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.

A TALL HISTORY OF SUGAR
A DEBUT NOVEL BY CURDELLA FORBES

A haunting, epic Caribbean love story, reminiscent of García Márquez’s Love in the Time of Cholera.

“A Tall History of Sugar is captivating from the very first page. Mythic in dimension yet movingly human in its details, alive with atmospheric richness, it heralds a fascinating new voice in English-language fiction.”
—Jennifer Egan, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of Manhattan Beach

“Curdella Forbes gives us Moshe and Arrienne, two mesmerizing and unforgettable characters who travel through this wonderful novel in the most unpredictable directions. Through them, a tall history is told of a relationship that no reader will ever forget.”
—Terry McMillan, author of Waiting to Exhale

“From the opening lines of her brilliantly revelatory A Tall History of Sugar, Curdella Forbes convinces us that it is yet possible to transform English into a language of seductive power, surprise, and fresh truth. She has achieved something resonant and remarkable in this delightful novel.”
—Kwame Dawes, author of Bivouac

“A Tall History of Sugar is a wise and sagacious story about the one thing that matters most of all in the universe: love.” —Michael Imperioli, author of The Perfume Burned His Eyes

A TALL HISTORY OF SUGAR tells the story of Moshe Fisher, a man who was “born without skin,” so that no one is able to tell what race he belongs to; and Arrienne Christie, his quixotic soul mate who makes it her duty in life to protect Moshe from the social and emotional consequences of his strange appearance.

THE NARRATIVE BEGINS WITH MOSHE’S BIRTH IN THE LATE 1950S, four years before Jamaica’s independence from colonial rule, and ends in the era of what Forbes calls “the fall of empire,” the era of Brexit and Donald Trump. The historical trajectory layers but never overwhelms the scintillating love story as the pair fight to establish their own view of loving, against the moral force of the colonial “plantation” and its legacies that continue to affect their lives and the lives of those around them.

WRITTEN IN LYRICAL, LUMINOUS PROSE that spans the range of Jamaican Englishes, this remarkable story follows the couple’s mysterious love affair from childhood to adulthood, from the haunted environs of rural Jamaica to the city of Kingston, and then to England—another haunted locale in Forbes’s rendition.

FOLLOWING ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARLON JAMES’S debut novel, John Crow’s Devil, which Akashic Books published in 2005, we are delighted to introduce another lion of Jamaican literature with the publication of A Tall History of Sugar.

CURDELLA FORBES is a Jamaican American writer who lives in Takoma Park, Maryland, and teaches at Howard University.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:
John Crow’s Devil by Booker Prize–winning author Marlon James
FICTION/LITERATURE, 206 PAGES; PAPERBACK, $16.95, ISBN: 978-1-936070-10-7

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.

“Don McPherson is a quarterback for a wider community.” —Newsday

IN YOU THROW LIKE A GIRL, former Syracuse University star quarterback and NFL veteran Don McPherson examines the very narrow ways in which boys are taught to become men, almost invariably at the expense of women. Exploring the strict set of behaviors and beliefs that underpin our understanding of masculinity, he arrives at the following question: if male privilege comes at the expense of women, is it truly privilege (and does it belong to men?), or is it more accurately defined as oppression?

USING EXAMPLES FROM HIS OWN LIFE, including his storied football career, McPherson passionately argues that we should no longer consider men’s violence against women as a “women’s issue” but a “men’s issue.” In You Throw Like a Girl, McPherson analyzes how we can engage men in a sustained dialogue, with a new set of terms that are aspirational and more accurately representative of the emotional wholeness of men.

DON McPHERSON—an All-America quarterback at Syracuse University who went on to play professionally in the NFL and Canada—began his work on gender-based violence prevention at Northeastern University’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society. He has served on the boards of the Ms. Foundation for Women, the NCAA Sexual Assault Task Force, and the NCAA Board of Governors Commission to Combat Campus Sexual Violence. His educational programs and lectures have reached over one million people in more than three hundred colleges and communities throughout North America.

EDGE OF SPORTS is an imprint of Akashic Books curated by sportswriter Dave Zirin, publishing books on the intersection of politics and sports.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM EDGE OF SPORTS:

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: College Football and the Politics of Rape by Jessica Luther
NONFICTION/SPORTS, 248 PAGES, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-491-3

“Of all the many problems facing college football, the most severe by far is the shocking number of rape cases involving athletes. And, as Luther makes abundantly clear in this impeccably researched volume, those numbers are only the tip of the iceberg, thanks to the contagion of cover-ups instigated by coaches and university officials, often with the support of police . . . Unsportsmanlike Conduct is not always easy to read—the text necessarily relies on numerous statistics and detailed summaries of court cases—but, nevertheless, it is almost certainly the most important sports book of the year.” —Booklist (starred review)

Fair Play: How LGBT Athletes Are Claiming Their Rightful Place in Sports by Cyd Zeigler
NONFICTION/SPORTS/LGBTQ INTEREST, 288 PAGES, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-447-0

“Lively and provocative, the book not only offers a much-needed perspective on what until recently has been one of the last bastions of heterosexism. It is also significant for its conscious consideration of how current developments will impact LGBTQ athletes of tomorrow. An informative, necessary work.” —Kirkus Reviews
MY LIFE ON THE LINE
HOW THE NFL DAMN NEAR KILLED ME, AND ENDED UP SAVING MY LIFE
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.

