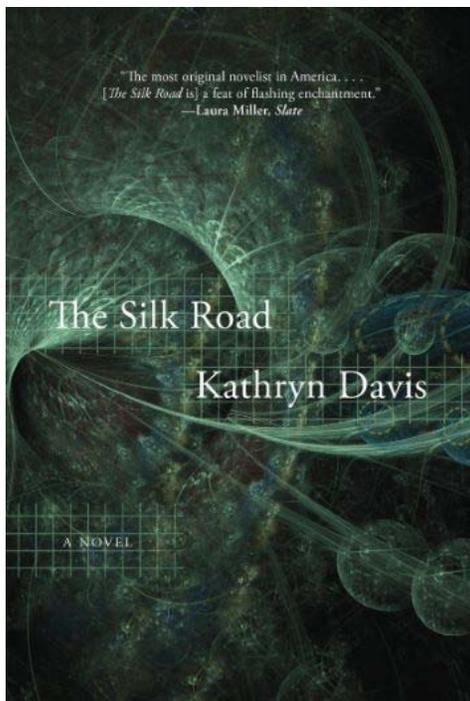


GRAYWOLF
PRESS



The Silk Road

A Novel

by Kathryn Davis

A spellbinding novel about transience and mortality, by one of the most original voices in American literature

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

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

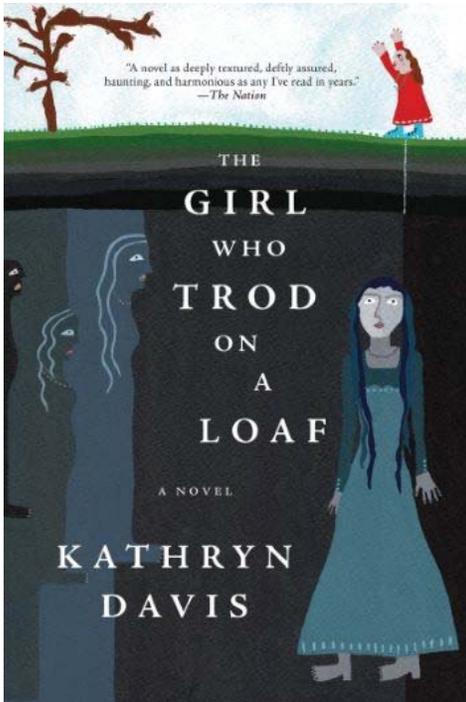
Since the beginning of her extraordinary career, Davis has been fascinated by journeys. Her books have been shaped around road trips, walking tours, hegiras, exiles: and now, in this triumphant novel, a pilgrimage. *The Silk Road* is her most explicitly allegorical novel and also her most profound vehicle;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

[Kathryn Davis's (...)]

Author Bio

Kathryn Davis is the author of six novels. She has received the Kafka Prize, the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Lannan Foundation Literary Award. She teaches at Washington University, and lives in Vermont and St. Louis, Missouri.





The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf

A Novel

by Kathryn Davis

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

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

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

Author Bio

Kathryn Davis is the author of six novels. She has received the Kafka Prize, the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Lannan Foundation Literary Award. She teaches at Washington University, and lives in Vermont and St. Louis, Missouri.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Aug 3/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 416 pages

