

UNBRIDLED BOOKS

SPRING / SUMMER 2010



Unbridled Books

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COVER DESIGN BY ROYCE M. BECKER DESIGN

WHEN HER LONGTIME LOVER DIES IN A PLANE CRASH, A CONCERT VIOLIST IS BLACKMAILED BY HIS WIDOW IN THIS ARTFUL NOVEL ABOUT SECRECY, VENGEANCE AND REGRET.

An Unfinished Score

BY ELISE BLACKWELL



Elise Blackwell is the author of three previous novels: *Hunger*, *The Unnatural History of Cypress Parish*, and *Grub*. Her books have been chosen for numerous “best of the year” lists, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, and *Kirkus*. Her short stories and cultural criticism have appeared in *Witness*, *Topic*, *Seed*, *Global City Review*, *Quick Fiction*, and elsewhere. Originally from southern Louisiana, she has lived in many others places and is currently Associate Professor of English at the University of South Carolina.

FICTION
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-936071-66-1
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6x9, 272 Pages
Carton Quantity: 24
April
Rights: World

MARKETING
Major media campaign,
including to music media
Online promotion and
publicity
Social media campaigns
Events in the South
Book club campaign

Also available in eBook



As she prepares dinner for her husband and their extended family, Suzanne hears on the radio that a jetliner has crashed and her lover is dead. Alex Elling was a renowned orchestra conductor. Suzanne is a concert violist, long unsatisfied with her marriage to a composer whose music turns emotion into thought. Now, more alone than she's ever been, she must grieve secretly. But as complex as that effort is, it pales with the arrival of Alex's widow, who blackmails her into completing the score for Alex's unfinished viola concerto.

As Suzanne struggles to keep her double life a secret from her husband, from her best friend, and from the other members of her quartet, she is consumed by memories of a rich love affair saturated with music. Increasingly manipulated by her lover's widow and tormented by the concerto's many layers, Suzanne realizes she may lose everything she's spent her life working for.

A story of love, loss, sex, class, and betrayal, this psychologically compelling novel explores the ways that artists' lives and work interact, the nature of relationships among women as friends and competitors, and what it means to make a life of art.

She hears the words on the radio. It is the radio that announces her lover's death. His is not a household name, not in most households, but he happens to be the most famous person on the plane that went down. The plane's wreckage, strewn across Indiana farmland, is being examined for clues. Crews search for the voice recorder, the black box that holds the secret of two hundred seventy-one deaths. *Two hundred seventy, plus one.*

Suzanne's rib cage shudders—a piano whose keys are struck all at once—yet she does not cry. She does not cry, but only closes her eyes and presses her palms flat on the cool counter. None of the facts of Alex's life suggests that it ends in a soybean field.

At the dining room table, playing a board game and separated from her by the counter on which she works, sit the other members of her household, a household in which Alex's name at least rings a bell. Her husband's dice clack against the wood; her best friend sighs as her game piece is sent back to start; Adele's hands clap three times.

“Starting over isn't all bad,” Ben says, and Petra does not respond.

Suzanne lifts onto her toes to search the high cabinet for the olive oil, her hand grabbing only the air the bottle usually occupies. She spies it on the counter, where she obviously set it earlier. It has been right in front of her all along. She minces the cloves of garlic that she peeled before she knew her lover was dead, heats oil in a wide skillet, salts a pot of roiling water. The simple sounds of knife on wood, of water rising to slow boil, of onion sizzling become the distinct tones of grief.

If she lives, this will be how: moment to moment, task by task, left foot then right, breathing in then out. An eternal present in which every sound is loud. This is something she should be good at, if anyone can be. For four years she has practiced pretending that everything is fine, that she is what she seems to be.

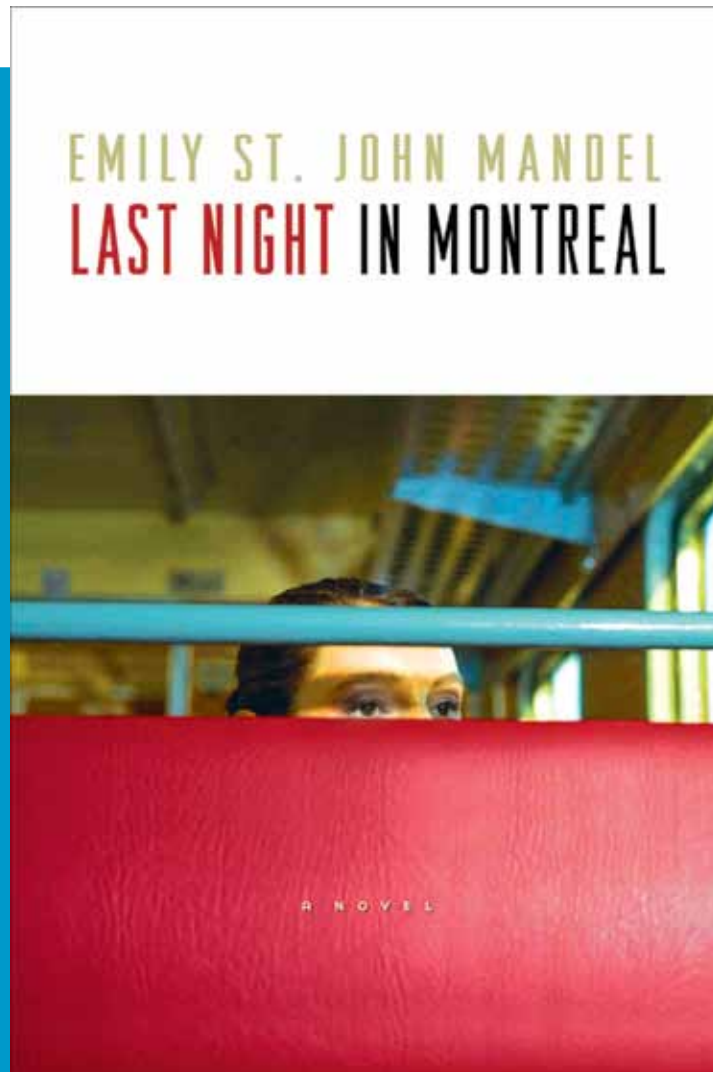
excerpt

Last Night in Montreal

BY EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL

The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire

BY C. M. MAYO



FICTION
Paperback
ISBN: 978-1-936071-60-9
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MARKETING
Paperback media campaign, including to mystery/suspense media
Online promotion and publicity
Book club campaign
Advertising
Also available in eBook

HISTORY • Hardcover • \$24.95 US • 2009 • ISBN: 978-1-932961-68-3

INDIE NEXT PICK FOR JUNE 2009

"A taut, gripping debut ... elegantly compelling."
—Booklist

"The pages fly, and the final period leaves a palpable sense of loss."
—Paste Magazine

"Left me completely dazzled. I think we can expect great things from this author in the future."
—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop

"Strongly reminiscent of the magic realism of Garcia Marquez, this is an enchanting work by a new writer."
—Library Journal

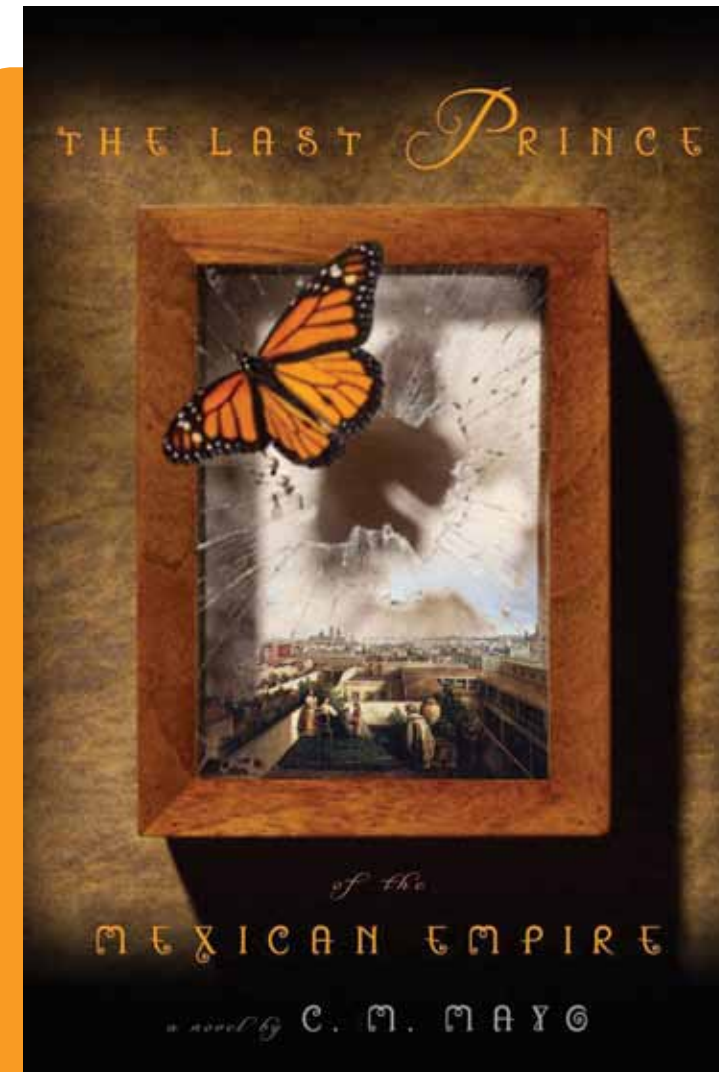
Lilia Albert has been leaving people behind for her entire life. She spends her childhood and adolescence traveling constantly and changing identities. In adulthood, she finds it impossible to stop. Haunted by an inability to remember her early childhood, she moves restlessly from city to city, abandoning lovers along the way, possibly still followed by a private detective who has pursued her for years. Then her latest lover follows her from New York to Montreal, determined to learn her secrets and make sure she's safe.

Last Night in Montreal is a story of love, amnesia, compulsive travel, the depths and the limits of family bonds, and the nature of obsession. In this extraordinary debut, Emily St. John Mandel casts a powerful spell that captures the reader in a gritty, youthful world—charged with an atmosphere of mystery, promise and foreboding—where small revelations continuously change our understanding of the truth and lead to desperate consequences. Mandel's characters will resonate with you long after the final page is turned.



