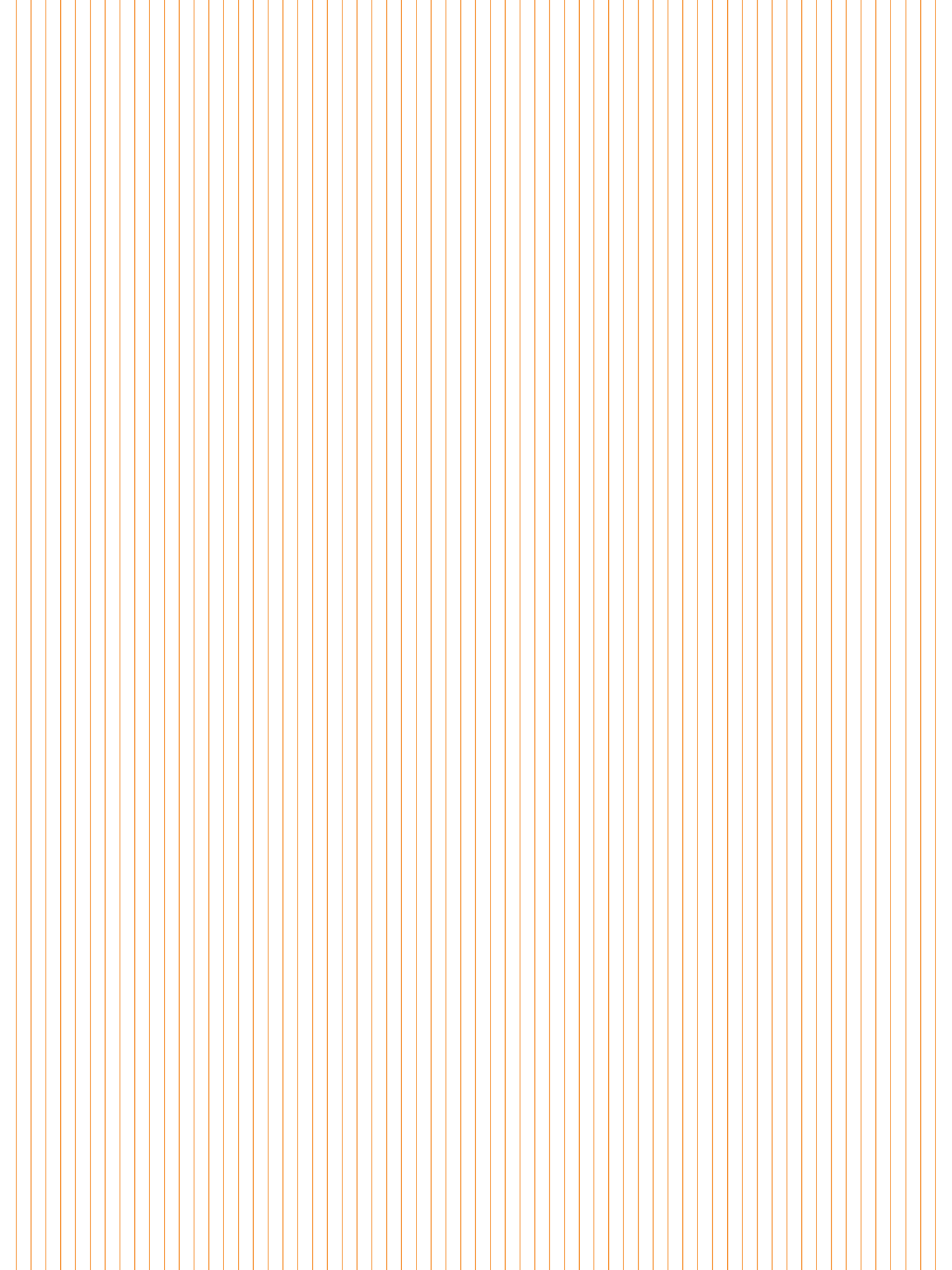




CATALOGUE

SPRING | SUMMER



Before there were books, there was a band. Curbside Splendor was conceived as a punk rock band in the early 1990s in an apartment in Urbana, Illinois. The band never really went anywhere, but Curbside was re-founded as an independent press in the fall of 2009. We're located in the South Loop neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois.

