



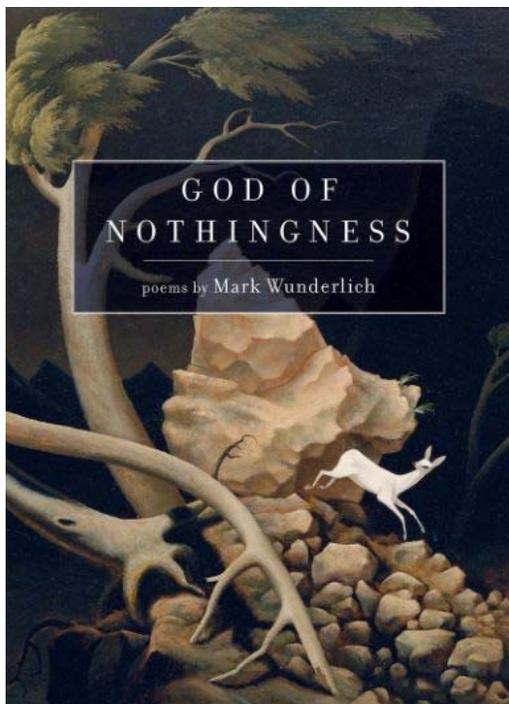
Raincoast Books

WINTER 2021

GRAYWOLF PRESS

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www.raincoast.com



God of Nothingness

Poems

by Mark Wunderlich

A magnificent book of hope and resolve written out of profound losses, by award-winning poet Mark Wunderlich

God of Nothingness is a book for those who have seen death up close or even quietly wished for it. In these poems, honed to a devastating edge, Mark Wunderlich asks: How is it we go on as those around us die? And why go on at all? This collection is a brilliant testament to the human ability to make something tough-minded and resilient out of despair and the inevitability of death drawing near. Some poems are moving elegies addressed to mentors, friends, and family recently gone; some contend with the unasked-for responsibilities of inheritance and the family name; others call forth the understanding of being the end of a genetic line; still others remember a rural midwestern coming-of-age and, chillingly, an encounter with the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. Present all the while are the prevailing comforts and wonders found in the natural world, work, and the longing for traditions that seem to be passing from our time. Exquisite in its craft and capaciousness, God of Nothingness is an unflinching journal of solitude and survival.

Author Bio

Mark Wunderlich is the author of *The Anchorage*, which won the 1999 Lambda Literary Award. He teaches at Sarah Lawrence College in New York and lives in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Jan 12/21

6.5 x 9 • 88 pages

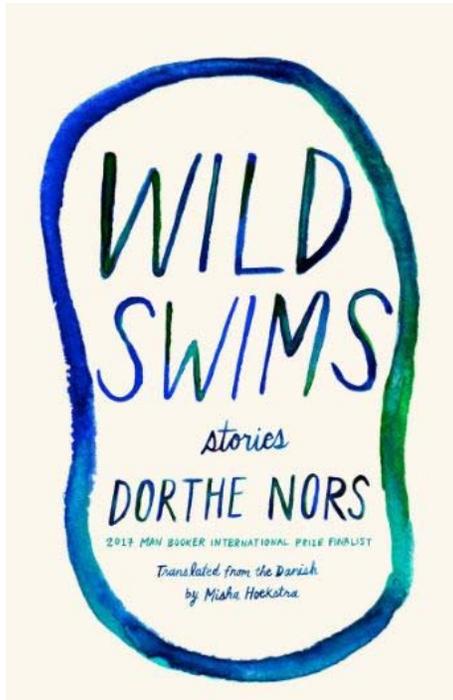
9781644450420 • \$22.00 • pb

Poetry / American

Notes

Promotion





Wild Swims

Stories

by Dorte Nors

A dazzling return to the short story by a finalist for the Man Booker International Prize

In fourteen effervescent stories, Dorte Nors plumbs the depths of the human heart, from desire to melancholy and everything in between. Just as she did in her English-language debut, *Karate Chop*, Nors slices straight to the core of the conflict in only a few pages. But *Wild Swims* expands the borders of her gaze, following people as they travel through Copenhagen, London, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and elsewhere.

Here are portraits of men and women full of restless longing, people who are often seeking a home but rarely finding it. A lie told during a fraught ferry ride on the North Sea becomes a wound that festers between school friends. A writer at a remote cabin befriends the mother of an ex-lover. Two friends knock doors to solicit fraudulent donations for the cancer society. A woman taken with the idea of wild swims ventures as far as the local swimming pool.

