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ASTRA HOUSE

FALL 2025



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Founded in 2020, Astra House's mission is to advocate for authors who experience their subject deeply and personally, and who have a strong point of view; writers who represent multifaceted expressions of intellectual thought and personal experience, and who can introduce readers to new perspectives about their everyday lives as well as the lives of others. Astra House is the adult trade imprint of Astra Publishing House.

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FALL 2025

Robbie Arnott

DUSK

A NOVEL

FICTION

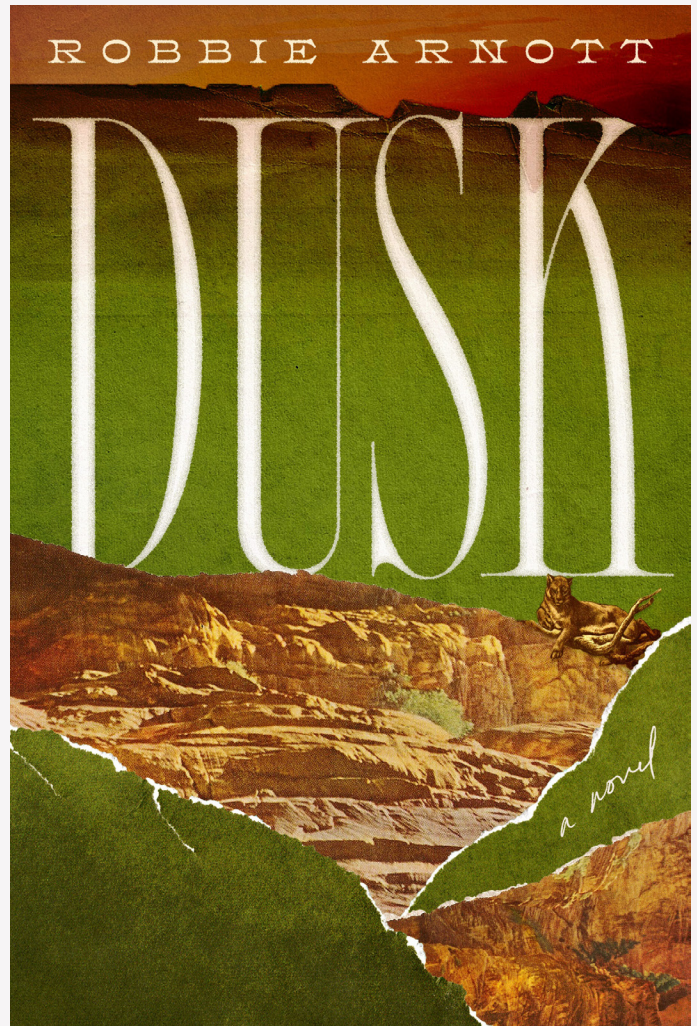
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603303

PUB DATE: August 5, 2025

272pp

Price: \$26 US / \$36 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ROBBIE ARNOTT is a Tasmanian novelist. He's been shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize, twice-shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and has twice won The Age Book of the Year. He lives in Hobart with his wife and children.



For fans of *North Woods* and *The Vaster Wilds*, *Dusk* is a propulsive, moody, and atmospheric take on the Western.

In the distant highlands, a puma named Dusk is killing shepherds. Down in the lowlands, twins Iris and Floyd are out of work, money, and friends. When they hear that a bounty has been placed on Dusk, they reluctantly decide to join the hunt. As they journey up into this wild, haunted country, they discover there's far more to the land and people of the highlands than they imagined. And as they close in on their prey, they're forced to reckon with conflicts both ancient and deeply personal.

From the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of *The Rain Heron*, *Dusk* is a masterful, mythical tale of loss, redemption, and survival.

PRAISE FOR ROBBIE ARNOTT

"Daring, atmospheric . . . [*The Rain Heron*] moves at a quicksilver pace, shimmering with menace and electric visions of forests and lake-filled valleys."

—**Anderson Tepper, *The New York Times Book Review***

"Arnott's writing is clear and compelling, particularly in descriptions of the folkloric bird, with its 'rain-smeared transparency.'" —***The New Yorker* (Briefly Noted)**

"Astonishing . . . With the intensity of a perfect balance between the mythic and the real, *The Rain Heron* keeps turning and twisting, taking you to unexpected places. A deeply emotional and satisfying read. Beautifully written."

—**Jeff VanderMeer, author of *Borne***

Eliana Alves Cruz

SOLITARIA

A NOVEL

TRANSLATED BY BENJAMIN BROOKS

FICTION

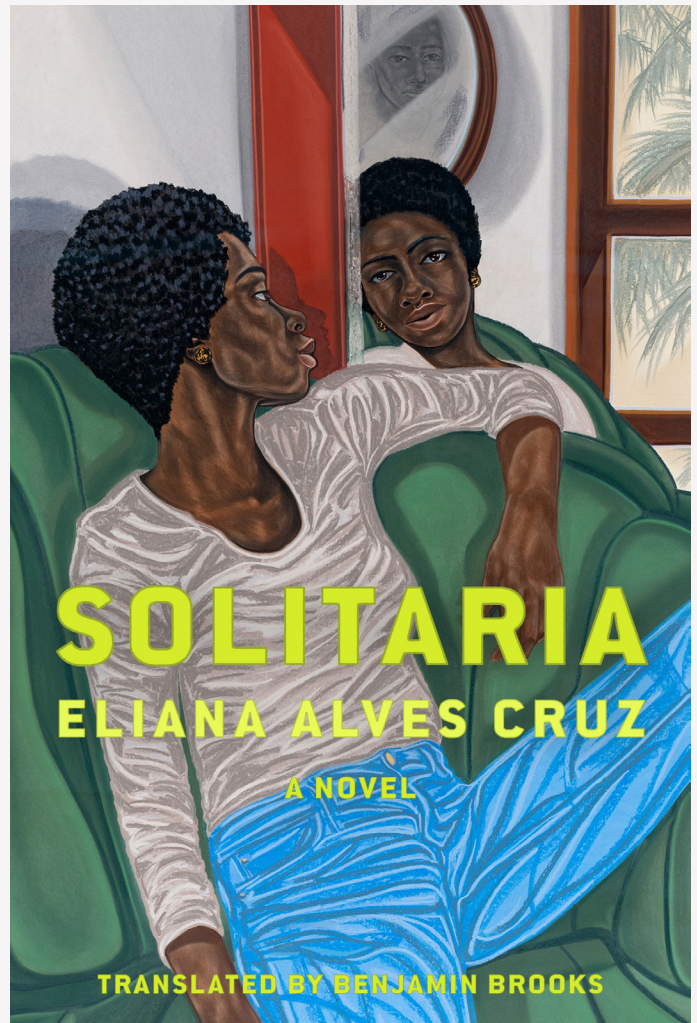
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603327

PUB DATE: August 5, 2025

240pp

Price: \$26 US / \$36 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

ELIANA ALVES CRUZ is a writer and journalist. Her debut novel, *Água de Barrela*, won the Oliveira Silveira award, from Fundação Palmares, in 2015. She is also the author of *O crime do cais do Valongo* (2018), *Nada digo de ti, que em ti não Veja* (2020), and *A vestida: contos* (2022), which won the Jabuti Award for Best Short Story. *Solitaria* is her most recent novel.

BENJAMIN BROOKS is a writer, an editor, and a translator of Brazilian literature. He is a Fulbright Scholar and a 2024 Periplus Fellow. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.



For fans of Fernanda Melchor and Tove Ditlevsen, a raw, propulsive novel by an award-winning Afro-Brazilian novelist about a Black mother and daughter who work as live-in maids for a rich family in an unnamed Brazilian city, and the tragedy they unwittingly bear witness to.

