

Akashic Books

Frankfurt Book Fair 2024—Rights List

FICTION

Paradise Once, a historical novel by Olive Senior
(former poet laureate of Jamaica!)

My Own Dear People, a novel by Dwight Thompson

Broke Heart Blues, a novel by Joyce Carol Oates

Buster: A Dog, a novella by George Pelecanos

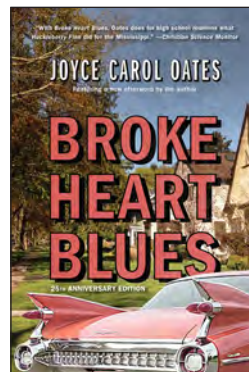
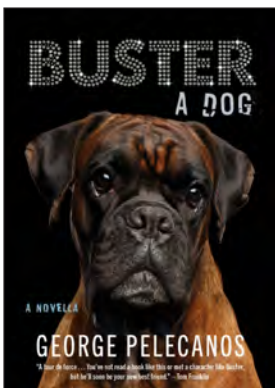
NONFICTION/MUSIC/POP CULTURE

Monument Eternal by Alice Coltrane

Fearless Vampire Killers: The Bad Brains Photographs by Glen E. Friedman; with a preface by HR of the Bad Brains and an afterword by Zack de la Rocha (of Rage Against The Machine)

Hunters in High Heels, photos by Omar Rodríguez-López (of Mars Volta, At the Drive-in, etc.)

And More!



Paradise Once

HISTORICAL FICTION BY **OLIVE SENIOR**

A historical novel that brings to life the resiliency of the indigenous Taíno people in the Caribbean whose culture was virtually destroyed within two generations of their “discovery” by Christopher Columbus in 1492.



BOOK DETAILS: 3 June 2025; 336 pages; historical fiction

COMPS: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates; *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* by Marlon James

HIGHLIGHTS: Senior is an award winning author who served as the Poet Laureate of Jamaica from 2021–2024; her previous work has been translated into **Arabic, Spanish, Korean,** and **three South African languages**

PARADISE ONCE TRACES THE AFTERMATH of the massacre by Spanish forces of the fictional Maima village in Cuba in 1513. Some believe the destruction of Maima is the result of angering the *cemíes*—Taíno spiritual entities—when foreign practices, contrary to the sacred laws of the Taíno, began to infiltrate the village.

Four young people who survive the massacre are unwittingly chosen by the *cemíes* to save a Sacred Bundle and return it to a cave in the Cauta mountain, the mythological place the Taíno are believed to have come from: Sekou, an enslaved African born in Spain who has aligned himself with the Taíno resistance; Night Orchid, a young girl and the reluctant bearer of the Sacred Bundle; the young Taíno noble Heart of Palm; and finally Flint, whose mother is part of the “Old Ones,” a remnant group of people on the islands displaced by the Taíno.

The four survivors start off on separate paths and only learn of their roles in the sacred mission when they unite at the holy site and encounter the Maima shaman Candlewood. Under the direction of the *cemíes*, Candlewood guides them into the cave, where the “dark” shaman Shark Tooth—who has sold his soul to the underworld powers—awaits. As they progress on their journey, Candlewood informs them of the leadership roles they are destined to play in the preservation of the Taíno culture. In time, they will together defend the heartland as resistance fighters who will become known in history as *Cimarrones* or Maroons. But first they must defeat Shark Tooth in a life-or-death battle for the possession of the Bundle in the sacred ball court at Cauta, the fate of the entire Taíno people in their hands.

Senior’s exquisitely crafted historical fiction authentically evokes the spiritual heart of the Taíno people in this love song to the Caribbean.

OLIVE SENIOR is the award-winning author of twenty books of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children’s literature. She was the Poet Laureate of Jamaica from 2021 to 2024, and has received numerous awards and honors, including honorary doctorates from the University of the West Indies (Jamaica) and York University (Canada), the Gold Medal of the Institute of Jamaica, Canada’s Matt Cohen Award for Lifetime Achievement, the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize. Senior’s work is widely translated, and is taught in schools and other institutions worldwide; her writing is also the subject of numerous critical essays. She splits her time between Toronto, Canada and Kingston, Jamaica.

