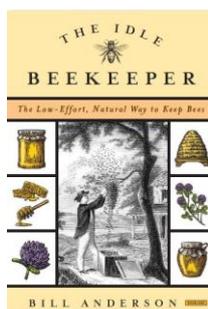


FBF 2018: NON FICTION, selected new titles (General – Biography/ Memoir)

General



Bill Anderson
THE IDLE BEEKEEPER
The Low-Effort, Natural Way to Keep Bees

Client: The Overlook Press
Publisher: Overlook
April 2019

Science + Nature

From building a hive to harvesting honey, a top urban beekeeper shows aspiring beekeepers how to keep bees the simple way

Global bee populations have been rapidly declining for years, and it's not just our honey supply that's at stake: bees' contribution to the pollination of various crops is essential to human survival. But even in industrial apiaries – the most common approach to facilitate the rebound of threatened bee populations – bees are in distress, living in synthetic and hostile environments.

Enter idle beekeeping: the grassroots, low-intervention system of beekeeping that seeks to emulate the behavior and habitat of bees in the wild – and it only requires two active days of beekeeping per year.

Bill Anderson calls upon his decades of experience to highlight the invaluable resources that bees provide and show how simple and rewarding beekeeping can be. In an entertaining way, offers practical and philosophical advice for getting involved in conservation efforts, and Anderson's expertise will show just how easy it is to make an environmental impact. For anyone interested in keeping bees, this is the definitive guide that teaches you everything you need to get started, even in a city, and without effort.

Bill Anderson is an urban beekeeper and educator based in London, who writes the regular beekeeping columns, and his online Idle Beekeeping course is currently available. The other 363 days he isn't tending to his hives, Anderson is a television drama director, working on a huge variety of shows, including Dr. Who and Mr. Selfridge.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Sabrina Benaim
DEPRESSION AND OTHER MAGIC TRICKS

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: Button Poetry
August 2017
96 pp.

Wydawnictwo Literackie, POLAND

DEPRESSION AND OTHER MAGIC TRICKS explores themes of mental health, love, and family

DEPRESSION AND OTHER MAGIC TRICKS is the debut poetry collection by Sabrina Benaim, one of the most-viewed performance poets of all time, whose poem "Explaining My Depression to My Mother" has become a cultural phenomenon with over 5,000,000 views.

Sabrina Benaim is a Toronto-based writer, teaching artist and one of the most-viewed performance poets of all time. Sabrina began doing spoken word poetry when she discovered a tumour in her throat and a friend pointed out that it may have been caused by swallowing all the things she wanted to say. Sabrina went on to become a member of the Canadian championship-winning 2014 Toronto Poetry Slam team and, in 2015, she represented Toronto at the Women Of The World Poetry Slam. Sabrina has written poems for ESPNW, The Government of Canada and, most recently, made her Canadian television debut with Sport Chek, writing and voicing the third instalment of their #WhatItTakes Olympic Manifesto video series. Her bestselling debut book, *DEPRESSION AND OTHER MAGIC TRICKS*, was published in August 2017.

"I read this book on a day I couldn't get out of bed and it made me feel like I had a friend in the world. Slow-dancing with depression and heartbreak, the loss in Sabrina Benaim's poems arrives as a roadmap; a guide to finding ourselves in what we lose. The magic trick of this collection is that the language, wisdom, wonder and humor make even the most mundane moments of our lives feel possible, even gorgeous. Simply put, this book disappears loneliness." Andrea Gibson, author of *The Madness Vase*

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Sarah Berman
DON'T CALL IT A CULT

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Fall/Winter 2019/20

True Crime

In a debut true crime thriller, VICE journalist Sarah Berman tackles the shocking sex trafficking and forced labor trial of Keith Raniere and his second-in-command, Smallville actress Allison Mack. Through the accounts of central figures of Raniere's company NXIVM, Berman uncovers how young women came to the organization seeking creative coaching and networking, and were then blackmailed, branded, near-starved, and enslaved.

Berman shows these abuses looked very different from the inside. By accessing top experts on high-control groups and kink communities, as well as the accounts of Raniere's former slaves, Berman unpacks the deep spiritual experiences that the young women in NXIVM's inner circle shared, and their strong resistance to leaving even months after the FBI made its first arrests in March 2018. After Allison Mack's arrest on sex trafficking charges in April 2018, she was released on bail but actively rejected the cult deprogramming her parents hoped would save her from a potential fifteen-year sentence.

As told by a young woman and a would-be target of the criminal organization, this book shows how the celebrity-studded case irreversibly changes our understanding of consent and women's agency in a post-#MeToo climate. For decades, Raniere's abuses existed in plain sight – somehow too absurd and sensational to ever be taken seriously.

