

**MELVILLE
HOUSE
Fall 2026
Rights Guide**

Rights CONTACTS

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FICTION

Good Guys by Mindy Misener

On Sale October 2026



In a small New England town in 2008, two estranged sisters become embroiled in a war crime involving a local hero ...

Georgie and Jo are sisters, but they aren't close. The situation seems worse once Jo goes off to college. Then, Gary Clemmons dies in the Iraq War. Gary—the brother of Georgie's secret girlfriend—was famous for being a good guy. But Georgie stumbles on a dark secret about Gary, and once Jo finds out, things begin to spiral out of control.

Good Guys uncovers the underbelly of a small town—the darkness of patriotism and masculinity, the harm caused by blind religious fervor, and the ways these dynamics can destroy families.

PRAISE FOR Mindy Misener

“...Misener explores the oceanic silences that surround the stories people tell and retell about the past, and the power of our stories to both conceal and reveal truth. Georgie and Jo had my heart, and Misener's beautiful novel charts the tidal forces that shape their lives, and our own.” — **Karen Russell, author of *Swamplandia!***

“An intimately observed portrait of small-town sisters in the twin shadows of the opioid epidemic and America's foreign wars. Running throughout, a profoundly affecting current of hope in the form of the dogged love of siblings...” — **Peter Ho Davies, author of *The Welsh Girl***

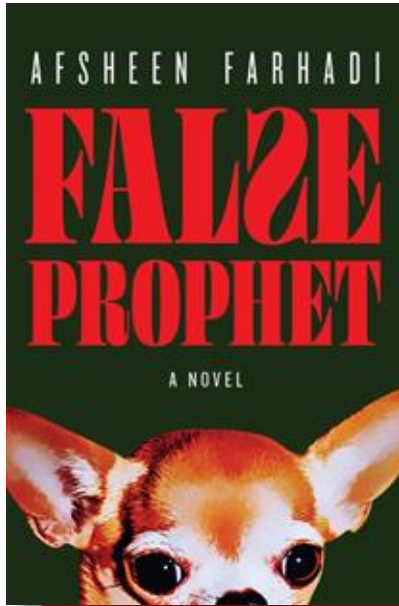


Mindy Misener grew up in Maine. She is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program. After teaching college writing for ten years, she made a career change and enrolled in Yale Divinity School. She is on track to be an ordained minister. Her prose has appeared in *Image*, *The Missouri Review*, *CrossCurrents*, *The Appalachian Review*, *The Pinch*, *The Common*, and other outlets.

False Prophet by Afsheen Farhadi

On Sale July 2026

The cult drama of *The Girls* meets *Yellowface*'s searing exploration of lies, immigration, and identity in this propulsive literary thriller debut. A grieving actor-turned-memoirist reimagines his mother's encounter with Jim Jones, the deadliest cult leader of all time—the only problem is, it's mostly all lies



Actor Jal Persad is enjoying moderate success when the death of his mother, Rita, sends him into a tailspin. Rita had grown up in Guyana during the rise and fall of Jim Jones and the Jonestown cult. Jal soon finds himself writing a memoir of his mother's adolescence, one that places her in direct contact with Jones. There's just one issue—Rita never met the man. Suddenly, the book goes viral, and Jal must face the threat of exposure, and his own guilt.

False Prophet confronts the age-old question—how much of yourself are you willing to lose to succeed?

PRAISE FOR *False Prophet*

"With a wickedly compelling premise and a clever structure, *False Prophet* escalates suspensefully toward a final climactic choice. Afsheen Farhadi's debut is a smart and very entertaining exploration of fame, faith, family, and the lies that we are desperate to believe." — **Chris Bachelder, author of *The Throwback Special***

"False Prophet is a tense literary thriller about how what feels true can become more real than reality." — **Foreword Reviews, STARRED review**

"One commanding tale. . . exploring in different ways grief, immigration, colonialism, self-mythologizing, and the value of stories, regardless of their veracity. The result is a beautifully written consideration of the overwhelming need to belong." — **Booklist**

