

## Sordid A Novel

An unflinching and endearing memoir from LGBTQ+ advocate Jackson Bird about how, through a childhood of gender mishaps and an awkward adolescence, he finally sorted things out and came out as a transgender man in his mid-twenties. When Jackson Bird was twenty-five, he came out as a transgender to his friends, family, and anyone in the world with an internet connection. Assigned female at birth and raised as a girl, he often wondered if he should have been born a boy. Jackson didn't share this thought with anyone because he didn't think he could share it with anyone. Growing up in Texas in the 1990s, he had no transgender role models. He barely remembers meeting anyone who was openly gay, let alone being taught that transgender people existed outside of punchlines. In this "soulful and heartfelt coming-of-age story" (Jamia Wilson, director and publisher of the Feminist Press), Jackson chronicles the ups and downs of growing up gender confused. Illuminated by journal entries spanning childhood to adolescence to today, he candidly recalls the challenges and loneliness he endured as he came to terms with both his gender and his bisexual identity. With warmth and wit, Jackson also recounts how he navigated the many obstacles and quirks of his transition—like figuring out how to have a chest binder delivered to his NYU dorm room and having an emotional breakdown at a Harry Potter fan convention. From his first shot of testosterone to his eventual top surgery, Jackson lets you in on every part of his journey—taking the time to explain trans terminology and little-known facts about gender and identity along the way. "A compassionate, tender-hearted, and accessible book for anyone who might need a hand to hold as they walk through their own transition or the transition of a loved one" (Austin Chant, author of *Peter Darling*), *Sorted* demonstrates the power and beauty in being yourself, even when you're not sure who "yourself" is. "The Alienist set in eighteenth-century Stockholm: Brawny, bloody, intricate, enthralling—and the best historical thriller I've read in twenty years." —A.J. Finn, #1 bestselling author of *The Woman in the Window* "Thrilling, unnerving, clever, and beautiful." —Fredrik Backman, #1 bestselling author of *A Man Called Ove* "Chilling and thought-provoking. Relentless, well-written, and nearly impossible to put down." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) One morning in the autumn of 1793, watchman Mikel Cardell is awakened from his drunken slumber with reports of a body seen floating in the Larder, once a pristine lake on Stockholm's Southern Isle, now a rancid bog. Efforts to identify the bizarrely mutilated corpse are entrusted to incorruptible lawyer Cecil Winge, who enlists Cardell's help to solve the case. But time is short: Winge's health is failing, the monarchy is in shambles, and whispered conspiracies and paranoia abound. Winge and Cardell become immersed in a brutal world of guttersnipes and thieves, mercenaries and madams. From a farmer's son who is lead down a treacherous path when he seeks his fortune in the capital to an orphan girl consigned to the workhouse by a pitiless parish priest, their investigation peels back layer upon layer of the city's labyrinthine society. The rich and the poor, the pious and the fallen, the living and the dead—all collide and interconnect with the body pulled from the lake. Breathtakingly bold and intricately constructed, *The Wolf and the Watchman* brings to life the crowded streets, gilded palaces, and dark corners of late-eighteenth-century Stockholm, offering a startling vision of the crimes we commit in the name of justice, and the sacrifices we make in order to survive.

Fashion photographers sold not only clothes but ideals of beauty and visions of perfect lives. Gross provides a rollicking account of fashion photography's golden age-- the wild genius, ego, passion, and antics of the men (and a few women) behind the camera, from the postwar covers of *Vogue* to the triumph of the digital image. He takes you behind the scene of revolutionary creative processes-- and the private passions-- of these visionary magicians.

*Smut Peddler* is an erotic anthology featuring stories of love, sex, and a little bit of angst by a huge array of talented creators. This book has something for everyone, showcasing a whole rainbow of relationships, sexualities, and genders, plus the occasional robot, satyr, shapeshifter, or major religious figure.

Vasilije Markovic is the prince of the Serbian mafia and one of the most powerful men in Chicago. His smile may be razor sharp, but he's crueller than the devil. I'm playing a dangerous game and betting my life I'm going to win. I pretend to be his pawn. I do as he says and move where he tells me, letting him think he's in control as I position myself for revenge. Every turn brings us closer. His grin doesn't seem as evil when we're alone. Behind closed doors, I welcome his unrelenting and vicious personality. He's confessed all his secrets, but I'm holding one back and it's a game changer. If I survive the board, this pawn turns into a queen. I become the most powerful player and send all the other pieces running. To get what I want, I must make sacrifices, but am I willing to draw the line at him?