PRAISE FOR SENIOR’S PREVIOUS WORK:

“Senior’s insights about gender, race, and class in Jamaica reveal her keen eye for details.” —*Canadian Literature*

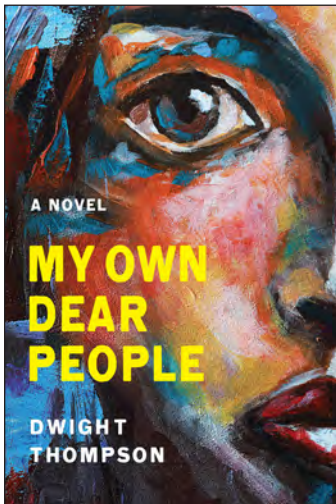
“Senior works deftly . . . dealing with open palms in the deep wells of remembrance, ancestry, and a crosshatch of colonizing scars, this fiction looks face-upwards to the mountains of multiple Jamaicas for hope, home, and daily bread.” —*Trinidad Guardian*

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My Own Dear People

A NOVEL BY **Dwight Thompson**

A young Jamaican man struggles to overcome toxic masculinity—his culture’s and his own—in this Caribbean coming-of-age novel



BOOK DETAILS: 1 April 2025; 336 pages; fiction

COMP TITLES: *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara; *His Favorites* by Kate Walbert

“Manhood, masculinity, what it means to grow up in a world where who you are and who you are expected to be exist in powerful, soul-deep struggle . . . Dwight Thompson’s *My Own Dear People* tackles all these issues and more, in an important, beautifully written novel about a young man’s struggle to come to terms with the actions (and inactions) of his own past. This is one of the best books I have read in a long, long time.” —**Jerry Stahl**, author of *Nein, Nein, Nein!*

IN HIGH SCHOOL IN MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA, teenager Nyjah Messado witnessed the rape of Maude Dallmeyer, a teacher trainee. Some of the boys who committed the assault are his friends and he’s soon torn between the masculine code at the all boys’ school and his own conscience. This guilt haunts him during his years away at college. It continues to weigh heavily upon him when he returns home, and Nyjah finds it increasingly difficult for him to

spend time with his best friend, Chadwell, who participated in the rape. A unique chance to reunite with Maude gives Nyjah the opportunity to admit his complicity as a do-nothing witness, and ask for forgiveness. But will he take it? And will she accept it—or will his own journey for inner peace only renew her trauma?

My Own Dear People is a multilayered story exploring both the effects of toxic masculinity and the bonds of friendship. We see Nyjah trying to come to terms with his own place in multiple worlds: in his family; at school, with its colonial Eurocentric ethos; and within the religion and politics of Montego Bay and the city’s criminal gangs. Through his time away at college, he is beginning to develop his own sense of accountability and an understanding of the life he is living.

Stylistically engaging and ambitious in scope, the novel takes us through a sweeping movement between the younger and more mature selves of Nyjah: from the homophobia prevalent in Jamaican boys’ schools and the institutionalized form it takes, to the paranoia and denial surrounding adolescent sexuality, to the corruption of a society that runs so nakedly on power relations and social class. Similar to Hanya Yanagihara’s *A Little Life* and Kate Walbert’s *His Favorites*, *My Own Dear People* looks unflinchingly at proclivities toward cruelty, particularly toward women and LGBTQ+ people. Dwight Thompson elevates the tradition of the coming-of-age novel by boldly examine how sexual predation crosses both gay and straight worlds.



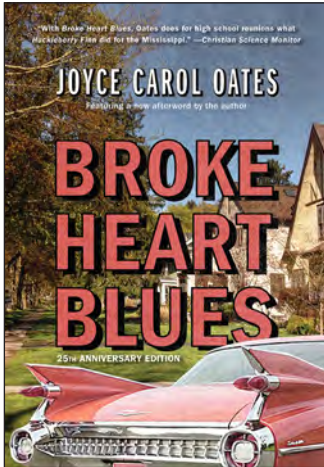
DWIGHT THOMPSON is the award-winning author of the novel *Death Register* and has published short stories in *PREE* and the *Caribbean Writer*. He won the Charlotte and Isidor Paiewonsky Prize, was short-listed for the 2012 *Small Axe* Literary Competition, and was long-listed for the 2021 and 2022 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. *My Own Dear People* is his second novel. He was born and raised in Jamaica, and currently works at an international school in Hiroshima, Japan.