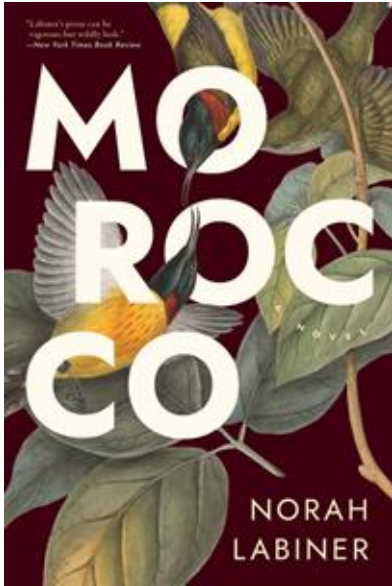
Afsheen Farhadi's work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Conjunctions*, *The Southern Review*, and elsewhere. He is currently the inaugural Hughes Fellow at Southern Methodist University and is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Nevada, Reno.



Morocco by Norah Labiner

On Sale September 2026

In this intricate tale, a woman untangles her enduring bond with an heiress who she is still trying to understand...



Chicago, the turn of the 21st century. Our narrator recounts her relationship with the heiress, Katherine Stern. Through the years, she has seen Katherine as a daughter who wants for nothing but respect from her psychotherapist father, as a woman with a kind, but fortune-hunting fiancée, and as a mystery even more confounding than the gothic horror stories she evaluates from the slush pile at her job. Sometimes, despite their estrangement, she has even seen Katherine as a friend.

Inspired by the classic story *Washington Square* by Henry James, *Morocco* confronts the ambiguity of memory, the horrors of history, and what it means to read a book and tell a story.

PRAISE FOR *Morocco*

"This is subtle but spectacular." - ***Publishers Weekly*, STARRED review**

"Ultimately this dreamy novel is a reflection on how stories are stronger than memory, people from the past become characters, and moments" - ***Booklist***



Norah Labiner is the author of the novels *Our Sometime Sister*, *Miniatures*, *German for Travelers*, and *Let the Dark Flower Blossom*. She has received a Minnesota Book Award for Literary Fiction and currently lives in Minnesota.

Gods of Gotham by John Sayles

On Sale March 2027

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

The *Gods of Gotham* are men who have reached the top through hard work and some questionable associations . . .

Set in the late 1940s in New York City, this sprawling novel follows politicians, criminals, hopeful youth and immigrants trying to succeed in a corrupt, rapidly changing metropolis. A distraction from it all is the City College basketball team, which, shockingly, seems to be on the way to a national championship.

Featuring real-life historical figures, *Gods of Gotham* tells the story of the self-anointed Greatest City in the World.

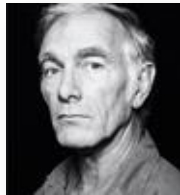
PRAISE FOR JOHN SAYLES

"Both tender and harrowing, *To Save a Man* once again demonstrates Sayles's dogged commitment to unearthing the buried truths that contour the ground beneath our feet." — ***The Washington Post***

"This is a first-rate historical novel told with wit, verve and a subtle understanding of the mechanics of the genre." — **Alex Preston, *The New York Times Book Review***

"An immersive reading experience that swirls with complex personalities . . ." — **Alida Becker, *The New York Times Book Review***

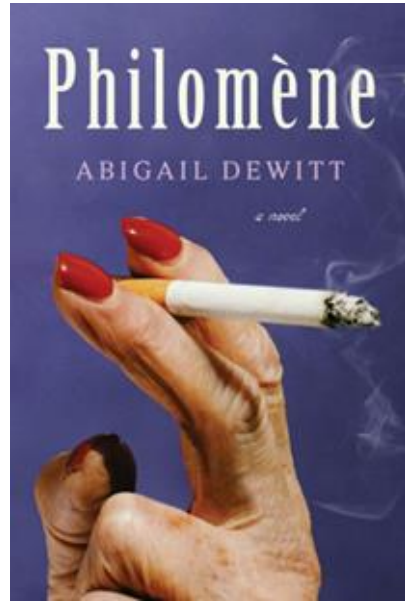
John Sayles is an independent filmmaker, screenwriter, actor, and novelist. He has twice been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, and once for the National Book Award. He has written eight novels, including, most recently, *Jamie MacGillivray*, *To Save the Man*, and *Crucible*.



