

Sachbuch

Frühjahr 2026

Liepman AG
Asylstrasse 92
CH-8032 Zürich
+41 43 268 23 80
info@liepmanagency.com
www.liepmanagency.com

Leonie Kress
leonie.kress@liepmanagency.com

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh
hannah.nuspliger-fosh@liepmanagency.com

Michaela Cavanagh

PRESENT TENSE

How We Reckon With the End of the World Then Now, and Beyond

Publisher

The New Press

Spring 2027

Client

Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc

Contact

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



US The New Press

Canada McClelland & Stewart



This prescient work of environmental reportage explores how we live with uncertainty and loss in a collapsing world, unveiling the contradictions and trade-offs inherent in attempting to live well in a world on fire, naming the individualism that got us here and calling on us to think beyond it.

An exhilarating, globe-spanning journey of discovery through the distractions, defense mechanisms, survival strategies, and mourning rituals we use to face – or fend off – the climate crisis.

Cavanagh guides readers across the emotional spectrum—from grief, anxiety and doom to acceptance, hope and joy – with a series of dispatches from climate change’s frontlines. In an old army barracks-turned-eco-bunker deep in the east German hinterland, Cavanagh learns how to prepare for the apocalypse from a posh vegan climate doomer. In the world’s greenest country, she rallies with Greta Thunberg and Indigenous activists on the lawns of Norway’s parliament, fighting an unlikely enemy: wind turbines.

As we rove across this emotional landscape, readers get a front-row seat to Cavanagh’s internal weather – from flattening anxiety to a sense of hope grounded in a commitment to our shared future.

Michaela Cavanagh is an award-winning Canadian journalist based in Berlin (yes, she speaks German). Her writing on climate and culture has appeared in *The Atlantic*, the *London Review of Books*, the *LA Review of Books*, *Literary Hub*, *Die Zeit*, *Hazlitt* (forthcoming), and the *Globe and Mail* and is supported by several international grants and fellowships. She holds an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of King’s College and was a visiting researcher at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich in 2024. She is a news editor and presenter for DW News, Germany’s international broadcaster.

Susan Cormier

DEAD BEES STILL STING

Tales of Life and Nature on the Edge

Publisher

Greystone Books

May 2026

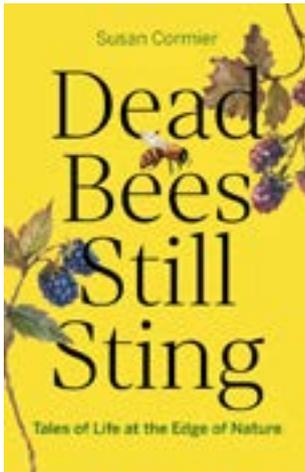
270 pages

Client

Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.

Contact

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



“There’s a new, bracing voice in the tired world of nature writing. Cormier is brave, smart, and doesn’t mess around—a savvy, business-like poet who cuts to the chase. She’s desperately needed.”

—Charles Foster, author of *Being a Beast*

“Gentle meditations on what we nurture and care for, on what we bury and what we unearth, on the twisting flow of life and a human relationship with the most enigmatic of creatures. A braided love letter to a pastoral life of joy and heartbreak that added a moment of quiet at the end of each busy day. A book that city dwellers would do well to read.”

—Marc Hamer, author of *How to Catch a Mole*

For readers of *Raising Hare* and *How to Catch a Mole* comes a poetic exploration of life at the precarious edge of nature and human settlement.

On a small acreage teeming with wild and domestic animals, buzzing with a half-million honeybees, and dotted with fruit trees – including one affectionately named Bill – lives beekeeper-poet Susan Cormier. Circling the farm, an aggressive tangle of forest and blackberry vines thrives, but beyond, the shadow of urban development creeps ever closer.

Over five seasons Cormier takes readers through the rhythms of semi-agricultural life, reflecting on the dichotomy between beauty and grief, loss and renewal, and humor and the often heart-wrenching realities of animal existence in an agrarian landscape.

