Heavens on Earth

The Scientific Search for the Afterlife, Immortality, and Utopia

Michael Shermer

A scientific exploration into humanity’s obsession with the afterlife and quest for immortality from the bestselling author and skeptic Michael Shermer

In his most ambitious work yet, Shermer sets out to discover what drives humans’ belief in life after death, focusing on recent scientific attempts to achieve immorality by radical life extensionists, extropians, transhumanists, cryonicists, and mind-uploaders, along with utopians who have attempted to create heaven on earth. For millennia, religions have concocted numerous manifestations of heaven and the afterlife, the place where souls go after the death of the physical body. Religious leaders have toiled to make sense of this place that a surprising 74% of Americans believe exists, but from which no one has ever returned to report what it is really like.

Heavens on Earth concludes with an uplifting paean to purpose and progress and what we can do in the here-and-now, whether or not there is a hereafter.

Michael Shermer is the author of The Moral Arc, Why People Believe Weird Things, The Believing Brain, and nine other books on the evolution of human beliefs and behavior. He is the founding publisher of Skeptic magazine, the editor of Skeptic.com, a monthly columnist for Scientific American, and Presidential Fellow at Chapman University. He lives in Southern California.
When to Jump
If the Job You Have Isn’t the Life You Want

Mike Lewis

How do you start doing what you really, really want? You jump. With inspiration and instruction from more than forty true stories of people who have already jumped and have never looked back.

An inspirational book that lays out the “Jump Curve”—those fundamental four steps to finally, wholeheartedly, pursuing your dreams—using a wide variety of experiences from people who have jumped. With a foreword from Sheryl Sandberg and including the wisdom of Michael Lewis and Brandon Stanton, among many others.

When Mike Lewis was twenty-four and working in a prestigious corporate job, he anxiously wanted to leave and pursue his dream of becoming a professional squash player. But he had questions: When is the right time to make the move from work that is comfortable to a career of doing what we truly want? How have people planned to make this jump? What did they feel around making the jump and how did they deal with those emotions?

He sought out guidance from other people who had “jumped,” and the answers he got—from a banker who became a brewer, a journalist who pursued his dream of becoming a paramedic, a garbage collector who became a furniture designer, et cetera—were so clear-eyed and inspiring that Mike wanted to share what he had heard and learned with anyone else who might be helped by these stories. First, though, he became a professional squash player.

The right book at the right time, When to Jump is a culmination of true, heartening, and instructive stories with a straightforward four-step guide and section takeaways that will reassure: You can make the jump. Just let yourself.

Mike Lewis received his BA from Dartmouth College and decided to pursue his dreams of becoming a professional squash player after two years of working at Bain Capital. Since then, he has been collecting stories of other people who have left certain paths to pursue entirely different ones and sharing them under the When to Jump platform. When to Jump, a tangible print collection of those stories with clear guidance on how and when to jump, is his first book. He lives in San Francisco.
The Seabird's Cry

Adam Nicolson

Life itself could never have been sustainable without seabirds. As Adam Nicolson writes: "They are bringers of fertility, the deliverers of life from ocean to land."

A global tragedy is unfolding. Even as we are coming to understand them, the number of seabirds on our planet is in freefall, dropping by nearly 70% in the last sixty years, a billion fewer now than there were in 1950. Of the ten birds in this book, seven are in decline, at least in part of their range. Extinction stalks the ocean and there is a danger that the grand cry of the seabird colony, rolling around the bays and headlands of high latitudes, will this century become little but a memory.

Seabirds have always entranced the human imagination and NYT best-selling author Adam Nicolson has been in love with them all his life: for their mastery of wind and ocean, their aerial beauty and the unmatched wildness of the coasts and islands where every summer they return to breed. The seabird’s cry comes from an elemental layer in the story of the world.

Over the last couple of decades, modern science has begun to understand their epic voyages, their astonishing abilities to navigate for tens of thousands of miles on featureless seas, their ability to smell their way towards fish and home. Only the poets in the past would have thought of seabirds as creatures riding the ripples and currents of the entire planet, but that is what the scientists are seeing now today.

