

# THE ZOË PAGNAMENTA AGENCY

**London Book Fair**

**March 10-12, 2020**

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### FICTION:

**Ali Araghi**

***THE IMMORTALS OF TEHRAN: A Novel***

World English: Melville House; Netherlands: Nieuw Amsterdam

**\*A Most-Anticipated Book of 2020 from *The Millions*, *Paste Magazine*, and *Book Riot*\***

**“Magnificent, brutal, spellbinding.” —Kathryn Davis, author of *Duplex***

**“Ambitious, striking, admirable. —*Kirkus***

**“An amazing literary debut that reads like the work of a master. A book that is both timeless and for our troubled times.”**

**—Saïd Sayrafiezadeh, author of *When Skateboards Will Be Free***

**This sweeping, multigenerational epic carries one extraordinary family to the brink of the Iranian Revolution—and announces the arrival of a bold new literary talent.**

As a child living in his family’s apple orchard, Ahmad Torkash-Vand reveres his great-great-great-grandfather, treasuring his every word. On the day of his father’s death, Ahmad listens closely as the seemingly immortal elder tells him the tale of a centuries-old family curse...and the boy’s own fated role in the future of Iran.

Ahmad grows up to suspect that *something* must be plaguing his family, as he struggles to hold them together through decades of famine, loss, and political turmoil in Iran. As the world transforms around him, each turn of Ahmad’s life is a surprise: from street brawler, to father of two unusually gifted daughters; from radical poet, to politician with a target on his back. These lives, and the many unforgettable stories alongside his, converge and catch fire at the center of the Revolution.

Exploring the brutality of history, while conjuring the astonishment of magical realism, this stunning debut heralds the arrival of a unique new literary voice. *The Immortals of Tehran* is a story of the incantatory power of words and the revolutionary sparks of love, family, and poetry—set against the indifferent, relentless march of time.

**Ali Araghi** is an Iranian writer and translator. He earned his MA in Ancient Cultures and Languages at the University of Tehran and has translated Samuel Beckett into Persian. He won the 2017 Prairie Schooner Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing and has published stories and translations in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Fifth Wednesday Journal*, *Asymptote*, and *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, among others.

Final files available; Publication: April 7, 2020

**Saïd Sayrafiezadeh**

***A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ESTRANGEMENT: Stories***

North America: W.W. Norton

**An exciting new collection of short stories from the acclaimed author of *Brief Encounters with the Enemy* and *When Skateboards Will Be Free*.**

**In his third book, a collection of seven stories, some of which have originally appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, and *The Best American Short Stories 2019*, he provides a searing exploration into the overlapping boundaries between the personal and the political. Both timeless and urgent, Sayrafiezadeh's characters contend with internal struggles, while also being shaped and influenced by larger, often invisible, forces of society.**

Saïd Sayrafiezadeh's memoir *When Skateboards Will Be Free* was an end-of-year editors' pick by *The Guardian* who described it as "heartbreaking and hilarious, sometimes both at once." *Brief Encounters with the Enemy* was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, shortlisted for the PEN/Bingham Debut Fiction Prize, and named one of the best books of the year by Amazon, *BookPage*, and *Bookish*.

**"[Saïd Sayrafiezadeh is a name] that you may want to remember....[He] writes with extraordinary power..." –Dwight Garner, *The New York Times***

**"...[A] force to be reckoned with."—*Booklist***

**Saïd Sayrafiezadeh** has had essays and short stories published in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *McSweeney's*, *2019's Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading* and *New American Stories*. His first book, *When Skateboards Will Be Free*, a memoir of a political childhood, was published by Susan Kamil at The Dial Press in 2009, and was chosen as one of the Ten Best Books of the Year by Dwight Garner of *The New York Times*. Sayrafiezadeh's fiction debut, a short story collection entitled *Brief Encounters with the Enemy*, was published by Dial/ Random House in 2013, Hanser Berlin in Germany and Codice in Italy. A recipient of a Whiting Award and a NYPL Cullman Center Fellowship, Sayrafiezadeh teaches creative writing at NYU and Hunter College.

US editor: Matt Weiland  
Publication: Spring, 2021

**Dirk Wittenborn**  
*THE STONE GIRL: A Novel*  
World English: W. W. Norton

**“A sprawling baroque thriller that had me in its grip all the way.”**  
—Richard E Grant, Oscar-nominated actor, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*

**“Dirk Wittenborn’s vibrant female characters refuse to turn themselves into commodities or victims. Suspenseful, witty and wise, it is a compelling thriller.”** —Susanna Moore, author of *Miss Aluminum*

**Three women scarred by a chain of misogyny and death at the hands of a secret brotherhood seek a reckoning. From the author of *Pharmakon* and *Fierce People*, and the Emmy-nominated producer of HBO’s *Born Rich*, comes a smart, page-turning novel of psychological suspense.**

Deep in the Adirondack Mountains lies a speck of a town called Rangeley. There isn’t much to this tiny town, but it is at the crossroads of serene fishing streams off the Mink River, pristine hunting grounds in the surrounding mountains, and vast estates of the extremely rich. It is also the gateway to The Mohawk Club, which houses the Lost Boys, an exclusive group of wealthy and powerful men with global influence and penchant for depravity.