Bootleggers, swindlers, gold miners and serial killers—Charlotte has courted them all. The Queen City is renowned for its skyline, sports teams and dizzying growth, but just below its smooth, polished exterior lies a dark past full of crime and myriad misdeeds. This second history of Charlotte has been concealed and denied by those who retell the city's story, and by those who have lived it. Until now. In *Wicked Charlotte*, discover the tale of the Chicago gangsters who invaded the city looking to pull a heist to fund sinister maneuverings in their boss's criminal trial. Learn how a golden nugget found in a nearby creek changed Charlotte from a trading crossroads into a rough and tumble town full of fortune seekers bent on finding a quick dollar and instant riches. And read about the details of the death of one of Charlotte's most gifted writers, who met his end in a seedy hotel room in Mexico. This raucous book sheds light on these incidents and many more, revealing a side of Charlotte's history that few will recognize. The sordid events described here took place on familiar streets and in well known neighborhoods, but rarely have the stories passed beyond the circles of those who lived them. Charlotte has played host to a multitude of villainous characters, and has seen scores of unsavory deeds played out on its shadowy streets. *Wicked Charlotte* brings it all to the forefront, as never before.

From the modern master of noir comes a novel based on the real-life Hollywood fixer Freddy Otash, the malevolent monarch of the 1950s L.A. underground, and his Tinseltown tabloid *Confidential* magazine. Freddy Otash was the man in the know and the man to know in '50s L.A. He was a rogue cop, a sleazoid private eye, a shakedown artist, a pimp—and, most notably, the head strong-arm goon for *Confidential* magazine. *Confidential* presaged the idiot internet—and delivered the dirt, the dish, the insidious ink, and the scurrilous skank. It mauled misanthropic movie stars, sex-soiled socialites, and putzo politicians. Mattress Jack Kennedy, James Dean, Montgomery Clift, Burt Lancaster, Liz Taylor, Rock Hudson—Frantic Freddy outed them all. He was the Tattle

Tyrant who held Hollywood hostage, and now he's here to CONFESS. "I'm consumed with candor and wracked with recollection. I'm revitalized and resurgent. My meshugenah march down memory lane begins NOW." In Freddy's viciously entertaining voice, Widespread Panic torches 1950s Hollywood to the ground. It's a blazing revelation of coruscating corruption, pervasive paranoia, and of sin and redemption with nothing in between. Here is James Ellroy in savage quintessence. Freddy Otash confesses—and you are here to read and succumb.

Do you know what "quatrefoil" and "impolitic" mean? What about "halcyon" or "narcolepsy"? This book is a handy, easy-to-read reference guide to the proper parlance for any situation. In this book you will find: Words You Absolutely Should Know (covert, exonerate, perimeter); Words You Should Know But Probably Don't (dour, incendiary, scintilla); Words Most People Don't Know (schlimazel, thaumaturgy, epergne); Words You Should Know to Sound Overeducated (ad infinitum, nugatory, garrulity); Words You Probably Shouldn't Know (priapic, damnatory, labia majora); and more. Whether writing an essay, studying for a test, or trying to impress friends, family, and fellow cocktail party guests with their prolixity, you will achieve magniloquence, ebullience, and flights of rhetorical brilliance.

SordidNikki Sloane

The International Sensation It begins in a Stockholm city park where the abused body of a young boy is discovered. Detective Superintendent Jeanette Kihlberg heads the investigation, battling an apathetic prosecutor and a bureaucratic police force unwilling to devote resources to solving the murder of an immigrant child. But with the discovery of the mutilated corpses of two more children, it becomes clear that a serial killer is at large. Superintendent Kihlberg turns to therapist Sofia Zetterlund for her expertise in the psychopathology of those who kill, and the lives of the two women become quickly intertwined—professionally and personally. As they draw closer to each other and to the truth about the killings, what surfaces is the undeniable fact that these murders are only the most obvious evidence of an insidious evil woven deep into Swedish society.

