Burning Questions
Essays and Occasional Pieces, 2004 to 2021
Margaret Atwood

A new collection of essays from Margaret Atwood, the internationally acclaimed, award-winning author of The Handmaid’s Tale and The Testaments.

From cultural icon Margaret Atwood comes a brilliant collection of essays—funny, erudite, endlessly curious, uncannily prescient—that seeks answers to Burning Questions such as:

Why do people everywhere, in all cultures, tell stories?
How much of yourself can you give away without evaporating?
How can we live on our planet?
Is it true? And is it fair?
What do zombies have to do with authoritarianism?

In more than fifty pieces, Atwood aims her prodigious intellect and impish humour at the world, and reports back to us on what she finds. This roller-coaster period brought the end of history, a financial crash, the rise of Trump, and a pandemic. From debt to tech, the climate crisis to freedom; from when to dispense advice to the young (answer: only when asked) to how to define granola, we have no better guide to the many and varied mysteries of our universe.

RELEVANT THEMES: The common thread in this carefully curated selection of pieces is Atwood’s passionate interest in issues such as the environment, the role of women in cultures around the world, and the place of art in shaping and informing the experience of being human in our modern era.

WISDOM FROM A TRUE THOUGHT-LEADER: Texts from lectures, award ceremonies, book reviews, essays, and more, chart the ceaseless activity of a truly original thinker over the last twenty years, including such defining moments as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Trump administration.

AN EVER-EXPANDING PROFILE: Following the blockbuster success of The Testaments and the television adaptations of The Handmaid’s Tale and Alias Grace, Atwood’s profile has never been higher.

FORTHCOMING BOOK: We will have a new full-length work by Atwood, details to come, for publication in 2024.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Toronto, Canada

MARGARET ATWOOD, whose work has been published in more than forty-five countries, is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry, critical essays, and graphic novels. In addition to The Handmaid’s Tale, now an award-winning TV series, her novels include Cat’s Eye, short-listed for the 1989 Booker Prize; Alias Grace, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy; The Blind Assassin, winner of the 2000 Booker Prize; Oryx and Crake, short-listed for the 2003 Man Booker Prize; The Year of the Flood, MaddAddam; and Hag-Seed. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the Franz Kafka Prize, the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Los Angeles Times Innovator’s Award. In 2019, she was made a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour for services to literature.
The Hard Sell
Crime and Punishment at an Opioid Startup
Evan Hughes

The inside story of a band of entrepreneurial upstarts who made millions selling painkillers—until their scheme unraveled, putting them at the center of a landmark criminal trial.

John Kapoor had amassed a small fortune in pharmaceuticals when he founded Insy's Therapeutics. It was the early 2000s, a boom time for painkillers, and he developed a novel formulation of fentanyl, the most potent opioid on the market.

Kapoor, a brilliant immigrant scientist with relentless business instincts, was delighted by his innovation, and eager to exploit it. He gathered around him an ambitious group of lieutenants, among them a hungry head of sales—an unstable and unmanageable leader, but a genius of persuasion—who built out a sales force willing to pull every lever to close a sale, going so far as to recruit an exotic dancer ready to scrape her way up. They zeroed in on the eccentric and suspect doctors receptive to their methods. Employees at headquarters did their part by deceiving insurance companies. The drug was a niche product, approved only for cancer patients in dire condition, but the company's leadership pushed it more widely, and together they turned Insy's into a Wall Street sensation.

But several insiders reached their breaking point and blew the whistle. They sparked a sprawling investigation that would scale the corporate hierarchy and lead to a dramatic courtroom battle, breaking new ground in the government's fight to hold the drug industry accountable in the spread of addictive opioids.

In The Hard Sell, National Magazine Award–finalist Evan Hughes lays bare the classic story of corporate greed in the vein of Dreamland. He is the author of Literary Brooklyn.

With colorful characters and true suspense, The Hard Sell pries open a window onto the pharmaceutical industry at large. Hughes offers a bracing look not just at Insy's, but at how opioids are sold at the point they first enter the national bloodstream—in the doctor's office.

• A RARE LOOK INSIDE A SHROUDED INDUSTRY: Nearly every story of wrongdoing in pharma ends with a quiet settlement. Not so with Insy’s. This book reveals, often for the first time, the inner workings of an industry whose tactics avoid close scrutiny.