PRAISE

Praise for Adam Nicolson:

“Highly accessible…Nicolson’s amateurism (in the best, etymological, sense of the word: from the Latin amare, "to love") and globe-trotting passion for his subject is contagious…bringing the heroic age into our own.” —New York Times Book Review

“Complex, personal and profound…a brash and brave piece of writing… [Nicolson’s] book, filled with the swords and spears that inflict the carnage of the ‘Iliad,’ can change the way we see ours.” —Wall Street Journal

“Stirring…Nicolson eloquently sums up what we still look for in Homer: ‘wisdom, his fearless encounter with the dreadful, his love of love and hatred of death, the ...”

Adam Nicolson is a prize-winning writer of many books on history and nature, including Sea Room, NYT bestselling God's Secretaries, and the acclaimed Why Homer Matters. He is winner of the Royal Society of Literature's Ondaatje Prize, the Somerset Maugham Award, the W. H. Heinemann Award, and the British Topography prize. He has written and presented many television series and lives on a farm in Sussex.
Girl Unknown

Karen Perry

How quickly could the family we have created for ourselves unravel—and how far will we go to protect it?

David and Caroline Connolly are swimming successfully through their marriage’s middle years—raising two children; overseeing care for David’s ailing mother; leaning into their careers, both at David’s university teaching job, where he’s up for an important promotion, and at the ad agency where Caroline has recently returned to work after years away while the children were little. The recent stresses of home renovation and of a brief romantic betrayal (Caroline’s) are behind them. The Connollys know and care for each other deeply.

Then one early fall afternoon, a student of sublime, waiflike beauty appears in David’s university office and says, “I think you might be my father.” And the fact of a youthful passion that David had tried to forget comes rushing back. In the person of this intriguing young woman, the Connollys may have a chance to expand who they are and how much they can love, or they may be making themselves vulnerable to menace. They face either an opportunity or a threat—but which is which? What happens when their hard-won family happiness meets a hard-luck beautiful girl?

PRAISE

Praise for Girl Unknown

“Karen Perry writes intense psychological thrillers that explore emotional danger with relentless, surgical accuracy, and this may be their best yet.”—Tana French, bestselling author of The Trespasser

“This story of psychological attrition builds to an incredibly tense finale—before delivering an amazing final twist. Riveting stuff.”—Sunday Mirror

“One of the most richly satisfying psychological thrillers of 2016, a book that hooks the reader from the first page.”—Irish Independent

“A taut, tense psycho-gripper.”—Sunday Sport

Karen Perry is the pen name of Dublin-based authors Paul Perry and Karen Gillece. Paul Perry is the author of a number of critically acclaimed books. A recipient of the Hennessy Award for New Irish Writing, he teaches creative writing at University College, Dublin. Karen Gillece is the author of four critically acclaimed novels. In 2009 she won the European Union Prize for Literature (Ireland).
Operation Chaos

The Vietnam Deserters Who Fought the CIA, the Brainwashers, and Themselves

Matthew Sweet

Stockholm, 1968. A thousand American deserters and draft-resisters are arriving to escape the war in Vietnam. They’re young, they’re radical, and they want to start a revolution. Some of them even want to take the fight to America. The Swedes treat them like pop stars—but the CIA is determined to stop all that.

It’s a job for the deep-cover men of Operation Chaos and their allies—agents who know how to infiltrate organizations and destroy them from inside. Within months, the GIs have turned their fire on one another. Then the interrogations begin—to discover who among them has been brainwashed, Manchurian Candidate-style, to assassinate their leaders.

When Matthew Sweet began investigating this story, he thought the madness was over. He was wrong. Instead, he became the confidant of an eccentric and traumatized group of survivors—each with his own theory about the traitors in their midst.

All Sweet has to do is find out the truth. And stay sane. Which may be difficult when one of his interviewees accuses him of being a CIA agent and another suspects that he’s part of a secret plot by the British royal family to start World War III. By that time, he’s deep in the labyrinth of truths and half-truths, wondering where reality ends and delusion begins.