From the author of *Welcome to Paradise, Now Go To Hell*, a finalist for the PEN Center USA Award for Nonfiction One of Pearl Jam's Jeff Ament's Top 10 of 2018 It's no surprise that surfers like to party. The 1960-70s image, bolstered by Tom Wolfe and *Big Wednesday*, was one of mild outlaws--tanned boys refusing to grow up, spending their days drinking beer and smoking joints on the beach in between mindless hours in the water. But in the 1980s, as surf brands morphed into multibillion-dollar companies, the derelict portrait began to harm business. The external surf image became Kelly Slater and Laird Hamilton, beacons of health, vitality, bravery, and clean-living. Internally, though, surfing had moved on from booze and weed to its heart's true home, its soul's twin flame: cocaine. The rise of cocaine in American popular culture as the choice of rich, white elites was matched, then quadrupled, within surf culture. The parties got wilder, the nights stretched longer, the stories became more ridiculously unbelievable. And there has been no stopping, no dip in passion. It is a forbidden love, and few, if any, outside the surf world know about this particular rhapsody. Drug use is kept very well-hidden, even from insiders, but evidence of its psychosis rears its head from time to time in the form of overdoses, bar fights, surf contests, murders, and cover-ups. Cocaine + Surfing draws back the curtain on a hopped-up, sometimes-sexy, sometimes-deadly relationship and uses cocaine as the vehicle to expose and explain the utterly

absurd surf industry to outsiders.

What do the rich and famous really get up to behind closed doors? When does sexual passion become sordid perversion? Who are history's most shocking deviants and what are their sex secrets? The pages of this book reveal 45 shocking, scandalous--and often disturbing--stories of promiscuity and sexual perversion throughout the ages. Uncovered here are the orgies of Cleopatra and the incest of the Romans; the darkest fantasies of Michelangelo and the gross indecencies of the Marquis de Sade; as well as the insatiable desires of Rasputin, the degrading fetishes of Adolf Hitler, the unashamed exhibitionism of Tallulah Bankhead and the dirty thrills of Elvis Presley. *Sordid Sex Lives* offers an insight into the shocking practices in which so many famous men and women have participated in. What motivates these sexual desires? Were they ever considered "normal?" And what happened to those whose filthy secrets were found out? Bursting with real-life accounts, this is the most explicit and shocking account of the sex lives of history's most notorious characters.

*Minnesota Rag* takes the reader on a tour of the underside of a dark period in Minnesota's past, one filled with crooked public officials, vengeful gangsters, and yellow journalists. Featuring notorious characters such as Jay M. Near, racist and antilabor publisher of Minneapolis's *Saturday Press*, pioneering newsman Fred W. Friendly weaves the tale of a court case that molded our understanding of freedom of the press and set a precedent for the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

One of the most beloved novels of the twentieth century by a writer of neverending interest, newly available in a 50th anniversary edition.

Best Book of Fall (*Esquire*) and a Most Anticipated Book of 2021 (*Lit Hub*) *What Has Happened to Fiction in the Age of Platform Capitalism?* Since it was first launched in 1994, Amazon has changed the world of literature. The "Everything Store" has not just transformed how we buy books; it has affected what we buy, and even what we read. In *Everything and Less*, acclaimed critic Mark McGurl explores this new world where writing is no longer categorized as high or lowbrow, literature or popular fiction. Charting a course spanning from Henry James to E. L. James, McGurl shows that contemporary writing has less to do with writing per se than with the manner of its distribution. This consumerist logic—if you like this, you might also like ...—has reorganized the fiction universe so that literary prize-winners sit alongside fantasy, romance, fan fiction, and the infinite list of hybrid genres and self-published works. This is an innovation to be cautiously celebrated. Amazon's platform is not just a retail juggernaut but an aesthetic experiment driven by an unseen algorithm rivaling in the depths of its effects any major cultural shift in history. Here all fiction is genre fiction, and the niches range from the categories of crime and science fiction to the more refined interests of *Adult Baby Diaper Lover* erotica. *Everything and Less* is a hilarious and insightful map of both the commanding heights and sordid depths of fiction, past and present, that opens up an arresting conversation about why it is we read and write fiction in the first place.

Taut, acidly witty, menacingly erotic, and often absolutely terrifying: this is a literary thriller of propulsive force that introduces a powerful storyteller. \*An Edgar Finalist for Best First Novel \*Semifinalist for the 2017 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award It begins when a meth-addicted grave robber unearths the death mask of Montezuma, setting off a violent struggle for its possession. There is the drug lord who employs him, who

would kill for that mask. There is the expat American collector, sinister and possibly mad. There is the greatly respected curator, who for a fee will provide provenances for his country's looted artifacts, and his long-suffering housekeeper, a deeply religious lesbian in a culture of machismo, who despises her patron. And there is the looter himself, who has stolen the mask and is now running for his life. Above all, there is Anna Ramsey, an American with a history of bad choices, who has hidden behind a mask all her adult life. A deeply wounded woman, Anna knows that masks protect and conceal. Anna is a heroine for our times, as she searches for the courage to remove her mask and show her true face.