9781644450291 • \$22.00 • pb

Fiction / Literary

Notes

Promotion

National publicity campaign

Indie bookseller outreach

Targeted advertising

Social media campaign

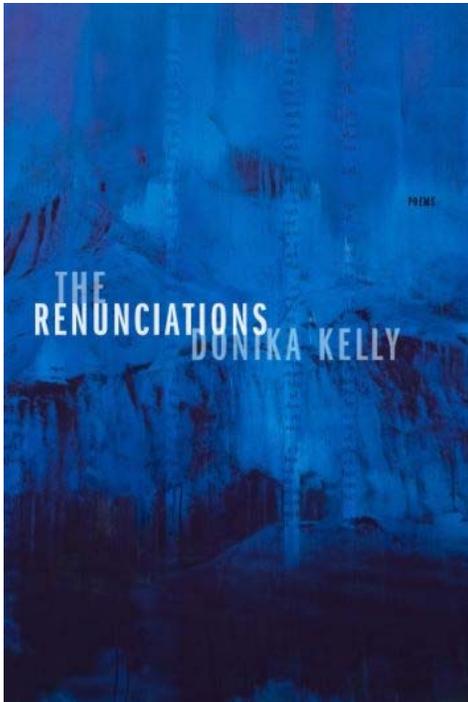


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Raincoast Books

Sales Rep



The Renunciations

Poems

by Donika Kelly

An extraordinary collection of endurance and transformation by the award-winning author of *Bestiary*

The Renunciations is a book of resilience, survival, and the journey to radically shift one's sense of self in the face of trauma. Moving between a childhood marked by love and abuse and the breaking marriage of that adult child, Donika Kelly charts memory and the body as landscapes to be traversed and tended. These poems construct life rafts and sanctuaries even in their most devastating confrontations with what a person can bear, with how families harm themselves. With the companionship of the oracle" - an observer of memory who knows how each close call with oblivion ends - the act of remembrance becomes curative, and personal mythologies give way to a future defined less by wounds than by possibility.

In this gorgeous and heartrending second collection, we find the home one builds inside oneself after reckoning with a legacy of trauma - a home whose construction starts "with a razing."

"

The journey we take in *The Renunciations* is nothing short of rescue mission. And who else but Donika Kelly could offer such a lucid guide to the central figure of this book, as she navigates her most difficult years. . . . The poems are startling, disturbing, and relentlessly bold. I can't imagine a time before having *The Renunciations* as a part of my emotional ecosystem and poetic landscape. Thank you, Donika, is what I really want to say." - **francine j. harris**

"With Donika Kelly's signature stinging beauty, *The Renunciations* names acts of (...)

Author Bio

Donika Kelly is the author of *Bestiary*, winner of the 2015 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, the 2017 Hurston/Wright Award for poetry, and the 2018 Kate Tufts Discovery Award. She teaches at the University of Iowa.

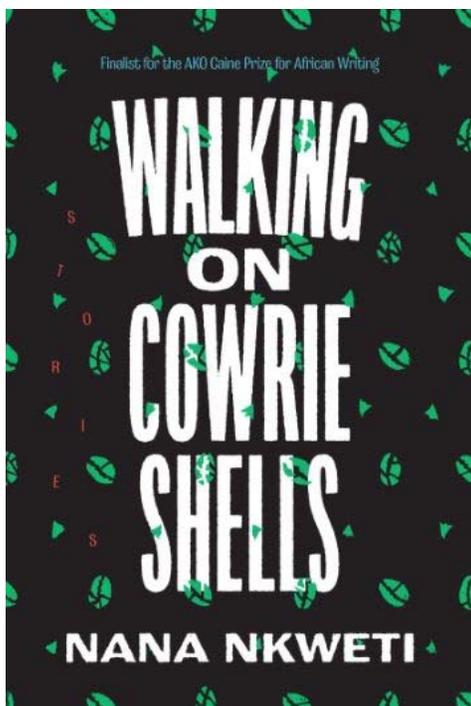


Graywolf Press
On Sale: May 4/21
6 x 9 • 72 pages
9781644450536 • \$22.00 • pb
Poetry / General

Notes

Promotion





Walking on Cowrie Shells

Stories

by Nana Nkweti

A virtuosic debut collection that roves across genres and styles, by a finalist for the Caine Prize

In her powerful, genre-bending debut story collection, Nana Nkweti's virtuosity is on full display as she mixes deft realism with clever inversions of genre. In the Caine Prize finalist story "It Takes a Village, Some Say," Nkweti skewers racial prejudice and the practice of international adoption, delivering a sly tale about a teenage girl who leverages her adoptive parents to fast-track her fortunes. In "The Devil Is a Liar," a pregnant pastor's wife struggles with the collision of western Christianity and her mother's traditional Cameroonian belief system as she worries about her unborn child.