Matthew Sweet is author of Inventing the Victorians, Shepperton Babylon, and The West End Front. He is a columnist for Art Quarterly and Newsweek International, and presents the BBC radio programs Free Thinking, Sound of Cinema, and The Philosopher’s Arms. He was series consultant on the Showtime drama Penny Dreadful and played a moth from the planet Vortis in the BBC2 drama An Adventure in Space and Time. He lives in London.
Left Bank

Art, Passion, and the Rebirth of Paris, 1940-50

Agnes Poirier

A lively, authoritative group portrait of some of the 20th century’s most revered creative minds as they lived, loved, fought, and flourished in Paris during and after World War II

In this fascinating tour of a celebrated city during one of its most trying, significant, and ultimately triumphant chapters, Agnes Poirier takes her readers through the lives of the poets, writers, artists, and politicians who converged in Paris between 1940 and 1950. She gives us the human stories behind some of the most celebrated works of the 20th century, from Richard Wright’s Native Son to Albert Camus’s The Stranger, along with the origin stories of now legendary movements, from Surrealism and Existentialism to the Theatre of the Absurd. We follow James Joyce and Saul Bellow as young men, peek inside Picasso’s studio, and trail the many twists in Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir’s epic, ever evolving love story. We watch the births and deaths of newspapers and literary journals, and peer through keyholes to see the first kisses and last nights of many ill-gotten bedfellows. At every turn, Poirier deftly hones in on the colorful information we want most, without undermining the crucial significance of the era.

Poirier shows us the flawed and ultimately lovable Parisians who fell in love, bickered, separated, and reunited all while changing the political and intellectual landscape—and history—of one of the world’s greatest cities. A balance of clear-eyed historical perspective and irresistible anecdotal charm, Left Bank delivers a Paris readers will long to inhabit it in all its delicious drama and life.

Born in Paris, Agnes Poirier has lived and worked in London for the last twenty years, and writes in both English and French. Her work has appeared in Le Nouvel Observateur, Le Monde, The Guardian, The Times and The Independent on Sunday. She advises the Cannes Film Festival on British films and is currently a regular panel member of the British Broadcasting Corporation's Dateline London.
The Infernal Library

On Dictators, the Books They Wrote, and Other Catastrophes of Literature

Daniel Kalder

A compelling new history of “dictator literature” in the twentieth century, featuring the prose and poetry of Lenin, Hitler, Mao, and more, by the author of the acclaimed Lost Cosmonaut.

Since the days of the Roman Empire dictators have written books. But in the twentieth century despots enjoyed unprecedented print-runs to (literally) captive audiences. The titans of the genre—Stalin, Mussolini, and Khomeini among them—produced theoretical works, spiritual manifestos, poetry, memoirs, and even the occasional romance novel and established a literary tradition of soul-crushing tedium that continues to this day.

Daniel Kalder, an “excellent writer, with a vivid turn of phrase” (Daily Telegraph), asks: What do these books reveal about the dictatorial soul? How did the production of literature become central to the running of regimes? And how can books and literacy, most often viewed as inherently positive, cause immense and lasting harm?

Marshalled upon the beleaguered shelves of The Infernal Library are the books and commissioned works of the twentieth century’s most notorious figures. Their words led to the deaths of millions. Their conviction in the significance of their own thoughts brokered no argument. And it is perhaps no surprise then, as Kalder argues, that many dictators began their careers as writers.

