

ASTRA HOUSE

*Fall 2026
Catalog*



Astra House publishes genre-bending and boundary-pushing writing from around the world.

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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Esther Yi

TO GOD

FICTION

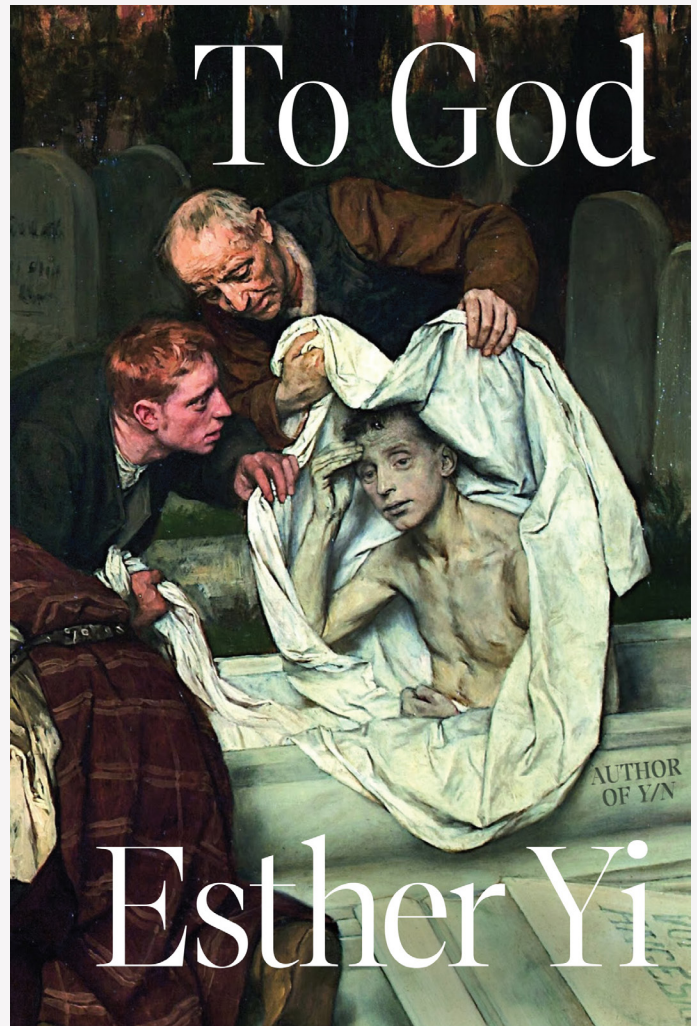
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603617

PUB DATE: October 13, 2026

256pp

Price: \$28 US / \$37.99 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ESTHER YI was born in Los Angeles in 1989 and currently lives in Leipzig, Germany. She is the author of *Y/N*.



“Esther Yi’s every paragraph is revelatory, unexpected, with an intense capacity to see the world anew, such that we are empowered again in the matter of astonishment.”

—Rick Moody, author of *Hotels of North America*

From the author of the acclaimed debut novel *Y/N* comes a daring collection of fiction about alienation, sex, and spiritual inquiry.

The cityscape of *To God* is in decay. One won’t find any fancy flaneurs here. As for happiness? Out of the question. Instead, one encounters drifters with nowhere to go and nothing to do, boxers with dreams of making it big (they won’t), artists who never get a chance to make art, women who frighten the men they love, and children who are more adult than the adults. Nothing goes right for these people—but what does going right mean anyway? After all, in the world of *To God*, it’s the loser who wins, the faceless who expresses, the atheist who truly believes, and the geriatric who’s reborn . . .

At the heart of *To God* is a formidable voice, a beam of light that cuts through the entire collection to rearrange and reincarnate the world wherever it falls. Navigating the daily vicissitudes of work, love, and ideology, this voice asks: How do I know myself, and how do I know others? What does it feel like to know at all? What if I believe in nothing? Then what makes me live?

At the atomic level of language, the infrastructural level of genre play, and the cosmic level of existential threat, Esther Yi’s vision radiates, illuminating the increasingly confused coordinates of contemporary life, its absurd contradictions, and our growing disconnectedness not only from each other but from our own selves.

PRAISE FOR ESTHER YI’S *Y/N*

**Finalist for the 2023 CFF Novel Prize and VCU Cabell First Novelist Award
New Yorker, *NPR*, *TIME*, *Bookshop.org*, *Ms. Magazine*, and Chicago Public Library
Best Book of 2023**

***New York Times Book Review* Notable Book of 2023
New York Times 2023 Critics’ Pick**

“Strange, funny, and at times gorgeous . . . Yi displays a keen sense of irony; her oneiric, ceremonious writing has the consistency of a poem put in a blender with an academic paper.”

—Katy Waldman, *The New Yorker*

“*Y/N* resists the junkiness of the internet . . . against which a well-formed novel like this counteracts, a blast of cleansing heat.”