We publish fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry that celebrates art, urban life, and diverse, extraordinary voices. We aim to create a direct relationship with our readers through producing engaging events at bars, cafes, live music clubs, and our very own Curbside Books & Records inside Revival Food Hall in Chicago's South Loop.

Our titles have received national acclaim from *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *The Atlantic*, *The Huffington Post*, *Flavorwire*, *LA Weekly*, *The Village Voice*, *New York Magazine*, *Chicago Tribune*, and NPR.

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REVIEW COPIES:

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josh@curbsidesplendor.com

DEAR ABIGAIL AND OTHER STORIES

STEPHEN DIXON



TRNSFR BOOKS, JUNE

Stephen Dixon continues his examination of grief and how it shapes and reshapes both our experience and recollection of it.

Stephen Dixon has long been considered one of America's preeminent literary innovators. *Dear Abigail*, the companion to Dixon's earlier collection *Late Stories*, continues the story of Philip Seidel as he recounts every detail of the early days of his marriage—as well as the traces of memories lost to time—rendering another heartbreaking examination of grief.

"*Late Stories* is a fantastic mourning, fantastically written." —*The Paris Review*

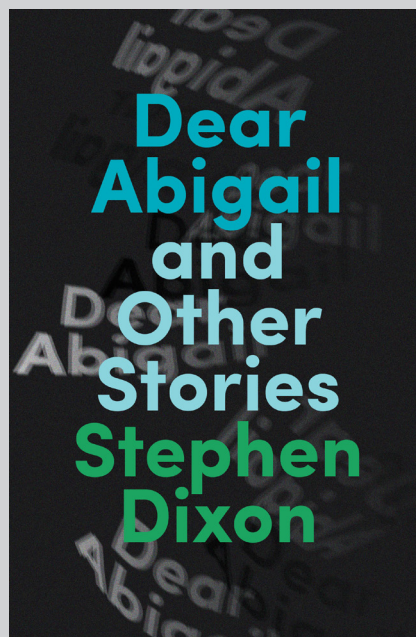
FICTION / TRADE PAPER

8 x 5.25 / 320 PP

US \$16.95 / CAN \$24.50

9781945883163 USC

EBOOK AVAILABLE



"Dixon is a master of the minor moments, the dreams and the disappointments, that transfigure every one of us."

—KIRKUS REVIEWS (STARRED REVIEW)

"Stephen Dixon has somehow been overlooked as one of the masters of recording how a person thinks, how days go, what it feels like to be alive inside a brain. . . . He should be remembered as one of postmodern modernism's greats." —BLAKE BUTLER, *VICE*

STEPHEN DIXON is the author of several books, including *Frog* and *Interstate*, which were nominated for the National Book Award. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Academy Institute of Arts and Letters Prize for Fiction, the O. Henry Award, and a Pushcart Prize.

PERFECT CONDITIONS

VANESSA BLAKESLEE



CURBSIDE SPLENDOR, MAY

Stories examining the endurance of the human heart when tested unrelentingly by uncontrollable forces, from a celebrated and formidable writer.

From the unforgiving surf of Costa Rica to hidden vineyards in the South of France, the stories in *Perfect Conditions* span the globe. The characters often struggle to find control in unrelenting circumstances: a deep sea fisherman discovers he may not be allowed to return home when his contract expires; a young woman mourns the death of a dear friend she cannot save; a newlywed couple embark on a disastrous honeymoon. Unflinching stories from an award-winning writer.