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Broke Heart Blues

A NOVEL BY **JOYCE CAROL OATES**

The much-anticipated reissue of a novel that is one of Joyce Carol Oates's personal favorites among her oeuvre; featuring a new afterword by Oates.



BOOK DETAILS: 1 October 2024; 440 pages; crime fiction

COMP TITLES: *We Were the Mulvaneys* and *Foxfire* by Joyce Carol Oates

HIGHLIGHTS: Joyce Carol Oates's novels and short stories are international bestsellers that have been translated into numerous languages, including: Italian, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Spanish, Greek, German, Estonian, etc.; several of Oates's novels have been adapted for film/TV (*We Were the Mulvaneys*, *Blonde*, *Foxfire*). The anthology *Cutting Edge* that she edited for Akashic in 2019 was licensed to the **UK (Pushkin)**, **Brazil (Darkside)**, **Georgia (Intelekti)**, and **Turkey (Bilgi Yayinevi)**. The anthology *A Darker Shade of Noir* that she edited for Akashic in 2023 was licensed to **Brazil (Darkside)**, **China (ThinKingdom)**, **Korea (Moonhak Soochup)**, **Spain (Horror Vacui)**, and the **UK (Footnote)**.

IN THE HEART OF A LANGUID JULY, ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD JOHN REDDY HEART drives a traffic-stopping, salmon-colored Cadillac into the quiet upstate town of Willowville, New York. His mother, Dahlia Heart, a blackjack dealer, has brought her family east from Las Vegas to claim the rambling mansion left to her by a wealthy suitor.

But it is John Reddy—already growing into a heartbreaking hybrid of James Dean, Marlon Brando, and Elvis Presley—who will claim the town itself. It is John Reddy who will arouse the desire of Willowville's teenage girls and the worship of its boys, the fear and envy of its men, and the yearning of its women. And it is John Reddy who will capture the town's soul forever on the night a prominent citizen is shot dead in Dahlia Heart's bedroom—and a statewide manhunt sweeps Willowville's rebel outlaw into the realm of living myth.

Over the course of thirty years, *Broke Heart Blues* charts the rise and fall—and the ultimate call to reckoning—of John Reddy Heart, through the myriad voices of those who find him their whipping boy, savior, dream lover, and confessor. At once a scathing indictment of the cultlike nature of fame and celebrity in America and a deeply moving meditation on human need and longing, the novel explores loneliness, and the profound price we pay for our desires and dreams.



Joyce Carol Oates: Letters to a Biographer

EDITED BY GREG JOHNSON

This rich compilation of Joyce Carol Oates's letters across four decades displays her warmth and generosity, her droll and sometimes wicked sense of humor, her phenomenal energy, and most of all, her mastery of the lost art of letter writing

BOOK DETAILS: 5 March 2024; 336 pages; nonfiction/epistolary biography; licensed to France (Editions Philippe Rey)



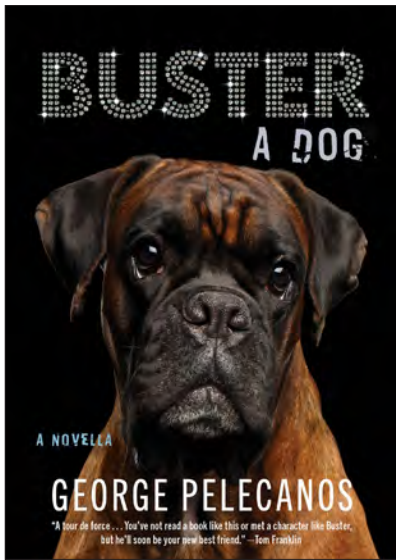
JOYCE CAROL OATES is the author of a number of works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. She is the editor of *New Jersey Noir*, *Prison Noir*, *A Darker Shade of Noir: New Stories of Body Horror by Women Writers*, and *Cutting Edge: New Stories of Mystery and Crime by Women Writers*; and a recipient of the National Book Award, PEN America's Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Humanities Medal, and a World Fantasy Award for Short Fiction.