Raised wild and poor in the shadows of The Mohawk Club, Evie Quimby was a teenager when she first fell victim to the Lost Boys. Seventeen years later, she is now a world-renowned art restorer famous for being able to fix even the most broken statues. After spending half her life in Paris, establishing her reputation and raising her daughter Chloé, Evie has come a long way from the girl she was when she left Rangeley behind. But when Chloé receives a visit from an elegant stranger who claims to be an old friend of her mother’s, the ghosts of Evie’s past return in full force, pulling her back to the North Country of her girlhood and into the tangled, intricate web of the Lost Boys.

*The Stone Girl* is a riveting tale of deception, power and vengeance set against the haunting beauty of the Adirondack wilderness.

**Dirk Wittenborn** is a novelist, screenwriter, the Emmy nominated producer of the HBO documentary *Born Rich*, and coauthor and coproducer of the feature film, *The Lucky Ones*. His last novel was *Pharmakon*. He lives in New York City.

US editor: Starling Lawrence  
Bound galleys available  
Publication: July 7, 2020

## NON-FICTION:

**Catherine A. Sanderson**

***THE BYSTANDER EFFECT: The Psychology of Courage and Inaction* (US title - *WHY WE ACT: Turning Bystanders into Moral Rebels*)**

US & Canada: Harvard UP; UK: William Collins; China: Xiron; Korea: Sam & Parkers; Russia: Eksmo; Taiwan: Business Weekly Publications; Poland: PWN

**“From bullying on the playground to sexual harassment in the workplace, perfectly nice people often do perfectly awful things. But why? In this thoughtful and beautifully written book, Sanderson shows how basic principles of social psychology explain such behavior—and how they can be used to change it. A smart and practical guide to becoming a better and braver version of ourselves.”**

**—Daniel Gilbert, author of *Stumbling on Happiness***

**“In this powerful, well-written book, Catherine Sanderson offers wise suggestions that will enable more of us to step up and be ‘moral rebels’ when the situation calls for it. If you have ever regretted being silent (and who hasn't?) this is the book for you.”**

**—Barry Schwartz, author of *The Paradox of Choice***

Why do good people so often do nothing when a seemingly small action could make a big difference? A pioneering social psychologist explains why moral courage is so rare—and reveals how it can be triggered or trained. We are bombarded every day by reports of bad behavior, from sexual harassment to political corruption and bullying belligerence. It's tempting to blame evil acts on evil people, but that leaves the rest of us off the hook. Silence, after all, can perpetuate cruelty. *Why We Act* draws on the latest developments in psychology and neuroscience to tackle an urgent question: Why do so many of us fail to intervene when we're needed—and what would it take to make us step up?

Cutting-edge neuroscience offers part of the answer, showing how deviating from the group activates the same receptors in the brain that are triggered by pain. But Sanderson also points to many ways in which our faulty assumptions about what other people are thinking can paralyze us. And she shares surprisingly effective and simple strategies for resisting the pressure to conform. Inspiring and potentially life transforming, *Why We Act* reveals that while the urge to do nothing is deeply ingrained, even the most hesitant would-be bystander can learn to be a moral rebel.

**Catherine A. Sanderson** is the Manwell Family Professor in Life Sciences at Amherst College and the author of *The Positive Shift* (BenBella, 2020). Her work has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, and *CBS Sunday Morning*. She was chosen by the Princeton Review as one of the best college professors in America.

US editor: Joy de Menil; UK editor: Arabella Pike; Final files available

US & UK publication: April 7, 2020

**Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano**

***FIRE IN PARADISE***

World rights: W.W. Norton

***“Fire in Paradise is the detailed reportage of people suddenly caught in a catastrophe that is spreading worldwide wherever there are forests—uncontrollable wildfire. This is a frightening book that will make readers take stock of their own home surroundings, regional infrastructure, and the values of our times.” —Annie Proulx, author of *Barkskins****

***“A gripping and meticulously reported account of how one California community was wiped from the map, and a terrifying bellwether of the mounting personal costs of the world’s climate emergency.” —Adam Higginbotham, author of *Midnight in Chernobyl****

**The harrowing story of the deadliest and most destructive American wildfire in a century by two Bay Area-based reporters.**

There is no precedent in postwar American history for the destruction of the town of Paradise, California. On November 8, 2018, the community of 27,000 people was swallowed by the ferocious Camp Fire, which razed virtually every home and killed at least 85 people. The catastrophe seared the American imagination, taking the front page of every major national newspaper and top billing on the news networks. It displaced tens of thousands of people, yielding a refugee crisis that continues to unfold.

