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FRANKFURT - 2024

Nonfiction

WE SHOULD ALL BE BIRDS (Tin House)

A Memoir

By Brian Buckbee, with Carol Ann Fitzgerald

NA: Tim House, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

MS available in October, 2024, publishing August, 2025

A charming and moving debut memoir about how a man with a mysterious illness saves a pigeon, and how the pigeon saves the man.

On a spring evening in Montana, Brian Buckbee encounters an injured baby pigeon. Heartbroken after the loss of the love of his life and increasingly isolated by a mysterious illness that overtook him while trekking through Asia, Brian is unaware that this bird—who he names Two-Step—will change his life. Brian takes in Two-Step, and more injured birds, eventually transforming his home into a madcap bird rehabilitation and rescue center. As Brian and Two-Step grow closer, an unexpected kinship forms. But their paths won't converge forever: as Two-Step heals and finds love, Brian's condition worsens, and with his friend's release back into the world looming closer, Brian must decide where this story leaves him.

WE SHOULD ALL BE BIRDS follows Brian, unable to read or write due to a never-ending headache, as he dictates the end of his old life—as an adventurer, an iconoclastic university instructor, and endurance athlete—through his relationship with a pigeon that comes to define his present. Limited to dictation to communicate his story, Brian works with an editor, Carol Ann Fitzgerald, who channels the details of his personal history to the pages. Raw and perceptive, delirious and devastating, This is an unflinching exploration of chronic illness, grief, connection, and the spectacular beauty of the natural world—and the humble pigeon. The surprising, heartwarming relationship between man and bird provides insight into what it means to love, to suffer, and to “never forget, even for a second, how big it all is.”

Brian Buckbee lives in Missoula, Montana. He is co-founder of The 406 Writers' Workshop. His stories have appeared in *The Sun*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Mid-American Review*, *Shenandoah*, *The Southern Review*, and elsewhere.

Carol Ann Fitzgerald is a former editor at *The Sun* and *The Oxford American*. Her fiction and nonfiction have been published in *Ploughshares*, *The Oxford American*, *The Sun*, *The Book of Great Music Writing*, and elsewhere. She lives in Chapel Hill.

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CHASING HAPPINESS (St. Martin's)
Finding Joy and Purpose for the Long Run
By Keria D'Amato with Evelyn Spence

NA: St. Martin's, UK, Abner Stein, Translation: CLA
MS Available, Publishing September 2025

Keira D'Amato was an all-American runner who used to chase success. But she stopped running after an injury, became the mother of two young children who found herself overweight, out of shape, and with zero social life. She knew that improving her fitness would make her feel better. But she didn't think she had time and she wasn't even sure if she was fit enough to try. One day Keira tried to run just 90 seconds. And she couldn't. But two days later she did. And six years after that she broke the American women's record in the marathon at the age of 37. She's determined to share the secrets of her success to help readers, and especially moms, to start CHASING HAPPINESS and find their way back to moving and themselves again. Keira D'Amato has created a buzz in the world of professional athletics by taking the road less traveled. If the normal trajectory for an elite female athlete is to focus on sport first, then get a "real" job, then have a family, D'Amato upended it: She married her high school sweetheart, had two children, started her career in real estate—and only then returned to running. It's not just her relatable background that makes D'Amato so popular in the running community. We assume that to be successful, we must be somber, driven, and humorless. But what if the opposite were true—that more fun can *help* you reach your biggest goals? At an age when most athletes consider retirement, D'Amato is just getting started.

D'Amato's 83K [Instagram](#) followers are 73% female, 65% ages 25–44. She has 60K followers on [Strava](#), and is the winner of the Most Fun Follow in the 2022 Strava Year in Sport Awards.

BONE VALLEY (Flatiron)
By Gilbert King

NA: Flatiron, UK: Wildfire, Translation: CLA
MS Due: January 2025, publishing November, 2025

A gritty true crime story based on the award-winning podcast Bone Valley, the episodes of which have been downloaded over 10 million times.

