

## Gratitude and Celebration



On this, our 46th birthday, we are filled with gratitude for continuing to be your bookstore in this amazing community of readers. And we celebrate one year of our not-for-profit, Brain Food Books (BFB). Our mission is to put new books into the hands of people without regular access. When we asked for help with this project, you

responded in different ways. We'd like to highlight a few of those methods here and say how deeply grateful we are for you joining us in this cause. Because kids need to read!

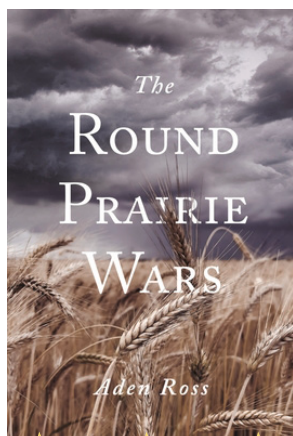
Jean Reagan was one of the first authors who responded to us with a donation of some of her books, a monetary donation in honor of our long-time children's room manager, Margaret Brennan Neville, and a pledge to donate one dollar for every



copy of the two new books she has coming out this fall. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 4th at 11 a.m. with *Turbo's Special Delivery* (Clarion) and Saturday, December 9th at 11 a.m. for *How to Love a Grandma* (Knopf Books for Young Readers).



Local author, playwright and long-time TKE customer Aden Ross has a remarkable new novel on our shelves called *The Round Prairie Wars*. A coming-of-age story about a brother and sister during the 1950s "Red Scare", the novel deftly illustrates how even in the face of fear and mental health issues, people of all ages can become their best selves. Ross has committed all her royalty payments from books sold at our store to go to BFB and we are grateful!

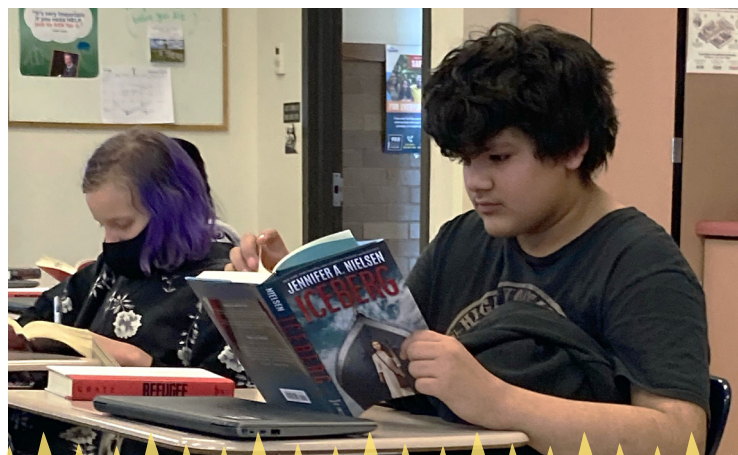


Publishers are supporting BFB in many ways including donations of books for author appearances and fiction and nonfiction that appeal to all ages but especially young readers. Thanks to Hachette, Sounds True, Gibbs Smith, and Heartdrum just to name a few.



## Heartdrum

Another important piece to the BFB program is bringing authors to Title 1 schools and ensuring that each child gets a copy of the author's book. Pictured here are kiddos from Magna Elementary who had a terrific assembly with Mac Barnett and Christian Robinson for their picture book, *Twenty Questions* (Candlewick Press). Soon we will begin bringing selections of books to schools in a smaller book fair format so that each student can choose a book that speaks to them. (continued on page 2)



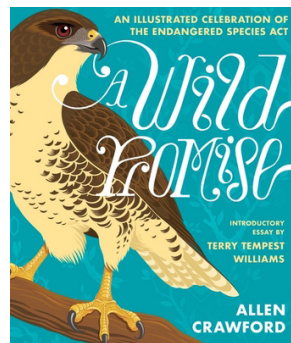
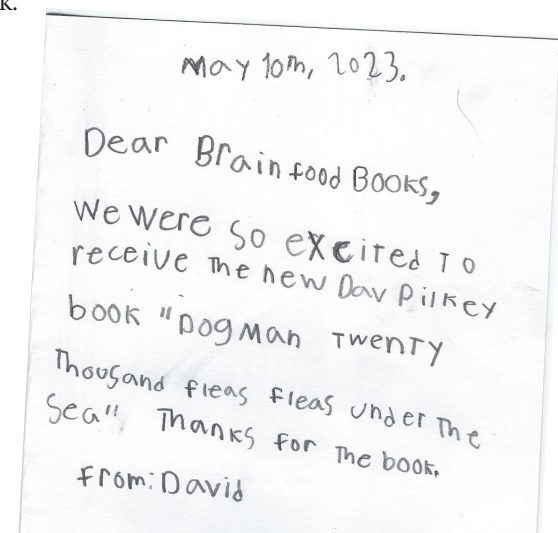


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Another important component of BFB's mission is for young people to physically come to our bookstore and learn how buy their own books.

