AKASHIC BOOKS is an award-winning independent company dedicated to publishing literary fiction and political nonfiction by authors who are either ignored by the mainstream, or who have no interest in working within the ever-consolidating ranks of the major corporate publishers. Akashic Books hosts additional imprints, including the Akashic Noir Series, the Akashic Drug Chronicles Series, Black Sheep Books for Young Readers, the Akashic Urban Surreal Series, Punk Planet Books, Dennis Cooper’s Little House on the Bowery Series, Open Lens, Chris Abani’s Black Goat Poetry Series, Infamous Books, Peekash Press, Kaylie Jones Books, Dave Zirin’s Edge of Sports, LyricPop, and Ann Hood’s Gracie Belle.
(SITTIN’ ON) THE DOCK OF THE BAY
A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK
SONG LYRICS BY OTIS REDDING AND STEVE CROPPER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAITLYN SHEA O’CONNOR

Otis Redding and Steve Cropper’s timeless ode to never-ending days is given fresh new life in this heartwarming picture book.

Sittin’ in the mornin’ sun
I’ll be sittin’ when the evening comes
Watching the ships roll in
Then I’ll watch ’em roll away again, yeah . . .

(SITTIN’ ON) THE DOCK OF THE BAY is a charming picture book set to one of the King of Soul’s™ greatest hits. The song was one of the last Redding recorded, and ranked #4 on Billboard’s year-end Hot 100 chart, going on to win two GRAMMYs and be certified triple-platinum.

WITH LYRICS BY OTIS REDDING AND STEVE CROPPER and illustrations by Kaitlyn Shea O’Connor, this picture book imagines a lonesome cat fishing off a dock and hoping the fish will bite soon. (Sittin’ on) The Dock of the Bay is the perfect picture book for parents wanting to share a classic song with their children, allowing both to find joy in it along the way.

OTIS REDDING (1941–1967) was a singer, songwriter, and producer often referred to as the King of Soul™. Known for releasing such acclaimed songs as “These Arms of Mine,” “Try a Little Tenderness™,” and “Respect,” Redding is considered to be one of the most influential singers and songwriters of the 1960s. He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and received two GRAMMYs as well as a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award. To learn more, visit: otisredding.com.

KAITLYN SHEA O’CONNOR is an illustrator and designer hailing from Atlanta, Georgia.

LYRICPOP is a picture book collection by LyricVerse and Akashic Books, presenting your favorite song lyrics by renowned songwriters as illustrated picture books, instilling a love of music and song among young readers.
RESPECT
A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK
SONG LYRICS BY OTIS REDDING
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RACHEL MOSS

Otis Redding’s classic song “Respect”—as popularized by Aretha Franklin—becomes an empowering picture book exploring the concept of mutual respect through the eyes of a young girl.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T / Find out what it means to me
R-E-S-P-E-C-T / Take care, TCB
Oh (sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me) / A little respect . . .

RESPECT is a children’s picture book based on lyrics written and originally recorded by Otis Redding in 1965. Aretha Franklin’s iconic rendition of the song later peaked at #1 on Billboard’s Hot 100 in 1967. Redding’s lyrics continue to resonate with listeners today.

WITH LYRICS BY OTIS REDDING and illustrations by Rachel Moss, this irresistible book shows a young girl, her brother, and her parents conjuring as many positive futures for each other as they can dream. Packed with playful vignettes as they imagine a life full of possibility, Respect provides families an opportunity to explore themes of mutual respect—while revisiting one of the greatest songs ever written.

OTIS REDDING (1941–1967) was a singer, songwriter, and producer often referred to as the King of Soul™. Known for releasing such acclaimed songs as “These Arms of Mine,” “Try a Little Tenderness™,” “Hard to Handle,” and “(Sittin’ on) The Dock of the Bay,” Redding is considered to be one of the most influential singers and songwriters of all time. He received two GRAMMYs as well as a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award, and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. To learn more, visit: otisredding.com.

RACHEL MOSS is a graphic designer in love with the bright colors and vibrant energy of the Caribbean.
WE GOT THE BEAT
A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK
SONG LYRICS BY CHARLOTTE CAFFEY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAITLYN SHEA O’CONNOR

An exuberant celebration of dance and play in picture book form, based on Charlotte Caffey’s joyful classic made famous by the Go-Go’s.

See the people walking down the street
Fall in line just watching all their feet
They don’t know where they want to go
But they’re walking in time
They got the beat . . .

WE GOT THE BEAT is a children’s picture book based on the hit song by the 1980s new wave group the Go-Go’s. Consisting of five members, the all-female band rocked the nation with their charisma and musical genius. Their hit song “We Got the Beat” spent three weeks at #2 on the Billboard 100 and became their signature song. Says the New York Times: the Go-Go’s “taught a new generation the power of the girl gang.”

WITH LYRICS BY GO-GO’S MEMBER CHARLOTTE CAFFEY and illustrations by Kaitlyn Shea O’Connor, this picture book tells the story of what it is like to live life dancing to the beat, while enjoying friends, nature, and the fun that surrounds you. We Got the Beat will make both parents and children get their groove on and show off their best dance moves

CHARLOTTE CAFFEY is a singer-songwriter best known for being a member of the all-female new wave group the Go-Go’s. Caffey wrote the hit single “We Got the Beat” and has cowritten songs for other artists such as Keith Urban and the theme song for the television series Clueless. The Go-Go’s became one of the foundational bands of the 1980s, with their 1981 debut album Beauty and the Beat going double platinum and topping US Billboard charts for six weeks. The band has sold more than seven million records across the world. Caffey continues to write and perform.

KAITLYN SHEA O’CONNOR is an illustrator and designer hailing from Atlanta, Georgia.
HUMBLE AND KIND
A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK
SONG LYRICS BY LORI McKENNA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE

Award-winning songwriter Lori McKenna’s iconic song—as popularized by Tim McGraw—is the perfect basis for a picture book that celebrates family and togetherness.

Hold the door, say please, say thank you
Don’t steal, don’t cheat, and don’t lie
I know you got mountains to climb but
Always stay humble and kind . . .

HUMBLE AND KIND is a picture book based on Lori McKenna’s song, popularized by Tim McGraw. McKenna later recorded the song on her ninth studio album, The Bird and the Rifle.

LOVINGLY ILLUSTRATED by Katherine Blackmore, this gentle picture book tells the story of a family who is striving to remain humble and kind. We follow the family through their daily lives as they find different ways to lend a hand to each other and to their broader community. Full of touching scenes of familial relationships, Humble and Kind will teach adults and children alike the power of family while introducing them to this beautiful song.

LORI McKENNA has emerged as one of the most respected, prolific singer-songwriters in popular music over the last three decades, as she also became a wife and mother of five. Her 2016 release The Bird and the Rifle netted three GRAMMY nominations, along with Americana Music Association nods—all firsts for McKenna as an artist. Then, she made history: In 2016, she became the first woman ever to win the Country Music Association’s Song of the Year two years in a row thanks to cowriting Little Big Town’s “Girl Crush” and penning the #1 hit song “Humble and Kind.” Both songs also clinched back-to-back GRAMMY awards for Best Country Song. In 2017, she became the Academy of Country Music’s first female Songwriter of the Year. The Tree, released on July 20, 2018, on CN Records via Thirty Tigers, was a 2019 Americana Awards Album of the Year nominee.

KATHERINE BLACKMORE is a freelance artist with over twenty-five years experience as an illustrator.
**MOVE THE CROWD**

**A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK**

**SONG LYRICS BY** Eric Barrier and William Griffin

**ILLUSTRATIONS BY** Kirk Parrish

Innovative illustrator Kirk Parrish brings the iconic song “Move the Crowd” to life for the first time as a children’s picture book.

With knowledge of self, there’s nothing I can’t solve
At 360 degrees I revolve
This is actual fact, it’s not an act, it’s been proven
Indeed and I proceed to make the crowd keep moving . . .

Innovative illustrator Kirk Parrish brings the iconic song “Move the Crowd” to life for the first time as a children’s picture book. The lyrics to Eric B. and Rakim’s hit song provide the inspiration for this instant classic.

