



# The Permanent Press



**2017**





## *From the Publishers*

**2016** was a great year for our authors both domestically and internationally. Charles Davis' *Hitler, Mussolini, and Me*, Marian Thurm's *The Good Life*, and Danner Darcleight's prison memoir, *Concrete Carnival*, were all sold to three leading Italian publishers. *Hitler, Mussolini, and Me* was also sold in Turkey, *The Good Life* had a major review in the *New York Times Sunday Book Review*, and Eleanor Lerman's novel, *Radiomen*, published in 2015, won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Science Fiction, presented at this year's WorldCon sci-fi convention. Ten of our sixteen titles were purchased by Blackstone Audiobooks. Other significant events include rave reviews for seven of our books featured on *NPR*: Chris Knopf's *Back Lash*, Danner Darcleight's *Concrete Carnival*, Ray Merritt's *Clamour Of Crows*, Michael Ryan's *Guy Novel*, Marian Thurm's *The Good Life*, Kathleen Novak's *Do Not Find Me*, and Frederic Hunter's *Love in the Time of Apartheid*. Plus, there were two *Associated Press* reviews, one for David Freed's *Hot Start* and one for Michael Ryan's *Guy Novel*.

One of the great discoveries we've made is the number of books we've published by writers who started out as poets. Barbara Anderson, our copyeditor *extraordinaire*, not only loved them all, but has her own explanation which makes perfect sense. "Poets know the impact of every word and in a twelve word poem or a short stanza each word has to have a big impact. Cartoonists do this as well: an image along with paucity of words that expresses a big idea." Paul Zimmer, Kathleen Novak, Eleanor Lerman, and Michael Ryan—as well as John Skoyles, whose memoir, *A Moveable Famine*, we published in 2014—all exemplify this.

We are often asked by writers why we primarily publish fiction. I can think of no better reason than this quote from Mark Twain: "Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't." A proper comment, for a good novel can tell one more about the world in a visceral way than much non-fiction. It's provided good publicity for our authors who have won or been finalists for countless large and small awards, including The American Book Award, The National Book Award, The Hammett Prize, The Lambda Award, The Nero Award, The International Thriller Writers Award, The Dactyl Foundation Award, The ForeWord Book Award, the Pinckley Prize, The Shamus Award, and The Chautauqua Prize.

**2017** should also prove fruitful with four of our most critically acclaimed mystery writers returning to the fold (Howard Owen, David Freed, Baron R. Birtcher and co-publisher Chris Knopf), along with Connie Dial, Erik Mauritzson, and a host of new authors we'll be publishing for the first time.

Martin Shepard, Judith Shepard, Chris Knopf  
*catalog illustrations: Mac Shepard (August 10, 1907–May 14, 1972)*



# The Permanent Press

and **Second Chance Press**

# 2017

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## Falling into the Mob

Steve Zousmer

ISBN 978-1-57962-436-1

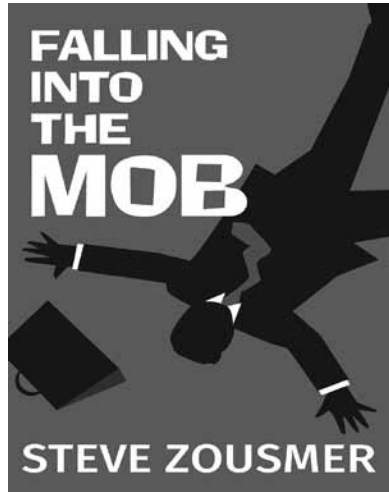
320 pp. \$29.95 cloth

At fifty-nine, facing a dull and lonely future, Phillip Vail yearns for a way to put vigor and purpose into his remaining years. Then he finds the Mafia.

While riding a commuter train, enjoying a chat with a younger woman sitting next to him, he encounters three violent drunks. Phil is powerless and terrified but the woman is neither; her father is the *caporegime* of New York's Sforza crime family and a quick call brings her three mobster brothers who deal out brutal punishment. Phil is appalled but fascinated. In subsequent contacts with the woman, he finds himself falling in love and deeper into the Mob. Then comes the game-changer: a crazy-seeming offer to become a crime boss himself, an offer he cannot refuse.

Phil sees the dark comedy in his situation but tells the story earnestly describing his emotions, reflections, and surprising leadership. As well as his adventures—including a sensational brawl with a Mafia kingpin in a posh Manhattan restaurant, a near-death experience in a karate dojo, and a spectacular stunt to force the hand of the FBI.

Meanwhile, his respectable life intrudes. An ex-client, the retired CEO of a blue-chip corporation, decides to run for president, with Phil as a key member of his staff. He must now find his way between two preposterously conflicting purposes: leading a crime family or serving a potential president. Which



is more worthy of his allegiance? Which offers a better life?

**STEVE ZOUSMER** spent half his career as a journalist, mainly with ABC News, and the other half as a freelance speechwriter for the CEOs or presidents of about thirty major corporations. His ABC assignments included chief writer of *Good Morning America* and *20/20*, senior producer of *Nightline*, and writer for Harry Reasoner and Peter Jennings. He also wrote documentaries for *Discovery*, *Audubon*, *Smithsonian World* and *National Geographic*. He is a graduate of Stanford and Columbia Universities and served as a United States Navy officer in Vietnam. He has written six books: two novels, three books on writing, and a Smithsonian book on evolution in the Galapagos.



### Our Marriage Counselor

Carl Tiktin

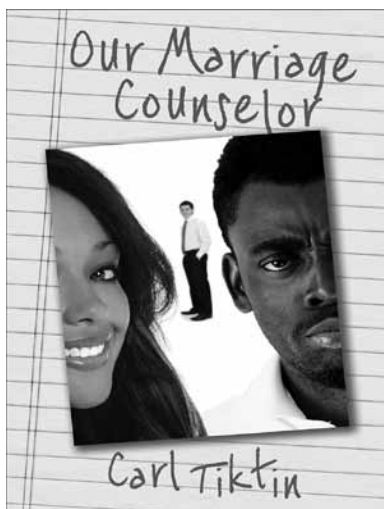
ISBN 978-1-57962-492-7

232 pp. \$28.00 cloth

Jonathan Meltzer, a marriage counselor at the Jamaica, Queens Family Center, falls in love with the wife of a married couple he is counseling. The husband, Thaddeus Carmichael, almost immediately discerns what is going on and decides to encourage a romance between his beautiful wife, Beverly, and Jonathan. Thaddeus wants to catch them doing something so that he can sue the hell out of the Jamaica Family Center and collect a huge financial settlement.

Jonathan further complicates his life by letting his infatuation for Beverly become known to his super-acerbic girlfriend, Arlene, during a fuzzy pot-filled interlude. Meanwhile, Jonathan's new-age shrink, Timothy Mitchell, in-between his own breakdowns, advises Jonathan to go right ahead and do what he has to do.

In addition to being a very funny novel, *Our Marriage Counselor* explores ethnic issues in a completely open, honest, and frank light. The novel plays around with normally heavy themes without itself being heavy in the least.



**CARL TIKTIN** was in his early forties when he started his career as a playwright after retiring from the insurance business. He had plays and readings at Playwrights Horizons, The New York Theatre Ensemble, The Direct Theatre, and the HB Studio. Then, much to his surprise, a play turned into a novel—*The Hourglass Man*, followed up by another novel, *Ron*, both published by Arbor House. Good-bye theatre! His short stories have appeared in the *GW Review*, *Hippocampus*, *IdeaGems*, and *Avalon Review*. He recently had another novel, *A Perception of Murder*, published by Oak Tree Press.

### The Third Hell

Connie Dial

ISBN 978-1-57962-494-1

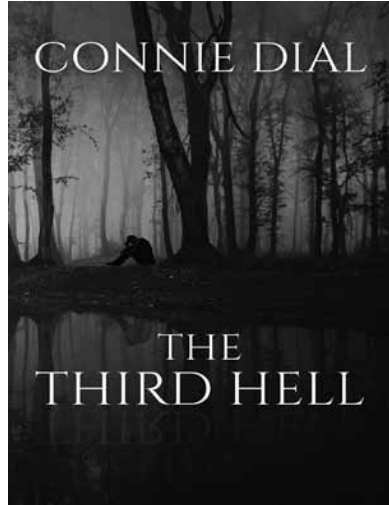
276 pp. \$29.00 cloth

With a bullet lodged too close to his heart, LAPD Detective Nino Angelo is no longer able to do the job he loves. He believes being forced to retire after a twenty-five-year career might be the worst thing that could happen, until his twelve-year-old son goes missing.