Through investigating this story, Berman heard over and over again that The New York Times' bombshell story on Harvey Weinstein's serial assaults paved the way for Keith Raniere to be exposed. People saw the power structure and unlimited resources used to keep a baffling volume of abuses from ever being known or investigated. Raniere's self-help empire was ruthlessly defended by the liquor fortune of heiresses Sara and Clare Bronfman. They acted above the law in myriad ways – linked to everything from tax violations to suspicious deaths. Money could buy silence, until it finally couldn't.

Sarah Berman is a Vancouver-based reporter and senior editor covering crime, energy, politics, drugs, and sex for VICE.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Monica Black
EVIL AFTER NAZISM

Client: Henry Holt and Company
Publisher: Henry Holt, Editor: Sara Bershtel
June 2020

Proposal available
History

A completely fresh interpretation of German's immediate postwar period

Until recently, most histories of the period emphasized Germany's economic expansion and political normalization. *Evil after Nazism*, by contrast, is a cultural history that looks at the afterlives of Nazism, how ordinary people tried to understand and to cope with the meaning of evil after Hitler, after the Holocaust, and after history's most catastrophic war.

At the book's center is the story of Bruno Gröning, a faith healer who rose to rock-star prominence after his miraculous curing of a crippled boy in 1949, alongside his manager, a former member of Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry. Tens of thousands sought him out, while millions of others, amidst widespread fears of impending apocalypse, searched for holy men, exorcists, witchdoctors, and faith healers to ward off the magic, witchcraft, and demons rumored to be sweeping Germany. Ultimately, Gröning was brought to trial for murder.

Through Gröning's and others' interwoven stories, *EVIL AFTER NAZISM* rewrites Germany's history of defeat and democratic transition, raising absorbing questions about witchcraft and medicine, sickness and health, faith and skepticism, spiritual healing and modern medicine, knowledge and the unknowable in the Cold War West.

Dr. **Monica Black** is an associate professor of European History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her first book, *Death in Berlin: From Weimar to Divided Germany* (Cambridge, 2010), won both the Hans Rosenberg Prize and the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History. Grants from the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Academy in Berlin supported her research for *EVIL AFTER NAZISM* in more than a dozen local and national German archives.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Kyle Chayka
THE LONGING FOR LESS.
Experments in Absence

Client: Frances Goldin Literary Agency
Publisher: Bloomsbury
September 2018

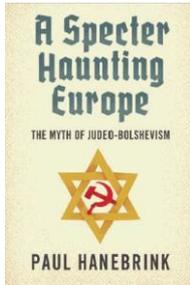
Narrative

A roving but tightly thematic exploration in the vein of Olivia Laing's *The Lonely City* or Eula Biss's *On Immunity*, THE LONGING FOR LESS will merge personal narrative, history, and cultural criticism to consider the enduring allure of reduction. From the philosophers of detachment to modernist architects, decluttering gurus to austere clothing, THE LONGING FOR LESS will explore why and how the desire for less has such a deep hold on us

Why do we want less? The longing is as common as it is diverse: it's the urge to clean out our apartments rather than living with clutter, to wear a uniform every day instead of choosing from a closet of clothes, to tighten our diets rather than indulging, to clear our minds of a wilderness of thoughts, to delete and file until we reach inbox zero, to find a place of silence amid the noise of modern life. This desire itself might be nothing new, but in a time of both excess and inequality, this yearning to narrow down reflects some of our deepest aspirations and most persistent anxieties about how to live in the world.

Kyle Chayka is a freelance writer and critic who has contributed to publications including the New York Times Magazine, The New Republic, Rolling Stone, The Verge, and n+1. Kyle began his career as a visual art critic working at the Brooklyn-based art blog Hyperallergic. Beyond art and design, his writing over the past six years focuses on cultural trends as well as how technology impacts our daily lives. He lives in Brooklyn.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Paul Hanebrink
A SPECTER HAUNTING EUROPE

Client: Harvard University Press
Publisher: Harvard University Press
November 2018
352 pp.

History

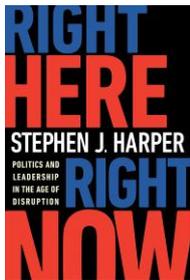
The first comprehensive account of the evolution and exploitation of the Judeo-Bolshevik myth, from its origins to the present day

For much of the twentieth century, Europe was haunted by a threat of its own imagining: Judeo-Bolshevism. The myth that Communism was a Jewish plot to destroy the nations of Europe was a paranoid fantasy, and yet fears of a Jewish Bolshevik conspiracy took hold during the Russian Revolution and spread across Europe. During World War II, these fears sparked genocide. Paul Hanebrink's history begins with the counter-revolutionary movements that roiled Europe at the end of World War I. Fascists, Nazis, conservative Christians, and other Europeans, terrified by Communism, imagined Jewish Bolsheviks as enemies who crossed borders to subvert order from within and bring destructive ideas from abroad. In the years that followed, Judeo-Bolshevism was an accessible and potent political weapon.