*Fire in Paradise* is a dramatic and moving narrative of the disaster based on hundreds of in-depth interviews with residents, firefighters and police, and scientific experts. Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano are California-based journalists who have reported on Paradise since the day the fire began. Through intimate and unforgettable accounts, they reveal the heroics of the first responders, the miraculous escapes of those who got out of Paradise, and the horrors experienced by those who were trapped.

This is the story of a town at the forefront of a devastating global shift—of a remarkable landscape sucked ever drier of moisture and becoming inhospitable even to trees, now dying in their tens of millions and turning to kindling. It is, finally, a story of a new kind of fire behavior that firefighters have never witnessed before and barely know how to handle. What happened in Paradise was unprecedented. Yet according to climate scientists and fire experts, it will surely happen again.

**Alastair Gee** is an award-winning editor at the *Guardian* who has also written for *The New Yorker* online, the *New York Times*, and the *Economist*.

**Dani Anguiano** is a freelance writer for the *Guardian* and was a reporter for the *Chico Enterprise-Record*, where her beat included the town of Paradise. She lives in Walnut Creek, CA.

Final files available; Publication: May, 2020; Rights contact: Ekerr@wwnorton.com

**Emmanuel Iduma**  
*I AM STILL WITH YOU: A Memoir*  
North America: Algonquin

**“Time and again, what takes one’s breath away is [Iduma’s] truly graceful writing.” —*The Guardian***

**From Nigerian writer and Ondaatje Prize finalist Emmanuel Iduma, a personal and lyrical journey to uncover the generation of lives lost in the Biafran War, and a collective story of how a people recover from catastrophe and reconstruct identity.**

Emmanuel Iduma never met his uncle, for whom he was named. The elder Emmanuel left home at 25 in 1967 to fight for the independence of the Igbo people, and for the ideal of a breakaway, democratic nation, in the messy wake of Nigerian independence. Like one hundred thousand others, he never returned.

There are no official records of the Igbo lives lost in the Nigerian Civil War. There are no monuments. The mass graves lay unmarked. And yet all lives leave traces, carried in the land, the towns, the people who knew them, the ideals that resurface in younger generations. *I AM STILL WITH YOU* will follow Iduma’s journey to uncover these traces, to inhabit what was lost and what remains. It will delve into the mysteries and shadows of Iduma’s own family, and into timeless questions: the nature of loss, brotherhood, and nationhood, and the generations-spanning project of constructing belonging.

A writer of remarkable sensitivity, Iduma writes with such precision, insight, and poetry that his narrative carries sparks of hope and possibility, even in the wake of great trauma. His most recent book, *A Stranger’s Pose* (Cassava Republic Press, 2018), following his travels through a dozen African towns, was shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize and prefaced by Teju Cole, who called it “a perfect book, a ballad with all the lyrics remembered.” *The Atlantic* praised the book for expanding the possibilities for writing about the continent, “offer[ing] an image of Africa that is prismatic;” “the book hums with a kind of gorgeous melancholy.” At a moment when African fiction is being read and celebrated around the globe, Iduma stands poised to add one of the first voices of Nigerian literary nonfiction to be read on the international stage.

**Emmanuel Iduma** writes for *The New York Review of Books*, *ARTNews*, *BOMB*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *Guernica*, *British Journal of Photography*, *Aperture*, *Catapult* and *Hyperallergic*, among others. He is the recipient of a Creative Capital/Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant, and was appointed as associate curator of the first-ever Nigerian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2017. Iduma has taught Art Writing in the graduate programs of the School of Visual Arts, New York, and now lives in Lagos. He has spoken at the Brooklyn Book Festival (USA), Africa Writes (UK), and the Edinburgh International Book Festival (UK), among many others, and was recently awarded the Association Internationale des Critiques d’Art’s inaugural annual Irving Sandler Award for New Voices in Art Criticism.

US editor: Amy Gash; Proposal available  
UK rights: Sophie Scard ([sscard@unitedagents.co.uk](mailto:sscard@unitedagents.co.uk))

**Cliff Kuang with Robert Fabricant**

***USER FRIENDLY: How the Hidden Rules of Design Are Changing the Way We Live, Work, and Play***

US & Canada: McD/FSG; UK: W. H. Allen/PRH; Brazil: Alta; China: CITIC; Japan: Futabasha; Korea: Chunggrim; Poland: Karakter; Russia: Neoclassic/AST; Taiwan: Locus; Ukraine: Fors

**\*A *New York Times* Book to Watch and Amazon Best Book of 2019\***

***“User Friendly is a tour de force, an engrossing fusion of scholarly research, professional experience and revelations from intrepid firsthand reporting.”***  
**—*The New York Times Book Review***

***“[An] engrossing history of how the design of commercial products and technological innovations came to be singularly focused on the user experience . . . [A]n erudite and insightful exploration of a revolution in human thinking that most people have probably never considered.”***  
**—*Publishers Weekly***

**The first book to tell the story of the ways in which design is reshaping life in the twenty-first century.**

In *User Friendly*, Cliff Kuang and Robert Fabricant reveal the untold story of a paradigm that quietly rules our modern lives: the assumption that machines should anticipate what we need. Spanning over a century of sweeping changes, from women’s rights to the Great Depression to World War II to the rise of the digital era, this book unpacks the ways in which the world has been—and continues to be—remade according to the principles of the once-obscure discipline of user-experience design.