Mabel has been staying in the Golden Plate—the most expensive building on the block, in an unnamed city in Brazil—for almost her entire life. Yet her presence there is merely tolerated: she inhabits a miniscule room with her mother, Eunice, who alongside Mabel provides round-the-clock attention and care for the wealthy family who lives there. As Mabel grows up, her dissatisfaction with the forced smallness of her life becomes difficult to bear, and she is driven to work toward new possibilities for herself.

Eunice does the best that she can—uneducated, and with a daughter and ailing mother both depending solely on her, her life is a series of limitations. She moves through the rooms of the penthouse suite in silent servitude, and though Mabel is ashamed of this invisibility act they've both perfected, the era of slavery is still fresh in the country's consciousness, and Eunice thinks it best not to dwell too hard on such things. But when tragedy strikes, and a little boy dies, Eunice must decide if she can face the indifference and injustices of the ruling class she has spent so long orbiting.

Told through direct, agile, and evocative prose, *Solitaria* is a liberation novel of the most rousing order. Through the book's awareness of space and whose presence is permissible, the world of the Golden Plate unfurls, and an unflinching portrait emerges of modern-day Brazil, its legacies of colonial violence haunting rooms across the country, both big and small.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"*Solitaria* is a gem. The novel's clean and elegant architecture—life organized and thwarted across a series of rooms—reveals the intimate experience of power and powerlessness."

—Saidiya Hartman, author of *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*

"Enthralling and deftly narrated, *Solitaria* reveals the perils and unseen captivity of lives lived inside the lives of others. . . . An essential novel about class and filiation." —**Catherine Leroux, author of *The Future***

"In riveting, tight prose, Eliana Alves Cruz lays out her characters' insurgent desires—ones we all possess—to live a good life against the external and internal forces that hold them back. The rare alchemy in *Solitaria* is not only that the characters speak, but so too the walls, the rooms, the solitarias, that witness the lives within."

—Dionne Brand, author of *Salvage* and *A Map to the Door of No Return*

Melissa Lozada-Oliva

BEYOND ALL REASONABLE DOUBT, JESUS IS ALIVE! STORIES

FICTION

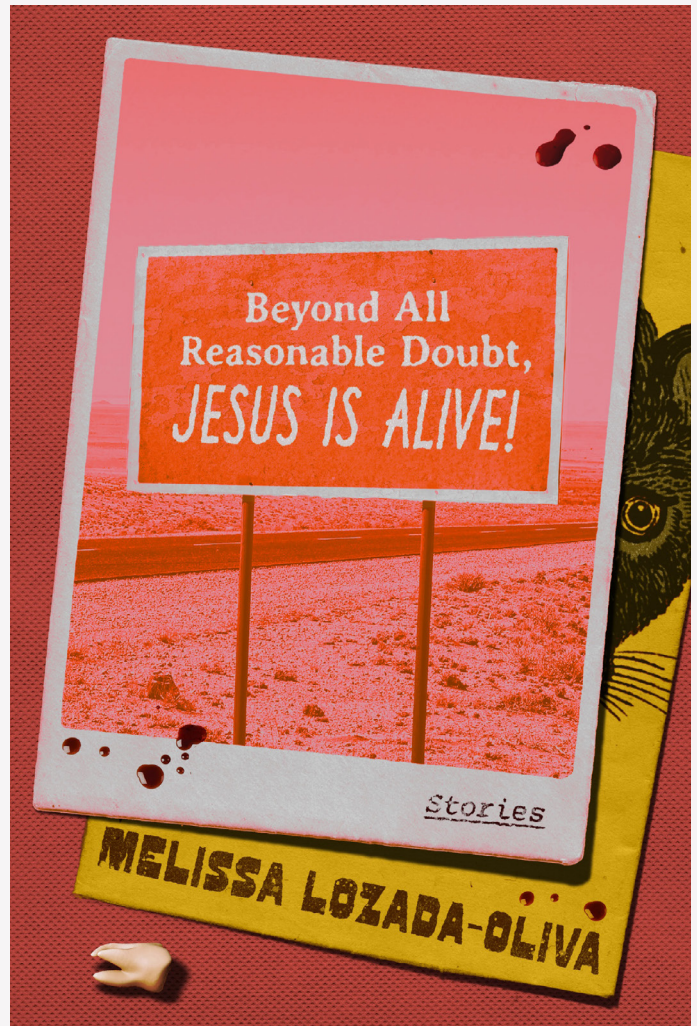
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662601828

PUB DATE: September 2, 2025

192pp

Price: \$26 US / \$36 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MELISSA LOZADA-OLIVA is the author the chapbook *peluda* (Button Poetry, 2017), the novel-in-verse *Dreaming of You* (Astra House, 2021), and the novel *Candelaria* (Astra House, 2023). *Candelaria* was named one of the best books of 2023 by *VOGUE* and *USA Today*. She co-hosts a podcast called *Say More* with Olivia Gatwood where they dissect the world through a poetic lens.

In 2024 she was named the Our Word Writer in Residence at Columbia University. Her work has been featured or is forthcoming in *NPR*, *Vogue*, *Remezcla*, *Paper*, *The Guardian*, *BreakBeat Poets*, *Kenyon Review*, *Vulture*, *Bustle*, *Glamour magazine*, and more.



From the celebrated author of *Dreaming of You* comes a collection of spiky and surprising short stories about women and their demons: jealous men, predatory teachers, monsters, fame, inherited trauma, and their own personal BS.

These stories explore the pain and uncertainty of girlhood and young adulthood. Stylish, subversive, and suspenseful, Lozada-Oliva uses elements of body horror and fabulism to great effect, investigating themes of class, race, gender and sexuality, and late stage capitalism.

PRAISE FOR MELISSA LOZADA-OLIVA

“With tongue-in-cheek humor and sharp cultural criticism, this novel is an unforgettable exploration of diasporic identity politics and the dangers of wanting to belong at any cost.” —**Xochitl Gonzalez, *The TODAY Show*, on *Candelaria***

“Lozada-Oliva’s apocalyptic debut novel in prose is an ode to complicated family dynamics, the overwhelming ways love can consume and eat us alive.”
—**Pamela Avila, *USA Today*, on *Candelaria***

“The novel is narrated in verse, a device that could feel gimmicky in less capable hands than Lozada-Oliva’s, but instead melds with the macabre-yet-gossipy subject matter to create an unforgettable portrait of a public figure who to many seemed larger than life.” —**Emma Specter, *Vogue*, on *Dreaming of You***