“This is a story about love and acceptance . . . Ryan O’Callaghan could have kept it to himself, 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

“I truly believe the publication of this book could be (and should be) a seminal moment for people in all walks of life. If an NFL player, cloistered in the manliness of his game, can come out of the closet and tell his story with such purpose, I hope that many others will follow his brave lead. This dramatic story of one athlete’s life might be a turning point for football.” —Peter King, NFL analyst, NBC Sports

RYAN O’CALLAGHAN’S PLAN WAS ALWAYS TO PLAY FOOTBALL and then, when his career was over, kill himself. Growing up in a red-state corner of California, the not-so-subtle messages he heard as a young man from his family and from TV and film routinely equated being gay with disease and death. Letting people in on the darkest secret he kept buried inside was not an option, and it never would be. Better death with a secret than life as a gay man.

AS A BIG KID TOPPLING OPPONENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL, Ryan never envisioned just how far his football career would take him. He was recruited by the University of California, Berkeley, where he spent five seasons, playing alongside his friend Aaron Rodgers and eventually winning the Morris Trophy. Then it was on to the NFL for stints with the almost-undefeated New England Patriots—where he was tasked with keeping MVP QB Tom Brady on his feet—and the often-defeated Kansas City Chiefs. Bubbling under the surface of Ryan’s entire NFL career was a collision course between his secret sexuality and his hidden drug use. When the league caught him smoking pot, he turned to NFL-sanctioned prescription painkillers that quickly sent his life into a tailspin. As injuries mounted and his daily intake of opioids reached a near-lethal level, he wrote his suicide note to his parents and plotted his death.

YET SOMEONE HAD BEEN WATCHING. A member of the Chiefs organization stepped in, recognizing the signs of drug addiction. Ryan reluctantly sought psychological help, and it was there that he revealed his lifelong secret for the very first time. Nearing the twilight of his career, Ryan faced the ultimate decision: end it all, or find out if his family and football friends could ever accept a gay man in their lives.

RYAN O’CALLAGHAN played right tackle in the NFL for six seasons, with the New England Patriots and Kansas City Chiefs. Before he was drafted by the Patriots in 2006, he played for the University of California Golden Bears, where he helped the team win two bowl games and was named the 2005 Morris Trophy winner as the Pac-10’s best offensive lineman. O’Callaghan is the creator of a foundation designed to provide scholarships for out LGBTQ athletes. He currently lives in his hometown of Redding, California.

CYD ZEIGLER is the cofounder and coeditor of Outsports.com, the world’s most renowned publication dealing with LGBTQ issues in sports. A leading expert on the intersection of sexuality and sports, Zeigler has been tapped to discuss the issue by CNN, ESPN, the New York Times, Sports Illustrated, and many others. He is also the author of Fair Play: How LGBT Athletes Are Claiming Their Rightful Place in Sports.
I AM A PROMISE

A PICTURE BOOK BY SHELLY ANN FRASER PRYCE
WITH ASHLEY ROUSSEAU ILLUSTRATED BY RACHEL MOSS

An inspiring children’s picture book about the indomitable spirit of Jamaican six-time Olympic medal winner Shelly Ann Fraser Pryce.

I AM A PROMISE takes readers on Shelly Ann’s journey from her childhood in the tough inner-city community of Waterhouse in Kingston, Jamaica, through her development as a young athlete, to her first Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter sprint in 2008.

THE STORY CHARTS HOW SHELLY ANN’S commitment to hard work as well as the encouragement of loved ones helped her achieve her dreams against great odds and challenging life experiences. Most importantly, I Am a Promise encourages young readers to believe in themselves and to maximize their own promise to the world.

SHELLY ANN FRASER PRYCE is a six-time Olympic medal winner and holds several prestigious national and world athletic titles including the 2013 IAAF World Female Athlete of the Year. In recognizing her contribution to sport and the country as a whole, the government of Jamaica awarded Fraser Pryce the Order of Distinction, and, in 2018, unveiled a statue of her at the National Stadium. A UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Fraser Pryce is also the founder of the Pocket Rocket Foundation which assists promising high school athletes, the owner of a café, Shelly’s Café, and a hair salon named Lady Shelly Beauty. Fraser Pryce is married to Jason Pryce and they have a son, Zyon, who was born in August 2017.

ASHLEY ROUSSEAU studied creative writing at Lesley University’s MFA program. Her short stories have been published in Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters and Small Axe. She was born in Jamaica, where she continues to live with her family and work as a designer with local artisans.

RACHEL MOSS is an illustrator in love with the bright colors and vibrant energy of the Caribbean. She was born in Jamaica and studied animation in England at UCA. Moss now lives in Jamaica where she spends her days illustrating.
HOME GIRL
A YOUNG ADULT NOVEL BY ALEX WHEATLE

When Naomi, a fourteen-year-old white girl, is placed with a black foster care family, her life takes some dramatic twists and turns.

“Another powerful and poignant novel deftly created by one of the most prolific master novelists on either side of the pond. Home Girl is a page-turner, with not a dull moment. Loved it from the rooter to the tooter.” —Eric Jerome Dickey, New York Times best-selling author of Before We Were Wicked

“Alex Wheatle is the real deal; he writes with heart and authenticity, books that make you laugh and worry and cry and hold your breath. It’s a pity there’s only one of him.”
—Kit de Waal, author of My Name Is Leon

This isn’t my home. Haven’t had a proper home since . . . This is just somewhere I’ll be resting my bones for a week and maybe a bit. This time next year you’ll forget who I am. I haven’t got a diddly where I’ll be by then. But I’m used to it.