• AT THE INTERSECTION OF TWO ROBUST CATEGORIES: The Hard Sell is both a classic story of corporate greed in the vein of Bad Blood and a new perspective on the opioid crisis for readers of Dopesick and Dreamland.

• A BROADER LENS: Looking beyond the current opioid crisis, Hughes examines the greed and corruption that plague the entire pharmaceutical industry, from the sales reps in the field to the doctors running pill mills to the executive suite.

About the Author/Illustrator

Rights

Territories: US, Canada, open market
Audio: Yes
Book Club: Yes
British: No
Restriction: US, Canada, Open Mkt

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"Alice Vega is sensational—I want to see lots more of her."—Lee Child

A powerful new thriller from Louisa Luna. Alice Vega and Max Caplan return, uncovering a network of white supremacists in their search for a long-lost counter-culture hero.

Alice Vega has made a career of finding the missing and vulnerable against a ticking clock, but she’s never had a case like that of Zeb Williams, missing for thirty years. It was 1984, and the big Cal-Stanford football game was tied with seconds left on the clock. Zeb Williams grabbed the ball and ran the wrong way, through the marching band, off the field, and out of the stadium. He disappeared into legend, replete with Elvis-like sightings and a cult following.

Zeb's cold trail leads Vega to southern Oregon, where she discovers an anxious community living under siege by a local hate group called the Liberty Boys. As Vega starts digging into the past, the mystery around Zeb's disappearance grows deeper, and the reach of the Liberty Boys grows more disturbing. Everyone has something to hide, and no one can cut to the truth like Alice Vega. But this time, her partner Max Caplan has his own problems at home, and the trouble Vega finds might be too much for her to handle.

Louisa Luna understands suspense, tension, and character like only the best writers in crime fiction do—and she may well write the best interrogations in the genre. *Hideout* is pure adrenaline and Luna's most intimate thriller yet, a classic cold case wrapped in a timely confrontation with a terrifyingly real network of white supremacists and homegrown terrorists.

**Categories:** Fiction - Mystery & Detective - Women Sleuths
**Series:** Alice Vega
**Series #:** 3

**About the Author/Illustrator**

**Author Residence:** Brooklyn, NY  
**Author Hometown:** San Francisco, CA  
**Louisa Luna** is the author of the Alice Vega novels *The Janes* and *Two Girls Down* as well as *Brave New Girl* and *Crooked*. She was born and raised in San Francisco and now lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and daughter.
In On the Joke
The Original Queens of Standup Comedy
Shawn Levy

From bestselling author Shawn Levy, a hilarious and moving account of the trailblazing women who broke down walls so they could stand before the mic.

Today, women are ascendant in stand-up comedy, even preeminent. They make headlines, fill arenas, spawn blockbuster movies. But before Amy Schumer slayed, Tiffany Haddish killed, and Ali Wong drew roars, the very idea of a female comedian seemed, to most of America, like a punch line. And it took a special sort of woman—indeed, a parade of them—to break and remake the mold.

In on the Joke is the story of a group of unforgettable women who knocked down the doors of stand-up comedy so other women could get a shot. It spans decades, from Moms Mabley’s rise in Black vaudeville between the world wars, to the roadhouse rabidity of Belle Barth and Rusty Warren in the 1950s and ‘60s, to Elaine May’s co-invention of improv comedy, to Joan Rivers’s and Phyllis Diller’s ferocious ascent to mainstream stardom. These women refused to be defined by type and tradition, facing down indifference, puzzlement, nay-saying, and unvarnished hostility. They were discouraged by agents, managers, audiences, critics, fellow performers—even their families. And yet they persevered against the tired notion that women couldn’t be funny, making space not only for themselves, but for the women who followed them.

Meticulously researched and irresistibly drawn, Shawn Levy’s group portrait forms a new pantheon of comedy excellence. In on the Joke shows how women broke into the boys’ club, offered new ideas of womanhood, and had some laughs along the way.