These stories have already been featured in the pages of *New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Tin House*, and *A Public Space*. They sound the darker tones of human nature and yet find the brighter chords of hope and humor as well. Cutting and offbeat without ever losing its warmth, *Wild Swims* is a master class in concision and restraint, and a path to living life without either. With *Wild Swims* Nors's star will continue to be ascendant.

Author Bio

Dorte Nors is the author of *Mirror*, *Shoulder*, *Signal*, a finalist for the Man Booker International Prize; *So Much for That Winter*; *Karate Chop*, the winner of the Per Olov Enquist Literary Prize; and four other novels. She lives in Denmark.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Feb 2/21

5.5 x 8.5 • 128 pages

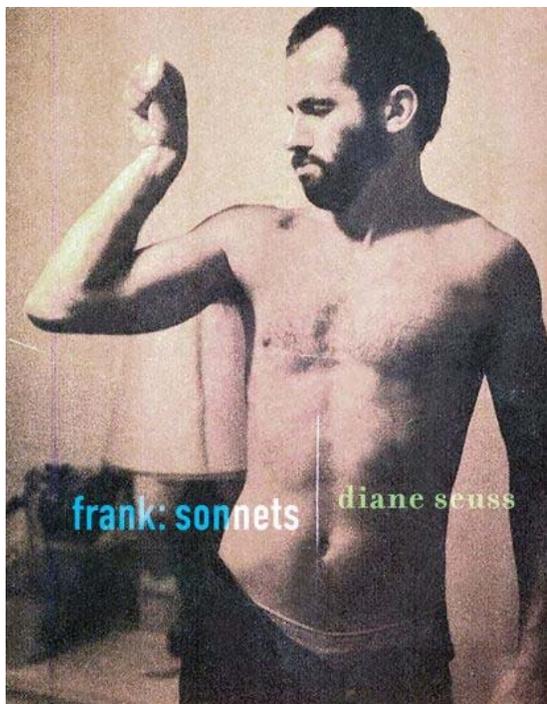
9781644450437 • \$20.50 • pb

Fiction / Literary

Notes

Promotion





frank: sonnets

by Diane Seuss

A resplendent life in sonnets from the author of *Four-Legged Girl*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize

The sonnet, like poverty, teaches you what you can do / without," Diane Seuss writes in this brilliant, candid work, her most personal collection to date. These poems tell the story of a life at risk of spilling over the edge of the page, from Seuss's working-class childhood in rural Michigan to the dangerous allures of New York City and back again. With sheer virtuosity, Seuss moves nimbly across thought and time, poetry and punk, AIDS and addiction, Christ and motherhood, showing us what we can do, what we can do without, and what we offer to one another when we have nothing left to spare. Like a series of cels on a filmstrip, *frank: sonnets* captures the magnitude of a life lived honestly, a restless search for some kind of "beauty or relief." Seuss is at the height of her powers, devastatingly astute, austere, and - in a word - frank.

Author Bio

Diane Seuss is the author of four poetry collections, including *Still Life with Two Dead Peacocks* and *a Girl*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. She lives in Michigan.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Mar 2/21

7 x 9 • 152 pages

9781644450451 • \$22.00 • pb

Poetry / American

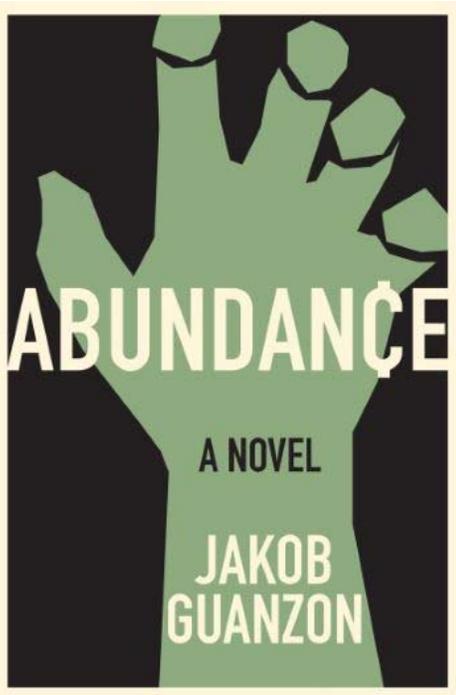
Notes

Promotion



Raincoast Books

Sales Rep



Abundance

A Novel

by Jakob Guanzon

A wrenching debut about the causes and effects of poverty, as seen by a father and son living in a pickup

Evicted from their trailer on New Year's Eve, Henry and his son, Junior, have been reduced to living out of a pickup truck. Six months later, things are even more desperate. Henry, barely a year out of prison for pushing opioids, is down to his last pocketful of dollars, and little remains between him and the street. But hope is on the horizon: Today is Junior's birthday, and Henry has a job interview tomorrow.

