

**SPRING
2020**



**GRAYWOLF
PRESS**





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Cover design: Kapo Ng
Cover art: Anastasiia New / iStock /
Getty Images Plus

The celebrated author of *Border* explores
a mysterious, ancient, and little-understood
corner of Europe

To the Lake

A Balkan Journey of War and Peace

KAPKA KASSABOVA

Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa. Two ancient lakes joined by underground rivers. Two lakes that seem to hold both the turbulent memories of the region's past—the site of conflict and struggle going back to the reign of Alexander the Great—and the secret of its enduring allure. Two lakes that have played a central role in Kapka Kassabova's maternal family.

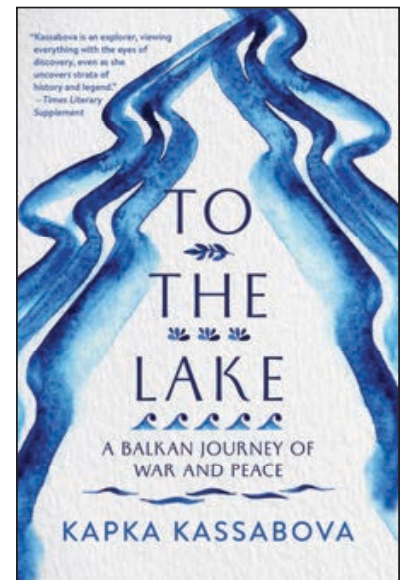
As she journeys to her grandmother's place of origin in *To the Lake*, Kassabova encounters a civilizational crossroads. The lakes are set within the mountainous borderlands of North Macedonia, Albania, and Greece, and crowned by the ancient Via Egnatia, which once connected Rome to Constantinople. A former trading and spiritual nexus of the southern Balkans, this lake region remains one of Eurasia's oldest surviving religious melting pots. Meanwhile, with their remote rock churches, changeable currents, and large population of migratory birds, the lakes live in their own time.

By exploring on water and land the stories of poets, fishermen, and caretakers, misfits, rulers, and inheritors of war and exile, Kassabova uncovers the human history shaped by the lakes. Setting out to resolve her own ancestral legacy, Kassabova locates a deeper inquiry into how geography and politics imprint themselves upon families and nations, one that confronts her with questions about human suffering and the capacity for change.

Praise for *Border*

"[Kassabova] possesses a gift that's bestowed on only the best of travel writers: an ability to zero in on characters who illuminate the condition of a place in time."
— *The New York Times Book Review*

"Kassabova is a modern Scheherazade—a dazzling writer who tells stories as if her life depended on it."
— *Scottish Review of Books*



Nonfiction, 416 pages, 5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$17.00

August

978-1-64445-026-0

Ebook Available

Brit.: Granta Books

Trans., 1st ser., dram.: The Wylie
Agency

Audio: Graywolf Press

ALSO AVAILABLE

Border, Nonfiction, Paperback
(978-1-55597-786-3), \$16.00

KAPKA KASSABOVA grew up in Sofia, Bulgaria, and now lives in the Scottish Highlands. Her most recent book is *Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

An Excerpt from *The Dragons, the Giant, the Women*

Mam. I heard it again from another room, as I always did when the adults were careful not to mention her name around me, as if it was both a sacred thing and cause for punishment, and I ran toward it. Mam is what they called her then. Down hallways, across the yard, behind closed doors—her name the most timid kind of ghost. “Mam so beautiful” or “Mam used to go there plenty” or “That’s not the way Mam cooked it” they would say quietly, cautious not to raise the drapes with the wind of their voices. And I would stumble in, wanting to catch them in the act, to give me that word again for so long that I fell asleep to the sound of it. Startled by my tiny body, they would stop and ask if I had finished my lessons or if I wanted a snack.

Once when it was raining I heard her voice outside. An Ol’ Ma, a grand-aunt maybe, told us that all of our dead and missing were resting peacefully in wandering clouds, and when it rains and you listen closely you can hear the things they forgot to tell you before leaving. Mam was not dead, they said, but I stumbled into the rain and stood beside the rose bush where I was sure I had heard her voice, full of laughter and long ago, singing those forgotten things.

“Tell me where she is,” I would ask.

“In America, you girl. I told you. In New York,” they would say.

