Spring 2018 Rights List

History, Biography, Memoir, & Journalism

THE PERFORMANCE OF MIRACLES (S&S)

Language, Power, and Alexander Graham Bell's Quest to Cure Deafness By Katie Booth

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

The groundbreaking account of the inventor of the telephone, the repression of sign language, and the unintended consequences of his quest to cure deafness.

Ms due June 2018, publishing June 2019 Acquired by Jonathan Cox at Simon & Schuster in a three-publisher auction

Alexander Graham Bell's primary objective in life was to teach the deaf to speak. He believed the deaf could be happy and productive members of society so long as they would abandon sign language, impersonate speech, and learn to read lips. The son of a deaf woman, later married to another, he dedicated his life to his increasingly legendary teaching methods and to inventing technology that could help the deaf even more. Unexpectedly, from these experiments came the world-changing telephone. And, unexpectedly, the telephone would have a profound impact on the deaf, just not in the way anyone could have expected. The wealth and prominence Bell gained from his invention allowed him to dedicate himself to deaf education full-time and magnified his influence. His affiliation with the wildly popular Helen Keller did even more to spread his gospel about what the deaf were capable of. But his methods meant repressing the language the deaf used to communicate with one another. Neither should the deaf marry one another, it could only lead to more deafness. Sign language would be forbidden, thanks to Bell, and would remain so for nearly 80 years. Even while his wife begged him to stop his educational work he was steadfast in his conviction of the benefits of his methods. As Booth says, "Today, the hearing still think of Alexander Graham Bell as an inventor. But in the Deaf world he is seen not as the great figure of liberation that he set out to be but, instead, as the greatest catalyst in deaf oppression. In the Deaf world, he is hated today for what he considered his most important work." The role deafness played in in Bell's world-changing invention has never fully been told just as the debate as to whether sign language is good or bad for the deaf still rages today. THE PERFORMANCE OF MIRACLES will tell the profound and tempestuous love story between Bell and his wife Mabel, the dramatic and controversial events surrounding his invention of the telephone, focusing anew on Bell's lifelong—yet deeply flawed—pursuit of a cure for deafness, while unraveling the ways in which we perceive (and often try to fix) difference.

Katie Booth teaches writing and journalism at the University of Pittsburgh and she comes from a family of deaf people, though she is hearing. Booth has an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of Pittsburgh and her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Harper's* Magazine, The Atavist Magazine, and many others. She lives in Pittsburgh. This is her first book.

THE BONANZA KING (Scribner)

John Mackay and the Battle over the Greatest Fortune in the American West By Gregory Crouch

NA: Scribner, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

The rages to riches saga on the American frontier in which a penniless Irish immigrant outwits, outworks, and outmaneuvers thousands of rivals to make one of America's greatest fortunes.

Acquired by Colin Harrison at Scribner MS is available, publishing June 2018

Born in 1831, John W. Mackay was a penniless Irish immigrant who came of age in New York City, went to California during the Gold Rush, and mined without much luck for eight years. When he heard of riches found on the other side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in 1859, Mackay abandoned his claim and walked a hundred miles to the Comstock Lode in Nevada. Over the course of the next dozen years, Mackay worked his way up from nothing, thwarting the pernicious "Bank Ring" monopoly to seize control of the most concentrated cache of precious metals ever found on earth, the legendary "Big Bonanza," a stupendously rich body of gold and silver ore discovered 1,500 feet beneath the streets of Virginia City, the ultimate Old West boomtown. But for the ore to be worth anything it had to be found, claimed, and successfully extracted, each step requiring enormous risk and the creation of an entirely new industry. Now Gregory Crouch tells Mackay's amazing story—how he extracted the ore from deep underground and used his vast mining fortune to crush the transatlantic telegraph monopoly of the notorious Jay Gould. When Mackay died in 1902, front-page obituaries in Europe and the United States hailed him as one of the most admired Americans of the age. *The Bonanza King* is a dazzling tour de force, a riveting history of Virginia City, Nevada, the Comstock Lode, and America itself. In the vein of EMPIRE OF THE SUMMER MOON and DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY.