In other stories, Nkweti vaults past realism, upending genre expectations in a satirical romp about a jaded PR professional trying to spin a zombie outbreak in West Africa, and in a mermaid tale about a Mami Wata who forgoes her power by remaining faithful to a fisherman she loves. In between these two ends of the spectrum there's everything from an aspiring graphic novelist at a comic con to a murder investigation driven by statistics to a story organized by the changing hairstyles of the main character.

Pulling from mystery, horror, realism, myth, and graphic novels, Nkweti showcases the complexity and vibrance of characters whose lives span Cameroonian and American cultures. A dazzling, inventive debut, *Walking on Cowrie Shells* announces the arrival of a superlative new voice.

"

Let us thank whoever granted Nana Nkweti her all-access-pass to the human soul. . . . *Walking on Cowrie Shells* is a collection of verve, audacity, and consummate control." - **Kevin Brockmeier**"

Author Bio

Nana Nkweti is a Caine Prize finalist and alumna of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her work has garnered fellowships from MacDowell, Kimbilio, Ucross, and the Wurlitzer Foundation, among others. She is a professor of English at the University of Alabama.



Graywolf Press

On Sale: Jun 1/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 176 pages

9781644450543 • \$22.00 • pb

Fiction / Literary

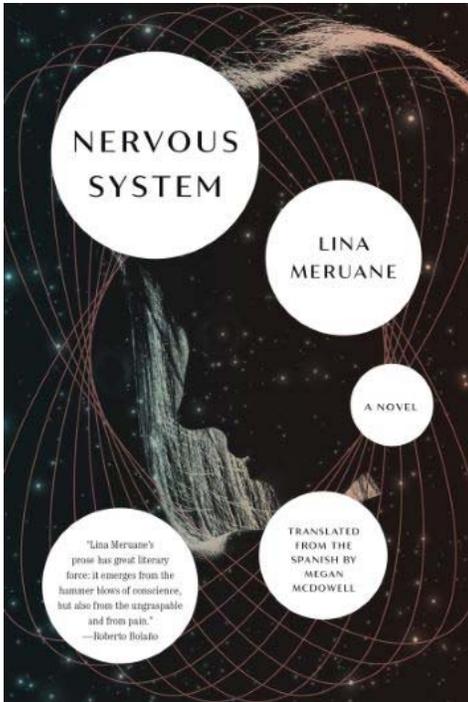
Notes

Promotion



Raincoast Books

Sales Rep



Nervous System

A Novel

by Lina Meruane

An electrifying novel about illness, displacement, and what holds us together, by the author of *Seeing Red*

Ella is an astrophysicist struggling with her doctoral thesis in the "country of the present" but she is from the "country of the past," a place burdened in her memory by both personal and political tragedies. Her partner, El, is a forensic scientist who analyzes the bones of victims of state violence and is recovering from an explosion at a work site that almost killed him. Consumed by writer's block, Ella finds herself wishing that she would become ill, which would provide time for writing and perhaps an excuse for her lack of progress. Then she begins to experience mysterious symptoms that doctors find undiagnosable.

As Ella's anxiety grows, the past begins to exert a strong gravitational pull, and other members of her family come into focus: the widowed Father, the Stepmother, the Twins, and the Firstborn. Each of them has their own experience of illness and violence, and eventually the systems that both hold them together and atomize them are exposed.

Lina Meruane's *Nervous System* is an extraordinary clinical biography of a family, full of affection and resentment, dark humor and buried secrets, in which illness describes the traumas that can be visited not just upon the body, but on families and on the history of the countries - present and past - that we live in.

"

Nervous System's dreamy lull belies the slow-motion horror of its plot. . . . I still feel blurrily half-drowned in Meruane's eerie, swirling poetics." - **Sarah Manguso**

Author Bio

Lina Meruane is the award-winning Chilean author of *Seeing Red*. She has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and was a DAAD Writer in Residence in Berlin. She teaches at New York University.



