

THE ZOË PAGNAMENTA AGENCY

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NON-FICTION:

Michael Stewart Foley

CITIZEN CASH: The Political Life and Times of Johnny Cash

World English: Basic Books

“[A] deeply researched, unique examination, Foley looks at the many reasons Cash was drawn to particular issues ... With sufficient detail and a gift for storytelling, Foley explores these and many other aspects of Cash’s complex life. A powerful biography that will leave fans with a newfound respect for the Man in Black.” –*Kirkus*, starred review

“This is an important reassessment of one of American music's greatest performers.” –Ken Burns, filmmaker

A leading cultural historian argues that Johnny Cash was the most important political artist of his time.

Johnny Cash was an American icon, known for his level, bass-baritone voice and somber demeanor, and for huge hits like “Ring of Fire” and “I Walk the Line.” But he was also the most prominent political artist in the United States, even if he wasn’t recognized for it in his own lifetime, or since his death in 2003.

Then and now, people have misread Cash’s politics, usually accepting the idea of him as a “walking contradiction.” Cash didn’t fit into easy political categories—liberal or conservative, Republican or Democrat, hawk or dove. Like most people, Cash’s politics were remarkably consistent in that they were based not on ideology or scripts but on emotion, instinct, and identification. In his public citizenship, Cash practiced a politics of empathy on the most pressing issues of his times: poverty and inequality, war and peace, civil rights, Native rights, prison reform and criminal justice, patriotism and protest. In a time of polarization, he practiced a politics of empathy.

Drawing on untapped archives and new research on social movements and grassroots activism, *Citizen Cash* offers a major reassessment of a legendary figure.

MICHAEL STEWART FOLEY is a historian of American political culture. He is the author or editor of seven other books, including the prize-winning *Confronting the War Machine: Draft Resistance During the Vietnam War*, *Front Porch Politics: The Forgotten Heyday of American Activism in the 1970s and 1980s*, and the 33 1/3 book on punk band Dead Kennedys' political masterpiece, *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables*. He has served as historical advisor on a number of films and television shows, including *Mad Men*, and his writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Boston Sunday Globe*, among other news outlets. He is Professor of American Civilization at Université Grenoble Alpes in France.

Page proofs available; Publication: December 7, 2021

Joan Koenig

THE MUSICAL CHILD: Using the Power of Music to Raise Children Who Are Happy, Healthy, and Whole

US & Canada: Mariner Books; UK: William Collins; China: CITIC; Estonia: Koolibri; Lithuania: Liutai Ne Avys

“We need music in our lives now more than ever, so that healthy minds and bodies can develop humane and compassionate values—just what music-making instills. There were statements in this wonderful work that brought tears to my eyes. I hope the decision-makers of the future will heed the message of *The Musical Child*.”—Herbie Hancock, pianist and composer

“Full of sensible ideas...my sense is that you will probably want Koenig to move in with you to help with those games-exercises...Her informative book is the next best thing.” –Fiona Maddock, *The Guardian*

Since opening her famed Parisian conservatory over three decades ago, Joan Koenig has led a global movement to improve children’s lives and minds with the transformative power of music. With a curriculum and philosophy drawn from cutting-edge science, L’Ecole Koenig has educated and empowered even its youngest students, from baby Max, whose coordination and communication grow as he wiggles and coos along to targeted songs and dance, to five-year-old Sara, who nourishes her empathy, creativity, and memory while practicing music from other cultures.

In *The Musical Child*, Koenig shares stories from her classrooms, along with tips about how to use the latest research during the critical years when children are most sensitive to musical exposure—and most receptive to its benefits. A gift for parents, caregivers, musicians, and educators, *The Musical Child* reveals the multiple ways music can help children thrive—and how, in the twenty-first century, its practice is more vital than ever.

Joan Koenig graduated from the Juilliard School of Music in New York and toured Europe as a soloist and chamber musician. She then became the founder and director of an acclaimed group of bilingual musical pre-schools—the first of their kind in France, L’*école Koenig*. She was invited to the Salzburg Global Seminar on The Neuroscience of Art in 2014. While a classically trained musician, Koenig has also studied jazz and Hindustani music, and she speaks English, French, and German.