—Alexandra Jacobs, *New York Times*

Nikki Ervice

ROADSHOW

A NOVEL

FICTION

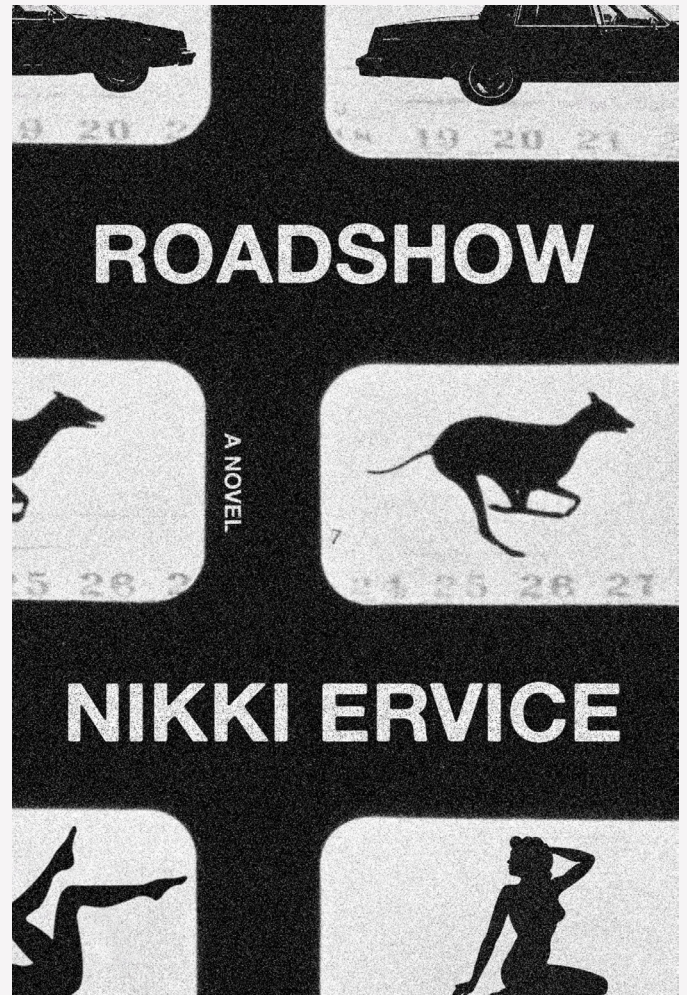
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603655

PUB DATE: November 10, 2026

272pp

Price: \$28 US



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

NIKKI ERVICE is the winner of the VQR Emily Clark Balch Prize for fiction. Her work has appeared in *The VQR*, *The Iowa Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Washington Square Review*, *Passages North*, and elsewhere. She is a professional dancer and writer from Alaska and holds an MFA in fiction from Brooklyn College.



***Sweetbitter* meets *Nomadland*, we follow Annie as she leaves her NYC life of bartending and dancing to drive cross-country to Alaska to meet her dying mother.**

Annie is burning out. She performs at Club X as Dog-Faced Girl, a burlesque act in which she hides her face behind a dog mask. It's the only way she can dance—her greatest love—while making enough money for rent. But when she receives an unexpected letter from her estranged mother, Vera, postmarked from the remote island in rural Alaska where Annie grew up, her world stops.

Annie's mother abandoned her when she was only a few days old. Her father, a stoic, workaholic aluminum welder and fisherman, insisted on keeping her mother's identity a secret. But now, on her deathbed, Vera wants to meet Annie. And with her father recently passed, Annie knows it's time to return home. So she borrows a Buick LeSabre and sets out on an exhausting journey through the Midwest into Canada. On the road, Annie sleeps where she can. Her attempts at stripping are unsuccessful and humiliating. Her money dwindles. She begins to steal gas. For a thousand dollars she agrees to dance for a bachelor party at a private lodge on a remote lake. After a delirious, dangerous night that she barely survives, she finally crosses the border into Alaska. Not long after, the LeSabre gives out. Half-broken but drawn on inexorably by the threat of Vera's death, and a visceral call of her homeland, Annie abandons the LeSabre and hitchhikes to the end of the highway system, across the bay, to the island of her birth, where Vera awaits.

Sexy and fast-paced yet deeply felt, *Roadshow* explores the power of passion, inheritance, legacy, and class, and the grueling, smiling work of the stage and the hospitality industry.

PRAISE FOR ROADSHOW

"In Nikki Ervice's brilliant debut, a kaleidoscopic array of landscapes and characters come vividly alive as Annie road-trips across the United States and Canada, toward her past and her future. Ervice is a bold and sensitive writer, and *Roadshow* is a propulsive, visceral book—I couldn't put it down."

—Helen Phillips, author of *Hum and The Need*

"Reading *Roadshow* is like watching someone dance on a knife's edge. Sexy, exciting, dangerous, desperate, beautiful, with a perfect, moving precision."

