

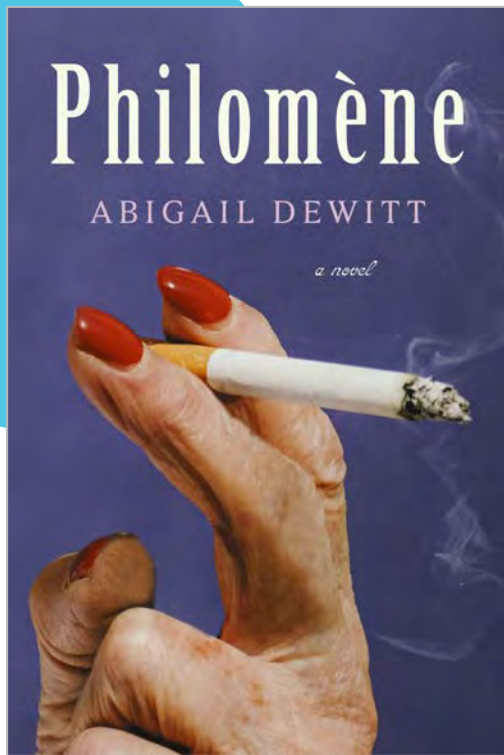
**MELVILLE
HOUSE**
Spring 2027
CATALOG

For more information reach out to:

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Pia Mulleady, Publicist

Hanna Lafferty, Director of Sales and Marketing



PHILOMÈNE

by **Abigail DeWitt**

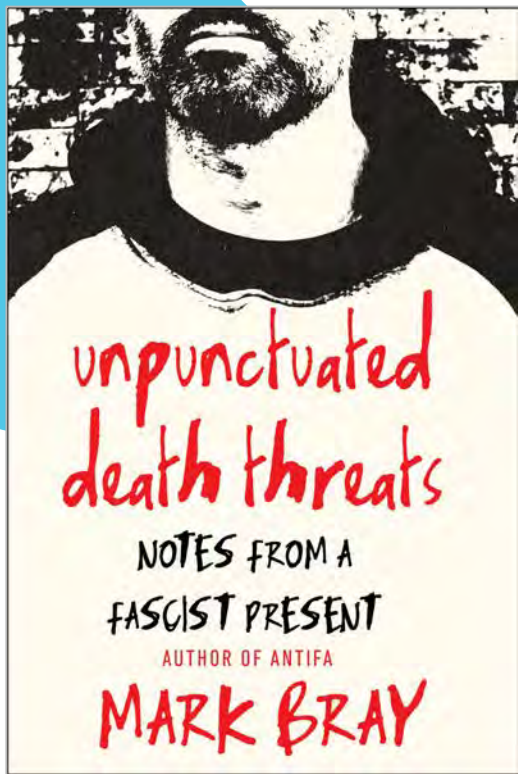
Decades after World War II, in rural France, a family matriarch unravels the web of lies that stands in for her actual past . . .

At ninety-five years old, Philomène still feels ashamed. A summer surrounded by three generations of her beloved progeny would be perfect bliss, if she wasn't worried that at any moment she might expose the truth—that the woman her daughters have spent their entire lives looking up to is a liar.

Philomène was not the brave war widow of a communist in her youth, not a member of the resistance in World War II-era France, but a distressed teenage prostitute, willing to do anything to survive the Nazi occupation. As death lurks on the horizon, Philomène dives back into her memories, from her birth in Nantes to giving birth in Paris, and questions whether she can ever truly be forgiven.

Poignant, wistful, and quietly defiant, *Philomène* examines the unreliability of memory, the dubious proposition of measuring guilt, and the strength in finding happiness even after losing everything.

Abigail DeWitt is the author of three novels: *LILI*, *DOGS*, and most recently *NEWS OF OUR LOVED ONES*. Her short fiction has appeared in *Five Points*, *Witness*, *The Carolina Quarterly*, and elsewhere. She has been cited in *Best American Short Stories* and nominated for a Pushcart.



UNPUNCTUATED DEATH THREATS

Notes from a Fascist Present

by **Mark Bray**

A college professor finds himself under vicious attack — including death threats — because he wrote a *New York Times* bestseller about the history of the anti-fascism movement . . .

In September 2025, when Donald Trump announced a decree to categorize "antifa" — a generic term for anti-fascism — as a "terrorist organization," Rutgers history professor Mark Bray found his 2017 book *Antifa* back on the *New York Times* bestseller list — and his family doxxed and deluged with death-threats and harassment from Federal agents.