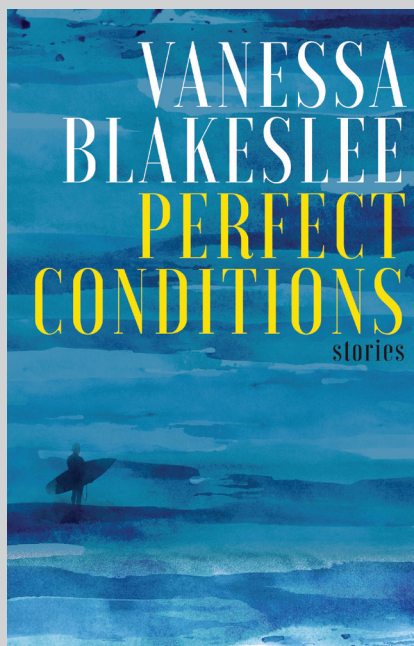
FICTION / TRADE PAPER

8.5 x 5.5 / 300 PP

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9781945883156 USC

EBOOK AVAILABLE



VANESSA BLAKESLEE's writing has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Kenyon Review Online*, and elsewhere. Her novel *Juventud* won the 2015 IPPY Bronze Medal in Literary Fiction, was a finalist for *Foreword Review*'s Book of the Year, and a runner-up for the Eric Hoffer Award. Her story collection *Train Shots* won the 2014 IPPY Gold Medal in Short Fiction.

THE HYPOTHETICAL MAN

PAUL MALISZEWSKI
& JAMES WAGNER



TRANSFERR BOOKS, AUGUST

Two unnamed narrators engage in erudite yet playful discourse in an attempt to understand themselves and the world around them.

The Hypothetical Man is a darkly humorous collection of stories featuring an assortment of anonymous characters: A, B, and S. They work either undercover at an amusement park in Illinois or at a secret government facility that would prefer not to be named. They attend a freewheeling sales meeting with death masks on the wall. Some raise pigs, others race goats. One lives in a suburban home where he watches his wife with another man. They are, together, misled, misunderstood, and mistaken often, but their pursuit of answers never ends.

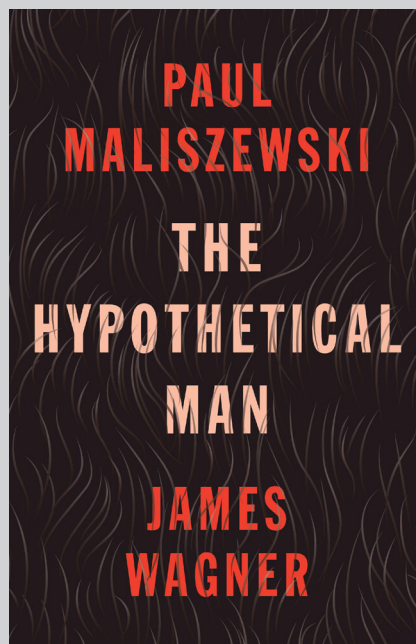
FICTION / TRADE PAPER

8 x 5.25 / 176 PP

US \$16.95 / CAN \$24.50

9781945883170 USC

EBOOK AVAILABLE



“Paul Maliszewski and James Wagner have written an entrancement of a book, and you’ll hang on their every word.”

—GARY LUTZ, AUTHOR OF *DIVORCER*

“These stories? narratives? accusations? recriminations? are the smartest and most fascinating literary inventions you’ll read this decade. Imagine an angry, frightened Luis Borges in an argument with himself, or Abbott and Costello if they were very, very well-read.”

—CLANCY MARTIN, AUTHOR OF *BAD SEX*

PAUL MALISZEWSKI is the author of *Fakers* and *Prayer and Parable*. His work has appeared in *Harper’s*, *Granta*, *Bookforum*, *The Paris Review*, and *Bomb*. He lives in Washington, DC. JAMES WAGNER is the author of *Thrown: poems to paintings with Bracha L. Ettinger*, *Work Book*, *Trilce*, and *the false sun recordings*. He lives in California.

DEFYING THE VERDICT: MY BIPOLAR LIFE

CHARITA COLE BROWN



CURBSIDE SPLENDOR, APRIL

Against doctors' predictions, Charita Cole Brown has been able to manage her bipolar disorder for more than twenty-five years.

During her final semester of college, Charita Cole Brown suffered a psychotic episode frighteningly reminiscent of her grandmother's own breakdown and subsequent hospitalization. Afterward, she was diagnosed as bipolar. Vowing to remain honest, Brown details her struggle despite her diagnosis, with a life full of love, hope, and success.