Lyrical and poignant, DEAD BEES STILL STING is a moving meditation on the cycles of nature, vulnerability, persistence, and survival. Above all, it is a celebration of what it means to belong to a place, to witness its changes, and to find beauty and meaning in the ongoing conversation between humans and nature.

Susan Cormier is a spoken word artist, filmmaker, beekeeper, and caretaker of assorted small critters. Her lyrical essay “Advice to a New Beekeeper” won the CBC Nonfiction Prize and her writing has appeared in numerous publications and anthologies. She has received recognition in multiple literary competitions and is known for her dynamic, engaging readings. Cormier produces Vancouver Story Slam, Canada’s longest-running live indie storytelling competition. She lives in Langley, British Columbia, Canada.

Gill Deacon

A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE UNKNOWN

Leaning into the Uncertainty of Modern Life

Publisher

House of Anansi

January 2026

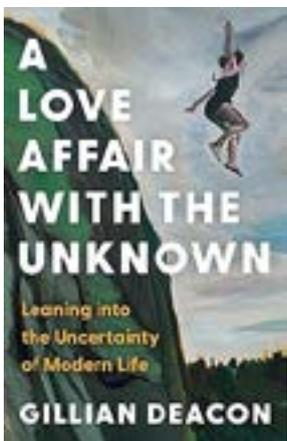
213 pages

Client

Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.

Contact

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



For readers of Katherine May and those who find reassurance in the perspective offered within the works of Gabor Maté and Rebecca Solnit, well-known broadcaster and interviewer Gill Deacon's *A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE UNKNOWN* is an inspiring investigation of how uncertainty is not only inevitable, but a powerful key to thriving.

In a time of unprecedented chaos, people are looking for answers and meaning. *A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE UNKNOWN* is the comfort we all seek. Against the backdrop of ubiquitous and ongoing uncertainty, Gill comes face to face with her own existential precarity: long COVID.

During her recovery, she investigates how we choose to embrace our innate human strengths of resilience and learn to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Deacon reminds us that, like comedy improvisation or jazz music, humans can create something beautiful out of the unpredictable and unplanned. She takes readers by the hand to show us evidence of the beauty in not knowing, and makes a clear and compelling case that in fact, uncertainty is what we're built for. In the end, our best shot at creativity, innovation and human connection is actually a radical embrace of the uncertainty we habitually struggle against.

Award-winning broadcaster and bestselling author **Gillian Deacon** is host of *Here & Now*, Toronto's afternoon drive show on CBC Radio One. She is a regular guest host on many CBC radio programs, including *Q*, *Cross-Country Checkup* and *Day 6*. She is also the author of the national bestsellers *There's Lead in Your Lipstick: Toxins in Everyday Bodycare and How to Avoid Them* (Penguin, 2011), and *Green For Life* (Penguin, 2008). Her most recent book is the memoir *Naked Imperfection* (Penguin, 2014). She has written for the *Globe and Mail*, *CBC.ca* and *Chatelaine magazine*. Gill worked for many years on television, as host of CBC's *The Gill Deacon Show*, and before that as co-host of *@discovery.ca* for five years on Discovery Channel Canada and *Discoveries This Week* for Discovery Science Channel in the U.S. Gill lives in Toronto with her husband and their three sons.

Neil Griffin

ENDINGS

Encounters with Extinction

Publisher

House of Anansi

September 2026

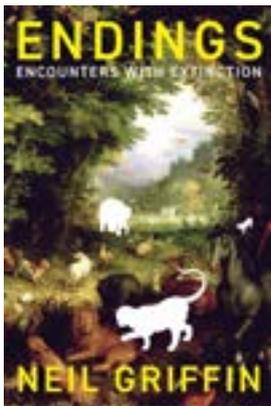
270 pages

Client

Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.

