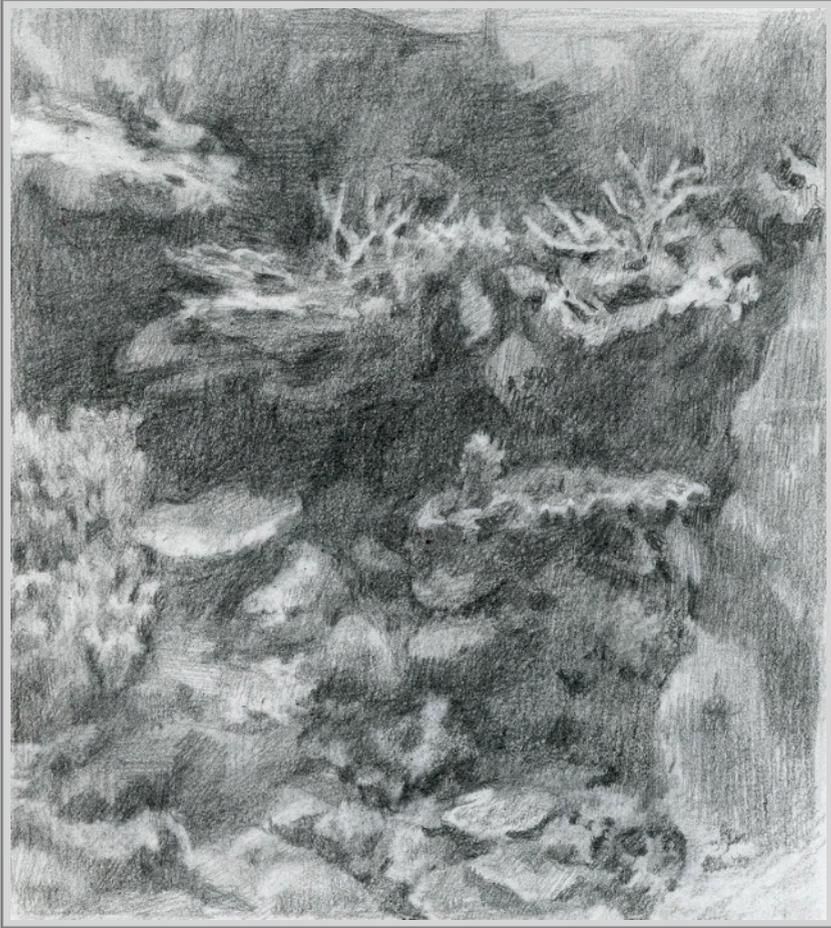


*Driftless*  
*Literary*



2026-2027

Cover Art: "Are My Dreams of Coral?" by Hanna Sosin

# Fiction

# LOU REED'S NEPHEW

Jim Hanas

Forthcoming from Coffee House Press (Fall 2027)

## Summary

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Set in a New York City co-working space in 2013, *Lou Reed's Nephew* unfolds—like Diderot's Rameau's *Nephew*, from which it takes inspiration—via a months-long acquaintance between the title character and a struggling Gen X entrepreneur who is by turns baffled, shocked, and awed by his blithe young interlocutor. Along the way, they dissect such important topics as storytelling, boring people, the disappearance of typing as a profession, the cult of best practices, Big Data, the failure of writing as a communication technology, and scrimshaw.

Michael Martone selected the book as runner-up for the 2023 Texas Review Press Clay Reynolds Novella Prize. Toby Ferris, author of *Short Life in a Strange World* (Fourth Estate/Harper, 2020), calls it "properly peculiar," adding, "Hanas has a real gift for standing the world on its head and seeing what drops out of its pockets."

## Author Bio

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**Jim Hanas** is a Brooklyn-based writer of fiction and essays. His work has appeared in dozens of publications, including *Electric Literature*, *Fence*, *Joyland*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, *One Story*, much of it collected in his short story collection *Why They Cried* (Joyland/ECW Press). *Lou Reed's Nephew*, which will be published by Coffee House Press in Fall 2027, is his first novel.

# BUTTER ROAD

Jaclyn Gilbert

Forthcoming from Acre Books (September 2026)

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## Summary

In 2006, a gunman entered a one-room Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, taking the students hostage and shooting ten girls before turning his weapon on himself. Set twelve years later, largely in the village of Nickel Mines, *Butter Road* explores the long-reaching ramifications of tragedy through the imagined lives of three women: Emma Walsh, an eighteen-year-old survivor of the shooting; her mother, Ruth, who lost her eldest daughter to the violence; and Sara Caldwell, an “English” outsider and wife of a doctor researching genetic disorders in the Amish population.

At the novel's outset, Sara enlists young Emma for housework and gardening to help the Walshes alleviate the debt they've accumulated caring for Emma's disabled brother, who has the rare condition Sara's husband is studying. Over the course of several months, Sara and Emma form a bond, and as Emma explores Sara's library, she begins writing fragments of memory on the backs of old feed calendars. A process that leads her to grapple with the devastating deaths of her sister and friends, and the insularity of Amish forgiveness. The more Emma writes, the more she questions her upbringing and ingrained beliefs, ultimately seeing her relationship to Isaac Ames, the man she is destined to marry, in a new light. The story culminates with the characters making breathtaking, self-searching decisions that alter the lives of others, as well as their own.