“Are you sure?” I asked to be certain. “When will we see her again?”

“Soon,” they said.

“Can I go there?” I asked, though I knew the answer.

“Why would you want to go there, you girl?”

They convinced me that Liberia’s sweetness was incomparable—more than a ripe mango’s strings hanging between my teeth after sucking the juice of every sticky bite, the Ol’ Ma’s milk candy that melted on my tongue, sugar bread, even America—none a match for the taste then, of my country. This was all I knew of my home then—that I lived in a place that made words sing, so sweet. Yet it was without my mother.

An engrossing memoir of escaping the
First Liberian Civil War and building
a life in the United States

The Dragons, the Giant, the Women

A Memoir

WAYÉTU MOORE

When Wayétu Moore turns five years old, her father and grandmother throw her a big birthday party at their home in Monrovia, Liberia, but all she can think about is how much she misses her mother, who is working and studying in faraway New York. Before she gets the reunion her father promised her, war breaks out in Liberia. The family is forced to flee their home, walking and hiding for three weeks until they arrive in the village of Lai. Finally, a rebel soldier smuggles them across the border to Sierra Leone, reuniting the family and setting them off on another journey, this time to the United States.

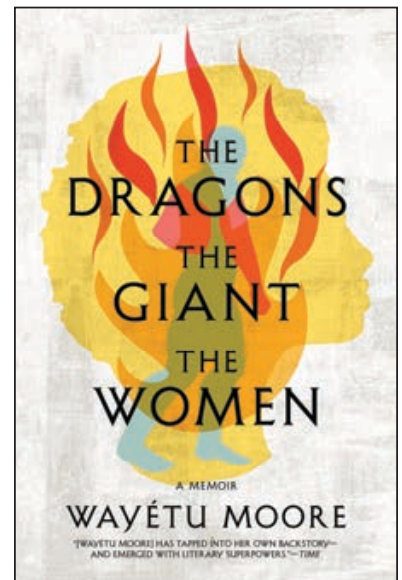
Spanning this harrowing time in Moore's early childhood, her years adjusting to life in Texas as a black woman and an immigrant, and her eventual return to Liberia, *The Dragons, the Giant, the Women* is a deeply moving story of the search for home in the midst of upheaval. Moore has a novelist's eye for suspense and emotional depth, and this unforgettable memoir is full of imaginative, lyrical flights and lush prose. In capturing both the hazy magic and stark realities of what is becoming an increasingly pervasive experience, Moore shines a light on the great political and personal forces that continue to affect migrants around the world, and calls us all to acknowledge the tenacious power of love and family.

Praise for Wayétu Moore

"Reading Wayétu Moore's [work] . . . feels a lot like watching a superb athlete's performance." —*Time*

"Wayétu Moore is an inspiration. Her love for Liberia and America is undeniable." —Imbolo Mbue

"[Moore is] a remarkable novelist and storyteller." —Edwidge Danticat



Nonfiction, 272 pages, 6 x 9

Hardcover, \$26.00

June

978-1-64445-031-4

Ebook Available

Brit.: Pushkin Press

Audio: Brilliance

Trans., 1st ser., dram.: Writers
House, Inc.

ALSO AVAILABLE

She Would Be King, Fiction,

Paperback (978-1-64445-001-7),
\$16.00

WAYÉTU MOORE is the author of *She Would Be King* and the founder of One Moore Book. She is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.



Poetry, 112 pages, 6½ x 9

Paperback, \$16.00

May

978-1-64445-023-9

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.:

Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

The breathtaking debut collection from one
of America's most inventive new poets

Catrachos

Poems

ROY G. GUZMÁN

A name for the people of Honduras, *Catrachos* is a term of solidarity and resilience. In these unflinching, riveting poems, Roy G. Guzmán reaches across borders—between life and death and between countries—invoking the voices of the lost. Part immigration narrative, part elegy, and part queer coming-of-age story, *Catrachos* finds its own religion in fantastic figures such as the X-Men, pop singers, and the “Queerodactyl,” which is imagined in a series of poems as a dinosaur sashaying in the shadow of an oncoming comet, insistent on surviving extinction. With exceptional energy, humor, and inventiveness, Guzmán’s debut is a devastating display of lyrical and moral complexity—an introduction to an immediately captivating, urgently needed voice.