**FOLLOW ALONG AS PARRISH** pairs the lyrics with colorful illustrations about a boy being absorbed into his stereo and dropped into a colorless world where the music is dull and the people uninspired. The ensuing transformation he brings to the crowd with his music is one that the whole family can enjoy together.

Kirk Parrish (illustrator) grew up on a little island just off the coast of Seattle. As a youngster, he developed a fondness for scribbling caped superheroes and yearned to one day become a grand-master ninja. Today, Parrish has (mostly) put down his ninja aspirations and is an illustrator and designer, currently based in Seattle. Over the last decade, his artwork has appeared in video games, animation, publishing, and advertising.
These boots are made for walkin’
And that’s just what they’ll do
One of these days these boots
Are gonna walk all over you . . .

These boots are made for walkin’ is an adorable story of friendship and family set against the backdrop of Lee Hazlewood’s iconic song. While there have been numerous recordings over the past several decades, “These Boots Are Made for Walkin’” was originally recorded by Nancy Sinatra and released in early 1966 to instant success. A #1 Billboard hit in the US, UK, Canada, and Australia that was nominated for three GRAMMYs, Hazlewood’s song continues to be embraced to this day.

With lyrics by Lee Hazlewood and illustrations by Rachel Moss, this captivating picture book tells the story of a boy and his extremely attached and very jealous cat who must adapt to the introduction of a new family member—a puppy. The funny story line and delightful images are sure to have the entire family curled up and laughing together, pets included!

Rachel Moss was born in Jamaica and studied animation in England at the University for the Creative Arts. She now lives in Jamaica where she spends her days illustrating children’s books such as African with song lyrics by Peter Tosh, I Am a Promise by Shelly Ann Fraser Pryce, Abigail’s Glorious Hair, and Milo & Myra Learn Manners with Mr. Mongoose.
**GOOD VIBRATIONS**

**A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK**

SONG LYRICS BY **MIKE LOVE** AND **BRIAN WILSON**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **PAUL HOPPE**


Mike Love and Brian Wilson’s world-famous song “Good Vibrations,” gloriously illustrated by Paul Hoppe, follows a girl and her dog as they make their way down to the beach, sharing good vibrations all along the way. Often praised as one of the most important compositions in rock music, the Beach Boys’ original version of this song was their third #1 Billboard hit.

**WE’RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT**

**A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK**

SONG LYRICS BY **DEE SNIDER**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **MARGARET McCARTNEY**


We’re Not Gonna Take It is a playful picture book echoing Twisted Sister’s most popular anti-establishment anthem. “We’re Not Gonna Take It” spent fifteen weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, reaching #21. With lyrics by Dee Snider and illustrations by Margaret McCartney, We’re Not Gonna Take It is a story both parents and children can relate to, and a song they can enjoy together.

**DON’T STOP**

**A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK**

SONG LYRICS BY **CHRISTINE McVIE**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **NUSHA ASHJAEE**


Don’t Stop is a beautifully illustrated picture book based on Christine McVie’s enduring anthem to optimism and patience. The song was a single on Fleetwood Mac’s megahit album Rumours, which spent thirty-one weeks at #1 on the Billboard charts and went on to sell over forty million copies worldwide. This touching picture book imagines a rabbit willing her hibernating friends out of a long and dark winter and into joyous spring.

**AFRICAN**

**A CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK**

SONG LYRICS BY **PETER TOSH**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **RACHEL MOSS**


African is a children’s book featuring lyrics by Peter Tosh and illustrations by Jamaican artist Rachel Moss. The song “African” by Peter Tosh was originally released in 1977 on his second solo record, Equal Rights. He wrote the song during a time of civil unrest in Jamaica as a reminder to all black people that they were part of the same community. The album is considered one of the most influential reggae works of all time.
YOU CAN KEEP THAT TO YOURSELF
A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF WHAT NOT TO SAY TO BLACK PEOPLE, FOR WELL-INTENTIONED PEOPLE OF PALLOR
BY ADAM SMYER

At long last, a much-needed guidebook for well-intentioned people of pallor on what not to say to their African American “friends.”

GREETINGS, WELL-INTENTIONED PERSON OF PALLOR.

Your good intentions used to be enough. But in these diverse and divisive times, some people would hold you accountable for your actions. You were not raised for such unfairness. You need help. And help you now have.

LET DAQUAN—THAT BLACK COWORKER you are referring to when you claim to have black friends—help you navigate perilous small talk with African Americans with this handy field guide. This portable bit of emotional labor puts at your fingertips a tabbed and alphabetized list of things not to say to black people. Finally!

HOW TO USE: KEEP THIS HANDBOOK CLOSE. Whenever you are confronted with an African American and you feel compelled to blurt out an observation about her hair or to liken your Tesla lease to slavery, ask for a moment to consult this reference. She’ll wait. If the keen insight you want to share is listed herein, You Can Keep That to Yourself. It truly is that easy!

SAMPLE ENTRIES FROM YOU CAN KEEP THAT TO YOURSELF:

Angry - Whenever yet another white person murders a black person on video and doesn’t even get in trouble, the first thing you ask me is, Why are you so angry? Keep that to yourself, or say what you mean: How did you notice that we are killing you?

Hair - Do not ask to touch our hair. Do not comment on our hair. You can look at our hair. But keep your childlike wondrous observations to yourself. Hold them in like a fart.

Reverse racism - Your eagerness to condemn “reverse racism” suggests that the regular kind is OK. You are actually saying it out loud.

ADAM SMYER is an attorney, martial artist, and mediocre bass player. His nonfiction has appeared in the Johannesburg Review of Books, and his debut novel, Knucklehead, was the sole title short-listed for the 2018 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. Smyer lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and cats.

ALSO BY ADAM SMYER AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:


“By setting his novel in the ’90s, Smyer, who lives in Oakland, has crafted some brutal deja vu. As Marcus reflects on Rodney King, the Million Man March and the Oklahoma City bombing, we think of Freddie Gray, Black Lives Matter and school shootings that have become a way of life. And when Marcus laments San Francisco’s dwindling black population, here we are more than 20 years on, and it’s only gotten worse. We should all be furious.” —San Francisco Chronicle

“Smyer gives Marcus a sardonic and hilarious voice reminiscent of a Paul Beatty protagonist and endows him with a troubled psychology that plumbs the nuances of black male identity.” —Kirkus Reviews
**OUT OF MESOPOTAMIA**

A NOVEL BY **SALAR ABDOH**

Informed by firsthand experience on the battlefronts of Iraq and Syria, Abdoh captures the horror, confusion, and absurdity of combat from the perspective of the “other” to expand our understanding of the war novel.

“*Out of Mesopotamia* is a brutally realistic look at war and love and fear and everything else that humans do. The writing is impossibly good. The characters aren’t characters at all—they seem to have emerged fully formed from the blood-soaked soil of Syria and Iraq. And they rise up to live out a story that is as old as history and yet somehow could only have happened today. I’m stunned by how good this book is.”

—Sebastian Junger, author of *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*

“*Out of Mesopotamia* is an extraordinary novel that captures the ambiguous and often contradictory nature of contemporary conflict as well as anything I’ve ever read . . .”

—Kevin Powers, author of *The Yellow Birds*

**SALEH, THE NARRATOR OF OUT OF MESOPOTAMIA**, is a middle-aged Iranian journalist who moonlights as a writer for one of Iran’s most popular TV shows but cannot keep himself away from the front lines in neighboring Iraq and Syria. There, the fight against the Islamic State is a proxy war, an existential battle, a declaration of faith, and, for some, a passing weekend affair.

**AFTER WEEKS SPENT DODGING RPGS**, acts of savagery and stupidity, Saleh returns to his civilian life of Tehran bookstore readings and trendy art openings and finds it to be an unbearably dislocating experience. Pursued by the woman who broke his heart, his official handler from state security (who wants him for questioning over a suspicious volume of Proust), and the screenwriters with whom he is supposed to be collaborating, Saleh has reason to flee again from everyday life—but not necessarily to discard it. Surrounded by men whose willingness to achieve martyrdom both fascinates and appalls him, Saleh struggles to make sense of himself and the turmoil that surrounds him.