To that end, we make appointments for one or two classes at a time to come via bus and when they arrive, we give each student a "Golden Ticket." After a store tour and book talk, the kids can use their golden tickets at checkout to pay for their books. We believe it's important for children to learn how to shop local, ask for help and get what they want. It's magical!

Sharing these books with children has been our greatest joy and we are so happy to spread the love of reading through the pride of a new book.



### A WILD PROMISE

On this, the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, Tin House Press has collaborated with artist Allen Crawford and our favorite naturalist, Terry Tempest Williams to create *A Wild Promise: An Illustrated Celebration of The Endangered Species Act*.

In six sections, illustrations from different landscapes across America contain species that are protected due to this landmark decision. From the Piping Plover to the Scalloped Hammerhead Shark; from the Concho Water Snake to our beloved Utah Prairie Dog, over 100 animals and plants are represented. Some, like the Devils Hole Pupfish, that lives only in Nye County, Nevada, are seemingly destined to die out. Others like the Santa Rose Island Fox are staging a magnificent comeback thanks to the law and to education at all age levels about what's at stake.

Each animal has information about where it lives, when it was added to the endangered list and when or if it has been de-listed. In the accompanying illustration, Crawford re-writes the text in his signature calligraphy to create a delightful composite of details for each creature. We have copies signed by Terry now; the book makes a terrific gift for all ages. Young readers will delight in the pictures, and the rest of us can delight in the art. Consider your holiday shopping DONE! —Anne Holman, Tin House \$35





## Gratitude and Celebration

Some of the amazing children's book authors BFB is sponsoring between now and the end of the year include:



**Wednesday, September 6, 6 p.m.** Former National Ambassador for Children's Literature Jason Reynolds will present *Stuntboy, In-Between Time*, a graphic novel about our favorite superhero, Portico Reeves, at Rose Park Elementary.

**Saturday, September 9, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.** Tim Musso will do

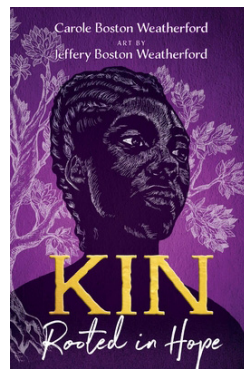
a storytime and discussion of his new picture book, *Chasing the Sun*.



**Saturday, September 16, 7 p.m.** Andrew Joseph White will present the second in his series of teen horror novels, *The Spirit Bares Its Teeth* at Legendarium Bookstore. This is a collaboration with Legendarium, TKE and Under the Umbrella.



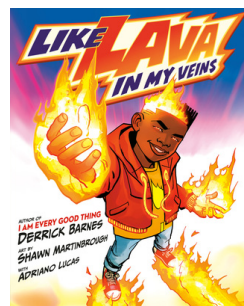
**Monday, September 18** Caldecott winner Carol Boston Weatherford will visit schools to present her illustrated verse novel, *Kin: Rooted in Hope*.



**Friday, September 29, 6 p.m.** All-time favorite Peter Brown will join us at First Baptist Church to present *The Wild Robot Protects*.



**Wednesday, October 25** Derrick Barnes will visit schools to present *Like Lava in My Veins*, a picture

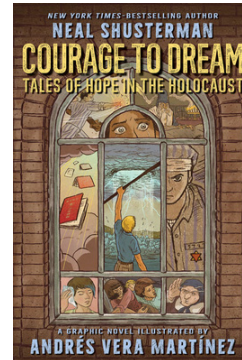


book about a boy who needs a little help controlling his fiery superpowers!

**Wednesday, October 11** Jessica Kim presents her middle grade novel about being best friends and finding new friends as you find new interests with *Make a Move, Sunny Park!*



**Thursday, November 2, 6 p.m.** Neal Shusterman will be at The McGillis School to present *Courage to Dream: Tales of Hope in the Holocaust*.



Visit [kingsenglish.com](http://kingsenglish.com) for more information about these and other great events we're hosting through BFB this year. We look forward to seeing you! If you'd like to help put one of these books into a child's hand, please visit our store or our website. Additionally, every donation for our blind date with a book and every time you round up to the nearest dollar at our front desk, it contributes to BFB. You can also donate directly online at [brainfoodbooks.org](http://brainfoodbooks.org).

## Birthday Events

**Saturday, September 9**

**11 a.m.** Timothy Musso will lead storytime with his new picture book, *Chasing the Sun*, which chronicles the journey of a family of Arctic Terns in their migration around the earth.

**2 p.m.** Timothy Musso will discuss his inspiration for *Chasing the Sun*, and his creative journey along with a short documentary about his artistic process.