Gregory Crouch is the nationally bestselling author of ENDURING PATAGONIA (Random House, 2001) and CHINA'S WINGS (Bantam, 2012, China/Social Sciences Academic Press). He's written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, and *Popular Mechanics*, among many others. He's a graduate of the United State Military Academy at West Point and he lives in the Bay Area.

THE GHOSTSHIPS OF ARCHANGEL (Viking)

An Abandoned Convoy, Hitler's Navy, and the Race to Arctic Russia By William Geroux

The incredible true story of four American supply ships in 1942, a part of the doomed PQ-17 convoy, abandoned by their British military escort, who escape a German assault by sneaking into the ice floes of the North Pole before resuming their dangerous mission to Russia.

NA: Viking, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA Acquired by Wendy Wolf at Viking

MS due June 2018, publishing Spring 2019

In the summer of 1942 the alliance that would win WWII was far from certain. To satisfy Stalin's demands for US participation in the fight against the Germans, Roosevelt and Churchill organized a daring series of supply convoys to make the treacherous "Murmansk Run" from the US, across the North Atlantic and through a gauntlet of German air and naval forces to Soviet Russia. The convoys were staffed by merchant mariners, men unfit for military duty, and crewmembers from all corners of the world, all aboard aging rust-bucket ships under threat of icebergs, bombers, and U-boats. In July, when the 17th convoy (PQ-17) began to cross the North Atlantic, Hitler insisted his navy send their fearsome battleship Turpitz to annihilate it and their armed escort. Fearing the loss of irreplaceable warships the British Admiralty ordered the fleet to scatter and leave PQ-17 undefended. Churchill would come to call it "the most melancholy episode of the war," but as the Germans began to hunt down the ships in the convoy by sea and by air, four of the ships slipped into the polar ice where they hoped to escape notice, getting so close to the North Pole their compasses began to spin in useless circles. They hid out the bombardment, disguised their hulls with white paint and bed-sheets, before resuming their dangerous mission to the Soviet port of Archangel and, hopefully, back home again. William Geroux has unearthed exceptional source material and first-hand accounts, and has interviewed at length the last living American member of the PQ-17 convoy. This was a brief moment of military cooperation between the US and the Soviet Union before the onset of the Cold War. By the author of *The Mathews Men* (Viking, 2016)

THE SECOND CHANCE CLUB (Eamon Dolan Books)

On the Front Lines with the New Orleans District of Probation and Parole by Jason Hardy

A memoir of Hardy's four years as a parole and probation officer in New Orleans where he gained a unique and vital perspective on how felons re-enter (or fail to re-enter) society.

NA: Eamon Dolan Books, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA MS due July, 2018, publishing May, 2019

The Second Chance Club is a derogatory nickname for the New Orleans District of Probation and Parole. In a state that incarcerates more people per capita than any other in America (and, therefore, the World) it was not known for giving second chances. Who deserves to stay out of prison and who has to go back behind bars? These were questions he felt motivated to answer shortly after responding to a classified ad, desperate to find employment resembling a career after what seemed to him like failures as a high school teacher, stints in retail and hospitality, even an MFA degree. Hardy started his work feeling that he knew how to make a helpful difference in the lives of his charges, as untrained as he was. He quickly fell into the camp of the "social workers," those who believed that prisoners being released simply needed to be understood in order to get back on their feet. Surely there must have been a good reason they missed the job interview. Glaring at them from across office were the "cowboys," those who believed that prisoners just needed a kick in the ass. Jail was a tool to use and compassion was a waste of time. In time, through Hardy's experiences on the street and in his office, through pained, tragic, desperate, and even uproarious encounters with his colleagues, offenders, Assistant District Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Judges alike, Jason is transformed, all while offering a fascinating glimpse into the front lines of criminal justice reform. He learns that certainty about how to help those who can't help themselves can be as fleeting as the grace he might sometimes witness through - or even in spite - of his efforts. This is Jason Hardy's first book.