Graywolf Press

On Sale: May 18/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 176 pages

9781644450550 • \$22.00 • pb

Fiction / Literary

Notes

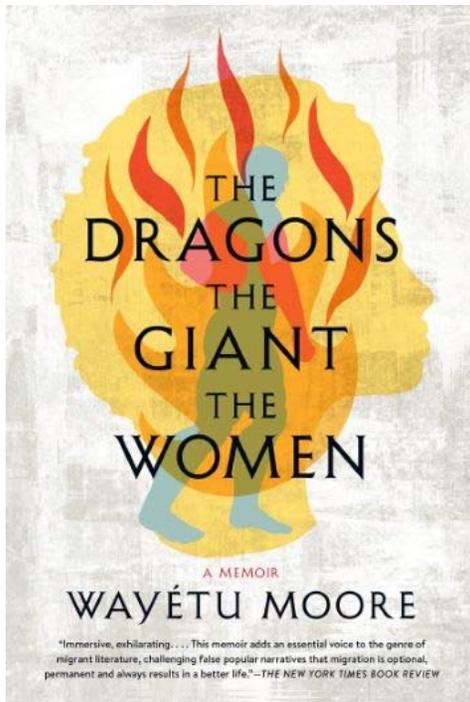
Promotion

National publicity campaign, Dedicated advertising in translation outlets, Extensive bookseller outreach, Academic promotion, Social media campaign



Raincoast Books

Sales Rep



The Dragons, the Giant, the Women

A Memoir

by Wayetu Moore

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

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

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

Immersive, exhilarating. . . . This memoir adds an essential voice to the genre of (...)

Author Bio

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

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Jun 15/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 272 pages

9781644450567 • \$20.00 • pb

Biography / Personal Memoirs

Notes

Promotion

National publicity campaign

Extensive national advertising

Reading group promotion

Social media campaign

Indie bookseller outreach

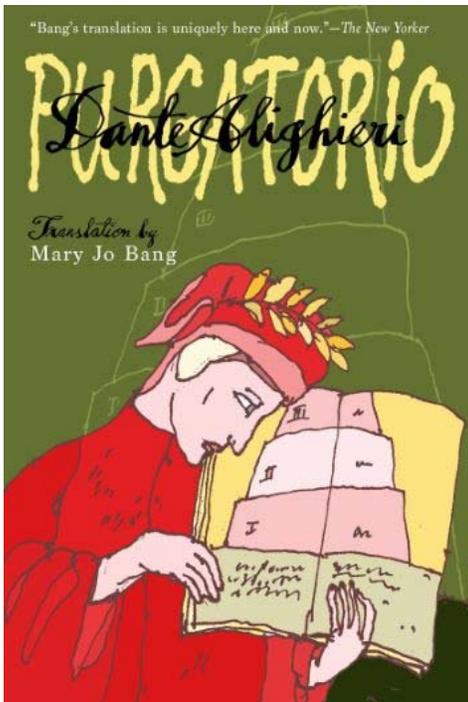


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Raincoast Books

Sales Rep



Purgatorio

by Dante Alighieri, translated by Mary Jo Bang

The second installment in Mary Jo Bang's exhilarating, innovative translation of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*

Award-winning poet Mary Jo Bang's new translation of *Purgatorio* is the extraordinary continuation of her journey with Dante, which began with her transformative version of *Inferno*. In *Purgatorio*, still guided by the Roman poet Virgil, Dante emerges from the horrors of Hell to begin the climb up Mount Purgatory, a seven-terrace mountain with each level devoted to those atoning for one of the seven deadly sins. At the summit, we find the Terrestrial Heaven and Beatrice - who will take over for Virgil, who, as a pagan, can only take Dante so far. During the climb, we are introduced to the myriad ways in which humans destroy the social fabric through pride, envy, and vindictive anger.

In her signature lyric style, accompanied by her wise and exuberant notes, Bang has produced a stunning translation of this fourteenth-century text, rich with references that span time, languages, and cultures. The contemporary allusions echo the audacious character of the original, and slyly insist that whatever was true in Dante's era is still true. Usain Bolt, Tootsie Fruit Chews, the MGM logo, Leo the Lion, Amy Winehouse, Marvin Gaye, Bob Dylan, and Gertrude Stein are among those who make cameo appearances as Bang, with eloquence and daring, shepherds *The Divine Comedy* into the twenty-first century.