US editor: Alex Littlefield; UK editor: Grace Pengelly

French rights: Anna Jarota, ajarota@ajafr.com

Final files available

Publication: July 6, 2021

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; Korea: Baccoci; Netherlands: Atlas Contact; Portugal: Bertrand; Russia: Eksmo; World Spanish: Alianza

“A book that will be a classic on the day it's published. Our world is literally unimaginable without the insects that make it work, and so heeding the lessons in this volume is essential to our collective future.” -- Bill McKibben, author *Oil and Honey*

“*The Insect Crisis* is elegantly written, admirably nuanced, and terrifyingly important.”—Michelle Nijhuis, author of *Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction*

A devastating exploration of how the collapse in insect populations around the world threatens everything from wild birds to the food on our plate.

From the ants scurrying under leaf litter to the bees able to fly higher than Mount Kilimanjaro, insects are seemingly everywhere. Three out of four of the planet's known species is an insect, but a torrent of recent evidence suggests this kaleidoscopic group of creatures is suffering the greatest existential crisis in its remarkable 400-million-year history.

Oliver Milman delves into why insect numbers are plummeting and outlines the dire consequences of losing the tiny empires that hold life aloft on Earth. Along the way, readers encounter a researcher who collects insect guts from the windshields of cars, the bees sent on long-haul truck journeys to prop up our food supply, and a desperate attempt to move trees up mountains to save an iconic butterfly. The mounting losses threaten to unpick the web of life we rely upon. Illuminating and inspiring, *The Insect Crisis* is a wakeup call for all of us.

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.

Film/TV inquiries: Lucy Stille, lucy@lucystilleliterary.com

Page proofs available

Publication: January (UK), March (US) 2022

Shilpa Ravella, MD

INFLAMED: A Story of Food, Germs and Disease

US & Canada: W.W. Norton; UK: The Bodley Head / PRH UK; China: Chongqing University Press; Korea: Bookie; Romania: Trei; Russia: Eksmo; Taiwan: Business Weekly

“The force that fought our historic top killers, healing wounds and keeping microbes in check, now marches alongside diseases of modernity, insidious and imbalanced, brooding quietly before it explodes in a sudden rage.”

In *INFLAMED*, the first comprehensive account of the science of inflammation for general readers, Dr. Shilpa Ravella takes us on a wild narrative journey to understand the hidden force at the heart of nearly all modern disease—and how we can prevent, treat, and even reverse it.

Inflammation is one of the oldest medical phenomena known to mankind. An ancestral response meant to protect the body from threats as diverse as microbes, chemicals, and physical trauma, it has served us well through most of human history—flaring up, tackling a problem, and dying away. But in modern times, the threats we face are more insidious than those of our ancestors. Today, inflammation is the common thread running through nearly *all* disease, from heart disease and cancer to COVID-19.

And yet, confusion surrounding inflammation is rife. We all reach for an Advil to treat a fever or a headache; we know we should be eating “anti-inflammatory” foods, but what are they? How do they work? Is inflammation good or bad, even?

To answer these questions, we must travel deep into the body—into our molecules and cells, across the intricate workings of the immune system and the gut microbiome; back in time—to meet an eccentric 19th century Russian zoologist, the passionate inventor of Kellogg’s Cornflakes; and South Dakotan Senator George McGovern; around the world—to small towns of the American Midwest, a rural farm on the southeast coast of India, and the island of Okinawa; and to the forefront of science today—from grisly multiple organ transplants to dietary and lifestyle changes that work as gene therapy.

The study of inflammation has long lived in alternative medicine circles, but research from the last decade, and even the last couple years, has finally proven to the medical community that inflammation is a root *cause* of disease, the force responsible for the majority of deaths in the world today. *INFLAMED* will be the first book to unveil this paradigm-shifting understanding of human health—and give readers the tools to live not only long, but well.

Shilpa Ravella, MD is a gastroenterologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center. Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *New York Magazine*, *Slate*, *Discover*, *USA Today*, and *PBS*. Dr. Ravella has been a guest nutrition expert on ABC’s *Good Morning America*, and a *TED-Ed* video she wrote, “How the Food You Eat Affects Your Gut,” has garnered over two million views.