Amidst an explosion of international media attention, the family managed to flee the country. *Unpunctuated Death Threats* is an intimate journey to the heart of how this Trumpian moment has shockingly made the United States a place to flee from, and yet offers one man's hopeful visions of a post-fascist future.

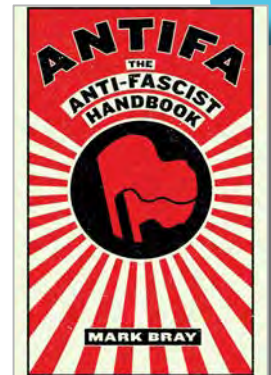
Praise for *ANTIFA: The Anti-Fascist Handbook* (2017)

A *New York Times* Bestseller

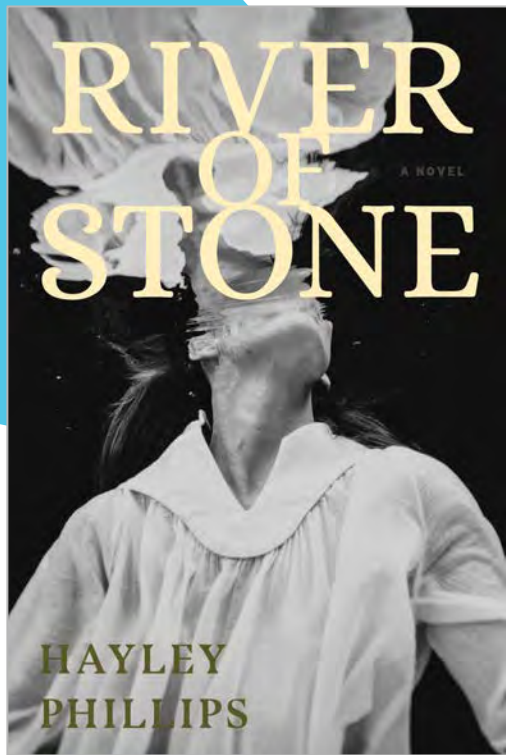
"Focused and persuasive." — ***The New Yorker***

"Incisive" — ***The New York Times***

Mark Bray is a historian of modern European history specializing in radicalism, political violence, and transnational history. He is the author of three books, including *The Anarchist Inquisition*, *Translating Anarchy*, and the *New York Times* bestseller *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook*. Bray teaches at Rutgers University, but remotely from an undisclosed location in Spain.



ISBN 9781612197036



RIVER OF STONE

by **Hayley Phillips**

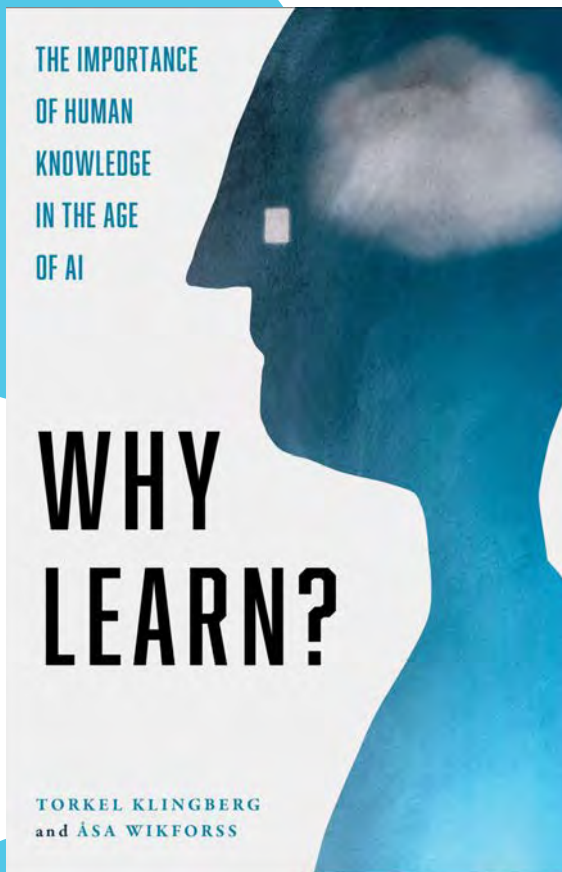
In this striking debut, twin sisters struggle to build a life outside of their mother's influence and the repressive eyes of their cult-like church . . .