KEVIN MANDEL

Emily St. John Mandel was born on the west coast of British Columbia, Canada, in 1979. She studied dance at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and lived briefly in Montreal before relocating to New York. She lives in Brooklyn.



FICTION
Paperback
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MARKETING
Paperback media campaign
Online promotion and publicity
Events in the Northeast
Also available in eBook

HISTORY • Hardcover • \$26.95 US/\$32.95 CAN • 2009 • ISBN: 978-1-932961-64-5

AN INDIE NEXT NOTABLE PICK FOR JUNE 2009

"A swashbuckling, riotous good time, befitting the fairy-tale promise of the opening sentence."
—Austin-American Statesman

"I have read a few sweeping historical novels that have remained inside of me forever. Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is one of those, Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* is another, Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago* is another, and now *The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire* is another."
—Mexico Connect

"A stunning achievement."
—El Paso Times

"Epic in scope...impressively researched...Mayo's reanimation of a crucial period in Mexican history should satisfy history buffs and those in the mood for an engaging story brimming with majestic ambition."
—Publishers Weekly

The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire is a sweeping historical novel of Mexico during the short, tragic, at times surreal, reign of Emperor Maximilian and his court.

Even as the American Civil War raged north of the border, a clique of Mexican conservative exiles and clergy convinced Louis Napoleon to invade Mexico and install the Archduke of Austria, Maximilian von Habsburg, as Emperor. A year later, the childless Maximilian took custody of the two year old, half-American, Prince Agustín de Iturbide y Green, making the toddler the Heir Presumptive. Maximilian's reluctance to return the child to his distraught parents, even as his empire began to fall, and the Empress Carlota descended into madness, ignited an international scandal.

This lush, grand read is based on the true story and illuminates both the cultural roots of Mexico and the political development of the Americas. But it is made all the more captivating by the depth of Mayo's writing and her understanding of the pressures and influences on these all too human players.



TERESA CASTRACANE

C. M. Mayo has been living in and writing about Mexico for many years. Her story collection, *Sky Over El Nido*, won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. She is also the author of a widely acclaimed travel memoir and is an avid translator and editor of contemporary Mexican literature.

ANTON WAKER TRAVELS TO THE ISLAND OF ISCHIA, OFF THE COAST OF ITALY, AND WAITS, FOR WHAT HE DOES NOT KNOW. AS HIS PAST IS PEELED BACK, LAYER BY LAYER, WE LEARN THAT HE IS NOT WHAT HE SEEMS AND FIND THAT NO ONE IN HIS LIFE IS WITHOUT A SECRET.

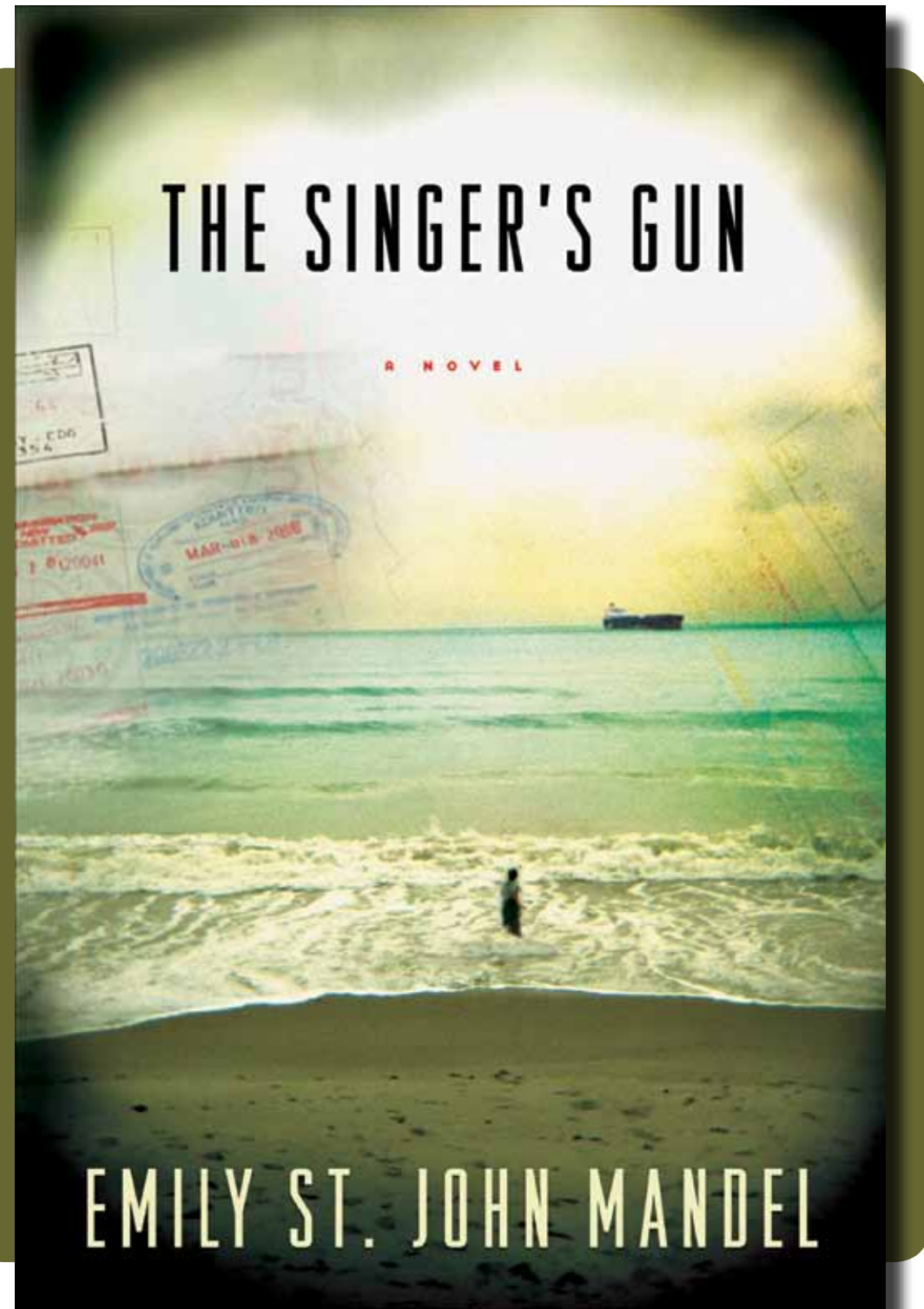
The Singer's Gun

BY EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL



KEVIN MANDEL

Emily St. John Mandel was born on the west coast of British Columbia, Canada, and lived briefly in Montreal before relocating to New York. She currently lives in Brooklyn. She is also the author of a widely acclaimed previous novel, *Last Night in Montreal*.



FICTION
 Hardcover
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MARKETING

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Online promotion and publicity

Social media campaigns

Advertising

Summer read promotion

Events in the Northeast & Canada. Elsewhere upon request.

Joint promotion with paperback of *LAST NIGHT IN MONTREAL*

Also available in eBook



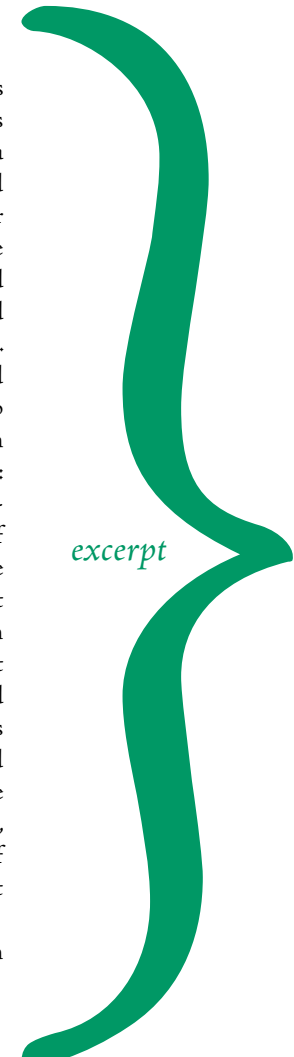
Everyone Anton Waker grew up with is corrupt. His parents deal in stolen goods and his first career is a partnership venture with his cousin Aria selling forged passports and social security cards to illegal aliens. Anton longs for a less questionable way of living in the world and by his late twenties has reinvented himself as a successful middle manager. Then a routine security check suggests that things are not quite what they appear. And Aria begins blackmailing him to do one last job for her. But the seemingly simple job proves to have profound and unexpected repercussions.

As Anton's carefully constructed life begins to disintegrate around him, he's forced to choose between loyalty to his family and his desires for a different kind of life. When everyone is willing to use someone else to escape the past, it is up to Anton, on the island of Ischia, to face the ghosts that travel close behind him.

Emily St. John Mandel follows up her electric debut with a spellbinding novel of international crime, false identities, the depths and limits of family ties, and the often confusing bonds of love. Taut with suspense, beautifully imagined, full of unexpected corners, desperate choices, betrayals and half-truths with deadly consequences, *The Singer's Gun* explores the dangerous territory between one's moral compass and the heart's desire.

His wedding had taken place six days prior to his arrival on the island, after a long and frankly disastrous engagement: Sophie found a dress, bought it, had a panic attack when she tried it on at home, and canceled the wedding. This was a fantastically costly maneuver involving several dozen hours of therapy at three hundred dollars an hour and a mailing of two hundred uninventions: "The wedding of Sophie Berenhardt and Anton Waker has been post-poned for personal reasons. Thank you for your understanding." She informed him that there was no hyphen in "postponed," took up meditation in addition to the therapy, and came to him a month later with the news that she'd had an epiphany: the wedding was meant to be. Two hundred and fifty all-new wedding invitations were mailed out, in shades of spring violet; the flowers blossoming in the corners of the invite, she told him, represented rebirth. Anton had just been reading about how violets pinned to a girl's lapel in a certain era had represented lesbianism, but chose not to mention this. Two hundred and one RSVPs arrived without incident. She showed up at work during his lunch break in tears, clutching the two hundred and second. All it said was "We're so glad for you! We'll be there!" and it was only from someone's obligatory aunt, but he knew before she spoke that the wedding was off again. She was scared, she said. It wasn't him. She just needed more time.

"Because I really love her," he told his friend Gary, in response to a question.