In this essential text, Kuang and Fabricant map the hidden rules of the designed world and shed light on how those rules have caused our world to change—an underappreciated but essential history that’s pieced together for the first time. Combining the expertise and insight of a leading journalist and a pioneering designer, *User Friendly* provides a definitive, thoughtful, and practical perspective on a topic that has rapidly gone from arcane to urgent to inescapable. In *USER FRIENDLY*, Kuang and Fabricant tell the whole story for the first time—and you’ll never interact with technology in the same way again.

**Cliff Kuang** is an award-winning journalist and UX designer. He was previously the head of UX at *Fast Company*, as well as its design editor. In that role, he founded Co.Design, one of the world’s leading design publications. He is also a longtime design editor at *Wired*.

**Robert Fabricant** is the former Vice President of creative for Frog Design, one of the leading industrial-design studios of the last fifty years, and an award-winning cofounder and partner at Dalberg Design.

US editor: Sean McDonald; UK editor: Jamie Joseph; US/UK Publication: November, 2019

**Josh Kun**

***BEATS ACROSS BORDERS: A Migrant Songbook***

World Rights: McD / FSG; UK & Comm: Faber

**In this sweeping and engrossing narrative, Josh Kun, MacArthur Fellow and cultural historian, explores the inextricable ties between music and migration in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**There are currently more people migrating across the world than at any other time in human history. It is estimated that over 60 million of these migrants are believed to be forced and displaced due to violence of all kinds. In a time of mass displacement, this book explores how music has moved with people across borders. Merging cultural history, music journalism, memoir, and cultural criticism with interviews with musicians, Josh Kun highlights the stories of migrants whose music has often traveled with them across the world.**

From the US-Mexico border to refugee camps in Palestine, France, and Greece, music in the 21<sup>st</sup> century responds to cultural encounter and conflict. Popular music as we know it now—whether reggaetón or hip hop or R&B or Arabic trap or “Gangnam Style”—is inconceivable without the dark legacies of forced displacement and violent human passage. Unlike the melting pot music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Kun argues that the music of this century refuses to melt, integrate, and assimilate; rather it’s about crossfades and mixes—connecting disparate sources to create new musical combinations across time and place. Musicians and listeners are able to produce new social landscapes without fading out the ones they have left behind.

*Beats Across Borders* explores how human migration—chosen and forced, willed and coerced, successful and failed, embraced and halted—is changing the way the world sounds.

**Josh Kun** is the director of the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. He is also a Professor of Communication and Journalism and Chair in Cross-Cultural Communication. In addition to the 2016 MacArthur Award, he is the winner of a 2018 Berlin Prize and a 2006 American Book Award. He is author and an editor of several books, including *Audiotopia: Music, Race, and America*, *Tijuana Dreaming: Life and Art at the Global Border*, and *Black and Brown Los Angeles: Beyond Conflict and Coalition*. As a critic and journalist, Kun has contributed to the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *American Prospect*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *LA Weekly*, and other publications.

US editor: Sean McDonald

Proposal available

Rights inquiries: [devon.mazzone@fsgbooks.com](mailto:devon.mazzone@fsgbooks.com)

**Louis P. Masur**

***THE SUM OF OUR DREAMS: A History of America***

World English: OUP; Netherlands: Spectrum

**“America is the sum of our dreams. And what binds us together, what makes us one American family, is that we stand up and fight for each other's dreams, that we reaffirm that fundamental belief—I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper—through our politics, our policies, and in our daily lives. It's time to do that once more. It's time to reclaim the American Dream.” —Barack Obama, 2007**

**In the wake of Donald Trump's presidency, Distinguished Professor of American Studies and History Louis P. Masur provides a concise, one-volume history of the United States, focusing on the contested meaning of the American Dream.**

Continuous rhetoric in recent years and through Donald Trump's presidency about 'American greatness' has the world questioning the meaning of America and the American Dream. In *The Sum of Our Dreams*, Louis P. Masur draws on his thirty years' experience as a cultural historian to synthesize the nation's most influential cultural, social, and political histories into a single volume narrative.

Spanning from 1585 to 2020 in short, themed chapters, Masur offers compelling portraits of historical figures from Alexander Hamilton to Barack Obama, covers the central themes and events of American history, and explores complexities from the role of government in American life to the distance between social reality and the American Dream. Masur concludes with the period from 1980-2020, which has seen America in a struggle over its own identity as the economy exploded and then collapsed, as the promises of earlier eras turned brittle, as Americans became polarized over social, racial, religious, and moral issues, and as a global war on terror reframed the place of the nation in the world.