NEW FROM THE UK-BASED BEST-SELLING BLACK BRITISH AUTHOR and winner of the Guardian Children’s Book Award, Home Girl is the story of Naomi, a teenage girl growing up fast in the foster care system. It is a wholly modern story which sheds a much-needed light on what can be an unsettling life—and the consequences that follow when children are treated like pawns on a family chessboard.

HOME GIRL IS FAST-PACED AND FUNNY, TENDER, TRAGIC, AND FULL OF COURAGE—just like Naomi. It is Alex Wheatle’s most moving and personal novel to date.

ALEX WHEATLE, one of the most-read black British writers, is the author of several best-selling books including the modern classic Brixton Rock, and the multi–award 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 2016 Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize. He lives in South London.

ALSO BY AVAILABLE FROM BLACK SHEEP, AKASHIC BOOKS’ IMPRINT FOR YOUNG READERS:

Around Harvard Square by C.J. Farley

YOUNG ADULT FICTION, AGES 12+, 288 PAGES, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $14.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-714-3

“Wry, sly, and ferociously funny, Around Harvard Square is not just the satire Ivy League college life deserves, but the one it’s been waiting for.” —Marlon James, Booker Prize–winning author of Black Leopard, Red Wolf

“In this throwback coming-of-age novel, an ensemble of freshmen on the margins struggle for self-definition amid the race and class complexities of Harvard.” —Kirkus Reviews

Changers Book One: Drew by T Cooper and Allison Glock-Cooper

YOUNG ADULT FICTION, AGES 12+, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, 288 PAGES, $11.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-195-0

“A thought-provoking exploration of identity, gender, and sexuality . . . an excellent read for any teens questioning their sense of self or gender.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review)
Joyce Carol Oates pulls out all the stops in this chilling female-centric noir collection featuring brand-new writing from Margaret Atwood, Aimee Bender, Edwidge Danticat, and more.

FEATURING BRAND-NEW STORIES BY: Joyce Carol Oates, Margaret Atwood (poems), Valerie Martin, Aimee Bender, Edwidge Danticat, Sheila Kohler, S.A. Solomon, S.J. Rozan, Lucy Taylor, Cassandra Khaw, Bernice L. McFadden, Jennifer Morales, Elizabeth McCracken, Livia Llewellyn, Lisa Lim, and Steph Cha.

JOYCE CAROL OATES, a queenpin of the noir genre, has brought her keen and discerning eye to the curation of an outstanding anthology of brand-new top-shelf short stories (and poems by Margaret Atwood!). While bad men are not always the victims in these tales, they get their due often enough to satisfy readers who are sick and tired of the gendered status quo, or who just want to have a little bit of fun at the expense of a crumbling patriarchal society. This stylistically diverse collection will make you squirm in your seat, stay up at night, laugh out loud, and inevitably wish for more.

JOYCE CAROL OATES is the author of a number of works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. She is the editor of New Jersey Noir and Prison Noir and a recipient of the National Book Award, the PEN America Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Medal in the Humanities, and a World Fantasy Award for Short Fiction. She lives in Princeton, New Jersey, and was recently inducted into the American Philosophical Society.

ALSO EDITED BY JOYCE CAROL OATES AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

Prison Noir FICTION/MYSTERY ANTHOLOGY, TRADE PAPERBACK, $15.95, 264 PAGES, ISBN: 978-1-61775-239-1

BRAND-NEW STORIES BY: CHRISTOPHER M. STEPHEN, SIN SORACCO, SCOTT GUTCHES, ERIC BOYD, ALI F. SAREINI, STEPHEN GEEZ, B.M. DOLARMAN, ZEKE CALIGIURI, MARCO VERDONI, KENNETH R. BRYDON, LINDA MICHELLE MARQUARDT, ANDRE WHITE, TIMOTHY PAULEY, BRYAN K. PALMER, AND WILLIAM VAN POYCK.

“Reading the fifteen stories in Prison Noir is a sobering experience. Unlike most claimants to that much-abused term, this is the real thing . . . The power of this collection comes from the voices of these authors, voices suffused with rage (“3 Block From Hell,” by Bryan K. Palmer), despair (“There Will Be Seeds for Next Year,” by Zeke Caligiuri), and madness (“Shuffle,” by Christopher M. Stephen).” —New York Times Book Review

“These are stories that resonate with authenticity and verve and pain and truth. Any collection edited by the National Book Award–winning author Oates deserves attention, but the contributors are deft and confident, and great writers without her imprimatur . . . Authentic, powerful, visceral, moving, great writing.” —Library Journal (starred review)

New Jersey Noir FICTION/MYSTERY ANTHOLOGY, TRADE PAPERBACK, $15.95, 288 PAGES, ISBN: 978-1-61775-026-7

BRAND-NEW STORIES (AND A FEW POEMS) BY: JOYCE CAROL OATES, JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER, ROBERT PINSKY, EDMUND WHITE & MICHAEL CARROLL, RICHARD BURGIN, PAUL MULDOON, SHEILA KOHLER, C.K. WILLIAMS, GERALD STERN, LOU MANFREDO, S.A. SOLOMON, BRADFORD MORROW, JONATHAN SANTLOFER, JEFFREY FORD, S.J. ROZAN, BARRY N. MALZBERG & BILL PRONZINI, HIRSH SAWHNEY, AND ROBERT ARELLANO.

“Oates’s introduction to Akashic’s noir volume dedicated to the Garden State, with its evocative definition of the genre, is alone worth the price of the book . . . Poems by C.K. Williams, Paul Muldoon, and others—plus photos by Gerald Slota—enhance this distinguished entry.” —Publishers Weekly

“It was inevitable that this fine noir series would reach New Jersey. It took longer than some readers might have wanted, but, oh boy, was it worth the wait.” —Booklist (starred review)
THE SCHRÖDINGER GIRL
A DEBUT NOVEL BY LAUREL BRETT

When a young woman appears to split into four different versions of herself, protagonist and behavioral psychologist Garrett Adams must decide what is vision, what is science, and what is delusion.