—August Thompson, author of *Anyone's Ghost*

Ben Eastham

THE FLOATING WORLD

A NOVEL

FICTION

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603631

PUB DATE: September 29, 2026

252pp

Price: \$26 US / \$36 CAN



The Floating World
Ben Eastham

A Novel

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BEN EASTHAM is the editor-in-chief of *e-flux Criticism* and was a founding editor of *The White Review*. His writing has been published in *ArtReview*, *frieze*, *e-flux*, the *London Review of Books*, and *The New York Times*, among other publications. *The Floating World* is his first novel.



A cautionary tale of a young, newly widowed art critic who goes to work for a mysterious billionaire determined to build a geodesic-domed paradise to shelter the rich.

For fans of novels like Vincenzo Latronico's *Perfection* and Blake Butler's *Molly*.

On a remote island in the Aegean, Morel, a billionaire, is constructing a utopian community beneath a giant geodesic dome. The “Floating World” is advertised as a refuge for only the wealthiest people from the crises engulfing the planet.

Our protagonist is offered a job working on the spectacular art exhibition that will inaugurate this closed society. Recognizing that this is a branding exercise for ethically dubious property development, he is nonetheless attracted by the opportunity to work with an artist he once hero-worshipped—the reclusive, semi-retired Finn Reith—and to restart a life that stopped with the loss of his wife.

At first glance, the Floating World seems like a paradise, but it soon becomes clear that all is not well beneath the shimmering dome. Why is the billionaire head of the corporation ensconced in his own residence on the far side of the island, surrounded by bodyguards? Why are the workers so reluctant to speak of their experiences? Our protagonist's gaze is distracted from these indicators of some deeper disturbance by Selima, the uncannily familiar technical director of the exhibition.

The Floating World is a dystopia and Bildungsroman, steeped in atmosphere and sparkling with intelligence, and signals the arrival of a major new talent on the fiction scene.

PRAISE FOR THE FLOATING WORLD

“An immersing, crystalline debut novel that reaches out to a world in crisis; elegant, emotional, deeply serious and gloriously witty.”

—**Deborah Levy, author of *August Blue***

“An astute satire about the absurdities of the artworld, a compelling mystery and an elegy, *The Floating World* is unputdownable: frequently funny, often moving and always intriguing.”

—**Jennifer Higgin, author of *The Other Side***

“Channeling Adolfo Bioy Casares, Eastham carries a vision of art's complicity with power to its endgame. If Art Basel is now globalized, then so is Minneapolis. Looping civilization back to end where it began, in Athens, he proposes that the only counterforce to fascism is love.”

—**Tom McCarthy, author of *The Making of Incarnation***

Anja Meulenbelt

THE SHAME IS OVER

A PERSONAL HISTORY

Translated by Ann Oosthuizen

NONFICTION

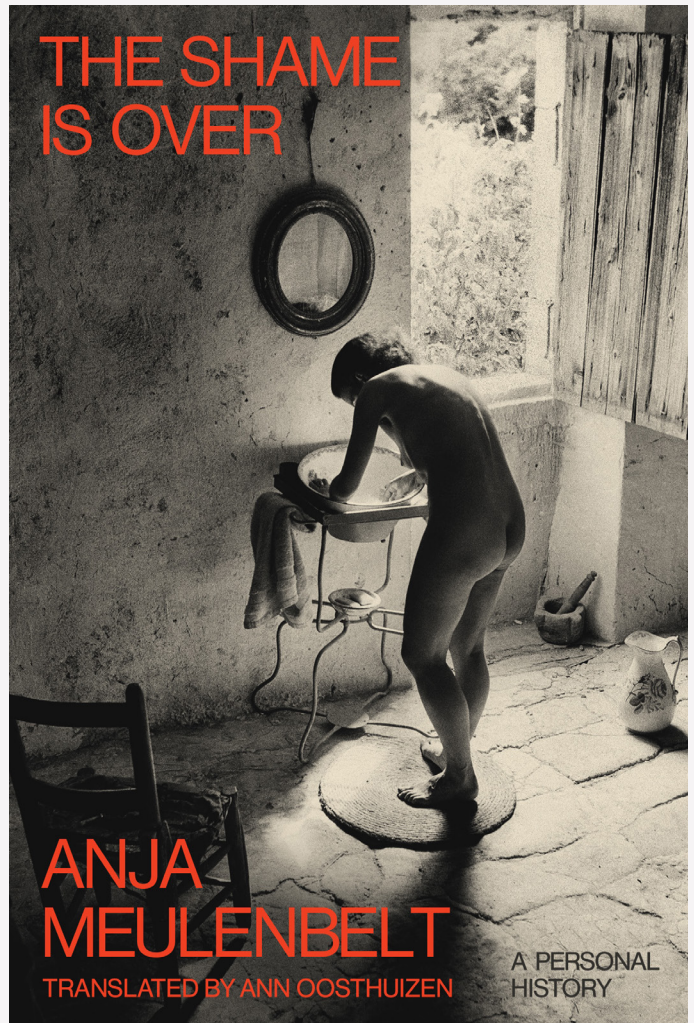
TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

ISBN: 9781662603723

PUB DATE: August 25, 2026

304pp

Price: \$22 US



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

ANJA MEULENBELT (b. 1945) is a Dutch writer, feminist, and former politician known for her influential role in the second-wave feminist movement. From 2003 to 2011 she served as a senator for the Socialist Party focusing on social justice, feminism, and international solidarity. Anja is still actively giving lectures and interviews. She has been awarded the P.C Hooft Award for lifetime achievement.