**After they locate and excavate your wing fossils,
perseverance might be the trait you're known for.
How swiftly you sloped downwards to pick up
the carcasses floating just above the bloodstained
surface of your old neighborhood. In the laboratory,
the paleontologists will use radiometric dating
to zoom into what bequeathed you that agency to fly.
This one might have outlasted all the others,
they'll say. Might have even seen each one disappear
behind a bolt of fire blasted from who knows where.**

—from “Queerodactyl”

ROY G. GUZMÁN received a 2019 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a 2017 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship. Raised in Miami, Guzmán lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Praise for Roy G. Guzmán

“Guzmán’s [poetry is] an almost instant eulogy, and deeply affecting—Exhibit A of the power of the new lyric ‘I’ to anchor a broad public response in the crosscurrents of complex, marginalized identities. . . . This is poetry that firmly believes it is necessary.”

—*The Atlantic*

A groundbreaking new novel of loss and grief
from “one of our culture’s preeminent novelists”
(*Los Angeles Times*)

Telephone

A Novel

PERCIVAL EVERETT

Zach Wells is a perpetually dissatisfied geologist-slash-paleobiologist. Expert in a very narrow area—the geological history of a cave forty-four meters above the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon—he is a laconic man who plays chess with his daughter, trades puns with his wife while she does yoga, and dodges committee work at the college where he teaches.

After a field trip to the desert yields nothing more than a colleague with a tenure problem and a student with an unwelcome crush on him, Wells returns home to find his world crumbling. His daughter has lost her edge at chess, has developed mysterious vision problems, and has had a seizure. Powerless in the face of his daughter’s slow deterioration, he finds a mysterious note asking for help tucked into the pocket of a jacket he’s ordered off eBay. Desperate for someone to save, he sets off to New Mexico in secret on a quixotic rescue mission.

A deeply affecting story about the lengths to which loss and grief will drive us, *Telephone* is a Percival Everett novel we should have seen coming all along, one that will shake you to the core as it asks questions about the power of narrative to save.

Praise for Percival Everett

“A restless polymath . . . [Everett] has quietly built up one of the most eclectic and original bodies of work in American letters.”

—*Harper’s Magazine*

“[Everett’s novels] entrap us, and when we call foul play they remind us that the world in which the trap is possible is really what’s rigged.”

—*Los Angeles Review of Books*



Fiction, 232 pages, 5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

May

978-1-64445-022-2

Ebook Available

Brit.: Graywolf Press

Trans., 1st ser., audio, dram.:

Melanie Jackson Agency

ALSO AVAILABLE

I Am Not Sidney Poitier, Fiction,
Paperback (978-1-55597-527-2),
\$16.00

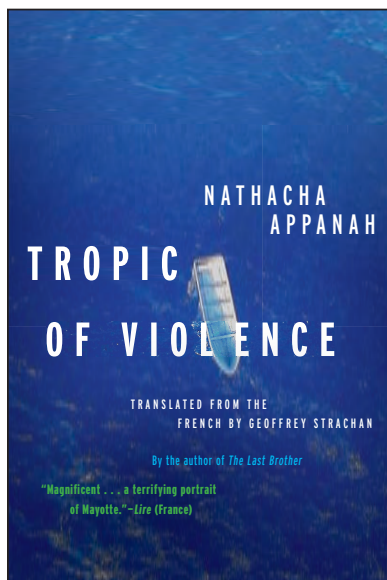
Assumption, Fiction, Paperback
(978-1-55597-598-2), \$15.00

Erasure, Fiction, Paperback
(978-1-55597-599-9), \$16.00

Half an Inch of Water, Fiction,
Paperback (978-1-55597-719-1),
\$16.00

So Much Blue, Fiction, Paperback
(978-1-55597-782-5), \$16.00

PERCIVAL EVERETT is the author of thirty books, including *So Much Blue*, *Assumption*, *Erasure*, and *I Am Not Sidney Poitier*. He has received the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and the PEN Center USA Award for Fiction. He lives in Los Angeles.