Eminently readable without over-simplifying, and at under 450 pp, *The Sum of Our Dreams* is the essential introduction to American history for our times.

**Louis P. Masur** is Distinguished Professor of American Studies and History at Rutgers University. His essays and reviews have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *American Scholar*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Salon*, and *Slate*. He is the author of five books of American history: *The Civil War* (OUP, 2011), *The Soiling of Old Glory* (Bloomsbury, 2008), *1831* (Hill & Wang, 2001), *Lincoln's Hundred Days* (HUP, 2012; Winner of the Lincoln Institute Book Prize), and most recently, *Lincoln's Last Speech* (OUP, 2015). He is also the author of two books on Bruce Springsteen and his American vision. Masur has received teaching awards from Harvard University, the City College of New York, Trinity College, and Rutgers.

Editor: Tim Bent; Edited manuscript available

US Publication: Fall 2020

**Oliver Milman**

***THE INSECT CRISIS: The Fall of the Tiny Empires That Run the World***

US & Canada: W.W. Norton; UK: Atlantic Books; China: Guomai; Czech Republic: Leda;  
France: Dunod; Germany: Blessing / PRH; Italy: La Nave di Teseo; Japan: Hayakawa;  
Netherlands: Atlas Contact; Russia: Eksmo

**Imagine a world without insects. In *The Insect Crisis*, Oliver Milman expertly explores the dire consequences for humans, and the environment, of a world without those tiny creatures that crawl, scurry, and fly.**

Insect populations are in alarming decline. Researchers have found a 75% drop in flying insects in Germany, an almost complete disappearance of insects in the pristine rainforests of Puerto Rico, a halving of butterfly species in England, a slump in bumblebee numbers in Oklahoma—the list goes on. But, why does it matter if we lose a few creepy crawlies? Insects are vast in number, there are around one million species known to science, and yet also largely invisible.

In *The Insect Crisis*, Oliver Milman illustrates just how essential these critters are for sustaining human life. In the unnerving future of a world without insects, we would see a drastic reduction in the food available to eat, and rapidly increasing costs for what remains on barren supermarket shelves. Insects help keep rivers clean, sustain fish and bird populations, and keep plants and trees from withering away.

Even the most mundane or reviled insect is a tiny foundation stone that helps hold aloft the edifice of life on Earth. By speaking to some of the world's leading entomologists, Milman thoroughly explores why insects are in decline and the surprising consequences of losing them.

**Oliver Milman** is the environment correspondent for the *Guardian* in the US. He has first-hand experience of the world's environmental crises, covering the vanishing ice of Arctic Alaska, the charred remains of towns immolated in California and the roofless, abandoned communities of hurricane-hit Puerto Rico. He helped launch the *Guardian's* operation in Australia, charting the tightening grip of climate change upon cities, farmers, and the natural wonder of the Great Barrier Reef. His writing on the environment, business, and the media industry has appeared in numerous publications, including *The Age* in Australia and *The Ecologist* and *New Internationalist* in the UK.

US editor: Quynh Do  
Proposal available  
Delivery: February, 2021

**Alex Soojung-Kim Pang**

***SHORTER: Work Better, Smarter, and Less—Here's How***

World English: PublicAffairs; UK: Penguin Business; Korea: Gilbut; Taiwan: Locus; Brazil: Buzz Editora; Vietnam: Nha Nam; World Spanish: LID Editorial

**“This is one of the most hopeful books I have read about the state of modern work. Pang shares not only the stories of the creatives and visionaries around the world who are pushing back against always-on burnout culture, but he gives a practical, step-by-step guide for how they did it, why it matters—for all of us—and how others can follow their lead. A must-read for anyone who cares about the now or the future of work.”**

**—Brigid Schulte, award-winning journalist, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Overwhelmed: Work, Love & Play When No One has the Time*, and director of The Better Life Lab at New America**

**“As Pang adeptly shows, not only are work and rest not in opposition, they’re inextricably bound, each enhancing the other.”**

**—Arianna Huffington**

**You and your company can work less, be more productive, and make time for what's really important.**

The idea of success embraced by the global economy means being always-on, never missing an opportunity, and outworking your peers. But working ever-longer hours isn't sustainable for companies or individuals. Fatigue-induced mistakes, whether in the operating room or factory line, cost companies billions, and overwork alienates and burns out valuable employees.

But what if there is another way? *Shorter* tells the story of entrepreneurs and leaders all over the world who have discovered how to shrink the workweek without cutting salaries or sacrificing productivity or revenues. They show that by reducing distractions, eliminating inefficiencies, and creating time for high-quality focus and collaboration, 4-day workweeks can boost recruitment and retention, make leaders more thoughtful and companies more sustainable, and improve work-life balance. Using design thinking, a business and product development process pioneered in Silicon Valley, futurist and consultant Alex Pang creates a step-by-step guide for readers to redesign their workdays.