BONE VALLEY follows the saga of Leo Schofield who was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his wife, Michelle, in Central Florida in the 1980s. He narrowly escaped the death penalty and received a life sentence though he could have been released if he just confessed to the killing. But he refused to do so because he's innocent. Another prisoner confessed to the crime, and his fingerprints were found on the scene. But the Florida prosecutors refused to consider new evidence and Leo had exhausted his appeals when Gilbert King began digging into his story five years ago. The podcast, over nine episodes, meticulously investigated the investigation into Leo and documented an extraordinary miscarriage of justice. The attention generated by the podcast led to Leo's release from prison in May, 2024, finally a free man after over thirty years. But the podcast only scratches the surface of this extraordinary story, and the book will reveal new details about the killer, the prosecution, and Leo's quest for justice.

Gilbert King is the Pulitzer-winning author of DEVIL IN THE GROVE (HarperCollins, 2012), and BENEATH A RUTHLESS SUN (Riverhead, 2016). He lives in Brooklyn.

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SICK AND DIRTY (Bloomsbury)

Hollywood's Gay Golden Age and the Making of Modern Queerness

By Michael Koresky

NA: Bloomsbury, UK; Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

MS Available, Publishing June, 2025

A blazingly original history celebrating the persistence of queerness onscreen, behind the camera, and between the lines during the dark days of the Hollywood Production Code.

From the 1930s to the 1960s, the Motion Picture Production Code severely restricted what Hollywood cinema could depict. This included “any inference” of the lives of homosexuals, whose very existence America’s screens entirely obscured. When identified at all, queer characters were villains or outcasts. In a landmark 1981 book, gay activist Vito Russo famously condemned Hollywood’s censorship regime, lambasting many midcentury films as the bigoted products of a “celluloid closet.”

But there is more to these movies than meets the eye. In this insightful, wildly entertaining book, cinema historian Michael Koresky advances a bold take on the Code Era, calling our attention to how queerness inherently resists erasure, abiding even in films that are “bad for us.” Bookended by *These Three* and *The Children’s Hour*—both based on the same play by Lillian Hellman and both unfairly reviled today—Koresky’s nuanced account finds new meaning in “problematic” classics such as *Rope*, *Tea and Sympathy*, and *Suddenly, Last Summer*, reckoning with these complex films’ enduring capacity to enthrall, move, and, yes, delight us. At the same time, he lifts up the period’s underappreciated queer filmmakers. On second glance, midcentury Hollywood may begin to seem surprisingly, even gleefully subversive. Now, at a time when book bans and gag laws are on the rise, *Sick and Dirty* reminds us that nothing makes queerness speak louder than its opponents’ bids to silence it.

Michael Koresky is Editorial Director at New York’s Museum of the Moving Image. Previously he held editorial roles with Film at Lincoln Center, Metrograph Cinema, and The Criterion Collection, where he continues to curate and host the Criterion Channel series *Queersighted*. He has taught at NYU and The New School, and his writing has appeared in *Film Comment* and *Sight and Sound*, among others. He is the author of the memoir *Films of Endearment* and a monograph on Terence Davies. He lives in Brooklyn.

PERJURY SCHOOL (on submission)

How Lawyers, Executives and Lobbyists Fell in Love with Hacking

By Barry Meier

NA: on submission, UK: Abner Stein, Translation (CLA)

A shocking investigative account exposing a powerful and illegal tool used with impunity by some of the world’s most powerful entities.

Barry Meier is a Pulitzer-Prize winning investigative journalist whose celebrated and groundbreaking reporting first highlighted the opioid crisis and revealed the secrets of the wealthy Sackler family. His book on the subject, *PAIN KILLER* (Random House), later became a Netflix series starring Matthew Broderick and Uzo Aduba, and Meier was a featured character doggedly reporting the same in Patrick Radden Keefe’s *EMPIRE OF PAIN*. His most

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recent book, *SPOOKED* (HarperCollins), details the intersection of journalism and an epidemic of private spying which led to the infamous Steele Dossier. It's now under development at FX.