Fiction, 160 pages, 5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

May

978-1-64445-024-6

Ebook Available

Brit.: MacLehose Press

Trans., dram.: Éditions Gallimard

1st ser., audio: Graywolf Press

ALSO AVAILABLE

The Last Brother, Fiction, Paperback
(978-1-55597-575-3), \$14.00

Waiting for Tomorrow, Fiction,
Paperback (978-1-55597-803-7),
\$16.00

NATHACHA APPANAH

was born in Mahébourg, Mauritius. She is the award-winning author of *Waiting for Tomorrow* and *The Last Brother*. She works as a journalist and translator, and lives in France.

A potent novel about lost youth and migration
by the author of *The Last Brother* and
Waiting for Tomorrow

Tropic of Violence

A Novel

NATHACHA APPANAH

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY GEOFFREY STRACHAN

Marie, a nurse in Mayotte, a far-flung, tropical department of France in the Indian Ocean, adopts a baby abandoned at birth by his mother, a refugee from Comoros. She names him Moïse and raises him as her own—and she avoids his increasing questions about his origins as he grows up. When Marie suddenly dies, thirteen-year-old Moïse is left completely alone, plunged into uncertainty and turmoil. In a state of panic, he runs away from home, and sets himself on a collision course with the gangs of Gaza, the largest and most infamous slum on the island.

Nathacha Appanah has deftly assembled a small chorus of voices who narrate the heartbreak, violence, and injustice of life in Mayotte. To Marie's and Moïse's perspectives she adds those of Bruce, a terrifying gang leader; Olivier, a police officer fighting a losing battle; and Stéphane, the naive aid worker whose efforts to help Moïse only make him more vulnerable.

Tropic of Violence shines a powerful light on the particular deprivation and isolation in this forgotten and neglected part of France. At the same time, it is a moving portrayal of the desperation and inequality that are driving refugee crises across the world, and of the innocent children whose lives are being torn apart in their wake. This is a remarkable, unsettling new novel from one of the most exciting voices in world literature.

Praise for Nathacha Appanah

"Appanah frequently, and skillfully, contrasts weight and lightness—the sorrow of loss versus the joy of love, the horrors of war versus the beauty of friendship, the harshness of nature on some days and its caress on others. . . . A beautiful new voice."
—*The New York Times Book Review*

The astonishing second collection by the
author of *Slow Lightning*, winner of the
Yale Younger Poets Prize

Guillotine

Poems

EDUARDO C. CORRAL

Through the voices of undocumented immigrants, border patrol agents, and scorned lovers, award-winning poet Eduardo C. Corral writes dramatic portraits of a deeply human, relentless interiority. With extraordinary lyric imagination, *Guillotine* asks about being unwanted, What do we do with unrequited love? Is it with or without it that we would waste away?

In the sequence “Testaments Scratched into a Water Station Barrel,” poems curve around the surfaces upon which they are written, overlapping like graffiti left by those who may or may not have survived crossing the border. *Guillotine* solidifies Corral’s place in the expanding ecosystem of American poetry.

Apá, dying is boring. To pass las horas,

I carve

our last name

all over my body.

I try to recall the taste of Pablo’s sweat.

Whiskey, no.

Wet dirt, sí.

I stuff English

into my mouth, spit out chingaderas.

Have it your way.

—from “Testaments Scratched into a Water Station Barrel”

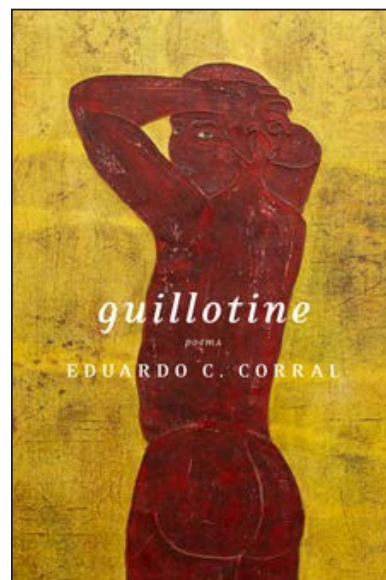
Praise for *Slow Lightning*

“Corral’s voice, his vision—they’re . . . inevitable, it seems to me; as if I’d been waiting all this time to find and be found by them.”

—Carl Phillips, from the introduction

“Corral has already woven himself into the fabric of the American Canon.”