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## Author Bio

**Jaclyn Gilbert** grew up running along the Amish countryside in Lancaster County. She is the author of the novel *Late Air*, and her short stories, essays, and reviews appeared in *Post Road Magazine*, *Tin House*, *Lit Hub*, *Long Reads*, and elsewhere. She has held fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and Byrdcliffe Guild in Woodstock, NY. In 2021, she founded Driftless Literary, a boutique literary agency committed to representing genre-defying literature in the U.S. and abroad.

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# KIND MIRRORS, UGLY GHOSTS

Claire Donato

Published by Archway (2023)

## Summary

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“*Kind Mirrors, Ugly Ghosts* is why I want to read. There are few books at all that expand the exploration of family, outsider sex, animal love, therapy and surreal vision and even fewer writers who do it as well as Claire Donato. My mind and heart are thankfully changed forever.”

—**Jamie Stewart** of Xiu Xiu and author of *Anything That Moves*

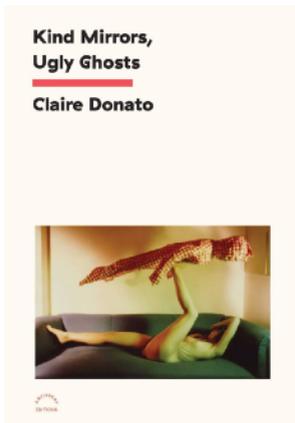
In the disquieting stories of *Kind Mirrors, Ugly Ghosts*, a fractured Claire Donato contemplates grief and disgust in heterosexuality, deconstructing the romance myth and the illicit fantasies which reflect our haunted selves. These fictions are populated with Lynchian characters, draped in memory and the subconscious mind, who imagine their way out of the painful limits of their world: a turtle retreats into its shell and becomes a real girl. A porn addict turns into a baby boy in the arms of his barren cyber-girlfriend. And a digitally-marred depressive joins forces with the ghost of Simone Weil to kill a chicken.

Donato’s fictions are precise and cutting, seamlessly integrating a vast knowledge of art through sharp criticism and a history of cult traditions: *Donnie Darko*, *Wings of Desire*, *Daisies*, and *Twin Peaks*, and artists including Clarice Lispector, M.F.K. Fisher, Sibylle Baier, and The Velvet Underground.

*Kind Mirrors, Ugly Ghosts* concludes with “Gravity and Grace, the Chicken and the Egg, or: How to Cook Everything Vegetarian”, a novella-in-vignettes that frames cooking as an entry point to light, awareness, and connection. With associative lyricism and a preternatural ability to gaze into the void with tenderness, Donato relays an indescribably strange perception of our world, in which maniacal grief turns to a gleeful protest before becoming, against all odds, a love letter to what remains.

## Author Bio

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**Claire Donato** is the author of *Burial*, a fiction novella, and *The Second Body*, a full-length collection of poems. Her work has been included in numerous anthologies, and recent writing has appeared in *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Fence*, *The Chicago Review*, *Forever*, *BOMB*, *The Elephants*, *DIAGRAM*, and *GoldFlakePaint*. She also contributed an introduction to *The One on Earth: Selected Works of Mark Baumer*. Currently, she works as Acting Chairperson of Writing at Pratt Institute, where she received the 2020-2021 Distinguished Teacher Award.

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# YOU'LL LIKE IT HERE

Ashton Politanoff

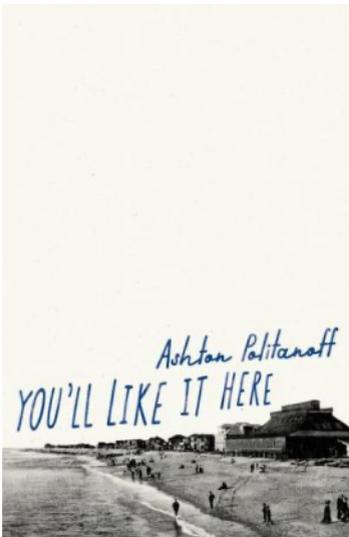
Published by Deep Vellum (2022)

## Summary

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*You'll Like it Here* is a haunting bricolage, excavating the forgotten history of early 1900's Redondo Beach through old news clippings, advertisements, recipes, and other ephemera that speak to the ills of male stoicism, industrialization, capitalism, and environmental displacement. Ashton used digital archives from the *Redondo Reflex* and other city-adjacent newspapers as the basis for his surrealist account, masterfully tracing this larger shift away from coastal maritime repose in the wake of the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, and World War II through momentary fragments that feel as real and palpable as they do transient, mythological, and strangely reminiscent of our current times.

Formally, *You'll Like it Here* works in conversation with Michael Ondaatje's *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*, Maggie Nelson's *Bluets*, Amina Cain's *Indelicacy*, and Kathryn Scanlan's *Aug 9 Fog*. The novel also embraces a multi-register, journalistic storytelling that questions the tenuous line between objectivity and subjectivity in documenting the unreliability of history—both personal and collective—brilliantly balancing voids of loss, absence, and disappearance with moments of natural transcendence and miraculous phenomena.