**AN UNPRECEDENTED GLIMPSE INTO “ENDLESS WAR”** from a Middle Eastern perspective, *Out of Mesopotamia* follows in the tradition of the Western canon of martial writers—from Hemingway and Orwell to Tim O’Brien and Philip Caputo—but then subverts and expands upon the genre before completely blowing it apart.

**SALAR ABDOH** was born in Iran and splits his time between Tehran and New York City. He is the author of the novels *Tehran at Twilight*, *The Poet Game*, and *Opium*; and he is the editor of *Tehran Noir*. He teaches in the MFA program at the City College of New York.

**ALSO BY SALAR ABDOH AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:**

**Tehran at Twilight**  

“Swift, hard-boiled novel . . . Shadowy zealots exist everywhere, whether in conference rooms or interrogation rooms or—most often—in rooms that can serve as both.” —*New York Times Book Review*
SPECULATIVE LOS ANGELES
EDITED BY DENISE HAMILTON

The debut title of a new city-based anthology series featuring stories with speculative, sci-fi, and paranormal themes.


AS AN INCUBATOR OF THE FUTURE, Los Angeles has long mesmerized writers from Philip K. Dick to Aldous Huxley. With its natural disasters, Hollywood artifice, staggering wealth and poverty, urban sprawl, and diversity, one can argue that Los Angeles is already so weird, surreal, irrational, and mythic that any fiction emerging from this place should be considered speculative.

SO, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR DENISE HAMILTON commissioned some stories and did exactly that. In Speculative Los Angeles, fourteen of the city’s most prophetic voices reimagine the city in very different ways. In these pages, you’ll encounter twenty-first-century changelings, dirigibles plying the suburban skies, black holes and jacaranda men lurking in deep suburbia, beachfront property in Century City, walled-off canyons and coastlines reserved for the wealthy, psychic death cults, robot nursemaids, and an alternate LA where Spanish land grants never gave way to urbanization.

AS WITH OUR CITY-BASED AKASHIC NOIR SERIES, each story in Speculative Los Angeles is set in a distinct neighborhood filled with local color, landmarks, and flavor. Since the best speculative fiction provides a wormhole into other worlds while also commenting on our own, that is exactly what you’ll find here.

DENISE HAMILTON is a novelist, journalist, Edgar Award finalist, and the author of seven crime novels set in her hometown of Los Angeles. She is also the editor of Los Angeles Noir, which features the Edgar Award–winning short story “The Golden Gopher,” and Los Angeles Noir 2: The Classics, which includes stories by Raymond Chandler, James M. Cain, and James Ellroy. A lifelong fangirl of crime and speculative fiction, Hamilton is finishing a novel set in an alternate Los Angeles.

ALSO EDITED BY DENISE HAMILTON AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

• Winner of an Edgar Award (for “The Golden Gopher” by Susan Straight)
• A Los Angeles Times Best Seller
• Two stories selected for Best American Mystery Stories 2008 (“Mulholland Dive” by Michael Connelly and “The Hour When the Ship Comes In” by Robert Ferrigno)

“These seventeen very different stories confirm just how many places LA has become . . . Janet Fitch, as usual, operates at a scary level of intensity. Her story, ‘The Method,’ opens with a string of zippy one-liners that out-Chandler Chandler . . .”—Los Angeles Times

• Featuring classic stories by: Raymond Chandler, Paul Cain, James Ellroy, Leigh Brackett, James M. Cain, Chester Himes, Ross MacDonald, Walter Mosley, Naomi Hirahara, Margaret Millar, Joseph Hansen, William Campbell Gault, Jervey Tervalon, Kate Braverman, and Yxta Maya Murray.
Lee Child recruits Joyce Carol Oates, Jonathan Ames, Cara Black, and others to reveal nicotine’s scintillating alter egos.


IN RECENT YEARS, NICOTINE HAS BECOME as verboten as many hard drugs. The literary styles in this volume are as varied as the moral quandaries herein, and the authors have successfully unleashed their incandescent imaginations on the subject matter, fashioning an immensely addictive collection.

INSPIRED BY THE ONGOING INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS of the city-based Akashic Noir Series (Brooklyn Noir, Boston Noir, Paris Noir, etc.), Akashic created the Drug Chronicles Series in 2011. Following The Speed Chronicles (William T. Vollmann, Megan Abbott), The Cocaine Chronicles (Lee Child, Laura Lippman), The Heroin Chronicles (Jerry Stahl, Eric Bogosian, Lydia Lunch), and The Marijuana Chronicles (Lee Child, Joyce Carol Oates) comes The Nicotine Chronicles, masterfully curated by blockbuster hit maker Lee Child.

Lee Child was fired and out of work when he hatched a harebrained scheme to write a best-selling novel, thus saving his family from ruin. Killing Floor went on to launch the New York Times #1 best-selling Jack Reacher series with over 100 million books sold in forty-nine languages. Forbes calls it “the strongest brand in publishing.” The series has spawned two feature films and an upcoming Amazon Prime Video series.

PREVIOUS DRUG CHRONICLES BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

The Cocaine Chronicles  FICTION/SHORT STORIES, 288 PAGES; PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-029-8
“Seventeen remarkable short stories from an impressive gathering of seasoned writers. . . The contributors’ gifts of communication and impeccable style come together to create a literary experience quite unlike any other . . . ”—PopMatters

The Marijuana Chronicles  FICTION/SHORT STORIES, 240 PAGES; PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-163-9
“Fresh and informative The Marijuana Chronicles is a gem. Highly recommended.” —New York Journal of Books

The Speed Chronicles  FICTION/SHORT STORIES, 226 PAGES; PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-028-1
“The Speed Chronicles represents a surprising range of experiences. The promise of the collection is that it will neither vilify nor romanticize its subject matter.” —Portland Mercury

The Heroin Chronicles  FICTION/SHORT STORIES, 224 PAGES; PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-106-6
“The third and finest Akashic entry yet in its Drug Chronicles series focuses on the enigmatic opium poppy and its various derivatives . . . As the 13 contributors to this all-original anthology reveal, those who partake of the sacred flower are forever changed, but the price of paradise is often steep: overdose, hepatitis C, degradation, self-destruction. Stahl, himself a recovering addict with long-term sobriety, has assembled an impressive array of writers to create this ‘encyclopedia of bad behavior.’ Indeed, these tales of chasing the dragon, with corollaries often violent and savage, will satisfy devotees of noir fiction and outsider art alike.” —Publishers Weekly
POLAR VORTEX
A NOVEL BY SHANI MOOTOO

A novel reminiscent of the works of Herman Koch and Rachel Cusk, in which a lesbian couple attempts to escape the secrets of their pasts.

“How Polar Vortex is a powerful, fraught, and inventive exploration of the impossibility of ever really knowing the people we come to love. Told in urgent, incandescent prose and effortlessly spinning in and out of time, the book is an intimate and starkly honest examination of the complexities of sexual identity, lust, shame, regret, and how we, no matter where we come from or how we identify, are at our most complicated when it comes to the whims and failings of the human heart.”
—Joe Meno, author of Marvel and a Wonder

“Polar Vortex is a seductive and tension-filled novel about a lesbian couple who left the big city, where they had both lived for many years, to relocate to a bucolic countryside community where they knew no one and no one knew them. It seemed like a good idea to both Priya and Alex to cement their newish, later-in-life relationship by leaving the past behind to create a new life together. But there’s leaving the past behind—and then there’s running away from awkward histories.

PRIYA SEEMS TOTALLY COMMITTED to her relationship with Alex, but she has a secret—a long-standing on-again, off-again relationship with a man, Prakash. In Priya’s mind Prakash is little more than an old friend, but in reality it’s a bit more complicated. And, she’s never told Alex about him. Prakash has tracked Priya down in her new life, and before she realizes what she’s doing, she invites him to visit. Alex is not pleased, and soon the existing cracks in their relationship widen, not least because Alex has her own secrets. And then there’s Prakash, who has an agenda of his own, fueled by years of resentment about what he sees as Priya’s slipperiness and duplicity. Things soon come to a head and the three must all reap the consequences of their choices.