Matthew vanishes in the middle of the night from the Hollywood Hills condo of Nino's ex-wife, but Nino blames himself for the boy's disappearance, knowing his addiction to police work cost him his marriage and ruined any chance he had to be a real father.

School friends tell the police Mathew ran away, but none of his son's clothes or other belongings are missing. Nino's ex-wife is frantic but even his rusty police instincts are warning him both she and Mathew's friends are not being completely truthful.

After months of searching, he's unable to find a trace of his son. He looks in every Hollywood shelter and follows leads from homeless encampments along the Los Angeles River to the mansions north of the city in canyon country, his son's Catholic School, and finally to a children's home in Texas. The police department isn't helpful except for Charley Harper, a female detective at the Hollywood station, and Detective Reggie Madison, his ex-wife's current boyfriend. Reggie is a hard-charging cop and although Nino doesn't approve of the man's end-justifies-the-means approach to police work, he knows his help is crucial.



Nino's life is about to change. He goes through a personal hell and battles evil in unlikely places to find out what kind of man he really is.

**CONNIE DIAL** is a retired Los Angeles Police Department captain who spent nearly twenty-seven years working, among other assignments, narcotics enforcement in the Hollywood area. During that time she encountered young runaways forced to live on the streets and survive any way they could. Frequently parents had to face the heartbreak of never finding their children or the disappointment when they did.

*The Third Hell* is her seventh novel and, like the others, provides a look into that gritty street world usually only seen by cops. Dial's four installments in the Josie Corsino mystery series about a female captain in Hollywood and her first series about Detective Mike Turner also offer an authentic and exciting look into the drama, danger, and rewards of working in a big-city police department.

### The Mask of Sanity

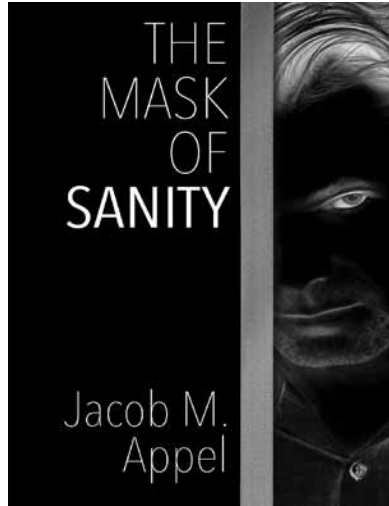
Jacob M. Appel

ISBN 978-1-57962-495-8

256 pp. \$28.00 cloth

On the outside, Dr. Jeremy Balint is a pillar of the community: the youngest division chief at his hospital, a model son to his elderly parents, fiercely devoted to his wife and two young daughters. On the inside, Dr. Jeremy Balint is a high-functioning sociopath—a man who truly believes himself to stand above the ethical norms of society. As long as life treats him well, Balint has no cause to harm others. When life treats him poorly, he reveals the depths of his cold-blooded depravity.

At a cultural moment when the media bombards us with images of so-called “sociopaths” who strive for good and criminals redeemed by repentance, *The Mask of Sanity* offers an antidote to implausible tales of “evil gone right.” In contrast to fictional predecessors like Dostoyevsky’s Raskolnikov and Camus’ Mersault, Dr. Balint is a man who already “has it all”—and will do everything in his power, no matter how immoral, to keep what he has.



**JACOB M. APPEL** is a physician, attorney, and bioethicist based in New York City. He is the author of six collections of short fiction, two novels, and a collection of essays. His short stories have been published in more than 200 journals and have been short-listed for the O. Henry Award, Best American Short Stories, Best American Mystery Stories, Best American Non-required Reading, and the Pushcart Prize anthology. His commentary on law, medicine, and ethics has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *New York Daily News*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit Free Press*, and many other major newspapers. He taught for many years at Brown University and currently teaches at the Gotham Writers’ Workshop and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

# MARCH

## God Bless Cambodia

Randy Ross

ISBN 978-1-57962-490-3

304 pp. \$29.95 cloth

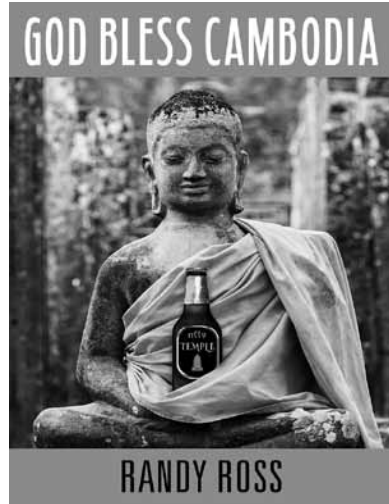
Randall Burns is forty-eight, out of a job, and tired of wasting his time pounding away on Match.com as if it were a game of Whac-A-Mole.

One day at a Barnes & Noble, he comes across a travel guidebook for single men with a unique itinerary and a titillating passage on vaginal thrush. Burns is no traveler: He hates public toilets, loud noises, weird smells, and people who sweat. Eventually, the call of the thrush, his fears of dying alone, and a snarky e-mail from ex-girlfriend Ricki, compel him to take the trip.

During his travels, Burns strikes out with women on three continents and suffers loneliness that would have broken Papillon. The only thing that keeps him from returning home is Ricki, who continues to e-mail, declaring her certainty that he's having a rotten time and won't last another week. She recounts his failures as a boyfriend, lover, and human being.

By the fourth continent, Burns accepts that he's going to die alone and the sooner, the better. He bungee-jumps, eats food from street carts, and visits a body spa named "The Curious Finger." He lets go of his germophobia and his quest for a woman, and begins to enjoy himself. Ricki e-mails again. She's now on antidepressants and sorry for her past behavior.

Is his luck with love about to change?



**RANDY ROSS** is a Boston-area writer, performer, and web consultant. His one-man show, "The Chronic Single's Handbook," has been featured at fringe theater festivals in the United States, Canada, and Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2007, he took a trip around the world and learned to say in three languages: "Speak English?" "Got Pepto-Bismol?" and "Where is the evacuation helicopter?" This is his first novel.

For more information, visit:  
[www.randyrossmedia.com](http://www.randyrossmedia.com)

## Play House

Saikat Majumdar

ISBN 978-1-57962-497-2

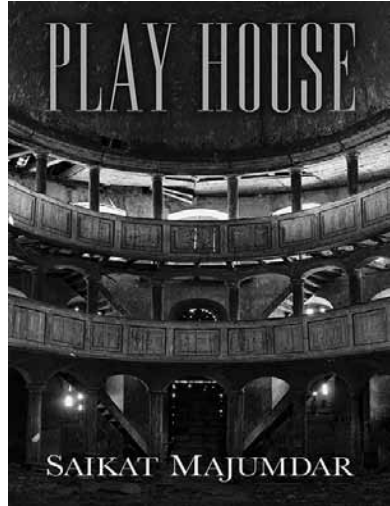
196 pp. \$28.00 cloth

For ten-year-old Ori, his mother's life as a theatre actress holds as much fascination as it does fear.

Approaching adolescence in an unstable home, he is haunted by her nightly stage appearances, and the suspicion and resentment her profession evokes in people around her, at home and among their neighbors. Increasingly consumed by an obsessive hatred of the stage, Ori is irrevocably drawn into a pattern of behavior that can only have catastrophic consequences.

Political bullies, actors and actresses, hairdressers, set boys and backstage crew make up the world of *Play House*, a haunting exploration of a young boy stumbling into adulthood far ahead of his years.

This is the first United States edition of one of the most widely read and acclaimed recent Indian works of literary fiction.



**SAIKAT MAJUMDAR** was born in Calcutta and was educated in India and the United States. He is the author of a novel, *Silverfish*, and a book of criticism, *Prose of the World*. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and teaches world literature at Stanford University.