- **A GAP IN THE BOOKSHELF:** Shawn Levy set out to write this book after noticing that there was a gap in the historical record on the rise of women as comedy stars.
- **REAL-LIFE MRS. MAISEL:** This book is perfect for fans of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, offering the actual history of what it was like to be a woman performing in the male-dominated field of stand-up comedy in the 1940s, ’50s, and ’60s.
- **HOLLYWOOD’S HISTORIAN:** Shawn Levy has been writing about and around Hollywood for more than twenty years, and this book is written in his signature style—witty, dishy, and irrepressible.
- **PART OF A GROWING CANON:** This book is a worthy addition to the growing list of books that offer a corrective to conventional histories that have all too often erased the contributions of women.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Portland, OR

SHAWN LEVY is the bestselling author of *The Castle on Sunset*, *Rat Pack Confidential*, *Paul Newman: A Life*, and *Dolce Vita Confidential*. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Sight & Sound*, *Film Comment*, and *American Film*. He jumps and claps and sings for victory in Portland, Oregon.

Rights

Territories: World

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British: Yes

Translation: No

Special Markets: 1st Serial: Yes

Return indicator: Yes

1st Serial: Yes

Full copies only

Agency: INKWELL MANAGEMENT, LLC

Agent: RICHARD PINE

**Category:** Performing Arts

**BISAC 1:** Performing Arts - Comedy

**BISAC 2:** Biography & Autobiography - Women

**BISAC 3:** Humor - Topic - History

**Page Count:** 400

**Trim Size:** 6-1/8 x 9-1/4

**Carton Count:** 12

**Illustrations:** 8 PAGES OF PHOTOGRAPHS
Lessons in Chemistry
A Novel
Bonnie Garmus

A delight for readers of Where’d You Go, Bernadette and The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, this blockbuster debut set in 1960s California features the singular voice of Elizabeth Zott, a scientist whose career takes a detour when she becomes the star of a beloved TV cooking show.

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it’s the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel–prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America’s most beloved cooking show Supper at Six. Elizabeth’s unusual approach to cooking (“combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride”) proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn’t just teaching women to cook. She’s daring them to change the status quo.

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, Lessons in Chemistry is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

• SPARKLINGLY ORIGINAL HEROINE: Elizabeth Zott will take her place alongside the indelible characters of Maria Semple’s Where’d You Go, Bernadette; Gail Honeyman’s Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine; and Graeme Simsion’s The Rosie Project.
• GLOBAL PHENOMENON: Sold in record-breaking auctions in thirty-four countries (and counting!), Lessons in Chemistry sparked ferocious bidding wars among U.S. and international publishers alike.
• DRAMA SERIES OPTIONED FOR TV BY BRIE LARSON: Larson will star in and executive produce the series for Apple TV+, with Susannah Grant (nominated for an Academy Award for the screenplay of Erin Brockovich) slated to write.
• MAJOR PUBLICITY/MARKETING CAMPAIGN: Expect a top-tier, seamlessly orchestrated roll-out on par with The Starless Sea, The Secrets We Kept, and Such a Fun Age.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: London, UK
BONNIE GARMUS is a copywriter and creative director who has worked widely in the fields of technology, medicine, and education. She’s an open-water swimmer, a rower, and mother to two pretty amazing daughters. Born in California and most recently from Seattle, she currently lives in London with her husband and her dog, 99.

Rights

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1st Serial: Yes
Special Markets:

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Publisher Pamela Dorman Books (HC)
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Publisher Penguin Books (TR)
Price US/Can. $16.00

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THE ROSIE PROJECT/Graeme Simsion/TP
ISBN 0781476729091
On sale 6/14
Publisher Simon & Schuster
Price US/Can. $16.99
Other People’s Clothes
A Novel
Calla Henkel

A propulsive debut with a wicked sense of humor in which two American ex-pats obsessed with the Amanda Knox trial find themselves at the nexus of murder and celebrity in glittering late-aughts Berlin.

“Darkly funny, psychologically rich and utterly addictive.”
—Megan Abbott, author of Give Me Your Hand

Hoping to escape the pain of the recent murder of her best friend, art student Zoe Beech finds herself studying abroad in the bohemian capital of Europe—Berlin. Rudderless, Zoe relies on the arrangements of fellow exchange student Hailey Mader, who idolizes Warhol and Britney Spears and wants nothing more than to be an art star.