After the Holocaust, the specter of Judeo-Bolshevism did not die. Instead, it adapted to, and became a part of, the Cold War world. Transformed yet again, it persists today on both sides of the Atlantic in the toxic politics of revitalized right-wing nationalism. Drawing a worrisome parallel across one hundred years, Hanebrink argues that Europeans and Americans continue to imagine a transnational ethno-religious threat to national ways of life, this time from Muslims rather than Jews.

Paul Hanebrink is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. He is the author of *In Defense of Christian Hungary: Religion, Nationalism, and Antisemitism, 1890–1944*.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Stephen J. Harper
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW
Politics and Leadership in the Age of Disruption

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: Signal Books
October 2018
240 pp.

In this timely and insightful new book, Stephen J. Harper, Canada's 22nd prime minister, draws on a decade of experience as a G-7 leader to help leaders in business and government understand, adapt, and thrive in an age of unprecedented disruption

The world is in flux. Disruptive technologies, ideas, and politicians are challenging business models, norms, and political conventions everywhere. Some voices refuse to concede the need for any change, while others advocate for radical realignment. But neither of these positions can sustainably address the legitimate concerns of disaffected citizens. A practical, forward-looking vision for leaders by analyzing how economic, social, and public policy trends – including globalized movements of capital, goods and services, and labour – have affected our economies, communities, and governments.

Harper contends that Donald Trump's surprise election and governing agenda clearly signal that political, economic, and social institutions must be more responsive to legitimate concerns of the people. Analyzing international trade, market regulation, immigration, technology, and the role of government in the digital economy, Harper lays out the case for pragmatic leadership as a proven solution to the uncertainty and risk that businesses and governments face today.

Stephen Joseph Harper speaks regularly to global audiences about investment trends, int. trade, and geopolitics. He is Chairman and CEO of Harper & Associates. In 2018, he was elected Chairman of the International Democrat Union, the world's preeminent alliance of centre-right political parties.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Eva Holland
SHAKE IT OFF: A Personal Journey
Through the Science of Facing Our Fears

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: The Experiment
Spring 2020

Narrative

Award-winning long-form journalist Eva Holland’s exploration of the universal human questions: Why and how do we feel fear? (In a mix of Mary Roach and Cheryl Strayed)

Why does fear seem to spread through groups and crowds like an airborne virus? Is there a cure for fear—and if so, is “facing our fears” really that cure?

Using herself as a test subject, Holland jumps out of airplanes, rock climbs and delves into her fears of loss as well to better understand and connect to what her research in the medicine and history of fear reveals.

These days political, global and personal fears threaten to cripple our society. So many people have found themselves gripped by fear of what their futures hold. For some, they end up paralyzed and others galvanized. It is time that we better understand the workings of this universal emotion and there is no better time to explore better ways to Shake It Off and no better person to take us on this journey than Eva Holland!

An award-winning Canadian freelance writer based in Whitehorse, the capital city of Canada’s Yukon Territory, **Eva Holland** is an immersive journalist. She has won several awards. Her work has been listed among the notable selections in The Best American Essays 2015 and 2013, The Best American Travel Writing 2015, The Best American Sports Writing 2013 and 2016 and The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2017.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Thomas Homer-Dixon
COMMANDING HOPE
How we create Human Future for a Tumultuous World

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: Knopf
Fall 2019

“Homer-Dixon is one of the best-informed and most brilliant writers on global affairs today.” THE GUARDIAN

Although humanity has made stunning advances in the last century, it seems to many people that we’re not moving towards a better future. Instead, we’re sliding towards an obscure and treacherous place, with racism, unreason, and self-righteous anger greasing our shared descent. People everywhere sense change, so dark pessimism has infiltrated our societies. We now often talk to each other in the emotional cadences of doubt and fear. This mood matters; when hundreds of millions of people are scared and resentful, they turn away from leaders who seem soft, incompetent, and beholden to powerful vested interests, and towards those who are hard, angry, decisive, and assert that they’ll protect families, communities, and nations with whatever it takes.

At this critical moment in humanity’s history, nearly everything hinges on what happens in our minds. We especially need a new idea of hope. Today, most notions of hope are false, passive, or weak. We need a commanding hope, that is honest, because it fully acknowledges the dangers we face. It’s astute, because it understands how diverse people see the world and what motivates them in response to the future’s dangers and possibilities. And it’s powerful, because it leverages that understanding to create a practical vision of a positive future and then identifies strategies we can use to make that vision a reality.

The author shows how humanity can make hope vitally active and compelling, so it commands our attention and aspirations. We can reimagine and reinvent hope. And by turning it into something new, positive, and powerful, we can help ourselves and our children flourish in a world in turmoil – and even decisively end that turmoil to create a far better future.