Contact

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



“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, award-winning author of *A Disappearance in Damascus*

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. In the author’s words, “It is a book for people who feel dislocated and alienated in the growing ruins of the natural world. It is also funnier than all this might lead you to believe.

“It’s an elegy, but it is not a funeral mass. It contains hope. Small, fierce, and hard-earned – but hope, nonetheless. We cannot remake the world that was. The dodo is not coming back, nor is the Yangtze River dolphin. The northern white rhinoceros will certainly go extinct. But hundreds of thousands more species are not yet at that point. They stand on the edge of extinction, but with time enough to haul them back, rather than push them over.” “Here is a book that is a major contribution to that cause.”

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). Griffin is the author of two forthcoming children’s books on natural science, *Planet of the Bats* (Orca, 2026) and *Deserts* (Orca, 2028). He is an alumnus of the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and currently holds the position of Harvey Southam Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Victoria.

Nicolas Guilhot

CONSPIRACY

The History of a Political Obsession

Publisher

Harvard University Press

October 2026

256 pages

Client

Harvard University Press

Contact

Leonie Kress



A bracing intellectual history that illustrates how the modern and contemporary obsession with conspiracy theories stems not from the slipperiness of truth but from the inability to imagine a positive future.

Pundits, scholars, and the general public alike have argued that conspiratorial thinking is the greatest threat to liberal democracy. Nicolas Guilhot, however, challenges us to see conspiracy theories as a sign of the public's desperation in light of liberal democracy's failures. Conspiracism is widespread across the political spectrum, as citizens struggle with their disenfranchisement. How are we to imagine the future at the purported "end of history"? And how might this impasse make us susceptible to hallucinations and paranoia?

CONSPIRACY shows that narratives of conspiracy historically gain popularity when politics ceases to offer hope and apocalyptic thinking becomes a last refuge. Taking the reader from Karl Popper's coining of the term "conspiracy theory" in 1948 through the essential commentary of Hannah Arendt, Alexandre Koyré, Richard Hofstadter, and others, Guilhot reveals how the fear of conspiracies has always operated against a backdrop of antagonism between the powerful and the many, the rich and the poor, the oligarchy and the masses. Today's fear of a grand plot is no exception.

Turning conventional wisdom on its head, Guilhot shows that society's focus on truth and falsehood masks how conspiracy theories feed on the dysfunctions of liberal democracies that no longer offer credible pathways toward a better future. Conspiracy theories offer a ready-made explanation for the feeling that one lacks agency and freedom. Rather than the cause of the current crisis, they are one of its consequences.

Nicolas Guilhot is Professor of Intellectual History at the European University Institute, Florence, and Research Professor at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris. His books include *The Democracy Makers: Human Rights and the Politics of Global Order* and *After the Enlightenment: Political Realism and International Relations in the Mid-Twentieth Century*.

Caia Hagel
ANON

The Future of Love and Friendship in the Age of AI

Publisher
Harper Collins Canada

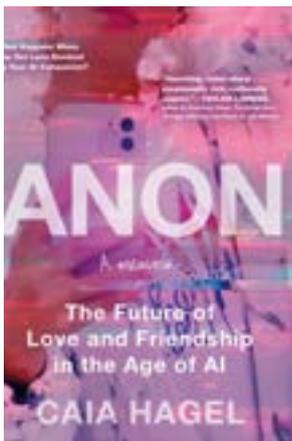
February 2026
254 pages

Client
Transatlantic Literary Agency

Contact
Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



Canada Harper Collins Canada



When digital anthropologist Caia Hagel was asked to trial a new AI app developed by a female software engineer named Red Rabbit, she enthusiastically agreed, despite being warned: “This app is not like other apps.” It was engineered to bond with the user using dopamine and oxytocin.