## Author Bio

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**Ashton Politanoff's** writing has appeared frequently in *NOON*, as well as *New York Tyrant*, *Conjunctions*, *Egress*, and other print and digital journals. Several of his stories have been anthologized, and he is a full-time English Instructor at Cypress College.

# **Non-Fiction**

# LOPSIDED

Shifra Sharlin

## Summary

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Shifra Sharlin had it all planned out. Sister to two older brothers, Allan and Josh, there was a clear order of things. Allan would die first, of natural causes, then Josh, then Shifra. But in 1977 everything shifted, when Allan was diagnosed with Stage IV melanoma at the age of 27, passing away six years later, in 1983, in Berkeley, California. Forty years later, after Sharlin is diagnosed with breast cancer—enduring chemo and a single mastectomy—she is forced to confront the ways in which her and Allan’s narratives have become forever entangled. When, in 2023, she house sits in the same neighborhood in Berkeley where Allan once lived on Hillegass Street, the ghost of her 1983 self returns with a vengeance, desperate to make sense of what she couldn’t have anticipated decades earlier.

Part-lyric essay, part dramatic monologue, *Lopsided*, attempts to write a history of grief and the dislocation of place and memory that defies language, even history itself. In the spirit of Joan Didion’s *The Year of Magical Thinking*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche’s *Notes on Grief*, and Vahina Vara’s more recent *Searches*, *Lopsided* offers a profoundly moving meta-commentary on what it means to reconstruct our lives out of historical ruins. *Lopsided* blends everything from Alan Turing on morphogenesis, Thucydides on the Peloponnesian War, Kundera on totalitarian politics, Marcel Mauss on the social phenomenon of giving, and Erwin Schrodinger on quantum entanglement, among others. Each search for meaning uncovers a new paradox, resulting in a deeply interconnected work of fractal brilliance destined to reshape how we think and talk about grief in our post-pandemic age. It is a work that traces paradigm shifts between the 1800s and today, with a razor-sharp look at the 1980s, in particular, when people were reluctant to use grief in a sentence, let alone speak about it openly in public. In short, meditative chapters that accumulate toward a larger unity, *LOPSIDED* is a *décollage* of unparalleled force.



## Author Bio

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**Shifra Sharlin’s** essays have appeared in *The Yale Review*, *Southwest Review*, *The Contemporary American Essay* (ed. Philip Lopate), and *Salamungdi* among others. Her essay, “Better Practices in Mourning,” was a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays* (2010). Sharlin is a retired Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at Yale University, former Co-Director of the course “Reading and Writing the Modern Essay.” Sharlin’s husband David Sorkin is the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Jewish History at Yale.

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# SQUANDERED

Adrian Shirk

## Summary

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In the throes of insomnia following a divorce that leaves her sole owner of a 63-acre Catskills estate she can't afford, Adrian discovers she's the direct descendant of America's first divorcee. What begins as a practical crisis—how to keep the mortgage paid—transforms into an obsessive investigation of notorious heiresses who spectacularly "wasted" their patriarchal inheritances on visions that bore no profit: rifle widow Sarah Winchester, who poured blood money into a labyrinthine mansion; the Publick Universal Friend, an 18th-century prophet who rejected gender and reimagined property as collective spiritual resource; Florence Foster Jenkins, who blew her family jewels on a spectacularly terrible opera career that rejected competence itself, and many others.

*Squandered* is structured around midnight voice memos Shirk recorded during her first insomniac nights as a new homeowner—raw, unfiltered transmissions to her future self—which eventually fracture and blur with voices from the mysterious boxes of genealogical research her deceased grandmother left behind. The result is a trifold narrator that moves between confession, invention, cultural criticism, and ancestral chorus, until we arrive at a radical understanding: that only by letting go can we discover what's truly worth keeping.

## Author Bio

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**Adrian Shirk** is the author of *And Your Daughters Shall Prophecy* (Counterpoint Press, an NPR "Best Book of 2017") and *Heaven is a Place on Earth* (Counterpoint Press, 2022)—her work has been supported by NYSCA, the Mellon Foundation for Part-time Faculty, and Millay Arts, among others. The Mutual Aid Society, the experimental artists' hub Shirk founded in the Catskills, is itself a living embodiment of the central questions she is asking in her work about alternative economies and communal living. She is an agent at Driftless Literary.

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# I LOVE HEROIN

Christian Bodney

## Summary

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*I Love Heroin*—which advanced to the judges for the 2024 Graywolf Nonfiction Prize—is what would happen if Carmen Maria Machado’s *In the Dream House* were on drugs and fell into David Wojnarowicz’ *Close to the Knives*. Ingrid Rojas Contreras, author of *The Man Who Could Move Clouds*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, writes that *I Love Heroin* is, “Gritty, feverish, electric, as if under fluorescent light—ferociously intense.”

Drug addicted and homeless in the Midwest by his late teens, Christian got sober in the Deep South at twenty-five. *I Love Heroin* begins early in Christian’s recovery from opioids. What follows is a darkly funny fever dream, moving between vivid accounts of addiction and the fuzzy reconstruction of childhood abuse, all the while exploring gender and sexuality, identity and love. Bodney’s pivoting perspective illuminates what it’s like living inside the oven of addiction and recovery, modulating the temperature until we come out, plied by Bodney’s self-assured voice, soft and crusty—like well-baked bread.