ANN OOSTHUIZEN was a translator and editor from South Africa who spent much of her life in the UK working on feminist issues.



For fans of Tove Ditlevsen, Alba De Céspedes and Annie Ernaux, *The Shame is Over* is a cult classic of feminist literature; Anja's struggle for liberation and equality still resonates loud and clear today, fifty years after the book's first publication.

Anja's teenage life is troubled by her marriage to Toni, an Austrian man she met on vacation with her parents, and with whom she has a son, Armin. At nineteen, seeking freedom from abuse and rejecting traditional domestic roles, she leaves her marriage and begins the fight for her own path. Her next decade is shaped by the sexual liberation of the 1970s, as she discovers herself through a series of increasingly dramatic relationships with single men, married men, and women all over Europe, all alongside the challenges of single motherhood, and an ever-deepening commitment to feminist and political causes. As her emotional and political consciousness grow, Meulenbelt finds both purpose and community in activism – and begins to redesign what it means to live as an autonomous woman.

First published in 1976, *The Shame is Over* blends a raw account of Meulenbelt's evolution as a mother, lover and political thinker with an incisive portrayal of the struggles women face in their pursuit of autonomy and equality. Meulenbelt doesn't shy away from the internal tensions of the feminist movement – its contradictions, divisions, and emotional costs. In a haunting final passage, she imagines a dialogue with her younger, insecure self, offering a powerful metaphor for the liberation she seeks not only for herself, but for all women.

PRAISE FOR *THE SHAME IS OVER*

"The Shame Is Over is an electrifying reminder—raw, vivid, alive to the touch—of the earliest days of Second Wave feminism. As an historical document, it stands with the best."

—**Vivian Gornick, author of *Fierce Attachments* and *The Odd Woman and the City***

"The Shame is Over crackles from beginning to end with complex, vivid life. Writing about her own place at the forefront of the tightly knit but fractured world of socialist and feminist activism in 1970s Europe, Meulenbelt's narrative voice lays bare her heart and soul, propulsive and fresh, holding nothing back. This book feels as urgent and timely now as it must have felt 50 years ago."

—**Kate Christensen, PEN/Faulkner award-winning author of *The Great Man and Good Company***

Devyn Defoe

BURNSIDE

A NOVEL

FICTION

TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

ISBN: 9781662603570

PUB DATE: August 4, 2026

272pp

Price: \$22 US



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DEVYN DEFOE is a writer and bookseller from Sacramento, CA. A former Wallace Stegner Fellow, her work has been published by *Socrates on the Beach* and *The White Review*. *Burnside* is her first novel.



“*Burnside* is the coolest weird fever dream you’ll ever have while awake. [...] This incantatory tale of two young women caught up in an intrigue in a dusty CA town may well prove a signature chronicle of our American endtimes.”

—Chang-rae Lee, author of *The Surrendered* and *A Tender Age*

A Lynchian, absurdist debut novel for fans of Joy Williams and Emma Cline about two disaffected young women and the local homeless man they become obsessed with.

The Bowl is a strange place: Surrounded by abandoned almond orchards filled with feral children and neighboring towns that keep burning down, the polluted, riverside city has a decades-old web of serial killers and missing people.

Our unnamed narrator, a bookseller at a used bookstore, and her roommate September, a waitress at a cowgirl-themed breasturant, spend their days avoiding their deadbeat boyfriends, commuting to class on the raccoon-infested ‘rat bus,’ and hanging out at wine bars with their friend Claudia Thursday. But after September has an encounter with a local homeless man named Burnside, she becomes terrified that he’s stalking her. Soon, the entire town has turned on Burnside, convinced that he is responsible for the violence, precarity, and wildfires that surround them.

Burnside builds a dreamlike yet utterly propulsive tapestry of brilliant, flawed, and dangerous characters. A commentary on victimhood and safety, both real and imagined, the cruelty of late-stage capitalism and climate disaster, the brutal contradictions of patriarchy and quotidian humiliations of girlhood, and a fiercely imagined portrait of a California seemingly right next to our own, *Burnside* is a singular, epic, and wonderfully strange debut.

PRAISE FOR BURNSIDE

“With a marvelous cast of characters and a smoldering setting, this luminous debut novel speaks directly, and defiantly, to our troubled times, with acid, darkly antic tones.”

—Jamel Brinkley, author of *Witness*

“*Burnside* is a powerfully strange, deftly brutal, sickly comic book that I read with alarmed awe. Imagine a *Tropic of Cancer* for the Central Valley, blanketed with Pyrocene haze. Devyn Defoe wrote it into being and made it wholly her own. A wild new talent.”