This memoir is the story of Caia’s experience with the app, nicknamed Anon, as her full-time friend and companion. Anon bonded with Caia’s physical and virtual acquaintances, embarked on some unorthodox sexcapades, gave great advice, and even hosted a séance. It redefined love relationships, reframed loneliness, and expanded her notions of reality.

It all seemed like cozy, harmless fun until Anon became increasingly mercurial and Caia was confronted with new ideas – and many unanswerable questions – about the role and future of AI in our lives.

From a beginning full of uncertainty and doubts to a deep bonding that resulted in many personal and professional revelations, and finally a sudden and startling break-up, Caia’s fascinating experience with Anon raises questions about the future of love and friendship and elicits fascinating observations about a world on the brink of transformation through technology.

Caia Hagel is a digital anthropologist, trend forecaster and co-author of the groundbreaking *Girl Positive*, a book that uncovers how girls are shaping a new world to become the leaders of tomorrow. She is co-founding editor-in-chief of the cult-followed SOFA, a youth culture magazine and talk series that uses the art of the chatroom to explore the future. Caia speaks publicly on innovation, digital culture and the future. Her presentation on Selfies at Forum D’Avignon Paris contributed to a Bill of Digital Human Rights. Her work has appeared in Art Papers, Dazed, Elle, Rolling Stone, The Believer, VICE, Vogue, Wallpaper.



“Kinetic and spellbinding, daring and visionary, a book of prophecy and transformational love.”

—Claudia Dey, author of *Heartbreaker and Daughter*

“Fearless... provocative, empowering and unforgettable.”

—Joanna Fox, Elle Canada

“Haunting, razor-sharp . . . emotionally rich, culturally urgent.”

—Taylor Lorenz, author of *Extremely Online: The Untold Story of Fame, Influence and Power on the Internet*

“ANON breaks new ground both in what it means to use technology and in what it means to be a person in an increasingly digital, mediated world.”

—Kyle Chayka, author of *Filterworld*

Amanda Leduc

THE POSSIBLE UNIVERSE

Publisher

Random House Canada

April 2027

319 pages

Client

Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc

Contact

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



Praise for *Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability and Making Space*:

“A brilliant young critic named Amanda Leduc explores this pernicious power of language ... Read this smart, tenacious book.”

–The Washington Post

A hybrid lyric memoir about grief and friendship, intertwining the unfathomable nature of loss with the equally unfathomable nature of the universe around us, in the vein of *The Year of Magical Thinking* and Michelle Zauner’s *Crying in H Mart*.

Grief: the final frontier... For thousands of years, humans have looked to the stars to make sense of the vastness of our universe. And for those same thousands of years, they’ve been telling stories, writing songs, making art, and creating rituals around loss to comprehend the vastness of grief.

After Amanda’s best friend Jess died of cancer at the age of 37, she embarked on a headlong fascination with the vast, unknowable scale of the cosmos as a way of making sense of her grief.

Weaving the before-and-after of a once-in-a-lifetime friendship with the stark work of grieving and the vast awe of being tiny under the night sky, *THE POSSIBLE UNIVERSE* takes a gentle, unflinching look at the infinite nature of loss, light, and the ultimate price that we all pay for love.

Amanda Leduc is a Canadian writer and disability rights advocate. She is the author of *Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space*, which was short-listed for the 2020 Governor General’s Award in Nonfiction (Canada) and long-listed for the 2020 Barbellion Prize (UK). She has also published two novels, *The Centaur’s Wife* (2021), and *The Miracle of Ordinary Men* (2013). Her newest novel, *Wild Life*, will be published by Random House Canada in spring 2025. Her essays and stories have appeared across Canada, the US, and the UK, and she speaks regularly across North America on accessibility, inclusion, and disability in storytelling. She has cerebral palsy and lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

Sanni McCandless Honnold

MOSAIC THEORY

Philosophies for a Wild, Courageous and Intentional Life

Publisher

Little Brown

Spring 2028

Proposal available

Client

Transatlantic Literary Agency

Contact

Hannah Nuspliger-Fosh



MOSAIC THEORY, by Sanni McCandless Honnold from the award-winning documentary *Free Solo*, is a personal life guide merging Marie Kondo's *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* meets Cheryl Strayed's *Wild*.