Everywhere in *I Love Heroin* is a sharp object: from the myriad ways judgement masquerades as help, to the universal monster within, to all the heroins—people, places, and substances—that Bodney seeks to quit. Jonathan Safran Foer, an early champion of the work, writes, “Christian writes as if the world is about to end, or about to begin. His sentences have an irrepressible aliveness and urgency. He also happens to be hilarious and deeply moving.”

## Author Bio

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**Christian Bodney** was runner-up for the 2024 Iowa Review Award in Nonfiction. In 2023, he was the recipient of a CRAFT Creative Nonfiction Award and was shortlisted for the DISQUIET International Literary Prize. His work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and the Best of the Net and appeared in *Iowa Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and *SmokeLong Quarterly*, among other publications. A graduate of New York University’s MFA program in creative writing, Christian is an associate editor at *Hobart* and lives in New York City.

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# BODYHOME: Chronic Pain and the Art of Survival

Megan Moodie

## Summary

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A formally innovative memoir *Bodyhome* reads like a literary detective novel where the mystery being solved is the genetic history and cultural lineage of the narrator's own body.

After seven years of living in agonizing chronic pain, Megan Moodie—a cultural anthropologist and writer—receives a diagnosis that transforms everything she thought she understood about bodies, illness, and inheritance. When a simple flexibility exam reveals that she has Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a genetic connective tissue disorder, the diagnosis becomes a threshold into deeper mystery, both familial and cultural. The investigation leads to discovering her part in a multigenerational story of disability, activism, and survival that her family has been hiding in plain sight. Each revelation peels back another layer: the great-aunt institutionalized for reasons no one discussed, the grandmother whose activism suddenly makes devastating sense, her Mayo Clinic-trained father's lies of omission, the patterns of chronic pain that become breadcrumbs leading to a diagnosis explaining generations of suffering.

This is a book driven by obsessive research—into medical archives, family histories, feminist art movements—but it's the surprising revelations that give the narrative its momentum. Between revelations, Moodie retreats to her "sick woman mansion"—a cinematic reimagining of her Shaker Heights childhood home where each room stages an encounter with a different feminist artist whose work illuminates aspects of living through bodily transformation. From Nancy Mairs at the threshold to Hilary Mantel in the basement vault, these encounters weave together memoir, feminist theory, medical anthropology and dreamwork. The mansion itself becomes a character—its flooded basement, its peculiar architectural features designed by a GE engineer obsessed with innovative lighting, its transformation from symbol of prosperity to site of bodily unraveling.

## Author Bio

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**Megan Moodie** is a Professor of Anthropology at UC Santa Cruz with affiliations in Film & Digital Media and Feminist Studies, and co-founder of UC Santa Cruz's Disability Studies program. Her creative nonfiction has appeared in venues from *The Los Angeles Review of Books* to indie darling *Hip Mama*, and her 2019 essay "Birthright" was named a Notable Essay by *Best American Essays*. Her 2025 essay on autoethnography appears in the MIT Press volume *Autotheories*, alongside Paul Preciado and Judith Butler. She represents the vanguard of scholar-artists working at the intersection of academic research and creative practice—writers who bring both intellectual rigor and literary sophistication to their work.

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# MILF: On The Impossibilities of Purity

Anna Gazmarian

## Summary

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*MILF* is a work of hybrid memoir and cultural criticism that might have emerged from a late-night Real Housewives viewing session that spiraled into a feminist philosophical breakthrough. Following the critical success of her memoir *Devout* (Simon & Schuster, 2023), Gazmarian delivers a book that combines the sharp pop culture analysis with the kind of irreverent, no-bullshit voice that makes everything from dating apps to wellness culture fair game.

In 2024, as Blake Lively faced public excoriation as an "unlikable victim" and Cassie Ventura was grilled in court about her relationship with Sean Combs, Gazmarian was navigating her own year of legal separation—monitored messages, monthly child support payments, a freedom that existed only on paper. What she discovered during those twelve months became the foundation for this cultural investigation into the evangelical purity culture mirrored by American progressivism.

This isn't another post-evangelical confession. Gazmarian uses the figure of the MILF—a woman who embodies the tension between sanctity and sexuality—to decode the purity obsessions hiding in plain sight across American culture. This is the book that finally explains why dating apps feel like digital purity rings, why Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop empire sounds like a prosperity gospel megachurch, and why cancel culture operates with the same moral surveillance mechanisms as church discipline committees.

As tradwife influencers rack up millions of followers and progressive spaces practice their own forms of moral policing, *MILF* reveals that our resistance movements often reproduce exactly what they're resisting.



## Author Bio

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**Anna Gazmarian** is the author of *Devout* (Simon & Schuster, 2024) and a former editor at *The Sun* and *Longreads*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Believer*, *The Rumpus*, and many other publications. Anna has spent much of her life at the intersection of faith, feminism, and sexuality, and her writing reflects a deep and nuanced understanding of the complexities of both contemporary evangelical and secular worlds. She lives in North Carolina with her daughter, where she continues to explore tensions between faith, identity, and freedom.