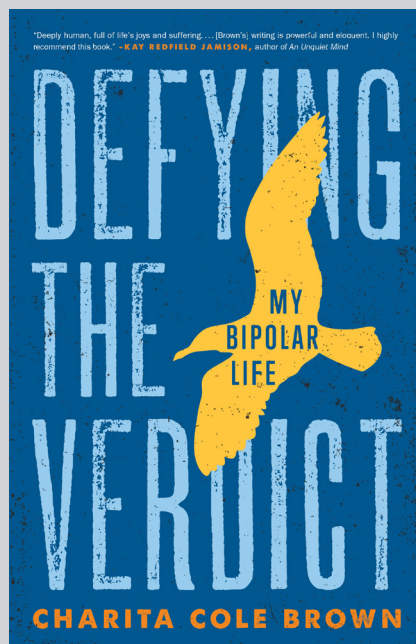
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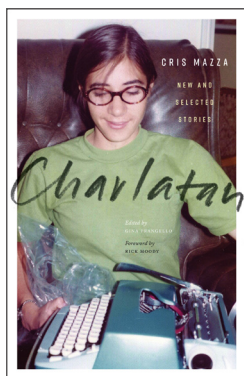
US \$15.95 / CAN \$20.99

9781945883071 USC

EBOOK AVAILABLE



CHARITA COLE BROWN earned a BA in English from Wesleyan University and an MAT in Early Childhood Education from Towson University in Maryland. She is now retired and lives in Baltimore with her two daughters.



**CHARLATAN:
NEW AND SELECTED
STORIES**
CRIS MAZZA

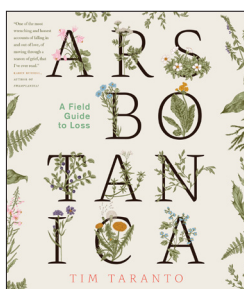
TRADE PAPER
FICTION / US \$17.95
9781945883064 USC

“Mazza’s newest work stands first and foremost as a supremely accomplished body of individual artistry. Again and again, what this collection showcases is Mazza’s rarest of talents. . . . An impressive compendium of an important career—Mazza’s work shines.”

—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Cris Mazza’s work has often been regarded as “disturbing” for its exploration of sexual politics, victimhood, personal accountability, and acts of sexual violence. With 22 stories, plus an introduction by Gina Frangello and a foreword by Rick Moody, *Charlatan* charts the development of a dynamic body of fiction by a writer due for discovery by millennial readers unsatisfied by mainstream feminism.

CRIS MAZZA is the author of over seventeen books. Her first novel, *How to Leave a Country*, won the PEN/Nelson Algren Award for book-length fiction. Mazza is a professor in the Program for Writers at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



**ARS BOTANICA:
A FIELD GUIDE
TO LOSS**
TIM TARANTO

TRADE PAPER / POETRY,
AUTOBIOGRAPHY / US \$14.95
9781940430980 USC

“One of the most wrenching and honest accounts of falling in and out of love, of moving through a season of grief, that I’ve ever read.”

—Karen Russell, author of *Swamplandia!*

Written as letters to his unborn child, Tim Taranto’s *Ars Botanica* describes the infinite pleasures of falling in love and the terrifying impossibility of losing someone. Through examinations of the ways in which various cultures and religions carry grief, Taranto discovers the emotional instincts that shape his own mourning. At times astonishingly personal and even painful, *Ars Botanica* is also playfully funny, a rich hybrid of memoir, poetry, and illustration that delightfully defies categorization.

TIM TARANTO is a writer, visual artist, and poet from New York. His work has been featured in *Buzzfeed*, FSG’s *Works in Progress*, *Harper’s*, *The Iowa Review*, *McSweeney’s Internet Tendency*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *The Rumpus*, and *The Saint Ann’s Review*. Tim is a graduate of Cornell University and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop.



MYCOLOGY
JOAN WILKING

PAPER
FICTION / US \$14.95
9781945883132 USC

“A gem of a book, brutal and exact yet tender and searching.”