Akashic controls world rights (excluding Italy for Broke Heart Blues); PDFs/hard copies available upon request

Buster: A Dog

A NOVELLA BY **GEORGE PELECANOS**

Pelecanos breaks new literary ground with the story of a dog's life—from the dog's perspective—on the streets of Washington, DC



BOOK DETAILS: 7 May 2024; 88 pages; literary fiction

COMP TITLES: *Timbuktu* by Paul Auster; *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

HIGHLIGHTS: George Pelecanos's fiction has won numerous awards, including Italy's Raymond Chandler Award, Japan's Falcon Award, France's Grand Prix du Roman Noir, and two *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes. *Esquire* called him "the poet laureate of the DC crime world," and Stephen King wrote that Pelecanos is "perhaps the greatest living American crime writer." His novels have been translated into **Italian, Greek, French, Spanish, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, Portuguese, German, Danish, Japanese.**

"Everything George Pelecanos writes is an occasion. You can't wait to dive back into his world of hard truths, flashes of beauty, the crushing weight of sudden loss. With his latest, a deceptively simple story of a dog navigating his way through various homes and owners in DC becomes a much larger parable of urban survival (and occasional, fleeting triumph) among the disenfranchised, the forgotten." —**Megan Abbott**, author of ***Beware the Woman***

EVER WONDER WHAT GOES ON IN THE MIND OF A DOG? *Buster: A Dog* is the story of one dog's lifelong journey, as told by Buster himself.

Buster, a strong and proud boxer, spends his early days with a loving family in a public housing complex in Washington, DC. Abruptly, he is taken away by an abusive, alcoholic man, plunging Buster into a challenging, nightmarish existence. Over the course of his life, he will experience homelessness, tragedy, a harrowing stay in a kill shelter, and acts of kindness, including his adoption by an older gentleman grieving the death of his wife. At his peak, Buster lives with a young marijuana dealer who runs a profitable but dangerous business in the city. Along the way, Buster befriends other dogs and witnesses the best and worst aspects of humanity. As the seasons change, and change again, he begins to understand the finality of existence and in turn learns to appreciate the gift of life.



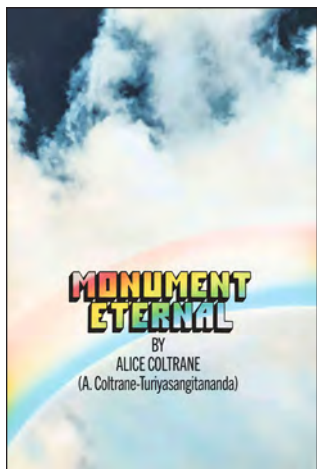
GEORGE PELECANOS is the author of twenty-two novels and story collections set in and around Washington, DC, and has been the recipient of numerous international writing awards. He is a screenwriter, essayist, and television writer/producer whose credits include *The Wire*, *Treme*, *The Deuce*, and *We Own This City*.

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Monument Eternal

BY ALICE COLTRANE

The long-awaited reissue of Alice Coltrane's original spiritual teachings and reflections, which provide powerful insight into her transcendent music, cherished by millions across the globe



BOOK DETAILS: 4 Feb. 2025; 88 pages; nonfiction

PRAISE FOR ALICE COLTRANE:

"In her book, Alice Coltrane's personal path—from darkness to light, from sacrifice to physical and spiritual well-being—is what matters most. That, and an abiding sense of discovery, divine bliss, and individual purpose: the idea of fitting into the matrix, of being part of the plan . . ." —Ashley Kahn, from the foreword to the new edition

"In the ten years that followed [John Coltrane's death], Alice Coltrane released about a dozen albums . . . many of them masterpieces that imagine a meeting point between jazz and psychedelic rock, gospel traditions and Indian devotional music . . ." —*New Yorker*

ALICE COLTRANE (1937–2007) was a composer, master of various musical instruments, improviser, spiritual leader, and wife of John Coltrane. Throughout her adult life, she worked within and combined a broad range of musical genres, including gospel, R&B, bebop, free jazz, Indian devotional song, and Western art music. She recorded more than twenty full-length albums for Impulse and Warner Bros. Her music speaks to her experiences as a child playing for church congregations in Detroit; the transcendent and mind-bending avant-garde improvisations she performed with her husband John Coltrane; and her religious pilgrimages to India.