Meier's new project continues in these groundbreaking footsteps, documenting shocking evidence of nefarious activity by some of the most powerful and well-resourced people and institutions in our world. Meier uses three interlocking stories to pull back the curtain on a playbook of impunity that, but for an outbreak of carelessness, might never have come to light. *PERJURY SCHOOL* will expose the lengths to which the powerful will go to achieve their aims and how they have corrupted the judicial system and other public institutions in the process. To tell his tale, Meier will draw on unique sources, exclusive interviews and mountains of testimony across litigation in New York, London and elsewhere.

Barry Meier is a former, long-time investigative reporter with The New York Times, who was a member of the Times team that won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting.

BEAR WITNESS (Liveright)
A Crusade for Justice in a Violent Land
By Ross Halperin

NA: Liveright, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA
MS Available, Publishing May, 2025

A high-octane true-crime story, *Bear Witness* follows two Christians who refuse to let fear or conventional wisdom stand in the way of their altruistic mission.

As young men, Kurt Ver Beek, an American sociologist, and Carlos Hernández, a Honduran schoolteacher, devoted their lives to helping the poor. But it wasn't until they moved to an extraordinarily dangerous neighborhood in Honduras that they came to a radical conclusion: the charity world was combatting poverty incorrectly. In gripping prose, journalist Ross Halperin chronicles how these two best friends became quasi-vigilantes and charged into a series of life-and-death battles: first with the gang that terrorized their community, then with a notorious tycoon who commanded about a thousand armed men, and finally with a police force whose corruption defied credulity. Their efforts made some of the most violent neighborhoods on earth safer, but not without compromising their principles, precipitating collateral damage, and acquiring their share of outraged critics.

A remarkable and dangerous feat of reportage, *Bear Witness* is a thrilling account of an unorthodox mission to establish justice in a place thought to be beyond the reach of the law.

Ross Halperin attended Harvard University and worked under Mark A.R. Kleiman, one of the world's leading criminal-justice scholars. He started reporting this story in 2018 and has since spent much of his time in Honduras.

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GRAPHIC NOVELS

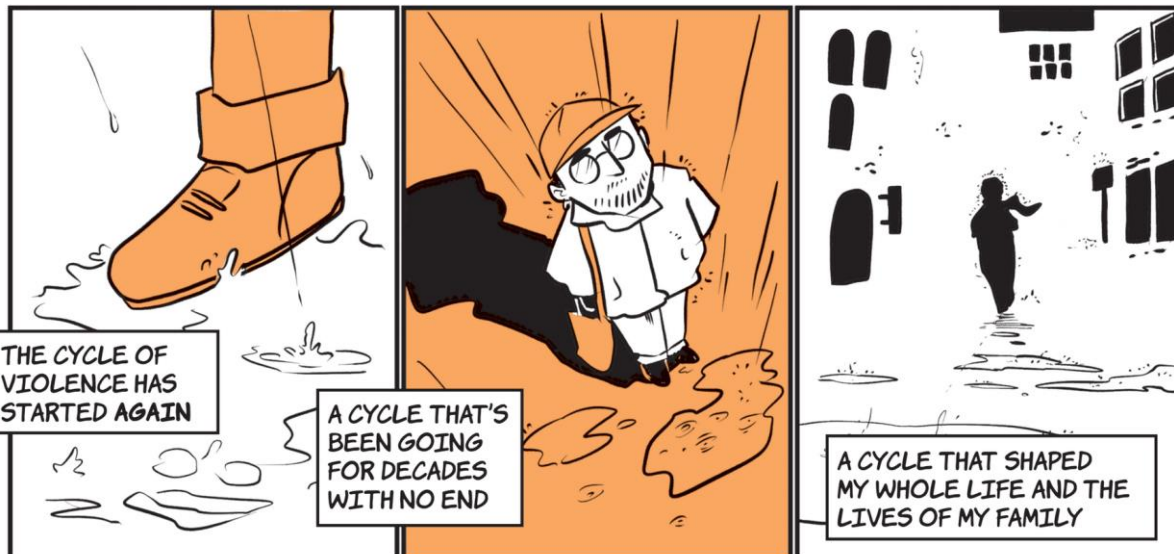
ORANGES (Ten Speed)