Ida and Itasca Stone have perfected their act. Under Mama's management, nearly every Pentecostal Church in North Carolina has heard them sing—a tiring schedule, but necessary, if Ida and Itasca want to keep paying bills and keep Mama happy.

When a big-shot producer discovers them, Ida is more than thrilled to leave their home and dogmatic church behind for the music scene in Nashville. Itasca, though, is fixated on what she is sure will go wrong—there's God to think about, and his most important commandment: Honor thy mother.

As the pressure to choose between their old life with Mama and their new desires mounts, Ida and Itasca must confront the chasm building between them, the chasm that may have always been there, clouding their relationship since birth. A story of sisterhood, deconstruction, and fame, *River of Stone* considers whether we can ever escape the sins of our past.

Hayley Phillips is a Virginia native and received her MFA from Randolph College in 2021. Her work has been included in *Blue Earth Review*, *Appalachian Review*, *ONE ART*, *Evergreen Review*, and elsewhere. She currently lives in Baton Rouge with her husband and two dogs.



WHY LEARN?

The Importance of Human Knowledge in the Age of AI

by **Torkel Klingberg** and **Åsa Wikforss**; Translated by **Kathy Saranpa**

Bold, accessible, and deeply timely, *Why Learn?* combines neuroscience, psychology, history, and philosophy to create a new understanding of why learning remains essential, even as AI grows.

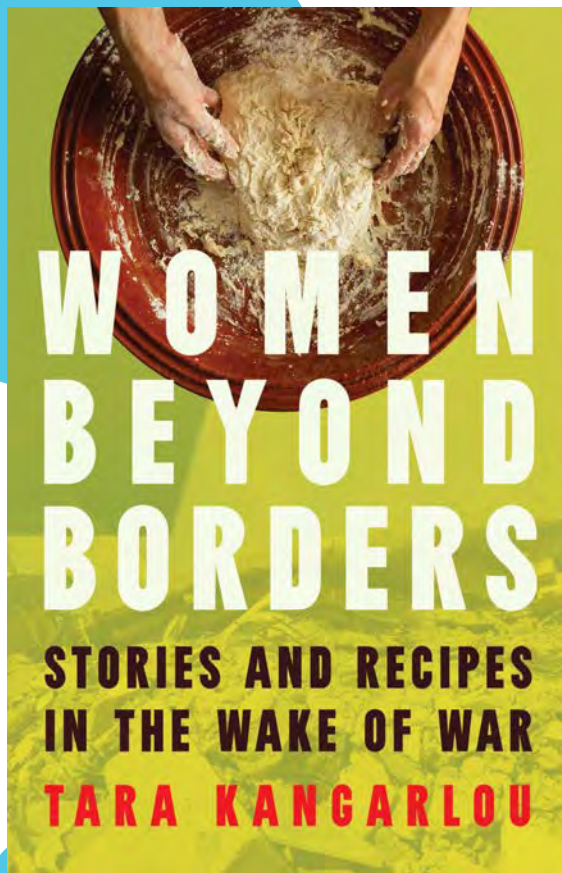
Artificial Intelligence promises us a world of effortless knowledge, a utopia of not-needing-to-know because all knowledge is a keystroke away. *Why Learn?* confronts the question posed by this promise, and forces us to rethink the very foundations of what it means to be human.

World-renowned authorities on cognition and learning, authors Torkel Klingberg and Åsa Wikforss explain that to truly learn is to attempt difficult things, to challenge our minds and our spirits. And the key to survival in an AI world lies in recognizing this.

Distilling their decades of research down to six central tenets to help readers sharpen their learning skills and navigate the demands of an AI world, the authors give us a hopeful and powerful argument for the enduring value of human knowledge.

Torkel Klingberg, PhD is Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and a member of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine.

Åsa Wikforss, PhD is Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at Stockholm University and a member of the Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Prize in Literature.