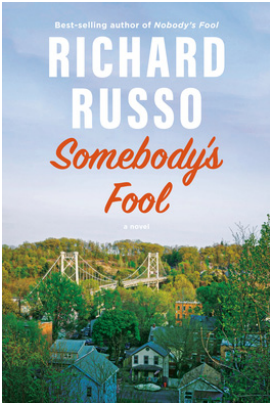


**Sunday, September 10**

**2 p.m.** Craig Johnson will present his latest Longmire book, *The Longmire Defense*. Craig will be in conversation with local mystery writer, Jim McLaughlin. Order your tickets on [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)



46  
YEARS!



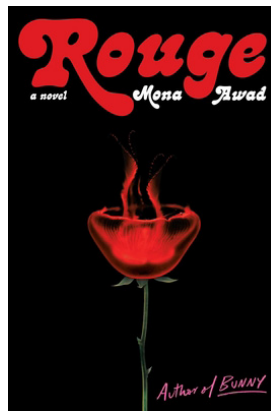
***Somebody's Fool*, Richard Russo**

The parade of fools in Bath, New York, is, as in all communities, endless. But the fertile brain of Richard Russo has always conceived them with a mix of irony, hilarity, and outsized compassion that makes them, for the most part, loveable—or at least understandable. The uncontrollably abusive “law enforcement” officers in *Somebody's Fool* are, however, as grimly real and as hard to fathom as the procession of death-dealing police who haunt our headlines today. Despite their chilling

presence, the heart and focus of Russo's latest endlessly entertaining and decidedly wise book is family, whether it be the relationships between fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, siblings, or mates. We have known many of them over time in Russo's previous novels. Sully, for instance, now dead, who nonetheless haunts the hearts of his friends and family, is very much a part of the tangled skein of emotions and memories that are the stuff of *Somebody's Fool*—as he was in the other “Fool” novels. Raymer is here, less fool, more lover; his lover Charice and her brother Jerome play their parts in a cast brilliantly redolent of small town, rural America and utterly engaging, whether newly met or familiar from Russo's previous novels. Portrayed here with a fond irony akin to that of Jane Austen and Mark Twain, their sharp-tongued dialogue, along with a plot potholed with surprises and jolts of connection provide further proof that Russo is not only the ablest chronicler of blue-collar America, but the best storyteller of our time. —Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$29

***Rouge*, Mona Awad**

Awad's chilling, surreal, and ravishing (in both senses of the word) new novel is a fractured fairy tale, complete with doors a child shouldn't open and gothic horror emanating from a house high on a lonely hill, combined with a killingly funny sendup of women's search for beauty—whether through face or fashion—and our willingness to believe almost anything in its pursuit. *Rouge* is that house on a high hill, or at least the “beauty” organization that lurks there, a group as hilariously insane, inane, manipulative, and evil as any cult imaginable. Our heroine, Belle, is a fashionista who lies to customers about the dresses she sells them and is hooked on facial products pushed by a TV talk show facial guru. Upon her mother's death, she flies to California where she's soon led, by a pair of red shoes right out of her mother's forbidden closet, toward that high house. As she enters its phantasmagorical doors, beneath the mashup of horror and humor that ensues, with Grimm undertones and gothic embellishments, a primal tale spools out—that of a daughter in search of a lost mother's love. Belle's attempts to satisfy her deep longing by somehow replicating the beauty her mother possessed but which was denied her (or so she thinks) by the color of her Egyptian father's skin are, in the end, attention to mere surface. What lies beneath that surface is Awad's endless preoccupation: the memories we cannot suppress, the longings we cannot satisfy, the demons that drive us. Her dark genius



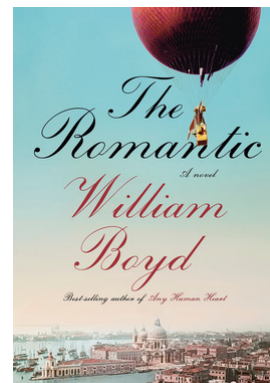
resides not only in her ruthless ability to peel back layer upon layer of subterfuge, but also in forcing us to see that primeval place we yearn to deny, baring us to ourselves feverishly, imaginatively, brutally, compassionately. —Betsy Burton, Marysue Rucci Books \$28 *Editor's note: Come and meet the author in person on Friday, September 22 at 6 p.m. at The King's English. You can reserve your seat on Eventbrite.com*

***The English Experience*, Julie Schumacher**

When Professor Fitger is selected to lead the “Experience Abroad” semester in London, a city he loathes, he has no choice but to go, chaperoning a group of students with mixed motives, few of which are academic (one believed himself headed for the Caribbean, another simply followed the girlfriend he doesn't want to lose...). His students are horrified when he assigns them 500-word essays on each of their excursions into the city, along with subsequent editing requirements. All of which means, of course, that he must read their work—and edit it. And so, dear reader, must we. Schumacher's characters, laid bare by their words on paper, create storylines that crisscross with the hilarious narrative of a reluctant professor and students loose in London, not to mention Fitger's even funnier email correspondence with his ex-wife whom he still loves despite all. As words that began as satire become increasingly revelatory and touching in his charges' essays, we are movingly reminded of their vulnerability—the vulnerability of students as they grope their way into the adult world and the importance of a good teacher (however muddled) in helping them on that journey. Schumacher is a divine humorist—satiric, yes—but compassionate and as fierce in defense of academia at its best (she is also good at revealing its worst) as anyone writing today. I chuckled and sighed my way through, put it down, picked it up, and read it all over again. I think I'll reread my tattered copy of *Dear Committee Members* next. —Betsy Burton, Doubleday, \$27



