

# Sachbuch

# Herbst 2025

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Shrouq Al Aila

# THEY KILLED HABIBI

**Publisher**

Wetlands

October 2025

96 pages

**Client**

Blake Friedmann Literary Agency

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



A book that takes us into the heart of darkness of our world, preventing us from looking away and teaching us what it means to love. With a foreword by Maaza Mengiste.

What does it mean to struggle every day to survive in the wasteland that Gaza has become? Shrouq Al Aila, an award-winning journalist, mother, and widow, tells us through her story, that of a woman trying to raise a daughter alone, in the grip of famine and under the fire of incessant Israeli bombardment. With the urgency of a desperate appeal and the disarming strength of someone who maintains her lucidity intact in the epicentre of horror, Shrouq recounts the killing of her husband, the destruction of her home, the constant escapes and temporary shelters, the attempts to protect and feed her infant daughter, the anguish of not being able to answer her questions or allay her fears. We glimpse the reality of what it means to be a journalist in Gaza today — reporting news to the world on camera whilst having eaten only a spoonful of rice that day.

In Shrouq's words, the tragedy of genocide loses the abstract nature of news reports and becomes flesh, face, breath. But **THEY KILLED HABIBI** is also a testament to human resilience and the courage of a people whose determination to rebuild their future on the rubble remains unshakeable.

**Shrouq Al Aila** is a Palestinian journalist and producer, director of the Ain Media agency, which she took over after the killing of her husband Roshdi Sarraj, co-founder of the company, during the war in Gaza. In 2024, she was awarded the CPJ International Press Freedom Award, and in 2025, the News & Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Video Journalism for the documentary *A Hidden War*. Shrouq lives in the Gaza Strip, where she continues to bear witness to the genocide and its tragic impact on the Palestinian people.

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

# THEORY OF WATER

Nishnaabe Maps to the Times Ahead

**Publisher**

Knopf, April 2025  
222 pages



US & UK Haymarket Books



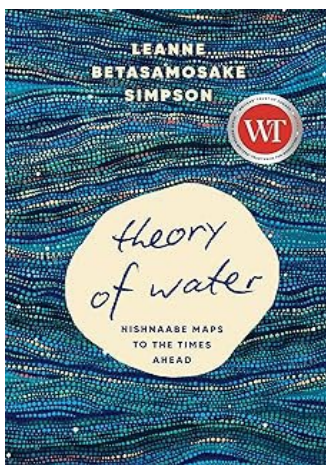
Finalist for the 2025 Hilary Weston  
Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction

**Client**

Westwood Creative Artists

**Contact**

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



**"This is not a book; it is a gift: we are lucky to have it."**

—Preti Taneja

**"Urgent and necessary. Profoundly moving and unflinching. This beautiful book is a gesture of hope to a future that might still be possible, if we heed its lessons."** —Maaza Mengiste

**"Simpson's brilliant and sintering weave of story, research, and Nishnaabeg teachings offers a generous and transformative perspective on world-building. Theory of Water shows us how to reimagine life as we know it, embodying hope."** —2025 Hilary Weston Prize Jury

A genre-bending exploration of that most elemental force – water – through Indigenous storytelling, personal memory, and the work of influential artists and writers.

For many years, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson took solace in skiing – in all kinds of weather, on all kinds of snow, across all kinds of terrain, often following the trail beside a beloved creek near her home. Recently, as she skied on this path against the backdrop of uncertainty, environmental devastation, rising authoritarianism, and ongoing social injustice, her mind turned to the water in the creek and to an elemental question: What might it mean to truly listen to water? To know water? To exist with and alongside water?

So began a quest to understand her people's historical, cultural, and ongoing interactions with water in all its forms (ice, snow, rain, perspiration, breath). Pulling together these threads, Simpson began to see how a "Theory of Water" might suggest a radical rethinking of relationships between beings and forces in the world today. In this inventive work, Simpson draws on Nishnaabeg origin stories while artfully weaving the work of influential writers and artists alongside her personal memories and experience – and in doing so, reimagines water as a catalyst for radical transformation, capable of birthing a new world.

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson is a renowned Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg scholar, author of eight books, and artist, who has been widely recognized as one of the most compelling Indigenous voices of her generation. Her novel *Noopiming* was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award and Dublin Literary Award, and *This Accident of Being Lost* was a finalist for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Trillium Book Award. Her collaboration with Robyn Maynard, *Rehearsals for Living*, was praised by Naomi Klein as "a beacon of a book." She is working on a companion novel to *Noopiming*, called *The Breathing Lands*, that will be published by Knopf Canada in May 2026.

Virginia Eubanks

# A GUIDE TO OPEN WATER LIFESAVING

**Publisher**  
FSG

August 2026  
391 pages

**Client**  
Frances Goldin Literary Agency

**Contact**  
Leonie Kress



An expansion of her essay *"His Trauma, and Mine,"* published in the July 10, 2022 *New York Times Magazine*, this book will be a powerful and moving account of the mounting pressures Virginia faced as she tried to care for her beloved but fundamentally altered partner, and herself.

A spirited, wise, often hilarious, deeply moving story of one woman's efforts to survive caregiving, trauma, love, and the systems seemingly set up to fail us.