To celebrate, Henry treats Junior to dinner at McDonald's, followed by a night in a real bed at a discount motel. For a moment, as Junior watches TV and Henry practices for his interview in the bathtub, all seems well. But after Henry has a disastrous altercation in the parking lot and Junior succumbs to a fever, father and son are sent into the night, struggling to hold things together and make it through tomorrow.

In an ingenious structural approach, Jakob Guanzon organizes *Abundance* by the amount of cash in Henry's pocket. A new chapter starts with each debit and credit, and the novel expands and contracts, revealing the extent to which the quality of our attention is altered by the abundance - or lack thereof - that surrounds us. Set in an America of big-box stores and fast food, this incandescent debut novel trawls the fluorescent aisles of Walmart and the booths of Red Lobster to reveal the inequities and anxieties around work, debt, addiction, incarceration, and health care in America today.

Author Bio

Jakob Guanzon was born in New York and raised in Minnesota. He holds an MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts, and lives in New York City. *Abundance* is his first novel.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Mar 2/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 328 pages

9781644450468 • \$22.00 • pb

Fiction / Literary

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Promotion

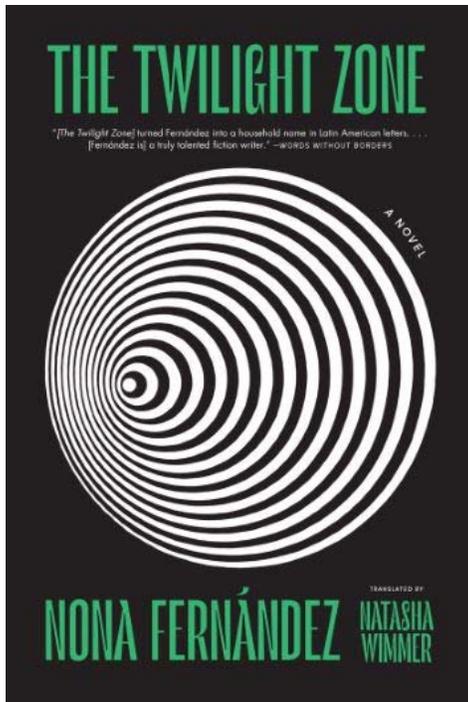


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Raincoast Books

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The Twilight Zone

A Novel

by Nona Fernández

An engrossing, incantatory novel about the legacy of historical crimes by the author of *Space Invaders*

It is 1984 in Chile, in the middle of the Pinochet dictatorship. A member of the secret police walks into the office of a dissident magazine and finds a reporter, who records his testimony. The narrator of Nona Fernández's mesmerizing and terrifying novel *The Twilight Zone* is a child when she first sees this man's face on the magazine's cover with the words "I Tortured People." His complicity in the worst crimes of the regime and his commitment to speaking about them haunt the narrator into her adulthood and career as a writer and documentarian. Like a secret service agent from the future, through extraordinary feats of the imagination, Fernández follows the "man who tortured people" to places that archives can't reach, into the sinister twilight zone of history where morning routines, a game of chess, Yuri Gagarin, and the eponymous TV show of the novel's title coexist with the brutal yet commonplace machinations of the regime.

How do crimes vanish in plain sight? How does one resist a repressive regime? And who gets to shape the truths we live by and take for granted? *The Twilight Zone* pulls us into the dark portals of the past, reminding us that the work of the writer in the face of historical erasure is to imagine so deeply that these absences can be, for a time, spectacularly illuminated.

"

In *The Twilight Zone*, Fernández shows why the emotional toll of the Pinochet dictatorship has yet to subside, why any country that (...)

Author Bio

Nona Fernández was born in Santiago, Chile. She is an actress and writer, and has published two plays, a collection of short stories, and six novels, including *Space Invaders* and *The Twilight Zone*, which was awarded the Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz Prize.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Mar 16/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 192 pages

9781644450475 • \$22.00 • pb

Fiction / Literary

Notes

Promotion



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"J. Robert Lennon is a connoisseur of calamity, qualms, and paradox."—*The New York Times Book Review*



Subdivision

J. Robert Lennon



Subdivision

A Novel

by J. Robert Lennon

A heady, inventive, fantastical novel about the nature of memory and the difficulty of confronting trauma

An unnamed woman checks into a guesthouse in a mysterious district known only as the Subdivision. The guesthouse's owners, Clara and the Judge, are welcoming and helpful, if oddly preoccupied by the perpetually baffling jigsaw puzzle in the living room. With little more than a hand-drawn map and vague memories of her troubled past, the narrator ventures out in search of a job, an apartment, and a fresh start in life.