***The Romantic*, William Boyd**

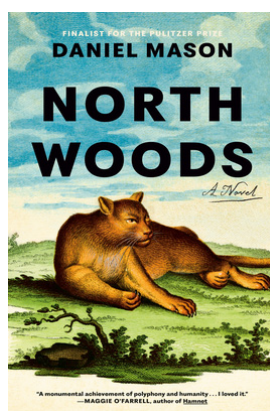
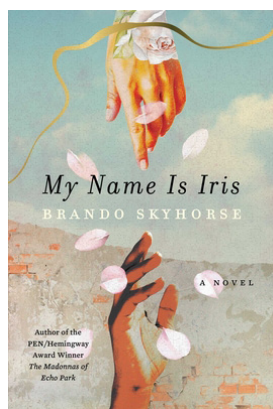


If his previous, more elegiac novel, *Any Human Heart*, centered on an Englishman whose experiences spanned the 20th century and the onset of England's slow decline, Boyd's latest novel, the purported fictionalized autobiography of Cashel Greville Ross, takes place across the 19th century, when England was ascendant, and a man could seemingly be whom-ever he wanted to be. Cashel's boisterous passions took him from England to the battle of Waterloo, then on to Italy, Sri Lanka, the U.S., and back again to Europe, soldiering, farming, writing, making deals, plans, loving... his escapades tempered by the realities of history and the boundaries of propriety. As in *Any Human Heart*, this ardent, comic, wildly picaresque romp of a novel is peopled by a cast of wonderfully memorable characters, while Cashel careens from one adventure, one country, one love affair, one scheme to another with propulsive narrative drive. Plunge in and have the read of your life. Cashel is the ultimate romantic, possessed of all the heart, impulsivity, implacable strength and sometimes surprising weaknesses that that word implies. —Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$30



**My Name is Iris**, Brando Skyhorse

"I am a success. America believes in me." With this affirmation, Iris, an American-born daughter of Mexican immigrants, college-educated, corporation-employed (albeit earning 50% less than her male counterparts), is starting over. After a drama-free divorce, she buys a perfect house in an ideal neighborhood. But soon a 4-foot wall appears outside her new home, and Proposition 3 passes, providing citizens with wristbands ("Welcome the Band") that track all state and public services. Inexplicably, the wall grows, and Iris can't qualify for a Band because her immigrant parents do not have U.S. birth certificates. This novel illuminates the fears immigrants must feel having to manage language, schooling of children, and living in a society whose laws perpetually shift to shut them out or build walls to shut them in. As tensions build Iris finds herself negotiating rules such as Band-only restaurants and housing regulations. Soon her own corporation will require the Band. Once a proud second generation American, she becomes of "unverifiable origin." While some elements—a looming wall, ghosts, a strange ending—hint at Magical Realism, *My Name is Iris* is an all-too-possible story about family, intolerance, and hope. —Carol Krane, Avid Reader Press, \$28

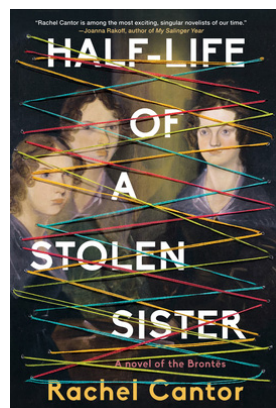
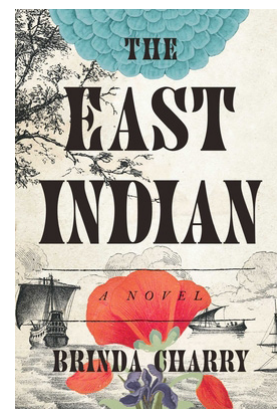


as a log hovel, home of escaped Puritan lovers, followed by a man with a vision for growing perfect apples, his daughters, a cougar, a painter, a bark beetle, a hunter, a seer (of sorts), seeds, weeds, a mother, her bipolar son, his sister, spoors, fungi, a killer, an amateur historian, a naturalist....the parade passes in and out of the house and the woods that surround it, their songs and stories filling the air, their ghosts mingling with guests and new inhabitants as history lengthens, collapses and people love, grieve, wonder, create,

kill. This is a glory of a novel, by turns enchanting, fascinating, harrowing. Just as the house gives up its ghosts, laying bare its secrets to those who look for them, the forest populates fatefully, as one species implacably supplants another, species dying out—or reclaiming what had come before. The cosmos Mason creates is such an intertwined web of reality and memory, longing, love and death that as the seasons and the years pass its fecund reality becomes the readers', haunting us but compelling us to fall in love all over again with those who dwell upon this earth, the seeds they plant, the roots they put down, whether they be the inhabitants of the forests or the homes, our world, earth to earth. —Betsy Burton, Random House, \$28