BENEATH A RUTHLESS SUN (Riverhead)

A True Story of Violence, Race, and Justice Lost and Found By Gilbert King

From the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller *Devil in the Grove*, a gripping story of sex, race, class, corruption, and the arc of justice twisted and bent straight again in the Florida citrus groves.

NA: Riverhead, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA Acquired by Becky Saletan in a five publisher auction for Riverhead Manuscript is available, publishing April 2018

STARRED Review in PW: "The perversions of justice under Jim Crow chart a devious path in this labyrinthine true crime saga... Packed with riveting characters and startling twists, King's narrative unfolds like a Southern gothic noir probing the recesses of a poisoned society."

STARRED Review in Kirkus: "A spellbinding true story of racism, privilege, and official corruption. ... From the opening pages, King's narrative barrels forward, leaving readers wondering what it will take for justice to prevail. By turns sobering, frightening, and thrilling, this meticulous account of the power and tenacity of officially sanctioned racism recalls a dark era that America is still struggling to leave behind."

STARRED Review in Booklist: "This book is every bit as gripping as the author's Pulitzer-winning Devil in the Grove (2012), which explored an earlier incident involving McCall and Reese. McCall, who served as sheriff until the early 1970s, emerges here as thoroughly despicable, and Reese, who was a supporting player in Devil in the Grove, steps onto center stage here and captivates us with her determination in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Gripping history, vividly told."

DEVIL IN THE GROVE (Harper, rights to China/Shanghai Joint Publishing, Korea/Opus Press) won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction. It has been optioned for a feature film by Lionsgate.

CADDYSHACK (Flatiron)

The Making of a Hollywood Cinderella Story and the Remaking of American Comedy by Chris Nashawaty

NA: Flatiron, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

The story of one of the most beloved comedies of all time. But the movie we all know and love didn't start out that way, and everyone who made it certainly didn't have the word "classic" in mind as the cameras were rolling.

Acquired by Colin Dickerman in a five publisher auction. Full ms is available, publishing April, 2018

Caddyshack is one of the most beloved comedies of all time, a classic snobs vs. slobs story of working class kids and the white collar buffoons that make them haul their golf bags in the hot summer sun. It has sex, drugs and one very memorable candy bar, but the movie we all know and love didn't start out that way, and everyone who made it certainly didn't have the word "classic" in mind as the cameras were rolling. Entertainment Weekly film critic Chris Nashawaty goes behind the scenes of the iconic film, chronicling the rise of comedy's greatest deranged minds as they form The National Lampoon, turn the entertainment industry on its head, and ultimately blow up both a golf course and popular culture as we know it. Caddyshack is at once an eye-opening narrative about one of the most interesting, surreal, and dramatic film productions there's ever been, and a rich portrait of the biggest, and most revolutionary names in Hollywood. So, it's got that going for it...which is nice. Over his 20-plus years at EW Nashawaty has become one of America's foremost movie writers and popculture authorities. He is the author of a book about B Movie producer Roger Corman called CRAB MONSTERS, TEENAGE CAVEMEN, AND CANDY STRIPE NURSES.

BIG (S&S)

How Monopoly Power Secretly Took Over the World by Matt Stoller

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

A revelatory chronicle of the rise of concentrated financial power and the erosion of democracy.

Acquired by Ben Loehnen at S&S in a five-publisher auction MS due July, 2018, publishing May 2019

Stoller's synthesis of 20th Century political and economic history has produced an explosive new way of understanding the origins and potential outcomes of our current political and economic reality. What many political leaders, columnists and cable talk show hosts forget is that billionaires once ran our government and their reckless and self-dealing policies were inspired, in part, by the rise of Fascism in Italy and Germany, and which led to the Great Depression. The political motivation to stop them came from populist politicians who understood that, in the words of Louis Brandeis "We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both." In standing up to concentrated financial power, the political figures of the day presided over the New Deal and created the middle class. But in the wake of Vietnam and Watergate the Democratic Party ushered in a transformation of political priorities that favored monopolies and allowed banks, for the first time in a generation, to operate outside of the political arena. This led to profound concentrations of financial power, the troubling realities of the 2008 financial crisis, and a Bank bailout that saw no prosecutions but permitted the foreclosure of 9 million American homes. Americans, in despair, turned to Donald Trump. Cries of a resurgent populist agenda are dangerously misplaced however. Because just as there's an appearance that populism has animated Trump's political success, monopoly power and a concentration of wealth create dangerous pressures on our Democratic system.