When Hailey stumbles on a posting for a high-ceilinged, prewar sublet by well-known thriller writer Beatrice Becks, the girls snap it up. They soon spend their nights twisting through Berlin’s club scene and their days hungover. But are they being watched? Convinced that Beatrice intends to use their lives as inspiration for her next novel, Hailey vows to craft main-character-worthy personas. They begin hosting a decadent weekly nightclub in the apartment, finally gaining the notoriety they’ve been craving. Everyone wants an invitation to “Beatrice’s.” As the year unravels and events spiral out of control, they begin to wonder whose story they are living—and how it will end.

Other People’s Clothes brilliantly illuminates the sometimes dangerous intensity of female friendships, as well as offering an unforgettable window into millennial life and the lengths people will go to in order to eradicate emotional pain.

• ADDICTIVE READ: Written with a smart, stylish, lacerating writing voice, Calla Henkel’s sharp take on female obsession and mirrored identities is impossible to put down.
• FABULOUS SETTING: The hipster art scene (and accompanying sex and drugs) make for a sensational backdrop.
• TONGUE-IN-CHEEK THRILLER: This clever novel harnesses elements of both a page-turning thriller and a satiric send-up of the genre tropes.
• TV ADAPTATION: Emmy-nominated writer Alexa Karolinski (Unorthodox) is to adapt Other People’s Clothes for the screen after a heated eight-way auction. Executive producers will be Beth Pattinson, multi-award-winning film and television producer Mark Gordon for Mark Gordon Pictures (Grey’s Anatomy), and Danny Davids.

• BERLIN-BASED ARTIST AUTHOR: Calla Henkel is an American writer, playwright, director and artist living in Berlin. She has staged plays at Volksbühne Berlin, the Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as at New Theater, the experimental theater space she cofounded and programmed in Berlin. She is one of the brightest stars of the international contemporary art scene and has just been short-listed for two highly prestigious prizes with her collaborator Max Pitegoff.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: Berlin, Germany
Author Hometown: Minneapolis, MN
CALLA HENKEL was born in 1988 in Minneapolis, MN, USA. A writer, playwright, director and artist, she currently lives and works in Berlin. She has staged plays at Volksbühne Berlin, the Whitney Museum of Art, as well as at New Theater, the experimental theater space she founded and programmed in Berlin from 2013-2015. Her art writing has been published in periodicals such as Texte zur Kunst, Spike, Mousse, and others. Her artistic work with Max Pitegoff has been exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide. She currently operates a bar, performance space and film studio called TV in Berlin. Other People’s Clothes is her debut novel.

Rights

Territories: US, open market (no Europe, no Canada)
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My Sister, the Serial Killer/Braithwaite, Oyinkan/TR
My Year Of Rest And Relaxation/Mofefegh, Ottesa/EL
My Year Of Rest And Relaxation/Mofefegh, Ottesa/TR
The Girls/Cline, Emma/HC
Girls, The (Ebk)/Cline, Emma/TR
Girls, The (Ebk)/Cline, Emma/EL

Other People’s Clothes
9780385547369

$28.00

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BISAC 2: Fiction - Women
BISAC 3: Fiction - Humorous - Black Humor
Page Count: 320  Trim Size: 6-1/8 x 9-1/4
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Marketing Contact: Erin Merlo

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Book Club: Yes
Translation: No
Return indicator: Full copies only
Agency: REBECCA FOLLAND

E-book
2/22  DDay Gen Adult

On Sale


22.95/$29.95

2019

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Price Wars
How the Commodities Markets Made Our Chaotic World
Rupert Russell

A shattering account of the destabilizing power of price, and a powerful critique of the free market philosophy that leaves the most vulnerable at the mercy of the commodities markets.

For Rupert Russell, the Brexit vote was only the latest shock in a decade full of them: the unstoppable war in Syria, huge migrant flows into Europe, beheadings in Iraq, children placed in cages on the U.S. border. In Price Wars, he sets out on a worldwide journey to investigate what caused the wave of chaos that consumed the world in the 2010s.

Russell travels to Tunisia, Iraq, Venezuela, Ukraine, East Africa, and Central America and discovers that unrest in all these places was triggered by dramatic and mysterious swings in the price of essential commodities. Deregulation of the commodities markets means that food prices can shoot up even in years of abundant harvests, causing hunger and protest. Oil prices and real-estate values can surge even when supplies are normal, enriching and emboldening dictators. It is this instability—fueled by banks and hedge funds in faraway New York and London— that has toppled regimes and unsettled the West.