"One of the greatest writers of the twentieth century . . . Simenon was unequaled at making us look inside, though the ability was masked by his brilliance at absorbing us obsessively in his stories." —The Guardian In this brilliant new translation of Georges Simenon's classic novel, a young man descends into a brutal world of crime "And always the dirty snow, the heaps of snow that look rotten, with black patches and embedded garbage . . . unable to cover the filth." Nineteen-year-old Frank—thug, thief, son of a brothel owner—gets by surprisingly well despite living in a city under military occupation, but a warm house and a full stomach are not enough to make him feel truly alive in such a climate of deceit and betrayal. During a bleak, unending winter, he embarks on a string of violent and sordid crimes that set him on a path from which he can never return. Georges Simenon's matchless novel is a brutal, compelling portrayal of a world without pity; a devastating journey through a psychological no man's land. In 1940, the handsome, athletic, and charismatic David Sparsholt arrives at Oxford University to study engineering, unaware of his effect on others—especially on Evert Dax, the lonely son of a celebrated novelist who is destined to become a writer himself. Spanning three generations, *The Sparsholt Affair* plumbs the ways the friendship between these two men will influence their lives—and the lives of others—for decades to come. Richly observed and emotionally charged, this is a dazzling novel of fathers and sons, of family and legacy, and of the longing for permanence amid life's inevitable transience.

A dark erotic romance from a USA Today bestselling author

For nine seasons Rainn Wilson played Dwight Schrute in the *The Office*. Viewers fell in love with the character and grew to love the actor who played him even more. In *The Bassoon King*, he tells his own story and explains how he came up with his incredibly unique sense of humor and perspective on life. The book chronicles his journey from super-nerddom to drama, his years of mild debauchery and struggles as a young actor in New York, his many adventures, and insights about *The Office* which fans of both Wilson and the show will love.

Discover the tantalizing details of Hollywood's famous and infamous fatalities The death of a celebrity is often as fascinating as--and sometimes more fascinating than--a star's actual life. From the grisly end of Sharon Tate at the hands of the Manson family and the mysterious demise of Bob Crane to the peaceful passings of Lucille Ball and George Burns, *The Hollywood Book of Death* is a captivating and appealingly packaged volume of more than 125 television and movie stars' final curtain calls. Arranged by manner of death, these well-researched accounts include details of celebrities' colorful lives and unusual deaths, their funerals, and the intriguing aftermath. With more than 100 rare photographs and a special "necrology" index of more than 6,000 stars and

directors, along with a section revealing where Hollywood personalities are resting in eternal sleep, this enthralling reference promises to be on every film and television buff's "Top 10" gift list.

As this urgent, genre-defying book opens, a woman who has recently been elevated to prominence for her social media posts travels around the world to meet her adoring fans. She is overwhelmed by navigating the new language and etiquette of what she terms "the portal," where she grapples with an unshakable conviction that a vast chorus of voices is now dictating her thoughts. When existential threats--from climate change and economic precariousness to the rise of an unnamed dictator and an epidemic of loneliness--begin to loom, she posts her way deeper into the portal's void. An avalanche of images, details, and references accumulate to form a landscape that is post-sense, post-irony, post-everything. "Are we in hell?" the people of the portal ask themselves. "Are we all just going to keep doing this until we die?" Suddenly, two texts from her mother pierce the fray: "Something has gone wrong," and "How soon can you get here?" As real life and its stakes collide with the increasingly absurd antics of the portal, the woman confronts a world that seems to contain both an abundance of proof that there is goodness, empathy, and justice in the universe, and a deluge of evidence to the contrary. Fragmentary and omniscient, incisive and sincere, *No One Is Talking About This* is at once a love letter to the endless scroll and a profound, modern meditation on love, language, and human connection from a singular voice in American literature.