—Lindsay Hunter, author of *Eat Only When You're Hungry*

A tree falls in 1955, and in its wreckage spores of poisonous mushrooms begins to grow. Nearly thirty years later, during the height of the AIDS epidemic, those fungi and the death of acclaimed choreographer Haze Morton bring together his partner, Martin, his lover, Luca, and a reclusive artist, Charlotte Previt. Each of them comes to understand the ways in which their lives have crossed because of Haze, and how they can begin living again, together. *Mycology* is a quiet, sharp examination about how we and others can keep ourselves from growing, and how the right people can help us repair that damage.

JOAN WILKING was a finalist for the 2010 Nelson Algren Short Story Competition of the *Chicago Tribune*, and received special mention in the 2016 Pushcart Prize XL Anthology. She lives and works at the edge of the Earth overlooking Plum Island Sound in Ipswich, Massachusetts.



BODY HORROR:
CAPITALISM, FEAR,
MISOGYNY, JOKES
ANNE ELIZABETH
MOORE

TRADE PAPER
ESSAY / US \$16.95
9781940430881 USC

“Brainy and historically informed, this collection is less a rallying cry or a bitter diatribe than a series of irreverent and ruthlessly accurate jabs at a culture that is slowly devouring us.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

In *Body Horror*, award-winning journalist Anne Elizabeth Moore explores the global toll of capitalism on women with thorough research and surprising humor. The essays range from probing journalistic investigations, such as Moore's reporting on the labor conditions of the Cambodian garment industry, to the uncomfortably personal, as when Moore, who suffers from several autoimmune disorders, examines her experiences seeking care and community in the increasingly complicated American healthcare system.

ANNE ELIZABETH MOORE is the author of *Unmarketable*, *Cambodian Grrrl*, and *Threadbare*, the founding editor of *Best American Comics*, a Fulbright scholar, and a USC Annenberg/Getty Arts Journalism Fellow. In 2016, she was awarded the third Write A House permanent fellowship and currently resides in Detroit.



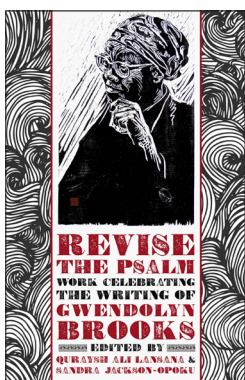
**THE EMPTY BOTTLE,
CHICAGO: 21+ YEARS OF
MUSIC/FRIENDLY/DANCING
JOHN DUGAN, EDITOR**

HARDCOVER
NONFICTION / US \$34.95
9781940430546 USC

“A must-read for anyone interested in the history of a key Chicago venue or indie music in general.” —Vice’s *Noisey*

From this collection of photographs, interviews, and essays culled from a community of music fans, bartenders, booking agents, bouncers, and underground musicians emerges a kaleidoscopic history of this influential hole-in-the-wall rock venue. Featuring a foreword by John Darnielle of The Mountain Goats and firsthand interviews with members of The Flaming Lips, Interpol, Low, OK Go, The Sea and Cake, and more, as well as rarely-seen, full-color photographs and reproductions of original silkscreen gig posters, this collection is the tell-all confessional from a bar named one of “The Best Rock Clubs in America” by *Rolling Stone*.

JOHN DUGAN’s writing has appeared in *The Economist* online, *Spin.com*, *RollingStone.com*, *Billboard.com*, the *Chicago Reader*, *Time Out London*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and numerous other publications.



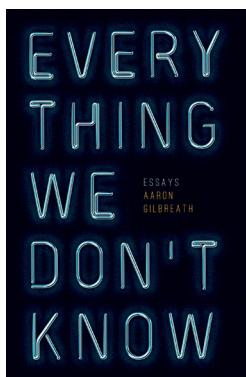
**REVISE THE PSALM:
WORK CELEBRATING
THE WRITING OF
GWENDOLYN
BROOKS
JACKSON-OPOKU,
LANSANA, EDS.**

TRADE PAPER / POETRY,
ESSAY / US \$24.95
9781940430867 USC

“Revise the Psalm brings a more expansive response to Brooks. We get a keen sense of the poet and her fierce commitment to community engagement.” —Claudia Rankine, *The New York Times Book Review*

The year 2017 marks the 100th birthday of the late poet and cultural icon Gwendolyn Brooks. Miss Brooks’ depictions of poor and working-class African Americans provides insight into the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and her lens on the Great Migration, hard and necessary truths about race injustice, and the Black Power movement interprets and contextualizes current racial inequities and tensions. This collection of poetry, essays, and art inspired by the work of Miss Brooks celebrates her life, writing, and activism.