Philomène by Abigail DeWitt

On Sale January 2027

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



At ninety-five years old, Philomène still feels ashamed. A summer surrounded by three generations of her beloved family 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 childhood in Nantes to childbirth 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* (WW Norton), *Dogs* (Lorimer Press), and most recently *News of Our Loved Ones* (HarperCollins). Her short fiction has appeared in *Five Points*, *Witness*, *the Alaska Quarterly Review*, *the Carolina Quarterly*, and elsewhere. She has been cited in *Best American Short Stories* and nominated for a Pushcart.

River of Stone by Hayley Phillips

On Sale February 2027

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





A History of Heartache by Patrick Strickland

On Sale Now

In this debut collection, celebrated journalist Patrick Strickland's vivid and character-driven stories are as true to life as his award-winning reportage.

In *A History of Heartache*, boys grow up fast in the blazing heat of North Texas, and men grow old before their time. A wayward son rides shotgun into a night he can't take back. A janitor at an abortion clinic can't outrun a ghost—or a camera. Strickland writes with clear-eyed realism and unsparing craftsmanship about common people—fathers and sons; widowers and junkies—poised on the knife-edge of hope.

Gritty and tender in the same breath, this debut fiction collection asks what it costs to stay, what it takes to leave, and who we become when we do. Readers of Denis Johnson and Ron Rash will recognize the hard light, bruised humor, and sudden grace that burn through these pages.

PRAISE FOR *A History of Heartache*

"...grief underscores the characters' recklessness, imbuing the collection with an unsentimental but tender emotional register. Strickland's humane depictions of people living on the margins acknowledge the forces that shape them." — ***Publishers Weekly***

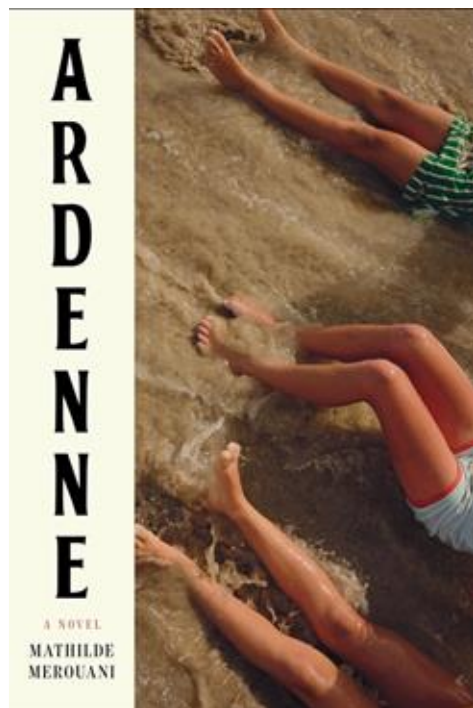
"Peopled by the bereaved, the lost and the haunted, these stunning stories, set in the small towns of North Texas, are also shot with dark humor and fleeting tenderness..." — ***Daily Mail***

"Chronicles the struggles of working-class characters leading hard-scrabble lives." — ***Houston Chronicle***

"Peels back the mask of a worn-out suburbia to reveal stark human tragedy." — ***Dallas Morning News***



Patrick Strickland is an award-winning journalist and author from Texas who has reported from some fifteen countries across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, covering immigration, the rise of the far right, humanitarian catastrophes, armed conflict, and more. He was a 2024 de Groot Foundation Writer of Note. His previous books include *The Marauders: Standing Up to Vigilantes in the American Borderlands* and *You Can Kill Each Other After I Leave: Refugees, Fascism, and Bloodshed in Greece*.



Ardenne by Mathilde Merouani

On Sale April 2027

For fans of *Sunburn* by Chloe Michelle Howarth, 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 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 and 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.

Family Language by Nicole Nelson

On Sale November 2026

In this striking debut, an ambitious academic faces new and unwanted choices when she is confronted with overnight motherhood...