Thomas Homer-Dixon is the author of *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization* (Knopf, Island Press, 2006; Text, 2007), *The Ingenuity Gap: How Can We Solve the Problems of the Future?* (Knopf, Jonathan Cape, 2000), and *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (Princeton, 1999). He is Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at the University of Waterloo and received a PhD in Political Science from MIT.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Janice Kaplan
THE GENIUS OF WOMEN

Client: The Martell Agency
Publisher: Dutton
Proposal available

Popular Science

Kaplan's winning formula combining scientific research and real-life stories will tackle a new subject: why more women aren't considered geniuses, and how this can be changed, both in terms of how women's and girls' talents can be nurtured and how we define the word "genius."

The genius of women could be transformative in politics, the corporate world and in education—if only we would allow it to shine through. You don't have to be a mathematician or a NASA scientist or even an academic to be a genius. Many women geniuses are working hard in the next office or the next cubicle—but they don't get recognized. This book will change the conversation and allow us to see and consider women's talents in a new way.

The timing for this book is perfect since questions about how women are seen and treated and encouraged (or not) are much in the zeitgeist. People are open to fresh perspectives and eager to rethink positions that have previously seemed set in stone (like...men are the geniuses.) *The Genius of Women* will have a powerful, inspiring impact at this particular cultural moment. Its positive, stirring message will help to open doors and transform women's sense of possibility.

Janice Kaplan has enjoyed wide success as a magazine editor, television producer, writer, and journalist. The former editor-in-chief of *Parade* magazine, she is the author of thirteen popular books including the New York Times bestseller *The Gratitude Diaries* (D: Rowohlt 2016), which received international praise. She has appeared regularly on network television shows and lives in New York City and Kent, Connecticut.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Paul Koudounaris
A CAT'S TALE

Client: Henry Holt and Company
Publisher: Henry Holt
January 2020
Proposal available

Cultural History, Gift book

A CAT'S TALE is a delightfully unexpected and singularly told history of the domestic house cat from prehistoric times to the present day, "narrated" through the inimitable voice of Baba, an Instagram-famous cat herself, the book is I Can Has Cheezburger for NPR and BBC fans

Full of original documentary research and illustrated with dozens of photos of Baba in period costume as she recounts world history from a feline-centric point of view. This is the perfect gift for cat lovers with a bizarre-historical bent.

With a PhD in Art History from UCLA, an international speaking career, 71,000 Instagram followers, and three previous books published with Thames and Hudson, author and photographer Dr. Paul Koudounaris is one of the world's most popular historians of the eccentric, ephemeral, and macabre. *Vice*, *LA Weekly*, *Brooklyn Daily*, and *The Las Vegas Review Journal* have all covered his cat-related scholarship and photography, and his work has been featured in *Buzzfeed*, the *BBC*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *Huffington Post*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and more.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Misha Maynerick Blaise
FOR THE LOVE OF BIRDS

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Penguin
Spring 2020

Nature, illustrated

A fascinating and joyous book about birds and our relationships to them as humans by the bestselling author and illustrator of *This Phenomenal Life*

Filled with fun facts, humorous anecdotes, and gorgeous artwork, Blaise shares an underlying message of our interconnectedness to these amazing beings that share the planet with us.

Misha Maynerick Blaise is the author of two previous books and has partnered with various brands such as 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. In 2007, she was selected to contribute to a nationally acclaimed public art exhibit in Chicago titled "Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet." She and her husband own a green-building company in Austin, Texas.

"This book lies in the ever-disappearing intersection between beauty and truth. Every single person I know would love it to pieces." Ella Frances Sanders, author of the New York Times bestseller *Lost in Translation* on *This Phenomenal Life*

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Bill McKibben
FALTER: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?

Client: Henry Holt and Company
Publisher: Henry Holt
October 2018

Environment

Thirty years ago Bill McKibben offered one of the earliest warnings about climate change. Now he broadens the warning: the entire human game, he suggests, has begun to play itself out

Bill McKibben's groundbreaking book *The End of Nature* – issued in dozens of languages and long regarded as a classic – was the first book to alert us to global warming. But the danger is broader than that: even as climate change shrinks the space where our civilization can exist, new technologies like artificial intelligence and robotics threaten to bleach away the variety of human experience.

FALTER tells the story of these converging trends and of the ideological fervor that keeps us from bringing them under control. And then, drawing on McKibben's experience in building 350.org, the first truly global citizens movement to combat climate change, it offers some possible ways out of the trap. We're at a bleak moment in human history – and we'll either confront that bleakness or watch the civilization our forebears built slip away.

A powerful and sobering call to arms, to save not only our planet but also our humanity itself.

Bill McKibben is the founder of the environmental organization 350.org and was among the first to have warned of the dangers of global warming. Foreign Policy named him one of the 100 most important global thinkers. He is the author of fifteen books, including the bestsellers *The End of Nature*, *Eaarth*, and *Deep Economy*. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College and the winner of the Gandhi Prize, the Thomas Merton Prize, and the Right Livelihood Prize. He lives in Vermont.