QURAYSH ALI LANSANA is author or editor of twenty books. He is a faculty member of the Writing Program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. **SANDRA JACKSON-OPOKU** is the author of two novels, *The River Where Blood is Born* and *Hot Johnny (And the Women Who Loved Him)*. Her fiction, poetry, articles, and essays have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Ms.* magazine, and elsewhere.



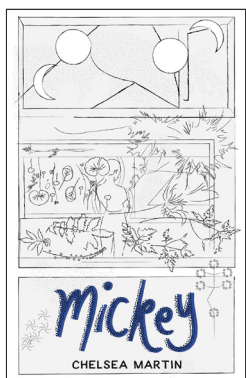
**EVERYTHING WE
DON'T KNOW**
AARON GILBREATH

TRADE PAPER
ESSAY / US \$16.95
9781940430836 USC

“Everything We Don’t Know is expansive, obsessive, and consistently entertaining. Gilbreath’s inquisitiveness is infectious, and his misadventures are filled with a self-doubt that’s charming and all too relatable.” —Portland Mercury

Heartfelt, earnest, and humorous, the essays in *Everything We Don’t Know* examine the journey of growing up in contemporary America. Gilbreath contemplates the ocean-bound debris from Japan’s Fukushima nuclear disaster, his nostalgia for the demolished buildings of his youth, the origins of the word “radical,” and more. A deftly-crafted debut from a wise, bold voice.

AARON GILBREATH is an essayist, journalist, and burrito enthusiast. His essays and articles have appeared in *Harper’s*, *The New York Times*, *Paris Review*, *Saveur*, *Kenyon Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Tin House*, *Vice*, *The Morning News*, and *Brick*, and been listed as notable in *Best American Essays* and *Best American Travel Writing*. A contributing editor at *Longreads*, he’s working on a book about rural California and a travel book about Japan. He lives in Portland, Oregon.



MICKEY
CHELSEA MARTIN

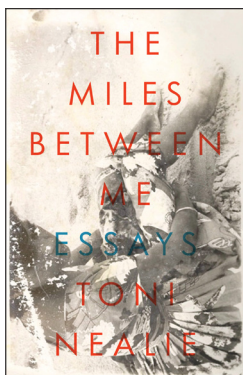
PAPER
FICTION / US \$14.95
9781940430737 USC

“Chelsea Martin’s *Mickey* is beyond superlatives but I’ll use them anyway: intelligent, hysterical, elusive, an exquisite original. If you enjoy thinking, laughing, and self-loathing, read this book.”

—Chloe Caldwell, author of *Women* and *I’ll Tell You In Person*

After breaking up with her boyfriend Mickey, a young woman struggles to situate her life and her art, and reach her estranged mother. Told in a series of vignettes, *Mickey* is one young woman’s journey to figuring out life (or not) amidst drunken mistakes, reality TV marathons, bathroom sex, and the day-dreamed titles of imaginary art installations.

CHELSEA MARTIN is the author of *Caca Dolce*; *Everything Was Fine Until Whatever*; *The Really Funny Thing About Apathy*; and *Even Though I Don’t Miss You*, which was named one of the Best Indie Books of 2013 by *Dazed* magazine. Her work has appeared in *Buzzfeed*, *Hobart*, *Lenny Letter*, *Vice*, and *Catapult*, and chosen as a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2016*. She is a comic artist and illustrator and currently lives in Washington State.