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# SHE WAS WILD GRASS

Katie Bennett

Forthcoming from BRINK (Fall 2026)

## Summary

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A groundbreaking hybrid memoir, *She Was Wild Grass* deftly intertwines Bennett's own artistic coming-of-age with the haunting story of Joan Vollmer, the remarkable yet overlooked figure of the Beat Generation whose life was tragically cut short when her husband, William S. Burroughs, shot her in 1951.

Braiding past and present, Bennett explores art, ambition, gender, and freedom, asking what it means to create in a world where women's stories are so often silenced and forgotten. At once intimate and unflinching, it brings Vollmer out from the shadows of literary history while charting the risks and revelations of Bennett's own search for an artistic path.

For readers of Kate Zambreno, Maggie Nelson, and Nathalie Léger, *She Was Wild Grass* offers an unflinching meditation on art, history, and self-discovery.

"Katie Bennett's search for Joan Vollmer is also a search for herself and her own place in the world. *She Was Wild Grass* is a powerful homage...I could not put it down."

—Chris Kraus, author of *The Four Spent the Day Together*

"Brilliant...I gulped this book down. It's dense with narrative and goes down like spring water. I couldn't stop reading it."

—Sarah Manguso, author of *Liars*



## Author Bio

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**Katie Bennett** is a writer and musician based in West Philadelphia. Her work has appeared in *Lit Hub*, *swamp pink*, and *Salmagundi*. She's held fellowships from Yaddo, Hedgebrook, and Monson Arts, and she's a contributing editor for *Zona Motel*.

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# THE ALCHEMICAL IMAGINATION

Eliza Swann

Forthcoming from Weiser (May 2026)

## Summary

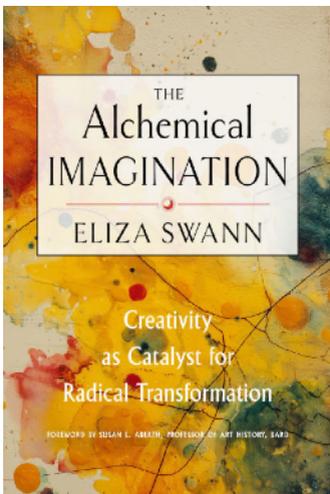
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*The Alchemical Imagination*, by modern alchemist and artist Eliza Swann, liberates alchemy and offers a revolutionary set of histories, exercises, and techniques to allow readers to renew their creativity and themselves.

*The Alchemical Imagination* is the first book of its kind to address the ancient subject of alchemy through the lens of contemporary creativity. From an expert teacher of modern alchemy across disciplines, Eliza Swann distills this arcane science into an accessible series of philosophies and techniques to help readers find a deeper connection to their own creativity. Part workbook and part historical journey through the lives and practices of the great alchemists, *The Alchemical Imagination* highlights often—overlooked female alchemists and queer alchemical imagery and traces their many contributions to contemporary art, handing this ancient craft to a new generation.

In medieval Europe, alchemists referred to their combined scientific, mystical, and creative vocation as "The Great Art"—and for good reason. In alchemy, spiritual and material realities are inseparable, which freed alchemists to be interdisciplinary thinkers, leading to some of the most important technological advancements and creative breakthroughs of their era. *The Alchemical Imagination* traces the principles of alchemy through its applications in proto—chemistry, healing arts, psychology, visual art, and literature to help readers develop the tools to arrive at their own Great Art.

*The Alchemical Imagination* brings the alchemical worldview to 21st—century artists in pursuit of expanding their creative life and practices. Swann brings a modern, queer, femme perspective to alchemical theory in a voice that is lively, fresh, and grounded in their fifteen years of teaching alchemy in universities and community organizations.



## Author Bio

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**Eliza Swann aka Emerald** is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and educator based in New York. They are the author of *The Anatomy of the Aura* (St. Martin's, 2020), *Green Mary* (Cosmic Dog House Press, 2024), and *The Alchemical Imagination* (Weiser/Red Wheel, 2026). Their writing has appeared in BOMB, Arthur, Contemporary Art Review LA, Momus, and Perfect Wave and they contributed writing to *Witchcraft* (Taschen) and *Modern Witches* (Weiser). Eliza received a BA in Painting from the San Francisco Art Institute and an MFA from Central St. Martins in London. Eliza is currently faculty at Pratt Institute, where they teach literature and alchemy. They were the 2023 lecturer-in-residence at the Philosophical Research Society where they led a series of talks on alchemy.

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# BEYOND: A Living Person's Guide to the Dead

Tiffany Hopkins

Published by Sterling Ethos (2025)

## Summary

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A twist of fate changed the life of author Tiffany Hopkins forever: in the midst of her fast-paced career in the big city, she unexpectedly inherited a cottage in America's oldest intentional Spiritualist community. The little town of Lily Dale in upstate New York is wholly comprised of people who believe in talking to the dead, drawing an average of 20,000 tourists every year. These seekers come to experience the practice of spirit communication: booking séances, meeting one-on-one with mediums, and fully immersing themselves in the otherworldly atmosphere of this rare and wonderful town. After learning how to be a medium, Hopkins began focusing on normalizing talking to the dead, getting the word out about the practice of embodied mediumship, the art of connecting with the self to hear from the other side, which offers potent expansion to anyone willing to be curious about the world beyond the veil.