Author Bio

Dante Alighieri (c.1265-1321) is the author of *The Divine Comedy*, a masterpiece of world literature.

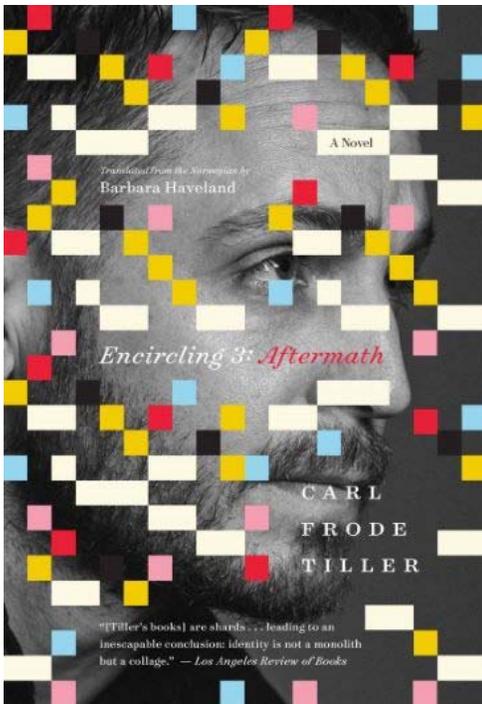
Mary Jo Bang has published eight poetry collections, including *A Doll for Throwing* and *Elegy*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, and a new translation of Dante's *Inferno*. She teaches at Washington University in Saint Louis.

Graywolf Press
On Sale: Jul 13/21
6 x 9 • 336 pages
9781644450574 • \$24.50 • pb
Poetry / General

Notes

Promotion





Encircling 3

Aftermath

by Carl Frode Tiller

The Encircling Trilogy comes thundering to a close as the man at the center is revealed

The final book in Carl Frode Tiller's groundbreaking Encircling Trilogy is here. In Barbara Haveland's powerful translation, two new letters circle closer than ever to David, who allegedly lost his memory. One is from Marius, who has led the life of wealth and privilege that David was meant to live. And yet Marius does not appreciate it - desperate for attention, he lies to his girlfriend, with disastrous consequences. The other comes from Susanne, an ex-lover whose affair with David led to the breakup of her marriage. Humiliated by David's unflattering portrayal of her in his novel, Susanne is determined to exact revenge on him in the most painful possible way.

Last of all we come face-to-face with David himself: a frustrated writer whose early successes have faded. His therapy sessions seem to reveal a dangerous and violent individual bent on getting what he wants at any cost. With David's own story told, the last piece falls into place, and his true character is unveiled. But as with books one and two, there are twists and turns that upset expectations and leave the reader wondering whom to believe. Across three books, Tiller's incisive character portraits lay bare the inequalities of class and excesses of wealth in Norwegian society. With *Encircling 3: Aftermath*, Tiller sounds the unexplored depths of David's life, in the culmination of this astonishing feat of psychological realism.

Author Bio

Carl Frode Tiller is the author of six novels and four plays. Books in the Encircling Trilogy have been adapted for the theater and translated into multiple languages. He lives in Trondheim, Norway.

Barbara J. Haveland is a leading translator of Norwegian and Danish. She is the translator of all three volumes of *The Encircling Trilogy* by Carl Frode Tiller and her recent published works include *The Cold Song* by Linn Ullmann and new translations of Ibsen's *The Master Builder* and *Little Eyolf*. She lives in Copenhagen.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Jul 13/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 448 pages