GARRETT ADAMS, AN UPTIGHT BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR who refuses to embrace the 1960s, is in a slump. The dispirited rats in his latest experiment aren’t yielding results, and his beloved Yankees are losing. As he sits at a New York City bar watching the Yanks strike out, he knows he needs a change.

AT A COLUMBUS CIRCLE BOOKSTORE he meets a mysterious girl, Daphne, who draws him into the turbulent and exciting world of Vietnam War protest politics and the music of Bob Dylan and the Beatles. He starts to emerge from the numbness and grief over his father’s death in World War II.

WHEN DAPHNE EVOLVES INTO FOUR SEPARATE VERSIONS OF HERSELF, Garrett’s life becomes complicated as he devotes himself to answering questions about character and destiny raised by her iterations. His obsession threatens to upend his relationship with Caroline, a beautiful art historian, destroy his teaching job, and dissolve his friendship with his old pal Jerry.

THE DAPHNES SEEM TO EXIST IN SEPARATE REALITIES that challenge the laws of physics and call into question everything Garrett thought he knew. He must decide what is vision, what is science, and what is delusion.

LAUREL BRETT, a refugee from the 1960s, was born in Manhattan in the middle of the last century. Her passionate interest in the arts and social justice led her to a PhD and a long career as a community college professor. She expanded her award-winning dissertation on Thomas Pynchon’s work into a groundbreaking analysis, Disquiet on the Western Front: World War II and Postmodern Fiction, which was published by Cambridge Scholars. She lives in Port Jefferson, New York.

ALSO BY AVAILABLE FROM KAYLIE JONES BOOKS:
Like This Afternoon Forever by Jaime Manrique
FICTION/LITERATURE/LGBTQ INTEREST, 224 PAGES; HARDCOVER, $32.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-718-1; TRADE PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-715-0

“Manrique is our Scheherazade.” — Sandra Cisneros

“Like This Afternoon Forever is a powerful story of religion, poverty, sexuality, and tenderness, as quick and intense as a fairy tale, yet as real and brutal as contemporary Latin America.” — Christopher Bram, author of Gods and Monsters

Cornelius Sky by TIMOTHY BRANDOFF
FICTION/LITERATURE, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, 216 PAGES, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-708-2

“Timothy Brandoff’s Cornelius Sky is a novel that seems to be everywhere, and is superbly told. The storyteller has the sharp eye and calm voice of an intrigued looker-on.” — Larry Heinemann, National Book Award–winning author of Paco’s Story

“Brandoff’s Cornelius Sky displays a full gamut of emotion, from seething anger and despair to raucous good humor. Set in a bygone Manhattan, it is a serious comic novel about human failings and forgiveness. This remarkable study of a doorman will stay with you, and live on.” — Allison Janney, Oscar Award–winning actress
**THE FREEDOM ARTIST**

A NOVEL BY **BEN OKRI**

An impassioned plea for freedom and justice, set in a world uncomfortably like our own, by the Booker Prize–winner Ben Okri.

“Where fiction’s master of enchantments stares down a real horror, and without blinking or flinching, produces a work of beauty, grace, and uncommon power.”
—Marlon James, author of *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*

“The Freedom Artist represents a heady jumble of influence and inspiration, a tapestry of biblical reference, mythology, folklore and fable. The lyrical simplicity of Okri’s prose, with its short sentences and chapters, only heightens the power of the novel’s political message.” —Financial Times

“The Freedom Artist cuts to the heart of our current political and cultural malaise, while maintaining a mythical, mesmeric flavor that makes the reader feel these are stories they have always known . . . It’s savagely political, disturbing and fiercely optimistic, the deeply felt work of a writer who refuses to stop asking the hardest questions.” —Guardian (UK)

“Continuing in the same tradition as his Booker-winning *The Famished Road* . . . This is what Dave Eggers’s *The Circle* would be like if it were written by a poet . . . *The Freedom Artist* is an adventure story and an intense trip through the most esoteric corners of the human mind. It’s also a beautiful and timely appeal for the importance of books, subversive stories and love.” —The Times (UK)

“The Freedom Artist has a compelling power and energy that won’t let the reader go.”
—The Herald (UK)

“A meditation on the threat to freedom represented by the emergence of what is already called ‘a post-truth society.’ It’s a novel for our times.” —Scotsman

**IN A WORLD UNCOMFORTABLY LIKE OUR OWN,** a young woman called Amalantis is arrested for asking a question. Her question is this: *Who is the Prisoner?*

**WHEN AMALANTIS DISAPPEARS,** her lover Karnak goes looking for her. He searches desperately at first, then with a growing realization that to find Amalantis, he must first understand the meaning of her question.

**KARNAK’S SEARCH LEADS HIM** into a terrifying world of lies, oppression, and fear at the heart of which lies the Prison. Then Karnak discovers that he is not the only one looking for the truth.

**THE FREEDOM ARTIST** is an impassioned plea for justice and a penetrating examination of how freedom is threatened in a post-truth society. In Ben Okri’s most significant novel since the Booker Prize–winning *The Famished Road,* he delivers a powerful and haunting call to arms.