Price Wars is a fascinating, original, and groundbreaking exposé of the power of the commodities markets to disrupt the world.

- QUIRKY, VOICE-Y, WITH DARK HUMOR: Russell is a colorful guide whose analysis goes down easy.
- ON-THE-GROUND REPORTING: Russell embedded with AMISOM in Somalia, the UN in Iraq, cattle raiders in Kenya, child gangs in Caracas, and the pro-Russian militia in Eastern Ukraine.
- SERIOUS ANALYSIS AND IMPASSIONED CRITIQUE: Russell’s argument tilts brilliant and left, for fans of Anand Giridharadas, Joseph Stiglitz, Paul Krugman, and Naomi Klein.
- A FRESH TAKE: Russell connects dots between hedge funds in the West and chaos around the world that have not been connected in a book before.

“Price Wars is a totally original and stimulating read, part war zone reportage, part economic history, and buzzing with ideas about the way markets work that will change your understanding of the world we live in.”

—Liaquat Ahamed, author of Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: London, UK
RUPERT RUSSELL has a Double-Starred First in the Social and Political Sciences from Jesus College, Cambridge, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University, where he was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. He has published in the The Independent, Huffington Post, Salon, Paper, Dazed, and the Annual Review of Sociology, and has written and directed two award-winning documentary films. Price Wars is his first book.

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Speaking in Thumbs
A Psychiatrist Decodes Your Relationship Texts So You Don't Have To
Mimi Winsberg, M.D.

An essential look at the love language of texts, helping you decipher the personalities of online daters, the subtle signals from your romantic partner, and the red flags hiding in plain sight.

When it comes to modern relationships, our thumbs do the talking. We swipe right into a stranger's life, flirt inside text bubbles, spill our hearts onto the screen, use emojis to convey desire, frustration, rage. Where once we pored over love letters, now we obsess over response times, or wonder why the three-dot ellipsis came . . . and went.

Nobody knows this better than Dr. Mimi Winsberg. A Harvard- and Stanford-trained psychiatrist, she cofounded a behavioral health startup while serving as resident psychiatrist at Facebook. Her work frequently finds her at the intersection of Big Data and Big Dating. Like all of us, Winsberg has been handed a smartphone accompanied by the urgent plea: "What does this mean?" Unlike all of us, she knows the answer. She is a text whisperer.

Speaking in Thumbs is a lively and indispensable guide to interpreting our most important medium of communication. Drawing from of-the-moment research and a treasure trove of real-life online dating chats, including her own, Winsberg helps you see past the surface and into the heart of the matter. What are the telltale signs of deception? How do we recognize pathology before it winds up at our front door? How can we draw out that important-but-sensitive piece of information--Do you want kids? Do you use drugs? Are you seeing someone else?--without sending a potential partner heading for the hills?

Insightful, timely, and impossible to put down, Speaking in Thumbs is an irresistible guide to the language of love. With wit and compassion, Winsberg empowers you to find and maintain real connection by reading between the lines. A MEDIA VETERAN: Dr. Mimi Winsberg appears regularly on morning TV and evening news, as well as in monthly magazines, where she conveys a winning sense of authority and accessibility.

UNBEATABLE CREDENTIALS: Winsberg is a Harvard- and Stanford-trained clinician who spent three years as the on-site psychiatrist at Facebook. Her startup, Brightside, connects therapists and patients around the country. It is at the forefront of telepsychiatry, using artificial intelligence and data analytics to help clinicians to detect the earliest signs of anxiety and depression.

AN ENGAGED AUDIENCE: This book will speak to readers of Maybe You Should Talk to Someone and Modern Romance, both major New York Times bestsellers. Like Expecting Better (for pregnancy) and Cribsheet (for early parenthood), it empowers readers to apply a critical lens to a subject that has traditionally been guided by either tired cliché ("You know it when you find it") or else steered by our "gut" alone.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: San Francisco, CA

MIMI WINSBERG is a Stanford-trained psychiatrist with twenty-five years of clinical experience. She is a cofounder of the telehealth startup Brightside and has been the on-site psychiatrist at the Facebook Wellness Center. Winsberg appears regularly on Good Morning America, and her work has been featured in GQ, Glamour, Fast Company, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, and Business Insider. She has a B.A. in Neuroscience from Harvard College. Speaking in Thumbs is her first book.