—Lydia Kiesling, author of *Mobility* and *Golden State*

“This is a book about the menaces and violences and annoyances men inflict on women: mundane and daily, horrific and singular. A funny and insightful and atmospheric book about the hidden corners of California and the ways women navigate and evade the challenges of men.”

—Lydi Conklin, author of *Songs of No Provenance* and *Rainbow, Rainbow*

Karen Olsson

DEAR THORNS

A NOVEL

FICTION

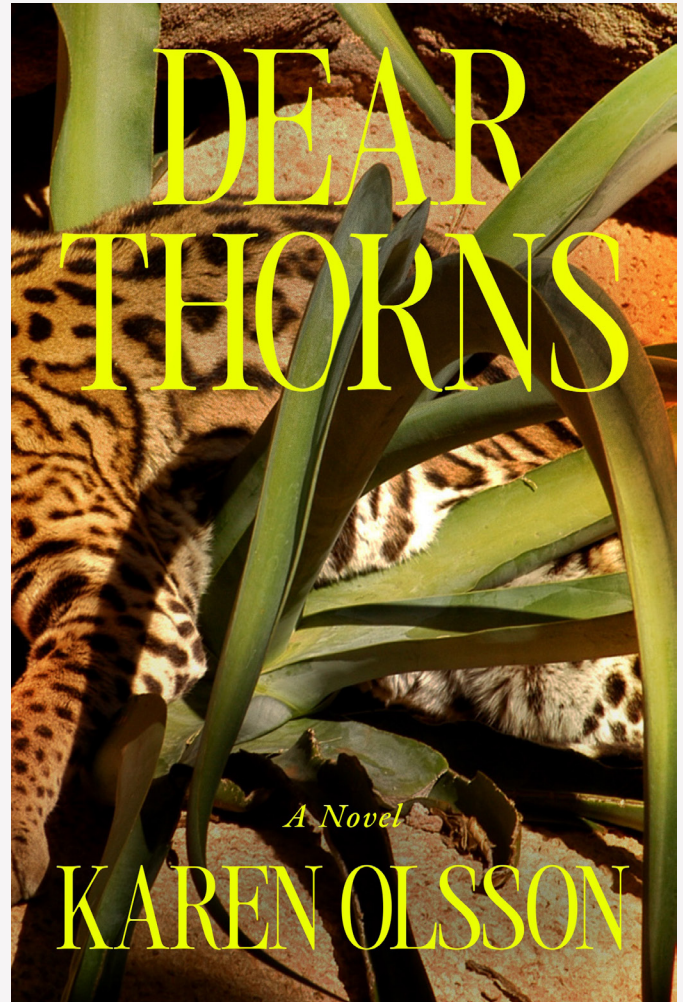
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662603518

PUB DATE: November 3, 2026

288pp

Price: \$27 US



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KAREN OLSSON is the author of the novels *Waterloo*, which was a runner-up for the 2006 PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction, and *All the Houses*. She has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Slate*, *Bookforum*, and *Texas Monthly*, among other publications, and she is also a former editor of *The Texas Observer*. She graduated from Harvard University with a degree in mathematics and lives in Austin, Texas, with her family.



For fans of Dana Spiotta's *Wayward* and Katie Kitamura's *Intimacies* we follow Lora, a wildlife refuge worker in South Texas who gets tangled up in a romantic relationship with a much younger male intern.

Lora has worked at the wildlife refuge in South Texas for seven years, trapping and studying the elusive Texas ocelot. Interns come and go, but when Ben arrives, something is awakened in Lora that has long been dormant.

As Lora and Ben track the beautiful, almost mystical animal, tensions arise on the refuge. Lora's boss strategizes about how to turn part of the refuge into a hunting destination; an eccentric artist and rancher pitches an unconventional scheme to help the ocelots; and Lora and Ben make a series of impulsive, inappropriate choices. Along the way, the reader learns about Lora's professional and romantic history—the story of a woman dedicated to her career—and is immersed in the world of the ranchlands just above the Texas-Mexico border, home to a distinct mix of species: animal, plant, and human.

With sharp prose and subtle humor, critically-acclaimed writer Karen Olsson mines the gulf between youth and middle age and reckons with the ecological disaster of species loss. Her novel illuminates how the things we do to wild animals—isolating them, reducing their habitats, disconnecting them from other groups—are all things we seem to do to ourselves. Brainy, elegant, and deeply engrossing, *Dear Thorns* is a portrait of a woman's idealism in a compromised world.

PRAISE FOR KAREN OLSSON

“With its wry humor and gentle insights into the way we draw away from one another at exactly the wrong time, *All the Houses* is more than just an illuminating story about the nameless victims of political scandal. It's a story about how our insecurities encourage us to smother our affections—and a reminder that we're running out of time to make amends.”

—Ron Charles, *The Washington Post* on *All the Houses*

“Olsson handles her subjects gently; she's not afraid to show her characters' flaws, but she treats them all with a real sense of sympathy. And she writes with a clear eye that's free from sentimental nostalgia, even though nostalgia is, in a way, a central subject of the book.”