E.Y. Zhao

UNDERSPIN

A NOVEL

FICTION

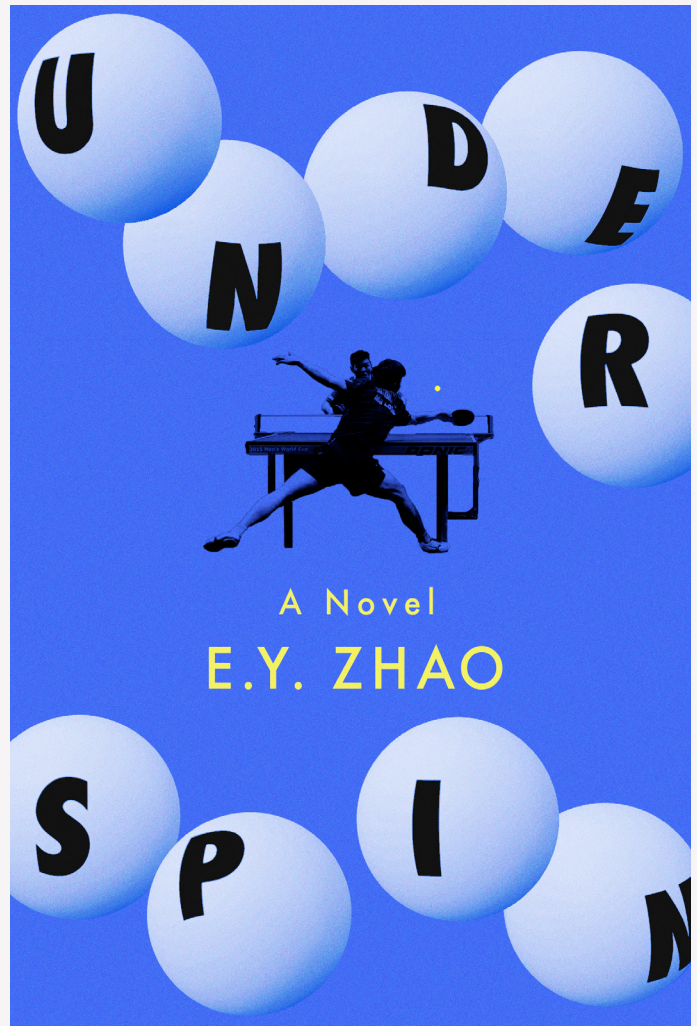
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603266

PUB DATE: September 23, 2025

304pp

Price: \$27 US / \$37 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

E.Y. ZHAO is a writer from St. Louis. She holds an MFA in prose from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program and a BA in history from Harvard College. Her work appears in *The Georgia Review* and *Electric Lit* and has been recognized by the Georgia Review Prose Prize, Hopwood Novel Award, Le Baron Russell Briggs Prize, and New York State Writers Institute. She edits for *Joyland Magazine* and *The Masters Review* and was formerly Fiction Editor of *The Harvard Advocate*.



***Stay True* meets *Headshot* in this intimate, bruising debut novel about the short and tumultuous life of a charismatic and enigmatic table tennis prodigy, as seen through the eyes of those pulled into his orbit.**

Ryan Lo begins playing table tennis at age eight, under the tutelage of his brilliant but ruthless coach Kristian, who sees talent in him that might be nurtured into greatness. Throughout an adolescence circumscribed by Kristian's demanding behavior, Ryan forms jealousy-fueled and mutually adoring friendships with his teammates and competitors, falls in love with fellow table tennis star Anabel Yu, and above all, wins championships.

By twenty-one, Ryan ascends all the way to the German Bundesliga, the highest echelon of international table tennis, just as he was supposed to, but he doesn't stay there. It is clear to all that Ryan Lo was meant to be the greatest in the world. Instead, he abandons competition and is dead before his twenty-fifth birthday. What happened?

In crisp, evocative prose, *Underspin* masterfully delves beneath the relentless pressure that forges a champion, considering adolescence, estrangement, and the great injustices committed within our closest relationships. A love letter to an underdog sports circuit and a tender exploration of love, loss and abuse, *Underspin* is a bildungsroman and literary puzzle for readers of Rita Bullwinkel, Hua Hsu, Susan Choi, and Brandon Taylor.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"Zhao's *Underspin* is an eruption of a debut. This novel displays a wondrous ability that renders both the central sport and lives that weave around it with meticulous precision and tremendous heart. The beauty of sport the spirit of desire and the sacrifice required for greatness are all captured here in this stunner." —**Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, author of *Chain-Gang All-Stars***

"An unconventional and stylish portrait of a table tennis wunderkid, *Underspin* explores the different forces that shape us into who we become. Zhao takes us not only into the packed competition halls and spotless training centers that define one's career, but the intimate hotel rooms and quiet suburban kitchens that define one's coming-of-age. Both tender and brutal, visceral and cerebral, this book will immerse you in its high-stakes world until the very last page." —**Alina Grabowski, author of *Women and Children First***

"E.Y. Zhao writes with kinetic genius about the fast paced, ultracompetitive world of table tennis, and the bliss and heartbreak of chasing greatness. *Underspin* is as suspenseful as a championship game and as perfectly orchestrated as a winning shot." —**Laura van den Berg, author of *State of Paradise***

Delaney Nolan

HAPPY BAD

A NOVEL

FICTION

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603280

PUB DATE: October 14, 2025

304pp

Price: \$26 US / \$36 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DELANEY NOLAN received her MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was a Rona Jaffe fellow. She has since received a Pushcart Prize, two Academy of American Poets Prizes, and a Fulbright Fellowship in fiction; her fiction has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Guernica*, *Indiana Review*, *Oxford American*, *Tin House*, *TriQuarterly*, and elsewhere, and has been adapted into a radio play and a short film.



Hernan Diaz meets Ottessa Moshfegh in this madcap road trip chronicle; a moving display of human connection in the face of violence and climate destruction from a remarkable new voice in fiction.

Beatrice works at Twin Bridge, a chronically underfunded residential treatment center in near-future East Texas, teeming with enraged teenage girls on either too many or not enough drugs. On a normal day, it's difficult for Beatrice and the other staff—Arda, Carmen, and Linda—to keep their cool. Now, she's in charge of overseeing the drug trial being conducted there: most of the girls are on heavy doses of BeZen, which produces wonderfully calming effects on (almost) everybody, except her most difficult charge, Teresa. If the trial goes well, the pharmaceutical company will pay for a swanky new facility far away from dust-blown Askewn. No stranger to the power of a well-placed lie, Beatrice just needs to fudge a few numbers on her BeZen report and all of Twin Bridge will get their ticket out of Texas. Then the lights go out.

A heat wave triggers a massive, sustained blackout. In the ensuing chaos and dust storm, a heavily medicated Teresa commits a shocking act of violence. Beatrice keeps this secret as the staff and residents leave town in a stolen van, hoping to reach the new facility in Atlanta. Meanwhile, Beatrice's thoughts spiral deeper into the chain of events that drove her from Carolina when she herself was a teen: how her parents joined a bizarre new religion, and how their house burned down under mysterious circumstances. Now, facing police brutality, sweltering heat, panicked evacuees, the girls' mounting withdrawal, and the consequences of her lies, Beatrice, her colleagues, and the strange but handsome handyman Frank must keep the group safe while searching for a route out of the blackout zone. Met with state violence as they try to cross a bridge to Mississippi, the group reroutes to the now-flooded bayous of southern Louisiana, where in the region's neglected margins they find a refuge and the possibility of hope.

ADVANCE PRAISE

“Delaney Nolan’s breathtaking, sharply crafted debut announces the arrival of an important new writer. The characters who populate these pages are unforgettable. *Happy Bad* will stand the test of time, but it’s also exactly the kind of book we need in our troubled times.” —**Jamel Brinkley, author of *Witness* and *A Lucky Man***

Hu Anyan

I DELIVER PARCELS

IN BEIJING

ONE MAN'S QUEST TO SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GLOBAL GIG ECONOMY