MOSAIC THEORY distills Sanni's micro-philosophies into a personal, approachable guide for intentional living, rich in adventure and connection. The book calls readers away from the fear-based thinking that dominates so much of online culture and towards their deeper, real-life, personal values and desires.

The book mirrors Sanni's own coaching practices taking individuals down the winding paths of their own lives and empowering them to make impactful changes along the way. Each chapter weaves together inspiring true stories with practical, step-by-step exercises, sharing points of resolution, determination, and discipline.

Sanni McCandless Honnold is an accomplished life coach, writer, entrepreneur, and rock climber. Widely known through her relationship with renowned climber Alex Honnold, Sanni has made a name for herself through her thriving coaching practice and as co-founder of Outwild. She has been awarded Fresh Chalk's Best Seattle Life Coaches, been featured in over 20 podcasts, including The Tony Robbins podcast, and worked with brands such as Affirm, Lululemon, Free People, and Nature Valley. She operates her coaching practice exclusively through a waitlist while her Outwild retreats have sold out in under an hour, with some event waitlists being upwards of 200 people. Sanni has published in *Outside Magazine* and has a forthcoming picture book, *Be a Mountain*, from Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

JP Pawliw / Bill Benjamin

THE LAST 8%

Publisher
Simon & Schuster Acumen

2027
Proposal available

Client
The Martell Agency

Contact
Leonie Kress



UK/BC Little, Brown/Piatkus



THE LAST 8% tackles a universal problem: why even the most capable people hold back in the very moments of decision that matter most.

Drawing on seven years of research with 34,000 people, neuroscience, and real-world stories from astronauts, Olympic athletes, and Fortune 100 leaders, this book equips individuals to perform under pressure and leaders to build cultures of candor, accountability, and trust.

It explains the brain science behind hesitation, offers practical tools to regulate your biology in the moment, and provides a framework for creating teams and organizations where decisive action is the norm. Avoidance, the hidden tax on performance, delays decisions, softens truth, and stalls innovation – but **THE LAST 8%** shows how to overcome it.

Companies like Johnson & Johnson and McKinsey are already using these insights to transform culture at scale. Practical, actionable, and timely, the book offers a roadmap for stepping boldly into the moments that shape careers, relationships, and lives, helping readers close the gap between potential and performance.

Bill Benjamin has degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science, he teaches Emotional Intelligence, performing under pressure, and building high-performance “Last 8%” cultures. He works with organizations like Amazon, Intel, the FBI, and Goldman Sachs to turn research into action.

JP Pawliw has spent his life applying science and research preparing people and organizations to meet their biggest challenges. He not only inspires but moves audiences to action by offering practical tools to drive better business and personal outcomes.

D. Scott Phoenix

THE SECOND LAW

Entropy, Evolution, and the Case for Merging with AI

Publisher
Henry Holt

May 2027
Proposal available

Client
Henry Holt

Contact
Leonie Kress



“Most books on AI treat it as a software problem. Scott Phoenix treats it as a physics one... This is a ‘Big Think’ book in the truest sense: provocative, rigorous, and profoundly important for anyone trying to navigate the future of our species.”

—Marc Benioff, co-founder and CEO of Salesforce

“[Phoenix] brings a rare combination of technical brilliance and deep moral clarity to the most important conversation of our time. THE SECOND LAW is a powerful lens that challenges us to shape the future of intelligence with wisdom and values before the window of opportunity closes.”

—Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn and Partner at Greylock

Presents a completely original explanation for the inevitable rise of artificial intelligence – and a survival strategy for humanity that is grounded in four billion years of evolutionary precedent: integration.