—Michael Schaub, *NPR* on *All the Houses*

“Taking in the civil rights movement, historic preservation and dating on the rebound, *Waterloo* is an irresistible survey of a town where all comers are terrified of losing—and nobody ever wins.”

—*The Los Angeles Times* on *Waterloo*

“A melancholy comedy of Texas politics... [written] with great wit and assurance.”

—*The New York Times Book Review* on *Waterloo*

Kohei Saito

CAPITAL FROM ZERO

READING MARX IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

Translated by Brian Bergstrom

NONFICTION

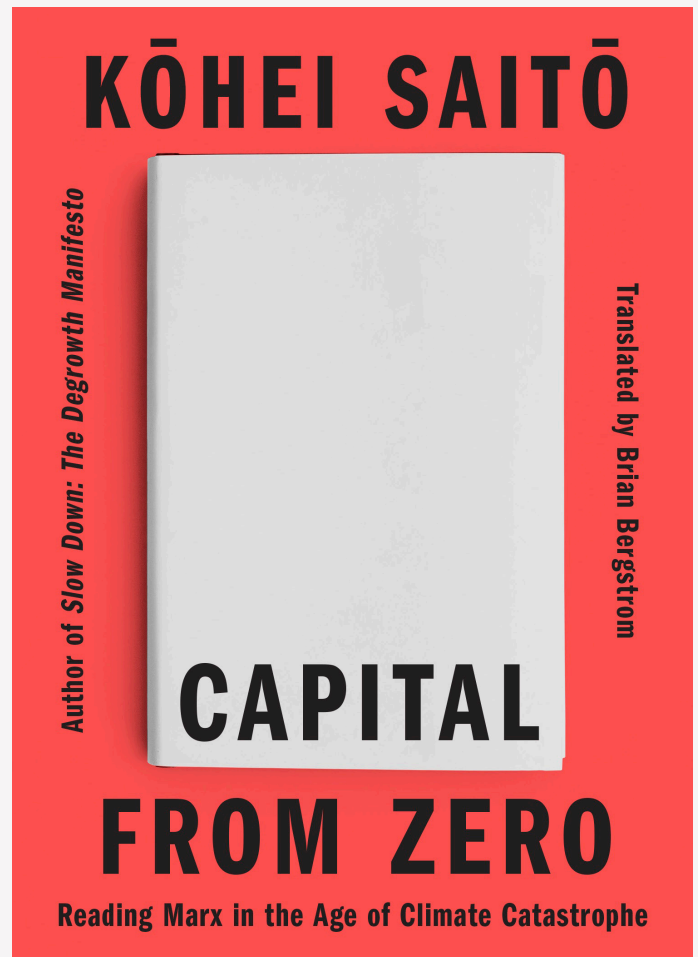
TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

ISBN: 9781662603419

PUB DATE: July 7, 2026

208pp

Price: \$22 US / \$29.99 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

KOHEI SAITO is an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Tokyo. He received his PhD in philosophy from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2016. He was awarded the 2018 Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize, the most prestigious academic award for Marxian studies, making Saito its youngest recipient. In 2020 the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science awarded him the highly prestigious JSPS prize, awarded to the top 25 scholars (only a few in humanities and social sciences) in the entire country under the age of 45.

BRIAN BERGSTROM is a lecturer and translator who has lived in Chicago, Kyoto, and Yokohama.



For readers of David Harvey and Thomas Piketty comes a new introduction to Marx's *Capital* from the author of the internationally bestselling book *Slow Down*.

The follow-up to his global bestseller *Slow Down* and a new introduction to Marx's *Capital*, *Capital From Zero* is a reading guide, a manifesto, a revision, and a reclamation of Marx's foundational work of political theory. Building on his signature argument of "degrowth communism," Saito's introduction brings *Capital* squarely into the twenty-first century, offering a uniquely non-Western, non-dogmatic, and eco-socialist reading of the famous text.

Saito is a singular intellect with an essential and innovative point of view—a fresh new voice in Marxist theory who will sit alongside David Harvey and Thomas Piketty in educating and guiding the next generation of radical intellectuals. The book reconstructs Marx's *Capital* from a totally new perspective based on more recent research findings, liberating Marx from old dogmas of Soviet socialism and aiming to rekindle our ability to envision a more equal and sustainable society beyond capitalism.

PRAISE FOR KOHEI SAITO'S *SLOW DOWN*

"Accessible and convincing."

—**Sally Rooney**

"[A] well-reasoned and eye-opening treatise . . . [Kohei Saito makes] a provocative and visionary proposal."

—***Publishers Weekly* (starred review)**

"Saito's clarity of thought, plethora of evidence, and conversational, gentle, yet urgent tone . . . are sure to win over open-minded readers who understand the dire nature of our global situation . . . A cogently structured anti-capitalist approach to the climate crisis."