TRANSLATED BY JACK HARGREAVES

NONFICTION

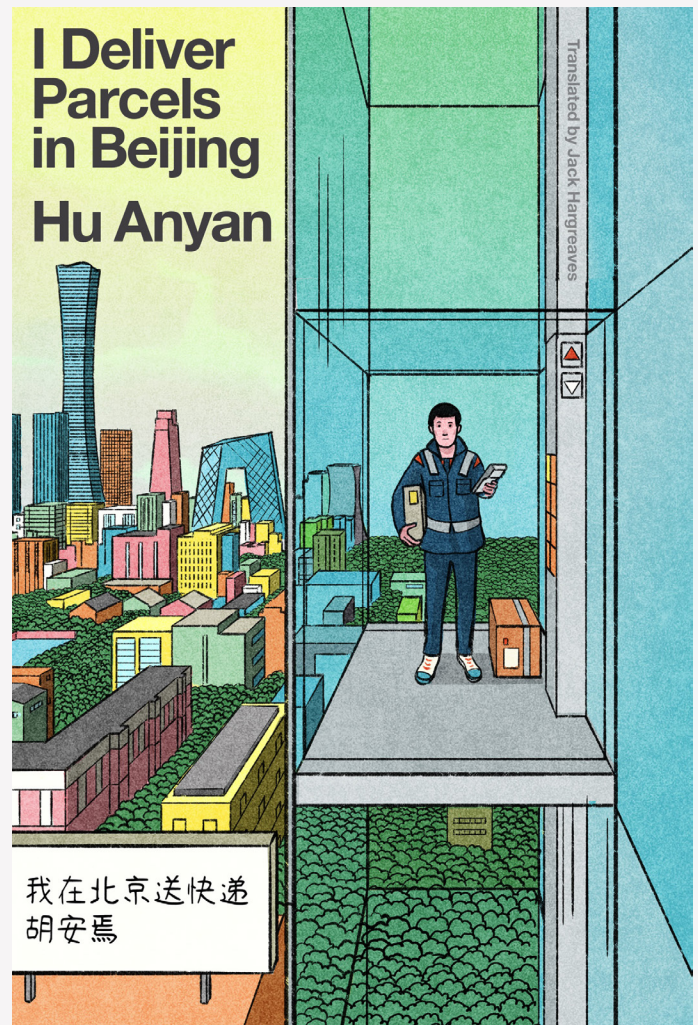
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603044

PUB DATE: October 28, 2025

256pp

Price: \$27 US / \$37 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

HU ANYAN describes himself as a worker and as a writer. Worker comes first. He started writing in 2009, and in these decades also worked as a security guard, bakery apprentice, online retailer, bike salesman, and courier.



An authentic and humorous first person account of one worker's daily life in the huge system that is the Chinese gig economy. The system could crush you unless you, as the author, have a slightly philosophical look on everyday life. A bestseller in China in 2023 with over 160,000 copies sold, 400,000 ebooks read, and 1,360,000 audio versions downloaded. Also sold for local publications in fifteen territories.

In 2023, *I Deliver Parcels in Beijing* became a literary sensation of the year in China. The story of a worker doing odd jobs in various anonymous mega-cities, Hu AnYan's voice hit a nerve with a generation of young Chinese people who feel at odds with an ever growing pressure to perform and succeed.

Hu started posting essays about his experiences online during COVID lockdowns. His recollection of night shifts in a huge logistics center in the South of China went viral: nights so hot that even drinking three liters of water does not require a toilet break; colleagues going for KTV instead of trying to get a few hours' sleep; where are the affordable rooms with proper air conditioning, and what is the best amount of alcohol in order to sleep but not feel drowsy a few hours later?

The work is brutal, and there is no real sense of future in sight. But Hu is armed with a deadpan sense of humor and a strong idea of self, he moves on when he feels stuck: from logistics in the South to delivering parcels in Beijing, over to other odd jobs, all the while also discovering the power of reading and writing.

A unique first person portrait of a part of society we never hear from but everyone has opinions about and benefits from.

PRAISE FOR HU ANYAN

"Hu captures working life with an almost camera-like acuity, and is equally exacting in exploring his own life's journey. We witness first-hand the slow reclamation of his identity, as he challenges, refines and ultimately replaces the set of values and beliefs imposed on him in childhood." —***The Beijing Review of Books***

"This is not a window through which to pry on the 'lower classes', nor is it the inspirational story of a delivery driver who wrote his way to fame . . . this is about a person constantly striving and experimenting to find what it is that makes him human." —***People magazine***

"It is the depictions of profound personal struggles and authentic life experiences that imbue this book with its inimitable charm . . . We shouldn't feel disappointed that our intellectuals have failed to speak out on behalf of others, but heartened that our workers are beginning to speak out for themselves again."

—**Shi Yifeng, author and recipient of the Lu Xun Literary Prize**

Edward McPherson

LOOK OUT

THE DELIGHT AND DANGER OF TAKING THE LONG VIEW

NONFICTION

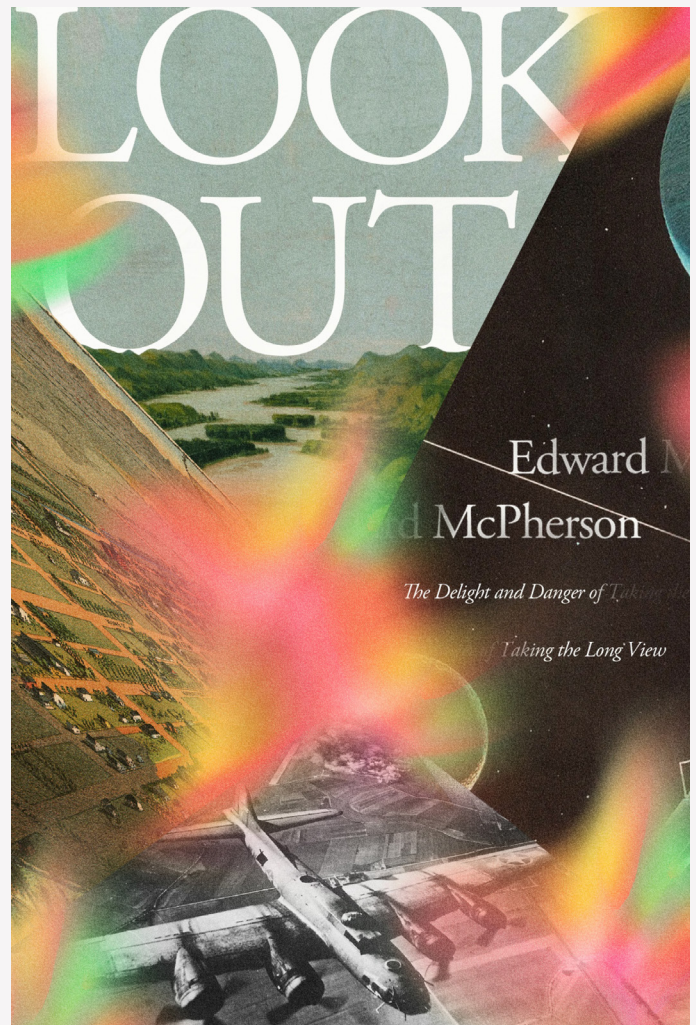
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602955

PUB DATE: October 21, 2025

288pp

Price: \$28 US / \$37 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

EDWARD MCPHERSON is the author of *Buster Keaton: Tempest in a Flat Hat*, *The Backwash Squeeze and Other Improbable Feats*, and *The History of the Future: American Essays*. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Pushcart Prize, among other prizes. He teaches creative writing at Washington University in St. Louis.



As if Borges and Didion took a tour with Sebald through the beauty and terror of our present and past, *Look Out* is a profound and prismatic investigation of taking the long view.

Look Out is an exploration of long-distance mapping, aerial photography, and top-down perspectives—from pre-Civil War America to our vexed modern times of drone warfare, hyper-surveillance at home and abroad, and quarantine and protest. Blending history, reporting, personal experience, and accounts of activists, programmers, spies, architects, artists, and entrepreneurs, Edward McPherson reveals that to see is to control—and the stakes are high for everyone.

The aerial view—a position known in Greek as the catascopos, or “the looker-down”—is a fundamentally privileged perspective, inaccessible to those left on the ground. To the earthbound, (in)sights from such rarified heights convey power and authority. McPherson casts light on our fetishization of distance as a path to truth and considers the awe and apocalypse of taking the long view.