SHANI MOOTOO is a novelist, poet, and visual artist. Her novels include Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab, long-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and short-listed for a Lambda Literary Award; Valmiki’s Daughter, long-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Prize; He Drown She in the Sea, long-listed for the Dublin Impac Award, and Cereus Blooms at Night, short-listed for several prizes including the Giller Prize, and long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. She is also a recipient of a Chalmers Arts Fellowship, and the Dr. James Duggins Outstanding Mid-Career Novelist Prize.

ALSO BY SHANI MOOTOO AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab FICTION/LITERATURE, 304 PAGES; PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-534-7

“Readers who enjoy rich details of place will find Mootoo’s writing about her settings to be luxuriant; we are especially treated to abundant descriptions of Trinidad . . . [A] thoughtful exploration of place and identity.” —Kirkus Reviews
**PRAYER FOR THE LIVING**

SHORT STORIES BY **BEN OKRI**

*Topical and timely, Booker Prize–winning author Ben Okri’s new collection of short stories blurs parallel realities and walks the line between darkness and magic.*

“Okri is always good company and these twenty-odd tales showcase his lucid prose and freewheeling imagination. The settings range from the Andes to Nigeria, and the common thread is that what you see is only part of the story . . . A literary magic-carpet ride of shimmering beauty.” — *Daily Mail (UK)*

“Booker Prize winner Ben Okri’s short stories in *Prayer for the Living* are timeous, shocking, and perceptive.” — *Sunday Times (South Africa)*

“Okri is a master of the genre: these fables are concise and otherworldly. Resplendent and lingering, they capture an ethereal plane between wakefulness and sleep with a skewed, dreamlike brutality and beauty . . . Okri’s magnificent twilight zone provides a surreal and unique insight.” — *The Lady (UK)*

“The reader is in no doubt they are in the hands of a master storyteller throughout.” — *Belfast Telegraph (Northern Ireland)*

**PLAYFUL, FRIGHTENING, SHOCKING**—these stories from a writer at the height of his power will make you think, or make you laugh. Sometimes they’ll make you want to look away, but they will always hold your gaze.

**THESE ARE STORIES SET IN** London, in Byzantium, in the ghetto, in the Andes, and in a printer’s shop in Lagos. Characters include a murderer, a writer, a detective, a man in a cave, a man in a mirror, three little boys, a prison door, and the author himself.

**EACH ONE OF THESE TWENTY-THREE STORIES** will make you wonder if what you see in the world can really be all there is . . .

**BEN OKRI** was born in Minna, Nigeria. His childhood was divided between Nigeria, where he saw first-hand the consequences of war, and London. He won the Booker Prize in 1991 for *The Famished Road*. He has published eleven novels, four volumes of short stories, four books of essays, and four collections of poems. His work has been translated into more than twenty-five languages. He also writes plays and screenplays. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a vice president of English PEN, and has been awarded the OBE as well as numerous international prizes and honorary doctorates. His latest novel, *The Freedom Artist*, was published by Akashic Books.

**ALSO BY BEN OKRI AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:**


“In Okri’s dystopian version of our reality, the world is a totalitarian state, ruled by an anonymous but powerful authority known as the Hierarchy. When a woman goes missing after painting a simple question—‘Who is the prisoner?’—on a public wall, her lover sets out to find (and hopefully save) her. His journey takes him through a dismal landscape, inhabited by people terrified of—but also resisting—their subjugation.” — *BuzzFeed, one of the Most Anticipated Books of 2020*
PARTICULATE MATTER
BY FELICIA LUNA LEMUS

In concise and distilled prose, Lemus presents a collection of still lifes, landscapes, and portraits of a challenging year that threatened all she loved most.

“Lush and vibrant even in its sparseness, Felicia Luna Lemus’s Particulate Matter masterfully evokes the fragmentary experience of moving through time and space. Episodes flash by us, eliciting worry or wonder, defeat or delight. It can all change in a moment, Lemus assures us. Finding the lyrical in the mundane, Lemus’s lines pause motion, require the reader to consider what informs the impulse, what lies in the spare space between yes or no and fight or flight. These before-and-after moments, and the emotions that attend them—longing, loss, love, anger—mark us, accumulate, become us. Particulate Matter is a powerful exploration of the quickly changing landscapes—fraught, brittle, pensive, luminous—inside us.”
—Lynell George, author of After/Image: Los Angeles Outside the Frame

“Particulate Matter is a blessed offering: Felicia Luna Lemus shows us her fierce and generous heart and soul in gorgeous, tender, playful prose. Come tell me that’s hyperbole after you read it.”
—Elizabeth Crane, author of Turf

PARTICULATE MATTER IS THE STORY OF A YEAR in Felicia Luna Lemus’s marriage when the world turned upside down. It’s set in Los Angeles, and it’s about love and crisis, loss and grief, the city and the ocean, ancestral ghosts and history haunting. Nature herself seemed to howl. Fires raged and covered the house Lemus and her spouse shared in ash. Everything crystallized. It was the most challenging and terrifying time she had ever gone through, and yet it was also a time when the sublime beauty of the everyday shone through with particular power and presence.

FELICIA LUNA LEMUS is the author of the novels Trace Elements of Random Tea Parties and Like Son. Her writing has appeared in publications including BOMB, the Believer, ZYZZYVA, and the California Sunday Magazine. Lemus is currently the Visiting Writer at Pitzer College. She lives in Los Angeles with her spouse and their wild one.

ALSO BY FELICIA LUNA LEMUS AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

Like Son  FICTION/LITERATURE, 272 PAGES; PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-933354-21-7

“Felicia Luna Lemus is a literary alchemist: She combines words that you never before thought could exist in the same sentence. She breaks all the rules and makes you wonder why you thought there were any. But enough about her style . . . The characters in Like Son are truly original creations—it would take a heart of stone not to love them.”
—Vendela Vida, author of The Diver’s Clothes Lie Empty

“Like Son is a love story that, like a psychic’s trick, leaves nothing unbent: not gender, not culture north and south of the border, not time, or friendship, not even love itself. Don’t try to understand how it happens; just watch, and be amazed.”
—Paul La Farge, author of The Night Ocean

“Like Son moves on the wings of a soulful, visceral kind of androgyny. Old men, young men, hot girls—all step forward and sing from their stuttering hearts. Like Son is one terrific read.” —Eileen Myles, author of Cool for You
CREATURES OF PASSAGE
A NOVEL BY MOROWA YEJIDÉ

With echoes of Toni Morrison’s Beloved, Yejidé’s novel explores a forgotten quadrant of Washington, DC, and the ghosts that haunt it.

“In this beautifully written and gloriously conceived novel, Morowa Yejidé reveals her mastery yet again. This novel is both contemporary and ancient, frightening and stirring, playful and wise, an unforgettable blurring of reality and genres from its haunted Plymouth automobile to the mysteries in the fog in this alternate America and hidden Washington, DC. With its lyricism and bold imagination, Creatures of Passage is unlike anything you’ve ever read.” —Tananarive Due, author of Ghost Summer: Stories

“Comparisons will be made to Toni Morrison and they will be well founded, but Morowa Yejidé is in a class of her own with Creatures of Passage, a mesmerizing tale about love, loss, revenge, death, and restoration that hovers close to the edge of fantasy yet is deeply grounded in history and in a reality easily recognizable in the contemporary world.” —Elizabeth Nunez, author of Even in Paradise

“Although set in our recent past, Creatures of Passage is at heart a powerful ghost story about people haunted by the shadows of time and the shadows of blood. In the pages of this novel we discover a world that is fully recognizable, as concrete and real as Toni Morrison’s Ohio, but also as fantastic and mythical as Gabriel García Márquez’s Macondo. That said, make no mistake: Morowa Yejidé is a masterful storyteller in her own right, able to spin and sustain an inventive tale illuminated by a singular truth, that death is ‘another form of living.’” —Jeffery Renard Allen, author of Song of the Shank

NEPHTHYS KINWELL IS A TAXI DRIVER of sorts in Washington, DC, ferrying ill-fated passengers in a haunted car: a 1967 Plymouth Belvedere with a ghost in the trunk. Endless rides and alcohol help her manage her grief over the death of her twin brother, Osiris, who was murdered and dumped in the Anacostia River.