**Alex Soojung-Kim Pang, Ph.D.** has spent decades studying people, technology, and the worlds they make. A Silicon Valley-based futurist, he's worked with clients ranging from Disney and Samsung to the CIA, and held academic positions at Stanford, UC Berkeley, and Oxford. Alex's last book, *REST: Why You Get More Done When You Work Less*, was published in 2016, and rights have sold in over a dozen territories. The paperback edition features a foreword by Arianna Huffington.

Final files available

US/UK publication: March 10, 2020

**Eduardo Porter**

***AMERICAN POISON: How Racial Hostility Defeated the American Dream***

World English: Knopf; World Spanish: PRH Mexico; US Spanish: Vintage Español

**“An anguished and incisive treatise on how racism has contributed to 21st century America’s economic and social decline. . . Progressive readers will concur with this bracing sociological study.” — *Publishers Weekly***

**“Eduardo Porter finds in the nation’s struggles with racism the will to move forward—not to a post-racial society, not yet, but to a multicultural, tolerant future. *American Poison* is must read to understand the United States in this already turbulent century.” —Jorge Ramos, author, *Stranger: The Challenge of a Latino Immigrant in the Trump Era***

**Compared to other industrialized nations, the United States is losing ground across nearly every indicator of social health. Its race problem, argues Eduardo Porter, is largely to blame.**

In *American Poison*, *New York Times* economics reporter Eduardo Porter shows how racial animus has stunted the development of nearly every institution crucial for a healthy society, from organized labor to public education to the social safety net. The consequences are profound and are only growing graver with time. Leading us through history and across America, from FDR’s New Deal through Bill Clinton’s welfare reform to Donald Trump’s retrograde and divisive policies, Porter pieces together how racial hostility has blocked American social cohesion at every turn, producing a nation that fails not only its black and brown citizens but white Americans as well.

*American Poison* is at once a broad, rigorous argument, and a profound cri de coeur. Even as it uncovers our most tenacious national pathology, it points the way toward hope, illuminating the ways in which, as the nation becomes increasingly diverse, it may well be possible to construct a new understanding of racial identity--and a more cohesive society on top of it.

**Eduardo Porter** is an economics reporter for the *The New York Times*, where he was a member of the editorial board from 2007 to 2012 and the Economic Scene columnist from 2012 to 2018. He began his career in journalism as a financial reporter for *Notimex*, a Mexican news agency, in Mexico City. He was a correspondent in Tokyo and London, and in 1996 he moved to São Paulo, Brazil, as editor of *América Economía*, a business magazine. In 2000, he went to work at *The Wall Street Journal* in Los Angeles to cover the growing Hispanic population. He is the author of *The Price of Everything* (US: Portfolio/Penguin; UK: Heinemann, 2011), an exploration of the cost-benefit analyses that underpin human behaviors and institutions, which was translated into 14 languages. Porter was born in Phoenix and grew up in the United States, Mexico and Belgium.

US Editor: Jonathan Segal; Bound galleys available  
Publication: March 17, 2020

**Sebastian Smee**

***PARIS IN RUINS: The Siege, the Commune, and the Birth of Impressionism***

US & Canada: W.W. Norton; ANZ: Text; UK: Oneworld; Netherlands: Spectrum;

Germany: Suhrkamp; Italy: Rizzoli; Spain: Taurus

**From the Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic and author of *The Art of Rivalry* Sebastian Smee, the story of how the disastrous events of the Siege of Paris and the Paris Commune led to the birth of Impressionism, told through the experiences of the artists themselves, including Edouard Manet, Berthe Morisot, and Edgar Degas.**

In 1870, thousands of armed Prussian soldiers surrounded Paris following the capture of Napoleon III. The French Emperor had declared war on Prussia, but the Prussians counter-attacked and the ill-prepared French Army suffered a series of shocking defeats. Paris was forced to transform itself into a fortified camp. Parisians waited in vain for help to arrive. The Siege of Paris lasted more than four months. The so-called “capital of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century” was brought to its knees. It ended in humiliation: forced surrender; the unification of Prussia with other states to form a powerful new German nation; a Prussian victory parade along the Champs-Élysées; and the loss of Alsace and Lorraine, all with terrible repercussions for global peace in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In *Paris in Ruins*, Sebastian Smee tells the dramatic story of the Siege and the violent, rebellious Commune through the eyes of the great artists who lived through it. Prominent members of the Impressionist movement, such as Berthe Morisot and Édouard Manet, were stuck in Paris. They rubbed shoulders with key political figures, and were deeply affected by the political and social upheaval. Smee explores how France’s political turmoil influenced the artist’s convictions and, importantly, their work.

The trauma of war had a powerful impact on the Impressionist artists; they developed a newfound sense of the fragility of life and its transience, and a desire to express this in their art. Yet this complex and radical response to the crisis of war has largely been kept apart from the typical story of the birth of Impressionism—until now. These two stories—of political and artistic upheaval—will, finally, be told as one.