PRAISE FOR EDWARD MCPHERSON

“Taken together, this travelogue of the familiar and the strange exposes multiple anxieties latent in the national subconscious: racial inequalities, the dread of disaster, the chase after short-term profits, the eroding meaning of home. McPherson’s depth of research, the inventiveness of his prose, and his sensitivity to municipal undercurrents make this a first-rate work of social analysis.”

—*Los Angeles Review of Books*, on *The History of the Future*

“One of Hollywood’s funniest filmmakers—that’s the Buster Keaton we remember today, and McPherson nicely reminds us of how he got that way.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*, on *Buster Keaton: Tempest In A Flat Hat*

“[McPherson] writes with a light, entertaining touch and gives interesting insights into bridge and its players.”

—*The New York Times*, on *The Backwash Squeeze & Other Improbable Feats*

Brad Fox

ANOTHER BONE-SWAPPING EVENT

NONFICTION

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603167

PUB DATE: November 4, 2025

288pp

Price: \$29 US / \$39 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BRAD FOX is a writer, journalist, translator, and former relief contractor. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Guernica*, and other venues. His novel *To Remain Nameless* (Rescue Press, 2020) was a finalist for the Big Other Fiction award and a staff pick at *The Paris Review*.



Brad Fox takes us on a wild exploration of plants and people, imagination and matter, over an unexpected year-long waylay in the high jungle of northeastern Peru.

In *Another Bone-Swapping Event*, Brad Fox tells the story of a year he spent stuck in the high jungles of Peru living with a family of Quechua-speaking curanderos responsible for a hundred-hectare stretch of jungle four hours' walk from the nearest dirt road. In the care of local maestro Miguel Tapullima, Fox gets a crash course in traditional medicine and takes readers on a labyrinthine tour, in turn contemplative and comic, navigating the coexisting realities of the human and more-than-human world.

Through it all, the lush prose that made *The Bathysphere Book* so distinct turns this book into its own rich and multi-layered experience, because with Brad Fox as our guide we're able to stretch our minds to encompass histories and meanings, metaphysical questions at the base of phenomena, and the shattering ironies of the moment, all during peak COVID, when no one knew how our collective future might unfold.

PRAISE FOR BRAD FOX'S THE BATHYSPHERE BOOK

"Beautifully written and beautifully made . . . Raises questions of exploration and wonder, of nature and humanity, and lets readers find answers on their own."

—**W. M. Akers, *The New York Times Book Review***

"A weird and often beautiful fusion of science writing, history and poetry that explores our own relationship with the unknown." —**Edward Posnett, *The Guardian***

Brian Barth

FRONT STREET

RESISTANCE AND REBIRTH IN THE TENT CITIES OF TECHLANDIA

NONFICTION

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662601613

PUB DATE: November 11, 2025

288pp

Price: \$29 US / \$39 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BRIAN BARTH is a freelance journalist who writes for the *New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, *Washington Post*, *Guardian*, *Slate*, *The New Republic*, *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, and *The Walrus*, among other publications. He has been awarded a Bradford Williams Medal and the Jesse H. Neal Award for his reporting. *Front Street* is his first book.



In his first book, award-winning investigative journalist Brian Barth takes us on an immersive journey deep into Silicon Valley's homeless encampments, challenging everything we thought we knew about our unhoused neighbors.

In this wide-reaching portrait of the constellation of people living in tents, shacks, and cars in the shadow of tech campuses and skyscrapers, award-winning journalist Brian Barth introduces us to the misfits, activists, and iconoclasts of Silicon Valley's homeless encampments. Blending memoir, investigative reporting, history, and cultural criticism to paint a portrait of a community searching for dignity and connection in the midst of a national crisis, *Front Street* is a conversation-changing story about the struggle for housing.

This immersive work follows residents of three distinct camps—Crash Zone in San Jose, Wood Street in Oakland, and Wolfe Camp in Palo Alto. Regularly harassed by police and local government, and frequently at risk of often violent and always destabilizing sweeps, these camps may seem chaotic to some but more often than not, to their residents they are sites of refuge and rebirth. In research on 19th and 20th century homelessness and philosophical contemplations of communal anarchy, and through honest conversations with residents, Barth shows how the solution to homelessness isn't as straightforward as one might think.

Front Street considers the root causes and possible solutions to chronic homelessness, contemplating political, economic, social and spiritual approaches alike. With empathy and poise, Barth follows this cast of characters, describing their personal stories, quotidian experiences, private philosophies and political activism. In doing so, *Front Street* explains why the country's current approach to homelessness has become at once cruel and ineffective and makes the radical argument that encampments, when treated generously and fairly, have something important to teach the rest of us about autonomy, dignity, connection and care.

Fátima Vélez

GALAPAGOS

A NOVEL

TRANSLATED BY HANNAH KAUDERS

FICTION

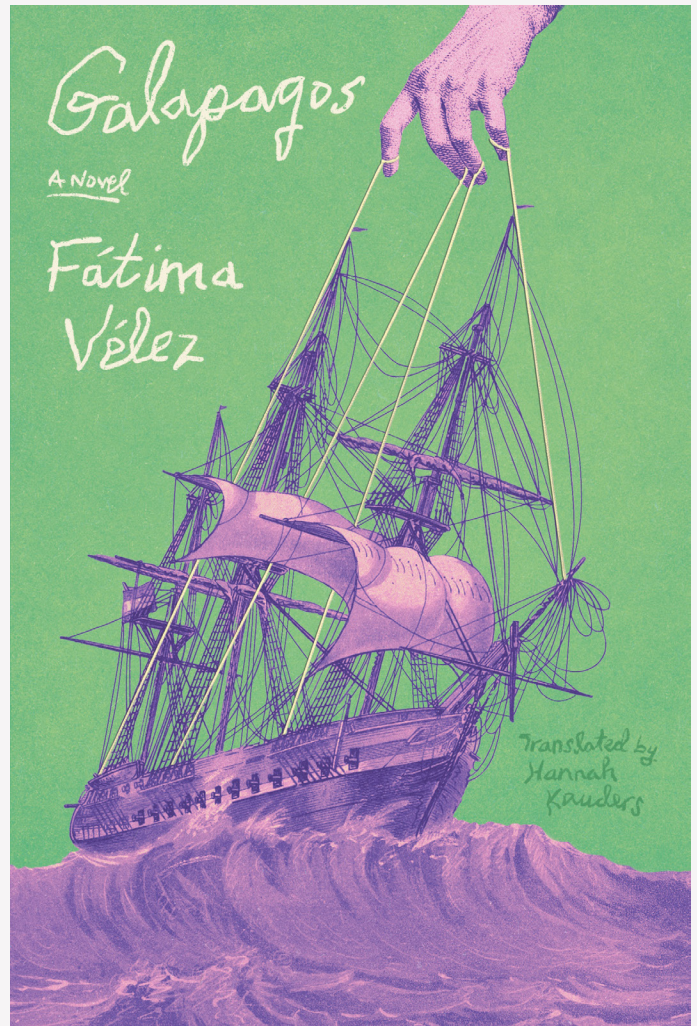
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602269

PUB DATE: December 2, 2025

208pp

Price: \$25 US / \$34 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

FÁTIMA VÉLEZ is a writer, professor, cultural producer, and PhD candidate in Hispano-American literature and cultures at the Graduate Center, CUNY. *Galapagos* is her first novel.

HANNAH KAUDERS is a writer, translator, and musician from Boston. She holds a BA in Spanish and Latin American cultures from Barnard College and an MFA in fiction from Columbia University, where she taught undergraduate writing. Her writing and translations have appeared in *Fiction International* and *Exchanges: Journal of Literary Translation*. She was a finalist for the 2020 Iowa Review Award in Fiction.