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Ailsa Ross
THE WOMAN WHO RODE A SHARK
And 50 more wild Female Adventures

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: AA Media
31. March 2019

Proposal available

You've heard of Columbus and Hillary, Drake and Scott, Marco Polo – and even Bear Grylls. But how about Stark? Londonderry? Shiraishi or Werner?

From Australian teenager Jade Hameister, who had skied to both the North and South Poles by the time she was sixteen years old, to freediving spearfishing champion Kimi Werner, who once hitched a ride on the back of a Great White Shark, first-time author Ailsa Ross presents the stories of 50 daring pioneers who roamed the world – and beyond – from 231 BCE right up to the present day.

Vividly illustrated with a combination of portraits and hand-drawn maps by artist Amy Blackwell, readers will trace the transatlantic flights of aviators Amelia Earhart and Beryl Markham, follow Isabella Bird's expedition up the Yangtze river, and learn about the exploits of ancient pirate queen Teuta, dancer and World War II spy Josephine Baker, Nepalese ultrarunner Mira Rai, and more. Perfect for fans of Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls and Women in Science, THE WOMAN WHO RODE A SHARK tells the inspiring stories of women who were warriors, scientists, artists and athletes, explorers – and, above all, adventurers.

Ailsa Ross is a Scottish journalist and illustrator based in the Canadian Rockies. A contributor to BBC History, Outside Online, National Geographic Travel, Time Out, and Atlas Obscura, Ailsa studied law at university in Edinburgh and Copenhagen where she specialized in women's and human rights. On graduating, she worked on yachts in the Greek islands, picked apples in Israel, and taught English to middle schoolers in Seoul. Since 2014, she has worked for Matador Network (nine million unique monthly visitors) where she is senior editor and part of the branded content team.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Lauren Sharkey
ACTIVIST
Fifty Young Women Changing The World

Client: Blake Friedmann Literary, TV and Film Agency Ltd
Publisher: Wren & Rook
2019
224 pp.

The inspirational stories of fifty women under the age of 21 who are committed to making the world a better place

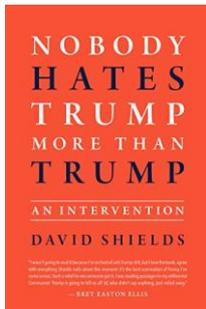
The last few years have seen more teenagers than ever at the centre of politics and protest. From the young women sharing their experiences of harassment on social media to the teenagers advocating for gun control following the Florida shooting, people are making their voices heard. On the political stage, the youth vote can no longer be taken for granted, as the gathering force of Momentum shows. Young people – and particularly young women – are looking for more ways to get involved, and the stories in ACTIVIST present fifty examples of the different ways anyone can make a difference.

The individuals featured in ACTIVIST are all young women who have seen problems in the world around them and are fighting to fix them. Each profile highlights their achievements, from Twitter campaigns to life-saving apps, and gives a fascinating insight into their motivations for becoming activists. Interspersed with eyeopening facts and helpful advice, ACTIVIST, is a must-have for young women who want to make a difference.

The book is laid out as a series of profiles of fifty young women between the ages of 11 and 21, from across the globe – including Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Mexico, Qatar and more. They come from a range of religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds; some are LGBT; some are disabled; some are active in arts and music, some in science and technology. What unites them is a drive to improve the lives of women like them.

Lauren Sharkey is a journalist specialising in cultural issues and women's rights. She began her career in the fashion industry before moving to work at Yahoo where she covered a wide range of lifestyle topics with the aim of inspiring the next generation. Her journalistic work has recently been published by the likes of The Daily Beast, The Cut, Refinery29 and Bustle. After noticing the efforts of young women but finding nowhere to publicise them, she began the list that led to this book.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



David Shields
NOBODY HATES TRUMP MORE THAN TRUMP

Client: Frances Goldin Literary Agency
Publisher: Thought Catalog
October 2018

“This is psycho-cultural criticism at its most lively and daring. Who would have thought it would be such a pleasure to read about contemporary catastrophe? Exciting and fun.” Tim Parks

NOBODY HATES TRUMP MORE THAN TRUMP by New York Times bestselling author David Shields can be read in a variety of ways: as a psychological investigation of Trump, as a philosophical meditation on the relationship between language and power, as a satirical compilation of the “collected wit and wisdom of Donald Trump,” and above all as a dagger into the rhetoric of American political discourse—a dissection of the politesse that gave rise to and sustains Trump. The book’s central thesis is that we have met the enemy and he is us. Who else but David Shields would make such an argument, let alone pull it off with such intelligence, brio, and wit, not to mention leaked off-air transcripts from Fox News?