—***Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)**

"According to Saito, the Earth is completely doomed unless we give up our obsession with G.D.P. and other forms of capitalist insanity. I find myself pretty well convinced."

—**Tammy Kim, contributing writer at the *New Yorker***

"Saito makes a compelling, if idealistic, argument against capitalism and imagines a more equitable, utopian alternative . . . [*Slow Down*] is a richly researched, deftly wrought manifesto."

—**Hannah Bonner, *Los Angeles Review of Books***

NOW IN PAPERBACK

Hu Anyan

I DELIVER PARCELS IN BEIJING

Translated by Jack Hargreaves

NONFICTION

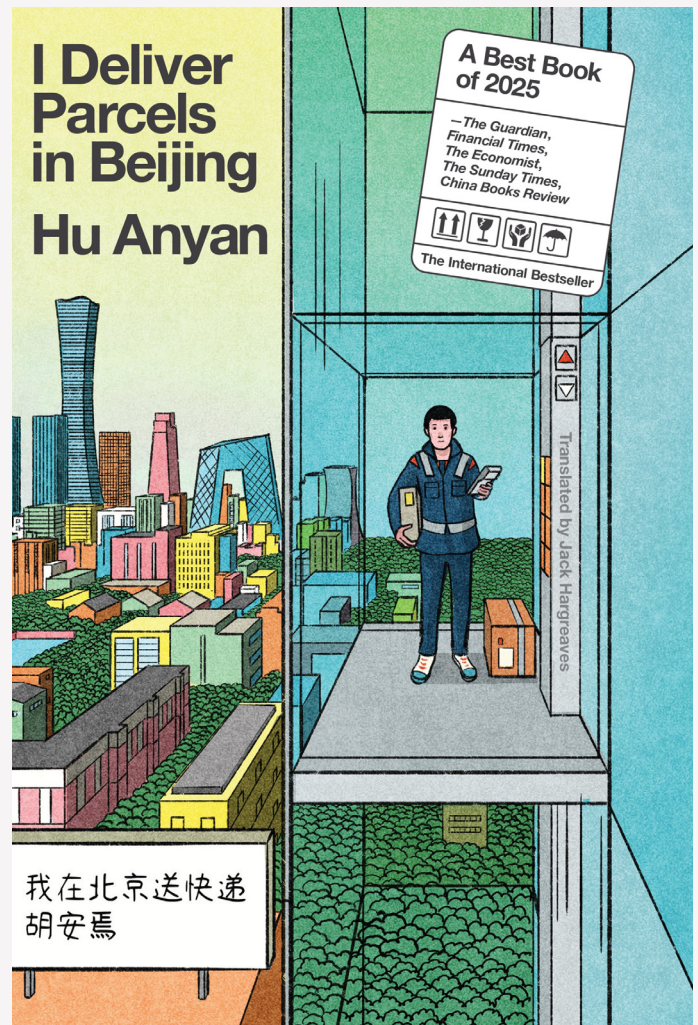
TRADE PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662603747

PUB DATE: September 8, 2026

336pp

Price: \$18 US



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

HU ANYAN was born in Guangzhou, China, in 1979. After graduating from secondary school he joined the work-force, moving around between places and odd jobs to make a living: hotel waiter, convenience store clerk, courier, night shift worker and many more. In 2009 he began to post some writing online, and became a full time writer after an essay went viral during a COVID lockdown.

JACK HARGREAVES is from Yorkshire in the United Kingdom. For Astra House he has previously co-translated *Winter Pasture* by Li Juan.



An *Economist*, *Financial Times* and *Sunday Times* Best Book of 2025

“Hu Anyan’s *I Deliver Parcels in Beijing*, translated by Jack Hargreaves, offers an unvarnished dispatch from the front lines of the gig economy . . . The Cinderella bit of it is that now he can add a new title: internationally best-selling author.”

—Leah Greenblatt, *The New York Times Book Review*

A runaway bestseller in China, sold in 20+ countries, this delightfully honest and humorous account gives a face and voice to the future of work—as if *Nomadland* met *Nickel and Dime*.

In 2023, *I Deliver Parcels in Beijing* became the literary sensation of the year in China. Hu Anyan’s story, about short-term jobs in various anonymous megacities, hit a nerve with a generation of young 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: his nights were so hot that he could drink three liters of water without taking a toilet break; his days were spent searching for affordable rooms with proper air-conditioning; and his few moments of leisure were consumed by calculations of the amount of alcohol needed to sleep but not feel drowsy a few hours later.

Hu Anyan tells us about brutal work, where there is no real future in sight. But Hu is armed with deadpan humor and a strong idea of self. He moves on when he feels stuck—from logistics in the south, to parcel delivery in Beijing, to other impossible jobs. Along the way, he turns to reading and writing for strength and companionship.

I Deliver Parcels in Beijing is an honest and startling first-person portrait of Hu Anyan’s struggle against the dehumanizing nature of our contemporary global work system—and his discovery of the power of sharing a story.