Accompanied by an unusually assertive digital assistant named Cylvia, the narrator is drawn deeper into an increasingly strange, surreal, and threatening world, which reveals itself to her through a series of darkly comic encounters reminiscent of *Gulliver's Travels*. A lovelorn truck driver . . . a mysterious child . . . a watchful crow. A cryptic birthday party. A baffling physics experiment in a defunct office tower where some calamity once happened. Through it all, the narrator is tempted and manipulated by the bakemono, a shape-shifting demon who poses a distinctly terrifying danger.

Harrowing, meticulous, and deranged, *Subdivision* is a brilliant maze of a novel from the writer Kelly Link has called a master of the dark arts." With the narrative intensity and mordant humor familiar to readers of *Broken River*, J. Robert Lennon continues his exploration of the mysteries of perception and memory.

Author Bio

J. Robert Lennon is the author of nine novels and three story collections, including *Let Me Think*. His fiction has appeared in *Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *New Yorker*

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Apr 6/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 256 pages

9781644450482 • \$22.00 • pb

Fiction / Literary

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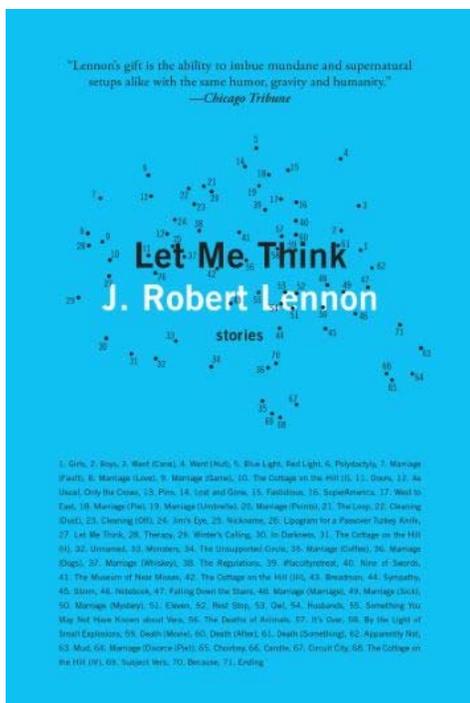


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Raincoast Books

Sales Rep



Let Me Think

Stories

by J. Robert Lennon

A new collection of short fiction by the author of the cult classic *Pieces for the Left Hand*

Let Me Think is a meticulous selection of short stories by one of the preeminent chroniclers of the American absurd. Through J. Robert Lennon's mordant yet sympathetic eye, the quotidian realities of marriage, family, and work are rendered powerfully strange in this rich and innovative collection.

These stories, most no more than a few pages, are at once experimental and compulsively readable, the work of an expert craftsman who can sketch whole lives in a mere handful of lines, or reveal, over pages, the boundless complexity of a passing thought. Here you'll find a heist gone wrong, a case of mistaken identity, a hostile encounter with a neighborhood eccentric, a glass eye, a talking owl, and a six-fingered hand. Whatever the subject, Lennon disarms the reader with humor before pivoting to pathos, pain, and disappointment - most notably in an extraordinary sequence of darting, painfully funny fictions about a disintegrating marriage that captures the myriad ways intimacy can fail us, and the ways that we can fail it.

Like Lennon's earlier story collection *Pieces for the Left Hand*, *Let Me Think* holds a mirror up to our long-held grudges and secret desires, our petty resentments and moments of redeeming grace, and confirms him as a virtuoso of the form.

Author Bio

J. Robert Lennon is the author of nine novels, including *Subdivision*, and three story collections. His fiction has appeared in *Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *New Yorker*.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Apr 6/21

5.5 x 8.25 • 256 pages

9781644450499 • \$22.00 • pb

Fiction / Literary

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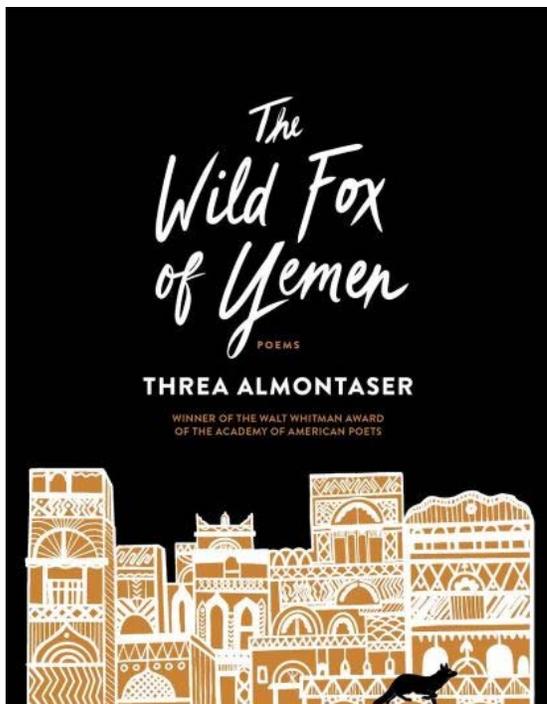