**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 has won many prizes over the years for his fiction, and is also an acclaimed essayist, playwright, and poet.
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

“Ian Svenonius has come a long way since Sassy Magazine first dubbed him the ‘Sassiest Boy in America’ in 1991. The DC singer has never been anything less than political to the extreme.” —Village Voice

A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS AND ARTICLES from one of the mainstays of the Washington, DC, underground rock and roll scene, The Psychic Soviet is Ian F. Svenonius’s groundbreaking first book of writings. The selections are written in a lettered yet engaging style, filled with parody and biting humor that subvert capitalist culture, and cover such topics as the ascent of the DJ as a star, the “cosmic depression” that followed the defeat of the USSR, how Seinfeld caused the bankruptcy of modern pop culture, and the status of rock and roll as a religion. The pocket-sized book is bound with a durable bright-pink plastic cover, recalling the aesthetics of Mao’s Little Red Book, and perfect for carrying into the fray of street battle, classroom, or lunch-counter argument.

IAN F. SVENONIUS is the author of the underground best sellers Supernatural Strategies for Making a Rock ‘n’ Roll Group and Censorship Now!! He was also the host of VBS.tv’s Soft Focus, where he interviewed Mark E. Smith, Genesis P. Orridge, Chan Marshall, Ian MacKaye, and others. As a musician he has created more than twenty albums and countless singles in various rock and roll combos (Chain & the Gang, Weird War, The Make-Up, The Nation of Ulysses, etc.). He lives in Washington, DC.

ALSO BY IAN F. SVENONIUS AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

Supernatural Strategies for Making a Rock ‘n’ Roll Group

POPULAR MUSIC/HOW-TO/OCCULT, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $14.95, 256 PAGES, ISBN: 978-1-61775-130-1

“Like its author, Supernatural Strategies is part tongue-in-cheek, part deadly serious—a satire of rock’s consumerist origins but also a thoughtful treatise on what it means to devote yourself to a collective . . . Drawing from the wisdom of rock’n’roll’s most famous ghosts, Svenonius’ advice ranges from hilarious to cryptic to surprisingly useful.” —Pitchfork

“Svenonius has been interrogating and unpacking the meaning of rock ‘n’ roll for as long as he’s been making it.” —American Songwriter

Censorship Now!!

NONFICTION/HUMOR, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $14.95, 224 PAGES, ISBN: 978-1-61775-409-8

“While putting a copy of this book on your nightstand would be a sign of good taste, who cares about good taste? Are you willing to be seen reading a book titled Censorship Now!! in public? If so, your skin might burn with funny glances from squares, scolds and looky-loos. But on the inside, you’ll feel your brain throbbing as it swells to accommodate some hilarious, absurd and radical new strategies on how to live in our ridiculous world.” —Washington Post
FUCK, NOW TWO OF YOU

BY ADAM MANSBACH
ILLUSTRATIONS BY OWEN BROZMAN

OCTOBER 2019, PARENTING/HUMOR, 32 PAGES, FULL COLOR, 8.25 X 6.1875
HARDCOVER: $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.

ADAM MANSBACH FAMOUSLY GAVE VOICE to two of parenting’s primal struggles in Go the Fuck to Sleep and You Have to Fucking Eat—the often-imitated, never-duplicated pair of New York Times best sellers that ushered in a new era of radical honesty in humor books for parents. But what could possibly be left? Parents—new, old, expectant, and grand—of multiple children already knew the answer. Adam discovered it for himself by having two more kids, less than two years apart.

FUCK, NOW THERE ARE TWO OF YOU is a loving monologue about the new addition to the family, addressed to a big sibling and shot through with Adam’s trademark profane truth-telling. Gorgeously illustrated and chock-full of unspoken sentiments channeled directly from the brains of parents worldwide, Fuck, Now There Are Two of You articulates all the fears and frustrations attendant to the simple, math-defying fact that two is a million more kids than one.

AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW BY NOW, you shouldn’t read it to a child.
HERE ARE TWO OF YOU

PREVIOUSLY IN THE SERIES

**GO THE F**CK TO SLEEP**
**BY ADAM MANSBACH • ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICARDO CORTÊS**
PARENTING/HUMOR, HARDCOVER, 32 PAGES, FULL COLOR, 8.25 X 6.1875, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-025-0

*The #1 New York Times best-selling classic for parents.*
*Over three million sales worldwide.*

“A new Bible for weary parents.” — *New York Times*

“Incredibly appealing.” — *NPR*

“A parenting zeitgeist . . . A phenomenon that has stunned the publishing world and may just redefine the modern ‘parenting’ market.” — *Washington Post*

“Nothing has driven home a certain truth about my generation, which is approaching the apex of its childbearing years, quite like this deranged book.” — *New Yorker*

**GO THE F**CK TO SLEEP** has topped the best-seller charts at the *New York Times*, Amazon, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, and many more since its release in summer 2011.

**YOU HAVE TO F**UCKING 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*

**ADAM MANSBACH** is a novelist, screenwriter, humorist, and cultural critic (in addition to having built an obscene fake children’s book empire). His books include *Rage Is Back*, the California Book Award–winning *The End of the Jews*, and the best sellers *Angry Black White Boy* and *For This We Left Egypt?*, cowritten with Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel. Mansbach was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for his screenplay for the Netflix Original *Barry*, and is currently adapting his middle-grade novel *Jake the Fake Keeps It Real* for the Disney Channel. His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, and on National Public Radio’s *This American Life*, the *Moth*, and *All Things Considered*.