THE TRUE STORY OF THE FOX SISTERS AND THE FALSE PROMISE THEIR SPIRITUALIST TRICKS COULD OFFER A BROKEN HEART. A NOVEL THAT ASKS, WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REAL AND THE UNREAL WHEN PEOPLE REACT PRECISELY THE SAME TO EACH.

Captivity

BY DEBORAH NOYES



MICHAELA WAYSHAK

Deborah Noyes is the author of *Angel and Apostle* as well as numerous acclaimed books for younger readers, including *The Ghosts of Kerfol* and *Encyclopedia of the End*. She lives in Massachusetts with her family.



FICTION
Hardcover
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MARKETING
Major media campaign
Online promotion and publicity
Summer read promotion
Book club campaign
Events in the Northeast

Also available in eBook



This masterful historical novel by Deborah Noyes, the lauded author of *Angel & Apostle*, *The Ghosts of Kerfol*, and *Encyclopedia of the End* (starred PW) is two stories:

The first centers upon the strange, true tale of the Fox Sisters, the enigmatic family of young women who, in upstate New York in 1848, proclaimed that they could converse with the dead. Doing so, they unwittingly (but artfully) gave birth to a religious movement that touched two continents: the American Spiritualists. Their followers included the famous and the rich, and their effect on American spirituality lasted a full generation. Still, there are echoes. The Fox Sisters' is a story of ambition and playfulness, of illusion and fear, of indulgence, guilt and finally self-destruction.

The second story in *Captivity* is about loss and grief. It is the evocative tale of the bright promise that the Fox Sisters offer up to the skeptical Clara Gill, a reclusive woman of a certain age who long ago isolated herself with her paintings, following the scandalous loss of her beautiful young lover in London.

Lyrical and authentic—and more than a bit shadowy—*Captivity* is, finally, a tale about physical desire and the hope that even the thinnest faith can offer up to a darkening heart.

Here is how the Fox sisters teach the dead to speak. Maggie and Kate are giddy with fear on the mattress when Ma comes running with the candle. "We've found it out," they cry, and Ma's monstrous, flickering shadow rounds the bedroom wall. She nods hard, poor soul, hefting the candle higher, and her hand shakes.

"It" is the rapping that's robbed them of sleep and peace for so long, a hellish business, and who can bear it? Not Ma, surely.

She'll have to, thinks Maggie, who is filled with fate as a sail is for going. Yes, they'll go, she understands, from Wayne County with its brittle fields and trees—an unrelenting patchwork of brown and white to which spring takes its sweet time coming—and it won't be long. Even Ma's weary, pious face can't prevent it.

As if reading Maggie's thoughts, her younger sister, Kate, springs out of bed and snaps babyish fingers. "Follow me," she orders, and how can Maggie not? Who can take their eyes off Katie Dear, so like a blithe spirit herself, all hush and mischief in her threadbare shift? Snap snap, and then, in the shadow of Kate's trailing hand, rap rap, audible as a heartbeat, deep inside the house.

"Here, Mr. Splitfoot." Kate claps milky hands three times. "Do as I do."

Rap rap rap.

The phantom makes the very walls quake, it seems.

Beneath the spectral racket, Maggie hears the usual soft sounds of night, the ordinary unease of their little rented saltbox cottage: mice scabbling in the walls, moaning March wind, creaking cold floorboards. These were lonely sounds before and chilled her, but now and suddenly she misses them. Almost.

excerpt

COLLIGNON'S MOST AMBITIOUS NOVEL TO DATE TRACES THE VILLAGE OF GUADALUPE FROM THE MOMENT IT WAS CARVED FROM THE SNOW BY A MADMAN TO THE DAY A DEAD MAN SETS IT ON FIRE.

A Santo in the Image of Cristóbal García

BY RICK COLLIGNON



LAURA SHIELDS

Rick Collignon is the author of three other novels, *The Journal of Antonio Montoya*, *Perdido*, and *Madewell Brown*. Originally from the Chicago area, he has lived in northern New Mexico for over 30 years.

"Dreamlike and melancholy...a worthy read."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"Collignon deftly blends history and magic realism to create a moving account of the last day of family patriarch Flavio Montoya."
—*Booklist*

The gentle-hearted Flavio Montoya returns, now as the aged scion of his family, still tending his sister Ramona's fields and wondering how all of his family could have died before him. When the mountains surrounding Guadalupe erupt in flames, the history of the village seems to be set loose in the smoke. The dead arrive and the silent speak. When Flavio is accused of starting the fire that quickly threatens to consume the village, the disaster becomes one more mystery that he must fold into his own memory, though he cannot quite understand any of it.

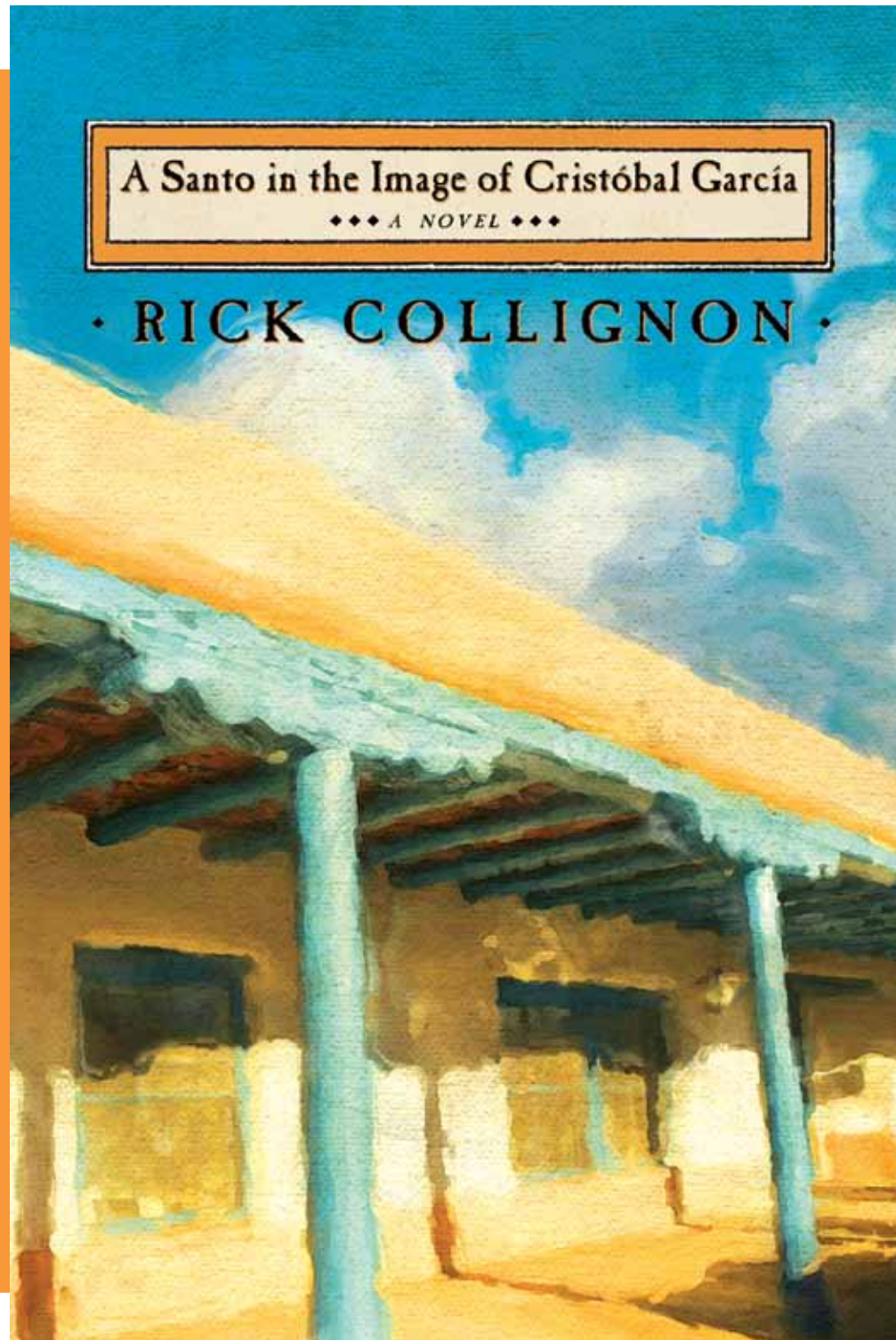
A Santo in the Image of Cristóbal García is a beautiful, funny, even epic tale of how all history is finally personal.

Felix wasn't exactly sure just when it was he began to know that he was seeing. He had been gazing in the direction of the plate-glass window in the café when he became aware of the dark shape of the mountains and how they were rimmed in light. He could see a thin jagged line of trees on one high ridge silhouetted by the oncoming dawn. He took in a sharp breath of air and his hand reached absently for the cigarettes in his shirt pocket that were long gone. He had never seen anything so quiet or so beautiful, and he wondered how he hadn't noticed it before. Then he heard the sound of the front door opening, the brush of wood on the mat just inside the room, and he saw the woman standing in the doorway.

She wasn't much more than a shadow, and she stood motionless, her arms at her sides. Her head was bent slightly and a shawl covered her hair and hung down her back. She was wearing a black dress that fell loosely away from her legs and down to her feet. It was too dark for Felix to see her face, but he thought that she may have nodded at him. As she walked toward him, he could hear the sound of her shoes hard on the tiled floor.

She sat at a table not far from his, and for a while the two of them sat in silence. Outside, the top of the mountains had turned gray and a dull, heavy light was crawling down the slopes. A truck hauling cattle passed by on the highway, its brakes hissing, headlights sweeping the road. When the sound of its shifting gears was gone, the woman turned her head toward Felix, "I told you I would see you again, hijo," she said.

excerpt



FICTION

Paperback

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MARKETING

Off the book page features

Online promotion and publicity

Book club campaign

Advertising

Also available in eBook



FROM A 22-YEAR-OLD AUTHOR, AN INTERNATIONAL SUSPENSE NOVEL ABOUT THREE JAPANESE SCHOOLGIRLS WHO DISAPPEAR INTO TAIWAN'S LARGEST NATIONAL PARK. A NOVEL WITH PAGE-TURNING FORCE THAT RESONATES OVER GENERATIONS.