Rights

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Agency: ROSS YOON AGENCY
Reprint: Yes
1st Serial: Yes
Special Markets: Agent: HOWARD YOON

Other Editions of This Title (Title Family)

E-book
Comparative Titles by Other Authors
Fair Play/Rodsky, Eve/HC
Fair Play/Rodsky, Eve/HC
Fair Play/Rodsky, Eve/EL
EIGHT DATES/John Gottman/HC
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE/LORI GOTTLIBE/BHC
Modern Romance/Ansari, Aziz/HC
Modern Romance/Ansari, Aziz/HC

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To Paradise
A Novel
Hanya Yanagihara

To Paradise is a fin de siècle novel of marvelous literary effect, but above all it is a work of emotional genius. The great power of this remarkable novel is driven by Yanagihara’s understanding of the aching desire to protect those we love—partners, lovers, children, friends, family, and even our fellow citizens—and the pain that ensues when we cannot.

MAMMOTH SUCCESS OF A Little Life: Which has sold some 800,000 copies in all formats in North America since we published in 2015, and continues to sell at a very high level.

PASSIONATE FANS BEYOND LITERARY AUDIENCE: The audience for A Little Life is not only large, it is devoted. It has inspired constant memes across social media networks, from Facebook to Instagram and now TikTok.

PRIZE POTENTIAL: Yanagihara was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Booker Prize. This novel should have a good shot at winning a major prize.

MOST IMPORTANT SELLING POINT: A Little Life became a sensation because people cry when they read it (most of the memes are people crying). To Paradise will make you cry. Many times.

About the Author/Illustrator
Author Residence: New York, NY
Author Hometown: Honolulu, HI
Hanya Yanagihara lives in New York City.

Rights
Territories: US, Canada, open market
Audio: Yes
British: No
Restriction: US, Oqn Mkt (no CAN)

Return indicator: Full copies only
Book Club: Yes
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Other Editions of This Title (Title Family)

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Author’s Previous Titles (Sales Track)

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In the tradition of The Lady in Gold and The Hare with Amber Eyes, the remarkable history behind one of the world’s most beloved paintings, Leonardo da Vinci’s Lady with an Ermine.

More than half a millennium ago, a young woman sat before a Grecian-nosed artist known as Leonardo da Vinci. Her name was Cecilia Gallerani, and she was the young mistress of Ludovico Sforza, duke of Milan. Her lover, a ruthless man, was aware that da Vinci’s brilliance as a painter would not only capture his mistress’s beauty but reflect his own political prowess. Indeed, with this beguiling painting—in which Gallerani holds a strange white ermine close to her breast—da Vinci revolutionized the genre, changing not just what a portrait looked like, but also its purpose. But despite the work’s importance in its own time, no records of it have been found for the two hundred and fifty years it went missing.

Author Eden Collinsworth illuminates the eventual history of this unique masterpiece, as it journeyed from one owner to the next—from the brutal Milanese duke to an unconventional noblewoman to Nazi high command, instructed by Hitler that it be added to his private collection. Along the way, it witnessed some of history’s most immoral undertakings as well as some of its greatest advancements until it came to rest at the Czartoryski Museum in Krakow, Poland where it is currently displayed.

Expertly researched and deftly told, What the Ermine Saw is an enthralling account of Renaissance Italy and its actors, a comprehensive study of artistry and innovation, and a reminder that genius, power, and beauty always have a price.

• NEW TERRITORY: Eden Collinsworth has written two previous books of nonfiction for us, the first on manners, I Stand Corrected (2014), and the second on morality, Behaving Badly (2017). What the Ermine Saw is a chance for Collinsworth to connect to readers of historical biography and those interested in the legacy of noted works of art.

• FEMINIST LENS: Collinsworth reveals the girl behind the artwork, who was admired not only for her beauty but also for her intellect. While sitting for da Vinci, Cecilia Gallerani enlisted a circle of learned men with whom to converse, often speaking in Latin. Collinsworth’s assertion that Gallerani was herself a singular and influential figure will appeal to women reviewers and essayists.

• OLD MASTER, ONGOING INTEREST: Da Vinci and his works are still shrouded in mystery, debate, and lore—it seems every few years there is a sketch or painting newly identified as his. His painting Salvador Mundi, though plagued with questions of authenticity, sold for $450.3 million at Christie’s in 2017, shattering previous auction records. Historians and art enthusiasts alike will gravitate to Collinsworth’s book.

