

FALL 2022 RIGHTS GUIDE

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**Stephen Batchelor**

**THE ART OF SOLITUDE**

*Yale University Press (editor Jennifer Banks), February 2020*

*Sold to: Urano (Spanish language); Vis-a-Vis Etiuda (Poland); Steinrich (Germany); Farol (Portugal); Uknow (Korea); Suan Nguen Mee Ma (Thailand); Gryphus (Brazil); Associazione Sati Mudita (Italy)*

This is Stephen Batchelor's quest for the essence of solitude, the elusive state that resides within us. His journey, told in 32 short chapters, reflects on the experiential, the philosophical, the contemplative, and medical realms. Batchelor travels the life and journals of Montaigne, the paintings of Vermeer, the deep meditative practice of *jhana*, ceremonies centered upon peyote and ayahuasca, and a lifelong reflection on the meaning of the Buddhism. Is it possible to achieve solitude by being alone? Can one actually clear the mind of thoughts to be truly solitary? Does the act of writing intrude on a solitary state? Might it be that to be solitary one must be in the company of others? Inspiration comes from the Buddhist poem *Four Eighths*, which Batchelor translated, also told in 32 verses. Resting on a lifetime of contemplation and experience, Batchelor began this pursuit of *The Art of Solitude* at the close of his sixtieth year.

Stephen Batchelor is the author of numerous classical works of Buddhist thought, including *The Faith to Doubt*, *Buddhism Without Beliefs*, *Living with the Devil*, *Verses from the Center*, *Confession of a Buddhist Atheist*, *A Secular Buddhism*, and *After Buddhism*. He has been ordained as a Buddhist monk, later trained in the Songgwangsa Monastery in South Korea, was co-founder of the Sharpham College for Buddhist Studies and Contemplative Enquiry, and a Guiding Teacher at Gaia House. He is also a contributing editor to *Tricycle Magazine*.

“With his long experience of Buddhism, meditation, and teaching it is hard to think of anyone better equipped to write about the art of solitude than Stephen Batchelor.”

—Tim Parks

“*The Art of Solitude* is a marvel. Carefully constructed yet entirely original, it sings with a haunting melody of wistful contemplation. Reading it is a true joy.”

—Mark Epstein, MD

**Tara Brach**

**RADICAL COMPASSION: Learning to Love Yourself and Your World with the Practice of RAIN**

*Viking (editor Laura Tisdell), January 2020*

*Sold to: Rider (UK); Droemer (Germany); Belfond (France); Bulkwang (Korea); Urano (Spanish); Kosmos (Netherlands); Exmo (Russia); Lúa y Papel (Portugal); Roi (Italy); Oak Tree (Chinese Complex); Omega (Turkey); Seiwa Shoten (Japan); Editora Herald (Romania)*

One of the most loved and trusted mindfulness teachers in America today, Tara Brach, author of the celebrated *Radical Acceptance* offers a roadmap for systematically awakening compassion when we need it the most – in the thick of daily life, when we’re stressed, anxious, angry, terrified, or numb and cut off from our heart. The key tool is RAIN, an easy to learn four-step meditation that you can start using today. RAIN (Recognize, Allow, Investigate, Nurture) come to life as Tara shares memorable stories of working with students as the face feelings of overwhelm, loss, and self-aversion, painful relationships, and past trauma. RAIN nourishes the inner resources that allow you to live true to yourself and to actively care for others. At a time when so many feel uncertain about the future, threatened by the dividedness, hatred, violence and greed that dominate our daily news, *Radical Compassion* offers a courageous pathway that can evolve our consciousness, and bring more love into the world.

Tara Brach, Ph.D. is an internationally renowned teacher of mindfulness, meditation, emotional healing and spiritual awakening. She is the author of *Radical Acceptance* and *True Refuge*, and her weekly podcast talk and meditation is downloaded over a million and a half times each month. She is the founder of Insight Meditation Center of Washington, DC, one of the largest and most dynamic meditation centers in the US.

“Tara Brach has an uncanny ability to home in precisely on what we need in the moment, so we can meet that need from within. She teaches a simple but life changing practice to bring presence and compassion to any moment of shame or longing or struggle, transforming our pain into love. This book is a treasure from one of the most important spiritual teachers of our time.”

— Kristin Neff, author of *Self-Compassion*

“In this magnificent synthesis of her important teachings in cultivating compassion in our everyday lives, Tara Brach, offers us a life-changing tool to open our awareness with love and healing. This important book is as practical as it is profound, a deep and lasting gift for us all.”