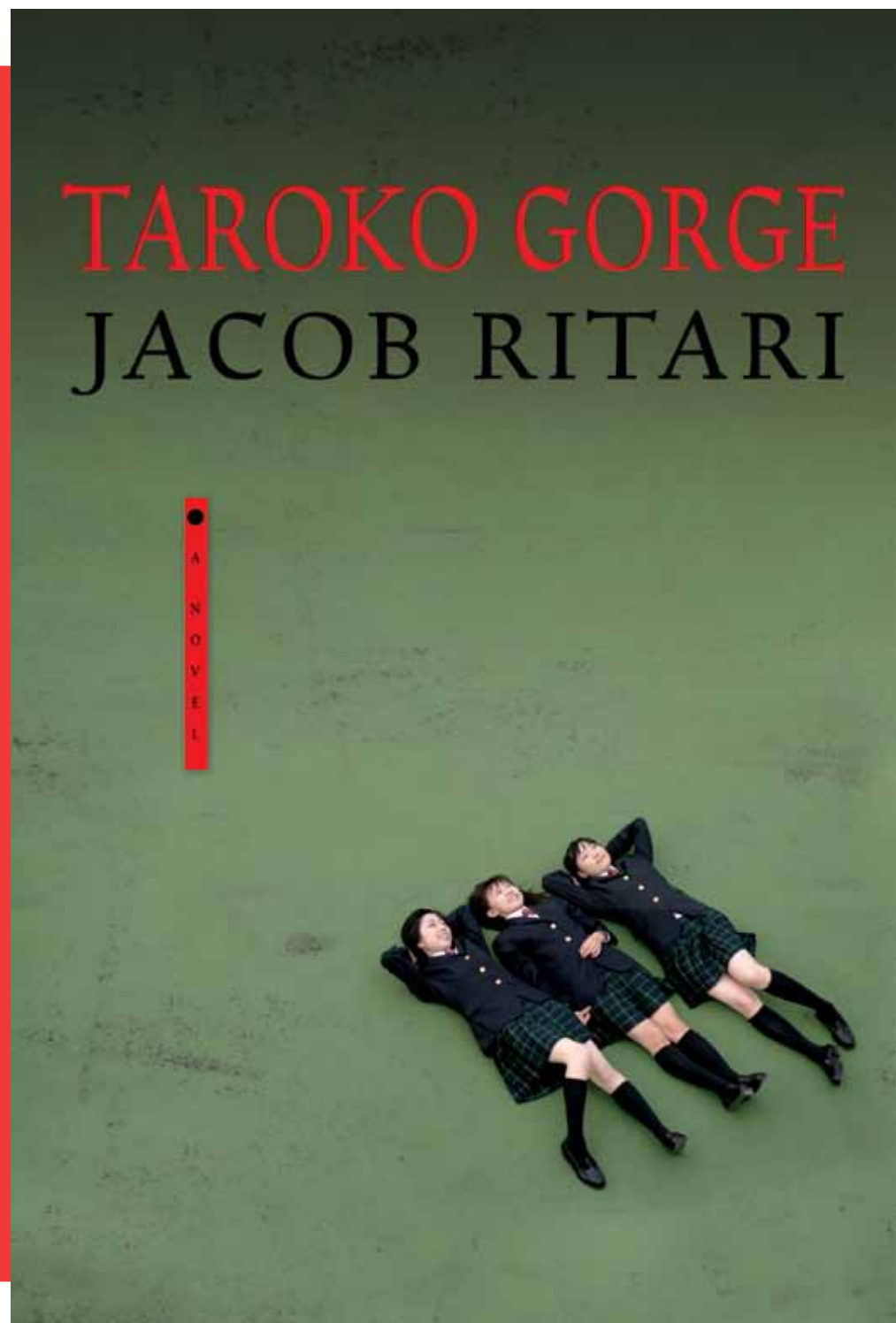
Taroko Gorge

BY JACOB RITARI



ANNA JEKEL

Jacob Ritari has studied with the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist organization in Taiwan and studied Japanese language and literature at Japan's Sophia University. He lives near New York City.



FICTION

Paperback

ISBN: 978-1-936071-65-4

\$15.95 US / \$ 18.95 CAN

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MARKETING

Off the book page features

Print reviews, including in mystery/suspense media

Online promotion and publicity

Summer read promotion

Advertising

Events in the Northeast

Also available in eBook



A **disillusioned** and raggedy American reporter and his drunken photojournalist partner are the last to see three Japanese schoolgirls who disappear into Taroko Gorge, Taiwan's largest national park. The journalists—who are themselves suspects—investigate the disappearance along with the girls' homeroom teacher, their bickering classmates, and a seasoned and wary Taiwanese detective. The conflicts between them—complicated by the outrageousness of the photographer and the raging hormones of the young—raise questions of personal responsibility, truthfulness, and guarded self-interest.

The world and its dangers—both natural and interpersonal—are real, changing, and violently pressing. And the emotions that churn in dark rooms overnight as the players gather in the park visitors' center are as intense as in any closet drama. There's enough action and furor here to keep readers turning the pages, and the cultural revelations of the story suggest that the human need for mystery outweighs the desire for answers.

We heard a cry far off. Sharp but still indistinct. I don't know why, it wasn't that unusual, but maybe just because of the awkwardness that follows when one man expresses affection for another, I tilted my head to listen, and so did Pickett.

The cries were coming closer. They didn't sound quite like a distressed person. There were several voices.

I tapped Pickett's arm and we started down, him with two bottles of Yuenling still in the sack.

I made out "Kari-chan, doko?"—a girl's voice.

Kari, where are you?

Then a boy: "Oi, Mori! Joudan janee yo!"

Mori, this no joke.

The girl again: "Onegai, onegaishimasu!"

Please, oh, please.

Then, although I should have known already, came what stopped my heart: "Taeko-chan, onegai!"

There was pain in that voice.

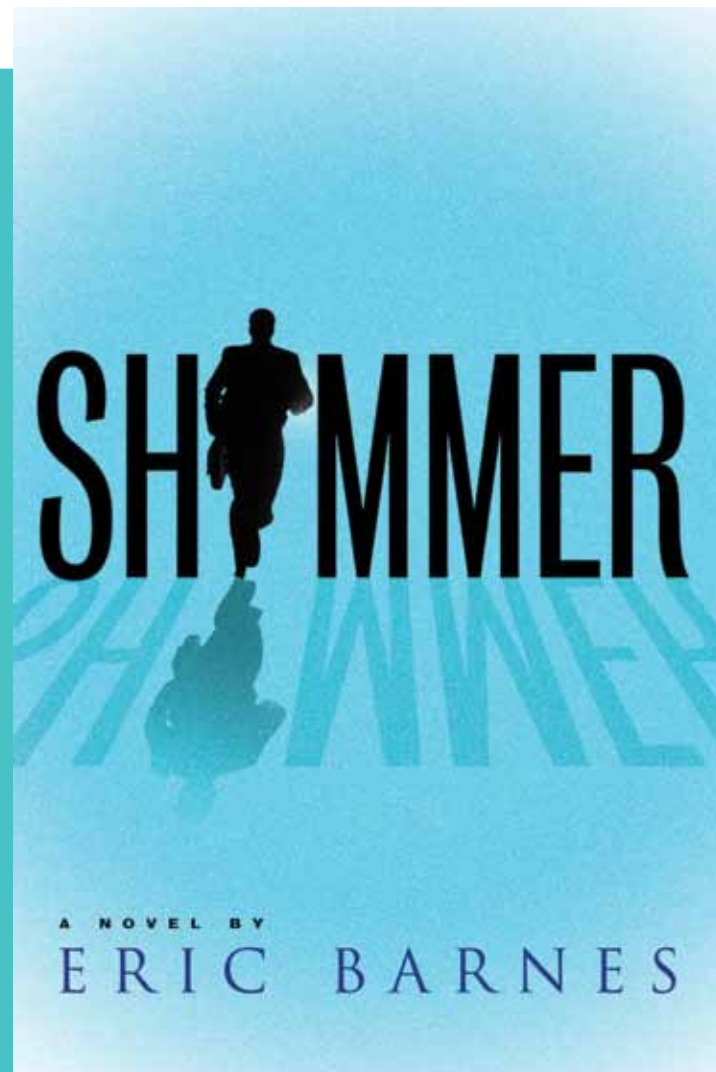
I jumped—but it was only Pickett's hand on my arm.

A moment later the boy appeared in front of us, wearing a school coat, scratching his head. He looked big for his age. He took us in unsurprised and said in fair enough English, "Excuse me. Have you seen three girls?"

Pickett and I exchanged a look. We had to admit we had. And then the whole business started.

excerpt

Shimmer



FICTION
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Summer read campaign
Events in the South
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HISTORY • Hardcover • \$25.95 US • 2009 • ISBN: 978-1-932961-67-6

BY ERIC BARNES

"Case's slow (but accelerating) downward spiral drives the narrative through a number of timely plots...the corporate intrigue should hook anyone fascinated by the collapse of Wall Street and the crimes of Bernie Madoff." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Here's a timely thriller...fans of Joseph Finder's big-business thrillers will definitely want to read this one." —*Booklist*

"...a great thriller for book club discussions." —*Passion for the Page*

Eric Barnes is like Dan Brown, Jonathan Kellerman, and Joseph Finder. This book is edgy, exciting and thoughtful. It does a great job of keeping my interest so that I carry it around with me until I finished. —*This Book for Free*