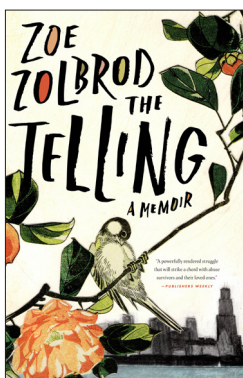
**THE MILES
BETWEEN ME**
TONI NEALIE

PAPER
ESSAY / US \$16.95
9781940430782 USC

“The Miles Between Me is so staggeringly intimate, it feels a bit like viewing an autopsy through a Go-Pro. With a deft hand and a knack for piercing details, the Chicago author examines the death of her familiar New Zealand surroundings, her stillborn life in America, and the miles between as two continents and identities clash together in a surprising rebirth.” —*Chicago Review of Books*

In her debut essay collection, New Zealand native Toni Nealie examines journeys, homelands, family, and motherhood. She details humiliating confrontations with airport security, muses on the color brown, and intimately investigates her grandfather’s complicated and criminal past, all while harkening home—wherever and whatever that is.

TONI NEALIE is a writer, journalist, and teacher living in Chicago. Her work has appeared in *Guernica*, *The Prague Review*, *The Offing*, *The Rumpus*, and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She worked in magazines, politics, and public relations in the U.K and her native New Zealand before moving to the U.S.—two weeks before 9/11. She holds an MFA from Columbia College Chicago.



THE TELLING
ZOE ZOLBROD

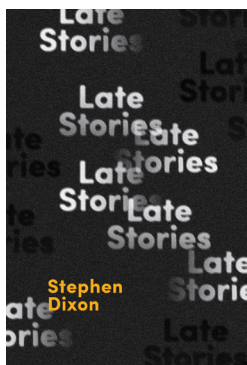
TRADE PAPER
MEMOIR / US \$16.95
9781940430744 USC

“A gripping read. The Telling is brutally honest, relentlessly passionate and ferociously intelligent. Zolbrod has written a page-turner—one unlike any you’ve ever experienced before.”

—Rob Roberge, author of *Liar* and *The Cost of Living*

Zoe Zolbrod remained silent about her early childhood molestation for nearly a decade. When she finally decided to tell, she wasn’t sure what to expect, or what to say. Through a kaleidoscopic series of experiences, Zolbrod traces the development of her sexuality, her relationships with men, and the cultivation of her motherhood in the shadow of her childhood sexual abuse. Bolstered with research, Zolbrod argues passionately for the empowerment of sexual abuse victims and the courage it takes to talk about it.

ZOE ZOLBROD’s work has appeared in *Salon*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *The Weeklings*, and *The Rumpus*. Her debut novel *Currency* won a 2010 Nobbie Award and received an honorable mention by Friends of American Writers. Zoe lives in Evanston, IL with her husband, son, and daughter.



LATE STORIES
STEPHEN DIXON

TRADE PAPER
FICTION / US \$16.95
9781940430874 USC

“Through Dixon’s work we come to recognize what is most ‘real’ about human experience: the effort to understand it.” —*Full Stop*

Master stylist Stephen Dixon returns with thirty-one stories playfully exploring the elision of memory and reality in the wake of loss.

Although it has been several years since the death of his longtime wife, Abigail, author Philip Seidel struggles with his self-imposed isolation and reclusiveness, all the while continuing to write: about their shared life, its joys—artistic, filial, sensual—its disappointments, and of the slow decline of Abigail’s health. Along the way, he rambles, fantasizes, baldly recounts his daily routines and foibles, amends, backtracks, and repeats himself—ultimately giving us a wholly human and heartfelt portrait of bereavement.



JUVENTUD
**VANESSA
BLAKESLEE**

TRADE PAPER
FICTION / US \$15.95
9781940430584 USC

“Part love story and part mystery novel, *Juventud* is also a tale of the complexities of family, the strains on the ties that bind, and the expectations we place on each other that no one can adequately meet.”

—*Newcity*

Growing up as the only daughter of a wealthy landowner in Santiago de Cali, Colombia, teenaged Mercedes Martinez knows a world of maids, armed guards, and private drivers. When she falls in love with Manuel, a fiery young activist with a passion for his faith and his country, she begins to understand the suffering of the desplazados who share her land. A startling discovery about her father forces Mercedes to doubt everything she thought she knew about her life, and she and Manuel make plans to run away together. But before they can, tragedy strikes in a single violent night. Mercedes flees Colombia for the United States and a life she never could have imagined. Fifteen years later, she returns to Colombia seeking the truth, but discovers that only more questions await.