**OWEN BROZMAN** is the illustrator of the *New York Times* best seller *You Have to Fucking Eat*, *Kindness & Salt*, and the acclaimed graphic novel *Nature of the Beast*. He has illustrated for *National Geographic*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Time Out New York*, *Ninja Tune*, *Scholastic*, and numerous other clients. His work has been recognized by *3x3* magazine, the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, *Creative Quarterly*, and many more. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.
BLACK LOTUS 2: THE VOW

A MYSTERY BY K’WAN

Against her better judgment, assassin Kahlalah (a.k.a. the Black Lotus) is called upon to try to “eliminate” a mysterious band of thieves calling themselves the Ghost Squad.

AFTER HELPING TO SOLVE A COLD CASE involving a murdered child which exposed the high-ranking city officials who tried to cover it up, Kahlalah, a.k.a. the Black Lotus, has decided to take some much-needed time off and focus on her true passion: Real Talk, a magazine she and her best friend from college, Audrey, cofounded.

THE YOUNG WOMEN ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GRAND OPENING of a new Midtown club called Voodoo. While at the event, Kahlalah meets the owner, a charismatic young man named Magic. As soon as he opens his mouth, she can tell that he is a street dude. She knows he’s trouble, but can’t deny the effect his charm has on her. What begins as friction develops into a chemistry that neither one of them saw coming.

KAHLALAH HAS NEVER BEEN LUCKY IN LOVE, but with Magic things seem different. For the first time in years she sees a chance to be truly happy. But everything changes one morning when she opens a copy of the Village Voice and notices a classified ad with the caption, “Must Love Flowers.” Someone has contracted the Black Lotus.

A MILLION-DOLLAR BOUNTY has been placed on a mysterious crew of thieves calling themselves the Ghost Squad, who have been ripping off important people around the city. Although Kahlalah wants nothing more than to stay retired from the murder-for-hire business, she finds herself unable to turn down one last job.

THINGS TAKE AN UNEXPECTED TWIST when the trail of blood she’s following leads back to her own front door. Kahlalah now finds herself faced with a very difficult choice: follow her heart or honor her vow?

K’WAN is the best-selling, award-winning author of more than thirty novels, including the wildly popular Animal series, Black Lotus, Gangsta, Road Dawgz, Street Dreams, Hoodlum, and Section 8. He has been featured in Vibe, King, Entertainment Weekly, and Time magazine. K’wan was the recipient of the 2012 and 2013 Street Lit Book Award Medals (SLBAM) in adult fiction for Eviction Notice and Animal. His credits also include featured commentary in the documentary Iceberg Slim: Portrait of a Pimp (produced by Ice-T) as well as a recurring role as an analyst on TV One’s Celebrity Crime Files. K’wan resides in New Jersey, where he spends his time writing, cooking, and binge-watching reruns of The Vampire Diaries with his teenage daughters.

ALSO BY K’WAN AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

Black Lotus FICTION/MYSTERY, TRADE PAPERBACK, 160 PAGES, $12.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-266-7

- Selected for the Library Services for Youth in Custody 2015 In the Margins Book Award List
- One of Library Journal’s Best African American Fiction Books of 2014
- Included in Written Magazine’s “Publisher’s Picks: 30-Books-in-90-Days” list

“[A] heart-thumping thriller . . . K’wan does a masterful job of keeping readers on their toes right up to the very last page.” —Publishers Weekly
THE COMMITTEE
CRIME FICTION BY STERLING WATSON

Professor Tom Stall’s career and life are threatened when a nefarious government-affiliated group of men begin investigating the private acts of innocent people in late 1950s Florida.

“The novels of Sterling Watson are to be treasured and passed on to the next generation.”
—Dennis Lehane, author of Mystic River

THE COMMITTEE IS SET IN A SLEEPY LATE 1950S FLORIDA university city. Its characters—professors, students, townspeople rich and poor, and politicians—are both typical of such a place and unusual, even bizarre, for the challenges they face and the changes they undergo when their lives are suddenly disrupted by the nefarious workings of a shadowy group of men, The Committee, who use the powers of government and the police to investigate and reveal the most private acts of innocent men and women.

THIS IS A STORY OF LOVE, BOTH LICIT AND HIDDEN, war, friendship, betrayal, compromise, and finally the necessity to stand firm against the encroachments upon freedom by men who believe they do God’s and the government’s righteous work. Set against the backdrop of political turmoil and the clash of classes and cultures—Southern, academic, patrician, and demimonde—The Committee pits protagonist Tom Stall, scholarly, ambitious, and rising in his world of teaching and administration, against two men and a woman—a colleague, a university president, and an old friend turned deadly enemy—in a struggle for the soul of a town, a university, and an ideal.

TENSION AND SUSPENSE BUILD WITH CRUSHING INEVITABILITY as hidden forces and unforeseen events threaten Stall’s career and finally his very life.

STERLING WATSON is the author of seven novels, including Deadly Sweet, Sweet Dream Baby, Fighting in the Shade, and Suitcase City. Watson’s short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in Prairie Schooner, the Georgia Review, the Los Angeles Times Book Review, the Michigan Quarterly Review, and the Southern Review. He was director of the creative writing program at Eckerd College for twenty years and now teaches in the Solstice MFA Program at Pine Manor College in Boston. Of his sixth novel, Suitcase City, Tom Franklin said, “If this taut literary crime novel doesn’t center Sterling Watson on the map, we should change maps.” Watson lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.