UNKNOWN TO NEPHTHYS WHEN THE NOVEL OPENS IN 1977, her estranged great-nephew, ten-year-old Dash, is finding himself drawn to the banks of that very same river. It is there that Dash—reeling from having witnessed an act of molestation at his school, but still questioning what and who he saw—has charmed conversations with a mysterious figure he calls the “River Man,” who somehow appears each time he goes there.

WHEN DASH ARRIVES UNEXPECTEDLY at Nephthys’s door one day bearing a cryptic note about his unusual conversations with the River Man, Nephthys must face both the family she abandoned and what frightens her most when she looks in the mirror.

CREATURES OF PASSAGE BEAUTIFULLY THREADS together the stories of Nephthys, Dash, and others both living and dead. Morowa Yejidé’s deeply captivating novel shows us an unseen Washington filled with otherworldly landscapes, flawed super-humans, and reluctant ghosts, and brings together a community intent on saving one young boy in order to reclaim themselves.

MOROWA YEJIDÉ, a native of Washington, DC, is the author of the critically acclaimed novel Time of the Locust, which was a 2012 finalist for the PEN/Bellwether Prize, long-listed for the 2015 PEN/Bingham Prize, and a 2015 NAACP Image Award nominee. She lives in the DC area with her husband and three sons. Creatures of Passage is her second novel.
PLANET CLAIRE
SUITE FOR CELLO AND SAD-EYED LOVERS
A MEMOIR BY JEFF PORTER

The second installment in Ann Hood’s Gracie Belle imprint challenges the traditional solemnity that characterizes nonfiction books of grief, loss, and sorrow.

“Jeff Porter has given us an incredibly warm, rich, vivid memoir, a love letter to his deceased wife and an autobiography of love attained and lost . . . The sentences are sharp and surprising, perfectly formed, by turns painful, funny, haunting, and inevitably right.” —Richard Preston, author of The Hot Zone

“Jeff Porter indelibly conjures his lost, beloved Claire in a ‘spiral galaxy’ of memory, while offering the story of a delicious marriage in prose that is elegiac but also gorgeous, funny, and endearingly modest.”
—Honor Moore, author of The Bishop’s Daughter

“Paradoxical as it sounds, this book about death and grief is charming, humorous, poignant, and vital.”
—Phillip Lopate, author of To Show and to Tell

PLANET CLAIRE IS THE STORY OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH of the author’s wife and a candid account of the following year of madness and grief. With Claire’s death, Jeff Porter tries to imagine life without her but struggles with the bewilderment that follows. There was no gradual transition, no chance to say goodbye or resolve unfinished business. The grief is crushing, her death the psychological equivalent of Pearl Harbor.

AS JEFF’S LIFE UNRAVELS, he analyzes his sadness with growing interest. He talks to Claire as if to evoke a presence, to mark a space for memory. He reports on his daily walks and shares observations of life’s sadness, while reminiscing about various moments in their life together. Like Orpheus, the author searches for a lost love, and what he finds is not the dog of doom but flashes of an intimate symmetry that brighten the darkest places of sorrow.

PLANET CLAIRE TAKES READERS ON A JOURNEY of sorrow that recalls memorable works by C.S. Lewis (A Grief Observed), Joan Didion (The Year of Magical Thinking), and Julian Barnes (Levels of Life). Planet Claire, however, is also playful, quirky, and self-ironic in a way that challenges the genre’s traditional solemnity. Like Max Porter’s novel Grief Is the Thing with Feathers, this is an unpredictably funny account of heartbreak, as if to say there’s something about the magnitude of loss that troubles even earnestness.

JEFF PORTER is the author of Lost Sound: The Forgotten Art of Radio Storytelling, the memoir Oppenheimer Is Watching Me, and coeditor of Understanding the Essay. His essays and articles have appeared in several magazines and literary reviews, including the Antioch Review, Northwest Review, Shenandoah, Missouri Review, Hotel Amerika, Wilson Quarterly, Contemporary Literature, and the Seneca Review. He loves cameras, dogs, and guitars—though not in that order. He lives in Iowa City and teaches English at the University of Iowa.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM GRACIE BELLE:

Now You See the Sky A MEMOIR BY Catharine H. Murray

“An extraordinary memoir. Forthright, honest and haunting . . . Murray’s memoir is wise and enlightened.” —Portland Press Herald
**CANE WARRIORS**  
A YOUNG ADULT NOVEL BY **ALEX WHEATLE**

*Moa, a fourteen-year-old slave, gets caught up in the most significant slave rebellion in Jamaican history, paying homage to freedom fighters all over the world.*

“Alex Wheatle writes from a place of honesty and passion, with the full knowledge and understanding that change can only happen through words and actions.”  
—Steve McQueen, Academy Award–winning film director

“This is a vital part of British and Jamaican history brought vividly to life. Alex Wheatle has reclaimed our ancestors and given them the voice they were denied.”  
—Catherine Johnson, author and screenwriter

“Though it is a work of fiction, *Cane Warriors* is rooted in reality, the horrors of colonialism, and the subjugation of a people, which provides an educational experience for the reader with the turning of each crisp page . . . *Cane Warriors* serves as an inspiring but also sobering reminder that the fight for survival spans across centuries and is very much ongoing. And it is not about the survival of a lone individual, but rather the collective struggle, what that entails, and what it means.”  
—*HuffPost UK*

**IRRESISTIBLE, GRIPPING, AND UNFORGETTABLE,** *Cane Warriors* follows the true story of Tacky’s War in Jamaica in 1760. A powerful young adult tale told through the eyes of Moa, a fourteen-year-old slave, this fictionalized account of the most significant rebellion of the time is rarely mentioned in history books or taught in schools.

**THE STORY BEGINS AS MOA IS AWOKEN** in the middle of the night by one of the rebels, who informs him that the revolt will begin on Easter Sunday. Moa’s father doesn’t like the idea of his son joining the rebellion, but his mother gives Moa her blessing. Together, Moa and his sixteen-year-old best friend Keverton take up arms, learning about brotherhood, courage, faith, and sacrifice along the way.

**ALEX WHEATLE’S BRILLIANT STORYTELLING** and characterization vividly bring to life the issues, pain, and the power structure of the era, along with the hopes and the dreams of the people. In writing this story, Wheatle’s meticulous and extensive research evokes the stories and legends passed down by word of mouth over the centuries.

**ALEX WHEATLE** is the author of several best-selling books including the young adult novel *Home Girl*, the modern classic *Brixton Rock*, and the multiaward-winning Crongton series. He was awarded an MBE for his services to literature in 2008, has been twice nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal, and has won numerous other awards, including the *Guardian* Children’s Fiction Prize. He lives in South London.

**ALSO BY ALEX WHEATLE AND AVAILABLE FROM BLACK SHEEP/AKASHIC BOOKS:**


“With a tough exterior and brash attitude, Naomi is an authentic character in an unfortunate yet accurate picture of modern-day foster care in the UK . . . The ending is neither predictable nor sugarcoated, leaving readers rooting for this determined heroine.”  
—*School Library Journal*
**HERE LIES A FATHER**

A DEBUT NOVEL BY **MCKENZIE CASSIDY**

*Fifteen-year-old Ian Daly’s moral universe is turned upside down when, at his father’s funeral, he discovers that his father had two secret families.*

“Keenly observed and beautifully written, Mckenzie Cassidy’s *Here Lies a Father* follows a blue-collar Holden Caulfield through a weekend odyssey of family secrets, lies, and revelations. It’s a novel for anyone who has ever wondered about their parents’ pasts—I couldn’t put it down.”
—Sara Pritchard, author of *Help Wanted: Female*

**WHEN IAN DALY AND HIS SISTER** Catherine arrive for their wayward father’s funeral in his small and desolate Upstate New York hometown, a secret that was kept from them their entire lives emerges: their father Thomas abandoned two other families, leaving behind two furious wives and several children who never knew their father.

**FOR AS LONG AS IAN CAN REMEMBER,** his own family has covered up for Thomas’s alcoholism and bipolar disorder. Now, Ian wants to know the truth, but is met with resistance from his own sister and their mother, who want to preserve the carefully constructed myth they’ve created around who Thomas really was.