PRAISE

“Revelatory.”
—The Times Literary Supplement (on Lost Cosmonaut)

“A considerable achievement.”
—The Guardian (on Lost Cosmonaut)

“Kalder is not only an excellent writer, with a vivid turn of phrase, but a sympathetic one: his concern is to understand his subjects rather than exploit them. . . . His insight and skillful writing keeps you reading.
—Daily Telegraph (on Strange Telescopes)

Daniel Kalder is the author of Lost Cosmonaut and Strange Telescopes. He is also a journalist who has contributed to Esquire, The Guardian, The Times, The Dallas Morning News, and many other publications. Originally from Fife, Scotland, he lived in Moscow for ten years and currently resides in Central Texas.
Something Wonderful

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution

Todd S. Purdum

A revelatory portrait of the creative partnership that transformed musical theater and provided the soundtrack to the American Century

They stand at the apex of the great age of songwriting, the creators of the classic Broadway musicals Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I, and The Sound of Music, whose songs have never lost their popularity or emotional power. Even before they joined forces, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II had written dozens of Broadway shows, but together they pioneered a new art form: the serious musical play. Their songs and dance numbers served to advance the drama and reveal character, a sharp break from the past and the template on which all future musicals would be built.

Though different in personality and often emotionally distant from each other, Rodgers and Hammerstein presented an unbroken front to the world and forged much more than a songwriting team; their partnership was also one of the most profitable and powerful entertainment businesses of their era. They were cultural powerhouses whose work came to define postwar America on stage, screen, television, and radio. But they also had their failures and flops, and more than once they feared they had lost their touch.

Todd S. Purdum’s portrait of these two men, their creative process, and their groundbreaking innovations will captivate lovers of musical theater, lovers of the classic American songbook, and lovers in general. He shows that what Rodgers and Hammerstein wrought was truly something wonderful.

PRAISE

Praise for An Idea Whose Time Has Come:

"Excellent...An astute, well-paced, and highly readable play-by-play of the bill's journey to become a law." — The Atlantic

"Worthy, timely, and intelligent." — The New Yorker

"Authoritative...A first-rate narrative." — The Wall Street Journal

Todd S. Purdum is the author of An Idea Whose Time Has Come and A Time of Our Choosing. He is a contributing editor at Vanity Fair and a senior writer at Politico, having previously worked at The New York Times for more than twenty years, where he served as White House correspondent, diplomatic correspondent, and Los Angeles bureau chief. A graduate of Princeton University, he lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Dee Dee Myers, and their two children, Kate and Stephen.
Flash
The Making of Weegee the Famous

Christopher Bonanos

The first definitive biography of Weegee the Famous—photographer, psychic, fiend—from the author of Instant: The Story of Polaroid

Arthur Fellig’s ability to arrive at a crime scene mere moments after law enforcement was so uncanny that he became known as “Weegee,” after the Ouija board. Weegee documented better than any other photographer the crime, grit, and desperation of mid-century New York City. In Flash, we get a portrait not simply of the man (both deeply talented and flawed, whose masterful eye for capturing violence and sex intimated his own predilections) but also of the fascinating time and place that he occupied.

From self-taught immigrant kid to celebrity photographer to his late, hedonistic days—moving between the dark, dangerous streets of New York City, the glitzy and emptied out celebrity culture of Los Angeles, and the East Coast during the morally liberated days of the Sixties—Weegee lived a life just as worthy of documentation as the scenes he captured. Now, with Flash, we have the first definitive biography of the man known now as an innovator and a pioneer, an artist whose photographs still stand as some of the most masterful crime photos ever taken.

Christopher Bonanos is a senior editor at New York Magazine, where he covers arts and culture. He is the author previously of Instant: The Story of Polaroid. He lives in New York City.
William Howard Taft
The American Presidents Series: The 27th President, 1909-1913
Jeffrey Rosen

The only man to serve as president and chief justice, who approached every decision in constitutional terms, defending the Founders’ vision against new populist threats to American democracy

William Howard Taft never wanted to be president and yearned instead to serve as chief justice of the United States. But despite his ambivalence about politics, the former federal judge found success in the executive branch as governor of the Philippines and secretary of war, and he won a resounding victory in the presidential election of 1908 as Theodore Roosevelt’s handpicked successor.