One night, Virginia Eubanks received the kind of news we all fear. Her partner, Jason, had been attacked, brutally beaten just steps from their house. In the weeks, then months and years that followed, they faced a cascade of setbacks: police disinterest, suspended health insurance, inadequate medical care, lost income, lost friends, endless paperwork, and a serious case of post-traumatic stress disorder. Then, a second case. In her time tending to Jason, Eubanks had developed what is known as "collateral" PTSD, common among caregivers but rarely discussed.

A reporter and activist, Eubanks turned to reliable sources to figure out how to heal: scientists, therapists, trauma theorists, social movements. But it wasn't until she happened on an old lifesaving manual that she found practical advice that actually helped. Inspired by these lessons, Eubanks signed up for a series of classes: kayak self-rescue, winter survival 101, map and compass, bushwacking, wilderness first aid, lifeguarding. In a memoir as disarmingly funny as it is quietly wise, Eubanks draws lessons in kinship from these experiences, her research, and interviews with everyone from neuroscientists to forest rangers. The result is a genuinely moving, hopeful, darkly funny story of two people caught in their own kind of wilderness, trying not just to survive but to truly care for each other.

Built from cataclysmic loss and tenacious love, *A GUIDE TO OPEN WATER LIFESAVING* challenges readers to reconsider the networks of care that sustain our lives, reminding us that no one survives the wilderness alone.

Virginia Eubanks is a professor and investigative journalist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *WIRED.com*, and *Scientific American*. She is the author of the award-winning book *Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor*. When not sleeping in her truck in the Adirondacks, she lives in Troy, NY.

Memoir

# Neil Griffin

# ENDINGS

**Publisher**  
House of Anansi

Fall 2026  
200 pages

**Client**  
Westwood Creative Artists

**Contact**  
Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



**"Whether tracking crocs by moonlight in Belize or catching his first (and one of humanity's last) glimpse of the northern white rhino in Kenya, Neil Griffin combines a wildlife biologist's wry insights into disappearing nature with crackling wit. Brilliant, funny and wholly original, this is both a page-turning adventure and a profound meditation on what happens when a clever but reckless ape runs the world." –Deborah Campbell**

For fans of John Vaillant's *The Tiger* and Helen Macdonald's *H is for Hawk*, a work of lyrical narrative non-fiction combining memoir, nature-writing, travel, and history; beautiful writing that challenges our assumptions about how we should live in the world we have made and how we should coexist with its other inhabitants.

For over a decade Neil Griffin worked as a wildlife biologist, tracking the disappearing and the dead of our world, from Canada's boreal forests to the Amazon basin, from Ethiopia's Afar desert to the Virunga Mountains of Rwanda, confident that through a commitment to reasoned knowledge, catastrophe could be averted and humans could find a way to go on living alongside the other inhabitants of Earth. But he no longer thinks that is true. Simply knowing about extinction doesn't explain its history, its connections to our lives, and why it matters. This book seeks those explanations.

A very personal history of extinction, it is a chronicle of his efforts to understand the world we will bequeath to our children. Along the way he looks at how extinction occurs and reoccurs in human myth, story, and science, and references the work of a wide variety of historical and contemporary poets, philosophers, historians, and scientists.

**Neil Griffin** is a writer and naturalist. Raised on the prairies and trained as a wildlife biologist, he abandoned the glitz and glamor of tropical fieldwork for the financial stability of freelance writing. His acclaimed essays on Canadian wilderness have been anthologized in *Points of Interest* (Greystone, 2024).

June Jordan

# LITERARY ESTATE

**Publisher**

Penguin Classics

**Client**

Frances Goldin Literary Agency

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



Select Praise for June Jordan:

**"Jordan makes us think of Akhmatova, of Neruda. She is among the bravest of us, the most outraged. She feels for us all. She is the universal poet."**—Alice Walker

**"Jordan puts love and delight in her poems, not just vengeance and justice...**

**Writing is an act of faith in a future where meaning is possible."**—*The New York Times*

**"Her lifelong devotion to justice, equality, and radical democracy seemed to revolve around the pleasure she felt in hurling beautiful words at a world full of racism, poverty, homophobia and inane politicians...There was always joy in her rage."**

—Angela Davis

The reissue of the literary estate of June Jordan, the revolutionary poet, essayist, activist and teacher, known in her time as the most widely published African American writer. To be reissued by Penguin Classics.

**NOTHING LESS THAN LOVE: The Selected Essays** (Spring 2027)

The collection brings together moving and hugely influential treatises – including "Life After Lebanon," "The Difficult Miracle of Black Poetry," "Nicaragua," and "Waking Up in the Middle of Some American Dreams" – alongside lesser known gems, all organized around the power of Jordan's unyielding commitment to love.

**HARUKO/LOVE POEMS** (Fall 2027)

An astounding, slim collection of poems on love, resistance, and desire. HARUKO, the first half of the collection, traces the breathtaking arc of a queer relationship that ends in heartbreak, while LOVE POEMS expands outwards, encompassing love in its many forms – as romance and political resistance, selfhood and motherhood, friendship and solidarity.

**SOLDIER: A Poet's Childhood** (Spring 2028)

Jordan's profoundly moving childhood memoir, which has been out of print for over a decade. With astonishing beauty, through the eyes of a child, SOLDIER paints the battleground of Jordan's youth as the gifted daughter of Jamaican immigrants, struggling under the humiliations of racism, sexism, and poverty in 1940s New York. Poignantly exploring the nature of memory, imagination, and responsibility, SOLDIER re-creates the vivid world in which Jordan's identity as a social and artistic revolutionary was forged.