ALSO BY STERLING WATSON AND AVAILABLE FROM AKASHIC BOOKS:

Suitcase City FICTION/MYSTERY, 288 PAGES, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-319-0

“The telling is masterful . . . Sit back and enjoy Watson’s latest. It’s better than bourbon on the rocks.”
—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Hypnotically beautiful novel . . . Paranoia has been defined as ‘seeing too much pattern.’ Author Watson can make us sweaty victims of that madness, partaking of it, suffering from it, and loving every minute.” —Booklist (starred review)

“Watson’s magic is in pacing and taut prose . . . Suitcase City is an absorbing thriller, a vivid adventure in a bright, humid, perilous underworld . . . [A] tense, bloody thriller with a strong sense of place and a soft heart.” —Shelf Awareness (starred review)

“[A] noir gem . . . a deeply contemplative and darkly poetic prose style complements the well-crafted plot.” —Publishers Weekly
Launched with the summer 2004 best seller Brooklyn Noir, Akashic Books continues its award-winning series of original noir anthologies. Each book comprises all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the geographical area of the book.

**AVAILABLE NOW**
(all are trade paperbacks):

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“Hold the eggnog: What you need is a draft of ‘edgy fatalism and sexy recklessness,’ of flashy crime, gallows humor, and ‘desperate deals with a variety of devils,’ served up every year since 2004 by the editors of Akashic Books’ brilliant noir anthologies. From Brooklyn to Boston, from Phoenix to pre- and post-Katrina New Orleans, each volume in the series reveals a city’s distinctive inner darkness.” —O, The Oprah Magazine

“Over the past few years, some of the best collections of short stories have been the Noir anthologies published by Akashic . . . To me, these collections are total gems, a quality read from some of today’s best authors.” —Oline Cogdill, Sun-Sentinel

“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
**SANTA FE NOIR**  
**EDITED BY ARIEL GORE**

*Under the inspired curation of Ariel Gore, Santa Fe joins Phoenix as a riveting Southwest US installment in the Akashic Noir Series.*

**BRAND-NEW STORIES BY:** Ana Castillo, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Byron F. Aspaas, Barbara Robidoux, Elizabeth Lee, Ana June, Israel Francisco Haros Lopez, Ariel Gore, Darryl Lorenzo Wellington, Candace Walsh, Hida Viloria, Cornelia Read, Miriam Sagan, James Reich, Kevin Atkinson, Katie Johnson, and Tomás Moniz.

**FROM THE INTRODUCTION BY ARIEL GORE:**

The stories in this collection reflect a fundamental truth about this city: history depends on who’s telling it. Too often the story of Santa Fe has been told only by the conquerors and the tourism PR firms. In *Santa Fe Noir*, you will hear the voices of the others: locals and Native people, unemployed veterans and queer transplants, the homeless and the paroled-to-here. When I asked the contributors you’ll read in these pages if they had a Santa Fe story to tell, they invariably shrugged and said something to the effect of, “Oh, I’ve got a story all right. But it might not fit the image of Santa Fe you’re looking for.”

I said, “Try me.”

They came back with the stories that never make the glossy tour brochures: the working class and the underground, the decolonized and the ever-haunted; the Santa Fe only we know. Conquered and reconquered, colonized and commodified, Santa Fe understands—from historical genocide to the murders of family members—the intimacy of violence.

**ARIEL GORE** is a Lambda Literary and Alternative Press award–winning editor and the author of eleven books, including *The Hip Mama Survival Guide*, *Atlas of the Human Heart* (a finalist for the Oregon Book Award), and *Bluebird: Women and the New Psychology of Happiness*. Her memoir *The End of Eve* and her novel *We Were Witches* both won New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards. Her spell collection, *Hexing the Patriarchy*, is out now from Seal Press. She has taught at the Institute of American Indian Arts and the University of New Mexico and currently teaches online at literarykitchen.com.

**ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE AKASHIC NOIR SERIES:**

**Phoenix Noir** **EDITED BY Patrick Millikin**  
**FICTION/MYSTERY ANTHOLOGY, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $15.95, 312 PAGES, ISBN: 978-1-933354-85-9**

**BRAND-NEW STORIES BY:** DIANA GABALDON, LEE CHILD, JAMES SALLIS, LUIS ALBERTO URREA, JON TALTON, MEGAN ABBOTT, CHARLES KELLY, ROBERT ANGLEN, PATRICK MILLIKIN, LAURA TOHE, KURT REICHENBAUGH, GARY PHILLIPS, DAVID CORBETT, DON WINSLOW, DOGO BARRY GRAHAM, AND STELLA POPE DUARTE.

“Patrick Millikin . . . as if to prove his witty claim that ‘sunshine is the new noir,’ offers one superb specimen, ‘Whiteout on Van Buren,’ in which [author] Don Winslow makes skillful use of a city street at high noon to provide the perfect metaphor for life and death.”  
—**New York Times**
COLUMBUS NOIR
EDITED BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

The state of Ohio could only escape the Akashic Noir Series for so long . . . and now Andrew Welsh-Huggins leads the charge to reveal the city’s underbelly.

BRAND-NEW STORIES BY: Lee Martin, Robin Yocum, Kristen Lepionka, Craig McDonald, Chris Bournea, Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Tom Barlow, Mercedes King, Daniel Best, Laura Bickle, Yolonda Tonette Sanders, Julia Keller, Khalid Moalim, and Nancy Zafris.

FROM THE INTRODUCTION BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS:

Today, Columbus is an epicenter of the opioid epidemic, awash in heroin and the even deadlier fentanyl as dealers flood the city with their wares. More than five hundred people died of fatal overdoses in central Ohio in 2017, a nearly 50 percent increase from the year before. On the streets, homicide rates have soared, with 143 deaths in 2017, surpassing a record set in 1991—old Columbus, remember?—at the height of the crack cocaine epidemic. The wealth gap in the city is growing, and Columbus is now one of the deadliest places in the state for babies trying to make it to their first birthday, even more so if their mothers are African American. These days, Columbus is a place forensic investigators are moving to. Overdoses, homicides, infant mortality: it took awhile, but we’re finally as lethal as any big American city.