When *Monument Eternal* was originally published in 1977, Alice Coltrane was living in Southern California and had recently become a swami, building and nurturing an alternative spiritual community. In these pages, she says that the book is "based upon the soul's realizations in Absolute Consciousness and its spiritual relationships with the Supreme One." *Monument Eternal* offers deep insight into Coltrane's tremendous musical output, and shines a light on her transformation from Alice McLeod, Detroit church organist and bebopper, to sage thought leader Swami Turiyasangitananda. It also reflects the extraordinary fluidity of American religious customs in the mid and late twentieth century.

Akashic's long-awaited reissue of *Monument Eternal* includes a new foreword by Ashley Kahn, GRAMMY award-winner for his album notes to John Coltrane's *Offering: Live at Temple University*.



ALICE COLTRANE was born in Detroit in 1937. Her interest in music started at a young age when she began playing organ at the Mount Olive Baptist Church. By the early 1960s she was a professional jazz musician playing with her own groups and also collaborating and performing with Charlie Haden, Ornette Coleman, Carlos Santana, and many others. She married John Coltrane in 1965, and not long after that she joined the John Coltrane quartet, replacing pianist McCoy Tyner. Together, the Coltranes embarked on a deeply spiritual journey of musical exploration and forged a new genre of musical expression. In 1975, after a trip to India, she founded and was the director of the Vedantic Center; she would later establish a spiritual community in the Santa Monica Mountains. She passed away in 2007.

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Fearless Vampire Killers: The Bad Brains Photographs

BY **GLEN E. FRIEDMAN**

with a preface by **HR (of Bad Brains)** and
afterword by **Zack de la Rocha (of Rage
Against the Machine)**

***This collection includes Friedman's
most iconic images of Bad Brains, as well as many never-
before-seen photos and endsheet art by Shepard Fairey***



BOOK DETAILS: 1 April 2025; 128 pages w/black-and-white & color photos throughout

HIGHLIGHTS: In addition to extensive touring in North America, Bad Brains toured in the UK, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.



FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS uniquely features almost every single Glen E. Friedman photograph of the Bad Brains, considered by many music fans to be the greatest and most influential American punk rock band of all time. The photographs are from 1981 and 1982, when the band was at its most fiery musical heights. The book also includes an introduction by Friedman, a preface by HR (singer of Bad Brains), and an afterword by Zack de la Rocha (singer of Rage Against the Machine).

Many bands beyond the realm of punk cite the Bad Brains as a seminal influence, including Beastie Boys, Living Colour, Jane's Addiction, and Red Hot Chili Peppers, to name just a few. The artistry of Friedman's Bad Brains photographs is unparalleled, and music lovers the world over will feast on *Fearless Vampire Killers*.

GLEN E. FRIEDMAN has produced over one hundred record covers, countless magazine pages, and almost a dozen books, including

What I See: The Black Flag Photographs, *Just a Minor Threat: The Minor Threat Photographs*, *Keep Your Eyes Open: The Fugazi Photographs*, *DogTown: The Legend of the Z-Boys*, *My Rules*, and *Together Forever: The Run-DMC and Beastie Boys Photographs*. His work is now included in a number of notable international collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM GLEN E. FRIEDMAN AND AKASHIC BOOKS

Keep Your Eyes Open: The Fugazi Photographs of Glen E. Friedman, 120 pgs w/black-and-white & color photos

Just a Minor Threat: The Minor Threat Photographs of Glen E. Friedman, 120 pgs w/black-and-white & color photos

What I See: The Black Flag Photographs of Glen E. Friedman, 256 pages w/black-and-white & color photos

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Hunters in High Heels

PHOTOS BY **OMAR RODRÍGUEZ-LÓPEZ**

Internationally celebrated musician/filmmaker Omar Rodríguez-López (Mars Volta and At The Drive-In) presents his first book of photographs, a sublime alternative to traditional rock-and-roll imagery.