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • The knockdown, drag-out, untold story of the other scandal that rocked Nixon's White House, and reset the rules for crooked presidents to come—with new reporting that expands on Rachel Maddow's Peabody Award-nominated podcast "Rachel Maddow and Michael Yarvitz expand on their riveting podcast to create a work both scholarly and disturbing in its parallels to current events."—Preet Bharara, New York Times bestselling author of *Doing Justice* and host of the podcast *Stay Tuned with Preet* Is it possible for a sitting vice president to direct a vast criminal enterprise within the halls of the White House? To have one of the most brazen corruption scandals in American history play out while nobody's paying attention? And for that scandal to be all but forgotten decades later? The year was 1973, and Spiro T. Agnew, the former governor of Maryland, was Richard Nixon's second-in-command. Long on firebrand rhetoric and short on political experience, Agnew had carried out a bribery and extortion ring in office for years, when—at the height of Watergate—three young federal prosecutors discovered his crimes and launched a mission to take him down before it was too late, before Nixon's impending downfall elevated Agnew to the presidency. The self-described "counterpuncher" vice president did everything he could to bury their investigation: dismissing it as a "witch hunt," riling up his partisan base, making the press the enemy, and, with a crumbling circle of loyalists, scheming to obstruct justice in order to survive. In this blockbuster account, Rachel Maddow and Michael Yarvitz detail the investigation that exposed Agnew's crimes, the attempts at a cover-up—which involved future president George H. W. Bush—and the backroom bargain that forced Agnew's resignation but also spared him years in federal prison. Based on the award-winning hit podcast, *Bag Man* expands and deepens the story of Spiro Agnew's scandal and its lasting influence on our politics, our media, and our understanding of what it takes to confront a criminal in the

White House.

'My New Year's Eve Toast: to all the devils, lusts, passions, greeds, envies, loves, hates, strange desires, enemies ghostly and real, the army of memories, with which I do battle - may they never give me peace' PATRICIA HIGHSMITH (New Year's Eve, 1947) Made famous by the great success of her psychological thrillers, *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Strangers on a Train*, Patricia Highsmith is lauded as one of the most influential and celebrated modern writers. However, there has never been a clear picture of the woman behind the books. The relationship between Highsmith's lesbianism, her fraught personality – by parts self-destructive and malicious – and her fiction, has been largely avoided by biographers. She was openly homosexual and wrote the seminal lesbian love story, *Carol*. In modern times, she would be venerated as a radical exponent of the LGBT community. However, her status as an LGBT icon is undermined by the fact that she was excessively cruel and exploitative of her friends and lovers. In this new biography, Richard Bradford brings his sharp, incisive style to one of the great and most controversial writers of the twentieth century. He considers Highsmith's bestsellers in the context of her troubled personal life; her alcoholism, licentious sex life, racism, anti-Semitism, misogyny and abundant self-loathing. It was his lips. The way his stare sent shivers down my spine. The way his rough voice whispered my name. So I caved. I did what I knew I shouldn't. But as quickly as he's there, he's gone. Leaving me confused. Devastated. I hope I'll never see him again... Then I do. He's my new boss. And he has secrets. My entire life fell apart once. It took everything I had to pull it back together and drag myself out of the darkness. This stranger who bought my art was supposed to be my hero, but instead he's the villain. He threatens to destroy all I've worked for—my sculpture, my rebuilt reputation, my life. All I have is my art, and I'll do anything to save it from his predatory hands. Even if it means offering myself instead.

**Sordid Holiday: How My Stalker Almost Stole Christmas** This is the second installment to *Sordid Details: Unprofessional Pursuit* Scarlet Walsh finds herself in trouble again while attempting to enjoy the holidays with her new boyfriend and hero, Rusty Blake. After a scandalous end to Scarlet's murder trial, her stalker, the sexy prosecuting attorney Bruce Fowler, continues his pursuit of her into the pristine ski village of Winter's Keep. Scarlet and Rusty are both caught off guard by the depths of Bruce's obsessive and destructive behavior. Will Rusty play the hero again, or will Scarlet find herself backed against a mirror? The action gets hot enough to melt the snow in this holiday-themed erotic thriller!

It took me years to find the courage to speak to Luka. He seemed exactly like me. Intelligent. Focused. Serious. But he's not the man I imagined. His reality is cruel and dark. He traps me in his web, his power twisting tighter the more I struggle, until it's hopeless. I can't break free. As he drags me unwillingly into his filthy world, I can't ignore the terrifying idea circling my mind. What if I belong here with him?