**The East Indian**, Brinda Charry

We first meet Tony as a small boy running wild with two companions aboard a ship. After being orphaned in East India and sent to London by his mother's lover, he's been kidnapped and sold into servitude. When his ship finally lands in Jamestown in 1635, Tony is the first East Indian to set foot in the colonies. His life is that of an indentured servant on a tobacco plantation, but as he begins to break free of a cruel overseer, he explores the birthright imparted to him in his childhood by his mother, learning the medicinal properties of plants and the fine art of healing. Tony's quiet persistence and his fearless desire to push the constraints of his life make for a fascinating read, one that chronicles, as the author says, displacement and longing, not to mention racial identity, all seen through the prism of a young and lively boy's (and man's) perceptions. Vivid and moving. —Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$28



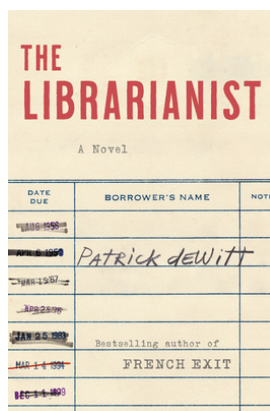
**Half-Life of a Stolen Sister**, Rachel Cantor

The Brontë sisters, Charlotte, Emily, and Anne, together published 8 classic novels in a mere 13 years! This novel curiously mixes biographical facts from the sisters' lives with unruly inventions to illuminate their genius—their bonds of love and duty, their periods of furious creativity, and their periods of illness, isolation, and loss. Rachel Cantor peppers her eccentric story with obvious modern anachronisms such as home movies, deathbed

monologues, and television and radio interviews, interlaced with period-appropriate diaries and letters: a bit jarring. Still, so much seemed intimate and informative. When Mother died, she left behind 6 children: 5 girls and 1 boy. Soon 2 sisters die, leaving the three famous sisters and their brother Bram. They are encouraged to write by a beloved schoolmaster, and Lotte writes *Plain Jane*, Em writes poetry and *Heights*, and Annie writes *The Nanny*, each embarking on their literary journey. At her best, Cantor is wildly creative as she imagines and gives voice to the Brontë siblings from their precocious childhoods to the writing of their great novels, to their early deaths—Annie at 29, Em at 30, and Lotte at 59, the last to go. —Carol Krane, Soho, \$27

**North Woods**, Daniel Mason

A house is a structure, yes, but is also the yard, the trees that surround it, the birds that fly above it, the people inside—not merely in the present but in the past as well, their breath and presences mingling, their memories wafting through walls along with their dreams. One such house, high in the north woods of Massachusetts, began



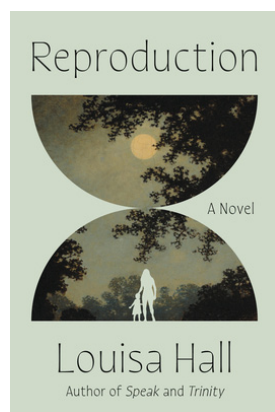
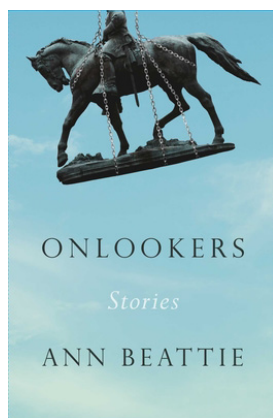
**The Librarianist**, Patrick deWitt

A quiet novel about a quiet man, deWitt's latest is marked by his subtle wit, his understated but wry observations and his likeable characters—in this case a man who spent his life in a library, and his wife and best friend who left him alone there. Quiet notwithstanding, we learn of the not uneventful (at age 8 he ran away and joined the thespian equivalent of a circus) years that led up to this watershed moment in his life and what came afterward. Comic, poignant, insightful, and quietly

entertaining. —Betsy Burton, Ecco, \$30

**Onlookers**, Ann Beattie

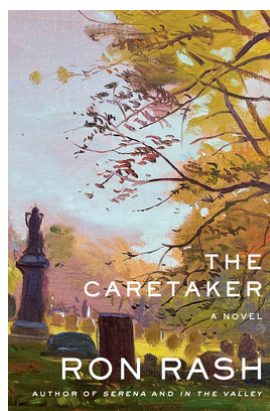
Beattie's latest book of short stories takes place in Charlottesville, Virginia, in the aftermath of the 2017 White nationalist "Unite the Right" rally, where the city now operates under a "cloud of shame." The local characters in these stories come alive, imaginatively, delightfully. In *Pegasus*, my favorite, Ginny is living with her fiancé Darcy's beloved father Robbie, a retired doctor, while Darcy is covid-stuck in Japan. The two share confessions of their misdemeanors and together watch episodes of Gabriel Byrne's *In Treatment*. Here I relished Beattie's use of details and parenthetical style. In *Nearby*, an elderly man and his wife (teacher of Creative Writing at UVA) look down through falling snow from their 6th floor penthouse at a group of protestors gathered to oppose the once "heroic" statue of explorers Lewis and Clark and kneeling [subservient?] Sacagawea. In *In the Great Southern Tradition* nephew Jonah, aunt Monica, and her brother Case plant tulip bulbs at her grand (52 acres) former home which Case calls "Delusional Folly," against the backdrop of a crisis unfolding on Richmond's Monument Avenue. In *Monica Headed Home*, Monica thinks of the "rejected statues hoisted up by cranes and chains to dangle in the air, on their way to permanent exile, at best in a museum, or relocated to a Civil War battlefield or ... to become lawn ornaments on some sheik's Bel Air estate." The final story, *Bubble*, is set in a nursing home named Solace. There, staff worker Brianna is writing a graphic novel in which "the drawings seemed inherently disrespectful," while manager Stacy confesses her worries to her therapist Anne. In these warm-hearted, highly original stories, Ann Beattie takes the reader on a journey which subtly and sensitively connects people present and past. —Carol Krane, Scribner \$28