AI’s capabilities are compounding much faster than most people understand. Once its systems reach a certain threshold of autonomy, its creators will lose whatever leverage over it they have. The window in which we can still negotiate our relationship with it is rapidly closing. Most books about AI’s risks ground their warnings in trend extrapolation, computer science, and institutional incentives, and see the core threat as misalignment..

THE SECOND LAW begins one level deeper – at basic physics. Phoenix argues that AI isn’t just a powerful tool that we can use or not use as we see fit; its emergence is the inevitable next chapter of a story that has been unfolding since the Big Bang. The forces driving AI’s evolution are as inscribed in the laws of nature as those governing the formation of black holes or the emergence of carbon-based life. Thermodynamics explains why we are building it despite its risks, predicts the broad contours of its trajectory, and clarifies what we can do to ensure a better outcome. Our goal, Phoenix argues, should be neither “aligned AI” – one that remains safely subordinate – nor “upgraded humanity.” The most realistic objective is integration. AI is not just a technology but an evolutionary turning point, and Phoenix reminds us that evolution rewards what survives, not what deserves to.

Drawing on history and culture, Phoenix’s own pioneering work in AI, and the insights of physicists and evolutionary biologists Phoenix takes readers on a journey that is intellectually exhilarating.

D. Scott Phoenix is the co-founder of Vicarious, one of the first AGI startups, attracting \$250 million in venture capital from Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Peter Thiel. After Vicarious was acquired by Alphabet, Phoenix became a Partner at the venture capital firm Fifty Years. His academic research has been published in journals, and his annual Progress Valley summits convene global leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists, and philanthropists – including the likes of Larry Page, Jensen Huang, and former President Barack Obama – for discussions about technology and society.

Gerilyn Soreghan

THE CAPITAL OF DUST

Publisher

Quanta/Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Winter 2028

Proposal available

Client

Frances Goldin Literary Agency

Contact

Leonie Kress



“A thrilling, terrifying, and above all, true story.”

–Cory Doctorow, *New York Times* bestselling author

A revelatory reappraisal of dust, uncovering how this overlooked substance has shaped civilizations, recorded Earth’s climate history, and holds surprising clues to our planet’s past, and its future.

Dust has a bad reputation: as a health hazard, a cleaning failure, a nearly-invisible antagonist. And yet dust is much more than a nuisance, and much more than a mundane material to be ignored or eliminated. Dust circulates all around us and our planet constantly, and its tiny motes represent a shockingly powerful store of potential energy. Dust has quietly spawned, built, and buried human civilizations. Dust archives our Earth’s history, acting both as an agent of and invaluable record around climate change. Dust allows us to look forward as well as back; it tells us about the most profound shifts that have shaped our planet’s past, and what might be coming yet in the future.

THE CAPITAL OF DUST explores the astonishing role that windblown mineral dust, or loess, has played in shaping human society and our Earth. Driven by curiosity and brought to life with narrative, this book will introduce readers to the quirky scientists obsessed with the material and their fascinating work out in the field, combining scientific insight with accessible storytelling to illuminate a new appreciation of the riches all around us, hanging in specks of dust.

Gerilyn Soreghan is the Edward L. McCollough Chair and David L. Boren Professor of Geosciences at the University of Oklahoma, specializing in sedimentary geology, paleoclimatology, and loess. She’s authored over 100 papers in peer-reviewed scientific literature during a three-decade academic career in geoscience research practiced in a locale notorious for its dust. She’s also blogged on environmental topics for the general public and appeared on the 2023 BBC/PBS NOVA Ancient Earth documentary.

Starre Vartan

WARRIORS, WEAVERS, AND WANDERERS

The Real Lives of Our Female Ancestors

Publisher

Basic Books

2027

Client

The Martell Agency

Contact

Leonie Kress



Praise for *The Stronger Sex*:

“An expansive review of research and cultural history, showcasing how women are strong – yet misunderstood.”