BOOK DETAILS: 7 Jan. 2025; 88 pages w/black-and-white & full color photos throughout

HIGHLIGHTS: Mars Volta won a GRAMMY for Best Hard Rock Performance; having toured globally, outside of the US, they are most popular in the UK, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile; the song "The Widow" was a top-twenty hit in the UK!

"Over the past twenty-five years, Omar Rodríguez-López has been one of the most visionary and diverse musicians, producers, and artists on the planet." —*SPIN*



OMAR RODRÍGUEZ-LÓPEZ MAY BE BEST KNOWN for his filmmaking and transcendent guitar playing/songwriting with the **Mars Volta**, **At the Drive-In**, and other bands, but many people aren't aware that he is also an exceptional photographer. *Hunters in High Heels* is Omar's first book of photographs, comprising photos taken between 2000 and 2006, during which the sheer scope of output and travel undertaken by the Grammy Award-winning musician and his fellow bandmates was nothing short of exhausting.

Sharply juxtaposed with typical books of rock-and-roll imagery, Omar's photographs present a more elusive and evocative aesthetic that includes subjects such as highway signage, city skylines, and cloud formations, along with empty arenas and recording studios with friends and colleagues. This body of work provides an intimate glimpse into a specific period in the artist's life.



Longtime fans of Omar's music and film will be regaled with the beauty of these photographs, while newcomers will be feted with the sublime visual treasures comprising *Hunters in High Heels*.

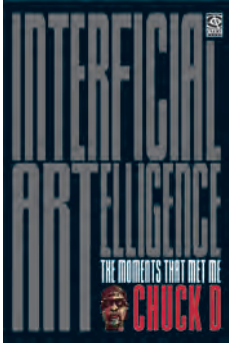
OMAR RODRÍGUEZ-LÓPEZ is a Puerto Rican guitarist, songwriter, and filmmaker. He has formed or played in several groundbreaking bands, including the Mars Volta, At the Drive-In, Antemasque, and Bosnian Rainbows. He has also recorded and toured as a solo artist, and has collaborated with numerous artists, such as Damo Suzuki, John Frusciante of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Mon Laferte. Omar

has directed a number of films, including *Los Chidos* (2011) and *Amalia* (2018). He divides his time between El Paso, Texas, and Puerto Rico.

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ENEMY BOOKS

CURATED BY **Chuck D** (of Public Enemy)

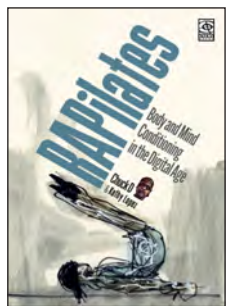
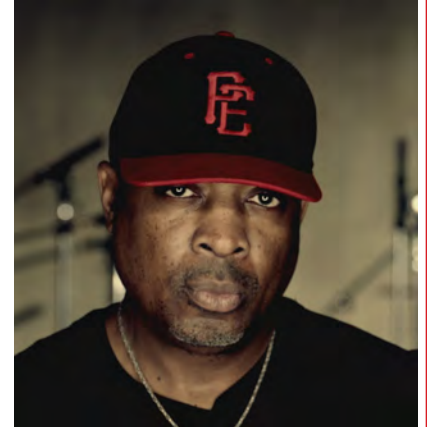


Interficial ARTelligence:

The Moments That Met Me

4 Feb. 2025, 240 pages w/full color illustrations

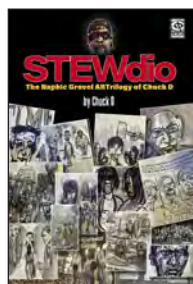
Chuck D presents his encounters with some of his greatest heroes and other public figures. These seminal moments in Chuck D's life include meaningful and memorable interactions with **Oprah Winfrey, the Rolling Stones, John F. Kennedy Jr., David Bowie, Madonna, Will Ferrell, Prince, Sheryl Crow, Janet Jackson, Patti LaBelle, Notorious B.I.G., Robin Williams,** and more!