—Columbia Poetry Review



Poetry, 72 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback, \$16.00

August

978-1-64445-030-7

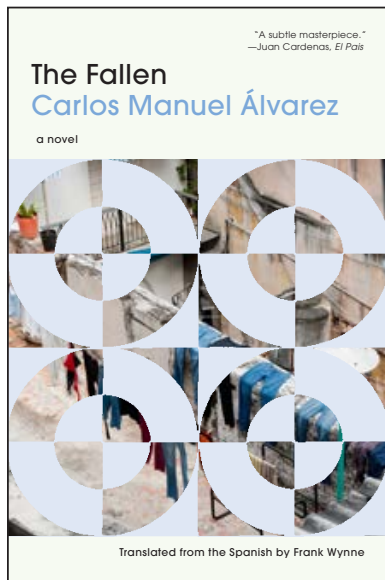
Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.:

Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

EDUARDO C. CORRAL is the author of *Slow Lightning*, winner of the Yale Younger Poets Prize, and a recipient of a Whiting Award and the Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University. He teaches at North Carolina State University.



Fiction, 160 pages, 5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

June

978-1-64445-025-3

Ebook Available

Brit.: Fitzcarraldo Editions

1st ser., audio: Graywolf Press

Trans., dram.: Indent Literary Agency

CARLOS MANUEL

ÁLVAREZ has contributed to the *New York Times*, *El País*, BBC Mundo, and the *Washington Post*. In 2017 he was included in the Bogotá 39 list of the best Latin American writers under forty. He divides his time between Havana and Mexico City.

A vibrant and meticulously constructed debut novel about familial and cultural breakdown

The Fallen

A Novel

CARLOS MANUEL ÁLVAREZ

TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH BY FRANK WYNNE

A powerful, unsettling portrait of family life in Cuba, Carlos Manuel Álvarez's first novel is a masterful portrayal of a society in free fall. Diego, the son, is disillusioned and bitter about the limited freedoms his country offers him as he endures compulsory military service. Mariana, the mother, is unwell, prone to mysterious seizures, and forced to relinquish control over the household to her daughter, Maria, who has left school and is working as a chambermaid in a state-owned tourist hotel. The father, Armando, is a committed revolutionary, a die-hard Fidelista who is sickened by the corruption he perceives all around him. As each member of the family narrates seemingly quotidian and overlapping events, they grow increasingly at odds for reasons that remain elusive to them—each of them holding and concealing their own secrets.

In meticulously charting the disintegration of a single family, *The Fallen* offers a poignant reflection on contemporary Cuba and the clash of the ardent idealism of the old guard with the jaded pragmatism of the young. This is a startling and incisive debut by a radiant new voice in Latin American literature.

"A beautiful and painful novel that demonstrates the power of fiction to pursue the unutterable."

—Alejandro Zambra

"The best in Latin American literature is here . . . Carlos Manuel Álvarez vividly portrays the only identity that really matters: not national, but human."

—Emiliano Monge

"[An] absorbing debut novel. . . . A reminder that the period following a crisis may be just as interesting as the crisis itself. . . . It comes as a real shock when he upends our expectations of how [the characters] might behave."

—*The Telegraph* (UK)

**Dramatic new retellings of Celtic poetry's
great lyrics and legends**

Cinderbiter

Celtic Poems

**VERSIONS BY MARTIN SHAW AND
TONY HOAGLAND**

Cinderbiter collects tales and poems originally composed and performed centuries ago in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, before notions of authorship were distinguishable from the oral traditions of myth and storytelling. Recasting these legends for new audiences, celebrated mythologist and storyteller Martin Shaw and award-winning poet Tony Hoagland have created extraordinary versions of these bardic lyrics, folkloric sagas, and heroes' journeys, as never rendered before.

Ahead is an island.

But that is no island.

The scaled-greasy-gray aquatic scalp of the serpent.