From New York City-based Colombian writer Fátima Vélez comes the debut novel *Galapagos*, following a group of bohemian artists who are dying of AIDS as they embark on a surreal final voyage through the Galapagos Islands, their bodies cloaked in the skins of the dead.

Lorenzo is a painter who doesn't paint. He spends his days watching Jeanne Moreau films, luxuriating in his partner Juan B's bed, and swapping letters with his lovers. Then, one day, his nail falls off. Then another nail, then all of them. Thus begins a journey of decomposition that carries him from Colombia to Paris, from Paris to the French countryside, and on a final journey to the Galápagos Archipelago.

As they cruise the islands on a custom-made ship, Lorenzo and his friends and lovers drink, swap stories, and feast gluttonously, even as their bodies succumb to an unspeakable disease. In this contemporary plague novel, rife with pathos and humor, ailing bodies are torn between desire and decay, lust and friendship, creativity and destruction. Vélez revolutionizes the novel form, pushing language to its extreme as she tests the limits of how we understand illness, sexuality, the body, and what it means to make art in the face of our own mortality.

PAPERBACKS

Alejandro Varela

THE PEOPLE WHO REPORT MORE STRESS STORIES

FICTION

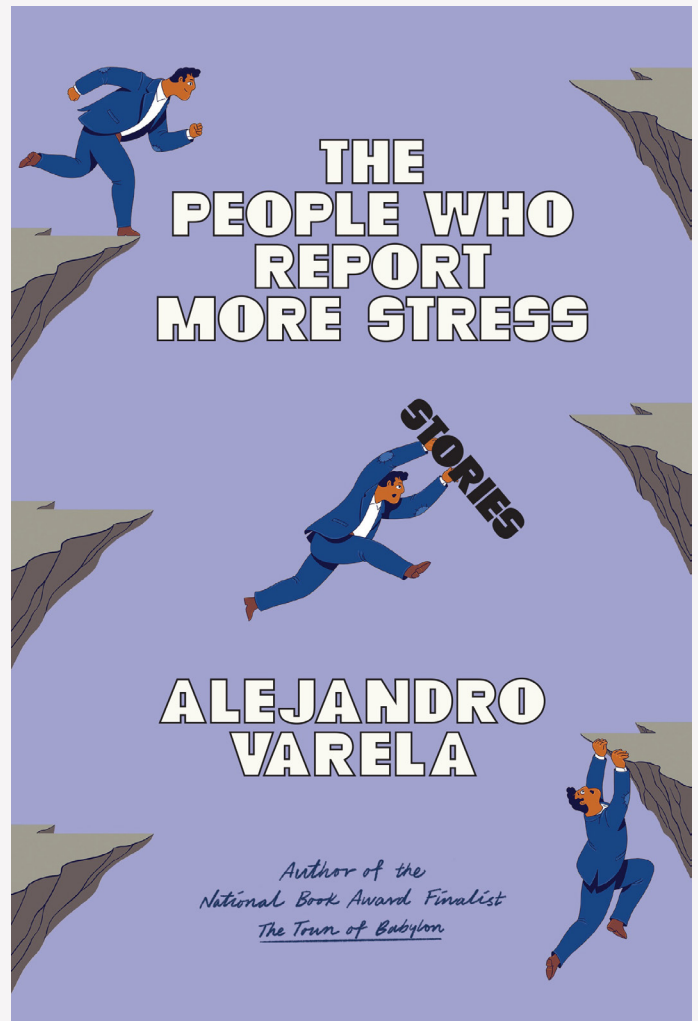
PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662603396

PUB DATE: August 19, 2025

256pp

Price: \$16 US / \$22 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ALEJANDRO VARELA (he/him) is a writer based in New York. His debut novel, *The Town of Babylon* (2022), was published by Astra House and was a finalist for the National Book Award. His work has appeared in the *Point Magazine*, *Georgia Review*, *Boston Review*, *Harper's*, and the *Offing*, among others outlets. Varela is an editor-at-large of *Apogee Journal*. His graduate studies were in public health. Access his work at alejandrovarela.work. You can also find him on Twitter and IG: @drovarela.



LONGLISTED FOR THE STORY PRIZE
A GOODREADS FAVORITE BOOK OF 2024
AN *ELECTRIC LITERATURE* BEST SHORT STORY COLLECTION OF 2024
A *PUBLISHERS WEEKLY* BEST FICTION BOOK OF 2023

“A master class in analyzing the unspoken . . . This collection delights in the layers of human interaction, and what might lie beneath them.”

—Gwen E. Kirby, *The New York Times Book Review*

“This collection of linked stories gives a vivid and unforgettable voice to the anxieties of people whose experiences are frequently marginalized.” —Emma Specter, *Vogue*

***The People Who Report More Stress* is a collection of interconnected stories brimming with the anxieties of people who retreat into themselves while living in the margins, acutely aware of the stresses that modern life takes upon the body and the body politic.**

In “Midtown–West Side Story,” Álvaro, a restaurant worker struggling to support his family, begins selling high-end designer clothes to his co-workers, friends, neighbors, and the restaurant’s regulars in preparation for a move to the suburbs. “The Man in 512” tracks Manny, the childcare worker for a Swedish family, as he observes the comings and goings of an affluent co-op building, all the while teaching the children Spanish through Selena’s music catalog. “Comrades” follows a queer man with radical politics who just ended a long-term relationship and is now on the hunt for a life partner. With little tolerance for political moderates, his series of speed dates devolve into awkward confrontations that leave him wondering if his approach is the correct one.

Humorous, sexy, and highly neurotic tales about parenting, long-term relationships, systemic and interpersonal racism, and class conflict from the author of the National Book Award finalist *The Town of Babylon*, *The People Who Report More Stress* deftly and poignantly expresses the frustration of knowing the problems and solutions to our society’s inequities but being unable to do anything about them.

PRAISE

“Varela’s witty, observant prose lifts each of these stories. . . There’s a wisdom and lightness to Varela’s work that nudges us toward the conclusion that our divisions, while there may be many, can be mended.” —Leland Cheuk, *The Boston Globe*

“These stories artfully pinpoint the inequities within American society and highlight the frustration inherent in being unable to adequately address them.”

—Laura Zornosa, *TIME Magazine*

Ingrid Robeyns

LIMITARIANISM

THE CASE AGAINST EXTREME WEALTH

NONFICTION

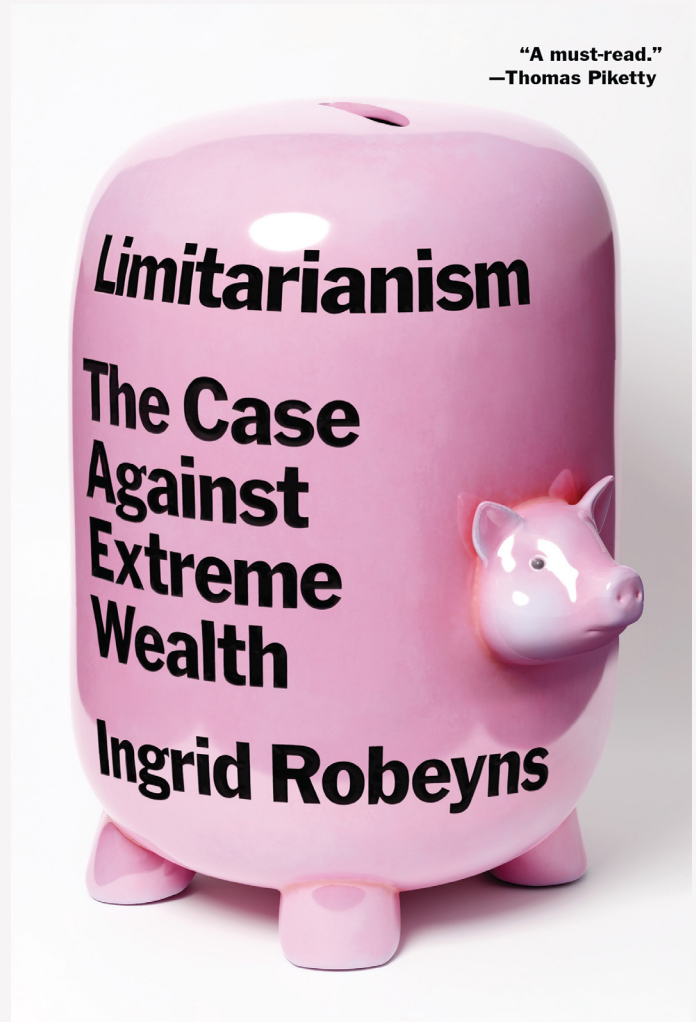
PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662603365