**IN THE COLD, LONELY WINTER LANDSCAPE** of small-town New York, fifteen-year-old Ian sets out alone to learn the truth about his father’s past and the families he left behind. *Here Lies a Father* examines the long-term effects shameful secrets have on a family, and how difficult it is for a young man to reconstruct his own sense of right and wrong, when every value and moral principle he was ever taught was based on a lie.

**MCKENZIE CASSIDY** is a writer, journalist, marketer, and professor living in Fort Myers, Florida. His work has appeared in the anthology *Walk Hand in Hand into Extinction: Stories Inspired by True Detective, Flash Fiction Magazine, Florida Weekly,* and in multiple newspapers throughout southwest Florida. He holds an MFA from Wilkes University and is a regular blogger for the Florida Writers Association. *Here Lies a Father* is his first novel. Learn more at mckenziecassidy.com.

**ALSO AVAILABLE FROM KAYLIE JONES BOOKS:**

**Inconvenient Daughter** A DEBUT NOVEL BY **Lauren J. Sharkey**


“Sharkey’s masterfully plotted portrait of Rowan . . . is so raw and honest, written with such passion and heart, you turn the pages rooting for her to love herself as much as the reader and her indomitable adopted mother do.”
—Beverly Donofrio, author of *Astonished: A Story of Healing and Finding Grace*

**The Schrödinger Girl** A DEBUT NOVEL BY **Laurel Brett**


“Brett’s imaginative, amusing debut will appeal to fans of Nell Zink.” —Publishers Weekly

**Cornelius Sky** A DEBUT NOVEL BY **Timothy Brandoff**


“The novel is set against a backdrop of a crumbling Manhattan, where tensions are high and things seem to be at a breaking point, mirroring the chaos in Sky’s own life.” —*New York Post, Buzz Book pick*
FROM A BASEMENT IN SEATTLE
THE POSTER ART OF BRAD KLAUSEN, EXPANDED EDITION

An expanded edition of the first book from Pearl Jam’s longtime in-house designer featuring a foreword by Jeff Ament and an introduction by Eddie Vedder.

“Klausen’s left-field philosophies and twisted narratives beautifully underscore the stunning large-format artwork and contribute a greater depth of expression. A must-have for any music fan, artist, or aspiring graphic designer.”
—Publishers Weekly (Starred Review and Pick of the Week), on the original edition

FROM A BASEMENT IN SEATTLE is an extensive look into the creative process through which artist Brad Klausen generates imagery for rock posters for Pearl Jam, as well as Built to Spill, Queens of the Stone Age, U2, Soundgarden, Explosions in the Sky, MGMT, Mogwai, Faith No More, The Jesus Lizard, Widespread Panic, and others. With introductions from Eddie Vedder and Jeff Ament of Pearl Jam, this expanded hardcover edition also includes new posters from Klausen’s archive.

STARTING CHRONOLOGICALLY WITH THE FIRST POSTER he ever made, and covering more than seventy-five different works, the book follows the growth and development of Klausen’s art. Alongside the image of each finished poster are sketches and detailed commentary of the story behind the execution and concept of the individual designs.

ALL THE NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN PIECES and parts that were used to build each design are included: the initial rough sketches, the final inkings, the hand-drawn and computer-drawn typographic elements, and all other elements used in the construction of the final piece. Klausen takes apart and dissects each design to show how the artwork comes together, providing the viewers a rare look over the shoulder of the artist.

BRAD KLAUSEN graduated with a BFA in graphic design from the University of Denver in 1998. In 1999, he began working as the in-house graphic designer for the band Pearl Jam. In 2007, he launched his one-man shop Artillery Design, and in 2008 he left his job with Pearl Jam to focus solely on making screen-printed posters for bands like Pearl Jam, Queens of the Stone Age, NIN, Foo Fighters, and many more.
A MILLION AUNTIES
A NOVELLA BY ALECIA McKENZIE

American-born artist Chris is forced to reconsider his conception of family during a visit to his mother’s Caribbean homeland.

“McKenzie has infused this lovely novel with such life and such passion . . . [Sweetheart is] a dazzling celebration of human connection.”
—Maple Tree Literary Supplement, on Sweetheart

AFTER A PERSONAL TRAGEDY upends his world, American-born artist Chris travels to his mother’s homeland in the Caribbean hoping to find some peace and tranquility. He plans to spend his time painting in solitude and coming to terms with his recent loss and his fractured relationship with his father. Instead, he discovers a new extended and complicated “family,” with their own startling stories, including a love triangle. The people he meets help him to heal, even as he supports them in unexpected ways, through his art.

TOLD FROM DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW, this is a compelling novella about unlikely love, friendship, and community, with several surprises along the way. The story takes place against the backdrop of rural Jamaica, New York City, and Paris, France.

ALECIA McKENZIE is a Jamaican writer currently based in France. Her first collection of short stories, Satellite City, and her novel, Sweetheart, have both won Commonwealth Writers prizes. Sweetheart has been translated into French and was awarded the Prix Carbet des Lycéens in 2017. Her other books include Stories from Yard, Doctor’s Orders, and When the Rain Stopped in Natland. McKenzie’s work has appeared in a range of literary magazines and in anthologies such as Stories from Blue Latitudes, The Oxford Book of Caribbean Short Stories, Bridges, Global Tales, Girls Night In, and To Exist Is to Resist. She edited a collection of contemporary Jamaican short stories and coedited Where We Started: Stories of Living Between Worlds, an anthology of writing from different countries.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

A Tall History of Sugar A NOVEL BY Curdella Forbes

“Curdella Forbes’s A Tall History of Sugar is the most recent in an impressive new wave of novels by Jamaican writers—from Marlon James’s Booker Prize–winning A Brief History of Seven Killings to Kei Miller’s Augustown, Marcia Douglas’s The Marvelous Equations of the Dread, and Nicole Dennis-Benn’s Patsy, among others. Forbes provides an eclectic, feverish vision of Jamaican ‘history’ from the 1950s to the present glimpsed through the experiences of an abandoned mystic-child named Moshe, whose translucent skin and mismatched eyes defy racial category. Who he is and who he becomes—like the country itself—is a riddle that unfolds in episodic bursts and linguistic flourishes.” —Vanity Fair, one of the Best Books of 2019

John Crow’s Devil A DEBUT NOVEL BY Marlon James

“A powerful first novel . . . Writing with assurance and control, James uses his small-town drama to suggest the larger anguish of a postcolonial society struggling for its own identity.” —New York Times, Editors’ Choice
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“Diversity is the hallmark of the series. While ostensibly dark tales of crime and despair, the genius of the series lies in its ability to use such an uncharacteristic point of entry to convey the identity and essence of a place with remarkably poignant accuracy.” —PopMatters

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MIAMI NOIR: THE CLASSICS
EDITED BY LES STANDIFORD

The long-awaited sequel to 2006’s best-selling Miami Noir.


FROM THE INTRODUCTION BY LES STANDIFORD:

Despite the fact that Miami has in the past decade-plus added a downtown performing arts complex to outdo all but the Kennedy Center in DC, a jaw-dropping art museum by the Biscayne Bay, an exemplary science museum, the establishment of the world-renowned Art Basel festival on Miami Beach, and so much more . . . the operative literary form to portray Miami—the essential aria of the Magic City—is spun from threads of mystery and yearning and darkness . . .

When terrible things threaten in some ominous neighborhoods, in some tough cities, a reader of a story set in those locales might be forgiven for expecting the worst; but when calamity takes place against the backdrop of paradise, as we have here in Miami, the impact is all the greater.

LES STANDIFORD, who edited 2006’s Miami Noir, is the author of twenty-four books and novels, including the award-winning John Deal thriller series. His nonfiction publications include Last Train to Paradise, the One Read choice of a dozen public library systems, and Bringing Adam Home, a Wall Street Journal number one true crime best seller. He is director of the MFA program in creative writing at Florida International University in Miami.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE AKASHIC NOIR SERIES:

Miami Noir EDITED BY Les Standiford
FICTION/MYSTERY ANTHOLOGY, 364 PAGES; TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-933354-13-2

BRAND-NEW STORIES BY: JAMES W. HALL, BARBARA PARKER, JOHN DUFRESNE, PAUL LEVINE, CAROLINA GARCIA-AGUILERA, TOM CORCORAN, CHRISTINE KLING, GEORGE TUCKER, KEVIN ALLEN, ANTHONY DALE GAGLIANO, DAVID BEATY, VICKI HENDRICKS, JOHN BOND, PRESTON L. ALLEN, LYNNE BARRETT, AND JEFFREY WEHR.