— Daniel J. Siegel, M.D author of *Aware: The Science and Practice of Presence* and *Mind: A Journey to the Heart of Being Human*

“*Radical Compassion* lays out a path of straightforward, accessible practices grounded in both modern brain science and ancient wisdom - with the soul and depth you’d expect from a world-class meditation teacher and psychologist. A masterpiece.”

— Rick Hanson, Ph.D. author of *Resilient: How to Grow an Unshakable Core of Calm, Strength, and Happiness*

“Tara Brach’s four-step RAIN meditation can be an integral part of anyone’s mindfulness practice. RAIN helps us uncover the states of love, self-care, forgiveness, compassion, and tenderness we each are capable of. It is a useful and elegant system, and *Radical Compassion* is a beautifully written book.”

— Sharon Salzberg, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Real Happiness* and *Lovingkindness*

**RADICAL ACCEPTANCE: *Embracing Your Life with the Heart of a Buddha***

*Ballantine Books (editor Erin Kane) New 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition to be released Fall 2023*

*Sold to: Droemer (Germany); Belfond (France); Kosmos (Holland); Rider (UK); Oak Tree Publishing (Chinese Complex); Huaxia (Chinese Simplified); Alfaomega (Spain & Latin America); Bulkwang (Korea); Ubilibir (Italy); Basam Books (Finland); Grup Media Litera SRL (Romania); Fontana Esotera (Czech Republic); Exmo (Russia); Vexta (Bulgaria); Ursus Libris (Hungary); Sextante (Brazil); Lúa y Papel (Portugal); Omega (Turkey); Samgha (Japan); Vista (Poland)*

In her perennially bestselling classic RADICAL ACCEPTANCE (over a half-million copies sold) Tara Brach, clinical psychologist and meditation teacher, brings Buddhism and Western psychology together to uncover how suffering arises from the ‘shadow emotions’ of the psyche. She deals practically and lovingly with the role of compassion in transforming parts of ourselves that we have rejected. Ultimately, this Buddhist approach of embracing the world in all of its emotional messiness, beauty, and mystery is key to pursuing a genuine path of awakening.

**Lily Brett**

**TOO MANY MEN**

*Suhrkamp, Penguin Australia*

*Film: Kings & Queens Productions, ‘The Iron Box’ starring Mandy Patinkin and Lena Dunham, to be released 2024*

This classic backlist title, first published in 1999, continues to be a bestseller in Germany and in Lily Brett’s native Australia. In *TOO MANY MEN*, Lily Brett takes Ruth Rothwax on a journey back to Poland with her 81-year old Holocaust survivor father, Edek. Edek’s first trip, returning to his homeland, an essential journey for daughter and father, who until now has refused even to teach Ruth the language of his past, despite his own to struggle speak even the roughest English. Again in his childhood home, Edek unfolds to his daughter the heartbreaking story of survival in the hands of the Nazis. And to Ruth, her own compulsion to lead in orderly life of obsessive exercise and calorie counting, becomes more understandable. Told with Lily Brett’s signature dark humor blended with deep sadness, her characters strive to reconcile present and past.

Lily Brett is the author of poems, essays, and many novels, the most well-known being *TOO MANY MEN*, *CHUZPE*, and *LOLA BENSKY*, all autobiographically rooted in the stories of immigration of her parents after surviving the Holocaust, told always with dark humor and compassion. Her works are regular bestsellers in Germany, and in her native Australia. The French edition of *LOLA BENSKY* was the winner of the *Prix Médicis Étranger*. *CHUZPE* has been released as a tv movie in Germany and was a theatrical production directed by Otto Schenk. The feature film *The Iron Box*, based on *TOO MANY MEN*, produced by Kings & Queens is scheduled to begin production February 2023, for release in 2024 – starring Mandy Patinkin and Lena Dunham.

**Robert Cwiklik**

**PHIL'S ERRAND: *A Union Hero's Secret Mission Against White Supremacist 'Banditti' Militias and the Civil War After the Civil War***

HarperCollins (editor Jonathan Jao), 2023

*Ms. due December, 2022*

Robert Cwiklik captures here an unsung story of the Reconstruction Period of US history, the post-Civil War experiment in multi-racial democracy that proved formative for political and racial climates in the US today. In 1874, when Civil War hero General Phil Sheridan swept into the Charles Hotel in New Orleans, it was on a secret mission, calling for the arrest of leaders of the White League, for waging a “banditti” war against former slaves. This intervention was perhaps President Grant’s last resort to maintain order in the tenuous Reconstruction project. What ensued was a failure has become a chapter in US, and one that continues to surface in our current political reality.