## South California Purples

Baron R. Birtcher

ISBN 978-1-57962-500-2

242 pp. \$28.00 cloth

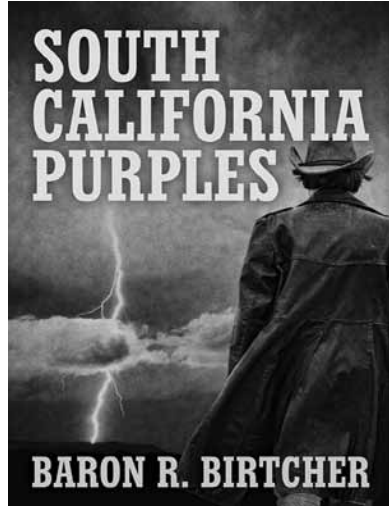
The year is 1973, and the last of America's soldiers are returning home from Vietnam, often shouted down and spat upon by protestors, while the first toxic cracks of public mistrust have begun to appear at the highest levels of government. The American Indian Movement has entered into a bloody occupation of Wounded Knee, gas shortages have pushed the economy into deep recession, and violent civil unrest is captured in living color and televised nightly on the evening news.

But rural Meriwether County, tucked away amid the sweeping river valleys and serrated mountain ridges of southern Oregon, has been left largely untouched by time. Until now.

Cattle rancher Ty Dawson, a complex man tormented by elements of his own past, is involuntarily conscripted to assist local law enforcement when a herd of wild mustangs is rounded up and corralled in anticipation of a government auction, igniting the passions of political activist Teresa Pineu, who threatens to fan the flames of an uprising that grows rapidly out of control.

As the past collides with the present, and hostility escalates into brutality and bloodshed, Ty is drawn into a complex web of predatory alliances and corruption where he must choose to stand and fight, or watch as the last remnants of the American West are consumed in a lawless conflagration of avarice and cruelty.

Set against the rugged backdrop of Oregon's vast ranchlands, *South California Purples* is a novel of loyalty, passion and murder, as seen through the eyes of a cast of unforgettable characters and crafted with



lyrical prose and dialogue. It is the first in a new series that weaves together the sometimes poignant, often violent, strains of the 1970s and the human costs of a nation in transition.

**BARON R. BIRTCHER** spent a number of years as a professional musician, and founded an independent record label and management company. Critics have hailed Baron's writing as "The real deal" (Publishers Weekly), and his plots as "Taut, gritty, and powerfully controlled" (Kirkus Reviews).

His first two novels (*Roadhouse Blues* and *Ruby Tuesday*) are *Los Angeles Times* and Independent Mystery Booksellers Association best sellers, and he has been nominated for a number of literary awards, including the Nero Award (*Hard Latitudes*), the Claymore and Silver Falchion Awards (*Rain Dogs*), and the Left Coast Crime "Lefty" Award (*Angels Fall*).

Baron currently divides his time between Portland, Oregon and Kona, Hawaii.

[www.BaronRBirtcher.com](http://www.BaronRBirtcher.com)

## The Coyote Hunter of Aquidneck Island

James Conroy

ISBN 978-1-57962-493-4

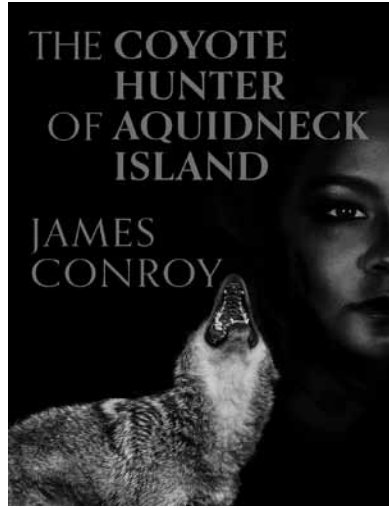
344 pp. \$29.95 cloth

Only when he meets a professional hunter does Micah LaVeck learn the most precious lessons about living.

His town on Aquidneck Island is beset with a flourishing coyote population. Residents are divided on how to cope. The mayor of Middletown offers a compromise: a lone professional hunter acting humanely and discreetly in concert with the Conservation Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Micah isn't the only one surprised when the hunter turns out to be a Native American from a local tribe, and a woman. For Micah, there is more to Kodi Red Moon than meets the eye, and he is intrigued. A relationship, however, seems improbable. He's an older bachelor, retired federal civil servant, and semi-incapacitated with a nerve and muscle disease. She's younger, athletic, exotic, and an army-trained sniper.

Her initial hunts are successful, but despite the mayor's attempt to curtail publicity, it's a small island. What isn't seen on town streets is observed over hedges and across ponds. Conflicting factions emerge on more than two sides. Local amateur hunters want their crack at the "fair game." Reporters scream freedom of the press and want details. As the entire operation starts to unravel, Kodi and Micah are bonding more and more each day and with each hunt. Nature is a force. So is love. They both have lessons to learn.



**JAMES CONROY** is a widely published author of a collection of poetry and six previous novels. A regular contributor to local, national, and international literary journals, he is often asked for editorial input and to judge contests. After careers in New York and Chicago, James currently resides with his wife, Helen, on Aquidneck Island, where he continues to write, edit, and tutor English, poetry, and creative writing. As a native Long Islander, he is very proud to be associated with The Permanent Press of Sag Harbor.

## Rare Birds

Kathleen Novak

ISBN 978-1-57962-498-9

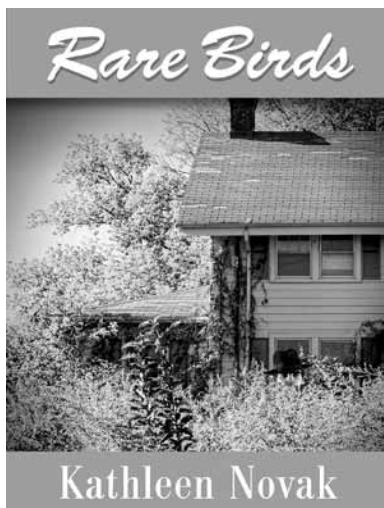
232 pp. \$28.00 cloth

On the very edge of nowhere, prospectors long ago found iron ore and mined it, and workers traveled from all over the world to settle and make their homes. It is against this historical backdrop that the characters in *Rare Birds* live out their desires and unfinished stories in the early summer of 1960.

Betty Larsen, raising her lover's daughter on her own, waits impatiently for him to return. Skinny old Gertrude, who rounds the block headlong a dozen times a day, hears the bugs beneath the cut grass and the hysteria of a new season happening. And on the next block, Nicky Marodi, just returned from a state hospital for the mentally ill, lurches along in his new freedom. It is the first day of summer vacation and the trees have blossomed in the brightest green.

Meanwhile, three neighborhood girls band together to explore an abandoned house, where they find mysteries in every room, half-packed boxes, what looks like blood, and the mementos of lives they try to imagine. But theirs is not the only mystery.

In fact, mysteries and secrets abound. Betty's lover does not return. Gertrude suddenly experiences a longing she has never known and the girls encounter glints of magic that change each of them unexpectedly. Even in June. Even as a band of marauding teenage hoodlums invade their block, Nicky lands in jail, and the old Italians tend their gardens, claiming the land as their own.



A poetic and luscious paean of a particular place and time, *Rare Birds* interweaves the stories of these odd and dear characters, who could not have guessed they would be so well remembered.

**KATHLEEN NOVAK** is a poet and writer who grew up on the iron mining range of northern Minnesota, the granddaughter of Italian and Croatian immigrants. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, she is the author of the highly praised novel *Do Not Find Me*, released in 2016. Her poems have been published in small literary magazines nationally and have won recognition in contests as diverse as the AAUW and New York Public Radio. Ms. Novak lives in Minneapolis.



### The Devil's Triangle

Howard Owen

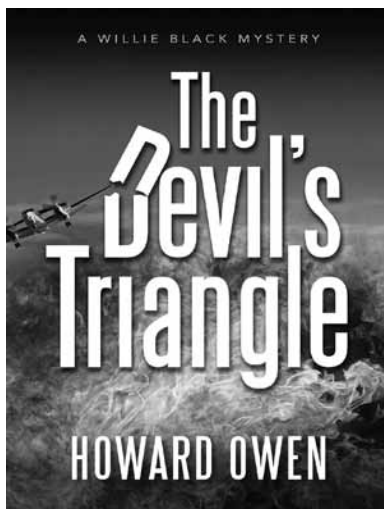
ISBN 978-1-57962-499-6

254 pp. \$28.00 cloth

When a twin-engine Beechcraft crashes into one of Richmond's watering holes and turns happy hour into Hell, theories run rampant. Was it terrorists who, for some reason, decided to vent their spleens on unsuspecting Richmond? Was it a statement by homegrown killers less-than-thrilled that the city still, in the twenty-first century, chooses to honor Confederate leaders on its most prominent avenue?