WOMEN BEYOND BORDERS

Stories and Recipes in the Wake of War

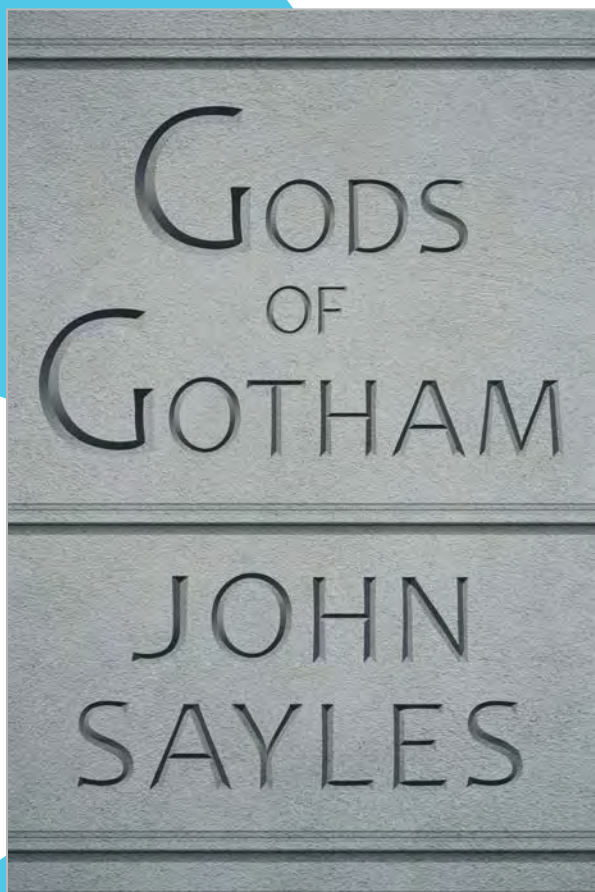
by **Tara Kangarlou**

A piercing look at women forced to flee their homelands by war, who are using food to reclaim their communities and families, including recipes . . .

Based on exclusive interviews with a dozen women displaced by modern war, award-winning journalist Tara Kangarlou shows how the simple act of meal preparation—often centered on ethnic foods redolent of memories of lost homelands—serves as a hopeful and active remedy against despair and isolation.

Moving from contextual histories of the role of food in dissident life to heartfelt, often intimate conversations with displaced women from Syria, Ukraine, Lithuania, Iraq, and Palestine, Kangarlou paints a hopeful picture of women whose courage and resilience are models for us all, whatever our lives look like.

Tara Kangarlou is an award-winning global affairs journalist, who has written for NBC-LA, CNN, CNN International and Al Jazeera America. Her work has also appeared in *TIME*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Nation*, *Sky News*, *France24*, and *the Huffington Post*. She served as a fellow at the McCain Institute for International Leadership, and is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service teaching at the intersection of humanized storytelling, cultural diplomacy and journalism.



GODS OF GOTHAM

by **John Sayles**

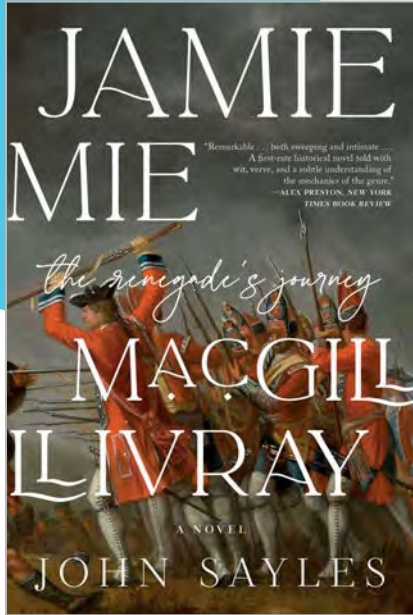
A sweeping saga of New York City circa 1951, featuring numerous real-life historic figures in a dark, swirling story of political corruption, the rise of television, fixed college basketball games, and the ominous beginnings of McCarthyism . . .

This sprawling new novel from Oscar-nominated filmmaker John Sayles follows a wide cast of characters including politicians, criminals, hopeful youth and striving immigrants trying to succeed — or even just survive — in a corrupt and rapidly changing metropolis. There's a popular mayor who has to flee the country, and the rise of Murder, Inc. A welcome distraction from it all is the City College basketball team, which has been wildly inconsistent, but suddenly—shockingly—seems like it may be on the way to a national championship.