Robert Cwiklik served as an editor at the *Wall Street Journal* for 16 years, and helped launch *Al-Monitor*, a website devoted to Middle East news. He is also the author of *House Rules: A Freshman Congressman's Initiation to the Backslapping, Backpedalling, and Backstabbing Ways of Washington* (Random House), as well as several books for children.

**Mark Epstein**

**THE ZEN OF THERAPY: *Uncovering a Hidden Kindness in Life***

Penguin Press (editor Ann Godoff), 2022, pb January 2023

*Sold to: El Hilo de Ariadne (Spanish); Autêntica (Brazil); Curtea Veche (Romania); UAB Leidykla Vaga (Lithuania); Vulkan Izdavaštvo (Serbia); AST (Russia); Saengdao (Thailand)*

In this remarkable exploration of the therapeutic relationship, psychiatrist Mark Epstein reflects on one year’s worth of therapy sessions with his patients observing how his training in Western psychotherapy and his equally long investigation into Buddhism, in tandem, has led to greater awareness—for his patients, and for himself. In *The Zen of Therapy*, we see the incidental details of a given hour, how Mark Epstein’s Buddhist background influences the way he works. Meditation and psychotherapy each encourage a willingness to face life’s difficulties with courage that may otherwise be difficult to muster. In this cross-section of life observed in Dr. Mark Epstein’s office, we see how therapy, an element of Western medicine, can in fact be considered a two-person meditation. Mindfulness much like a good therapist, can “hold” our awareness for us—can allow us to come to our senses and find inner peace.

“A warm, profound, and cleareyed memoir...a reminder that a deeper and more companionable way of life lurks behind our self-serious stories.” – Oliver Burkeman, *NY Times Book Review*

**Barbara Graham**

**WHAT JONAH KNEW**

*HarperCollins (editor Gail Winston), July 2022*

In Barbara Graham’s psychological suspense thriller *WHAT JONAH KNEW*, a seven-year-old boy inexplicably recalls the memories of a missing 22-year old musician. Helen Bird will stop at nothing to find Henry, her musician son who has mysteriously disappeared in upstate New York. Though the cops believe that Henry’s absence is voluntary, Helen knows better. While she searches -- joined finally by the police -- a son Jonah is born to Lucie and Matt Pressman of Manhattan. Lucie does all that she can to be the kind of loving, attentive mother she never had, but can’t stop young Jonah’s night terrors or his obsession with the imaginary ‘other mom and dog’ that he insists are real. Whether Jonah’s anxiety is caused by nature or nature -- or something else entirely -- is the propulsive mystery at the heart of this novel.

Barbara Graham is an author, seasoned essayist and playwright. Her articles have appeared in *Glamour*, *More*, *O*, *National Geographic*, *Mindful*, *Self*, *Time*, *Tricycle*, and *Vogue*. She is the author of the national bestseller *Women Who Run with the Poodles*, and the NY Times bestselling anthology *Eye of My Heart: 7 Writers Reveal the Hidden Pleasures and Perils of Being a Grandmother*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

“This riveting psychological thriller raises provocative questions about life and death.” – *People Magazine*

In Graham’s genre-bending fiction debut two women’s lives become intertwined in a heartrending story about grief, trauma and love between mothers and sons. – *Booklist*

“Profoundly entertaining and entertainingly profound. *What Jonah Knew* is a celebration of the vital and powerful ties that bind us—to our children, to ourselves, and to each other—across space and time.” --Ruth Ozeki, author of *The Book of Form and Emptiness*

“A spellbinding literary thriller packed with psychological suspense and profound questions about motherhood, trauma and how death illuminates life.”

—Amy Tan, bestselling author of *The Joy Luck Club* and *Where the Past Begins*

“In this captivating novel, Barbara Graham takes us straight to the heart of devastating human emotion, love, loss, and the mysteries of life and death. *What Jonah Knew* is a metaphysical journey wrapped up in the breathtaking pages of a psychological thriller.”

– Wendy Walker, bestselling author of *All is Not Forgotten*

**Roy Richard Grinker**

**NOBODY'S NORMAL: *How Culture Created the Stigma of Mental Illness***

*W.W. Norton (editor Jill Bialosky), January 2021*

*Sold to: Mememto (Korea); Portal (Russia); Okuyanus (Turkey); Znak (Poland); TZYU (Chinese Simplified); Arquipélago (Brazil); Misuzu Shobu (Japan)*

In *NOBODY'S NORMAL*, anthropologist Roy Richard chronicles the shift of stigma's role in defining the mentally ill. This timely and compassionate work moves from the emergence of mental illness 18th century asylums, through public and military response during America's major wars, and into integration with today's high-tech economy. It is culture, he maintains, not science that holds the key to eradicating the shame and secretiveness surrounding mental illness. Grinker infuses the book with the personal history of four generations of family involvement in psychiatry, including his grandfather's analysis with Freud, his own daughter's experience with autism, and culminating in his research on neurodiversity. Drawing on cutting-edge science, historical archives, and cross-cultural research in Africa and Asia, *Nobody's Normal* offers a path to end the shadow of stigma. The preeminent cultural historian of medicine, Sander Gilman, calls *Nobody's Normal*, "the most important work on stigma in more than half a century."