June Jordan (1936-2002) became, in her lifetime, the most published Black poet in American history. Known for her fierce commitment to human rights and political activism, she founded the Poetry for the People program at U.C. Berkeley and received, among many honors, a congressional citation for her outstanding contributions to literature, the progressive movement and the civil rights movement.

# Mahmoud Khalil

# UNTITLED

**Publisher**  
Henry Holt

40'000 words

**Client**  
Henry Holt and Company

**Contact**  
Leonie Kress



Mahmoud Khalil, the student activist who made headlines around the world when he was detained and imprisoned without legal grounds.

When Mahmoud Khalil was seized from his New York apartment by ICE and imprisoned in the LaSalle Detention Center in Jena, Louisiana, the man who had been the face of the student protests against the war on Gaza became instead the face of the Trump administration's lawlessness and the jeopardy faced by all Palestinians everywhere.

Mahmoud Khalil will tell the story of his 104 days of incarceration, of his immersion into a labyrinth of jailors, detainees, and law courts—and of the lifelong struggle for basic rights denied to him and his people. Through his own history as a refugee, and in his dignified, compelling voice, Mahmoud will show how the Palestinian experience is a call and a warning: all rights are fragile when freedom and protection are enjoyed only selectively.

Mahmoud envisages a short book of around 40,000 words, built out from the pieces he wrote while he was incarcerated for 104 days at the LaSalle Detention Center in Jena, Louisiana, this past spring—including the letter to his son, whose birth he was forbidden to witness.

**Mahmoud Khalil** is a recent Palestinian graduate of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He has previously worked in development and international affairs at the United Nations, the British government, as well as other non-profit organizations in the Middle East. He is currently being detained by the U.S. government for his pro-Palestinian advocacy.

Tessa McWatt

# THE SNAG

A Mother, a Forest, and Wild Grief

**Publisher**

Random House Canada, May 2025  
300 pages



UK Scribe Publications



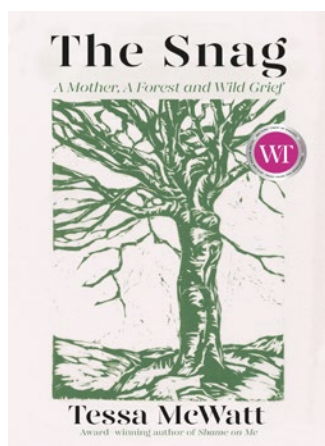
Finalist for the 2025 Hilary Weston  
Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction

**Client**

Westwood Creative Artists

**Contact**

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



**"Extraordinary... Both a love song to the planet and reminder of how precious it is to be alive. Wise, bold, and deeply affecting... An urgent plea for change."**

—Stephanie Bishop

**"Tessa McWatt's THE SNAG is a beautiful exploration of love, grief, and the fragile ties that hold families together while also keeping them at a distance. With incredible detail and sharp emotional insight, McWatt crafts a story that is both intimate and universal, guiding readers through the complexities of memory, belonging, and loss alongside an environment in crisis."**

—2025 Hilary Weston Prize Jury

In her memoir, *THE SNAG*, the acclaimed, award-winning author of *Shame on Me*, Tessa McWatt, takes on personal and collective grief and the solace and inspiration to be found in connecting with nature – and each other.

Every day, we hear about and experience griefs, large and small, in our families, friendships, communities, and worldwide. The grief of a loved one passing. The grief of a way of life ceasing to exist. The grief of global pandemic, war, climate collapse.

As her mother's dementia advances and she can no longer live independently, Tessa McWatt confronts personal and political losses, and finds herself wandering in a forest asking, how do we grieve? And what can we learn from nature and those whose communities are rooted in nature about, not only how to grieve, but also how to live?

From the newest seedling to the oldest snag in the forest, there is meaning to be found in every stage of a tree's life, all of which contribute to a thriving forest community. In this forest thinking, McWatt begins to find answers to her questions about how to live (for each other), how to grieve (radically), and how to die (with love and connection).

*THE SNAG* is an essential book about living and dancing and singing and praying, even in the face of unimaginable sadness, and in this way, growing together and supporting one another, like the trees in the forest.

Tessa McWatt is the author of seven novels and two books for young people. Her first book of non-fiction *Shame On Me: An Anatomy of Race* and *Belonging* won the Eccles British Library Award and the Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, and was shortlisted for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the Governor General's Literary Award. Her latest novel, *The Snow Line*, was shortlisted for the Volcano Prize. She is also a librettist and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. In 2021 she was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature; in 2024 she completed a month-long residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in Italy. Born in Guyana, raised in Toronto, she lives in London, UK.

# Tamer Nafar

## 3GS

**Publisher**  
Metropolitan

October 2026  
256 pages

**Client**  
Henry Holt and Company

**Contact**  
Leonie Kress



Forthcoming in 2028, **2ATMS**: A vibrant, full-color graphic novel set in Tamer Nafar's hometown of Lyd, the drug capital and South Bronx of Israel, telling the story of a young man caught between worlds and the 2 ATMs of his life—his day job as an upstanding bank clerk and his night-gig dispensing drugs from a hole in the wall.

An emotionally acute and brilliantly inventive memoir tracing the past and future of Palestinian creativity across multiple generations written by the godfather of the Arabic hip-hop scene.