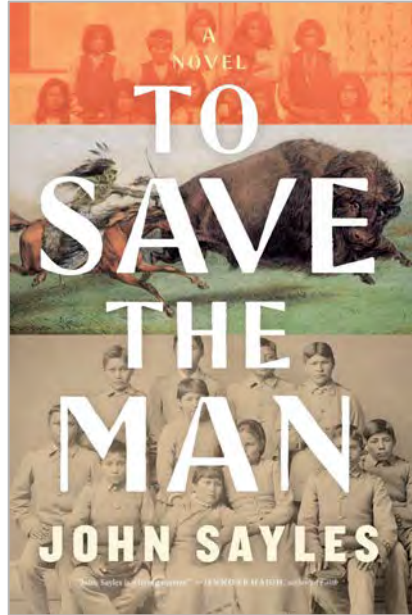
Featuring numerous real-life historical figures — including New York Mayor William O'Dwyer, Murder Inc. mobster Albert Anastasia, and legendary City College coach Nat Holman — the novel interweaves plot lines involving McCarthy-era repression, Borscht Belt comedians and the rise of television, the Puerto Rican diaspora, the threat of atomic war, and mob violence, to tell the everything-all-at-once story of the self-anointed Greatest City in the World.

John Sayles is an independent filmmaker, screenwriter, actor, and novelist. He has twice been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, and once for the National Book Award. He has written eight novels, including, most recently, *Jamie MacGillivray*, *To Save the Man*, and *Crucible*.

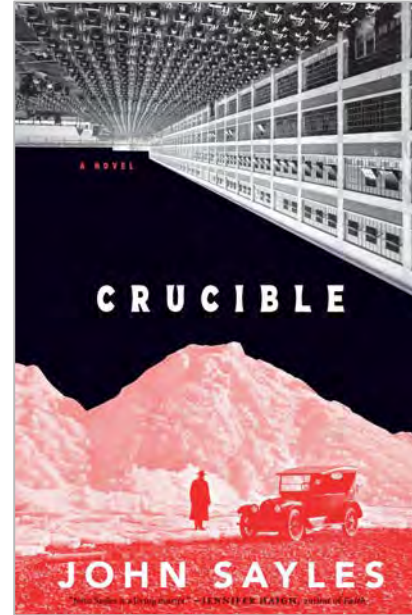
More from John Sayles . . .



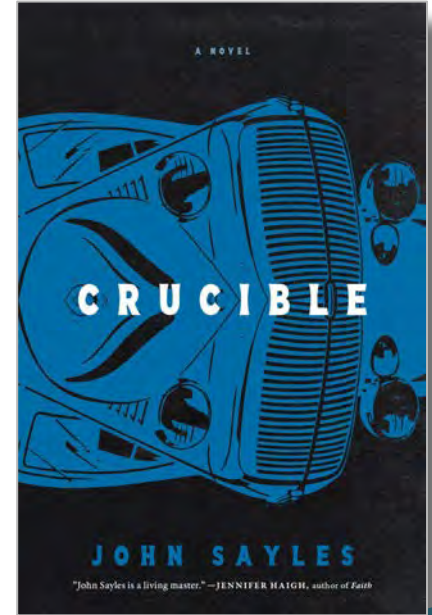
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Paperback: 9781685892234
Hardcover: 9781685891411



Hardcover: 9781685892272



Paperback: 9781685892746

Praise for *Crucible* (2025)

"Rich, Enthralling. . . rambunctious. . ." —**Alida Becker, *The New York Times***

"A sprawling, mural-like novel that engages with the process, the spirit and especially the conflicts of breakneck industrial progress ... [with] a dynamic vision of American history."

—**Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal***



VENICE REQUIEM

By **Khalid Lyamlahy**; Translated by **Ros Schwartz**

In the most beautiful city in the world, a young man leaps to his death. Though hundreds witness the event, no one move to help him . . .

On January 22nd, 2017, twenty-two-year-old Gambian refugee Pateh Sabally arrived by train in Venice, set down his back[ack, and plunged into the cold waters of the Grand Canal while hundreds looked on. As Sabally drowned, some people actually hurled insults at him. Outraged by this tragic death, the novel's narrator, a young French journalist, investigates Pateh's trail, aiming to understand the sequence of events that led up to such a tragic act.

Venice Requiem, winner of the 2024 Prix Ethiophile, tells the story of a city where literature grapples with the pressing dramas of our time. Throughout the novel, the narrator quotes authors who lived in or wrote about Venice: Goldoni, Thomas Mann, Ernest Hemingway, Lord Byron, Marcel Proust, and others. Through a dialogue with the writings and experiences of these authors, the novel explores the potential of literature to rescue humanity.

Khalid Lyamlahy is a professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Nostalgic Rebels: Politics, Aesthetics, and Selfhood in Postcolonial Morocco*. His first novel, *Un roman étranger*, was published in 2017. He lives in Chicago, Illinois.

