughing, and forever busy - which he considers the best kind of teamwork.



THE FIVE-TOOL TEAM: *Bringing Out the Best in People to Make Better Decisions* (Regalo Press TPB Original, September 29, 2026) VIA Rights—Translation, TV/Film
Regalo Press Rights—UK, Audio, 1st Serial

Final Book PDF Available

The essential tool kit for transforming decision-making from an individual skill into a team advantage.

Great decisions don't happen by accident—they happen by design. *The Five-Tool Team* reveals a practical framework for improving the way individuals and teams think, collaborate, and make decisions under pressure. Drawing on lessons from sports, business, engineering, and real-world experience, Ricardo Valerdi shows how the most effective leaders build teams that question assumptions, analyze consequences, and make choices grounded in clarity rather than instinct or urgency.

In **THE FIVE-TOOL TEAM**, Valerdi introduces his FLASH model for making great decisions centered on these five decision-making tools:

- **Focus** on the Questions: the who, what, when, how, and why of decision making
- **Look** at the data, change your perspective, then look at the data again
- **Aalyze** the consequences of your decisions before making them
- **Scrutinize** the options being considered
- **Humanize** your decision-making approach

Packed with stories, tools, and simple habits that create lasting impact, this book helps you transform decision-making from a personal skill into a shared competitive advantage.