RACEHOSS (Scribner)

Big Emma's Boy By Albert "Race" Sample

"A timeless classic" (San Antonio Express-News), reissued with new material, about a Texas black man who spent seventeen years in the prison system on a brutal Texas prison plantation before and undergoing underwent a remarkable transformation.

NA: Scribner, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA MS is available, publishing May, 2018

First published in 1984, Racehoss is Albert Race Sample's "unforgettable" (The Dallas Morning News) tale of resilience, reinvention, revelation, and redemption. Born in 1930, Sample got the name "Racehoss" from an armed guard, mounted on horseback, impressed at the speed with which Sample "chopped" (hoed) cotton faster than anyone else on his squad of prisoners at the all-black plantation prison known as "the burnin' hell." Sample could pass for white and his light complexion made him stand out "like a fly in buttermilk" among the 400 prisoners in the Retrieve Unit under Warden Harrelson (grand uncle to actor Woody Harrelson). Sample served a 17 year sentence where men were put to work under the brutal Texas sun, clearing land and picking cotton while shotgun carrying guards, little more than mobile executioners, patrolled them from horseback. He survived multiple detentions in solitary confinement, a 4 x 8 cell with a 2 inch diameter hole in the floor. No light and no sound would enter a room in which men would routinely lose their minds. On one occasion Sample was inside for 28 straight days during which he began to lose hope. But he was visited by what he describes as a presence who reassured him he was loved. "Tell them about me," it said to him. This profound experience was a turning point in his life and the start of this remarkable book. After earning his release in 1972, Sample would go on to work for the Governor of Texas running a program to help prisoners find employment. "As remarkable as Richard Wright's autobiography Black Boy...These stories are worthy of Twain, Faulkner, and Lardner" (Chicago Tribune).

Natural History & Science

WHEN THE EARTH HAD TWO MOONS (Custom House)

Planet Formation and the Meaning of Life By Erik Asphaug, Ph.D.

A stunningly original hypothesis about our moon's formation is a window into the origins of the Universe, and its implications for life beyond Earth.

NA & UK: Custom House, Translation: CLA (Russia/Alpina) Acquired by Geoff Shandler at Custom House on an exclusive submission. Ms due June 2018, publishing June of 2019

The Norwegian-born Dr. Erik Asphaug is an award-winning planetary scientist widely known for his provocative theory that the earth once had two moons. This forms the core of a fascinating book that showcases the origins of our moon, our galaxy, the universe, and the possibility for life beyond Earth. With trillions of games of chance going on in the Universe, building planets by chaos and blind luck, any planet you think of not only can exist, but probably does. The first life took hold on Earth in the midst of a calamitous bombardment. Did it take hold despite this, or because of this? To know more, we have to know the Moon. "The smaller of our Solar System's bodies – Pluto is smaller than the Moon, for example, and the Moon is just 1% the mass of the Earth – represent poorly-known but potentially revelatory stages on the precarious road to planet formation, where large bodies grow from smaller ones, one collision at a time. They are snapshots of the complex history that made the planets. Like a messy bakery, planet formation has left behind scattered pieces..." This book is about the fate of planets, then and now, and will show readers the profound ways in which their workings are intimately connected to the meaning of life. Along the way they will be introduced to the mind-bending discoveries made by recent spaceflights and obtain a visceral understanding of planetary diversity. Dr. Erik Asphaug is the chair of Planetary Science at Arizona State University (which has the largest planetary science program in the country).