**Reproduction**, Louisa Hall

"Why should I have to take comfort in the commonness of female suffering?" *Reproduction* follows a writer's 3-pronged journey through her own pregnancies/miscarriages and childbirth, her failed attempt to craft a novel about Mary Shelley (detailed with Shelley's own pregnancies and tragic deaths of her children from which she "stitches" *Frankenstein*), and her on/off friendship with scientist Anna who considers genetically screening her own embryos. Graphic in its portrayal of

miscarriages and an agonizingly long childbirth, this novel curiously leaves most of its characters objectified: an unnamed narrator, the dog, the boyfriend, the husband, the daughter. There are many contemporary references—to Trump, to the actions of Supreme Court Justices Kavanaugh and Coney Barrett and to the Texas Law allowing private citizens to sue people if they help a woman get an abortion. *Reproduction* is an in-your-face, powerful reminder, through a notably feminist lens, of the hazards and rewards of creating new life. —Carol Krane, Ecco, \$30



**The Caretaker**, Ron Rash

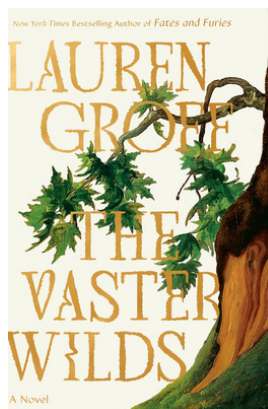
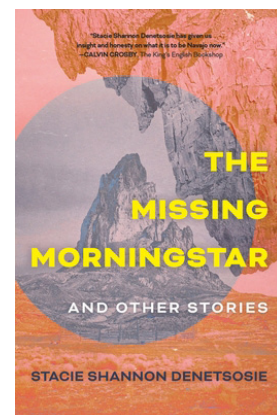
It is 1951 in Blowing Rock, a small town in North Carolina. The inhabitants live a hard-scrabble life, each of them complicated heroes and villains. At the core of the novel is one man, Blackburn Gant, who was weakened by childhood polio and consigned to the role of helper and friend. As caretaker of the cemetery, he respects the dead and befriends the living. When his best friend, Jacob Hampton, is drafted for the Korean conflict, he becomes guardian of his wife and unborn

child. Jacob's parents opposed the marriage and conspire to banish Naomi from the town. The book is filled with the high tensions of small-town living and the cruelty imposed on "the others." Ron Rash's prose reflects the rich vocabulary and landscapes we expect from the giants of the Southern genre. He has visited The King's English in the past and those who have heard him will never forget his stories.

—Wendy Foster Leigh, Doubleday, \$28

**The Missing Morningstar and Other Stories**, Stacie Shannon Denetsosie

In these eight short stories, I was forced to reexamine what it means to be a mother, a friend, a daughter, a White person, and so much more. In a mere 125 pages, this debut has lodged images in my heart and imagination that will linger for a very long time. I hope this this first of many more to come from Stacie Denetsosie. —Anne Holman, Torrey House Press, \$16.95

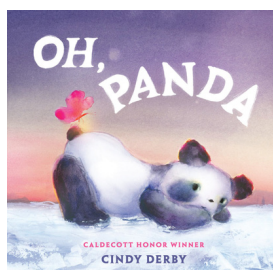


**The Vaster Wilds**, Lauren Groff

Lauren Groff can write!! She can craft a tale that will immerse you in her characters' experience. Zed, rescued from an orphanage, is running for her life in early colonial America. The "running" narrative is her story, and it is a story that hints at the horrifying consequences of colonialism. Readers will see a wide swath of the perils and the beauty of an unblemished world. At the heart of the story is the desire for love; the other primary

piece is the search for affirmation of her personhood. Zed clings to those moments to survive because that is what humans do. Powerful, memorable novel! —Margaret Brennan Neville, Riverhead Books, \$28





**Oh, Panda**, Cindy Derby

Gentle encouragement, an easy-to-read text (not hard to imagine a wee one echoing this story) and illustrations that are lovely, it all adds up to a terrific picture book. —Margaret Brennan Neville, Knopf Books for Young Readers, \$18.99 (Ages 2 and up)