In this provocative assessment, Jeffrey Rosen reveals Taft’s crucial role in shaping how America balances populism against the rule of law. Taft approached each decision as president by asking whether it comported with the Constitution, seeking to put Roosevelt’s activist executive orders on firm legal grounds. But unlike Roosevelt, who thought the president could do anything the Constitution didn’t forbid, Taft insisted he could do only what the Constitution explicitly allowed. This led to a dramatic breach with Roosevelt in the historic election of 1912, which Taft viewed as a crusade to defend the Constitution against the demagogic populism of Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

Nine years later, Taft achieved his lifelong dream when President Warren Harding appointed him chief justice, and during his years on the Court he promoted consensus among the justices and transformed the judiciary into a modern, fully equal branch. Though he had chafed in the White House as a judicial president, he thrived as a presidential chief justice.

Jeffrey Rosen is the author of five books, most recently Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet. He is the president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, a law professor at George Washington University, and a contributing editor for The Atlantic. He was previously the legal affairs editor of The New Republic and a staff writer for The New Yorker.
More Than True

The Wisdom of Fairy Tales

Robert Bly

National Book Award-winning poet and author of the internationally best-selling Iron John, Robert Bly revisits a selection of fairy tales and examines how these enduring narratives capture the es...

Few forms of storytelling have greater power to captivate the human mind than fairy tales, but where do these tales originate from, and what do they mean? Celebrated poet and best-selling author Robert Bly has been asking these questions throughout his career. Here Bly looks at six tales that have stood the test of time and have captivated the poet for decades, from “The Six Swans” to “The Frog Prince.” Drawing on his own creative genius, and the work of a range of thinkers from Kierkegaard and Yeats to Freud and Jung, Bly turns these stories over in his mind to bring new meaning and illumination to these timeless tales.

Along with illustrations of each story, the book features some of Bly’s unpublished poetry, which peppers his lyric prose and offers a look inside the mind of an American master of letters in the twilight of his singular career.

The Parking Lot Attendant

A Novel

Nafkote Tamirat

A mesmerizing, indelible coming-of-age story about a girl in Boston's tightly-knit Ethiopian community who falls under the spell of a charismatic hustler out to change the world

A haunting story of fatherhood, national identity, and what it means to be an immigrant in America today, The Parking Lot Attendant explores how who we love, the choices we make, and the places we’re from combine to make us who we are.

The story begins on an undisclosed island where the unnamed narrator and her father are the two newest and least liked members of a commune that has taken up residence there. Though the commune was built on utopian principles, it quickly becomes clear that life here is not as harmonious as the founders intended. After immersing us in life on the island, our young heroine takes us back to Boston to recount the events that brought her here. Though she and her father belong to a wide Ethiopian network in the city, they mostly keep to themselves, which is how her father prefers it.

This detached existence only makes Ayale’s arrival on the scene more intoxicating. The unofficial king of Boston’s Ethiopian community, Ayale is a born hustler—when he turns his attention to the narrator, she feels seen for the first time. Ostensibly a parking lot attendant, Ayale soon proves to have other projects in the works, which the narrator becomes more and more entangled in to her father’s growing dismay. By the time the scope of Ayale’s schemes—and their repercussions—become apparent, our narrator has unwittingly become complicit in something much bigger and darker than she ever imagined.

Nafkote Tamirat is a native of Boston. She holds an MFA from Columbia University. Her short stories have appeared in Birkensnake, The Anemone Sidecar, and Best Paris Stories. This is her first novel.
The Comedown

Rebekah Frumkin

A dazzling epic that follows two very different families in Cleveland across generations, beginning with their patriarchs, who become irrevocably intertwined one fateful night.

A blistering dark comedy, *The Comedown* is a romp across America, from the Kent State shootings to protest marches in Chicago to the Florida Everglades, that explores delineating lines of race, class, religion, and time.

Scrappy, street smart drug dealer Richard Marshall has never liked the simpering addict Leland Bloom-Mittwoch, which doesn’t stop Leland from looking up to Richard with puppy-esque devotion. But when a drug deal goes dramatically, tragically wrong and a suitcase (which may or may not contain a quarter of a million dollars) disappears, the two men and their families become hopelessly entangled. It’s a mistake that sets in motion a series of events that are odd, captivating, suspenseful, and ultimately inevitable.