Stretching from the catastrophic Nakba of 1948 to the modern-day drug markets of Lyd, **3GS** probes the ghosts of the past through Tamer Nafar's quest to understand his father's story and therefore his own. How did he come to be a Palestinian living as a second-class citizen in a ghetto? Nafar also gazes unsparingly at the future, speculatively conjuring a life in 2045 for his imaginary daughter.

Boldly shuttling between fact and fiction, between the personal and the collective, **3GS** breathes new life into conversations around indigeneity and land. No one is better equipped than Nafar to author this shapeshifting text, with his fluency in Hebrew and Arabic coupled with deep, first-hand experience as a respected Palestinian activist living in Israel. This is an urgent, timely call for a newfound relationship to Palestine that will resonate for generations to come.

Tamer Nafar is a Palestinian writer, actor, activist, and founder of DAM—the first Palestinian hip-hop group. He co-wrote and starred in the award-winning Israeli film *Junction 48*, which received accolades at the Berlin International Film Festival and the Tribeca Festival. He is a regular columnist for *Ha'aretz* and has contributed essays to *The Guardian*.

Xu Guoqi

# THE IDEA OF CHINA

**Publisher**

Harvard University Press

March 2026

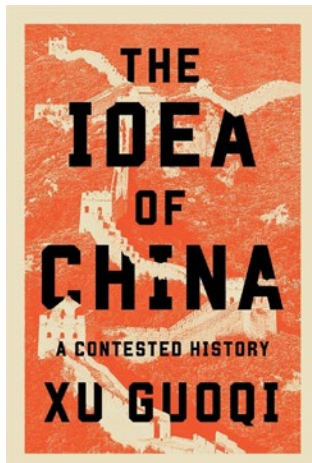
288 pages

**Client**

Harvard University Press

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



An acclaimed historian's bold response to two simple, yet vexed, questions: What counts as China, and who counts as Chinese?

China became a capitalist superpower by investing in globalization. Now that it has established its credentials—and emerged as a major US competitor—its leaders are looking within, focused on suppressing dissent and fostering cohesion. The result has been an increasingly nationalist cultural agenda, celebrating a Chinese identity steeped in the mystique of the Middle Kingdom and nostalgia for heroic twentieth-century resistance. Yet Chinese nationalism, like nationalism everywhere, is fraught. Few Westerners, and even fewer Chinese, recognize that the very idea of China is up for grabs.

In this sweeping history, Xu Guoqi explores the transnational construction of Chineseness. *THE IDEA OF CHINA* describes an identity constantly under renovation. Through dialogue and confrontation with neighbors, more distant outsiders, and Chinese speakers and writers within the state, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the diaspora, the idea of China has been reshaped repeatedly across time. Even bedrock cultural formations like Confucianism have been reimported to China after their translation in Korea, Japan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. The idea of China has always been and remains a continuing process, invented, subverted, and reinvented to serve the shifting needs of kings and bureaucrats, industrialists and intellectuals, allies and adversaries.

Xu's chronicle is as provocative as it is rigorous, and his conclusion could hardly be starker: China, fundamentally, is constituted by a shared history. To accept this is to begin moving past the heated great-power rivalries that threaten international peace and stability today.

**Xu Guoqi** is David H. Y. Chang Professor of History and founding director of the Institute of Transnational History of China at the University of Hong Kong. He has written many books, including *Asia and the Great War*, *Chinese and Americans*, *Strangers on the Western Front*, *China and the Great War*, and *Olympic Dreams*.

Jordan Himelfarb

# INTERREGNUM

Inside the Grueling and Glamorous Battle to Become the Next King of Chess

**Publisher**

House of Anansi

April, 2026

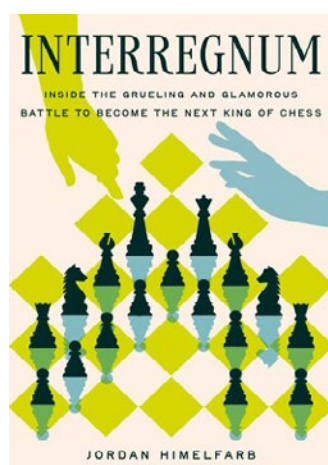
288 pages

**Client**

Westwood Creative Artists

**Contact**

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



A riveting chronicle of the battle for chess supremacy and the brilliant, eccentric, extremely online grandmasters changing an ancient game.

Every elite chess player dreams of becoming world champion, of wearing the wreath and going down in history. Yet for many of today's top grandmasters, that dream long seemed out of reach: Norwegian juggernaut Magnus Carlsen was just too good. So when Carlsen announced he wouldn't defend his world title for a fifth time, the rest of the best finally saw a chance to sit on the throne.

INTERREGNUM follows these brilliant and often eccentric minds around the world as they vie to become world chess champion. It's a story of millennial greats whose time is running out. Of teenaged prodigies who refuse to wait their turn. Of triumph and heartbreak, aspiration and anxiety. Of an ancient sport experiencing a remarkable resurgence and of the extremely online enfants terribles changing the game.

Part sports chronicle, part paeon, part character study, *Interregnum* offers something for both the chess-obsessed and the chess-curious as well as anyone who enjoys a riveting tale of struggle in sport or triumph of the intellect.