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: CLA Manuscript is available, publishing April, 2018

Natural disasters emerge from the same forces that give our planet life. Earthquakes create natural springs; volcanoes produce fertile soil. It is only when these forces exceed our ability to withstand them that they become disasters. Together they have shaped our cities and their architecture; elevated leaders and toppled governments; influenced the way we think, feel, fight, unite, and pray. The history of natural disasters is a history of ourselves. *The Big Ones* is a look at some of the most impactful natural disasters in human history, whose reverberations we continue to feel today. It considers Pompeii, and how a volcanic eruption in the first century AD challenged

and reinforced prevailing views of religion. It examines the California floods of 1862 and the limitations of memory. And it transports us to today, showing what Hurricane Katrina and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami can tell us about governance and globalization. With temperatures rising around the world, natural disasters are striking with only greater frequency. More than just history or science, *The Big Ones* is a call to action. Natural hazards are inevitable; human catastrophes are not. With this energizing and richly researched book, Jones offers a look at our past, readying us to face down the Big Ones in our future. DR. LUCY JONES was a seismologist for the U.S. Geological Survey for thirty years, most recently as Science Advisor for Risk Reduction. She created the Great ShakeOut Drill, an earthquake preparation experiment that by 2016 included 53 million participants around the world. A research associate at Caltech, she holds a PhD in geophysics from MIT and a BA in Chinese language and literature from Brown University. She lives in Southern California.

Prescriptive & How-To

RUN FOREVER (Center St.)

Your Complete Guide to Healthy Lifetime Running By Amby Burfoot

From a winner of the Boston Marathon, a life-long runner with over 100,000 miles run, and the Executive Editor of *Runner's World* for over twenty years, a classic manual and a return to basics for the simplest and best form of exercise.

NA: Center St., UK: Birlinn, Translation: CLA (Spain/Desnivel) Books are available, publishing in March of 2018

Amby's distinguished running career is the result of a great many lessons learned. These are lessons that stand the test of time and which come from his over 100,000 miles run, his many marathons, and his career as a journalist and top editor covering the sport's greatest events and competitors. Running is not a complicated thing. But we've made it complicated. And RUN FOREVER aims to distill the essence of the sport for readers who are looking for access, insights, and a way to get started, get fast, stay fast, and run forever. Amby's material for RUN FOREVER is disarming, accessible, persuasive, and funny. There's a generosity of spirit to the book that gives readers permission to be beginners, even if they're already experienced runners. But it doesn't stop with beginnings. With stories from his own runner's education and those of others in the sport, he takes readers through steps necessary to let running add years to your life and, more importantly, life to your years.

TAKING POINT (Touchstone)

A Navy SEAL's 10 Fail-Safe Principles for Leading Organizational Change by Brent Gleeson

Decorated Navy SEAL and successful businessman Brent Gleeson shares his revolutionary approach to navigating and leading change in the workplace—with a foreword by New York Times bestselling author Mark Owen.

NA: S&S, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA (China/Beijing Mediatime)

Books are available, publishing February 2018

Inspired by his time as a SEAL and his experience building successful, award-winning businesses, Gleeson has created a revolutionary roadmap for today's existing and emerging business leaders and managers to improve their ability to successfully implement and navigate organizational change. In TAKINGPOINT, Gleeson shares the ten-step program that he uses to help hundreds of global companies and business leaders, including high-profile clients Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, The North Face, Nestle, Boeing, PayPal and more, giving leaders and managers actionable insights and a framework for successful execution. At a time when change is more relevant, consistent and disruptive than ever before, business leaders and managers must do more than simply react to change—they must inspire and lead it. With TAKINGPOINT, leaders will have unprecedented access to the lessons learned by the SEAL Teams that will give them the tools they need to grow their businesses and truly take point. BRENT GLEESON is a globally recognized motivational leadership speaker, entrepreneur, Navy SEAL combat veteran, and currently the founder of TakingPoint Leadership. He earned degrees in Finance and Economics from Southern Methodist University, studied English and history at Oxford University, and has an MBA from the University of San Diego. After returning to civilian life, he built awardwinning, multi-million dollar organizations that were repeatedly named in the Inc. 500 list of fastest growing private companies. He has been featured on CNBC, Fox, CBS, NBC, ABC, and Discovery Channel. Brent writes about business and change in his two regular business columns in Forbes and Inc. www.brentgleesonspeaker.com.