RAPILATES: Body and Mind Conditioning in the Digital Age

2 July 2024, 88 pages w/full color illustrations

"Chuck D, the leader/cofounder of the hip-hop group Public Enemy, and Lopez, his Pilates instructor, show how people of all ages can benefit from the practice of this body-conditioning regime . . . A solid and fun introduction to Pilates for both beginners and readers with some knowledge of Pilates. Fans of hip-hop will appreciate this book too." —*Library Journal*



STEWdio: The Naphic Grovel ARTriology of Chuck D

6 June 2023, 720 pages (box set w/3 paperbacks) w/full color illustrations

"Chuck D's excellent *STEWdio* (yes, Chuck D of Public Enemy) is a literal diary of stray thoughts, three books of them, in a box—and some of the most compelling reading I've done this year. In one-page panels recalling a meld of eighth grade homeroom sketches and the exuberantly unstable lines of Basquiat, Chuck offers portraits of collaborators, tales of loss and quarantine, nights huddled before cable news." —*Chicago Tribune*



Summer of Hamn: Hollowpointlessness Aiding Mass Nihilism

3 October 2023, 240 pages w/full color illustrations

"With his latest work of graphic nonfiction, Chuck D uses his art and hip-hop rhymes to show how the US has been held hostage by gun violence and a growing sense of hopelessness . . . A focused, fresh, urgent text filled with pictures worth 1,000 words and rhymes worth thousands more." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

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Five-Dog Epiphany

How a Quintet of Badass Bichons Retrieved Our Joy

A MEMOIR BY **MARIANNE LEONE**

In this memoir, actress Marianne Leone (The Sopranos, etc.) explores how she and her husband, actor Chris Cooper (Adaptation, The Bourne Identity, etc.), rediscovered their joy through a pack of rescue dogs after the death of their child.



BOOK DETAILS: 3 Sept. 2024; 240 pages; memoir/grief/bereavement

COMPS: *A Three-Dog Life* by Abigail Thomas; *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* by Amy Bloom

"*Five-Dog Epiphany* is a marvel—a poignant and revelatory memoir about the profound relationship between humans and their canine companions. Marianne Leone writes about grief and dogs and love and healing in a voice that's raw and lyrical, and utterly her own." —**Tom Perrotta, author of *The Leftovers***

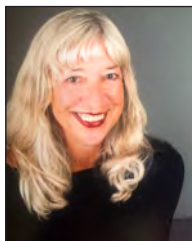
"While reading this heartrending, often funny, and ultimately life-affirming memoir, I found myself thinking of the nonfiction masters Joan Didion and Patti Smith, for these are Marianne Leone's peers. Written in lyrical, evocative prose that is as erudite as it is streetwise, this unforgettable memoir takes us unflinchingly into fathomless loss where the only lifeline may just be compassion for the suffering of other living creatures with whom we share this imperiled planet, dogs especially . . ."

—**Andre Dubus III, author of *House of Sand and Fog***

IN FIVE-DOG EPIPHANY, MARIANNE LEONE writes about the joy that can be summoned after a great loss, "when you look into the eyes of another damaged creature and know that your happiness is a mirror and an echo and a prayer, and that the little soul reflecting all that energy is happy too, at last." This memoir is a moving and sometimes surprisingly funny exploration of grief and the mutual healing that can occur between rescue dogs and people who have experienced a soul-crushing loss. Leone and her husband, actor Chris Cooper, lost their only child suddenly in 2005. Jesse was seventeen, a straight-A student, and a brilliant poet, who was also quadriplegic and nonverbal except with the assistance of a computer.

When six-year-old Jesse miraculously blurted "dog" to Santa, Goody appeared on his bed on Christmas morning. Goody was followed by Lucky, Frenchy, Titi, and Sugar, all rescues adopted after Jesse's passing. After Jesse's death, Leone grew a tumor the size of her premature son at birth, her husband disappeared into dark acting roles (*Breach, Married Life*), and Leone fainted during the filming of a scene in *The Sopranos* where she is standing in front of her television son's coffin.

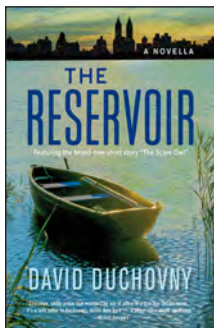
This is the story of a bereaved couple and a pack of rescue dogs finding their way to a new life, everyone licking their wounds, both corporal and spiritual, and the rediscovery of joy.