**Jordan Himelfarb** is managing editor of the *Toronto Star*, one of North America's largest newspapers, where he oversees political, national, foreign, and opinion coverage. He was previously the *Star's* politics editor and, before that, deputy editorial page editor. Himelfarb has been nominated three times for a National Newspaper Award, the highest honor in Canadian journalism twice for his writing and once for his editing. Before coming to the *Star*, he was co-editor of *Said the Gramophone*, one of *Time Magazine's* top blogs of 2009, and co-editor of the book *Tax is Not a Four-Letter Word*. Once a competitive Scrabble player, he has in recent years turned his obsessive attention to chess and contract bridge.

Kate Manne

# ENTITLED

How Male Privilege Hurts Women

**Publisher**

Crown

August 2020

288 pages

**Client**

Frances Goldin Literary Agency

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



**Korea** Maybooks

**France** Les Petits Matins

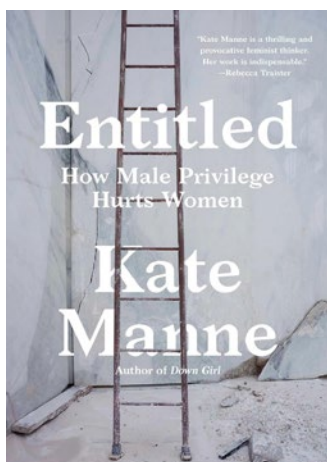
**Sweden** Fri Tanke

**Japan** Jimbun Shoin

**Turkey** Alfa

**Spanish** Capitan Swing

**Chinese** Lucida



**“One of the qualities that makes Manne’s writing bracing and even thrilling to read is her refusal to ingratiate herself by softening the edges of her resolve. . . . She’s like a pathologist wielding a scalpel, methodically dissecting various specimens of muddled argument to reveal the diseased tissue inside.”** –*The New York Times*

**“With perspicacity and clear, jargon-free language, Manne keeps elevating the discussion to show how male privilege isn’t just about securing and hoarding spoils from women, but an entire moral framework.”** –*The Guardian*

An urgent exploration of men’s entitlement and how it serves to police and punish women. A radical new framework for understanding misogyny.

From Harvey Weinstein and the Brett Kavanaugh hearings to “Cat Person” and the political misfortunes of Elizabeth Warren, Manne’s book shows how privileged men’s sense of entitlement—to sex, yes, but more insidiously to admiration, care, bodily autonomy, knowledge, and power—is a pervasive social problem with often devastating consequences.

In clear, lucid prose, Manne argues that male entitlement can explain a wide array of phenomena, from mansplaining and the undertreatment of women’s pain to mass shootings by incels and the seemingly intractable notion that women are “unelectable.” Moreover, Manne implicates each of us in toxic masculinity: It’s not just a product of a few bad actors; it’s something we all perpetuate, conditioned as we are by the social and cultural mores of our time. The only way to combat it, she says, is to expose the flaws in our default modes of thought while enabling women to take up space, say their piece, and muster resistance to the entitled attitudes of the men around them.

With wit and intellectual fierceness, Manne sheds new light on gender and power and offers a vision of a world in which women are just as entitled as men to our collective care and concern.

Kate Manne is an associate professor of philosophy at Cornell University, where she’s been teaching since 2013. Before that, she was a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. Manne did her graduate work in philosophy at MIT and has written two books, *Down Girl* (OUP, 2018) and *Entitled* (Crown, 2020).

Ussama Makdisi, Saree Makdisi

# ANTI-PALESTINIANISM

Publisher  
Norton

Client  
Frances Goldin Literary Agency

Contact  
Leonie Kress



A revelatory short history of the specific bias exercised against Palestinians in the West, a form of racism that is as politically potent as it is profoundly poisonous to the wider culture.

As the destruction in Gaza is broadcast in real time across social media, global support for the Palestinian cause is growing—yet Western governments and media have responded with intensified censorship of pro-Palestinian speech. This contradiction reflects a long-standing Western bias against Palestinians, rooted in a deep and persistent prejudice.

ANTI-PALESTINIANISM is the first book to trace the origins and logic of this unique form of intolerance—one that often hides behind the language of combating antisemitism and is accepted even in liberal institutions. Saree and Ussama Makdisi examine the history of Palestinian dehumanization, the colonial roots of this racism, and its powerful influence on international politics.

Offering a crucial counterpoint to Rashid Khalidi's *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*, this book explains how anti-Palestinian ideologies took hold in the West—and why they endure. It is essential reading for anyone trying to understand the horrors in Gaza and the culture-war politics of denial shaping Western responses.

**Ussama Makdisi** is the inaugural May Ziadeh Chair in Palestinian and Arab Studies, Professor of History, and Chancellor's Professor at the University of California Berkeley. His latest book, *Age of Coexistence* (University of California Press, 2019), was praised by Peter Beinart and Rashid Khalidi, among others.

**Saree Makdisi** is the Chair of the English Department at UCLA and a scholar of Palestine, colonial history, and its afterlives. He is the author of *Palestine Inside Out* (Norton, 2008), which counted Alice Walker, Desmond Tutu, and Howard Zinn among its many supporters, and *Tolerance is a Wasteland* (UCP, 2022), which Judith Butler called "a beacon of light." He wrote the introduction for the recent reissue of Edward Said's *The Question of Palestine*, which he presented at Southbank Center in a much-watched speech last fall.