Organize Your Team Today (Da Capo)
The Mental Toughness Needed to Lead Highly Successful Teams
By Tom Bartow and Jason Selk, written with Matthew Rudy

Following up the popular peak performance book Organize Tomorrow Today, a new plan to motivate, set priorities, and lead any team to get most important things done

NA + UK: Da Capo, Translation; CLA Manuscript is available, publishing March, 2018

Watch a triumphant speech after a sports championship or business milestone and you'll almost always hear some variation of this catchphrase: "It couldn't have happened without the great team we have." It doesn't matter if you're the owner of a 10,000-employee Fortune 500 company or running a small business, you're a part of a team. With a combined 50 years of experience building, managing, advising, and troubleshooting teams in both the business and sports worlds, Jason Selk and Tom Bartow now reveal the common DNA that links the highest performing teams. In *Organize Your Team Today*, Selk and Bartow show how it takes collective mental toughness to win, developed only through a clear understanding of the goals, limitations, roles and personalities on your team. Great leaders respect and embrace channel capacity, Selk and Bartow explain, which means they don't overload their teams with blizzards of tasks and responsibilities. They bust the "focus" and "relationship" fallacies, as those words are meaningless for teams unless they are byproducts of activities that really matter. And Selk and Bartow teach how to manage expectations, since doing so creates a level of respect between the leader and the team—and among the team members—that is a catalyst for peak achievement.

Fiction

EL CUADERNO TACHADO (Scribner)

a novel by Nicolás Giacobone

NA: Scribner, UK: Corsair, Translation (China/Citic Sight, France/Editions Sonatine, Germany/Heyne Hardcore, Italy/Bompiani, Portugal/Presença, Spain/Reservoir)

This debut novel from an Academy Award-winning screenwriter is a psychological thriller about a screenwriter kidnapped by a world-famous director and commanded that he write for him a masterpiece. (In Spanish)

Pablo, a failed Argentine novelist-turned-screenwriter, has been kidnapped by "the greatest Latin American film director of all time," and is kept in a basement where he is expected to work, day after day, on what is expected to be a great, world-changing script. El Cuaderno Tachado (The Crossed Out Notebook) is Pablo's diary of this time; being brought food by a maid; being threatened with a gun; vociferously arguing with the director about what he's written the previous day. But as Pablo begins to suffer writers block on the script his diary transforms with revelations about his imaginative life, the nature of writing novels versus screenplays, the Beatles, the scriptwriting greats and the history of cinema, to masturbation. "It's incredible," he says, "the amount of things I can do in this basement that are not writing the script I'm supposed to be writing." Suspenseful even while being determinedly unrealistic, it might remind some of the absurdist fiction of Beckett or George Saunders. El Cuaderno Tachado emerges as a short, crazy ode to writers, or any artist, whose brilliance doesn't come easily. (In Spanish). Nicolás Giacobone shared an Academy Award and Golden Globe for cowriting *Birdman*. His is the author of the book of stories ALGÚN CRISTO. He co-wrote the screenplays for Océano, which was directed by Pascual Sisto; Biutiful, which was directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu, and nominated for 'Best Original Screenplay' by the Cinema Writers Circle Awards in Spain, the Goya Awards, and the Satellite Awards; The Last Elvis, which was directed by Armando Bo, and awarded the 'Silver Condor for Best Original Screenplay' by the Argentine Film Critics Association

COLLLISION THEORY (Rare Bird Books)

A novel

By Adrian Todd Zuniga

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

When Thomas Mullen witnesses a stranger's unexpected suicide, he struggles to reconcile why he couldn't prevent it. Flattened by the weight of that death, to save himself Thomas tries to undo the impact of an unexpected thing by doing something unexpected in return.

MS is available, Publishing June 2018

COLLISION THEORY is Adrian Todd Zuniga's memorably heartfelt and headlong debut novel. Zuniga is a writer, stand-up comedian and the host/creator of Literary Death Match a live event series featured in 60 cities and 17 countries worldwide.