**I am Stuck**, Written and Illustrated by Julia Mills

Once upon a time a turtle was stuck on his back. Duck, Kangaroo and Armadillo all offer insight into how they would get out of such a mess, but Turtle isn't Duck, and he isn't Kangaroo and he isn't Armadillo. Their solutions don't work for him. Then along comes Possum. Possum doesn't give advice, but he does ask questions, and he does stay with Turtle and then, together they figure out how to get Turtle un-stuck. A delightful tale of friendship and empathy and tackling problems in a way that is helpful and meaningful to the person with the problem. Supported with gorgeous illustrations, this is a fabulously funny picture book imbued with meaning. —Antonia Squire, Clarion Books, \$19.99 (Ages 4 and up)



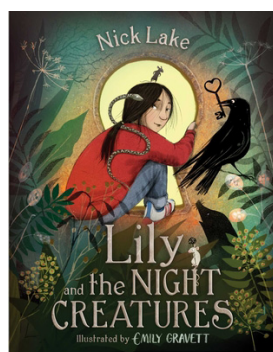
**Finch House**, Ciera Burch

Micah and her mom live with Micah's Poppop, but they are going to be moving soon and Micah is deeply unimpressed. Not only will she miss the weekend scavenger hunts with Poppop, she also worries about him being on his own when they move away. This is a problem Micah has: she has a tendency to worry about things that have yet to happen. One day though, on her scavenger hunt with Poppop she meets a boy in the front yard of the Finch House. Micah has always

been warned away from the Finch House by Poppop, he says bad things happen to kids who trespass there, that children tend to disappear. Micah doesn't really believe it until Poppop himself disappears. Then Micah heads back to the Finch House with her new friend Theo to investigate what on earth has happened to Poppop and all the children who have disappeared over the years. Gloriously creepy, this is a ghost story for the ages. —Antonia Squire, Margaret K McElderry Books, \$17.99 (Ages 8 and up)

**Lily and the Night Creatures**, Nick Lake, Illustrated by Emily Gravett

Lily has been in and out of hospital for most of her life, but things are getting better now except that her mom has gone into labor with a new baby Lily is afraid is going to replace her. Dropping her off at her grandmother's house, Lily's parents rush to the hospital for the first time without her—leaving their home empty. When Lily sneaks home to fetch



her forgotten toy she's surprised to find her parents already there, but when she gets close to them she realizes that something is terribly wrong. The people in the house look like her parents, but they have coal for eyes and they won't let her in. Worse, they lock her out! Not one to give up lightly (and possibly a little bit stubborn) Lily tries to figure out different ways to get into the house, when much to her surprise she gains allies in the shape of garden animals who can talk. They know the Night Creatures are not to be trifled with, and they know that if Lily and her family are ever going to be together again, Lily must get into the house. A fantastically creepy adventure with stunning illustrations from the inimitable Emily Gravett, now in paperback. I loved it! —Antonia Squire, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, \$8.99 (Ages 8 and up)



**The Only Girl in Town**, Ally Condie

Sometimes fewer words are the only way to tell a story, to show us a character so intimately. TKE favorite Ally Condie, in first person and free verse poetry, shows readers July Fielding's struggles with relationships, loneliness, and her search for self. July is a senior in high school and her life has gone down a dark and deep hole. Family, friends, and boyfriends have disappeared; her world has become so small, her only companion is her cat. July is being challenged through mystery texts

to "GET TH3M BACK." Sparse text and white space (like silence) had me looking too! The journey to find yourself is fraught with so much fragility. Condie does a masterful job letting readers into July's experience. This novel is poignant, powerful, and so relatable. —Margaret Brennan Neville, Dutton Books for Young Readers, \$19.99 (12 and up) *Signed copies will be available.*

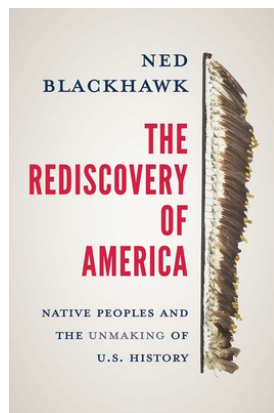
**The Spirit Bares its Teeth**, Andrew Joseph White

Silas has wanted to be a doctor his whole life, just like his brother George and his idol Dr James Barry. But like his idol, Silas has the body of a girl. In this alternate reality Victorian London society at the height of colonialism, Silas' only function is to breed for the good of the Empire. For Silas has the tell-tale violet eyes showing he has the ability to tear the fabric of our world and commune with the world of the dead. Knowing that his parents will only ever see him as their daughter Gloria, he attempts to pass himself off as a young man to gain entrance to the Royal Speaker Society and from there, medical school and escape. When his plan fails he is taken to Braxton's Finishing School and Sanatorium, a horrifying institution seeking to 'heal' girls who refuse to submit to subjugation and fail to conform. There he is accosted by the ghosts of former patients begging for his help, as well as the girls imprisoned alongside him. A brilliant and vicious book exposing the violence of the patriarchy and the damage done to those who will not—or cannot—conform to strict social mores and expectations, an absolute tour de force. We are thrilled to be hosting Andrew in conjunction with Legendarium, Under The Umbrella and Brain Food Books on September 16th. —Antonia Squire, Peachtree Teen, . . . 7 \$19.99 (Ages 14 and up)



## REWRITING THE WEST

At TKE we love to elevate previously unrecognized or marginalized voices from the West. There's so much more to this beautiful region than the myth of the cowboy. Here are several of our favorite non-fiction Rewriting the West titles in case you've missed them.