The obvious answers though, just don't pan out. All the shoot-from-the-hip purveyors of vigilante justice have to stand down when it becomes clear that the pilot of the suicide plane was a disaffected former Richmonder, David Biggio, with no known links to any terrorist organizations foreign or domestic. For Willie Black, the daily newspaper's hard-charging, hard-drinking night cops reporter, the question still remains: Why?

To complicate matters, one of the victims of the kamikaze crash was the present husband of Willie's third ex-wife, Kate. Willie's reconnection with her is placing his present relationship with the lovely Cindy Peroni on shaky ground. And, as the newspaper business continues on a death spiral that seems to rival Biggio's last flight, the city's most intrepid reporter wonders just how long a fifty-something guy with authority issues can hope to draw a weekly paycheck. New ownership of the paper looms, and Willie comes to realize that sometimes things are darkest just before they get pitch black.



Willie's search for the truth eventually leads him to a small town on the Chesapeake where David Biggio spent his last years. There, Willie will eventually learn what drove a deranged man to commit an act of seemingly anonymous mayhem. And, as has often been the case in the past, he will find that the answers he seeks can come at a high price.

This is **HOWARD OWEN's** fifteenth novel, and the sixth starring intrepid night police reporter Willie Black. Like Willie, Owen has been a longtime newspaperman, working at everything from reporter to sports editor to editorial pages editor. He has been writing fiction since Jan. 1, 1989. He and his wife, Karen, live in Richmond and often bump into Willie in the dives and joints that they all enjoy.

## Spice Trade

Erik Mauritzson

ISBN 978-1-57962-496-5

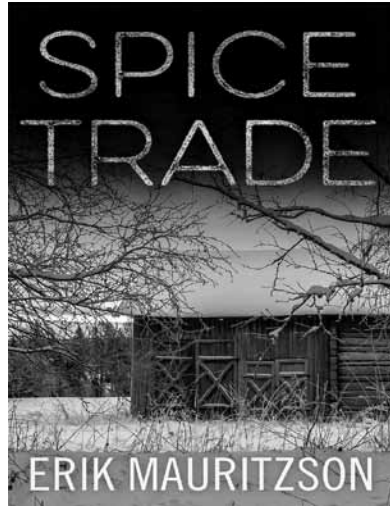
330 pp. \$29.95 cloth

When a terrified woman falls from a rooftop across the street, Sweden's Chief Superintendent Walther Ekman is unexpectedly thrust into an international investigation that threatens to end with his death.

As the search deepens, Ekman and his team gradually uncover a multinational drug and human trafficking ring with an influential clientele. After an unexpected Moroccan connection is made, Ekman is led to a remote farmhouse prison outside Stockholm that held kidnapped women, where he discovers that a Moroccan confederate has exacted a terrible revenge.

With his friends from the Criminal Investigations Department, Garth Rystrom and Valdis Granholm, Ekman travels to Morocco to rescue five trafficked witnesses and uncover the foreign assassin. They find themselves in the middle of a politically sensitive operation to close down the ring, becoming targets for the vindictive head of the Moroccan network.

Although his investigation of the traffickers has ended successfully, Ekman is still hunting for the hidden murderer he knows must be somewhere out there.



**ERIK MAURITZSON**, an attorney, has worked as a court administrator, central bank official, financial consultant, university professor, editor-in-chief of a legal publishing house, newspaper columnist, and military intelligence specialist. Compulsively curious about the world, he's traveled throughout Sweden and thirty-two other countries, living for a year in a Japanese fishing village in northern Hokkaido. *Spice Trade* is his second mystery novel featuring Chief Superintendent Walther Ekman.

### Tango Down

Chris Knopf

ISBN 978-1-57962-501-6

264 pp. \$29.00 cloth

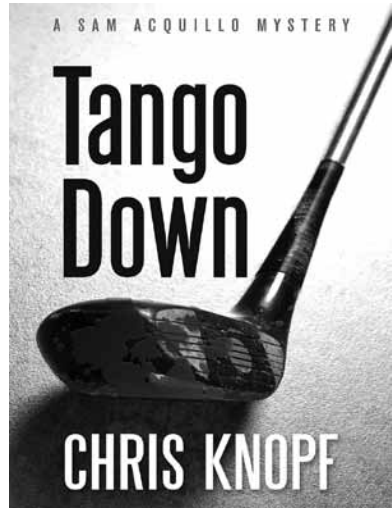
A routine visit to one of Sam Acquillo's job sites becomes anything but. The home's owner, Victor Bollings, is lying in a pool of blood, the back of his head bashed in. One of Sam's closest friends in the cabinetry trade is quickly behind bars as the obvious suspect. For the cops, this is all standard operating procedure. But as it turns out, nothing about the case is routine, obvious or standard in any way.

Sam and defense attorney Jackie Swaitkowski are used to an uneasy, though often reciprocal, relationship with law enforcement. But when the chief of police tells Sam to stay the hell away, this time he really means it. For Sam and Jackie, words like this are highly motivational, until strange new forces emerge from the shadows. Forces from well beyond the borders of Southampton, from worlds as sinister as they are unfathomable.

That doesn't mean Sam and Jackie still don't have a job to do. And a responsibility to defend the utterly defenseless: a Colombian immigrant with no legal status, no political power and no alibi, with the full weight of the judicial system—local, state, national and international—arrayed against him.

The eighth edition of the Sam Acquillo Mystery Series disrupts the illusion that the Hamptons are safely immune from the struggles that enflame much of the world. It's an examination of how fear of the unknown ignites prejudice and hate, overturning norms of decency and principle.

For Sam and Jackie, it's also a lesson in the interconnectedness of evil.



*Back Lash*, CHRIS KNOPF's seventh Sam Acquillo Mystery Series published in 2016, received a starred review from *Booklist*. It followed *Cop Job* in 2015. *The Last Refuge* (2005) was a finalist for *The Connecticut Book Award*. In 2007, *Two Time* was one of thirteen mysteries listed in the "Recommended Summer Reading" column in *The New York Times Book Review*. *Head Wounds* won the 2008 Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Mystery.

*Dead Anyway* featuring off-the-grid sleuth Arthur Cathcart received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *Library Journal* and was named a Best Crime Novel of 2012 by the *Boston Globe* and won the 2013 Nero Award. The sequels, *Cries of the Lost* and *A Billion Ways To Die*, were released in 2013 and 2014. His short story, *Kill Switch*, was short-listed for the 2016 Derringer Award. Other stories are slated to appear in the Akashic Noir Series and *Alfred Hitchcock Magazine*.

### The Running War

E. L. Carter

ISBN 978-1-57962-510-8

264 pp. \$29.00 cloth

*“There is no place on this round planet where I can run that will be any farther than the next place—any place will eventually spin on its axis until it reaches the point of departure.”*

War can live deep inside a family, long after the combat has come and gone. With a poet’s voice, E.L. Carter evokes that generational echo in the story of one grieving young woman who is trying to find her birthright.

Maddy has been running. She has run from her home, her family, and her lovers. Then her brother suicides after being injured in the Iraq war, leaving her a mysterious note about a gift. With the help of an old family friend, she begins to explore her brother’s story and her family history.

As she works to uncover what her brother has left her, she finds herself in the middle of a parallel mystery: the legacy of her grandmother, a Gypsy holocaust survivor who has been ostracized by the family. In order to accept her brother’s gift, Maddy eventually discovers that she must stop, listen, and face generations of women’s war trauma that bridge Europe, the U.S., and the Middle East.

Part mystery, part meditation, *The Running War* weaves together narratives into a whole that asks as many questions as it answers. What does an enemy mean? How do we survive suffering? What is the women’s legacy of war that imbeds itself in generation after



generation? Lyrical and haunting, *The Running War* is ultimately a call toward healing intergenerational trauma, no matter the source.