“For different reasons these stories cultivate a little something special, a radiance, a humanity, even a grace, in the midst of the noir gloom, and thereby set themselves apart. Variety, familiarity, mood and tone, and the occasional gem of a story make Miami Noir a collection to savor.” —Miami Herald

“For such a sun-stoked place. Miami sure is shady. Shadowy, too. Even at highest noon. Maybe it’s the heat. Maybe it’s the humidity. And maybe, just maybe, it’s our destiny . . . With echoes of Charles Willeford’s Hoke Mosely series, the Miami books of Elmore Leonard, the quirk of Carl Hiaasen, who never met a shady character he didn’t wanna write, and Edna Buchanan, who seems to know all the shadows, this batch of dirty deep South Florida fiction might just send you packing . . . your own heat.” —Sun Post

“Sixteen new, diverse and highly entertaining mystery stories pack Akashic’s latest city-by-city tour of modern noir . . . This volume is as solid as the coral rock lying beneath the Miami streets.” —Publishers Weekly
**BELGRADE NOIR**

**EDITED BY MILORAD IVANOVIĆ**

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**FROM THE INTRODUCTION BY MILORAD IVANOVIĆ:**

*Belgrade, meaning “White City,” is located in Southeast Europe at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, at the crossroads of different civilizations . . . Since its construction, the city has been battled over in 115 wars, razed forty-four times, and changed its name fourteen times. Just in the last hundred years, Belgrade has been the capital of four states: the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under the leadership of Marshal Tito, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and finally the Republic of Serbia, which was reborn as a result of the disintegration of the previous state in a series of bloody ethnic wars . . .

But this book is about a lot more than war. Alfred Hitchcock once said that certain creepy parts of Belgrade unnerved him and would be ideal settings for thrillers . . . I am quite certain that after reading this book, you will find yourself seduced by the dark charm of the White City.*

**MILORAD IVANOVIĆ** is a Serbian investigative reporter and editor. He was editor in chief of the Serbian edition of *Newsweek*, and executive editor of the daily paper *Blic* and the weekly publication *Novi Magazin*. Presently he is an editor at BIRN Serbia in Belgrade. He has a special interest in cross-border journalism and is a member of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. His investigations have included work on human trafficking, Balkan mercenaries in Iraq, and clinical trials.

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“Perhaps nowhere but Prague do vice and enchantment live at such close quarters, and Mandys’ collection captures both beautifully. A lovely addition to Akashic’s venerable series.” — *Kirkus Reviews*
ACCRA NOIR
EDITED BY NANA-AMA DANQUAH

Accra joins Lagos, Nairobi, Marrakech, and Addis Ababa in representing the African continent in the Noir Series arena.


FROM THE INTRODUCTION BY NANA-AMA DANQUAH:

Accra is one of the most well-known cities on the African continent. It’s the capital of Ghana, which in 1957 became the first sub-Saharan (read: black) nation to gain its independence from colonialism. But the city, in all its globalism, predates the nation. Prior to becoming a sovereign land, the area now known as Ghana was the Gold Coast colony. In 1877, when the British took possession of the colony, Accra was installed as its capital. For nearly a century, in addition to being a political and financial center, the city was a major trade hub. People came from Europe and other African nations to trade everything from gold and salt to guns and slaves . . .

One thing that people, too easily seduced by the city’s charm and history and beauty, forget about Accra is that it is a major metropolis. Accra is New York; it is Los Angeles; it is Shanghai, Mexico City, Santiago, Caracas, and Cape Town. It is an urban area, with poverty, desperation, and the inevitable result of a marriage between the two: crime . . .

The stories that you will read in this collection highlight all things Accra, everything that the city was and is—the remaining vestiges of colonialism, the pride of independence, the nexus of indigenous tribes and other groups from all over the world, the tension between modernity and traditionalism, the symbolism and storytelling both obvious and coded, the moral high ground, the duplicity and deceit, the most basic human failings laid bare alongside fear and love and pain and the corrupting desire to have the very things you are not meant to have.

NANA-AMA DANQUAH was born in Accra, Ghana, and raised in the United States. She is the author of the memoir Willow Weep for Me: A Black Woman’s Journey Through Depression, and the editor of three anthologies: Becoming American, Shaking the Tree, and The Black Body. Her essays, fiction, and poetry have been widely anthologized, and she has written for numerous magazines, journals, and newspapers, including Essence, Allure, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and the Los Angeles Times. During her tenure as an international speechwriter for the president of Ghana, the addresses she penned were delivered at the United Nations General Assembly, the African Union, the Palace of Westminster, the University of Oxford, and Harvard University. She has taught at Otis College of Arts and Sciences; Antioch University, Los Angeles; and the University of Ghana, Legon. She splits her time between Accra and Los Angeles, and has one daughter, the actress and writer Korama Danquah.
GO THE FUCK TO SLEEP
BY ADAM MANSBACH • ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICARDO CORTÉS
PARENTING/HUMOR, HARDCOVER, 32 PAGES, FULL COLOR, 8.25 X 6.1875, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-025-0

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“Incredibly appealing.” —NPR

“An anthem for profane parents.” —Time

FUCK, NOW THERE ARE TWO OF YOU
BY ADAM MANSBACH • ILLUSTRATIONS BY OWEN BROZMAN
PARENTING/HUMOR, HARDCOVER, 32 PAGES, FULL COLOR, 8.25 X 6.1875, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-760-0

The third installment in Adam Mansbach’s international best-selling Go the Fuck to Sleep series addresses, with radical honesty, the family implosion that occurs when a second child arrives.

FUCK, NOW THERE ARE TWO OF YOU tackles a new addition to the family—and all the fears and frustrations attendant to the simple, math-defying fact that two is a million more kids than one. As you no doubt know by now, you probably shouldn’t read this book to a child.

“The cheeky follow-up is about a household that has grown to a family of four, which (surprise) is harder than one kid. Mansbach knows his material well, having had two kids in less than two years. The result: A hilarious, affectionate monologue addressed to the older sibling. Not to be read to a child.” —New York Post, Buzz Book pick

YOU HAVE TO FUCKING EAT
BY ADAM MANSBACH • ILLUSTRATIONS BY OWEN BROZMAN

THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING SEQUEL about the other great parental frustration: getting your little angel to eat something that even vaguely resembles a normal meal.

“You Have to Fucking Eat makes parents of picky eaters smile.” —TODAY Parents

“An equally hilarious ode to kids at the table.” —Huffington Post
**THE FIVE BOOKS OF (ROBERT) MOSES** a novel by **ARTHUR NERSESIAN**

FICTION/LITERATURE, 1,512 PAGES; HARDCOVER, $44.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-499-9; E-BOOK, $44.99, ISBN: 978-1-61775-838-6

*A dramatic, playful, brutal, sweeping, and always entertaining reimagining of New York City history, presaging today’s political tyranny.*

“Nersesian is one of my favorite New York authors; this tome is one to lose yourself in.” — Bob Odenkirk, actor, *Breaking Bad*

“Imagine William Burroughs and Philip K. Dick sharing a needle.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“The unquestioned authority of Robert Moses is difficult to fully grasp today—this unimaginable, outsized character whose outrageous deeds seem the stuff of novels. And that is how Nersesian is tackling him, by blending fact with fiction . . . [the] narrative is masterful.” — *Brooklyn Eagle*

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**THE NARCISSISM OF SMALL DIFFERENCES** a novel by **MICHAEL ZADOORIAN**


*A hilarious and poignant novel about growing up, buying in, selling out, and the death of irony.*

“Like Zadoorian’s earlier novels—*The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit, The Leisure Seeker* and *Beautiful Music*—this new novel brims with wit, passion and soul.” — *The Millions*, one of the Most Anticipated Books of 2020

“Zadoorian’s comedy of contemporary manners resonates by virtue of its introspective characters and depictions of the small moments in life that, taken together, have great significance. Piquantly titled chapters (‘Out Come the Freaks’) provide additional comic snap. Zadoorian’s subtle, timely story hits the mark.” — *Publishers Weekly*

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**THE DARKEST HEARTS** a D Hunter Mystery by **NELSON GEORGE**


*Trap music, human trafficking, malt liquor, and the tyranny of President Trump collide in the fifth installment of Nelson George’s D Hunter mystery series.*

“Nelson George’s *The Darkest Hearts: A D Hunter Mystery* stars a talent-manager protagonist encountering human trafficking, reactionary politics, and a dead body near the Canarsie Pier.” — *Library Journal*, selected by Barbara Hoffert as a 2020 Title to Watch

**PRAISE FOR THE D HUNTER MYSTERY SERIES:**

“D Hunter is as world weary, yet steadfast, as Philip Marlowe, Spenser, Dave Robicheaux, or Easy Rawlins.”