End-bringer

Terror-wakener

Black worm

**Seven yawns the creature makes,
and then the tongue seeks flesh council,
darting the waves.**

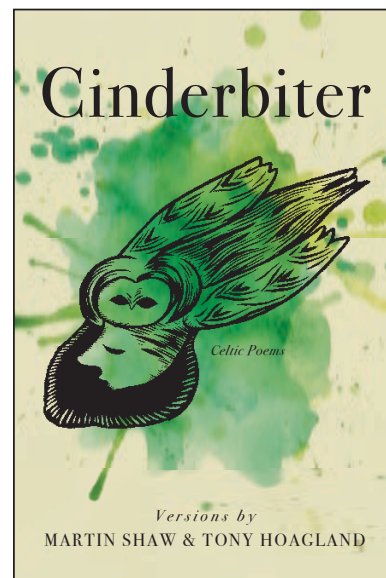
—from "Cinderbiter"

Praise for Martin Shaw and Tony Hoagland

"I can still remember the first time I heard Martin Shaw tell a story. . . . Shaw is a one-off, his work is urgent and necessary." —**Paul Kingsnorth**

"Few [poets] deliver more pure pleasure. [Hoagland's poems] function, emotionally, like improvised explosive devices."

—**Dwight Garner, *The New York Times***



Poetry, 128 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback, \$16.00

July

978-1-64445-027-7

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.:

Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Authors c/o Graywolf Press

ALSO AVAILABLE

What Narcissism Means to Me,

Poetry, Paperback

(978-1-55597-386-5), \$16.00

Application for Release from the

Dream, Poetry, Paperback

(978-1-55597-718-4), \$16.00

Priest Turned Therapist Treats Fear of

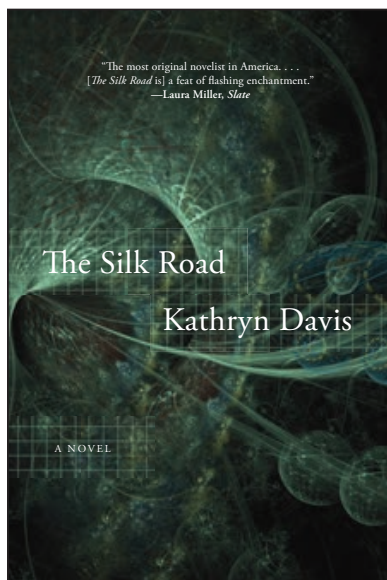
God, Poetry, Paperback

(978-1-55597-807-5), \$16.00

MARTIN SHAW is a mythologist, storyteller, author, and designer of mythic life and oral tradition courses at Stanford University.

TONY HOAGLAND

(1953–2018) was the author of seven books of poetry, including *Priest Turned Therapist Treats Fear of God*.



Fiction, 144 pages, 5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

July

978-1-64445-028-4

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.: The Wylie Agency

ALSO AVAILABLE

Duplex, Fiction, Paperback
(978-1-55597-691-0), \$16.00

Labrador, Fiction, Paperback
(978-1-55597-830-3), \$16.00



© Anne Davis

Now available in paperback, the latest mesmerizing
novel by “the most original novelist in America”
(*Slate*)

The Silk Road

A Novel

KATHRYN DAVIS

The Silk Road begins on a mat in yoga class, deep within a labyrinth on a settlement somewhere in the icy north, under the canny guidance of Jee Moon. When someone fails to arise from corpse pose, the Astronomer, the Archivist, the Botanist, the Keeper, the Topologist, the Geographer, the Iceman, and the Cook remember the paths that brought them there—paths on which they still seem to be traveling.

The Silk Road also begins in rivalrous skirmishing for favor, in the protected Eden of childhood, and it ends in the harrowing democracy of mortality, in sickness and loss and death. Kathryn Davis’s sleight of hand brings the past, present, and future forward into brilliant coexistence; in an endlessly shifting landscape, her characters make their way through ruptures, grief, and apocalypse, from existence to nonexistence, from embodiment to pure spirit.

Since the beginning of her extraordinary career, Davis has been fascinated by journeys. Her books have been shaped around road trips, walking tours, hegiras, exiles, and now, in this triumphant novel, a pilgrimage. *The Silk Road* is her most explicitly allegorical novel and also her most profound vehicle; supple and mesmerizing, the journey here is not undertaken by a single protagonist but by a community of separate souls—a family, a yoga class, a generation. Its revelations are ravishing and desolating.

“Radiant and endlessly shifting . . . [a] splendid, poetic novel of ideas.”