**\*WINNER OF THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE\* \*A BARACK OBAMA SUMMER READING LIST SELECTION\*** Winner of the Los Angeles

Times Book Prize for fiction "Astonishingly good." —Lily Meyer, NPR "So incantatory and visceral I don't think I'll ever forget it." —Ali Smith, *The Guardian* | Best Books of 2020 One of *The Wall Street Journal's* 11 best books of the fall | One of *The A.V. Club's* fifteen best books of 2020 | *A Sunday Times* best book of the year Selected by students across France to win the *Prix Goncourt des Lycéens*, David Diop's English-language, historical fiction debut *At Night All Blood is Black* is a "powerful, hypnotic, and dark novel" (*Livres Hebdo*) of terror and transformation in the trenches of the First World War. Alfa Ndiaye is a Senegalese man who, never before having left his village, finds himself fighting as a so-called "Chocolat" soldier with the French army during World War I. When his friend Mademba Diop, in the same regiment, is seriously injured in battle, Diop begs Alfa to kill him and spare him the pain of a long and agonizing death in No Man's Land. Unable to commit this mercy killing, madness creeps into Alfa's mind as he comes to see this refusal as a cruel moment of cowardice. Anxious to avenge the death of his friend and find forgiveness for himself, he begins a macabre ritual: every night he sneaks across enemy lines to find and murder a blue-eyed German soldier, and every night he returns to base, unharmed, with the German's severed hand. At first his comrades look at Alfa's deeds with admiration, but soon rumors begin to circulate that this super soldier isn't a hero, but a sorcerer, a soul-eater. Plans are hatched to get Alfa away from the front, and to separate him from his growing collection of hands, but how does one reason with a demon, and how far will Alfa go to make amends to his dead friend? Peppered with bullets and black magic, this remarkable novel fills in a forgotten chapter in the history of World War I. Blending oral storytelling traditions with the gritty, day-to-day, journalistic horror of life in the trenches, David Diop's *At Night All Blood is Black* is a dazzling tale of a man's descent into madness.

*All Hail Her Royal Majesty...* In the wake of an unthinkable tragedy, Emilia Lancaster has become something she never imagined possible: the reigning Queen of Germania. Still reeling from the violent anti-monarchist attacks against her kingdom, engulfed in grief over the fresh loss of her father, and heartbroken by the betrayal of her closest allies, the newly-minted royal finds herself more isolated than ever... despite the whole country watching her every move. She'd like nothing more than to run away — from the prying eyes of the public, from the political schemes unfolding all around her, and, perhaps most of all, from the painful memories of Carter Thorne, the man who stole her heart without asking for permission. But running isn't an option; not when there's an empire to rule. So, Emilia does the only thing she can: puts on her crown, slaps on a smile, and acts like the steady sovereign her shaken subjects need her to be. *Non sibi sed patriae*. Not for self, but country. After everything that's happened to her in the past few months, Emilia assumes she's made it through the worst. She's wrong. The danger is closer than ever. Unforeseen enemies are lurking just out of sight, determined to put an end to the Lancaster line, once and for all... Their final target? Germania's fiery new queen. **SORDID EMPIRE** is the final installment of

the breathtaking royal romance romance saga THE FORBIDDEN ROYALS TRILOGY. Pulse-pounding suspense, deadly political schemes, and scorching sexual tension make this final installment utterly un-put-downable!

Bootleggers, swindlers, gold miners and serial killers--Charlotte has courted them all. The Queen City is renowned for its skyline, sports teams and dizzying growth, but just below its smooth, polished exterior lies a dark past full of crime and myriad misdeeds. This second history of Charlotte has been concealed and denied by those who retell the city's story, and by those who have lived it. Until now. In *Wicked Charlotte*, discover the tale of the Chicago gangsters who invaded the city looking to pull a heist to fund sinister maneuverings in their boss's criminal trial. Learn how a golden nugget found in a nearby creek changed Charlotte from a trading crossroads into a rough and tumble town full of fortune seekers bent on finding a quick dollar and instant riches. And read about the details of the death of one of Charlotte's most gifted writers, who met his end in a seedy hotel room in Mexico. This raucous book sheds light on these incidents and many more, revealing a side of Charlotte's history that few will recognize. The sordid events described here took place on familiar streets and in well known neighborhoods, but rarely have the stories passed beyond the circles of those who lived them. Charlotte has played host to a multitude of villainous characters, and has seen scores of unsavory deeds played out on its shadowy streets. *Wicked Charlotte* brings it all to the forefront, as never before.