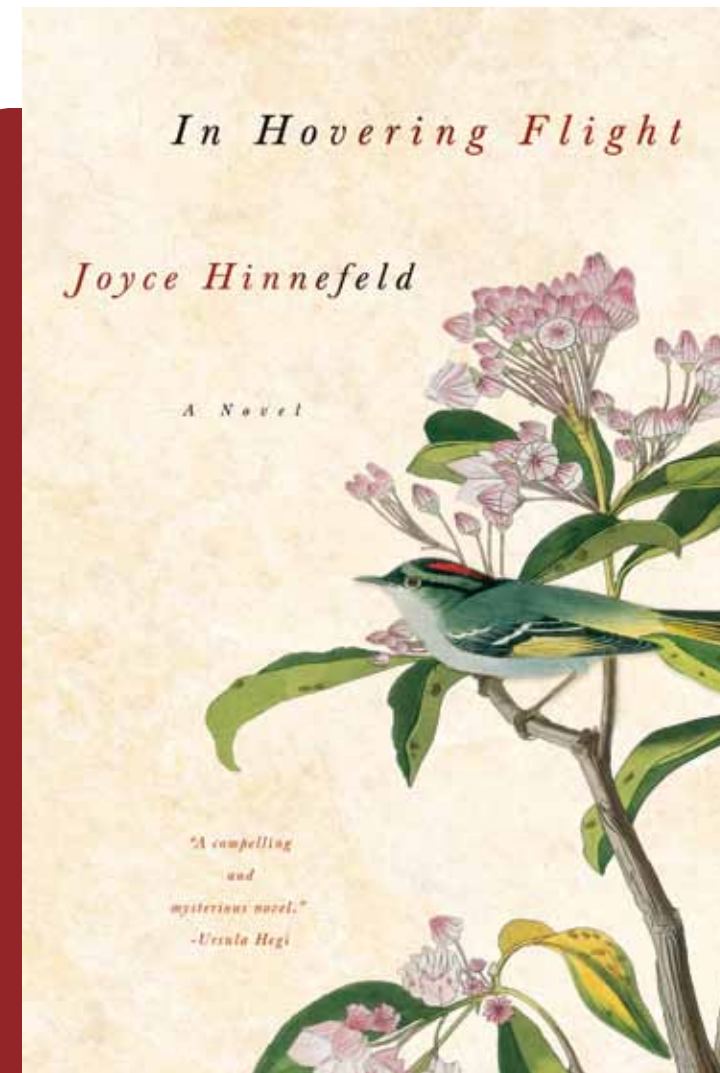
In just three years, CEO Robbie Case has grown Core Communications, a data technology company, from 30 people to over 5,000. Now a \$20 billion company made legendary by its sudden success, Core is based on a technology no other company can come close to copying, a revolutionary breakthrough known as "drawing blood from a mainframe." And Robbie, its 35-year-old CEO, is acclaimed worldwide for his vision, leadership and wealth. Except that all of it is based on a lie. The technology doesn't work, the finances are built on a Ponzi scheme of stock sales and shell corporations, and Robbie is struggling to keep the company alive, to protect the friends who work for him and all that they've built. Each day, Robbie tries to push the catastrophe back a little further, while his employees believe that they are all moving closer to "grace," the day their stock options vest, when they will be made rich for their faith and loyalty and hard work. The details of the lie are all keyed into a shadowy interface that Robbie calls Shimmer, an omniscient mainframe that hides itself, calculates its own collapse, threatens to outsmart its creator and to reveal the corporation's illegal, fragile underpinnings.



BRAD JOHNSON

Eric Barnes is the publisher of the *Daily News in Memphis* and of the *Memphis News*. He was formerly COO of a communications corporation, a reporter and editor. He grew up in Washington and Alaska, working construction and in the fisheries, and has an MFA from Columbia University. This is his first novel.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED



FICTION
Paperback
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HISTORY • Hardcover • \$24.95 US / \$28.95 • 2008 • ISBN: 978-1-932961-58-4

In Hovering Flight

BY JOYCE HINNEFELD

"Engaging, smart ... Alongside eloquent riffs on birds and the natural world, Hinnefeld has composed a pair of contained but rich coming-of-age stories... lovely." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"One to look out for: a rare, delicate novel ... You can't help but be caught up in the way Hinnefeld portrays their hunger for winged creatures, and for each other ... The movement of this novel is frankly a miracle, but a natural one—like the graceful flight of a bird, gliding along a path you couldn't trace if you tried."

—Ron Charles, *Washington Post Book World*

"A rich first novel about love, loss, and the fragile beauty of nature ... Particularly notable for its engrossing details about bird life ... moving."

—*Library Journal*, starred review

"Provocative and page-turning ... Hinnefeld's drama soars...."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"A compelling and mysterious novel." —Ursula Hegi

"A stirring novel about art and life and love that very quietly sweeps the reader along."

—Bookslut.com

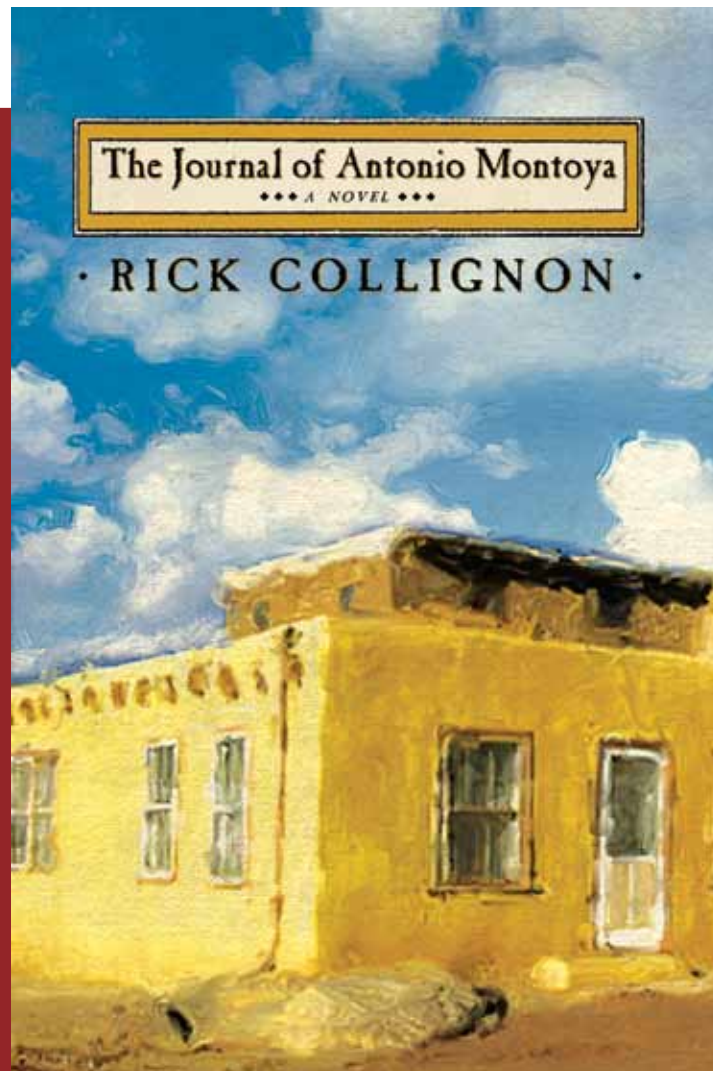
"A beautiful novel and absolutely tailor-made for indie booksellers. I encourage every independent bookseller to read *In Hovering Flight* and stack it high, for it is a handseller's dream."

—Elizabeth Jordan, BookPeople (Austin, TX)



ARMEN ELLIOTT

Joyce Hinnefeld is an associate professor of writing at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She is the author of a short story collection, *Tell Me Everything and Other Stories* (University Press of New England, 1998), which was awarded the 1997 Breadloaf Writers' Conference Bakeless Prize in fiction in 1997. *In Hovering Flight* is her first novel.



FICTION
 Paperback
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 Also available in eBook

The Journal of Antonio Montoya

BY RICK COLLIGNON

The Journal of Antonio Montoya was the first of Rick Collignon's lauded Guadalupe novels, and it was published in 11 countries. Unbridled Books plans to re-release the entire set of novels over the next year.

"This is a distinctive and appealing first novel."
 —*Atlantic Monthly*

"Collignon delivers his own engaging brand of magical realism with a spare style, deadpan humor and bracingly fresh descriptions."
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 —*Library Journal*

We are proud to reintroduce the classic first novel by the author of *Madewell Brown*.

When little José Montoya's parents are killed one August morning by a cow, his Tia Ramona and his Tio Flavio are troubled by how best to raise the boy.

After the funeral, they drive to their childhood home behind the village office, but "before they reach the house, the front door swung open and Ramona's grandfather, Epolito Montoya, who had been dead for thirteen years, stood in the doorway. 'Why are you out in the rain?' he said."

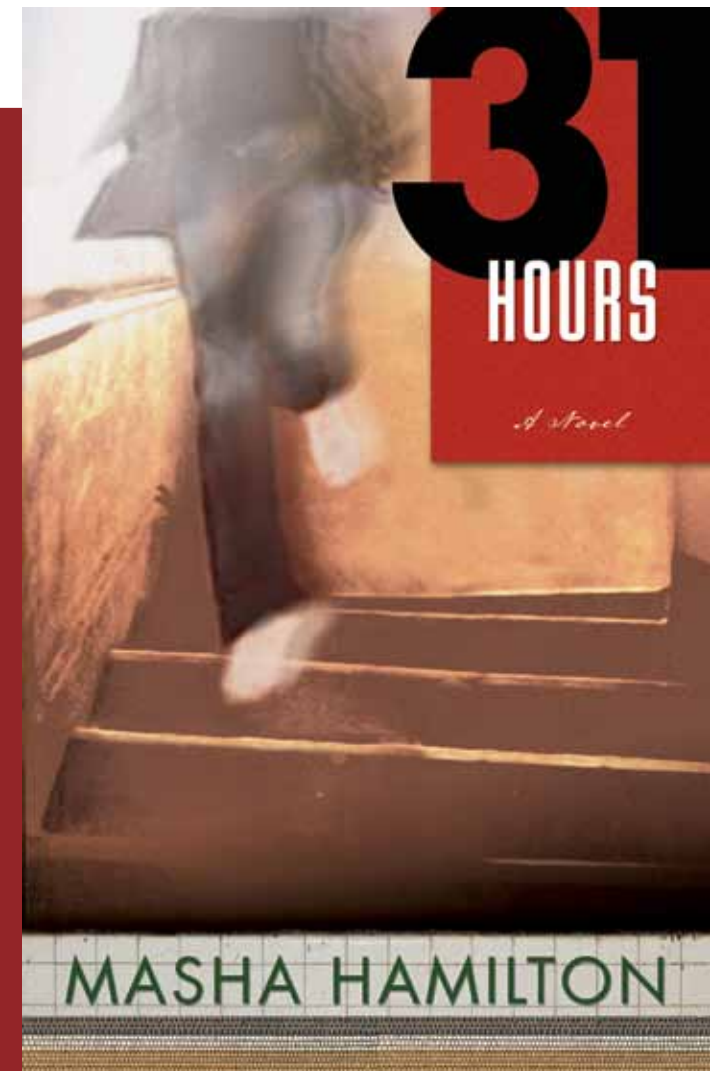
Ramona has returned reluctantly to this isolated village in northern New Mexico and to the family that never lets go. As she tries to build a modern life here on her own terms, and still to care for young José, she discovers that she can reach through time, see the richness of her heritage, and reclaim riches, knowledge, art that disappeared generations ago. In fact, she can speak with her ancestors and learn their stories.