Dr. Mona Melamed is a happily married, purposefully childfree linguist at a top Southern California university. Her days are spent researching and stressing about finally securing tenure. That is, until her brother-in-law and his wife die, leaving their six-year-old son orphaned. Motherhood is not something she wanted. And yet, she finds herself negotiating a temporary leave to start looking after the boy. Along the way, as the gender expectations thrust upon Mona intensify, her tenure becomes threatened.

Family Language confronts that age old question—Can women really have it all?—and uncovers the misogyny behind it.

PRAISE FOR *Family Language*

"Amidst tragic loss and injustice, *Family Language* affirms the power, the reparative work of showing up for one another. Nelson has created a salve, order among chaos. Tender, heart opening, and life affirming." — **A.M. Sosa, author of *And I'll Take Out Your Eyes***

"In this post-Roe era, it's a joy to meet a narrator who is unapologetically feminist! Nicole Nelson writes with compassion and humor about gender, ambition, academia, and the politics of care." — **Leni Zumass, author of *Red Clocks***



Nicole Nelson earned her MFA from Bennington Writing Seminars. Her work has appeared in *The Masters Review Blog*, *Literary Mama*, *Fiction Writers Review*, and elsewhere. For several years, she was a co-host of the podcast "Writers on Writing." She also holds a PhD in linguistics from Rutgers.

NONFICTION

On Resistance by Curtis White

On Sale Now



From the writer *Elle* calls the "most inspiringly wicked social critic of the moment" comes a don't-lose-hope study of how writers, painters, musicians, and other cultural figures respond to fascism...

From a veteran writer and activist comes a concise yet potent guide to standing up to the myriad tyrannies of our current political landscape. We live in a time where independent thinking, love of literature and ideas, and passion for human expression are all under attack from a ruthless and uncaring government and a culture that values only immediate gratification and digital flash.

In *On Resistance*, Curtis White offers spiritual hope and intellectual fortification for those in despair about the bankruptcy of American life. Drawing on a range of books, films, essays, and artworks, White shows how our rich collective literary heritage gives us mental ammunition for our fight against the forces that would reduce us all to commodities and consumers. In doing so, he has penned a new classic in the noble history of American polemics.

PRAISE FOR CURTIS WHITE

"*On Resistance* demolishes the self-congratulatory mythology of American philanthropy and the creeping corporate capture of cultural life—and does it with wit." —**Bhaskar Sunkara, president, *The Nation***

"White makes a convincing case that will resonate with progressives seeking to 'free ourselves from the world that we were born into' and 'change the way we live.'" —***Publishers Weekly***

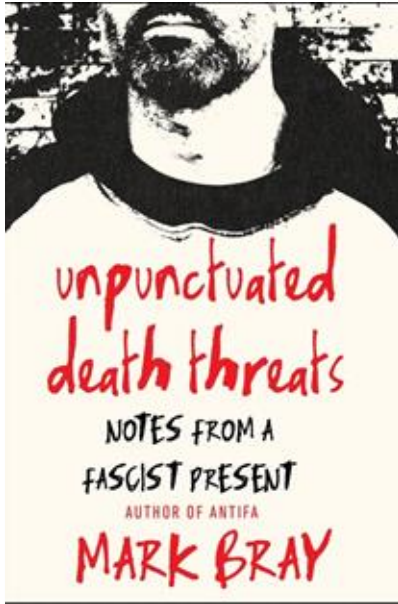


Curtis White is a novelist and social critic whose works include *Memories of My Father Watching TV*, *The Middle Mind*, and, more recently, *The Science Delusion*, *We Robots*, and *Lacking Character*. His essays have appeared in *Harpers* and *Tricycle*. He taught English at Illinois State University. He is the founder (with Ronald Sukenick) of FC2, a publisher of innovative fiction run collectively by its authors. He lives in Port Townsend, WA.

Unpunctuated Death Threats by Mark Bray

On Sale January 2027

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 ...



On September 22, 2025, when Donald Trump announced a decree to categorize "antifa" — a generic term for anti-fascism — as a "terrorist organization," Rutgers history professor, and *New York Times* bestselling author, Mark Bray little suspected that his life was about to change radically.

But, years earlier, Bray had written a history book called *Antifa: The Antifascist Handbook*, and soon after Trump's decree, the right-wing student organization Turning Point USA petitioned for Bray's dismissal from his job. This was quickly followed by a series of increasingly virulent social media attacks, culminating in online death threats that included his home address.