MARIANNE LEONE is an actress, screenwriter, and essayist. Her essays have appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Lit Hub*, *Ploughshares*, *Post Road*, *Bark Magazine*, *Coastal Living*, *Solstice*, and elsewhere. She is the author of two memoirs, *Jesse* and *Ma Speaks Up*. She had a recurring role on HBO's *The Sopranos* as Joanne Moltisanti, Christopher's mother. She has also appeared in films by David O. Russell, Larry David, John Sayles, Nancy Savoca, and Martin Scorsese.

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Backlist Highlights



The Reservoir

A NOVELLA BY **David Duchovny** (*The X-Files*, *Californication*)

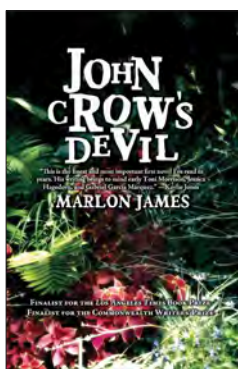
PREVIOUS LICENSING: Lebanon, Brazil, France, Hungary, and Romania

"A lonely ex-financier stuck in his apartment during the Covid-19 pandemic becomes obsessed with the Central Park Reservoir and slowly goes mad."

—**New York Times Book Review**

"Comically absurd, funny, and very dark." —**New York Journal of Books**

"A new, pandemic-inspired, *Rear Window*-esque thriller, *The Reservoir*." —**Village Voice**



John Crow's Devil

THE DEBUT NOVEL BY **Marlon James** (winner of the Man Booker Prize for *A Brief History of Seven Killings*)

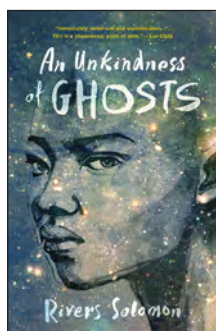
PREVIOUS LICENSING: UK, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, and Egypt

Finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize

"A powerful first novel . . . Writing with assurance and control, James uses his small-town drama to suggest the larger anguish of a postcolonial society struggling for its own identity."

—**New York Times, Editors' choice**

"Elements coalesce in a Jamaican stew spicier than jerk chicken. First novelist James moves effortlessly between lyrical patois and trenchant observations . . . It's 150-proof literary rum guaranteed to intoxicate and enchant. Highly recommended." —**Library Journal, starred review**



An Unkindness of Ghosts

SCIENCE FICTION BY **Rivers Solomon**

PREVIOUS LICENSING: France, Finland, Hungary, India, and Korea

Selected as a "Best Book" by NPR, the *Guardian*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, Barnes & Noble, Chicago Public Library, and *Esquire* magazine.

"In Rivers Solomon's *An Unkindness of Ghosts*, a generation starship has left the ruined Earth behind: the senior crew are all white supremacists, while dark-skinned people are kept below decks as slave labor. In this unflinching debut Solomon invites comparisons with Octavia Butler."

—**Guardian, Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Book of the Year**

"Harrowing and beautiful, this is SF at its best: showing the possible future but warning of the danger of bringing old prejudices and cruelties to that new world. While a story about enslaved people in space could be a one-note polemic, the fully rounded characters bring nuance and genuine pathos to this amazing debut."

—**Library Journal, starred review**

"What Solomon achieves with this debut—the sharpness, the depth, the precision—puts me in mind of a syringe full of stars. I want to say about this book, its only imperfection is that it ended. But that might give the wrong impression: that it is a happy book, a book that makes a body feel good. It is not a happy book. I love it like I love food, I love it for what it did to me, I love it for having made me feel stronger and more sure in a nightmare world, but it is not a happy book. It is an antidote to poison. It is inoculation against pervasive, enduring disease. Like a vaccine, it is briefly painful, leaves a lingering soreness, but armors you from the inside out." —**National Public Radio**

Akashic Books | Frankfurt Book Fair 2024

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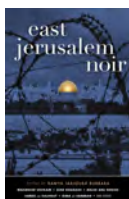
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