David Shields is the author of twenty books, including *Reality Hunger* (named one of the best books of 2010 by more than thirty publications – D: C.H. Beck 2011), *The Thing About Life Is That One Day You’ll Be Dead* (New York Times best seller – D: C.H. Beck 2009), and *Black Planet* (finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award). The recipient of Guggenheim and NEA fellowships, Shields has published essays and stories in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper’s*, *Esquire*, *The Yale Review*, *Salon*, *Slate*, *McSweeney’s*, and *The Believer*. His work has been translated into twenty languages.

“Shields’s most ‘accessible’ book and probably his best. Impossible to put down—a polyphonic bricolage that is both absolutely of this moment and deserving of a burial in a time capsule to be opened at another age. The clinical depression of our current historical circumstances is never absent from these pages, but while reading them, one does so with exultation at seeing Trump and his era so exactly skewered.” Jonathan Raban

Contact: Hannah Fosh



David Shields
THE TROUBLE WITH MEN

Client: Frances Goldin Literary Agency
Publisher: OSU/Mad Creek
March 2019

Reflections on Sex, Love, Marriage, Porn, and Power is an immersion into the perils, limits, and possibilities of human intimacy

All at once a love letter to his wife, a nery reckoning with his own fallibility, a musing on the impact of porn on American culture, and an attempt to understand marriage (one marriage, the idea of marriage, all marriages), Exquisitely balanced between the personal and the anthropological, nakedness and restraint. While unashamedly intellectual, it’s also irresistibly readable and extremely moving.

Over five increasingly intimate chapters, Shields probes the contours of his own psyche and marriage, marshalling a chorus of other voices that leaven, deepen, and universalize his experience; his goal is nothing less than a deconstruction of eros and conventional masculinity.

Masterfully woven throughout is an unmistakable and surprisingly tender cri de coeur to his wife. The risk and vulnerability on display are in the service of unnerving candor, acerbic wit, real emotion, and profound insight: exactly what we’ve come to expect from Shields, who leaves everything on the page.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Chelsea Wald
PIPE DREAMS
Transforming the Toilet

Client: The Martell Agency
Publisher: Simon & Schuster (2020), sold in a preempt

Proposal available
Popular Science

PIPE DREAMS is a fascinating and provocative global exploration of the past, present, and future of that singular piece of equipment, examining its current, dangerously stagnant technology and the revolution underway with scientists, engineers, and activists focusing on changing nearly everything about toilets and sewers, making us healthier, reducing inequalities, mitigating climate change and water scarcity, and improving agriculture

“The toilet is a paradox. On the one hand, it is a modern miracle: the ubiquitous user interface of a vast, reliable system that has added decades to the human life span by reducing diseases. [...] On the other hand, the toilet has turned out to be a tragic failure, in that it is out of reach of so many people. Some 2.3 billion people in the world don’t have a safe toilet; in fact, in some places, they’re more likely to have mobile phones.”

With a winning combination of verve, earnestness and humor, Chelsea offers a deep dive into the subject, unearthing the toilet’s ancient history; telling the stories of the visionary scientists who are inventing the future today and taking the reader along in a global journey to experience such innovations-in-progress as smart toilets; sewage-to-fertilizer plants (human waste put into service to feed more people); waste treatment systems that harness the energy and heat in sewage to produce electric power and re-imagined urban sewer systems that bypass massive, expensive infrastructure in favor of self-contained units and much more.

Chelsea Wald, based in The Hague, has plunged multiple times into the topic of toilets and sewers since 2013, when editors at Nautilus and New Scientist approached her to write about the latent potential in these stagnating technologies. She’s also written about the archaeological, economic, environmental, engineering, and social aspects of sanitation for Nature, Discover, BBC Wildlife, and Weltsichten. She has won an award for feature writing from the Society of Environmental Journalists and a travel grant from the European Geosciences Union, and has been selected for a number of fellowships.

Contact: Marc Koralnik

Biography/ Memoir



Sasha Chapin
LOVE AND LOSING: A CHESS MEMOIR

Client: The Cooke Agency International Inc
Publisher: McClelland & Stewart
Spring 2019

This captivating, remarkable memoir, the story of a writer who travels the world for two years to pursue his dream of playing chess professionally, is an exploration of love, talent, and human potential, by an exciting new non-fiction voice

If journalist and essayist Sasha Chapin could have chosen a different path in life he would have chosen chess genius. He describes why he finds chess so enthralling. “Why nothing, not love, not amphetamines, not physical danger, makes my heart beat harder than the moment when I’m cornering an opponent’s king,” he writes. Embarking on a globe-spanning journey, Chapin decides to pursue his passion to its limits, to see how far he can take it, risking his career, his relationship, and sanity. In chess clubs, at tournaments, and in sidewalk games he uncovers a fascinating culture and precisely articulates the allure of a game played and loved by more than 600 million people.

In between his own triumphant wins and spectacular losses, he trains with a grandmaster, delves into the story of famous “victims” of chess including Marcel Duchamp, examines whether our abilities are innate or changeable, and explores what happens when human potential collides with the limits of reality.