Unpunctuated Death Threats is an intimate journey to the heart of how this Trumpian moment and the new fascism it has birthed — a world of far-right influencers, social media soldiers, and networked violence that chased the author into hiding — has shockingly made the United States a place to flee from. With fascism resurgent and genocide raging in Gaza, Bray turns anew to his Jewish identity in search of answers.

PRAISE FOR MARK BRAY

"Focused and persuasive... Bray's book is many things: the first English-language transnational history of antifa, a how-to for would-be activists, and a record of advice from anti-Fascist organizers past and present."

—**THE NEW YORKER**

"Incisive" —**THE NEW YORK TIMES**

"Insurgent activist movements need spokesmen, intellectuals and apologists, and for the moment Mark Bray is filling in as all three... The book's most enlightening contribution is on the history of anti-fascist efforts over the past century, but its most relevant for today is its justification for stifling speech and clobbering white supremacists." —**Carlos Lozada, THE WASHINGTON POST**



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 *New York Times* bestseller *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook*, which is the first transnational history of postwar anti-fascism and has been translated into seven languages. Bray teaches at Rutgers University, but remotely from an undisclosed location in Spain.

Women Beyond Borders by Tara Kangarlou

On Sale March 2027

A piercing look at women who are using food to reclaim their communities and families in worlds shattered by war, from award-winning journalist Tara Kangarlou.

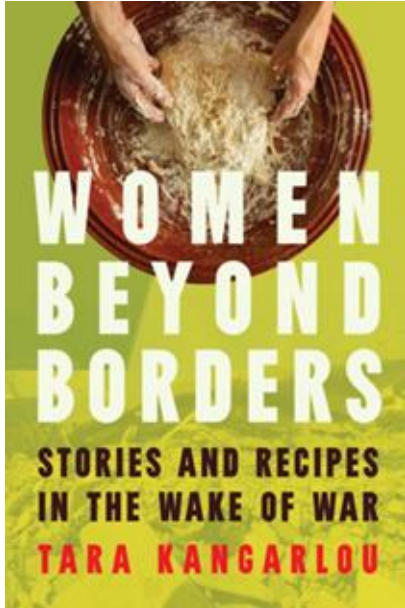
Based on exclusive interviews with a dozen women displaced by modern war, journalist Tara Kangarlou shows how the simple act of meal preparation—often centered on ethnic foods redolent of memories of lost homelands—serves as a hopeful and active remedy against despair and isolation.

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

PRAISE FOR TARA KANGARLOU

"[*The Heartbeat of Iran*] is an illuminating and powerful portrait of a people who have been so often mischaracterized, and whose voices deserve to be heard."—**Ben Rhodes, author of *The World as It Is: A Memoir of the Obama White House***

"Using the personal stories of ordinary individuals, [Kangarlou] allows them their own voice in showing us what makes them who they are."—**Hooman Majd, author of *The Ayatollah Begs to Differ***



Tara Kangarlou is an award-winning global affairs journalist, author, and humanitarian who has reported, written, and produced for NBC-LA, CNN, CNN International and Al Jazeera America, covering some of the most pressing issues in the United States and around the world. Her writing and reporting have also appeared in news outlets such as *TIME*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Nation*, *Sky News*, *France24*, and the *Huffington Post*. She has previously 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.

All Places are Distant by Ed Simon

On Sale June 2027

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

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.

All Places Are Distant is a dazzling but accessible tour of the concept of place in literature and in life that shows us how to "read" landscapes – whether real or imaginary – 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 and white images depicting everything from medieval cities to modern utopias.