• RENAISSANCE WOMAN: The subject of Leonardo da Vinci’s portrait, Cecilia Gallerani, is one of four women painted by the artist, the others being Lucrezia Crivelli, Ginevra de’ Benci, and his most famous female subject, Mona Lisa.

• LEONARDO, IS THAT YOU?: With advancements in identifying DNA, it is possible that Lady with an Ermine, which has traces of his fingerprints, will confirm that the human remains found in a chapel in France’s Loire Valley are in fact da Vinci’s.

About the Author/Illustrator

Author Residence: London, UK

EDEN COLLINSWORTH is a former media executive and business consultant. The author of three previous books, her most recent, Behaving Badly: The New Morality in Politics, Sex, and Business, was published in 2017. She lives in London.
When We Were Birds
Ayanna Lloyd Banwo

A mythic love story set in Trinidad and Tobago, Ayanna Lloyd Banwo's radiant debut introduces two unforgettable outsiders brought together by their connection with the dead.

“You were never the smartest child, but even you should know that when a dead woman offers you a cigarette, the polite thing to do would be to take it. Especially when that dead woman is your mother.”

The St. Bernard women have lived in Morne Marie, the house on top of a hill outside Port Angeles, for generations. Built from the ashes of a plantation that enslaved their ancestors, it has come to shelter a lineage that is bonded by much more than blood. One woman in each generation of St. Bernards is responsible for the passage of the city’s souls into the afterlife. But Yejide’s relationship with her mother, Petronella, has always been contorted by anger and neglect, which Petronella stubbornly carries to her death bed, leaving Yejide unprepared to fulfill her destiny.

Raised in the countryside by a devout Rastafarian mother, Darwin has always abided by the religious commandment not to interact with death. He has never been to a funeral, much less seen a dead body. But when his ailing mother can no longer work and the only job he can find is grave digging, he must betray the life she built for him in order to provide for them both. Newly shorn of his dreadlocks and his past and determined to prove himself, Darwin finds himself adrift in a city electric with possibility and danger.

Yejide and Darwin will meet inside the gates of Fidelis, Port Angeles’s largest and oldest cemetery, where the dead lie uneasy in their graves and a reckoning with fate beckons them both. A masterwork of lush imagination and immersive lyricism, When We Were Birds is a spellbinding novel about inheritance, loss, and love’s seismic power to heal.

- **WILDLY TALENTED DEBUT AUTHOR:** The moment you sit down with this novel, you’ll see it: This is the debut of a soon-to-be prizewinning author with astonishing command of her voice and material.
- **A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES:** This book has so much to offer, but at its core it is a sweeping, heart-swellling love story. The kind that has you clutching your chest when you finish, brimming with joy that this world exists and these two lovers found each other.
- **TWO-BOOK PREEMPT:** We preempted this book at 8 p.m. in a two-book deal, knocking out two other attempted preempts in the process. There’s an Easter egg in When We Were Birds that nods to the second novel, which is also set in Port Angeles, with an estimated pub date of Fall ‘24 or Spring ’25.
- **INTERNATIONAL BUZZ:** Within several days, our sister companies in both Canada (Bond Street Books) and the UK (Hamish Hamilton) also came on for two-book deals. We are publishing simultaneously with Canada, and the UK is publishing ahead of us on February 3, 2022, which should free Ayanna up for our campaign and give us praise to work with.

**About the Author/Illustrator**

**Author Residence:** London, UK

**Author Hometown:** Trinidad and Tobago

**AYANNA LLOYD BANWO** is a writer from Trinidad and Tobago. Her work has been published in The Caribbean Writer, Moko Magazine, Small Axe, POUi, Pree, Callaloo, and Anomaly. She is a graduate of the M.A. in Creative Writing program from the University of East Anglia and is now a postgraduate researcher in Creative-Critical Writing at UEA. She is a contributor to Colonial Countryside: National Trust Houses Reinterpreted, forthcoming from Peepal Tree Press in 2021. When We Were Birds is her first novel.

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- Sing, Unbowed, Sing | Jesmyn Ward
- The Water Dancer | Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Water Dancer, The | Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Homegoing | Yaa Gyasi
- The Invisible Life of Addie Larue | V.E. Schwab