In brilliant prose, with gems of sentences that pinpoint great truths about life, Chapin explores chess, love, and losing, and asks an important question: should we live our lives in the service of what is comfortably attainable, or thrillingly impossible?

Sasha Chapin’s work has appeared in *The Walrus*, *Hazlitt*, *The National Post*, *Vice*, *The Nation*, *Buzzfeed*, *The Kernel*, *Sharp*, *Real Life*, and most recently in *The New York Times Magazine*. He often writes about hallucinogens, robots, depression, friendship, chess, and books, and is the recipient of a gold National Magazine Award for Personal Journalism.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Gail Gallant
THE CHANGELING
A Memoir of my Death and Rebirth, my Haunted Childhood, and my Education in Sainthood and Sin

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: Doubleday
12. March 2019

When Gail Gallant was five months old, she died. A year later, she was reborn. Or so her mother said

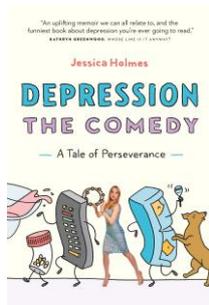
The crash occurred on a July night in 1955. A few weeks later, newborn baby Gail died from her injuries. Mad with grief, her mother prayed feverishly for Gail’s return, convinced that God would bring her child back to her. And when she gave birth within a year to a baby girl who looked identical to her lost child, she believed her prayers had been answered. She named that newborn baby Gail.

In this haunting memoir about having and losing faith, Gail Gallant recounts her awe-inspiring true story of life as a changeling – a child born to replace her deceased baby sister. A middle child in a large Catholic family, Gallant embraced the belief that she was especially anointed, a status that was reinforced by her stern, devout mother and distant, hard-drinking father.

Eventually, this special status became a source of secret anxiety for Gallant. Doubt began to cast its shadow. As she grew up, questions plagued her: Why did God save her? What did He want in return? And what if she couldn’t live up to His – or her mother’s – expectations? What if she wasn’t so special after all? Or worse, what if she was a mere imposter, only pretending to be the first Gail, whose life she now lived?

Gail Gallant is a television writer and story-editor who has worked for the CBC, Discovery Channel, and History Television. The author of *Apparition and Absolution*, supernatural thrillers for young adults, she divides her time between rural Ontario and London, England.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Jessica Holmes
DEPRESSION: THE COMEDY

Client: Transatlantic Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Page Two Books
April 2019
200 pp.

"Jessica's ability to open up about painful things in a way that make them hilarious and beautiful is astounding! This book will make you laugh, make you feel brave and make you feel like you are normal and wonderful just the way you are!" Aisha Alfa, comedian, Just For Laughs

Comedians live by the mantra tragedy + time = comedy - hence Jessica Holmes's refreshing and hilarious new memoir about depression, 'the cold sore of the mind.' She takes us on her journey - sometimes laugh-out-loud, sometimes cringe-worthy - from successful performer to someone who was basically living the life of a house cat. She muses about: the chicken and the egg of depression and comedy, marriage counselling (a.k.a. tattling on your spouse), where jokes come from, living on the sofa, which now looks like a tornado hit a 7-Eleven, her kids' take on the perks of having a depressed mom: "We don't have to clean up anything. Yesterday the cat barfed and Mom just put a cushion on it and went back to playing on the iPad!", the obnoxiousness of anti-depressant commercials: "I never noticed the ocean before!"

Holmes shares her two cents on how to play it cool when your medication makes you hear Kate Hudson's voice, and why you don't sneak elk pepperettes into the movies. It's a validating read for anyone who has suffered from depression a little ("I get sad every January") or a lot ("My psychiatrist doesn't have a name for what I've got") or who just thinks real life calls for levity and understanding.

Jessica Holmes is a Canadian comedian, actress, and improviser best known for her work on the Royal Canadian Air Farce and The Holmes Show. Her first memoir, *I Love Your Laugh: Finding the Light in My Screwball Life*, was published by McClelland & Stewart in 2011. After battling post-partum depression and 'regular, run-of-the-mill, garden-variety depression' (her words), Holmes began openly sharing her mental health story using humour. She is the daughter of a Mormon father and feminist mother (yes, that should be a sitcom), and she currently lives in Toronto with her husband and two kids.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Dennis McDougal
OPERATION WHITE RABBIT
The True-Life Adventures Of Lenny and the Psychonauts

Client: The Martell Agency
Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing
2020

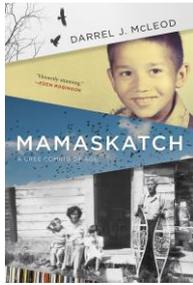
The rollicking true crime tale of the man known as The Acid King, the legendary Leonard Pickard, a brilliant self-taught chemist turned LSD manufacturer and trafficker, whose lifelong crusade to keep psychedelics alive ended in the Wamego bust, with a haul in lysergic acid so huge that the DEA estimated that the arrest led to a 95% drop in the availability of LSD in the US for the next two years

This is a project bursting with narrative energy that takes the reader into unexplored pop history through the wild – and sobering – adventures of a complex and charismatic lead character who could have walked out of a movie – outlaw, visionary (Pickard accurately predicted the opioid crisis 20 years ago), father, con artist, chemist, poet and Harvard-trained diplomat, scholar and ordained Zen priest – and currently Federal Inmate #82687-011.