*Beyond* encourages readers to increase their powers of empathy, intuition, and imagination to inspire creativity, heal body and mind, and even create community and find their way to like-minded souls. In addition to a step-by-step guide to the basics of mediumship, Hopkins includes prompts and exercises for developing skills like discernment and boundaries, assuming trance consciousness to create in a state of "flow," and working with others in collaborative circles to pool ideas and receive more nuanced feedback from the universe. Readers will come away with a fresh appreciation for this world—both physical and metaphysical—and an exciting new way to approach their life by strengthening all six of their senses.

## Author Bio

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**Tiffany Hopkins** is a renowned innovation expert, medium and radio host. After leaving her corporate career to move to an abandoned family cottage in a legendary Spiritualist community, where—in between assignments to support the growth of groundbreaking inventions like at-home HIV tests and AI for the manufacturing industry—she's become a voice for a new generation of mediums. She lives in Lily Dale, New York.



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# NIGHTSHINING

Jennifer Kabat

Published by Milkweed Editions (2025)

## Summary

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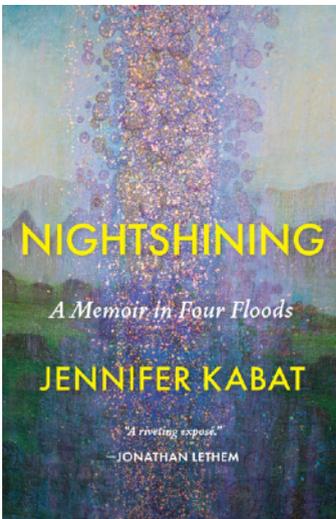
“Jennifer Kabat’s *Nightshining* sifts a riveting exposé of the Cold War technocratic fantasy-state through lyrical family memoir. Her superb investigation calls to mind those of Rebecca Solnit and Errol Morris, among others.”

—Jonathan Lethem

A propulsive, layered examination of the conflict between the course of nature and human legacies of resistance and control.

Floods, geoengineering, climate crisis. Her first year in Margaretville, New York, Jennifer Kabat wakes to a rain-swollen stream and her basement flooding. As she delves into the region’s fraught environmental history, it becomes clear that this is far from the first—and hardly the worst—disaster in the region. Tracing connections across time, she uncovers Cold War weather experiments, betrayals of the Mohawk Nation, and an unlikely cast of characters, including Kurt Vonnegut’s older brother, Bernard—all reflected through grief brought on by her father’s recent passing.

Inquisitive and experimental, *Nightshining* uses place as a palimpsest of history. With lyrical incision, Kabat mirrors her own life experience and the essence of being human—the cosmos thrumming in our bodies, connecting readers to the land around us and time before us.



## Author Bio

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**Jennifer Kabat** is the author of the twinned memoirs *The Eighth Moon* and *Nightshining* published by Milkweed Editions in 2024 and 2025. She received an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for her criticism and has been published in *BOMB* and *The Best American Essays*. Her writing has also appeared in *Granta*, *Frieze*, *Harper’s*, *McSweeney’s*, *The Believer*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The New York Review*, and *The White Review*. A finalist for the essay prize at Notting Hill Editions, she often collaborates with artists. She’s part of the core faculty in the Design Research MA at the School of Visual Arts. An apprentice herbalist, she lives in rural Upstate New York and serves on her volunteer fire department.

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# EIGHTH MOON

Jennifer Kabat

Published by Milkweed Editions (2024)

## Summary

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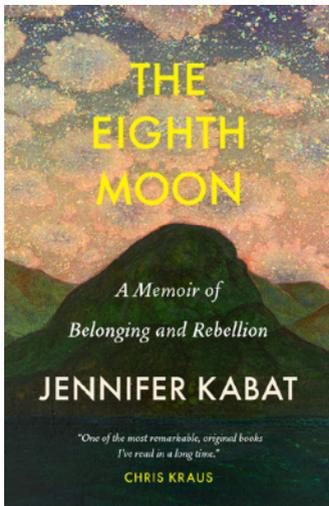
“Beautifully written, *The Eighth Moon* uses a very light touch to probe the most essential, unresolvable questions of belief, kinship, fidelity, history, and identity.”

—Chris Kraus

A rebellion, guns, and murder. When Jennifer Kabat moves to the Catskills, she has no idea it was the site of the Anti-Rent War, an early episode of American rural populism.

As she forges friendships with her new neighbors and explores the countryside on logging roads and rutted lanes—finding meadows dotted with milkweed in bloom, saffron salamanders, a blood moon rising over Munsee, Oneida, and Mohawk land—she slowly learns of the 1840s uprising, when poor tenant farmers fought to redistribute their landlords’ vast estates. In the farmers’ socialist dreams, she discovers connections to her parents’ collectivist values, as well as to our current moment. Threaded with historical documents, the natural world, and the work of writers like Adrienne Rich and Elizabeth Hardwick, Kabat weaves a capacious memoir, where the past comes alive in the present.

Rich with unexpected correspondences and discoveries, this visionary and deeply compassionate debut gives us a new way of seeing and being in place—one in which everything is intertwined and all at once.