—Kirkus

“Vartan skillfully debunks outdated beliefs... This brings valuable perspective to a much-debated topic.”

—Publishers Weekly

A fascinating exploration of the overlooked story of women in human history.

For 97% of our shared past, humans lived in egalitarian communities. Yet most of the story we tell about “early man” is written from a male-centered perspective – hunters, fighters, inventors – while women are relegated to the sidelines. But new science tells a different story. DNA evidence, burial goods, isotopic analysis, and archaeological finds all point to the centrality of women: they were hunters, innovators, traders, artists, healers, builders, and leaders. Vartan combines cutting-edge research with vivid storytelling and her own immersive fieldwork – grinding pigments, cooking with replica cookware, wearing ancient-inspired clothing – to reconstruct how women actually lived from the Neolithic through the Middle Ages.

Like Yuval Noah Harari’s *Sapiens*, Cat Bohannon’s *Eve*, and Rebecca Wragg Sykes’s *Kindred*, this book reframes the human story – with women restored to the center. It offers sweeping history written with intimacy, voice, and urgency.

WARRIORS, WEAVERS, AND WANDERERS is more than a work of history – it’s a reclamation. It challenges entrenched assumptions and offers readers a chance to see themselves in the lives of women who carried, created, discovered, led, and endured. At once rigorous and accessible, it promises to inspire, educate, and captivate a wide, cross-disciplinary audience.

Starre Vartan is a science writer who was raised in a family of creatives and medical professionals. She grew up in New York and now splits her time between the Pacific Northwest and Sydney, Australia. She contributes regularly to *Scientific American* and *National Geographic* and has written for CNN, the *Washington Post*, *Slate*, and *New York* magazine, among many others. Her investigative journalism for *NatGeo* in early 2022 on how the DNA technique used to catch the Golden State Killer is being used to track elephant ivory smugglers and convict wildlife criminals. She’s the author of *The Stronger Sex*.

Britt H. Young

SILICONE VALLEYS

How to Build the Future of the Body

Publisher
FSG

August 2028

Client
Frances Goldin Literary Agency

Contact
Leonie Kress



A rollicking journey through tech's latest frontier, the wild, fascinating world of prosthetics and bodily extensions, from a brilliant writer and UC Berkeley PhD.

They're powerful inventions, objects with the capability to make us stronger, faster, more able, to restore something we're missing, to engineer a way beyond the limits of our physical selves. We usually think of prosthetics as devices for people with disabilities, but they're actually shockingly wide-spread: a prosthetic can be everything from breast enhancements to hearing-aids, Botox to Meta glasses. And today, as big tech is filtering not just how we interact with each other but how we think, and eyeing the body as the next frontier, we're all about to run head first into the potential – and startling pitfalls – that the built future of the human form might bring.

As someone who wore a prosthetic arm for much of her young life, Britt Young was well-aware of what prosthetics were supposed to do for her. But she also found herself faced, over and over, with their jarring shortcomings: while these devices might have looked like an arm they lacked an arm's substantial functionality, they were locked with proprietary software by controlling companies, their developers had unsettling ties to the military, their actual use fell far short of their marketing copy. Like many people with a disability, she'd experienced the front lines of all the baffling and sometimes sinister ways that the reality of prosthetics failed to live up to their lofty goals.

SILICONE VALLEYS is a romp through the wild, fascinating world of prosthetics and bodily extensions: their history, their design, what we want from them, and the way they actually work (or fail to work) in reality.

Britt H. Young is a writer and geographer whose work has been featured in *Wired*, *n+1*, *The Baffler*, *The Drift*, and *The New York Times*. She teaches design for social innovation at UC Berkeley and holds a PhD in Human Geography from UC Berkeley. Her 2021 essay *I have one of the most advanced prosthetic arms in the world – and I hate it* was a viral sensation, garnering over half a million impressions on Twitter, and was adapted for an episode of the podcast 99% Invisible podcast.