Pickard's personal story is set against a fascinating chronicle of the social history of psychedelic drugs from the 1950s on. The earliest self-named "psychonauts" ranged from literary converts like novelists Aldous Huxley and Ken Kesey, to scientists like DNA pioneers Sir Francis Crick and Kerry Mullis, not to mention tripper-in-chief Dr. Timothy Leary. Bill W., founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, was a psychonaut, as were actors Cary Grant, Rita Moreno and Jack Nicholson. Steve Jobs, Paul Allen and Bill Gates launched the computer revolution while tripping. Crooner Andy Williams and Ethel Kennedy treated their clinical depression with LSD.

Investigative journalist **Dennis McDougal** is the author of twelve books. In addition to *Dylan: The Biography*, his works include: *Five Easy Decades: How Jack Nicholson Became the Biggest Movie Star in Modern Times* (Wiley, 2007). A staff writer for two decades with the Los Angeles Times and frequent contributor to the New York Times, McDougal has been honored with more than 40 awards.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Darrel McLeod
MAMASKATCH

Client: Westwood Creative Artists Ltd.
Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre
15. September 2018

Beautifully written, honest and thought-provoking, MAMASKATCH – named for the Cree word used as a response to dreams shared – is an uplifting account of overcoming personal and societal obstacles. In spite of the traumas of Darrel’s childhood, deep and mysterious forces handed down by his mother helped him survive and thrive: her love and strength stayed with him to build the foundation of what would come to be a very fulfilling and adventurous life

Growing up in the tiny village of Smith, Alberta, Darrel J. McLeod was surrounded by his Cree family’s history. In shifting and unpredictable stories, his mother, Bertha, shared narratives of their culture, their family and the cruelty that she and her sisters endured in residential school. McLeod was comforted by her presence and that of his many siblings and cousins, the smells of moose stew and wild peppermint tea, and his deep love of the landscape. Bertha taught him to be fiercely proud of his heritage and to listen to the birds that would return to watch over and guide him at key junctures of his life.

However, Darrel’s mother turned wild and unstable, and their home life became chaotic. Sweet and innocent by nature, Darrel struggled to maintain his grades and pursue an interest in music while changing homes many times, witnessing violence, caring for his younger siblings and suffering abuse at the hands of his surrogate father. Meanwhile, his sibling’s gender transition provoked Darrel to deeply question his own sexual identity. The narrative captures an intensely moving portrait of a family of strong personalities, deep ties and the shared history that both binds and haunts them.

Darrel J. McLeod is Cree from treaty eight territory in Northern Alberta. He is a retired chief negotiator of land claims for the federal government and executive director of education and international affairs with the Assembly of First Nations, and lives in Sooke, BC, working on a second memoir following the events in MAMASKATCH.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Alan Walker
FRYDERYK CHOPIN: A LIFE AND TIMES

Client: Harold Ober c/o Folio Literary Management, LLC
Publisher: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux
October 2018
768 pp.

A landmark biography of the Polish composer by a leading authority on Chopin and his time

Based on ten years of research and a vast cache of primary sources located in archives in Warsaw, Paris, London, New York, and Washington, D.C., Alan Walker’s monumental Fryderyk Chopin: A Life and Times is the most comprehensive biography of the great Polish composer to appear in English in more than a century. Walker’s work is a corrective biography, intended to dispel the many myths and legends that continue to surround Chopin. Fryderyk Chopin is an intimate look into a dramatic life; of particular focus are Chopin’s childhood and youth in Poland, which are brought into line with the latest scholarly findings, and Chopin’s romantic life with George Sand, with whom he lived for nine years.

Comprehensive and engaging, and written in highly readable prose, the biography wears its scholarship lightly: this is a book suited as much for the professional pianist as it is for the casual music lover. Just as he did in his definitive biography of Liszt, Walker illuminates Chopin and his music with unprecedented clarity in this magisterial biography, bringing to life one of the nineteenth century’s most confounding, beloved, and legendary artists.

Dr. **Alan Walker**’s definitive three-volume biography of Franz Liszt, received the James Tait Black Memorial Prize in Biography and the Royal Philharmonic Society Book Award, among others. His writing has appeared in journals such as the Musical Quarterly, the Times Literary Supplement, and Times Educational Supplement. A professor emeritus at McMaster University, Walker was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1986 and was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary in 2012.

“An absorbing biography unlikely to be surpassed anytime soon.” KIRKUS

Contact: Marc Korálnik