**Sebastian Smee** is an art critic for the *Washington Post*. He was previously the chief art critic at the *Boston Globe*, where he won the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2011. He joined the *Boston Globe*’s staff from Sydney, where he worked as national art critic for *The Australian* between 2004 and 2008. Prior to that, he lived for four years in the UK, where he worked on staff at *The Art Newspaper*, and wrote for *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Times*, *The Financial Times*, *Prospect Magazine*, and *The Spectator*. He is the author of *The Art of Rivalry: Four Friendships, Betrayals, and Breakthroughs in Modern Art* and has contributed to five books on Lucian Freud. He teaches non-fiction writing at Wellesley College.

US editor: Matt Weiland; UK editor: Bill Swainson

Proposal available

Delivery: September, 2021

**Anthony Townsend**

***GHOST ROAD: Beyond the Driverless Car***

World English: W.W. Norton; China: Citic; Russia: Eksmo

**The author of SMART CITIES and an international public speaking expert in information technology, Anthony Townsend offers a penetrating look at the near-future disruption as truly autonomous vehicles arrive.**

For decades we have tried to build a car that will drive itself. Anthony Townsend's *Ghost Road* argues convincingly that the driverless car is a red herring. When self-driving technology infects buses, bikes, delivery vans, and even buildings a wild, woolier, future awaits.

Technology will transform life behind the wheel into a hi-fi video game that makes our ride safer, smoother, and more efficient. Meanwhile, autonomous vehicles will turbocharge our appetite for the instant delivery of goods, making the future as much about moving stuff as it is about moving people. For-profit companies will link the automated machines that move us to the cloud, raising concerns about mobility monopolies and privatization of "the curb." Our cities and towns will change as we embrace new ways to get around.

*Ghost Road* explains where we might be headed together in driverless vehicles, and the choices we must make as societies and individuals to shape it.

**Anthony Townsend, PhD** is the author of *SMART CITIES: Big Data, Civic Hackers, and the Quest for a New Utopia* (W.W. Norton, 2013). He is the founder of Bits and Atoms, a strategic advisory practice focused on technology-enabled urban development. His articles have appeared in *Scientific American*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, and *Cairo Review of Global Affairs*, and he appears frequently in technology and business publications and broadcasts including *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *NPR*, *BusinessWeek*, and *TIME*.

US editor: Brendan Curry  
Edited manuscript available  
Publication: June, 2020

**Tom Vanderbilt**

***BEGINNERS: The Curious Power of Lifelong Learning***

US & Canada: Knopf; UK: Atlantic Books; China: Citic; Neths: Volt

**The best-selling author of *Traffic* and *You May Also Like* now gives us a thought-provoking, playful investigation into the transformative joys that come with starting something new, no matter your age.**

Why do so many of us stop learning new skills as adults? Are we afraid to be bad at something? Have we forgotten the sheer pleasure of beginning from the ground up? Or is it simply a fact that you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Inspired by his young daughter's insatiable need to know how to do almost everything, Tom Vanderbilt begins a year of learning purely for the sake of learning. He tackles five skills, choosing them for their difficulty to master and their lack of marketability—chess, singing, surfing, drawing, and juggling. What he doesn't expect is that the circuitous journey he takes while learning these skills will be even more satisfying than any knowledge he gains.

He soon finds himself having a rapturous experience singing R.E.M. in an amateur choir, losing games of chess to an eight-year old child, and avoiding scorpions at a surf camp in Costa Rica. Along the way, he explores the fascinating psychology and science behind the benefits of becoming an adult beginner. Through comprehensive research and surprising insight gained from his experiences, Vanderbilt shows how anyone can get better at beginning again. And he shares how his new sense of curiosity opened him up to a profound happiness and a deeper connection to the people around him. *Beginners* is not a "how to do" book as much as a "why to do" book. It's about how small acts of reinvention, at any age, can make life seem magical.

**Tom Vanderbilt** has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Popular Science*, *The Financial Times*, *Smithsonian*, *Slate*, *Nautilus*, *The London Review of Books*, *The Guardian*, and *The New Republic*, among many others. He is a contributing editor of *Outside Magazine* and *Wired U.K.* He is a winner of the Warhol Foundation Arts Writers grant and author of the *New York Times* best-seller *Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says About Us)* (Knopf, 2009); *You May Also Like: Taste in an Age of Endless Choice* (Knopf, 2016); and *Survival City: Adventures Among the Ruins of Atomic America* (2001). Vanderbilt has appeared on a wide range of television and radio programs, from *The Today Show* to the BBC's *World Service* to NPR's *Fresh Air*. He was Visiting Scholar at NYU's Rudin Center for Transportation, a research fellow at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and a fellow at the Design Trust for Public Space.