**ELIZABETH L. CARTER** has an undergraduate degree in creative writing and a master’s degree in psychology. As a psychotherapist she has stood witness to the remarkable human capacity for healing from trauma. She currently lives in Hawaii, where she writes, and homeschools her son. This is her first novel.

### The Kill Circle

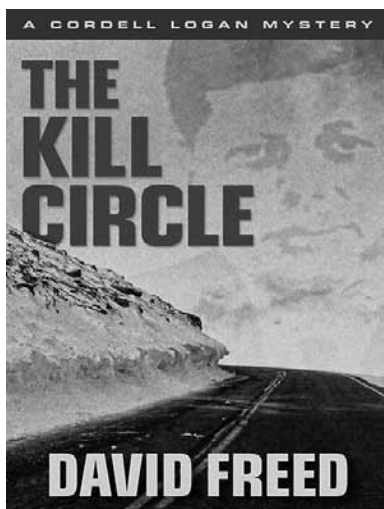
David Freed

ISBN 978-1-57962-511-5

280 pp. \$29.00 cloth

When retired senior CIA analyst Rico Perris plunges off a cliff in his vintage Porsche while speeding through the mountains of Colorado late one snowy night, the local sheriff rules it an accident. CIA officials, however, suspect otherwise. Their suspicions are soon heightened after two other former intelligence analysts turn up dead under questionable circumstances. All three victims were once assigned to the same top-secret project—an internal review of the CIA's long-rumored involvement in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Now, with a Congressional mandate about to go into effect compelling the CIA to release long-secret files relating to the assassination, there is growing concern that a shrewd and ruthless killer is on the loose, one who will stop at nothing to prevent the public from discovering the truth of what happened that tragic day in Dallas in November, 1963.

Veteran pilot, aspiring Buddhist and ex-government assassin Cordell Logan has little interest in helping his former comrade-in-arms, Buzz, who still works in the intelligence community, investigate what looks increasingly like a vexing conspiracy. Content to operate his small civilian flight school in the swanky seaside resort of Rancho Bonita, California, Logan would just as soon be left alone—that is, until Buzz introduces him to Layne Sterling, a brilliant and beautiful CIA agent assigned to the case. Logan is instantly drawn to her. Working



together while pretending to ignore their simmering mutual attraction, they soon find themselves caught up in a high-stakes, high-altitude cat-and-mouse game, one that in the end could destroy them both.

Fast-paced, brimming with action and humor, *The Kill Circle* is a page-turner of the first order, the sixth offering in a series of mystery-thrillers that has earned Cordell Logan and author David Freed a legion of loyal readers and critics alike.

**DAVID FREED** is an instrument-rated pilot, contributing editor at *Air & Space Smithsonian* magazine, and a former Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*. David has also worked extensively within the United States intelligence community. He splits his time between Santa Barbara, California, and Fort Collins, Colorado, where he is an adjunct professor of journalism at Colorado State University.

Visit David at:

[www.david-freed.com](http://www.david-freed.com)

### The Eulogist

Jeffrey B. Burton

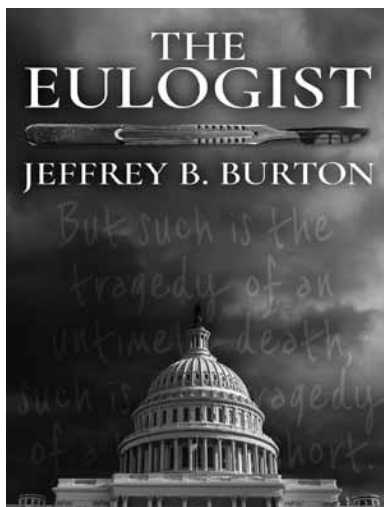
ISBN 978-1-57962-502-3

260 pp. \$29.00 cloth

FBI Special Agent Drew Cady is reluctantly drawn into investigating the assassination of a sitting United States Senator. Strangely, the senator's death is linked to a murdered Baltimore junkie with an identical M.O.—a single stab wound to the heart and a typed eulogy left at the scene.

As Agent Cady deals with a professional hitman known only as the Canadian, a breakthrough Alzheimer's drug, a misanthropic hacker, and a Mexican drug cartel, he peels back the layers of deceit and comes to realize that even the reddest of red herrings can bite.

And unfortunately for all involved, the killings have just begun.



**JEFFREY B. BURTON** was born in Long Beach, California, grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received his BA in Journalism at the University of Minnesota. Novels in Burton's Agent Drew Cady mystery series include *The Chessman*, *The Lynchpin*, and *The Eulogist*. His short stories have appeared in dozens of magazines. Jeff is a member of the Mystery Writers of America (MWA), International Thriller Writers (ITW), the International Association of Crime Writers, the Horror Writers Association (HWA), and MNArtists.org. Jeff lives in St. Paul with his wife, daughter, and an irate Pomeranian named Lucy.

[www.JeffreyBBurton.com](http://www.JeffreyBBurton.com)

## NOVEMBER

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### No Direction Rome

*Kaushik Barua*

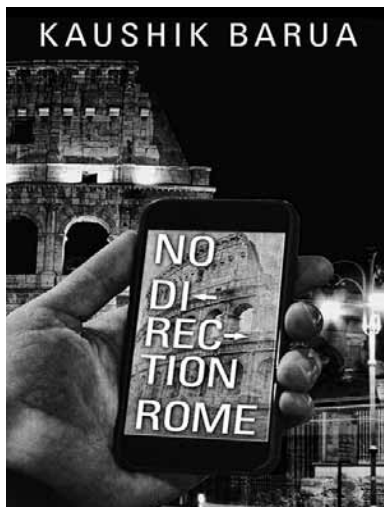
ISBN 978-1-57962-512-2

200 pp. \$28.00 cloth

Krantik is cynical, jaded, and utterly bored. He's also a paranoid hypochondriac. As an Indian working in Rome, he drifts in and out of dead-end relationships with the assistance of several intoxicants and a short-lived love affair.

His personal revelations and delusions of grandeur—exquisitely funny and devastatingly poignant, sometimes descending into barbaric crudeness—expose the hollowness of social mores and the anxieties of a rootless generation. The obsessive solipsism, the protean cultural associations, and the wry, unexpected observations scattered through the book capture the confused apathy of the 'millennials.' This is a clever, bizarre tour de force, part noir, part philosophy and filled with the entirely unexpected.

Jack Kerouac meets James Joyce meets Harold and Kumar meets Jonathan Lethem in this wildly inventive portrait of a generation.



**KAUSHIK BARUA** is the winner of the *Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar* (the Young Writer Award from the Indian National Academy of Letters). His writing has appeared in *The Hindu*, *The Guardian*, *Open Democracy* and other international publications. He has lived in Rome for most of the last decade.

## BACKLIST

The following titles from both **The Permanent Press** and its **Second Chance Press** imprint are arranged alphabetically by author. (See pages 67–72 for alphabetical listing by title.)

### **A Thinking Man's Bully**

*Michael Adelberg*

\$26 cloth 190pp ISBN 978-1-57962-228-2

"The author, a 'reformed high school troublemaker,' offers a fresh perspective on bullying by seamlessly intertwining the actions, the results, and the lasting consequences of brutality into a novel brimming with personality and narrative brio."

—*Publishers Weekly*

### **Saving the Hooker**

*Michael Adelberg*

\$28 cloth 192pp ISBN 978-1-57962-368-5

"A funny tale of a lazy and unprincipled postdoc whose brain resides firmly in his crotch. There is plenty to like in Adelberg's comic romp, which also has a serious undercurrent: Who says a hooker needs saving, anyway? And what business is it of a man? This one's well-crafted and enjoyable if you're up for a rather raunchy read."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

### **Castle Garden**

*Bill Albert*

\$28 cloth 346pp ISBN 1-877946-67-2

"In 1898, an 11-year-old runs from home, hides out with 'Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show,' meets Wobblie leader Big Bill Haywood, and famous and infamous others who cross the boy's path. A rip-roaring saga."