9781644450581 • \$24.50 • pb

Fiction / Literary

Notes

Promotion

National publicity campaign, National advertising, Indie bookseller outreach

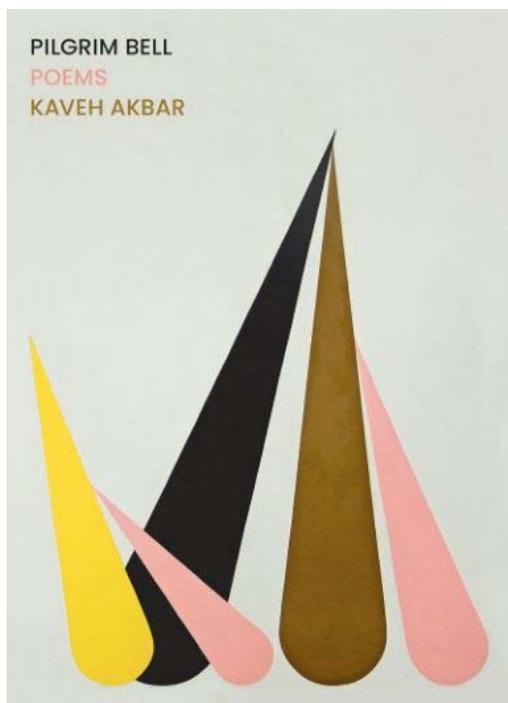


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Raincoast Books

Sales Rep



Pilgrim Bell

Poems

by Kaveh Akbar

Kaveh Akbar's exquisite, highly anticipated follow-up to *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*

With formal virtuosity and ruthless precision, Kaveh Akbar's second collection takes its readers on a spiritual journey of disavowal, fiercely attendant to the presence of divinity where artifacts of self and belonging have been shed. How does one recover from addiction without destroying the self-as-addict? And if living justly in a nation that would see them erased is, too, a kind of self-destruction, what does one do with the body's question, *what now shall I repair?* Here, Akbar responds with prayer as an act of devotion to dissonance - the infinite void of a loved one's absence, the indulgence of austerity, making a life as a Muslim in an Islamophobic nation - teasing the sacred out of silence and stillness.

Richly crafted and generous, *Pilgrim Bell*'s linguistic rigor is tuned to the register of this moment and any moment. As the swinging soul crashes into its limits, against the atrocities of the American empire, and through a profoundly human capacity for cruelty and grace, these brilliant poems dare to exist in the empty space where song lives - resonant, revelatory, and holy.

Author Bio

Kaveh Akbar is the author of *Calling a Wolf a Wolf* and has received honors such as a Levis Reading Prize and multiple Pushcart Prizes. Born in Tehran, Iran, he teaches at Purdue University and in low-residency programs at Warren Wilson and Randolph Colleges.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Aug 3/21

6.5 x 9 • 80 pages

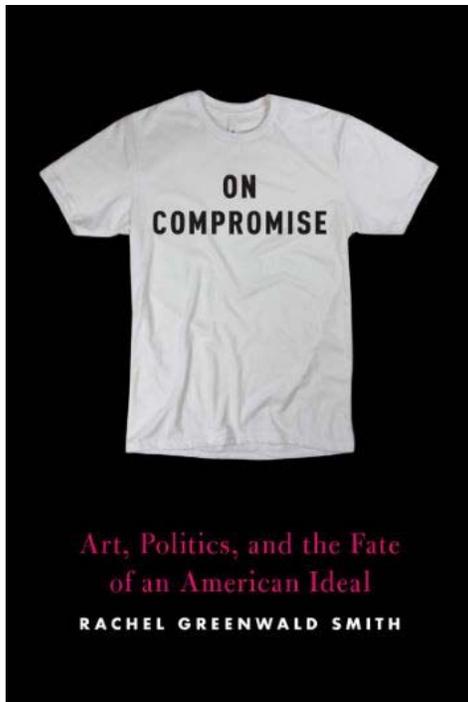
9781644450598 • \$22.00 • pb

Poetry / General

Notes

Promotion





On Compromise

Art, Politics, and the Fate of an American Ideal

by Rachel Greenwald Smith

A strident argument about the dangers of compromise in art, politics, and everyday life

On Compromise is an argument against contemporary liberal society's tendency to view compromise as an unalloyed good - politically, ethically, and artistically. In a series of clear, convincing essays, Rachel Greenwald Smith discusses the dangers of thinking about compromise as an end rather than as a means. To illustrate her points, she recounts her stint in a band as a bass player, fighting with her bandmates about what the song wants," and then moves outward to Bikini Kill and the Riot Grrrl movement, the Iowa Writers' Workshop, *Poetry* magazine, the resurgence of fascism, and other wide-ranging topics.