Roy Richard Grinker is Professor of anthropology at George Washington University, and Editor of the Anthropological Quarterly. He is the author of *Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism*, for which he received the NAMI Ken Award for 'outstanding contribution to the understanding of mental illness'; and *In the Arms of Africa: The Life of Colin M. Turnbull*. He is a two-time finalist for the Victor Turner Prize. His writing has appeared in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post.

"*Nobody's Normal* shows how a society's needs and prejudices shape mental illness...The book sings with the empathetic and authoritative voice of Grinker." *NY Times Book Review*

"Across 17 chapters that span the rise of the asylum and the recent return of biological psychiatry, Grinker shows that norms are buttressed by complex, long-standing stigmas, particularly around sex and race, which aren't in our biology, but in our culture." *Psychology Today*

"*Nobody's Normal* is an unusually interesting history of mental illness and the stigma attached to it...profoundly tied to the human condition."

— Kay Redfield Jamison, author of *An Unquiet Mind* and *Robert Lowell: Setting the River on Fire*

"Richard Grinker explores the way stigma has coalesced around mental illness and assesses the cumulative harm done by depressed or psychotic patients' sense of humiliation. Anyone hoping to ameliorate the crisis of mental illness will have to resolve this clinging shame...This book [provides] a guide [as] to how the problem might begin to be addressed, so that those who are ill bear only the burden of their illness itself."

— Andrew Solomon, author of *Noonday Demon* and *Far from the Tree*

**Nina Kraus**

**OF SOUND MIND: *How the Sounds of Our Lives Shape Our Brains***

MIT Press (editor Robert Prior), September 2021

Nautilus Gold Award Winner for Science and Cosmology 2022

Sold to: Commonwealth (Chinese Complex); Corpus (Russia); Kinokuniya (Japan); Wisdomhouse (Korea)

In her ground breaking work *OF SOUND MIND* Nina Kraus, Ph.D makes it known how hearing is the underappreciated sense. A neuroscientist who has spent more than 30 years studying the auditory system, Nina Kraus explores in accessible terms how the brain performs one of its most difficult functions -- making sense of sound -- and how vulnerable the brain is to what it hears. We are guided to understand how the brain relates to the language we speak and hear, how the young brain's shape changes as it relates to music, bilingualism, birdsong. We comprehend how disruptive noise, and concussion can have devastating effect on the brain. *OF SOUND MIND* will change the way we think about sound and how it cuts across our world. A relatable and fantastic book on sound and the brain, this is for readers of Oliver Sachs, Aniruddh Patel, and Daniel Levitin.

Nina Kraus, Ph.D. is Hugh Knowles Professor of Communication Sciences, Neurobiology & Otolaryngology at Northwestern University, she has headed the Brainvolts Laboratory for more than three decades. Scientist, inventor, amateur musician, she was the first to show that the adult nervous system has the potential for reorganization with learning. Her work has appeared in *Science*, *Nature*, *Neuron* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. She has testified before the US Senate and Congress, and the US Dept. of Education on the importance of music education in brain health. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *NPR*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Scientific American*. She has collaborated with opera singer Renée Fleming, NIH Director Francis Collins, and drummer Mickey Hart of the Grateful Dead.

'Nina Kraus is a brilliant communicator and *Of Sound Mind* is an engaging and entertaining read.'

--Renée Fleming, soprano

A startling work, Nina Kraus makes the case that the world *is* sound.

--Mickey Hart, Musicologist and drummer for The Grateful Dead

'A highly informative and clearly written book: Kraus's enthusiasm for the understanding of the place of sound in our world is infectious. She shows us just how deeply sound, and in particular music, is intertwined in the brain with everything else that makes us who we are.'

--Iain McGilchrist, author of *The Master and his Emissary*

This is really a book that only Kraus could write, but everyone should read. It will change the way we think about—and value—our sonic experiences. From background noise and everyday sounds to spoken word and music, it's all here and narrated beautifully.