PRAISE FOR *ED SIMON*

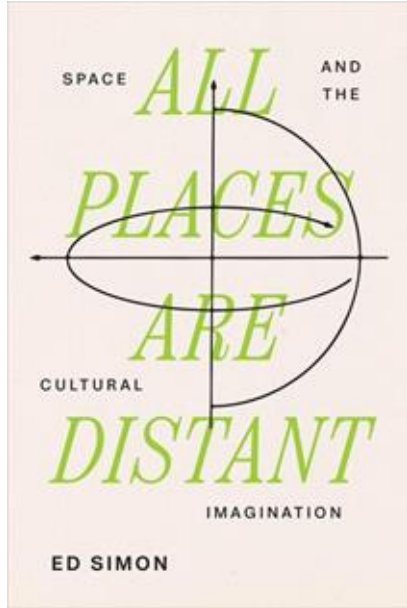
"Ed Simon explores the history of the Faustian myth ... enjoys its heresies and dangers, its madcap adventures, the magical-realist wildness; and he relishes sharing all of that narrative wealth with his lucky readers ... Lively, excoriating, eloquent ... We are all Faustians now." —**James Wood, *The New Yorker***

"A rich history ... *Devil's Contract* reminds us of how often we deludedly exchange something of inestimable value—our souls, our freedom, our honor, our beautiful Earth—for what is ultimately glittery trash." —***Washington Post***

"Provocative ... persuasively argues for Faust as a cornerstone—possibly an epitaph—of modernity." —***Wall Street Journal***

"Simon's probing curiosity conjures up an enjoyable grab-bag of arcane knowledge. It's a beguiling literary history of diabolical deals." — ***Publishers Weekly***

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.



The Future of Fraud by Becky Holmes

On Sale Now

Discover the ways fraudsters target us, what future technological threats await us—and how we can protect ourselves.

Humans have been ripping each other off since they first discovered the concept of lying. But in 300 BC, the first ever official record of a fraud case was made. A merchant in Greece took out an insurance policy, borrowed money and planned to sink his boat. Since then, fraud has become more complex and harder to detect, as technology has evolved.

Deeply researched and littered with expert interviews, *The Future of Fraud* explores fascinating fraud cases past and present, and expose how the technology we depend upon today is also perfectly poised to exploit us: from social media, the dark web and gaming, to cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence. And as well as parting us from our money, fraud is eroding the trust between humans and the state, and between each other.

The only way to tackle the fraud epidemic, argues Holmes, is head on, via education, language, technology and regulation.

PRAISE FOR *The Future of Fraud*

'I learnt something new on every page. Fifty per cent terrifying, fifty per cent reassuring, this book is like kryptonite when a scammer strikes.' — **Jeremy Vine**

'This book is what we've been missing, a brilliantly organised account of a social menace. Becky Holmes writes with wit and insight on a subject we all need to get on top of, lest it gets on top of us.' — **Daniel Finkelstein, columnist for *The Times***

'As an anti-financial crime professional, I couldn't point to a better and more readable source than this.' — **Ray Blake, *The Dark Money Files***



Becky Holmes is the creator behind the popular X account @deathspinach, where she publicly 'outs' online fraudsters. Her first book about romance fraud was published by Unbound in 2024. She lives in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

The Future of Bananas by James Dale

On Sale Now

The banana is the most eaten fruit in the world – but its future is under threat. Professor James Dale contemplates how we'll save the humble banana in this fascinating addition to the FUTURES Series...



The bananas that we see in our supermarkets, eat for breakfast and blend into our smoothies are facing possible extinction.

While there are thousands of banana varieties, only one has become the western world's favourite – the Cavendish: our familiar curvy, yellow-skinned, soft-fleshed fruit. But our obsession with the Cavendish has come at a cost. Years of selective breeding to produce the fruit we love, and humankind's migration across the world has left the Cavendish susceptible to disease and climate change – so much so that in years to come they may face extinction. How can we save the future of the banana?

Professor James Dale is leading the way in banana research. Based at Queensland University of Technology in Australia, he and his team have developed the QCAV-4 banana – the world's first genetically modified banana to be approved for commercial production. In the book he presents many scenarios that could be used to save the Cavendish based on the latest research and technological developments. Bananageddon can be prevented, he argues, if the world is ready to embrace a new future led by scientific change.

PRAISE FOR *The Future of Bananas*

"Rarely does a science writer write as well, as clearly, as James Dale" - *The Milwaukee Shepherd Express*



Professor James Dale is the inaugural Director of the Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities (CTCB) at Queensland University of Technology in Australia. He has been involved in biotechnology research for more than 30 years with a specific interest in bananas. James and his team have created a resistant strain of banana, called QCAV-4, by adding a gene from a wild banana. It has just got the go ahead by regulators in Australia and New Zealand to allow commercial growth of this modified banana – a world first. This is his first book.