US editor: Andrew Miller

UK editor: Mike Harpley

Edited m/s available;

Publication: September, 2020

## OTHER AGENCY TITLES OF INTEREST

**Andrew Blum**

***THE WEATHER MACHINE: A Journey Inside the Forecast***

US: Ecco Press; UK: The Bodley Head/ PRH UK; Canada: HarperCanada; Germany: Penguin Verlag; Korea: Eidos; Italy: Cortina

**“A vivid account of the history and evolution of the modern daily forecast . . . [Blum] is a sharp analyst and engaging guide, adept at translating difficult concepts in meteorology and computer science for the uninitiated.” —*The Economist***

**“Andrew Blum’s new book, *The Weather Machine*, asks us to pause and marvel at the globe-spanning networks of collaboration required to turn the weather from something we experience to something we can predict.” —*The New Yorker***

From the acclaimed author of *Tubes*, a lively and surprising tour of the infrastructure behind the weather forecast, the people who built it, and what it reveals about our climate and our planet. The weather is the foundation of our daily lives. It’s a staple of small talk, the app on our smartphones, and often the first thing we check each morning. Yet behind these quotidian interactions is one of the most expansive machines human beings have ever constructed—a triumph of science, technology and global cooperation. But what *is* this ‘weather machine’ and who created it?

In *The Weather Machine*, Andrew Blum takes readers on a fascinating journey through an everyday miracle. In a quest to understand how the forecast works, he visits old weather stations and watches new satellites blast off. He follows the dogged efforts of scientists to create a supercomputer model of the atmosphere and traces the surprising history of the algorithms that power their work. He discovers that we have quietly entered a golden age of meteorology—our tools allow us to predict weather more accurately than ever, and yet we haven’t learned to trust them, nor can we guarantee the fragile international alliances that allow our modern weather machine to exist.

Written with the sharp wit and infectious curiosity Andrew Blum is known for, *The Weather Machine* pulls back the curtain on a universal part of our everyday lives, illuminating our relationships with technology, the planet, and the global community.

**Andrew Blum** is the author of *TUBES: A Journey to the Center of the Internet*, the first book-length look at the physical infrastructure of the global Internet. *TUBES* has been published in ten territories, and has become a crucial reference for journalists, politicians, and entrepreneurs eager to understand how the Internet works. Blum’s writings about architecture, design, technology, infrastructure, art, and travel have appeared in numerous publications, including *Wired*, *Popular Science*, *Vanity Fair*, and the *New York Times*.

US Editor: Dan Halpern; UK Editor: Will Hammond; Final files available  
US/UK publication: June, 2019; German publication: November, 2019

**Priya Parker**

***THE ART OF GATHERING: How We Meet and Why It Matters***

US & Canada: Riverhead/Penguin; UK: Penguin Business; China: Huazhang; Japan: President; Korea: Bulkwang; Netherlands: Meulenhoff; Russia: Popuri; Ukraine: Vivat

**“*The Art of Gathering* is one of the most transformative books I’ve read in years. It has fundamentally changed I how run meetings, attend conferences, and even arrange dinner with friends. Equally important, it has reminded me why people come together in the first place—and why we should treat every gathering as an opportunity to deepen our shared humanity.”** —Daniel H. Pink, *NYT* bestselling author of *When and Drive*

**“A long overdue and urgent manifesto for anyone who has the temerity (and generosity) to organize the time and energy of a team in order to call a meeting.”** —Seth Godin, *NYT* bestselling author of *This Is Marketing*

**“Brilliant. The book is a timely reminder: it’s our human-to-human links that make the most meaningful moments of our lives. You’ll only put this book down because it will make you so hungry for a gathering of your own.”** —Deepak Chopra

**\*Featured on NBC’s *The Today Show*, TED Talks, NPR’s *On Point*, Amazon’s Top 20 Business Books of 2018, and in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Real Simple*, the Together Live Tour, and *Vanity Fair*’s New Establishment Summit\***

At a time when coming together is more important than ever, Priya Parker sets forth a human-centered approach to gathering that will help everyone create meaningful, memorable experiences, large and small, for work and for play. Drawing on her expertise as a facilitator of high-powered gatherings around the world, Parker takes us inside events of all kinds to show what works, what doesn’t, and why. She investigates a wide array of gatherings—conferences, meetings, a courtroom, a flash-mob party, an Arab-Israeli summer camp—and explains how simple, specific changes can invigorate any group experience.

The result is a book that’s both journey and guide, full of exciting ideas with real-world applications. *The Art of Gathering* will forever alter the way you look at your next meeting, industry conference, dinner party, and backyard barbecue—and how you host and attend them.

**Priya Parker** is the founder of Thrive Labs, at which she helps activists, elected officials, corporate executives, educators, and philanthropists create transformative gatherings. Trained in the field of conflict resolution, Parker has worked on race relations on college campuses and on peace processes in the Arab world, southern Africa, and India. She studied organizational design at M.I.T., public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, and political and social thought at the University of Virginia.

US editor: Jake Morrissey; Final files available; US publication: May, 2018

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