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The incredible "glowing" history of the "Devil's element" phosphorus Discovered by alchemists, prescribed by apothecaries, exploited by ninth-century industrialists, and abused by twentieth-century combatants, the chemical element phosphorus has fascinated us for more than three centuries. It may even be the cause of will-o'-the-wisps and spontaneous human combustion! Now John Emsley has written an enthralling account of this eerily luminescent element. Shining with wonderful nuggets--from murders-by-phosphorus to a match factory strike; from the firebombing of Hamburg to the deadly compounds derived from phosphorus today--*The 13th Element* weaves together a rich tableau of brilliant and oddball characters, social upheavals, and bizarre events.

Michael Scott Garvin "takes us on an unforgettable journey through Savannah in the turbulent year of 1968. Both hilarious and heartbreaking, [he] introduces us to the

irrepressible Poppy and her cantankerous ancient Aunt Sookie. All political correctness is buried alongside the dead corpse in the family vegetable garden ..."

Two sordid novellas of dark desires -- the forbidden lust between fathers and daughters, one set in the 1920s, another in the 1960s. It's a taboo as old as time, but handled beautifully by Valerie Grey's sensuous insight, without shame or regret, but with delight and enticement. Hot scenes during hot nights behind hushed closed doors will be certain to get the motor oil flowing!

This book is a work of fiction and satire.? Lust Trumps All ? A beautiful young businesswoman finds herself overworked and undersexed but a chance encounter brings her to a hunky man who can satisfy her every need, none other than 45th United States President Donald Trump. Through a series of wet and wild encounters Trump helps her experience an awakening of her body and soul. Sexually. ?This Book is Purely Fiction and Satire?

Jan believed she was 'in love'. She accepted a proposal of marriage, and then sent money to a professional scammer. Jan is one of the rare few survivors of a romance scam who has the courage to speak up, and she does - loudly, eloquently and frequently telling the whole sordid story. You might think it can't happen to you, but can you be sure?

Finalist for the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and for the Governor General's Literary Award, this powerful new work, about a transgender sex worker in the red-light district of Bombay who is given an unexpected task, is a gripping literary page-turner--difficult and moving, surprising and tender. Anosh Irani's best novel yet, and his first with Knopf Canada. The Parcel's astonishing heart, soul and unforgettable voice is Madhu--born a boy, but a eunuch by choice--who has spent most of her life in a close-knit clan of transgender sex workers in Kamathipura, the notorious red-light district of Bombay. Madhu identifies herself as a "hijra"--a person belonging to the third sex, neither here nor there, man nor woman. Now, at 40, she has moved away from prostitution, her trade since her teens, and is forced to beg to support the charismatic head of the hijra clan, Gurumai. One day Madhu receives a call from Padma Madam, the most feared brothel owner in the district: a "parcel" has arrived--a young girl from the provinces, betrayed and trafficked by her aunt--and Madhu must prepare it for its fate. Despite Madhu's reluctance, she is forced to take the job by Gurumai. As Madhu's emotions spiral out of control, her past comes back to haunt her, threatening to unravel a lifetime's work and identity. This is a dark, devastating but ultimately redemptive novel that promises to be one of the most talked-about publications of the year.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER From Lisa Taddeo, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller and global phenomenon *Three Women*, comes an "intoxicating" (*Entertainment Weekly*), "gripping" (*New York*), "explosive" (*People*), and "ferociously beautiful" (*Library Journal*) debut novel. "With skill and insight, Taddeo examines how the savagery of men fuels female rage. The result is as intimate as it is explosive." —*People* (Book of the Week) "[A] propulsive, fiercely confident debut novel...Joan's voice is so sharp and magnetic that the reader will follow her anywhere...Taddeo's prose glitters. She has a gift for aphorism, the observation that astonishes." —*The New York Times Book Review* Joan has spent a lifetime enduring the cruelties of men. But when one of them commits a shocking act of violence in front of her, she flees New York City in search of Alice, the only person alive who can help her make sense of her

past. In the sweltering hills above Los Angeles, Joan unravels the horrific event she witnessed as a child—that has haunted her every waking moment—while forging the power to finally strike back. *Animal* is a depiction of female rage at its rawest, and a visceral exploration of the fallout from a male-dominated society.

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