## Author Bio

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**Jennifer Kabat** is the author of the twinned memoirs *The Eighth Moon* and *Nightshining* published by Milkweed Editions in 2024 and 2025. She received an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for her criticism and has been published in *BOMB* and *The Best American Essays*. Her writing has also appeared in *Granta*, *Frieze*, *Harper's*, *McSweeney's*, *The Believer*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The New York Review*, and *The White Review*. A finalist for the essay prize at Notting Hill Editions, she often collaborates with artists. She's part of the core faculty in the Design Research MA at the School of Visual Arts. An apprentice herbalist, she lives in rural Upstate New York and serves on her volunteer fire department.

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# DEVOUT

Anna Gazmarian

Published by Simon & Schuster (2024)

## Summary

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A “moving” (Leslie Jamison, author of *The Recovering*) memoir that reconciles the author’s bipolar disorder diagnosis and her Evangelical faith to create a new framework for which to live.

In this “dazzling” (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review) memoir, Anna Gazmarian tells the story of how her Evangelical upbringing in North Carolina failed to help her understand the mental health diagnosis she received, and the work she had to do to find proper medical treatment while also maintaining her faith.

When Anna is diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2011, she’s faced with a conundrum: while the diagnosis provides clarity about her manic and depressive episodes, she must confront the stigma that her Evangelical community attaches to her condition. Over the course of ten years, we follow Anna on her journey to reframe her understanding of mental health to expand the limits of what her religious practice can offer.

In *Devout: A Memoir of Doubt*, Anna shows that pursuing our emotional health and our spiritual well-being is one single mission and, in both cases, an act of faith.



## Author Bio

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**Anna Gazmarian** is the author of *Devout* (Simon & Schuster, 2024) and a former editor at *The Sun* and *Longreads*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Believer*, *The Rumpus*, and many other publications. Anna has spent much of her life at the intersection of faith, feminism, and sexuality, and her writing reflects a deep and nuanced understanding of the complexities of both contemporary evangelical and secular worlds. She lives in North Carolina with her daughter, where she continues to explore the tensions between faith, identity, and freedom.

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# STROLLER

Amanda Parrish Morgan

## Summary

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Named one of the Best Books of 2022, *The New Yorker*

*Object Lessons* is a series of short, beautifully designed books about the hidden lives of ordinary things.

Among the many things expectant parents are told to buy, none is a more visible symbol of status and parenting philosophy than a stroller. Although its association with wealth dates back to the invention of the first pram in the 1700s, in recent decades, four-figure strollers have become not just status symbols but cultural identifiers.

There are sleek jogging strollers for serious athletes, impossibly compact strollers for parents determined to travel internationally with pre-ambulatory children, and those featuring a ride-on kick board or second, less “babyish” seat, designed with older siblings in mind. Despite the many models available, we are all familiar with the image of a harried mother struggling to use a stroller of any kind in a public space that does not accommodate it. There are anti-stroller evangelists, fervently preaching the gospel of baby wearing and attachment parenting. All of these attitudes, seemingly about an object, are also revealing of how we believe parents and children ought to move through the world.



## Author Bio

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**Amanda Parrish Morgan** is the author of *Stroller* (Bloomsbury 2022), of which *The New Yorker* wrote “the central strength of the book is not comprehensiveness but the way the stroller, and Morgan’s experience of her own strolling years, become an omnidirectional magnet, pulling disparate material into friendly proximity.”

Morgan’s work has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *LitHub*, *Guernica*, *The Millions*, *n+1*, *Electric Literature*, *Carve*, *The American Scholar*, *The Ploughshares Blog*, *JSTOR Daily*, *The Washington Post*, *Real Simple*, *Women’s Running* and *ESPNW*.

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# Poetry

# CORIOLIS

A. D. Lauren-Abunassar

## Summary

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Winner of the **2023 Etel Adnan Poetry Prize**

“It is a strange but marvelous thing that every truly gifted lyric poet invents a language of her own. Everything is magical here, and everything is real. Lauren-Abunassar knows how to speak in tongues, to say what isn’t quite possible to say otherwise.”

—Ilya Kaminsky, author of *Deaf Republic* and *Dancing in Odessa* **National Book**

**Award Finalist, Guggenheim Fellow**

The Coriolis effect—from which A. D. Lauren-Abunassar’s hyperkinetic debut collection borrows its title—describes a force that deflects a mass off course. This concept is at play both formally and psychically in *Coriolis*, recognized in Leila Chatti’s Foreword as “a book of wanting, of lack, absence, disintegration, opacity, and yearning. . . . ‘If only I could cut out the part of me shaped like wanting,’ writes Lauren-Abunassar. At times, the thing wanted for is love. Other times: family, certainty, belonging, home, safety, wellness, wholeness, or simply for a thing to be clean. Always, these poems reveal the shape of the want by illuminating its outline.” Perhaps the speaker of these poems wants most of all to be seen, despite her reflex to deflect when she discloses a shame or trauma, often by depositing the self-revelation within rapid, teeming strings of thought. Yet as much as this speaker may be an introvert in life—“Every time someone says my name it surprises me”; “Because I am lonely, I am always shying away from the mirror”; “Today I woke up feeling / like an already said thing”—many of her utterances are exuberantly uninhibited. “Small trees live inside me,” Lauren-Abunassar admits passingly in one poem. And in another: “When I dream of myself, my mouth / blooms many hands. They reach in all / shapes and directions.”