ARDENNE

A NOVEL
MATHILDE MEROUANI



ARDENNE

By Mathilde Merouani

For fans of *Sunburn*, this moody, coming-of-age debut finds three friends torn between their conflicting desires, and their conflicting selves . . .

Mary grows up in an orphanage; of her very first years at Ardenne, she remembers little. But she knows this: she has always been friends with Andrew. They share their days on the cold beaches of Leel, a small island country off the coast of England, playing marriage games, laughing about the world's absurdities, building something Mary cannot yet name.

And then comes Solveig. Beautiful and enigmatic, she moves into Ardenne at twelve and quickly becomes essential to Mary and Andrew's lives. The three orbit each other, growing older and apart while helplessly knotted together. Time and separations fail to untangle Mary's feelings—there is always the bond with Andrew, always the pull of Solveig.

Melancholic, precise, and pulsing with desire, *Ardenne* spans an entire lifetime. From the obsessions of youth to the selfish abandonments of adulthood, Mary searches for answers on how to live with love's impermanence.

Mathilde Merouani is currently pursuing an MFA in fiction at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she won the John Logan Prize for poetry. Her fiction, essays, and translations have appeared in *Joyland*, *The Rumpus*, *The Common*, *Minor Literature[s]*, *Fugue*, and *3:AM Magazine*. She won the 2021 Open Border Fiction Prize and was shortlisted for the 2022 Galley Beggar Press Short Story Prize.

FOR EVERY PERSON YOU KILL

By **Sahar Delijani**

From the author of internationally bestselling *Children of the Jacaranda Tree*, an intimate examination of life after political imprisonment in post-revolutionary Iran...

Tehran, 1980s. After four years of confinement, political dissidents Azar and Ismael are released from Evin Prison. They have not seen their daughter, Neda, since she was an infant born within the walls of Evin—she is a stranger to them both, a reminder of all Azar and Ismael have lost, and all they must struggle to re-gain as they process the brutality they have been subjected to.

Manhattan, 2022. Neda, now in her forties, grapples with the weight of the literary success she's received by writing about her parents' lives. When a renewed wave of violent crackdowns on the "Woman, Life, Freedom" takes hold of Iran, Neda must confront her own guilt—increasingly aware that she has made a career of writing about the trauma of others.

As warm-blooded and intimate as it is politically engaged, *For Every Person You Kill* asks difficult questions about the complexities of turning one's family trauma into art: is it homage, or theft? And what right does one have to tell the story of a country and a people they have left behind?

Sahar Delijani is the author of *Children of the Jacaranda Tree*, and is twice a Pushcart nominee. She has been published in *The Bellevue Review*, *Slice Magazine*, *Read it Forward*, and *McSweeney's*, among others. Born in Iran in 1983, she grew up in California, lived for many years in Italy, and currently resides in New York City.



Simon Roser is the founder of Simply Whisky: a specialist tasting events business and global whisky brand with sales in Japan, Malaysia, UK, Taiwan and Singapore. He is an in-demand whisky connoisseur and presenter, a guest lecturer for Viking Cruises, and as a judge for the World Whiskies Awards, has tasted thousands of whiskies from around the globe. His writing has appeared in *Whisky Magazine*, *GQ*, *New Style* and *Whisky Quarterly*. From Ayr, Scotland, he currently lives in London.

THE FUTURE OF WHISKY From *The Futures Series*

by **Simon Roser**

What is the future of this much-loved spirit, steeped in history, in an age of globalisation, climate change and shifting tastes?

Whisky is a spirit that is synonymous with status and sophistication. Yet new generations are drinking less alcohol. Global warming is impacting production. Increased governmental restrictions and health lobbyists are changing public attitudes. Could overproduction, high prices and more mindful consumers mean the future of whisky is in trouble? Or can an abundance of choice and a more tailored, authentic whisky experience, helped by AI technology advancements and eco-friendly practices, mean the future is bright