A Graphic Memoir

By Ahmad Qatato

NA: Ten Speed Graphic, UK: Jonathan Cape, Translation: CLA
MS due June, 2026, publishing spring 2027

ORANGES tells the story of three generations of Ahmad's family, tracing the impact of the diaspora on their personalities, relationships, and hopes for themselves. All the while it narrates Ahmad's effort to reconcile his many identities, as an artist, as a gay man, as an Arab, and the grandchild of Palestinian refugees. One of the most difficult things is not feeling like you belong anywhere in the world, and ORANGES is Ahmad's touching and candid account of his unique journey of acceptance even while the war in Gaza brought him and his group of friends into entirely new levels of grief and feelings of exile.



Ahmad Qatato works at Design Group Italia doing brand design and he's published comics online and in print with a Lebanese comic artist collective SAMANDAL. Ahmad's "Majida's Diaries," an Arabic-language comic strip published on Facebook, chronicled the ordinary lives of three Arab girls. What started with brief comic episodes began to include frank conversations about taboo subjects in the Muslim world, whether it be honor killing or same-sex desire. This generated considerable media attention and Ahmad appeared on CNN and Radio Monte Carlo, and was also featured in El Pais with the page growing to 150,000 followers. Ahmad is fluent in Arabic, English, and Italian.

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WHAT EVERY THING IS (on submission)

The Hidden Systems of Making, Moving, Waste and Reusing

By Dan Nott

NA: On submission, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

Proposal is available

A graphic novel shedding new and fascinating light on our physical worlds, telling the extraordinary stories of the things around us, from our computers and phones to furniture and books. The book will focus not on what a thing does or costs but what it actually is, how it was made, how it gets to us, and what it will become and where it goes after we throw it in the trash or a recycling bin.

Dan's first book HIDDEN SYSTEMS: Water, Electricity, the Internet, and the Secrets Behind the Systems We Use Every Day (RH Graphic, March 2023) was licensed to seven territories, TV rights were licensed to NBC Studios, and RH Graphic has over 15,000 hardcovers and nearly 30,000 paperbacks in print. It was 1) longlisted for the [National Book Award](#), 2) called a Best Book for Teens (2023) by the [New York Public Library](#), 3) singled out by the [Children's Book Council](#) as a Sustainability and Environment pick, 4) named a best book of the year by the librarians of the [Cooperative Children's Book Center](#), 5) won the [Vermont Book Award](#), 6) named a Green Earth Honor Book by [The Nature Generation](#), 7) made the Indie Next List by the American Booksellers Association, 8) was a Junior Library Guild Selection, and acknowledged as both 9) a Best STEM Book, K-12, by the [National Science Teaching Association](#) and 10) an Orbis Pictus Award Honor Book by [The National Council of Teachers of English](#).

WHAT EVERY THING IS tracks the extraordinary routes raw materials take from rocks or organic materials to become finished products, then following them over more routes to our hands before taking final journeys as trash or recycling which, sometimes, can be the start of a whole new cycle. This information has enormous implications for all of us, as Dan says, "especially the most vulnerable people and future generations. We can't talk about green energy without understanding the mining of rare earth materials that make up solar panels and EV batteries, or micro plastic pollution without understanding how it's derived from ancient carbon fuels."

Dan Nott holds an MFA from the Center for Cartoon Studies, where he now teaches a graduate-level course on comics history, theory and communities called Survey of the Drawn Story.

HIDDEN SYSTEMS licenses: **China**/Luminaire, **Italy**/Quinto Quarto, **Japan**/Kawade-Shobo, **Korea**/Forest, **Portugal**/Classica Editora, **Russia**/Popuri, **Spain**/Planeta)

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