Both incendiary and earnest, *The Comedown* steadfastly catalogs the tangled messes the characters make of their lives, never losing sight of the beauty and power of each family member’s capacity for love, be it for money, drugs, or each other.

**PRAISE**

"Rebekah Frumkin is a writer of deeply impressive imagination and brilliant execution. I’ve read few writers who take such an ambitious and convincing bite of the world." —Ethan Canin, author of *A Doubter's Almanac and America America*

Rebekah Frumkin is twenty-six years old. Her fiction and essays have appeared in *Granta,* *McSweeney’s,* and *Best American Nonrequired Reading,* among other places. She holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and was the 2014 recipient of the Richard E. Guthrie Memorial Fellowship. She is currently getting her MSJ from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.
The Financial Diet

A Total Beginner's Guide to Getting Good with Money

Chelsea Fagan and Lauren ver Hage

From The Financial Diet, the website inspiring over a million women each month: a beautiful, wry, practical guide to help you save, date, decorate and dream your way to your best financial life.

The Financial Diet is the personal finance book for people who don’t care about personal finance. Chelsea Fagan would know: She started The Financial Diet blog because she didn’t want to treat her financial health the way she was treating her body — by eating an entire bag of jalapeno kettle chips at night and then wondering why she felt awful the next morning. She was determined to stop being “bad with money”—and it worked. Today, the blog has grown into a vibrant web community, one where money is actually interesting to talk about. Building from its online following, The Financial Diet is your savvy older sister, your trusted friend, and the girl at the office who always seems to have her shit together all rolled into one.

The Financial Diet gives you tools to make a budget, consider investments, and deal with your credit. Chelsea has tapped a range of experts to help you make the best choices for you—but she also knows that being smarter with money isn’t just about what you put in the bank; it’s about everything—from the clothes you put in your closet to the food you put in your kitchen (instead of ordering in—again). The book includes budget recipes, wardrobe longevity tips and tricks, and affordable DIY decorating projects. It gives you the tools to negotiate a raise, and then provides the perfect cocktail recipe to celebrate your new salary.

Chelsea Fagan is a writer, and the founder of The Financial Diet blog. She writes, cooks, panics over minor things, and is always trying to get better with money.

Lauren Ver Hage is a designer, and Chelsea’s partner at The Financial Diet. She designs, photographs, bakes, and has a flawlessly cozy Instagram aesthetic.
Hottest Heads of State

Volume One: The American Presidents

J. D. and Kate Dobson

Us Weekly for history nerds—a hilarious tour of our nation’s history through its irresistible commanders-in-chief

Is there anything hotter than former U.S. presidents? Obviously, there is not. And yet, until now, there was no way to learn about these handsome and mysterious men that is funny, educational, and includes thoughtful analysis of which ones would make good boyfriends. Thankfully, Hottest Heads of State fills this void. Get to know each president intimately with an individual profile outlining his particular charms (or, in some cases, “charms”). Plus, inside you’ll find:

· GAMES including “Match the Mistress to her POTUS”
· QUIZZES like “Which President has a Secret Crush on You?” and “Can You Cover Up Watergate?”
· that POSTER of Rutherford B. Hayes you’ve always secretly wanted!

In the end, you’ll learn centuries’ worth of cocktail party-worthy trivia, and you’ll be slightly more prepared to take the AP U.S. History exam. You’ll also start tingling whenever you hear the name Herbert Hoover. J.D. and Kate Dobson’s wickedly smart and refreshingly bipartisan debut is a spot-on, hilarious parody of a teen magazine featuring unlikely heartthrobs such as Richard Nixon and William H. Taft.