The Future of Jokes by Robin Ince

On Sale November 2026

Multi-award-winning comedian and author Robin Ince imagines the potential for changes in humour over the next century – and beyond...

In *The Future of Jokes*, erstwhile comedian and now bestselling author Robin Ince examines, prods and interrogates the art of the joke, in order to discover what shape it might eventually take.

Firstly, Ince looks at how jokes permeate our everyday lives and brains today: from understanding consciousness through jokes via interviews with neuroscientists; to jokes in the political landscape, and how the manipulation of offence is used to wrangle power; to a comic novel written by ChatGPT, and whether it can deliver the laughs compared to a human.

Then he takes a leap into the future: can we imagine a future where jokes are not needed by humans, or are they an intrinsic requirement of our lives? What will stand-up routines and sitcoms be like in the age of AI? And will the male-dominated comedy world ever accept that women are—whisper it—actually funny?

PRAISE FOR *The Future of Jokes*

"This is a spiky, refreshing, original, characteristically thoughtful canter through the field of joking, and how and why we do it." — **Professor G Neil Martin, author of *The Psychology of Comedy***

"This book is funny, eclectic, engaging and thought provoking – a bit like Robin himself." — **Logan Murray, comedian and author of *Get Started in Stand-Up Comedy***

Robin Ince is a comedian, an author, broadcaster and populariser of scientific ideas. The co-host of BBC Radio 4 series *The Infinite MonkeyCage* with Professor Brian Cox, and the podcast *Book Shambles* with Josie Long, *An Uncanny Hour* and *Science Shambles* with Dr Helen Czerski. As a stand-up he has toured the world and won three Chortle Awards, and the Time Out Outstanding Achievement Award. He has received an Honorary Fellowship of UCL, an honorary doctorate from Royal Holloway College (University of London), and is a fellow of the British Science Association. He is the author of, *I'm a Joke and So Are You: Reflections on Humour and Humanity* and *Normally Weird and Weirdly Normal: My Adventures in Neurodiversity*. He lives in Hertfordshire.



The Future of Whisky by Simon Roser

On Sale May 2027

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, with history telling us that it's the drink of choice for presidents and CEOs, and that whisky captivated the imagination of the greatest poets, thinkers, and songwriters.

But it wasn't always so. It's been in the making, in one form or another, since the fifteenth century, originally a warming drink for the poor, borne of subsistence farming. So how was it transformed into a luxury product for the monied classes, and what might it become in the future?

There are now over eight-hundred distilleries making whisky in the United States, compared to less than fifty only twenty years ago. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, China, India and most European nations are now flooded with new distilleries and awash with whisky.

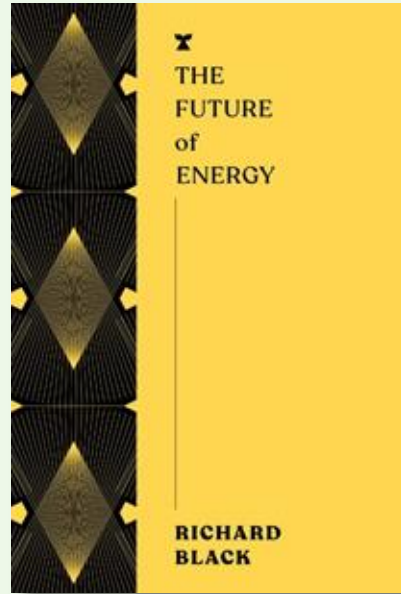
Yet new generations are drinking less alcohol. Global warming is impacting production. Increased governmental restrictions and health lobbyists are changing public attitudes. Could overproduction, high prices and more mindful consumers mean the future of whisky is in trouble? Or can an abundance of choice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

Whisky expert and proud Scotsman Simon Roser takes us on a journey where the future of whisky may be uncertain, but is ripe with possibilities.



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*. He lives in Ayr, Scotland.

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