—*Publishers Weekly*

### **Desert Blues**

*Bill Albert*

\$24 cloth 188pp ISBN 1-877946-49-4

\$16 paper ISBN 1-877946-65-6

"A funny first novel pairs an awkward orphaned adolescent immersed in 1950's

rock 'n' roll and an unconventional 'kept' woman." —*Publishers Weekly*

### **Locus Amoenus**

*Victoria N. Alexander*

\$28 cloth 192pp ISBN 978-1-57962-391-3

"Locus Amoenus, is set in Amenia and relates the story of a modern-day Hamlet whose father died in 9/11. It is a scathing commentary on government-subsidized food programs in schools, low-level abuses of authority in local government and the destructive effects of war and pharmaceuticals." —*The Millbrook Independent*

### **Naked Singularity**

*Victoria N. Alexander*

\$24 cloth 190pp ISBN 1-57962-078-7

A provocative tale about a daughter's choice to assist her father's death from cancer is "touching and stunningly well written." —*CityLink Magazine*

### **Smoking Hopes**

*Victoria N. Alexander*

\$24 cloth 208pp ISBN 1-877946-69-9

"The narrator of this stunning first novel works as a hostess in a club for Japanese businessmen. A well-crafted bittersweet story." —*San Antonio Express-News*

**Washington Prize for Fiction**

### **Give My Heart Ease**

*Grace Andreacchi*

\$24 cloth 224pp ISBN 0-932966-90-X

"A graphic, moving first novel about a beautiful young woman caught in a sado-masochistic love affair." —*Kirkus Reviews*

**New American Writing Award**

### **How to Beat the System**

*Denison Andrews*

\$28 cloth 284pp ISBN 0-932966-74-8

"This trenchant cultural satire examines the life of a '60s dropout who stayed dropped-out." —*Kirkus Reviews*



## Callgirl

*Jeannette Angell*

\$26 cloth 248pp ISBN 1-57962-110-4  
“An engrossing, no-holds-barred story of a college lecturer by day and a callgirl by night.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

a Book Sense selection

## Madam

*Jeannette Angell*

\$18 paper 226pp ISBN 978-1-57962-116-2  
“A sympathetic biography of the madam of the escort service Angell worked for.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

## Someplace Like This

*Renée Ashley*

\$26 cloth 192pp ISBN 1-57962-090-6  
“A woman must put herself back together after being estranged from her second husband. A fine work about the ebb and flow of relationships.” —*Library Journal*  
a Book Sense selection

## Entering Ephesus

*Daphne Athas*

\$26 paper 440pp ISBN 0-933256-79-5  
“A large novel within a well-known Southern landscape: the fire which is in its belly is considerable, is largely female and Promethean, amoral, devouring, a seeking of height in the perverse depths.”

—*Times Literary Supplement*  
New American Writing Award

## Nakamura Reality

*Alex Austin*

\$29 cloth 272pp ISBN 978-1-57962-409-5  
“Hugh Mcpherson, the hero of Alex Austin’s first novel, is at an Oceanside, Calif., beach with his 11-year-old twin sons when a chance encounter with a former girlfriend distracts him. A short time later, the boys are gone. Austin’s writing is powerful and moving, whether he’s describing Hugh’s heartrending quest or quoting passages from the novel within the novel.

The book’s interplay between fantasy and reality demands close attention, but readers who make the effort will be more than amply rewarded.” —*Publishers Weekly*

## Revelation of Fire

*Alla Avilova*

\$28 cloth 288pp ISBN 978-1-57962-168-1  
“A Dutch scholar and a female archivist discover that a two hundred year old manuscript is missing from Moscow’s Historical Archive. The story includes Russian history, art, politics and religion.”  
—*Around the World in Books*

## Alone in the Valley

*Kenneth Waymon Baker*

\$28 cloth 296pp ISBN 1-877946-17-6  
“What distinguishes this novel about an infantryman in Vietnam is the touching naiveté of its young hero, caught up in something monstrous, trying merely to survive.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

## Houri

*Mehrdad Balali*

\$29 cloth 304pp ISBN 978-1-57962-177-3  
“Journalist Balali’s bitter first novel about Iran, from which he is now banned, contrasts his native country before and after the Islamic revolution. Comparisons to *The Kite Runner* are unavoidable.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

## Mr. Right

*Carolyn Banks*

\$25 cloth 256pp ISBN 0-933256-91-4  
“A too smart for her job teacher at a community college is constantly looking for love in all the wrong places. That her Mr. Right turns out to be a reclusive novelist and self-confessed murderer works well as a plot.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

## Love in Atlantis

*Bonnie L. Barrett*

\$24 cloth 182pp ISBN 0-933256-77-9

"This appealing novel charts the rites of passage of a 14-year-old, in a little beach town, recalling life in the '30s with affection."  
—*Publishers Weekly*

### **After Byron**

*Norman Beim*

\$28 cloth 192pp ISBN 978-1-57962-387-6

"This quaint epistolary novel is steeped in the lore of Lord Byron and his scandalous exploits. Beim gives his tale a believable period texture by referring throughout to Gothic literature and incidents in Byron's life. We follow a likable rogue with old-fashioned swagger, and his adventures will appeal to readers of historical fiction."  
—*Publishers Weekly*

### **The Man On The Third Floor**

*Anne Bernays*

\$26 cloth 184pp ISBN 978-1-57962-285-5

"A middle-aged and apparently happy married man finds himself falling in love with another man. Witty, full of surprises, sharp as a pin, above all a suspenseful and unexpected exploration of the intricacies and complications of the human heart."  
—*Michael Korda, Author of Her*

### **Upstate**

*Sallie Bingham*

\$16 paper 128pp ISBN 1-877946-50-8

"A woman's obsession drives an affair out of control, violating social contracts and devastating the people in its path. Impressive."  
—*Library Journal*

### **Rain Dogs**

*Baron R. Birtcher*

\$29 cloth 288pp ISBN 978-1-57962-318-0

"White-knuckle tension and crisp, clean prose distinguish this outstanding stand-alone from Birtcher. The narrator is running a small-scale marijuana operation in California, until bandits raid his farm. He flees to Mexico, where he collides with

the local drug lord. Many books call themselves thrillers, but this is the real deal."

—*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

### **Hard Latitudes**

*Baron R. Birtcher*

\$29.95 cloth 336pp ISBN 978-1-57962-390-6

"Birtcher returns to his Mike Travis series in this fast-paced mystery. It's 2004, and a panicked call from his brother reunites him with the families of fortune he turned his back on when he became a cop. Fans will hope that Birtcher's engaging series has a long life."  
—*Booklist*

*finalist 2016 Nero Award; winner Silver*

**Falchion Mystery Award**

### **Fluke**

*Martin Blinder*

\$24 cloth 216pp ISBN 1-57962-017-5

"Skillfully recreates the romance of President Warren G. Harding with a woman half his age, while depicting an era that was notorious for financial chicanery."

—*Publishers Weekly*

### **Transvaal Episode**

*Harry Bloom*

\$22 paper 320pp ISBN 0-933256-25-6

"Bloom's novel about the grisly aspects of life in apartheid South Africa is a classic of modern literature and deserves a wide audience."  
—*Booklist*

### **The Night Battles**

*M.F. Bloxam*

\$28 cloth 240pp ISBN 978-1-57962-171-6

"Bloxam delivers fine Sicilian literary horror in the vein of Tom Piccirilli and Sara Gran. Her ornate prose is the perfect complement to her complex heroine and the creepy goings-on in this eerie novel."  
—*Publishers Weekly*

*finalist ForeWord Magazine's*

**Book of the Year Award, 2008**

## **A Richer Dust**

*Amy Boaz*

\$26 cloth 184pp ISBN 978-1-57962-159-9

“Based on D.H. Lawrence’s 1924 pilgrimage to Taos, N.M. where he hoped to create an artist’s Utopia, Boaz’s diamond-cut debut follows Doll, a shy, near-deaf painter who accompanied him, where she finds love with a younger man.”

—*Entertainment Weekly*

*finalist ForeWord Magazine’s  
Book of the Year Award, 2008*

## **Beat**

*Amy Boaz*

\$26 cloth 198pp ISBN 978-1-57962-186-5

“A woman caught between stifling domesticity and passion flees to Paris, where she and her daughter have come to escape the drama back home. A compelling picture of love and its attendant travails.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

## **Redeeming Eve**

*Nicole Bokal*

\$24 cloth 224pp ISBN 1-57962-064-7

“When a literature scholar tries to model her hectic life on the elegant world of Jane Austen, chaos ensues. A juicy book.”