PRAISE

“[P]olitically incorrect, but u prob won’t mind b/c other parts are so funny.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“Fogel’s novel offers plenty of glimpses—both humorous and endearing—into the life of a single woman with a well-meaning, if clueless, family.” —Publishers Weekly

“Sharp, funny and painful. Just like your actual family.” —Simon Rich

Kate Dobson is a former assistant comics editor for the Washington Post and head writer for Brown University’s humor magazine. These days, when she's not writing, she enjoys serving food to her small children and, later, vacuuming that same food up off the floor. J. D. Dobson is a former U.S. Senate aide, federal lobbyist, and crisis communications consultant. Now he spends his time in the basement making candles that smell like presidents because he and Kate started a business selling candles t...
The Fear Within

A Thriller

J. S. Law

A teenage sailor disappears on HMS Defiance, an infamous closed case reopens, and Lt. Danielle Lewis fights for truth and survival in this high-octane military thriller

After events on board the submarine HMS Tenacity, Lieutenant “Dan” Lewis of the Royal Navy’s Kill Team was warned not to pursue those responsible. She should walk away, stop investigating, but her thirst for justice means she can’t let it go.

But even as Dan defies the order, continuing to track a sailor on the run, her investigative skills are needed on a new case. A young naval Wren has gone missing from the warship HMS Defiance. Last seen going on board, but never seen leaving, there is no trace of the girl and Dan must work her way through a web of witness accounts to uncover what might motivate her to run, or what might motivate a predator to take her.

Following in the wake of the missing girl, Dan soon closes in on her quarry, but is forced to question whether she is the one who was being hunted all along.

PRAISE

Praise for Tenacity

“J. S. Law is a powerful new voice, and his heroine . . . is fearless and doesn’t quit in the face of all odds. . . . Addictively readable.” —#1 New York Times bestselling author Patricia Cornwell

“Law ups the tension significantly as he brilliantly re-creates the claustrophobic feel of living on a submarine. . . . This fast-paced nail-biter [stars] a flawed but dynamic character. A very promising series.”—Booklist

“If you . . . fell in love with Lisbeth Salander, you will adore Tenacity’s protagonist, Danielle ‘Dan’ Lewis. . . . Tenacity consorts with the best of the best crime novels to date.”—The Review Broads

J. S. Law served in the Royal Navy Submarine Service, rising through the ranks to become a senior nuclear engineer. Tenacity is his first novel. He lives in Portsmouth, England.
THE MERRY SPINSTER

MARKETING
Author Appearances
National Review and Feature Attention
National Media Attention
Influencer Campaign
ABA Whitebox mailing
Goodreads Promotion
Facebook, Google Search Campaign
Library Campaign
Advance Reader’s Edition

The Merry Spinster

Mallory Ortberg

From New York Times bestselling author of Texts from Jane Eyre, Mallory Ortberg, comes a collection of darkly mischievous stories based on classic fairy tales.

Adapted from her beloved "Children's Stories Made Horrific" series, The Merry Spinster takes up the trademark wit that endeared Ortberg to readers of both The Toast and her best-selling debut Texts From Jane Eyre. The feature became among the most popular on the site, with each entry bringing in tens of thousands of views, as the stories proved a perfect vehicle for Ortberg’s eye for deconstruction and destabilization. Sinister and inviting, familiar and alien all at the same time, THE MERRY SPINSTER updates traditional children's stories and fairy tales with elements of psychological horror, emotional clarity, and a keen sense of feminist mischief. Readers of The Toast will instantly recognize Ortberg's boisterous good humor and uber-nerd swagger: those new to Ortberg's oeuvre will delight in her unique spin on fiction, where something a bit unsettling is always at work just beneath the surface.

Unfalteringly faithful to its beloved source material, THE MERRY SPINSTER also illuminates the unsuspected, and frequently, alarming emotional complexities at play in the stories we tell ourselves, and each other, as we tuck ourselves in for the night.

Bed time will never be the same.

Mallory Ortberg is Slate's “Dear Prudence.” She has written for The New Yorker, New York Magazine, O Magazine, and The Atlantic. She is the co-creator of The Toast, a general-interest website geared toward women.
Live Work Work Work Die
*A Journey into the Savage Heart of Silicon Valley*

Corey Pein

A scathing exploration into the heart of Silicon Valley, laying bare the greed, hubris, and retrograde politics of an industry that aspires to radically transform society for its own benefit.