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Raincoast Books

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The Wild Fox of Yemen

Poems

by Threa Almontaser

Winner of the Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets, selected by Harryette Mullen

By turns aggressively reckless and fiercely protective, always guided by faith and ancestry, Threa Almontaser's incendiary debut asks how mistranslation can be a form of self-knowledge and survival. A love letter to the country and people of Yemen, a portrait of young Muslim womanhood in New York after 9/11, and an extraordinarily composed examination of what it means to carry in the body the echoes of what came before, Almontaser's polyvocal collection sneaks artifacts to and from worlds, repurposing language and adapting to the space between cultures. Half-crunk and hungry, speakers move with the force of what cannot be contained by the limits of the American imagination, and instead invest in troublemaking and trickery, navigate imperial violence across multiple accents and anthems, and apply gang signs in henna, utilizing any means necessary to form a semblance of home. In doing so, *The Wild Fox of Yemen* fearlessly rides the tension between carnality and tenderness in the unruly human spirit.

Author Bio

Threa Almontaser is a Yemeni American author from New York City. Her work can be found in the *Adroit Journal*, *Passages North*, *Diode Poetry Journal*, *The Rumpus*, *wildness*, and elsewhere. She lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Graywolf Press

On Sale: Apr 6/21

7 x 9 • 96 pages

9781644450505 • \$22.00 • pb

Poetry / American

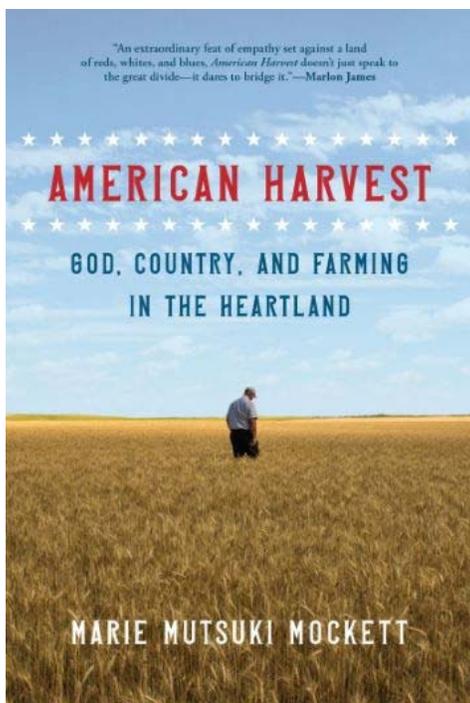
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Promotion



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American Harvest

God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland

by Marie Mutsuki Mockett

An epic story of the American wheat harvest, the politics of food, and the culture of the Great Plains

For over one hundred years, the Mockett family has owned a seven-thousand-acre wheat farm in the panhandle of Nebraska, where Marie Mutsuki Mockett's father was raised. Mockett, who grew up in bohemian Carmel, California, with her father and her Japanese mother, knew little about farming when she inherited this land. Her father had all but forsworn it.

In *American Harvest*, Mockett accompanies a group of evangelical Christian wheat harvesters through the heartland at the invitation of Eric Wolgemuth, the conservative farmer who has cut her family's fields for decades. As Mockett follows Wolgemuth's crew on the trail of ripening wheat from Texas to Idaho, they contemplate what Wolgemuth refers to as the divide," inadvertently peeling back layers of the American story to expose its contradictions and unhealed wounds. She joins the crew in the fields, attends church, and struggles to adapt to the rhythms of rural life, all the while continually reminded of her own status as a person who signals "not white," but who people she encounters can't quite categorize.

American Harvest is an extraordinary evocation of the land and a thoughtful exploration of ingrained beliefs, from evangelical skepticism of evolution to cosmopolitan assumptions about food production and farming. With exquisite lyricism and humanity, this astonishing book attempts to reconcile competing versions of our national story.

"

Mockett, writing (...)

Author Bio

Marie Mutsuki Mockett was born to a Japanese mother and an American father. Her Japanese family owns and runs a Buddhist temple that has, among other things, performed exorcisms. This is her first novel.