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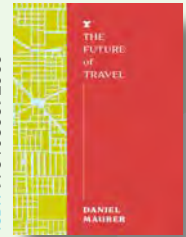
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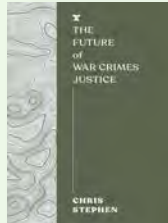
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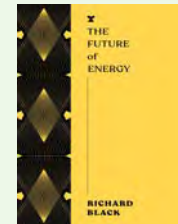
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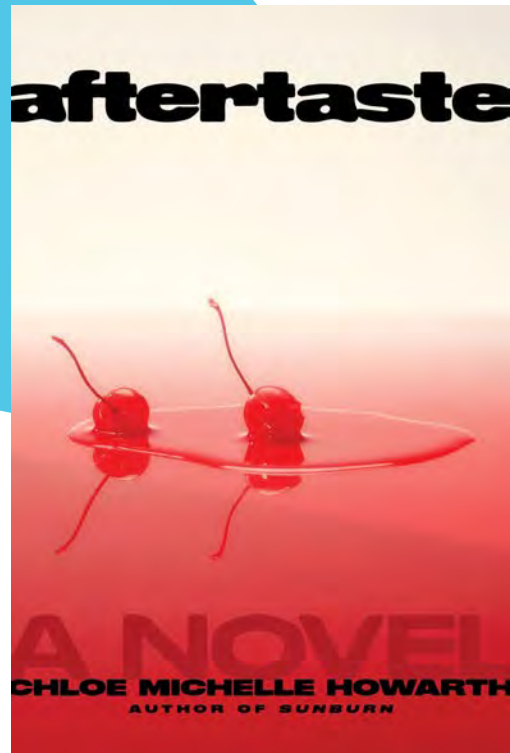


ISBN 9781685891336



ISBN 9781685891176





AFTERTASTE

by **Chloe Michelle Howarth**

In this lush follow up to *Sunburn* and *Heap Earth Upon It*, two women struggle to keep their romance alive amidst class difference and a financial crash . . .

It's the new millennium when Meadhbh leaves rural Ireland behind for the fast-paced, unaffordable luxury that is living in London. The penny pinching soon becomes worth it, though, because in the haze of a party—there is Aly. Privileged, wealthy via birth, and completely in love with Meadhbh, even if she won't say it.

Summer is gorgeous riding in Aly's vintage Capri, sleeping in her plush bed, meeting her interesting, if awful, friends. Eventually, Meadhbh and Aly even move back to Meadhbh's hometown, and the domesticity they were playing at becomes reality. But when the 2010 recession comes down hard, so do the illusions they've built around themselves. Will Meadhbh and Aly survive the crash?

Written in Howarth's signature lush, searing prose, *Aftertaste* is a love story about class, queerness, and home. It captures the intoxicating push and pull of a relationship in jeopardy: the small cruelties, the estrangements, and the desire simmering underneath it all.

Chloe Michelle Howarth is an Irish writer best known for *Sunburn* and *Heap Earth Upon It*. Howarth grew up in the West Cork countryside. The landscapes, culture, and people of rural Ireland have served as an inspiration for her writing. Howarth currently lives in Brighton.

More from Chloe Michelle Howarth . . .



Paperback: 9781685892111



Paperback: 9781685892531

Praise for *Sunburn* (2025) "Tackling topics of queer identity, teenage angst, and religious guilt, this romantic novel burns with the intensity and yearning of first love." — *Harper's Bazaar*

Praise for *Heap Earth Upon It* (2026) "Alluring ... an engrossing chronicle of restlessness and desire." — *Publishers Weekly*

ALL PLACES ARE DISTANT

Space and the Cultural Imagination

by **Ed Simon**

A fascinating and quirky look at places in literature and life—whether forests, islands, or oceans—from the Bible to Bruce Springsteen songs . . .

All Places Are Distant takes its title from Renaissance polymath Robert Burton's statement that "all places are distant from heaven alike." Like Burton, Ed Simon is a powerhouse scholar who is endlessly curious about, well, everything—from the origins of maps to the nature of childhood memory. Simon examines famous "settings" in literature: the forest in *As You Like It*, the river in *Huckleberry Finn*, showing how they both echo and explode our understanding.

All Places Are Distant is a dazzling but accessible tour that shows us how to "read" landscapes, both real or imaginary, in the same way that we read texts. The result is a witty and thought-provoking meditation on the intersection between books and the physical world.

Includes a photo insert with 12 black & white images depicting everything from medieval cities to modern utopias.

Ed Simon is editor in chief of literary journal *Belt Magazine*. A staff writer for *LitHub*, his essays and criticism have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, the *Paris Review Daily*, the *New Republic*, and the *Washington Post*. He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his family.





**MELVILLE
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Spring 2027

CATALOG

Thank you...