PRAISE FOR *I DELIVER PARCELS IN BEIJING*

“This fascinating debut memoir recounts its author’s career on the lower rungs of China’s consumer economy... His account reveals an author searching for his true self and finding it, amid unceasing toil, in the act of observation.”

—*The New Yorker*

“Hypnotic . . . *I Deliver Parcels in Beijing* is quietly revolutionary simply because it treats the minutiae of work itself as important. The bureaucratic nightmare of trying to get a company to onboard a new employee; the propensity of electronic delivery bikes to break down; the discomfort of delivering packages in the freezing cold, but having to wear fingerless gloves to type on a phone screen—that these can be the topic of a book is almost revelatory.”

—Becca Rothfeld, *Washington Post*

FROM TOON BOOKS

Karl Stevens

PEPPER

FICTION | ADULT GRAPHIC NOVEL

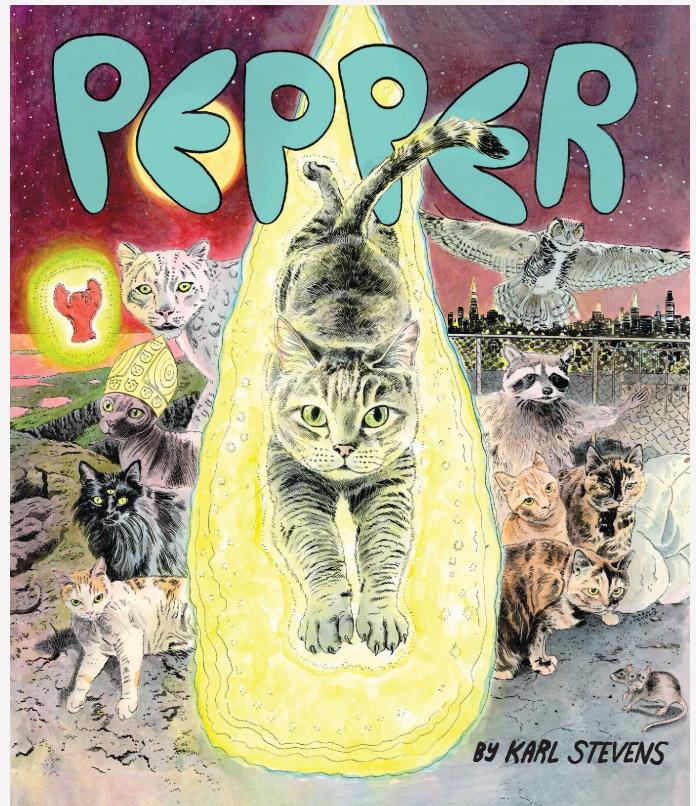
TRADE PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

ISBN: 9781662665837

PUB DATE: October 20, 2026

128pp

Price: \$19.99 US / \$25.99 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KARL STEVENS was an award-winning graphic novelist whose titles include *Penny: A Graphic Memoir*, *The Winner*, and *Mother Nature* which was written by Jamie Lee Curtis and Russell Goldman. He is an Ignatz Award nominee, a *Los Angeles Times Book Prize* finalist, and has contributed comics to *The New Yorker*, *Village Voice*, and *Boston Phoenix*. He lives in Boston with his wife, Alex, and their two cats, Penny and Pepper.



A standalone sequel to the popular graphic memoir, *Penny*, this vivid graphic novel centers on housecat heroine Penny's relationship with her sister, Pepper—and the delicately solipsistic inner world they share with each other.

As she is prone to do, Penny the housecat spends her days lazing around the apartment and musing philosophically. However, her peace is rudely disturbed when she is forced to contend with the existence of her little sister, Pepper.

What follows is one part wry, immaculately watercolored cat gags, one part visionquest. Here, acclaimed graphic novelist Karl Stevens blends the quotidian life of a housecat with an epicly psychedelic journey of self-discovery and the profound art of making peace with yourself.

PRAISE FOR KARL STEVENS'S *PENNY*

"In *Penny: A Graphic Memoir*, the Boston-based artist spins a few dozen variations on 'I wonder what that loveable furball is thinking?' and makes you like it . . . His photorealistic line and deft watercolors . . . make Penny irresistible, even for feline skeptics."

—**The New York Times Book Review**

"Penny and her surroundings are grounded in reality, with Stevens's detailed illustrations, including exceptionally well-done crosshatching and shading, pulling the reader into her world . . . this is sure to delight cat lovers."

—**Booklist**

"Stevens employs his detailed and stylistic realism to nice comic effect. [His] clever send-up should delight the feline faithful."

—**Publishers Weekly**

"What sets Penny apart from the cat crowd is Stevens's skill at depicting her. A bit snub-nosed, like an English shorthair, Penny is shown in both her most graceful and most endearingly awkward poses, always identifiably feline and yet with an obvious intelligence and focus that makes her most lofty thoughts credible. It's this clear-eyed love and attention that makes *Penny* stand out, revealing, as great authors do, that even the smallest life may be full of interest — and profound."

—**The Arts Fuse**