In that light (and darkness) I’m pleased to present Columbus Noir, a collection of shadowy tales from the city’s best storytellers set in neighborhoods across the metropolis. Sexual passion drives many of the stories, appropriate for a genre marked by protagonists striving for things out of their reach. Racism makes an appearance or two, as do those twin pillars of noir, greed and pride. Still, a deep appreciation of Columbus runs through the book as forcefully as the swath cut by the Olentangy after a couple of days of hard rain.

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS an editor and reporter for the Associated Press in Columbus, is the author of nonfiction books on the death penalty and terrorism, and six novels about private eye Andy Hayes, an ex–Ohio State and Cleveland Browns quarterback turned investigator. Welsh-Huggins’s short story “The Murderous Type” won the 2017 Al Blanchard Award for best New England short crime fiction.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE AKASHIC NOIR SERIES:

Chicago Noir EDITED BY Neal Pollack
FICTION/MYSTERY ANTHOLOGY, TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, $15.95, 260 PAGES, ISBN: 978-1-888451-89-4

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“The population of Chicago Noir is as diverse as any crowd at the lakefront fireworks show . . . As representative of Chicago as Oprah, MJ and a Gold Coast hot dog.” —Chicago Sun-Times
NAIROBI NOIR
EDITED BY PETER KIMANI

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o anchors this truly fascinating first East African installment in the Akashic Noir Series. BRAND-NEW STORIES BY: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, Stanley Gazemba, Ngumi Kibera, Peter Kimani, Winfred Kiunga, Kinyanjui Kombani, Caroline Mose, Kevin Mwachiro, Wanjikū wa Ngũgĩ, Faith Oneya, Makena Onjerika, Troy Onyango, J.E. Sibi-Okumu, and Rasna Warah.

FROM THE INTRODUCTION BY PETER KIMANI:

Nairobi Noir is an act of excavation, rediscovering the city’s ossified past and infusing life to preserve it for future generations. It is also an act of celebration, reminding readers of the brilliance of the best-known writers to emerge from this part of the world, and heralding the birth of new writers whose gifts, we can safely predict, will shine brightly in the years ahead . . . The oldest writer in this anthology is eighty-one, the youngest is only twenty-four; if there is any inference one can draw from this demographic it is that this anthology offers an entire spectrum of Kenyan writing: the past, present, and future. If we can allow one extravagant claim, a collection of this nature is unprecedented in Kenya’s literary history . . . Although the range of issues explored in Nairobi Noir is as diverse as its contributors, it all gestures toward a common theme. In this concrete jungle, the hunters and herders live on. As do the hunted . . .

PETER KIMANI is a leading Kenyan journalist and author of, most recently, Dance of the Jakaranda, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. The novel was nominated for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in the US and long-listed for the inaugural Big Book Awards in the UK. He has taught at Amherst College and the University of Houston and is presently based at Aga Khan University’s Graduate School of Media and Communications in Nairobi.

I OFFER MY HEART AS A TARGET/ OFREZCO MI CORAZÓN COMO UNA DIANA
POEMS BY JOHANNY VÁZQUEZ PAZ
TRANSLATED BY LAWRENCE SCHIMEL; INTRODUCTION BY RIGOBERTO GONZÁLEZ

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JOHANNY VÁZQUEZ PAZ is the author of Sagrada familia (winner of the International Latino Book Award, 2015), Querido voyeur, and Streetwise Poems / Poemas callejeros. She won first prize in the poetry category at the Consenso Short Story and Poetry Contest of Northeastern Illinois University, and second prize in the short story category. She co-edited the anthology Between the Heart and the Land / Entre el corazón y la tierra: Latina Poets in the Midwest and her work has been included in the anthologies City of the Big Shoulders, Ejército de rosas, En la 18 a la 1, and The City Visible: Chicago Poetry for the New Century, among others. She currently teaches at Harold Washington College in Chicago, Illinois.
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“Brimming with humor and heart, Around Harvard Square is a delight.”
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“The first year of college can feel as dramatic as the first moon landing and somehow C.J. Farley also turns it into a painfully funny adventure. Around Harvard Square is a coming-of-age tale that blends J.D. Salinger’s rueful tones with Paul Beatty’s biting humor and becomes something entirely its own. I had so much fun running around with these kids, it felt like seeing old friends: laughing and crying and laughing some more.” —Victor LaValle, author of The Changeling

“A hysterical romp through one memorable freshman year. At Farley’s Hahvahd, it’s survival of the funniest, comedy means never having to say you’re sorry, and growing up is hard to do. A provocative pleasure.” —Gish Jen, author of Typical American

“In this sharp and imaginative satirical fantasy, C.J. Farley explores the complex realms of race and privilege at college with humor, insight, and edge.” —Walter Isaacson, author of Leonardo da Vinci

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FICTION/LITERATURE, 248 PAGES; TRADE PAPERBACK, $15.95, ISBN: 978-1-61775-710-5

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“Bivouac speaks in tongues so that the reader hears both the market and the courtroom, the orchestra of ancestral voices and the tone of individual conscience. Kwame Dawes’s novel laughs and mourns, claps hands for the inventive communal spirit, and wrings those same hands as a result of political malfeasance.” —Fred D’Aguiar, author of Feeding the Ghosts

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