Avishai Margalit, Assaf Sharon

# CAPTIVE MINDS

A Study of Manipulation

**Publisher**

Harvard University Press

May 2026

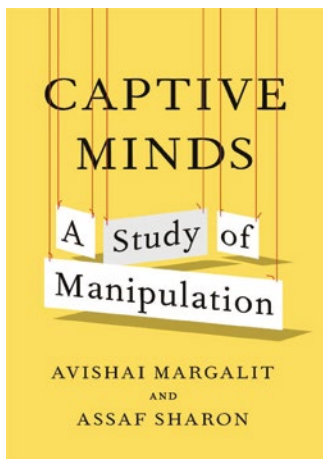
288 pages

**Client**

Harvard University Press

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



From philosophers Avishai Margalit and Assaf Sharon, an erudite yet approachable inquiry into political manipulation and the grave threat it poses to human freedom today.

Manipulation is as old as history itself, yet Aldous Huxley's paraphrase of Churchill rings truer than ever: "never have so many been manipulated so much by so few." Manipulation presents a clear danger to liberal democracy today. Demagogues undermine civic discussion, and propagandists and conspiracy theorists create cognitive traps that erode critical thinking.

What exactly is manipulation, and what sets it apart from other forms of influence? How does it differ from convincing, attracting, or nudging? Drawing on examples from mythology, literature, history, and politics, philosophers Margalit and Sharon argue that manipulation is not just a form of deceit and intellectual harm; it is, above all, an exercise of power. Manipulation exploits mental weaknesses and vulnerabilities with the goal of establishing control. Whereas liberal philosophers overlook manipulation, instead treating coercion as the primary form of political domination, Margalit and Sharon argue that manipulation should be seen as coercion's insidious counterpart in undermining human freedom.

Public support is fundamental to the legitimacy of government. Today, political manipulation is corrupting the formation and expression of public opinion, making manipulation a driving force of the global crisis of democratic decline. A timely work, but also a work for all times, CAPTIVE MINDS stands as the definitive study of a pervasive threat to political freedom and the increasingly fragile institutions that sustain it.

**Avishai Margalit** is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and former George F. Kennan Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. The recipient of numerous prizes, he is the author of *The Decent Society*, *The Ethics of Memory*, *On Compromise and Rotten Compromises*, and *On Betrayal*.

**Assaf Sharon** is Professor of Philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Cofounder and Senior Fellow at Molad: The Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy, he has written for the *New York Review of Books*, *Boston Review*, and *Liberties*.

Fen Montaigne

# DEVIL AT OUR BACKS

The Summer the Holocaust Began

Publisher  
Pegasus

2027

Client  
The Martell Agency

Contact  
Leonie Kress



Set in the summer of 1941, DEVIL AT OUR BACKS reveals how Lithuania became a testing ground for the Nazis' plan to eradicate the Jews. A searing account of unimaginable horrors and a timely warning for the present.

The process was honed and refined so that by the end of the summer, the Nazis had a systematic, organized program for efficient mass execution. And to their surprise, an unexpected benefit was that the local Lithuanians were eager to participate. By the end of 1941, approximately 150,000 Lithuanian Jews had been murdered. In a matter of weeks, this vicious campaign against the Jews of Lithuania brutally destroyed a center of Jewish life and culture that had flourished for centuries. 96% of the Jewish population of Lithuania – men, women, and children from the cities to the remote rural regions – ultimately perished in what is now recognized as the “laboratory” for designing and building Hitler’s vast genocidal “final solution” machine that would claim the lives of millions in Eastern Europe.

DEVIL AT OUR BACKS examines in depth the careful planning, technological applications, and field tactics of the mobile Nazi death squads and their leaders on the ground and in Berlin. The book also follows the desperate first-hand experiences of individuals caught in this maelstrom.

Fen Montaigne is a journalist and author who has worked for 20 years as a newspaper reporter, including 15 years at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, where he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing. He wrote a critically praised travel-adventure book, *Reeling in Russia* (St. Martin's Press), that documented his 100-day journey across Arctic Russia and Siberia and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for his second book, set in *Antarctica*, *Fraser's Penguins* (Holt).

Rebecca Newberger Goldstein

# THE MATTERING INSTINCT

How Our Deepest Longing Drives Us

**Publisher**

Liveright / W.W. Norton

**Client**

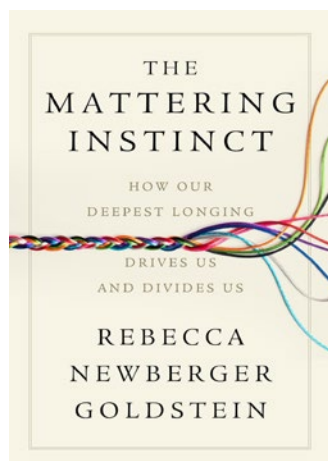
Frances Goldin Literary Agency

January 2026

336 pages

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



**"An extraordinary and urgent book."** –Jonathan Haidt

**"What drives human beings to do both great good and terrible evil? Rebecca Goldstein brilliantly argues that the answer is strangely simple yet incredibly powerful: it is our need to matter in the world. To understand others—and yourself—read this book."** –Arthur C. Brooks

**"Rebecca Goldstein—who uniquely combines the gifts of a novelist and a philosopher—writes with rare insight, warmth, and humanity. The Mattering Instinct is a luminous and often personal meditation on the universal human need to matter. It's a brilliant and beautiful book."**

–Paul Bloom

A revelatory book about the primal drive that in our species alone has been transformed into one of our most persistent and universal motivations: the longing to matter.