These, finally, are the fortunes she will try to pass on to José.



LAURA SHIELDS

Rick Collignon is the author of three other novels, *Perdido*, *A Santo in the Image of Cristóbal García*, and *Madewell Brown*. Originally from the Chicago area, he has lived in northern New Mexico for over 30 years.



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31 Hours

BY MASHA HAMILTON

AN INDIE NEXT PICK FOR OCTOBER 2009

"Highly readable ... keeps us engaged most with the desire to answer the standard thriller question: Can the killer be stopped? ... Hamilton arrays her characters smartly, then points them toward the subway ... Women, in particular, will inhale this book."—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"One of the best novels I've read this year."
 —Carol Fitzgerald, founder, BookReporter.com

"Gorgeous and complex ... a very tense narrative, vividly imagined and eerily plausible."
 —*Publishers Weekly*

"Fascinating."—*Booklist*

"31 Hours is so beautifully written it nearly took my breath away ... I love this book, which is so timely and relevant to our troubled times."
 —Carol Katsoulis, Anderson's Bookshop,

Naperville, IL

"Hamilton's novel raises many thought-provoking questions, which makes it a strong choice for book clubs and for readers who enjoy character-driven fiction with contemporary political relevance."
 —*Library Journal*

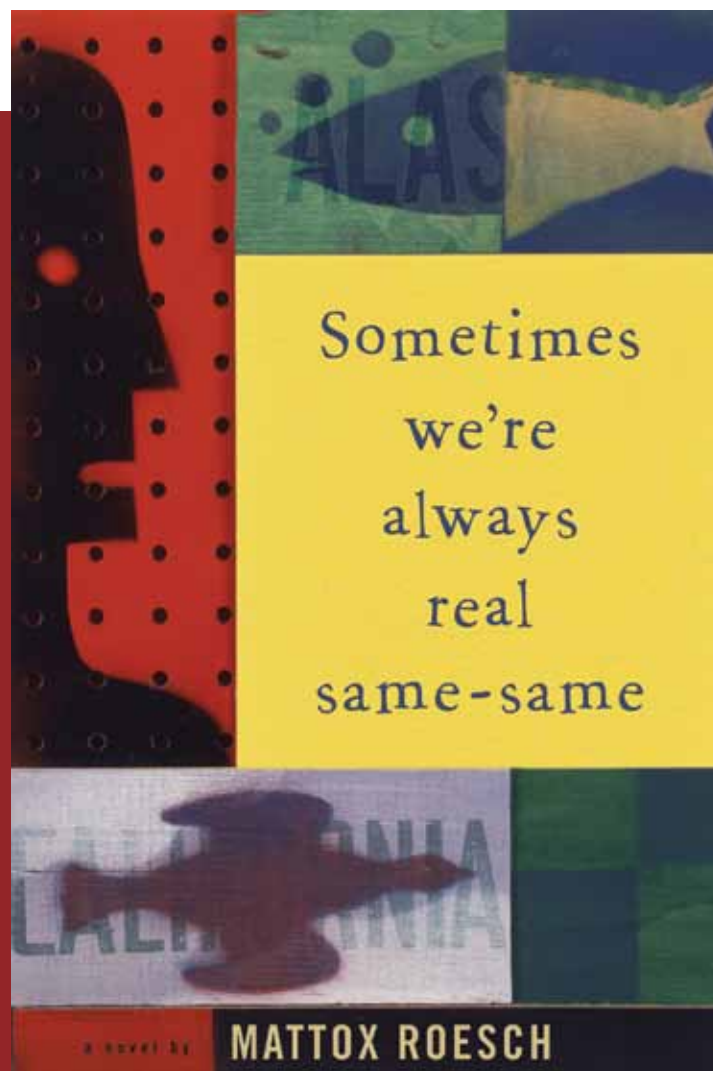
Jonas is in a safe-house beneath the Brooklyn Bridge. There, in the belief that he can change the world, he ponders his newfound faith—and his specialized training. Over the next 31 hours, he will cleanse himself, mind and body, in preparation for the violent action he means to take when the subways are most crowded.

Carried by Masha Hamilton's elegant and powerful prose, *31 Hours* is a compelling story about the helplessness and frantic hope of the people who can save Jonas—and countless others—if only they can reach him in time.



BRIANA ORR

31 Hours is Masha Hamilton's fourth novel, following her acclaimed *The Camel Bookmobile*. She is also a journalist who has reported most recently from Afghanistan, and from the Middle East, Russia and Africa. She lives in Brooklyn.



Sometimes
we're
always
real
same-same

MATTOX ROESCH

FICTION

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Sometimes We're Always Real Same-Same

BY MATTOX ROESCH

"Refreshingly honest ... masterful ... totally engaging ... and completely unique."—*Booklist*

"A quirky and endearing first novel."
—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Roesch's compelling story, exotic setting and eccentric characters make this coming-of-age tale a fresh, welcome read."—*Publishers Weekly*

"A smashing debut...full of beauty, wisdom, and grace."—*Sigrid Nunez*

Troubled Cesar leaves his gangbanging life behind in Los Angeles to help his mother reconnect with her estranged family in rural Alaska, where she hopes they both can carve out a fresh start. When Cesar arrives, he meets his college dropout cousin, Go-boy, who believes he's part of a good world conspiracy and who bets Cesar he will stay in Alaska for a year.

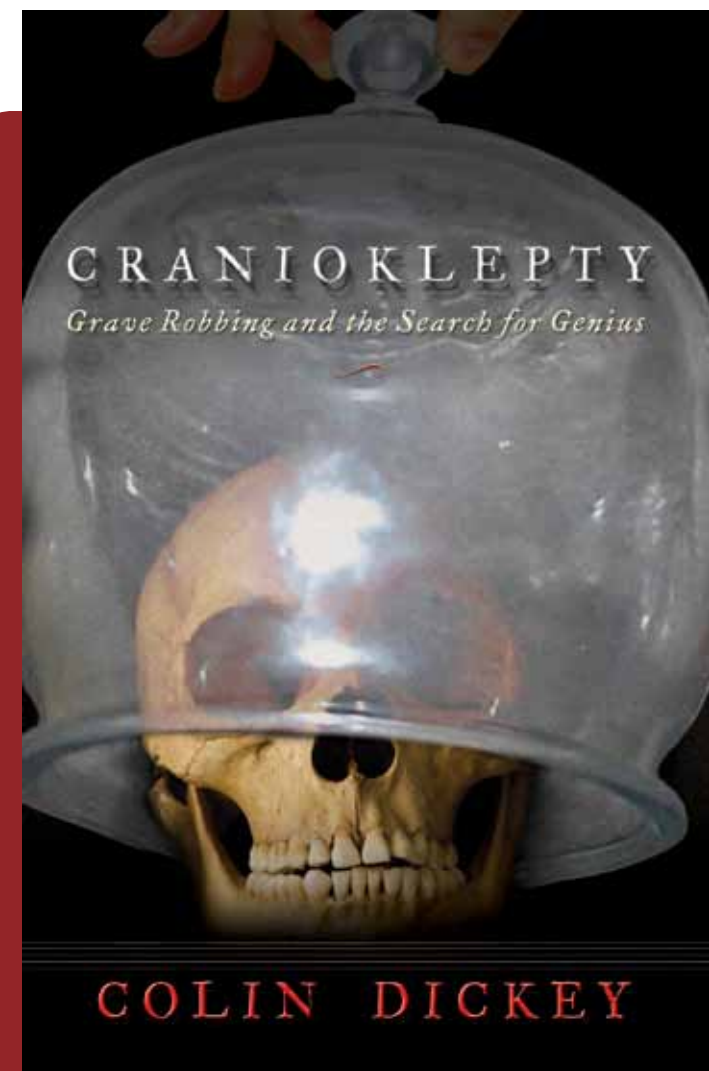
Sometimes We're Always Real Same-Same is the account of two unlikely cousins and their parallel journeys through guilt and loneliness into the bonds of friendship. Set in a location like no other, the setting inevitably becomes its own character, pushing and pulling against Cesar and Go-boy as they struggle with the quirky challenges of life in Unalakleet, Alaska. With his absent father and an older brother in prison for a gang murder, Cesar is badly in need of a male role-model and the acceptance of friends and family.

In his insightful and thoroughly engaging debut, Mattox Roesch has created a fresh, appealing voice along with a wonderful cast of characters. *Sometimes We're Always Real Same-Same* tells the surprising story of a young man finding his way and his place in a world that can seem both too large and too small. What Cesar finally discovers is the power of friendship and the potential positive strength that springs from a tight-knit community. He learns the ways in which becoming a part of that community, though at times scary and restrictive, can also be fulfilling and even exhilarating.



TERA CUNNINGHAM

Mattox Roesch lived in Minneapolis for ten years where he played drums in an indie rock band, designed and peddled skateboards, and founded a T-shirt printing business. His award-winning fiction has appeared in numerous magazines, including *The Missouri Review*. He and his wife now live in Unalakleet, Alaska.