—*The Boston Globe*

“[Davis] operates in a mode that could be called surreal realism, where the boundaries between reality and fantasy dissolve into a place where imagination is akin to gravity and exerts a pull just as powerful.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

Back in print, a spellbinding novel of art,
obsession, and the secrets kept by two
very different women

The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf

A Novel

KATHRYN DAVIS

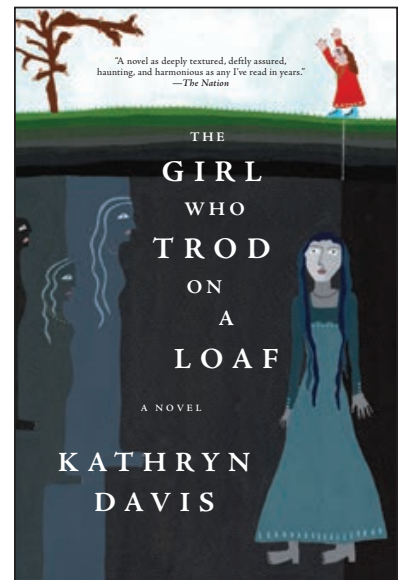
In Kathryn Davis's second novel, Frances Thorn, waitress and single parent of twins, finds herself transformed by the dazzling magnetism of Helle Ten Brix, an elderly Danish composer of operas. At the heart of what binds them is "The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf," the Hans Christian Andersen tale of a prideful girl who, in order to spare her new shoes, uses a loaf of bread, intended as a gift for her parents, as a stepping-stone, and ends up sinking to the bottom of a bog. Helle's final opera, based on this tale and unfinished at the time of her death, is willed to Frances—a life-changing legacy that compels Frances to unravel the mysteries of Helle's story and, in so doing, to enter the endlessly revolving, intricate world of her operas.

The ravishing beauty and matchless wit that have characterized Davis's work from the beginning are here on full display. *The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf* is a novel as thrilling in its virtuosity as it is moving in its homage to the power of art, a power that changes lives forever.

"Brilliant. . . . *The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf* is heated, dramatic, grand in its ambition."
—*The New York Times Book Review*

"All art, we're told, is about captivity and escape; no art ever saved anybody's life; and all artists are monsters. A grim message maybe but a brilliant orchestration in a novel as deeply textured, deftly assured, haunting and harmonious as any I've read in years."
—**John Leonard**, *The Nation*

"Written in crystalline, sonorous prose, *The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf* is an ambitious book. . . . Splendidly conceived and executed with a confidence that is remarkable."
—*Chicago Tribune*



Fiction, 416 pages, 5½ x 8¼

Paperback, \$16.00

July

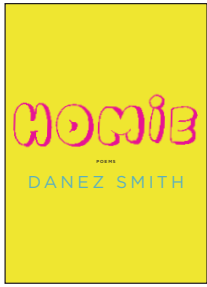
978-1-64445-029-1

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.: The Wylie
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KATHRYN DAVIS is the author of eight novels, including *The Silk Road* and *Duplex*. She is the senior fiction writer on the faculty of the writing program at Washington University.

RECENT BACKLIST

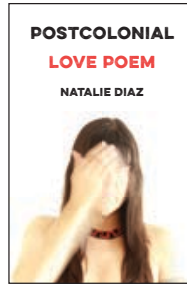


Homie

Poems

DANEZ SMITH

Poetry, 104 pages, Paperback
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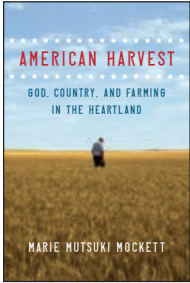


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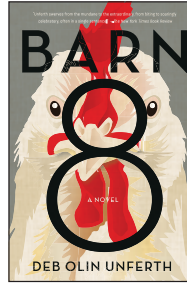


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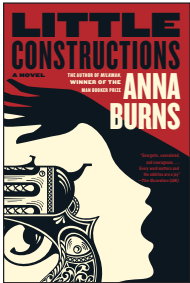


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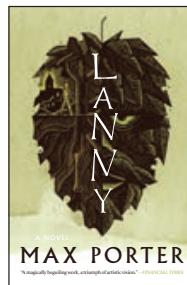


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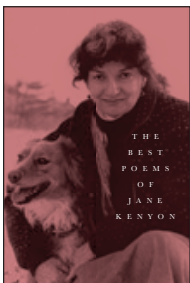


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