— *Library Journal* on *The Lost Treasures of R&B*, Starred review, Pick of the Month

“Written in the spirit of authors such as Walter Mosley and Donald Goines . . . The book blends music from the past with thug appeal of the present to appeal to young and old alike.” — *Baltimore Times*, on *The Lost Treasures of R&B*

“Inventive and well-written . . . I really enjoyed *To Funk and Die in LA.*” — Don Winslow, author of *Savages*

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**THE PSYCHIC SOVIET** essays by **IAN F. SVENONIUS**


*A reissue of Ian F. Svenonius’s cult-classic debut essay collection, including brand-new writing in this expanded edition.*

“In a sense the book is Mr. Svenonius’s love letter to the good old days of do-it-yourself punk concerts, though it’s cleverly disguised as a series of Marxian essays.” — *New York Times*

“The pocket-sized book—given Svenonius’s communism infatuation, the parallel to Mao’s *Little Red Book* is no mistake—contains well-thought-out arguments on a variety of subjects, from vampires to the origins of punk rock. It’s often funny, but never in a self-consciously ironic way.” — *Washington Post*
THE RALPH NADER AND FAMILY COOKBOOK
CLASSIC RECIPES FROM LEBANON AND BEYOND by RALPH NADER

Ralph Nader and his family share recipes inspired by his parents’ commitment to the healthy diet of their homeland of Lebanon.

“Nader’s parents owned and operated a restaurant called the Highland Arms in Connecticut, where they served classic American food by day, but they mostly ate Lebanese food at home, and here Nader shares many of his mother’s traditional Lebanese recipes for hummus, tabouleh, and kibbe (meatballs formed from onions, bulgur, and ground lamb), along with some surprising dishes, such as a creamy apple parsnip soup with cardamom, baked eggplant stuffed with ground lamb and pine nuts, and a light and lemony apple cake.”

—Publishers Weekly

“The Ralph Nader and Family Cookbook shares the offerings of an inspired culinary culture, inviting us to try delicious new dishes with a loving emphasis on family health and unity. A wonderful blend of consumer protection and consumer pleasure!”

—Patti Smith, author of Just Kids

LONG STORY SHORT: TURNING FAMOUS BOOKS INTO CARTOONS by MR. FISH

A collection of cartoons, illustrations, and paintings that condense the complicated narratives of famous books into one-page works of art.

“Mr. Fish’s chameleon-like versatility makes him the Ween of cartooning. He and his band of accomplices jolt you from one literary world to the next, each illustration like a little puzzle testing your cultural literacy. A short-attention-span joyride.”

—Jen Sorensen, Herblock Prize–winning cartoonist

“Words fail me when I try to explain why Long Story Short is so brilliant, which I guess is the whole point of the book! Why talk over Beethoven (he wouldn’t be able to hear you, anyway) or yammer on about poetry when a mute sunset can do it better? Here is art from an incredibly diverse group of cartoonists, painters, and illustrators that speaks for itself on literature’s most novel ideas—now shut up and listen!”

—Bob Mankoff, former cartoon editor of the New Yorker

IT’S JUST A PLANT: A CHILDREN’S STORY ABOUT MARIJUANA
UPDATED EDITION by RICARDO CORTÉS

A beautifully illustrated picture book that gives parents a way to discuss marijuana with children without encouraging them to use it.

“Part of a growing category of books that attempt to explain difficult and complex topics to children, simply. Whether you’re looking at Death Is Stupid, by Anastasia Higginbotham, or A is for Activist, by Innosanto Nagara, children’s fiction is much less likely to shy away from topics that were previously reserved for those considered to be ‘adults,’ or to cloud those topics in euphemisms.”

—Literary Hub, selected by Molly Odintz for LitHub Recommends
EDGE OF SPORTS is a sports-themed imprint curated by renowned sportswriter Dave Zirin. Addressing issues across many different sports at both the professional and nonprofessional/collegiate level, Zirin brings to the table select stories of athletes’ journeys, what they are facing, and how they evolve.

**LITTLE WONDER: THE FABULOUS STORY OF LOTTIE DOD, THE WORLD’S FIRST FEMALE SPORTS SUPERSTAR** by SASHA ABRAMSKY


A groundbreaking biography of the world’s first female sports superstar, the pioneering and uncompromising Lottie Dod.

“Lottie Dod is one of the world’s great unsung sporting heroes. There wasn’t a glass ceiling she didn’t succeed in breaking, and in Little Wonder, Sasha Abramsky takes readers on an amazing journey across continents and decades as she shattered records and destroyed stereotypes along the way.” — Billie Jean King

“It’s so important to remember the past champions, especially the women who tend to be forgotten in the history books.” — Martina Navratilova

**YOU THROW LIKE A GIRL: THE BLIND SPOT OF MASCULINITY** by DON McPHERSON


Former NFL quarterback McPherson examines the roots of masculinity gone awry and how it promotes violence against women.

“This is a call to action that has the potential to provoke conversation and change, and is a unique crossover of sports memoir and astute social commentary. From success as a football player to his mission as a feminist and educator, McPherson has spent decades sharing his story and advocating for a new definition of manhood. This timely and coherent study of gender roles is highly recommended.” — Library Journal, Starred Review

“McPherson wants readers to begin to understand that traditional masculinity is a burden to boys and men, and to help change the narrative handed down to them . . . [T]his is a valuable contribution to the new choir of traditionally masculine men reevaluating themselves on their own terms.” — Publishers Weekly

**MY LIFE ON THE LINE: HOW THE NFL DAMN NEAR KILLED ME, AND ENDED UP SAVING MY LIFE** a memoir by RYAN O’CALLAGHAN with CYD ZEIGLER


A riveting account of life as a closeted professional athlete from gay NFL player O’Callaghan, against the backdrop of depression, opioid addiction, and the threat of suicide.

“Ryan says his life plan was to play in the NFL as long as he could, then commit suicide . . . His memoir vividly presents the painful process of kicking drugs and accepting his sexuality. For sports fans who haven’t lived in fear of having their sexuality exposed, O’Callaghan’s powerful narrative should trigger much-needed empathy.” — Booklist, Starred Review

“This is a story about love and acceptance. It is a story about honesty and truth, integrity and hope. Ryan O’Callaghan could have kept it to himself, could have given the world a polished look. But instead he offers us all of himself in these pages. By doing so, he will change lives, save lives, and make the path ahead that much smoother for those who bravely follow in his footsteps.” — Congressman Joe Kennedy III

**WE MATTER: ATHLETES AND ACTIVISM** by ETAN THOMAS


An in-depth and up-close look at today’s landscape of high-profile activist athletes, featuring essays and interviews with top stars, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Russell, Dwyane Wade, Mark Cuban, Michael Bennett, Swin Cash, and more.

“[B]efore Kaepernick, there was Etan Thomas.” — New York Times

“The honest conversations . . . serve as a primer on recent police violence cases, a history lesson on the first athletes who stood up for racial justice, an examination of the experience of being young and black in the United States, and an insightful look at how it feels to lose a loved one to tragedy . . . An important read, executed uniquely.” — School Library Journal, Starred Review
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