CRANIOKLEPTY
Grave Robbing and the Search for Genius

COLIN DICKEY

NON-FICTION

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Cranioklepty

Grave Robbing and the Search for Genius

BY COLIN DICKEY

"Dickey's well-vetted account ... illuminates the mystery and controversy of a bizarre tradition throughout the ages."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Colin Dickey... has served up a fascinating book. Well-researched, clear and concise, this book is full of interesting historical anecdotes."
—*ForeWord Magazine*

"Those with a taste for the macabre who may have read Brian Burrell's *Postcards from the Brain Museum* and Russell Shorto's *Descartes' Bones* will enjoy Dickey's eccentric tales."—*Booklist*

"... smartly written account ..."—*Maclean's [Canada]*

"... the strength of the subject makes CRANIOKLEPTY fascinating and at times laugh-out-loud funny ... well worth reading for anyone who loves strange truths."
—*The Onion's AV Club*

"Dickey spins these stories with a storyteller's grace and a historian's exactitude. CRANIOKLEPTY will join those books...that delve into the origins of eccentric intellectual lore ... (see: *The Professor and the Madman*) ... with this book, Colin Dickey provides a delightful illumination of one intriguing example of our quixotic pursuits."—*Brooklyn Rail*

Beginning dramatically with the opening of Haydn's grave two days after his death in October 1820, *Cranioklepty* takes us on an extraordinary history of a peculiar kind of obsession. The desire to own the skulls of the famous, for study, for sale, for public (and private) display, seems to be instinctual and irresistible in some people. The rise of Phrenology at the beginning of the 19th century only fed that fascination with the belief that genius leaves its mark on the very shape of the head.

The after-death stories of Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Swedenborg, Sir Thomas Browne and many others have never before been told in such detail and vividness. Fully illustrated with some surprising images, this is a fascinating and authoritative history of ideas carried along on the guilty pleasures of an anthology of real-after-life gothic tales.

Colin Dickey lives in Los Angeles. His writing has appeared in the *Santa Monica Review*, *TriQuarterly*, the *Journal of Aesthetics and Protest*, and *Image and Narrative*.



SETH SHERWOOD



FICTION
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The Good Doctor Guillotin

BY MARC ESTRIN

The Good Doctor Guillotin follows five characters to a common destination—the scaffold at the first guillotining of the French Revolution:

Dr. Guillotin, of course, a physician and member of the National Assembly, involved in many important events, including the Tennis Court Oath.

Nicolas Pelletier, the first victim—or “patient,” as they were sometimes called, since the new beheading machine was seen as a humanitarian medical intervention in the state’s technique of dealing death.

Father Pierre, the curé who accompanies Pelletier in his last days, a man torn between his religious commitment, and an equally strong commitment to the poor and their revolution.

Sanson, the famous executioner of Paris who, 9 months later would execute the king and retire from remorse.

Tobias Schmidt, builder of the new machine, a German piano maker working in Paris, a freethinker predicting the Terror that will follow, but allowing himself to initiate it. The revolution, after all, had reduced the sale of pianos.

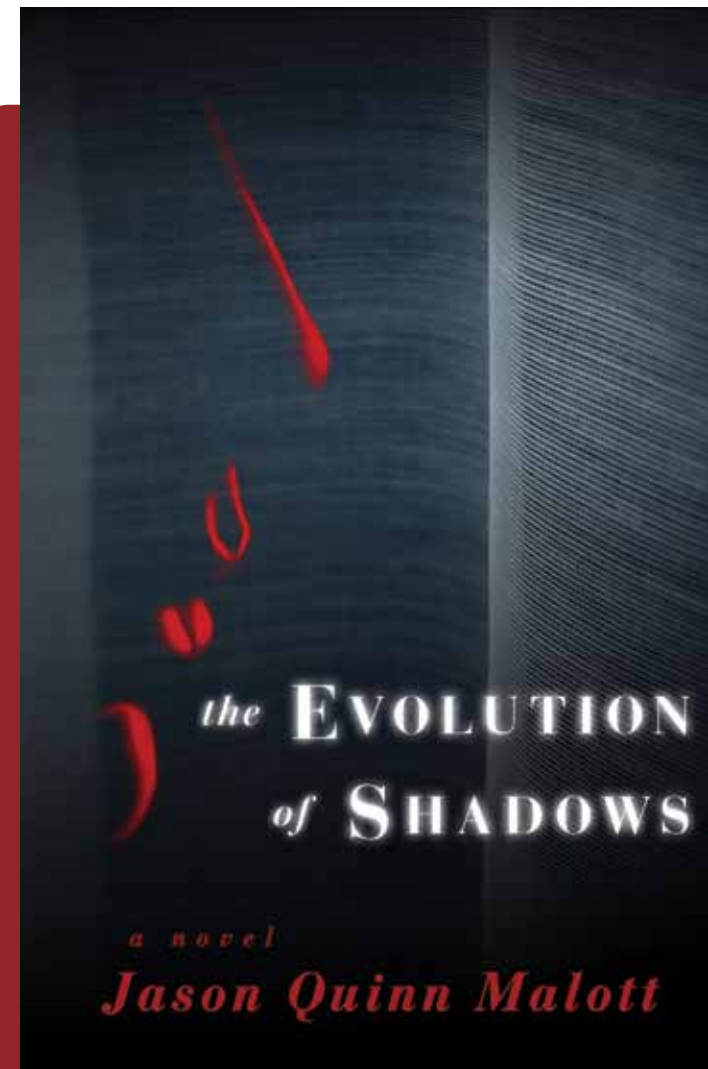
Various other interesting figures briefly appear: Damiens, Mozart, Mesmer, Louis XVI, the Marquis de Sade, Marat, Robespierre, Demoulins among them. The eighteenth-century narrative is divided into several sections, each introduced by an essay in the author’s voice, the first on five-ness and Pentagons; a second on hope and Utopia; a third on revolutionary violence; and a fourth on capital punishment.

This is no “historical novel.” It is, rather, a fictive meditation on a contemporary conundrum using an eighteenth-century drum.



DONNA BISTER

Marc Estrin is a writer, cellist, and activist living in Burlington, Vermont. *The Good Doctor Guillotin* is his ninth published book.



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The Evolution of Shadows

BY JASON QUINN MALOTT

AN INDIE NEXT PICK FOR NOVEMBER 2009

“A passionate, wrenching tale of love and war whose tone and subject matter offer an update to Hemingway.”—*Library Journal*, starred review

“Malott strips down the language and amps up the tension as he creates an indelible portrait of the shell shocked and dispossessed.”—*Booklist*

“A refreshingly clear-eyed evocation of friendship, love and loss.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“A timely meditation on exile and illness, love and guilt, beautifully written ... I look eagerly forward to whatever he writes next.”

—Scott Phillips, author of *The Ice Harvest*

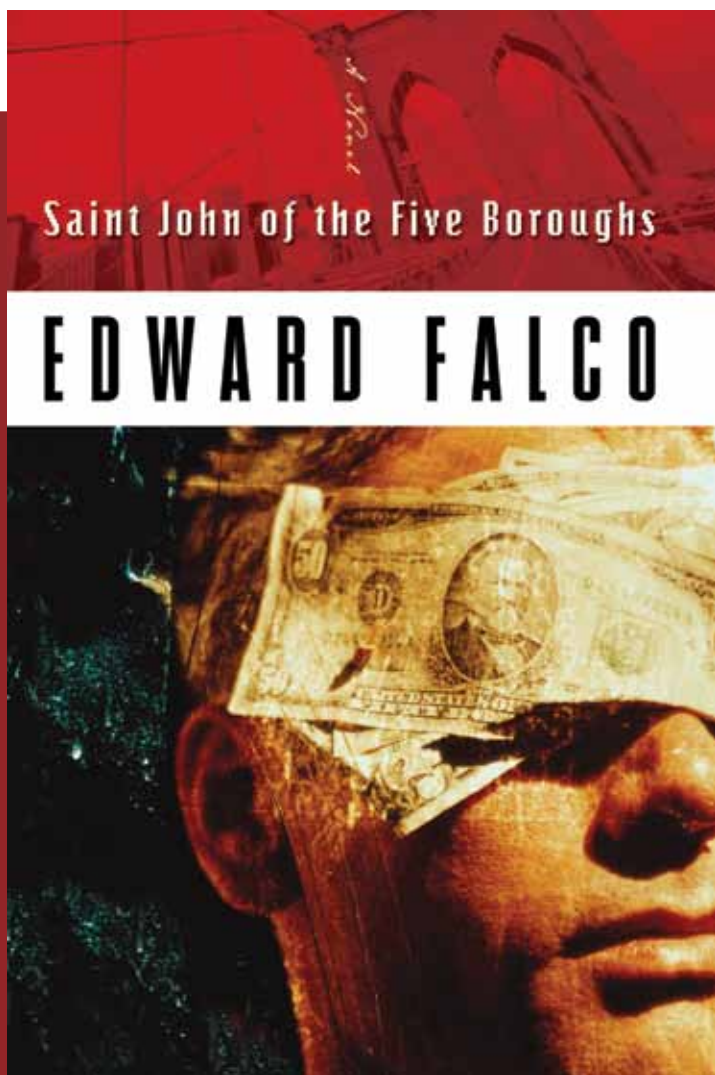
In July of 1995, the news photographer Gray Banick disappeared into the Bosnian war zone and doing so took away pieces of the hearts of three people who loved him: Emil Todorovi, his interpreter and friend; Jack MacKenzie, his mentor who taught Gray to hold his camera steady between himself and the worst that war presents; and Lian Zhao who didn’t have the strength to love him as he wanted her to.

Now, almost five years later, they have gathered in Sarajevo to find out what happened to Gray, the man who had taught them all what love is. Each driven character in this novel believes fully that there is a love strong enough to sustain them, even in the extreme of circumstances of war. But each time they have uncovered a glimpse of such a thing, they have failed tragically love itself. Or, to see it another way, this is a novel about how love fails us every time—or almost every time.



TROY DILPORT

Jason Quinn Malott is the publisher of the online literary journal “The Project for a New Mythology (www.pfanm.com).” *The Evolution of Shadows* is his first novel.



FICTION
 Paperback
 ISBN: 978-1-932961-88-1
 \$16.95 US / \$19.95 CAN
 6x9, 432 Pages
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 Rights: World English
 Also available in eBook

Saint John of the Five Boroughs

BY EDWARD FALCO

"Falco produces some excellent writing, especially when he's exploring Grant's complicated past."
 —Publishers Weekly

"Falco's latest examines the underbelly of love and relationships, but he also populates the story with a cast of diverse and unusual characters. As the plot twists and turns, readers don't know what to expect next..."—Booklist

When 22-year-old Avery Walker, a senior at Penn State, meets Grant Danko, a 37-year-old performance artist from Brooklyn whose stage name is Saint John of the Five Boroughs, her life changes radically as she leaves college to live with Grant in Brooklyn and pursue a life as an artist. Worried about Avery, her mother, Kate, and her aunt, Lindsey, and Lindsey's husband, Hank, travel to Brooklyn, where they all face a crisis of their own and make life-altering choices.