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336pp

Price: \$18 US



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

INGRID ROBEYNS holds master degrees in economics and philosophy, and obtained her PhD for a thesis on gender inequality and the capability approach at Cambridge University. She currently holds the chair in ethics of institutions at Utrecht University. In 2018, she was elected as a member of the Netherlands Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts. In 2021, she was awarded an Emma Goldman Award for her work on inequality studies and feminism by the FLAX foundation in Vienna. She lives in Utrecht, Netherlands.



**A NEW YORKER BEST BOOK OF 2024
A HISTORY TODAY BOOK OF THE YEAR**

“[A] provocative consideration of extreme wealth accumulation.”—**New Yorker**

“[A] thoughtful study . . . One can only hope that the super-rich and those in political power not only hear what [Robeyns] has to say but embrace it.”

—**David Rosen, *New York Journal of Books***

“Robeyns’s book is a timely addition to the conversation about extreme wealth—subverting assumptions in a way that may make it easier to accept the (far less dramatic) shifts that may finally be taking place.” —**Christine Emba, *The Atlantic***

“The current Buddha of the cap-the-rich movement is Ingrid Robeyns . . . [*Limitarianism*] is a bracing, scolding read.” —**Ian Brown, *Globe and Mail***

An original and galvanizing indictment of the world’s uber-rich that boldly argues for a cap on wealth from the philosopher who coined the term “limitarianism.”

How much money is too much? Is it ethical, and democratic, for an individual to amass a limitless amount of wealth, and then spend it however they choose? As democracies weaken, our climate becomes increasingly unpredictable, and inequality worsens, many of us feel that the obvious answer is no—but what can we do about it?

Economist and philosopher Ingrid Robeyns has long written and argued for the principle she calls “limitarianism”—a “common sense” (Jia Tolentino) case against extreme wealth which posits that a considered cap on one’s individual wealth is an urgent ethical concern that will ultimately lead to healthier, more democratic societies. In this “provocative consideration of extreme wealth accumulation” (*The New Yorker*) Robeyns ignites an urgent debate about wealth and when, how and why to limit it, calling into question the legitimacy of capitalism and neoliberalism and inviting us to a radical reimagining of our world.

PRAISE

“[A] revolutionary volume . . . *Limitarianism* is a thoughtful blueprint for the world so many of us want to live in—one where capitalism is curbed and greed is limited.”

—**Adrienne Westenfeld, *Esquire***

“The challenge is daunting, but rebalancing and regulating capitalism will be a necessity if we are going to deal with the many internal and external threats we are now facing. Thus *Limitarianism* is well-worth considering and debating.”

—**Ed Meek, *The Arts Fuse***

Brad Fox

THE BATHYSPHERE BOOK

EFFECTS OF THE LUMINOUS OCEAN DEPTHS

NONFICTION

PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662603259

PUB DATE: October 7, 2025

352pp

Price: \$21 US / \$28 CAN

"Hypnotic. . . . Beautifully written and beautifully made."
—W. M. Akers, *The New York Times Book Review*

The Bathysphere Book



Effects of the Luminous
Ocean Depths

Brad Fox

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BRAD FOX is a writer, journalist, translator, and former relief contractor. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Guernica*, and other venues. His novel *To Remain Nameless* (Rescue Press, 2020) was a finalist for the Big Other Fiction award and a staff pick at *The Paris Review*.



**A NBF & ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION 2024 SCIENCE + LITERATURE TITLE
 LONGLISTED: THE PEN/E.O. WILSON LITERARY SCIENCE WRITING AWARD
 A WASHINGTON POST BEST BOOK OF 2023
 A PUBLISHERS WEEKLY & THE MARY SUE BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF 2023**

“Hypnotic . . . Beautifully written and beautifully made.”

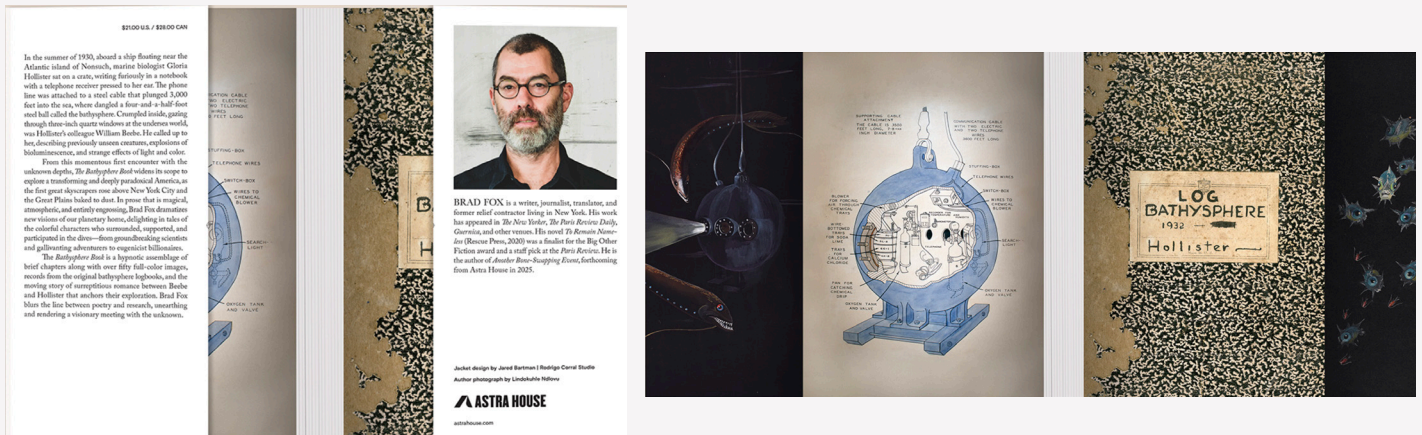
—W. M. Akers, *The New York Times Book Review*

“[A] splendid, hypnotic ode to wonder and curiosity.”

—Carl Hoffman, *The Washington Post*

A wide ranging, philosophical, and sensual account of early deep sea exploration and its afterlives, *The Bathysphere Book* begins with the first ever voyage to the deep ocean in 1930 and expands to explore the adventures and entanglements of its all-too-human participants at a time when the world still felt entirely new.

The Bathysphere Book is a hypnotic assemblage of brief chapters along with over fifty full-color images, records from the original bathysphere logbooks, and the moving story of surreptitious romance between Beebe and Hollister that anchors their exploration. Brad Fox blurs the line between poetry and research, unearthing and rendering a visionary meeting with the unknown.



PRaise

“One of the most beautiful books-as-objects of the year.” —*The Globe and Mail*

“One of the most fascinating and unusual new books I’ve read in some time.”