—*McCall’s*

## **The Great Equalizer**

*Rick Borsten*

\$24 paper 334pp ISBN 1-579622-10-7

Can a young man find love and fulfillment in a home for retarded adults? “A tender, loving story and a ringing reaffirmation of life.”

—*Chicago Sun-Times*

**New American Writing Award  
Oregon Book Award**

## **Living Doll**

*Jane Bradley*

\$24 cloth 202pp ISBN 1-877946-54-0

“A literary gem capturing the reality of sexual abuse in a boldly different way. Powerful insights.”

—*Alida Brill*

## **East Justice**

*Melanie Braverman*

\$24 cloth 133pp ISBN 1-877946-72-9

“An exquisite evocation of loneliness and desire.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

## **A Selfish Woman**

*Christopher Brookhouse*

\$24 cloth 144pp ISBN 1-57962-036-1

“Brookhouse writes about a breast cancer survivor and her year long relationship with a younger man, beautifully capturing her acute sensibility to the passing seasons.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

## **Dear Otto**

*Christopher Brookhouse*

\$24 cloth 160pp ISBN 1-877946-63-X

“With quirky elegance Brookhouse highlights the interplay between reality, fiction, and creativity while telling the story of three writers at a summer workshop.”

—*Library Journal*

## **Silence**

*Christopher Brookhouse*

\$16 paper 152pp ISBN 978-1-57962-179-7

“A haunting novel of interlaced secrets, suggesting how much goes unspoken: affairs, adoption, abortion. A memorable story by a writer who understands women better than most women understand themselves.”

—*Doris Betts*

## **A Studied Madness**

*Heywood Hale Broun*

\$28 cloth 298pp ISBN 0-933256-00-0

“The most ruefully articulate, inside look at the American theater in years.”

—*John Barkham*

## **An Unclean Act**

*Dean Burgess*

\$26 cloth 254pp ISBN 1-57962-046-9

“A well-researched tale of love and faith in 17th-century Massachusetts, this novel will help shake the dust from Puritan history books.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

**a Book Sense selection**

## Writer-in-Residence

*Herbert Burkholz*

\$28 cloth 310pp ISBN 1-877946-11-7

“A writer-in-residence tells his graduate students about a fictional American painter living in Ibiza. Kaleidoscopic and rewarding.” —*Booklist*

## Attic Light

*Carol Burnham*

\$24 cloth 192pp ISBN 1-877946-88-5

“Infused with light and powered by darkness: the light of Greece, of California, and the darkness of history, myth, and deep passion. This novel is a feast for the senses.” —*Alison Anderson*

## Townie

*John Butman*

\$24 cloth 192pp ISBN 1-57962-080-9

“This inventive novel that approaches almost any situation as a comedy of manners is built around the art of the deal, as a rich resident of a New England village takes in a homeless narrator and makes him his butler.” —*Publishers Weekly*

## The Dissemblers

*Liza Campbell*

\$28 cloth 200pp ISBN 978-1-57962-205-3

“A female art-school graduate chasing the muse of Georgia O’Keeffe in Santa Fe is drawn into a forgery ring. An affecting novel that draws emotional resonance from the parallels she sees between her life and O’Keeffe’s.” —*Kirkus Reviews*  
*finalist 2011 ForeWord Magazine*

**Book of the Year Award**

## Millersberg

*Harry Cauley*

\$26 cloth 206pp ISBN 1-57962-133-3

“A chilling, beautifully characterized account of a family torn apart after a dual murder strikes their small New Jersey town on the eve of World War II. Heartfelt and soundly crafted.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

**a Book Sense selection**

## Dobryd

*Ann Charney*

\$16 paper 172pp ISBN 978-1-57962-289-3

“An illuminating, unsentimental, autobiographical novel of a young Jewish girl when she, her mother and aunt are liberated by Soviet soldiers after years of hiding from the Nazis.” —*Library Journal*

## Rousseau’s Garden

*Ann Charney*

\$24 cloth 207pp ISBN 1-57962-033-7

“A lovely little gem with insights for one’s own life.” —*Library Journal*

## Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper

*Harriet Scott Chessman*

\$24 cloth 176pp ISBN 1-58322-272-3

“An entrancing novel. Like Mary Cassatt’s art, its odd angles and delicate, inevitable details make themselves felt long after finishing this fine period piece.” —*Newsday*

**a Book Sense selection**

## Ohio Angels

*Harriet Scott Chessman*

*licensed to Seven Stories Press*

\$16.00 paper ISBN 1-57962-071-X

“When Virginia Greaves takes an overdose of sleeping pills, her daughter returns and recognizes that opening up the chambers of the past is the only way to move on.” —*Publishers Weekly*

## Kuperman’s Fire

*John J. Clayton*

\$28 cloth 304pp ISBN 978-1-57962-152-0

“On the cusp of a hoped-for merger with Chemicorp, Michael Kuperman learns that they are making chemicals for nefarious clients. A morality tale combining thriller elements and Michael’s resonant, Jewish legacy.” —*Publishers Weekly*

## **The Man I Never Wanted To Be**

*John J. Clayton*

\$24 cloth 230pp ISBN 1-57962-014-0

\$16 paper ISBN 1-57962-057-4

"A harrowing novel about a fascinatingly flawed, arrogantly 'nice' character who is pulled into events that cause him to question his basic beliefs about himself, including the belief that he is not the murdering kind." —*Publishers Weekly*

## **KAL Flight 007: The Hidden Story**

*Oliver Clubb*

\$24 cloth 182pp ISBN 1-57962-136-8

"I have reached the conclusion that the charges in this concise, splendid study are true. A bombshell." —*Newsday*

## **Seasons**

*Judith Beth Cohen*

\$24 cloth 224pp ISBN 0-932966-23-1

"In the '60s, the counter-culture ran head on into radical New England individualism. Cohen has caught its significance better than anyone I know."

—*Hayden Carruth*

## **Life Goes Sleeping**

*Reed Farrel Coleman*

\$20 paper 230pp ISBN 978-157962-192-6

"This hard-boiled detective novel, with salty, quick-witted dialogue recalls pulp fiction of the 40's." —*Publishers Weekly*

## **Little Easter**

*Reed Farrel Coleman*

\$18 paper 221pp ISBN 1-57962-139-2

"A somber and gripping crime story."

—*Publishers Weekly*

## **They Don't Play Stickball in Milwaukee**

*Reed Farrel Coleman*

\$16 paper 208pp ISBN 1-57962-016-7

"A mystery with good lines and a sound sense of pacing." —*Boston Globe*

## **Walking the Perfect Square**

*Reed Farrel Coleman*

\$20 paper 264pp ISBN 978-1-57962-290-9

"Coleman blows the dust off mystery conventions with a mystery that would get under anyone's skin." —*New York Times*

a **Book Sense** selection

## **Gulf Stream North**

*Earl Conrad*

\$26 cloth 248pp ISBN 0-933256-13-2

\$18 paper ISBN 0-933256-17-5

"A graphic recounting of five days at sea. The crew is black, the captain white, but all are bound together in the mystique and commerce of fishing. A first class reissue." —*San Diego Union*

## **Fellow Travelers**

*James Cook*

\$18 paper 240pp ISBN 1-57962-052-3

"This compelling novel based on Armand Hammer, oil magnate, bootlegger, self-proclaimed friend of Lenin, and world class womanizer provides an intriguing glimpse into the Soviet Russia of Lenin and Stalin." —*Forbes Magazine*

## **The Gesture**

*John Cobb Cooper*

\$28 cloth 253pp ISBN 0-933256-69-8

"A provocative novel about a bomber squadron based in England during World War II. Below the surface it touches nerves of military competence and racial bigotry." —*Publishers Weekly*

## **The Sorcerer**

*Anne Eliot Crompton*

\$24 cloth 176pp ISBN 0-933256-36-1

"This classic of children's historical fiction recreates the life of prehistoric hunters who roamed the world 50,000 years ago. A rare book, entertaining for older readers as well." —*Booklist*

## Exiles

*M. Cruz*

\$28 cloth 294pp ISBN 0-932966-71-3  
“In Jordan, a diplomat’s wife is attracted to a Muslim bureaucrat. Their affair is an authentic exploration of the harsh contradictions of marriage, friendship, and personal identity.” —*Library Journal*