Delivery: November, 2021
Proposal available

Tom Vanderbilt

BEGINNERS: The Power and Pleasure of Lifelong Learning

US & Canada: Knopf; UK: Atlantic Books; China: Citic; Indonesia: Bentang Pustaka; Japan: Pan Rolling; Korea: Chunggrim; Netherlands: Volt; Poland: Kompania Mediowa; Romania: Curtea Veche; Slovakia: N Press; Sweden: Modernista; Taiwan: Commonwealth; Thailand: WeLearn; Turkey: İlk Satır; Ukraine: Laboratory

"An entertaining read...*Beginners* provides a primer of sorts for re-engaging with life"—Cal Newport, *The New York Times*

"[A] charming celebration of lifelong learning... [Vanderbilt] makes a persuasive case for the benefits—cognitive, physical, emotional, and social—of being a beginner." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Vanderbilt is a winning and insightful guide to the mechanics of mastery."—Daniel H. Pink

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.

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 the author of the *New York Times* best-seller *Traffic* (Knopf, 2009); *You May Also Like* (Knopf, 2016); and *Survival City* (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*.

Final files available; Publication: January 5, 2021

FICTION AND MEMOIR:

Grace Lavery

PLEASE MISS: A Memoir

US & Canada: Seal Press / Hachette; UK: Daunt Books

“Polychromatic, wild, joyous, and blessedly twisted” —Maggie Nelson

**“A can’t-look-away performance of wit, language, irreverence, and delight”
—Torrey Peters**

“Wickedly smart and filthily funny” —Melissa Febos

**From an outrageous and brilliant transgender scholar and prominent public intellectual comes “the queer memoir you’ve been waiting for” —
Carmen Maria Machado.**

PLEASE MISS is a brainy and bawdy memoir by a radically new voice—laugh-out-loud, daring, irreverent, and self-consciously clever. It follows Grace through gender transition and recovery from addiction, as she seeks to change not merely her body, but its story. As she fumbles towards a new trans identity, Grace inhabits different voices and genres, from porn parodies of Freud to send-ups of British quiz show panelists, bottoming out in Osaka, falling in love at the Grand Canyon, and playing with everything from *Middlemarch* to *Austin Powers*.

A weird and magical mystery tour, *Please Miss* binds together film criticism, psychoanalytic theory, literary history, personal narrative, parodies of literature and pop culture, and whatever the genre of “being snippy on the internet” is called. It’s autofiction meets stand-up comedy meets queer theory—and what’s at stake is the civil rights and political existence of trans women, and an insistence on queer and trans freedom, pleasure, and joy.

Grace Lavery is a prominent public intellectual and writer, and the most followed transgender scholar in the world on social media. She is Associate Professor of English at UC Berkeley, specializing in Victorian literature and culture, trans feminist studies, and contemporary popular culture. She has contributed critical, political, and personal essays to *VICE*, *The Guardian*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New Inquiry*, *Them*, and *Slate*. She’s been clean and sober since January 2016, and “full time” as a trans person since March 2018.

US editor: Claire Potter; UK editor: Marigold Atkey

Page proofs available

Publication: February, 2022

Saïd Sayrafiezadeh
AMERICAN ESTRANGEMENT: *Stories*
World English: W.W. Norton

One of *Literary Hub's* Most Anticipated Books of 2021

"[An] excellent new collection" — Andrew Martin, *New York Times Book Review*

"Stellar...Sayrafiezadeh is a master." —*Los Angeles Review of Books*

"A dark and exhilarating collection."—David L. Ulin, *Los Angeles Times*

"*American Estrangement* is Saïd Sayrafiezadeh's...best book to date."
— Arin Keeble, *Times Literary Supplement* (UK)

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

Saïd Sayrafiezadeh has been hailed by Philip Gourevitch as "a masterful storyteller working from deep in the American grain." His new collection of stories—some of which have appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, and the *Best American Short Stories*—is set in a contemporary America full of the kind of emotionally bruised characters familiar to readers of Denis Johnson and George Saunders. These are people contending with internal struggles—a son's fractured relationship with his father, the death of a mother, the loss of a job, drug addiction—even as they are battered by larger, often invisible, economic, political, and racial forces of American society. Searing, intimate, often slyly funny, and always marked by a deep imaginative sympathy, *American Estrangement* is a testament to our addled times. It will cement Sayrafiezadeh's reputation as one of the essential twenty-first-century American writers

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

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