At the height of the startup boom, journalist Corey Pein set out for Silicon Valley with little more than a smartphone and his wits. His goal: to learn how such an overhyped industry could possibly sustain itself as long as it has. Determined to cut through the clichés of big tech—the relentless optimism, the incessant repetition of vacuous buzzwords—Pein decided that he would need to take an approach as unorthodox as the companies he would soon be covering. To truly understand the delirious reality of a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, he knew, he would have to inhabit that perspective—he would have to become an entrepreneur. Thus he begins his journey—skulking through gimmicky tech conferences, pitching his over-the-top business ideas to investors, and interviewing a cast of outrageous characters: cyborgs and con artists, Teamsters and transhumanists, jittery hackers and naive upstart programmers whose entire lives are managed by their employers—who work endlessly and obediently, never thinking to question their place in the system.

In showing us this frantic world, Pein challenges the positive self-image that the tech tycoons have crafted—as benevolent creators of wealth and opportunity—to reveal their self-justifying views and their insidious visions for the future. Vivid and incisive, *Live Work Work Work Die* is a troubling portrait of a self-obsessed industry bent on imposing its disturbing visions on the rest of us.

Corey Pein is a regular contributor to *The Baffler*, where he writes a column and hosts the podcast "News from Nowhere." A longtime investigative reporter and former staff writer for the *Willamette Week*, he has also written for *Slate, Salon, Foreign Policy, The American Prospect*, and the *Columbia Journalism Review*, among other publications. He lives in Portland, Oregon.
The Poisoned City

Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy

Anna Clark

The first full account of the Flint, Michigan, water scandal, an American tragedy, with new details, from an award-winning Michigan journalist who has covered the story from its beginnings

When the people of Flint, Michigan, turned on their faucets in April 2014, the water pouring out was poisoned with lead and other toxins. Through a series of disastrous decisions, the state government had switched the city’s water to a source that corroded Flint’s aging lead pipes. Complaints about the foul-smelling water were dismissed: the residents of Flint—a largely poor African American city of about 100,000 people—were not seen as credible, even in matters of their own lives.

It took 18 months of activism and a band of dogged outsiders to force the state to admit that the water was poisonous. But this was only after 12 people died and Flint's children suffered irreparable harm. The long battle for accountability and a humane response to this man-made disaster have only just begun.

In the first full-length account of this epic failure, *The Poisoned City* recounts the gripping story of Flint’s poisoned water through the people who caused it, suffered from it, and exposed it. It is a chronicle of one town, but could also be about any American city, all made precarious by the neglect of infrastructure and the erosion of democratic decision-making. Cities like Flint are set up to fail—and for the people who live and work in them, the consequences may be mortal.

PRAISE

Praise for *A Detroit Anthology*:

“In the case of Detroit, there is one writer I turn to for understanding again and again—a woman who is so prolific, your heart beats with her words as you read and you miss Detroit as if the city is a long-lost lover.” —Longreads

“There is no cheap nostalgia or breathless boosterism. … the book is a thrilling success. It gives voice to people who now live or once lived in this fascinating, tortured place, the survivors, good people who know what pain is, people who understand that the city exerts an undying pull on them.” —The Millions

Anna Clark is a journalist who lives in Detroit. Her writing has appeared in *ELLE*, *The New York Times*, the *New Republic*, *Grantland*, the *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Next City*, *Best American Sports Writing*, and other publications. She is a regular contributor to the *Detroit Free Press*. Editor of *A Detroit Anthology*, a Michigan Notable Book, Clark is a Knight-Wallace journalism fellow at the University of Michigan. A former Fulbright fellow in Nairobi, Kenya, Clark has also been a writer-in-residen...
Heaven on Earth is another excellent film by director Deepa Mehta, whose previous work, Water was also very good. This time, she tackles the subject of arranged marriages. Vibrant travels from Punjab, India to Ontario, Canada, to meet her prospective husband, Rocky.