## The Geometry of Love

*Joan Fay Cuccio*

\$24 cloth 172pp ISBN 1-877946-82-6  
“Darcy is fleeing her estranged husband, whom she left lying in the wreckage of her kitchen. Her halting courage and uncommon longing will disturb the reader for a long time.” —*Publishers Weekly*  
*finalist Oklahoma Book Award*

## Branches

*Mitch Cullin*

\$24 cloth 198pp ISBN 1-5796-061-2  
“A chillingly effective novel-in-verse told by a murderous Texas sheriff who is bound to remind readers of the narrator of Thompson’s 1952 classic, *The Killer Inside Me*.” —*Ellery Queen*

## The Cosmology of Bing

*Mitch Cullin*

\$24 cloth 208pp ISBN 1-57962-030-2  
“Sexual confusion and academic infighting abound in this comic novel about an aging astronomy professor. It has enough edge to keep it poking away at your memory.” —*New York Times*

## Undersurface

*Mitch Cullin*

\$24 cloth 166pp ISBN 1-57962-077-9  
“Cullin uses a true story to record the unraveling of a high school English teacher as he moves inexorably from heterosexual life to a gay nightlife, and ultimately to murder.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

## Whompyjawed

*Mitch Cullin*

\$16 paper 188pp ISBN 978-1-57962-199-5  
“Cullin has created the loneliness and emptiness of a small West Texas town, with a vivid sense of place and time that stays with you.” —*Horton Foote*  
**Notable Book, American Library Assoc.**

## Concrete Carnival

*Danner Darcleight*

\$29.95 cloth 320pp ISBN 978-1-57962-437-8  
“Concrete Carnival is a shocking but important book, arguably one of the most literate and insightful disclosures about incarceration to come along in a while. It’s a scorching personal narrative written in a conversational, dispassionate voice by a man serving twenty-five-to-life for a heroin-fueled double murder, but Darcleight’s not looking for absolution. He knows he’ll feel guilt and remorse forever. The best he can do now is trust to the promise of his name: dark-light.” —*NPR*

## Hitler, Mussolini, and Me

*Charles Davis*

\$28 cloth 232pp ISBN 978-1-57962-432-3  
“Davis’ novel is a hilarious scatological satire starring an Irish art historian living in 1938 Rome, which reduces the two most notorious dictators to their most base selves, known as the Flatulent Windbag and the Constipated Prick. Colgan, the dissipated Irishman and unremarkable art historian, is hired to be their guide during a Fascist cultural tour of Italy’s art museums. His explanations of the events are truly funny. Fart jokes and suspense make this a terrific tale.” —*Publishers Weekly*

## Standing At The Crossroads

*Charles Davis*

\$26 cloth 160pp ISBN 978-1-57962-213-8  
“A remarkable journey through the real and imagined landscapes of civil war-torn

Africa, by turns hopeful, harrowing, amusing, educational, and horrific, painted with the broad-brush strokes of a moral fable and the intricate attention to detail of the best short fiction.” —*NY Journal of Books*

**Walk On, Bright Boy**

*Charles Davis*

\$26 cloth 144pp ISBN 978-1-57962-153-7

“A haunting, Gothic novel of a Spaniard, whose horrifying encounters with humanity during the ruthless Inquisition would seem reason to lose faith. But it is also an assertion of spirituality and speaks to contemporary collusions of political expediency and religious faith.”

—*ForeWord Magazine*

a Book Sense selection

**Walking the Dog**

*Charles Davis*

\$16 paper 160pp ISBN 978-1-57962-167-4

“An episodic, antic romp with outrageous humor, much of it metaphorically sexual and highly literate prose: the Marx Brothers meet the *Oxford English Dictionary*.”

—*The Independent*

**The Conduct of Saints**

*Christopher Davis*

\$28 cloth 264pp ISBN 978-1-57962-315-9

“The Nazis have been driven out of Italy in 1945. Few remain, hoping to avoid detection. The children of Rome struggle to survive, Davis’ range is breathtaking. His technique is subtle, but never obscure. *The Conduct of Saints* captures the time and the place of post-WWII Europe; it is a profoundly atmospheric novel with an unforgettable cast of characters. Once again, Davis’ work commands our attention.”

—*Huffington Post*

**And the Angels Sing**

*J. Madison Davis*

\$28 cloth 303pp ISBN 1-877946-70-2

“Set in a prisoner-of-war camp housing

German POWs during World War II. A harrowing picture of Nazism on U.S. soil.”

—*Washington Post*

finalist Oklahoma Book Award

**Bottom Line**

*Marc Davis*

\$28 cloth 248pp ISBN 978-1-57962-316-6

“The story’s practical depiction of life in the corporate world has flows into a fast-action drama of humanity. The mystery is intriguing. The road to its solution is clever. The surprises stick in the memory. And a falling character in a falling world finds his anchor after all.”

—*Café Libre*

**Duck Alley**

*Jim DeFilippi*

\$24 cloth 238pp ISBN 1-57962-024-8

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## Fallen Angels

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“Throughout her investigation Captain Josie Corsino remains aware of her moral and legal duties as a cop, at the cost of important relationships and possibly her career. Much of the story covers how her choices affect her colleagues and family, leaving the reader in suspense over how her life, and the case, will work out. This gives *Fallen Angels* its insidious quality.”

—*NY Journal of Books*

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\$26 cloth 280pp ISBN 978-1-57962-184-1

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—*Booklist*



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New American Writing Award

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—Orville Prescott, *The New York Times*

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New American Writing Award

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—*Library Journal*, starred review

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—*Associated Press*

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*Ivan G. Goldman*

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New American Writing Award

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—*Publishers Weekly*

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## Vulture au Vin

*Lisa King*

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“A plum assignment turns threatening for Wine Digest writer Jean Applequist. Having honed her amateur sleuthing skills and established both credibility and contacts in *Death in a Wine Dark Sea*, Jean is back in her investigative mode. King’s second Applequist outing is a brisk entertainment with some nice plot turns and definite appeal to oenophiles. (Wine lovers)”

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—*Publishers Weekly*

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“Forty years ago, Sam Acquillo’s father, Andre—a mechanic with a short fuse who sometimes terrorized his family—was beaten to death by two men. Sam thought, ‘Good riddance.’ Now, decades later, the best witness to the still unsolved murder wants to talk to Sam. Knopf has a way with prose and plotting, as well as a knack for creating a range of full-bodied characters, and that combination makes this a true pleasure for mainstream crime-fiction readers.”

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verbal drill for tough guys in tight situations, and like Sam’s nautical know-how, his banter with imperfect strangers is a cut above the norm. (Called out on a tactless remark and asked what’s wrong with him, he replies: “Chronic inappropriateness.”) This unexpected sail into danger makes for a stimulating story.”

—*Marilyn Stasio, New York Times*

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—*Publishers Weekly*

## Cries of the Lost

Chris Knopf

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*finalist Connecticut Book Award*

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"When Laurie calls into a late-night radio show to talk to a psychic, she has no idea that this connection will turn her world upside down. The psychic is part of a cult-like organization known as Blue Awareness. Laurie wants to be left alone, but the Blue Awareness becomes increasingly menacing, as she discovers that an alien she saw as a child wants something from her now. This novel is both a sharp send-up of Scientology and an intriguing aliens-among-us-tale."

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### **1996 Best Fiction List**

*Dictionary of Literary Biography*

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"Proof positive that despite the title of police reporter Willie Black's fifth appearance, things can indeed get worse for both the city of Richmond and its daily newspaper. A ten-year-old kid named Artesian Cole has gone missing and the police don't seem to care. Owen uses his reflective, self-destructive hero to illuminate both the racial problems of his hometown and the ongoing death of the newspaper he loves, even though it doesn't love him back."  
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—*Marilyn Stasio, New York Times*

winner 2012 Hammett Prize

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—*Library Journal*

### **Parker Field**

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—*Publishers Weekly*



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“Willie Black longs for the days when reporters were bourbon soaked and bringing down scoundrels. Nowadays, Willie’s paper in Richmond is staffed by sycophants, and he loves to tell us all about it, until he’s interrupted by a series of murders. Willie faces the killer, while displaying an easy humor and a sweet good nature that belies his cynicism.” —*Booklist*

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—*Kirkus Reviews*

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