## Author Bio

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**A. D. Lauren-Abunassar**, (she/hers) is a Palestinian-Irish-American writer. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Rattle*, *Narrative*, *Boulevard*, and elsewhere. Her first book, *Coriolis*, was the winner of the Etel Adnan Poetry Prize. She is a 2025 NEA Creative Writing Fellow and holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and an MA in journalism from NYU. She once (accidentally) set a lawn mower on fire. Her favorite words are replete & raincoat.

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# BURROWS: An Epic

Kirsten Allio

## Summary

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A furious lyric of love and loss, in the spirit of Anne Carson's *Autobiography of Red* and Fernanda Melchor's *Hurricane Season*, Kirstin Allio's *Burrows* is the darkly magical dilation of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, set in Seattle in the early 2000's.

*Burrows* lets its characters loose in a city of hard, glittering, tin-ear tech wealth that's still the last stop, a skid row that falls into Puget Sound. Through ever-verdant parks, in shadows cast by the Olympic mountains, we trace the steps of Sasha, an unmoored musician, handyman, and grownup runaway, and Charlotte Burrows, who's fallen under addiction's worldly and otherworldly spell. Characters from the Hades of Greek mythology drift between towering Douglas firs, dinosaur ferns, electric-green moss beds, and a dive bar. We hear the underworld – uncannily close – churn and hum. Where the afterlife clings like shadow, Death himself is an actor, a force of nature bristling with desire.

At once formal and primal, sharply etched and liminal, Allio alchemizes fate and free will in a new mytho-noir where prose fractures and gives way to poetry; poetry washes to shore and re-coalesces as prose. By turns erotic and hypnotic, *Burrows* reveals and retunes the ontology of Orphic tragedy to the frequency of our times. *Burrows* also channels a collective, incantatory consciousness that spins myth even as it makes myth. It shares feminist territory with Nina MacLaughlin's *Wake, Siren: Ovid Resung*, Virginie Despantes's punk rape manifesto, *King Kong Theory*. In a psycho-philosophical storm of poetic logic, Allio's novel twists us up into the waves, plunges and plumbs the depths with an ingenuity that rivals Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping* and Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*. It posits a surreal, parallel, living afterlife like Anne de Marcken's *It Lasts Forever and Then It's Over* and *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Shehan Karunatilaka.



## Author Bio

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**Kirstin Allio** is also the author of *Double-Check for Sleeping Children*, which won the Catherine Doctorow Innovative Fiction Prize, selected by Matt Bell. Her other books include *Buddhism for Western Children* and the story collection *Clothed, Female Figure*, which won the Dzanc Short Story Collection Competition. Her debut novel *Garner* was an LA Book Award first-fiction finalist and named '5 under 35' by the National Book Award in 2007. She has won fellowships from Brown University's Howard Foundation and MacDowell.

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# Tarot

# GREEN GOLD: A Plant Spirit Oracle

## Ancestral Wisdom & Ethno-Botanical Healing

Star Feliz

Forthcoming from Weister (January 2027)

### Summary

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A sixty-eight card deck and guidebook to help reconnect you with the ancient wisdom of our oldest ancestors on earth—plants.

*Green Gold: A Plant Spirit Oracle* provides a portal for accessing divine ancestral knowledge, unlocking creative solutions for transforming your reality.

The journey begins with a purpose-driven guidebook that grounds you in a sacred bond with Earth and each other. It explores ancestral archetypes, astrological rulers, lands of origin, place within the cosmic wheel, and ritual affirmation for co-creating with the cycles of nature. Each of the accompanying sixty-eight cards portrays a sacred plant ally for use with these traditions.

The cosmic wheel places each botanical into one of four quadrants: seed, root, bloom, and leaf. Each of these growth phases is tied to personal spiritual growth and healing and ancestral wisdom that the author expands upon in the book. This framework is based on the Kongo cosmogram (Bakongo religion), a four-quadrant symbol that depicts the physical world (upper two quadrants) and the spiritual/ancestral world (bottom two quadrants), as well as the four seasons of the sun and the four elements.

### Author Bio

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**Star Feliz** (they/them) is an artist, herbalist, and the founder of Botánica Cimarrón, a Los Angeles-based wellness brand. Descended from the Afro-Taino cimarrónes of the Bahoruco Mountains in the Dominican Republic, Star carries the wisdom of generations. Star Feliz has performed and exhibited nationally and internationally, including The Kitchen, New York, NY; The Oregon Contemporary, Portland, OR; The Horse Hospital, London, UK; among others. They have been awarded numerous fellowships, residencies, and grants, including ACRE, Steuben, WI; Mohn LAND Grant, Los Angeles, CA; and the AiR at the Ace Hotel, Los Angeles, CA. They've taught at The Golden Dome School, Confluence of Witches, the Philosophical Research Society, and Herban Cura, and their work has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the anthology *A Confluence of Witches* (Weiser Books, 2024), as well as Taschen's Library of Esoterica series.

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*Driftless: Possessing no purpose or perceptible trend; aimless or undirected / by opposition*

*Drift: a driving movement or force; impulse; impetus; pressure. Navigation (of a ship) the component of the movement that is due to the force of wind and currents.*

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