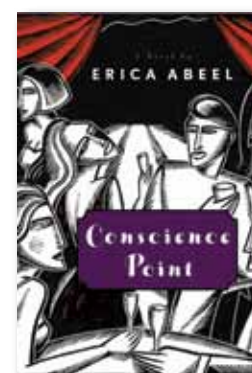
Grant is an angry guy with a curiously attractive personality and a coterie of bright, artistic friends. He's used his good looks and his accomplishments, and the accomplishments of those friends, to get by while he works hauling stolen goods for his gangster uncle. He carries dark secrets that have caused his life to go off the rails. Grant is about as lost as a man can get, adept at making wrong choices. But when he finally faces his explosive moment of truth, something extraordinary happens.

Saint John of the Five Boroughs is beautifully turned—a stunning and layered novel about the effects of violence, both personal and cultural, on its characters' lives. It's about the way violence twists character, but also about the possibilities for redemption and change, for achieving a kind of personal grace. Edward Falco once again proves to be a master of urgency and suspense, of events careening out of control, as he brilliantly explores why we make the choices we make—both the ones that threaten to destroy our lives, and those choices that might save us.



JIM STROUP

Edward Falco grew up in Brooklyn and teaches at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he is director of the MFA program in Creative Writing. He is the prize-winning author of several books including his new and selected stories, *Sabbath Night in the Church of the Piranha* and, most recently, the highly acclaimed novel *Wolf Point*.



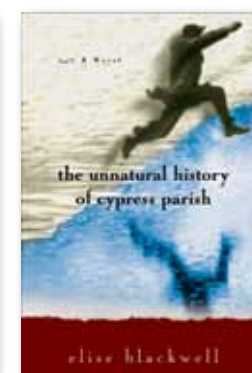
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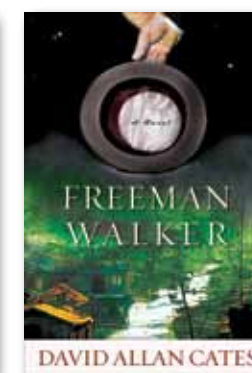
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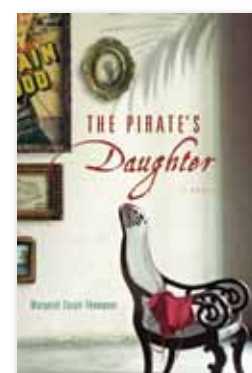
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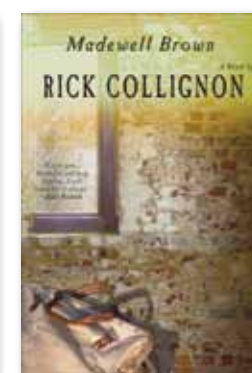
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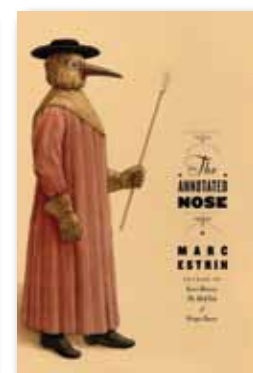
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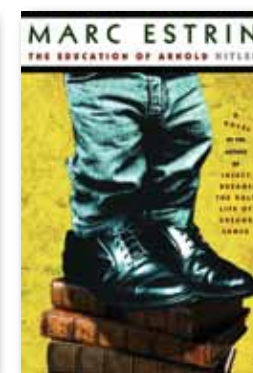
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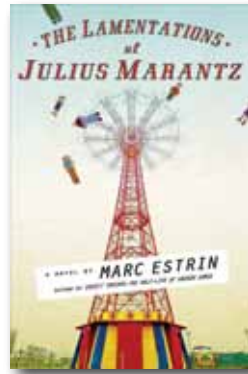
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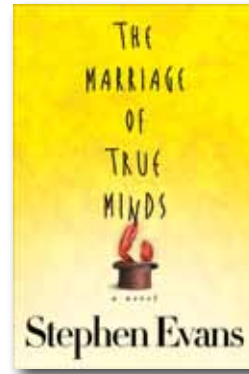
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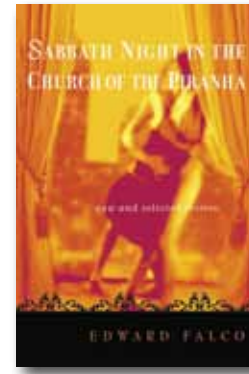
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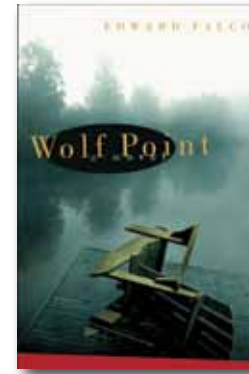
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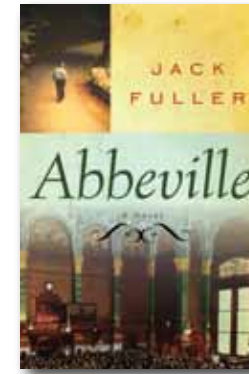
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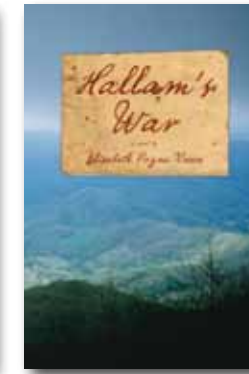
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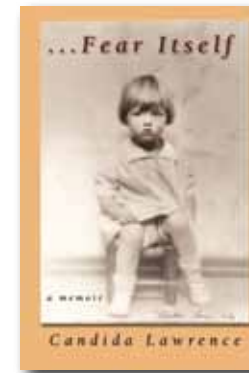
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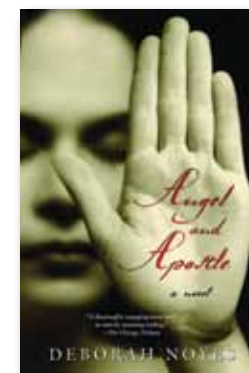
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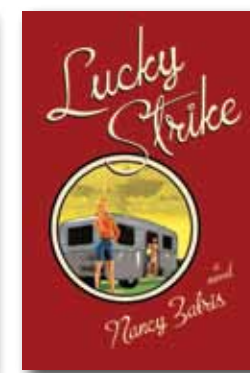
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MIDWEST

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stu@abrahamassociatesinc.com

Steve Horwitz
PH: 651-815-2850 / F: 952-927-7920
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Juliet Patterson
PH: 952-927-7920 / 800-701-2489
F: 952-927-8089
juliet@abrahamassociatesinc.com

SOUTHEAST & SOUTHWEST

Wayne Donnell
PH: 336-855-1374 / F: 336-854-6908
wrdonnell@aol.com

Tom Murphy
PH: 404-378-8527 / F: 404-377-5097
murphy.scheer@mac.com

WEST

Christine Foye
PH: 206-783-3338 / F: 206-783-3388
seafoye@aol.com

Tom McCorkel
PH: 949-362-0597 / F: 949-643-2330
tmcccork@sbcglobal.net

NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

Tony Proe
PH: 315-432-0474 / F: 315-432-1562
tonyproe@aol.com

Richard Re
PH: 201-337-3400 / F: 201-337-0534
richard@rrbookcompany.com

Scott Wythe
PH: 301-699-0752 / F: 301-699-0752
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John Mesjak
PH: 815-899-0079 / F: 815-261-4114
john@abrahamassociatesinc.com

Roy Schonfeld
PH: 216-291-3538 / F: 216-691-0548
rmsabr@aol.com

Elaine Rathgeber
PH: 512-336-3867 / F: 512-336-3861
elainey@earthlink.net

Deborah Donnell
PH: 800-265-8504 / F: 336-854-6908
dtdonnell@aol.com

Dan Skaggs
PH: 510-595-7597 / F: 510-595-3804
skaggs@wilcher-assoc.com

Jim Sena
PH: 719-210-5222 / F: 719-265-5932
senafam4@peoplepc.com

Michael Watson
PH: 781-648-1865 / F: 781-648-1865
mrwatson@rcn.com

Debra Woodward
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Devon Pool
PH: 416-408-4007 EXT. 25
devon@mcarthur-co.com.

OPERATIONS

Thea Kooy
PH: 416-408-4007 Ext. 28
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PRODUCTION AND WEBSITE

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Roberta Samec
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QUEBEC

Deborah Shea
Hornblower Books
Coordinator
PH: 514-843-7410 / F: 514-843-7798
dshea@hornblowerbooks.com

ATLANTIC CANADA

Genevieve Loughlin
Hornblower Books
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gloughlin@hornblowerbooks.com

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Michael Reynolds, Fleur, Matthewson
Michael Reynolds & Associates
PH: 604-688-6918 / F: 604-687-4624
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ALBERTA

Heather Parsons
Michael Reynolds & Associates
PH: 403-233-8771 / F: 403-233-8772
Heather.parsons@shaw.ca

MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN

Trent Olson
Michael Reynolds & Associates
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EDITORIAL

Fred Ramey

Co-Publisher

2000 Wadsworth Boulevard, #195

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888-732-3822, Ext. 106

framey@unbridledbooks.com

Greg Michalson

Co-Publisher

200 N. 9th Street, Suite A

Columbia, MO 65201

888-732-3822, Ext. 107

michalsong@unbridledbooks.com

Alexa Villanueva

Managing Editor

888-732-3822, Ext. 115

alexa@unbridledbooks.com

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

Caitlin Hamilton Summie

Marketing Director

888-732-3822, Ext. 104

caitlin@unbridledbooks.com

Libby Jordan

Associate Marketing Director

888-732-3822, Ext. 112

libby@unbridledbooks.com

Rich Rennicks

Marketing Associate

888-732-3822 Ext. 108

rich@unbridledbooks.com

Rachel J. K. Grace

Web Marketing Associate

888-732-3822, Ext. 111

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SALES

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Sales Director

1834 Wilson Wynd Way

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Nancy Wente

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