Drawing on biology, psychology, and philosophy, Goldstein argues that this need to matter—and the various "mattering projects" it inspires—is the source of our greatest progress and our deepest conflicts: the very crux of the human experience.

Goldstein brings this profound idea to life through unforgettable stories of famous and not-so-famous people pursuing their unique mattering projects: the ragtime genius Scott Joplin, whose dedication to his ignored masterpiece, *Treemonisha*, ended in tragedy; the pioneering psychologist William James, who rose above the depression of his young adulthood to become perhaps the first great theorist of mattering; an impoverished Chinese woman who rescued abandoned newborns from the trash; and a neo-Nazi skinhead who as a young man dealt racial violence to feel he mattered but ultimately renounced that hateful past after realizing that mattering isn't a zero-sum game. These portraits illuminate how our instinct for significance shapes identity, relationships, culture, and conflict—and they point the way to a future where we all might see that there is, fundamentally, enough mattering to go around.

Rebecca Newberger Goldstein is an award-winning philosopher, writer, and public intellectual. She is the author of ten books, both fiction and non-fiction. She holds a Ph.D. in philosophy of science from Princeton University, and she has taught and researched at Yale, Harvard, Barnard, Rutgers, Columbia, Trinity College, NYU, Dartmouth, and the New College of the Humanities in London.

Jennifer R. Vail

# FRICTION

A Biography

**Publisher**

Harvard University Press

January 2026

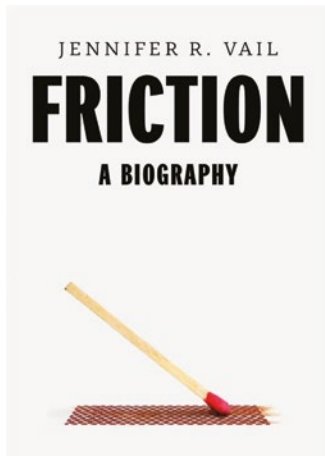
248 pages

**Client**

Harvard University Press

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



From the first spark of fire to the frontiers of energy, medicine, and space, a pioneering account of the invisible force that connects it all.

Friction, the force that resists motion, is synonymous with difficulty and complication. If you've ever replaced tires worn smooth by the road or reached for a can of WD-40 to fix a creaking door hinge, then you know the headache this force can cause.

In this book, Jennifer Vail reveals beneath the difficulty and complication a force as enigmatic and intriguing as it is central to the human story. She traces how, from the moment we first harnessed the power of fire to the Industrial Revolution and beyond, the quest to manipulate friction has driven innovation, culture, and even our own evolution. Today, as scientists study friction in the most unexpected of places, they're learning why some viruses lie dormant for years while others devastate our cells immediately; where elusive dark matter might be found; and how the climate crisis ought finally be addressed. And yet, for all they've learned, scientists still haven't cracked the greatest mystery of all: how to bridge the distinct laws that govern friction at its largest and smallest scales.

Connecting the discoveries of historical luminaries like Newton, da Vinci, and the Wright brothers to the latest breakthroughs in engineering, *FRICTION* is a captivating biography of this unsung hero of the physical world.

**Jennifer R. Vail** is the founder of DuPont's first tribology research lab and a member of the senior leadership team at TA Instruments, a manufacturer of tools used for analyzing the physical properties of materials. Her TED Talk, "The Science of Friction," has been viewed more than two million times.

Ella Frances Sanders

# WORDS TO LOVE A PLANET

An Illustrated Lexicon of Landscape, People, and Possibility

**Publisher**

Andrews McMeel

March 2026

176 pages

**Client**

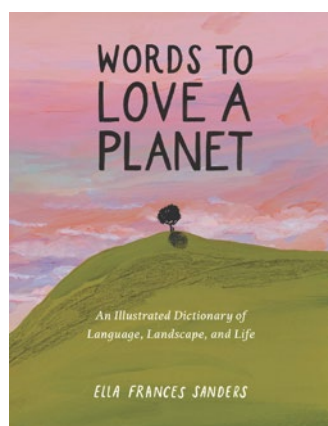
The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



Korea Psyche's Forest  
UK O'Mara Books



Praise for Ella Frances Sanders:

**"Through text, illustration and guided prompts, Sanders upends and expands our notions of beauty."** –Bookpage

**"Sanders consistently captures a sense of awe and wonder at the universe, and ignites (or reignites) that same sense in the reader."**

–Publishers Weekly, starred review

**"A wonder-filled excursion."**

–Kirkus

A beautifully illustrated and culturally diverse dictionary of words from a wide variety of languages offering new ways to consider our lives, our landscapes, and our ways of loving both people and planet.

New York Times-bestselling author Ella Frances Sanders—motivated by care for language and landscape—presents WORDS TO LOVE A PLANET, a collection celebrating the complexities of language, living, and the natural world.

Across seven themes there are over 200 words detailing feelings, concepts, physical facts of landscape, weather, or time, and ways of thinking which leave readers with a greater sense of connection to, and care for, the planet. Recognising that which so many of us have long neglected, and the essential part translation plays in understanding both experience and environment, the words—from over 50 different languages—allow readers to better comprehend the present moment and envisage futures in which our planet is properly loved. Each word is accompanied by a translation, a pronunciation, and a short description with either etymological detail or notes on the language or landscape of origin.