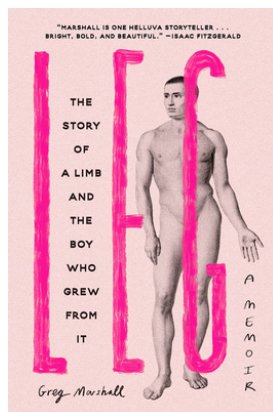
***The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History*, Ned Blackhawk**

For nonfiction, this book is the essence of The King's English Bookshop's Rewriting the West initiative. Ned Blackhawk is a Te-Moak tribe member and Western Shoshone American historian currently on the faculty of Yale University. Similarly to *Thinning Blood* by Leah Myers (see our Biography recommends), this work compliments the writings of the brilliant Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (*Not A Nation of*

*Immigrants and An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*) in the ever-expanding interest in non-European perspectives of colonialization. Blackhawk's research covers five centuries of native life here in the Western Hemisphere. As a member of the Cherokee Nation with a love of history, it is incredible to have a book detailing the first peoples from discovery to modern times. This book no longer treats our ancestors as incidental to shaping America's past, present, or future. —Calvin Crosby, Yale University Press, \$35

***Leg: The Story of a Limb and the Boy Who Grew from It*, Greg Marshall**

This is another title featured in our Rewriting the West initiative since Greg was raised in Utah and has made Austin, Texas, his home. He most definitely represents the West we are living in today. From first glance it piqued my interest. We have a few things in common, after all: growing up in Utah, growing up gay in Utah, and a family dynamic different from the expected norm. I expected I might like it. I was not expecting, however, a story told with bold honesty, gorgeous vulnerability, and humor. Marshall's writing is being compared to that of several authors of note, including Augusten Burroughs and David Sedaris, for his mixture of comedy, poignancy, and candid observation. *Leg* is about identity and the coming out process, not just as a gay man but as a person diagnosed with cerebral palsy as an adult man despite having it since birth. Greg writes of reconciling this truth with a family unlike any depicted prior, especially his long-fighting cancer warrior of a mom. Greg Marshall is a brilliant storyteller. —Calvin Crosby, Abrams Press, \$28

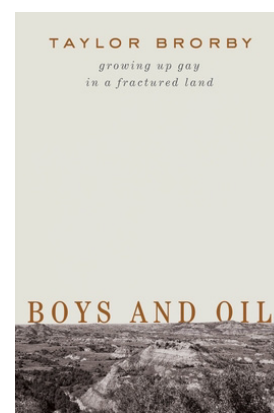


***Boys and Oil*, Taylor Brorby**

I had the privilege of growing up here in Utah in the late '70s and early '80s. It was a time before the state was as strip-malled from Logan to Nephi as it has become (with no pause button to slow continuing over-development). It was a time when natural resources still felt abundant. A time when much of the state felt like it was a wilderness, from lush mountain forests to the colorful deserts. The West now has

a much-needed voice in naturalist and activist Taylor Brorby's memoir, *Boys and Oil; Growing Up Gay in a Fractured Land*. At its core, his words are a love letter to the beauty of the American West. His book is profoundly personal with a beautiful, poetic tone—his respect and call to action to protect the environment, stop oil and mineral exploitation, and accept climate change. Taylor tethers the space between land exploitation and queer marginalization and how the two things intertwine and relate to one another. His book acknowledges the land taken from the original inhabitants and the continued dwindling resources and a stern warning on how we as a people are destroying it. Taylor illuminates the contrast of interpersonal violence with the exploited land. He shares the harsh reality of his coming of age, being an out gay man, and the environmental activist he is today.

—Calvin Crosby, Liveright, \$27.95



***When I Was Red Clay: A Journey of Identity, Healing, and Wonder*, Jonathan T. Bailey**

Conservation photographer Jonathan T. Bailey's story collection, *When I Was Red Clay*, speaks not only of the land that shaped him, the beauty and magnificence of growing up surrounded by a nature that is unique to the Southwest. Jonathan writes of his path to self-acceptance and navigating queerness in a rural Mormon community. Written with grace, honesty, openness, and daring to be vulnerable

while navigating grief, loss of faith in religious doctrine, and genuine authentic and soul-deep land acknowledgment is at the core of this book. —Calvin Crosby, Torrey House Press, \$16.95



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