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“Mesmerizing . . . Original and often profound, [*The Bathysphere Book*] is a moving testament to the wonders of exploration.” —*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

S.H. Fernando Jr. THE CHRONICLES OF DOOM

UNRAVELING RAP'S MASKED ICONOCLAST

NONFICTION

PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662603242

PUB DATE: October 28, 2025

352pp

Price: \$21 US / \$28 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

S.H. FERNANDO JR. is a writer/journalist whose byline has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Source*. He currently lives in Baltimore, MD.



**A MOTHER JONES BEST BOOK OF 2024
A VARIETY, CLASH, AND FLOOD MAGAZINE BEST MUSIC BOOK OF 2024**

“In a career and life full of fictions, the truth—as this excellent, detailed biography makes clear—was often as mind-boggling . . . Hip-hop writer S.H. Fernando Jr. benefits from an insider’s understanding of the milieu and provides generous context.”

—Kitty Empire, *The Guardian*

The definitive biography of MF DOOM, charting the reclusive and revered hip-hop artist’s life, career, and eventual immortality. From the journalist behind *From the Streets of Shaolin* and packed with behind-the-scenes content, for fans of hip-hop biographies like *Dilla Time* and *The Marathon Don’t Stop*.

On December 31, 2020, the world was shocked to learn about the death of hip-hop legend MF DOOM. Born in London and raised in the suburban enclave of Long Beach, New York, Daniel Dumile Jr.’s love of cartoons and comic books would soon turn him into one of hip-hop’s most enigmatic, prolific, and influential figures.

Sweeping and definitive, *The Chronicles of Doom: Unraveling Rap’s Masked Iconoclast* recounts the rise, fall, redemption, and untimely demise of MF DOOM. Broken down into five sections: The Man, The Myth, The Mask, The Music, and The Legend, journalist SH Fernando, or SKIZ, chronicles the life of Daniel Dumile Jr., beginning in the house he grew up in in Long Beach, into the hip-hop group KMD, onto the stage of his first masked show, through the countless collabs, and across the many different cities Daniel called home. Centering the music, SKIZ deftly lays out the history of east-coast rap against DOOM’s life story and dissects the personas, projects, tracks, and lyrics that led to his immortality.

Including exclusive interviews with those who worked closely with DOOM and providing an unknown, intimate, behind the scenes look into DOOM’s life, *The Chronicles of DOOM* is the definitive biography of MF DOOM, a supervillain on stage and hero to those who paid attention.

PRAISE

“[Fernando] tells a larger story about reinvention, a process familiar to anyone who has had to rebuild a life, and an identity, when things fall apart.”

—Chris Vognar, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Trying to focus on the tale of the eccentric, enigmatic and anonymous rapper-producer Dumile Daniel Thompson—a.k.a. DOOM—must have been akin to pinning down mercury . . . Fernando goes a long way in presenting the man behind the mask (who died in 2020) without revealing all of his spaced-out secrets that made him special.” —*Variety*

Orlando Reade

WHAT IN ME IS

DARK

THE REVOLUTIONARY AFTERLIFE OF PARADISE LOST

NONFICTION

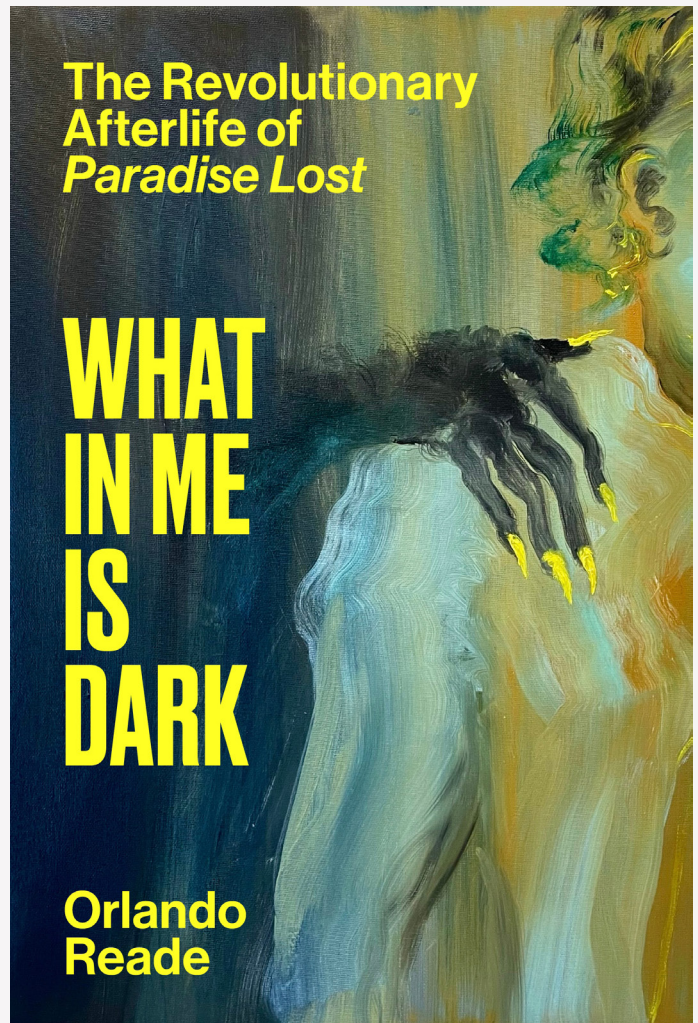
PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662603402

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272pp

Price: \$18 US / \$24.95 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ORLANDO READE studied at Cambridge and Princeton, where he received his PhD in English literature in 2020. For a period of five years, he taught in New Jersey prisons. He is now an assistant professor of English at Northeastern University London. His writing has appeared in publications including *The Guardian*, *Frieze*, and *The White Review*, where he also served as a contributing editor.



**A FINANCIAL TIMES BEST LITERARY NONFICTION BOOK OF 2024
A THE BIG ISSUE & COUNTERFIRE BEST BOOK OF 2024**

“Enlightening and enthusiastic.” —**Ed Simon, *The New York Times Book Review***

“It’s unusual, and instructive, to encounter a work of criticism so at ease with the idea that its cherished object might, at best, be useful to its readers—answerable to their needs and their purposes.” —**Catherine Nicholson, *New York Review of Books***

A highly original hybrid of literary criticism and political history, telling of the enduring, surprising and ever-evolving relevance of Milton’s epic poem through the scandalous life of its creator and the revolutionary lives that were influenced by it.

What in Me Is Dark tells the unlikely story of how Milton’s epic poem came to haunt political struggles over the past four centuries, including the many different, unexpected, often contradictory ways in which it has been read, interpreted, and appropriated through time and across the world, and to revolutionary ends. The book focuses on twelve readers—including Malcolm X, Thomas Jefferson, George Eliot, Hannah Arendt, and C.L.R. James—whose lives demonstrate extraordinary and disturbing influence on the modern age.

Drawing from his own experiences teaching *Paradise Lost* in New Jersey prisons, English scholar Orlando Reade deftly investigates how the poem was read by people embedded in struggles against tyranny, slavery, colonialism, gender inequality, and capitalist exploitation. It is experimental nonfiction at its finest; rich literary analysis and social, cultural and political history are woven together to make a clarifying case for the undeniable impact of the poem.

PRAISE

“*What in Me Is Dark*, with its brisk canter over a field as wild and varied as Milton’s own masterpiece, will send readers back to the original text with a new sense of its paradoxes, beauties, and continuing relevance.” —**Suzi Feay, *Financial Times***

“With this book, school’s in session in the best way.” —**Sharon Hsu, *Goodreads***

“*What in Me Is Dark* . . . is a revelatory examination of the political significance of John Milton’s epic poem . . . With Reade’s patient guidance, readers will come to appreciate its relevance for their lives as well.”

—**Kristen Allen-Vogel, *Shelf Awareness*, starred review**