Equally an approachable entry point for those on the margins of environmentalism, as well as those who know we often lack the language to describe the struggles and nuances of the present time, WORDS TO LOVE A PLANET provides for both, a soft, thoughtful place to land amongst the chaos.

Ella Frances Sanders is the writer and illustrator of *Everything, Beautiful* (Penguin Life, 2022), *Close Again* (Andrews McMeel, 2021), *Eating the Sun: Small Musings on a Vast Universe* (Penguin, 2019), *Lost in Translation: An Illustrated Compendium of Untranslatable Words from Around the World* (Ten Speed Press, 2014) and *The Illustrated Book of Sayings: Curious Expressions from Around the World* (Ten Speed Press, 2015). There are currently over 200,000 copies of Ella's books in print and her work has been translated in ten countries.

Misha Maynerick Blaise

# YOUR LIFE IS A HERO'S JOURNEY!

An Illustrated Guide To Facing Life's Challenges

**Publisher**

Andrews McMeel

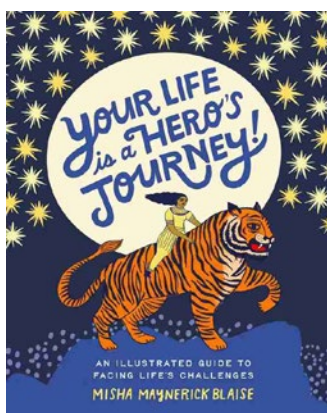
January 2026

**Client**

The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency

**Contact**

Leonie Kress



Praise for Misha Maynerick Blaise:  
**"Blaise provides illustrations for a trove of scientific facts to demonstrate how closely humans are intertwined with the natural world. Blaise encourages a sense of wonder at the phenomenal world."**

—Publishers Weekly

**"Exuberant, surprising, joyous, gorgeous pages...What a great way to reawaken our connections with the universe!"**—Sy Montgomery

**"I have a new favorite book... It explodes with the wonders of creation and the beauty of being alive."**—Rainn Wilson

You are being summoned for a hero's journey, and this is the guide to your coming adventure, you need only to take the first step.

The hero's journey is a timeless mythological framework found in literature, media, and storytelling from all over the world that follows our myriad of heroes from the call to adventure, through the metaphorical threshold, into and out of the all-encompassing void, and eventually back home again.

In *YOUR LIFE IS A HERO'S JOURNEY!: AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES*, author and illustrator Misha Maynerick Blaise uses whimsical art and humor to explore the stages of the hero's journey as a metaphor for personal growth and transformation. Blaise guides readers into a creative shift in perspective that aims to provide encouragement for facing the ever-present problems of life head-on!

In the end, Blaise reminds readers that you are the hero in the ever-challenging and beautiful journey that is your one precious life. Your quest, should you choose to answer the call, is to be brave enough to uncover your true self more deeply with each new adventure. And maybe slay (and cuddle!) some dragons along the way!

Misha Maynerick Blaise is the internationally bestselling author of *Breathe Deep* (Adams Media, 2023), *This Phenomenal Life* (Lyons Press, 2017), *This is Texas, Y'all!* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017), *Crazy For Birds* (Penguin, 2020), and *This Book Is Made of Clouds* (Lerner, 2021). She has partnered with brands such as Urban Outfitters, West Elm, CB2, Oopsy Daisy, and the *New York Times Style Magazine*. She was selected as the winner of a portfolio showcase at the 2015 Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators conference in Austin, Texas. She and her husband own a green-building company in Austin, Texas.

Summer Tseng

# SEE YOU AT CHECK-IN

**Publisher**  
Delight Press/Systemx

March 2025  
292 pages

**Client**  
The Grayhawk Agency

**Contact**  
Leonie Kress



Korea Influential



Reader Reviews:

**"With the author's distinctive storytelling gift, the prose sweeps you from laughter to heartbreak in a single breath."**

**"Like a hidden garden, this book captures seven years of comings and goings, of travelers and their unspoken hearts."**

Seoul is a fast-paced and ever-evolving city where global cultures collide. On the winding slopes of Itaewon in Seoul sits a small guesthouse, quietly waiting its next visitor.

Here, guests sometimes leave behind unexpected personal belongings: a frozen mouse, an urn of their grandmother's ashes, or a steaming pot of seaweed soup from Geje Island. Other times, they may take more than they should: hairdryers, toiletries, dishes, quilts, or even pillows.

For the host, Summer, these odd incidents are just part of her everyday life. Yet beyond the occasional chaos, her guesthouse has become a kind of tree hollow, a safe place where travelers unburden their hearts and share their most personal stories. She has celebrated her very first guest's wedding, met survivors of Korea's postwar adoption wave, offered refuge to queer travelers, and listened to the heartbreaking journey of a North Korean defector.

SEE YOU AT CHECK-IN is like an intimate guestbook, preserving every precious moments from the guesthouse on the Itaewon hillside--a warm and welcome space where each chapter reveals unexpected connections, witty humor, and deep human encounters that linger long after the door closes.

Summer Tseng was named after the season she was born in. She cycled through a variety of jobs, including children's English teacher, talent agent, celebrity personal assistant, and marketing planner. These days, aside from working as a columnist, she continues to wear many hats. Through it all, one thing has remained constant--her insistence on writing down and documenting every daily encounter, whether it's bizarre, heartwrenching, touching, or simply curious. She now lives in Seoul with her Pomeranian, Chili.

Populäres Sachbuch