Smith's arguments are complex and yet have a simplicity to them, as she writes in a concise, cogent style that is eminently readable. By weaving examples drawn from literature, music, and other art forms with political theory and first-person anecdotes, she shows the problems of compromise in action. And even as Smith demonstrates the many ways that late capitalism demands individual compromise, she also holds out hope for the possibility of lasting change through collective action. Closing with a piercing discussion of the uncompromising nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and how global protests against racism and police brutality after the murder of George Floyd point to a new future, *On Compromise* is a necessary and vital book for our time.

Author Bio

Rachel Greenwald Smith is the author of *Affect and American Literature in the Age of Neoliberalism*. Her essays have appeared in *American Literature*, *The Account*, *Mediations*, and elsewhere. She teaches at Saint Louis University.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Aug 3/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 208 pages

9781644450604 • \$22.00 • pb

Literary Criticism / American / General

Notes

Promotion

National publicity campaign

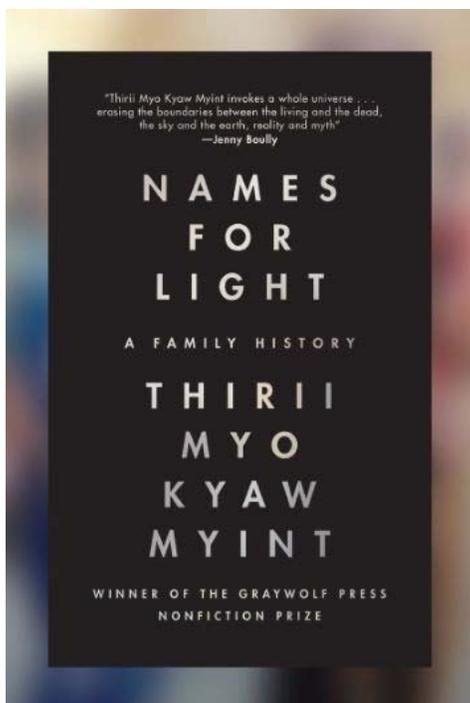
National advertising

Indie bookseller outreach

Academic promotion

Social media campaign





Names for Light

A Family History

by Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint

Winner of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize, a lyrical meditation on family, place, and inheritance

Names for Light traverses time and memory to weigh three generations of a family's history against a painful inheritance of postcolonial violence and racism. In spare, lyric paragraphs framed by white space, Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint explores home, belonging, and identity by revisiting the cities in which her parents and grandparents lived. As she makes inquiries into their stories, she intertwines oral narratives with the official and mythic histories of Myanmar. But while her family's stories move into the present, her own story - that of a writer seeking to understand who she is - moves into the past, until both converge at the end of the book.

Born in Myanmar and raised in Bangkok and San Jose, Myint finds that she does not have typical memories of arriving in the United States; instead, she is haunted by what she cannot remember. By the silences lingering around what is spoken. By a chain of deaths in her family line, especially that of her older brother as a child. For Myint, absence is felt as strongly as presence. And, as she comes to understand, naming those absences, finding words for the unsaid, means discovering how those who have come before have shaped her life. *Names for Light* is a moving chronicle of the passage of time, of the long shadow of colonialism, and of a writer coming into her own as she reckons with her family's legacy.

Author Bio

Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint is the author of *The End of Peril*, *the End of Enmity*, *the End of Strife*, *a Haven*. She has a BA from Brown University, an MFA from the University of Notre Dame, and a PhD from the University of Denver. She teaches at Amherst College.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Aug 17/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 176 pages

9781644450611 • \$22.00 • pb

Biography & Autobiography / General

Notes

Promotion



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Raincoast Books

Sales Rep