—Daniel Levitin, author of *This Is Your Brain on Music*

"With eyes closed and not seeing, while exhaling and not smelling, we hear. Hearing never takes a break. So our relationship with sound is complicated, our brain filtering and selecting, turning the

volume up and down, creating meaning and vivid memories. This is the best book I've seen about what sound is—and what sound *means* to us.”

--Carl Safina, author of *Beyond Words* and *Becoming Wild*

**Liel Leibovitz**

***HOW TO THINK TALMUDICALLY: Advice for Modern Life from a Very Old Book***

W.W. Norton (editor Amy Cherry), 2024

ms. due November 2023

Liel Leibovitz's book on applying the wisdom of the Talmud to everyday life, comes from his popular newly launched podcast 'Take One' (over a million downloads to date) of *Tablet Magazine*, offering brief meditations from rabbis, teachers, artists, activists in the daily Talmud portion. In *HOW TO THINK TALMUDICALLY*, the book, a wise and appreciative storyteller, Leibovitz plucks from the treasures of ancient rabbinical legends and conundrums that remain infinitely sage, and brings them to everyday life, through stories and interviews of secular heroes, many of whom are encountered on his podcast. The book will be shaped around the great and age-old complexities of life – Death, Loss, Friendship, Family, Community, Maturity. The Talmud is after all, to put it in Leibovitz's words, humanity's first true self-help book.

Liel Leibovitz is most recently the author of *Stan Lee: A Life in Comics*, and many more, including a biography of Leonard Cohen *A Broken Hallelujah*; *Lili Marlene -- The Soldier's Song of WW II*; and *Fortunate Son -- The 120 Chinese Boys Who Came to America, Went to School, and Revolutionized an Ancient Civilization*. He is a founding editor of *Tablet Magazine*, for which he writes a weekly column, and is a host of the hugely popular *Unorthodox* podcast (more than 7 million downloads) for which he has traveled widely throughout the country and beyond.

**Liel Leibovitz**

***MY MANHOOD: A Memoir***

W.W. Norton (editor Amy Cherry), 2025

ms. due October 2024

MY MANHOOD is Liel Leibovitz's own story, about becoming a man, a story that has required its own share of rabbinic wisdom. It begins with his own father, who believed more than anything in developing his only son in his own image. He would teach him the importance of having the most hardened and essential masculine qualities, necessary for a supreme male life. Liel's model of a father was the famed gun wielding, 'motorcycle bandit' who robbed banks and became an Israeli national hero. It was from here, that Liel began his journey to becoming a man in full.

A small portion (in different form) of this memoir has been featured on 'The Moth.'



**Daniel Pollack-Pelzner**

**MY SHOT: *The Education of Lin Manuel Miranda***

*Simon & Schuster (editor Bob Bender), 2025*

*Ms. due 2024, proposal available*

Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, *New Yorker* and *Atlantic* critic on theater and contemporary culture, looks at the life education to date of Lin Manuel Miranda, the global star who has made Broadway history.

The performer, director, writer, who created *Hamilton*, *In the Heights*, and who at just 42 just keeps on pushing his fame further – his first-ever song written in Spanish for the film *Encanto*, now nominated for an Academy Award, is the number one song in the world – has agreed to cooperate with Daniel Pollack-Pelzner in looking at the forces that have most shaped his life and his sensational creativity. Conversations will include LMM’s teachers and mentors from the elementary school teacher who cast him in *Bye Bye Birdy*, to the school bus driver, who made him memorize the lyrics to ‘Beef’ by Boogie Down Productions, to his high school drama coach, who saw the potential of his musical adaptation of ‘The Chosen.’ Pollack-Pelzner will have introduction to Lin’s parents, who shaped his dual-culture identity, his sister, his spouse, and his early friendships, the profound people of his life who have been influential in forming his world view. Pollack-Pelzner will connect with the many collaborators who have helped to shape Lin’s theatrical vision, among them – producer Jeffrey Sellers, director Thomas Kail, co-writer playwright Quiara Alegria Hudes. Perhaps most vital to Lin Manuel Miranda’s legacy will be discussions about his treasured mentor, Stephen Sondheim.

Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, besides his journalistic work at *The Atlantic* (‘The Mixed Reception of the *Hamilton* premier in Puerto Rico’) and *The New Yorker* (‘The Surprising Timeliness of *Hamilton* in London’), is presently Visiting Scholar in English at Portland State University, where he teaches theater history, and is currently scholar-in-residence at the Portland Shakespeare Project.

**James Shapiro**

**PLAYBOOK: *The Dream and Demise of a Theater for All Americans***

*Penguin Press (editor Will Heyward), 2025*

*Proposal available; ms. due February 2024*

*Sold to: Faber (UK, editor Alex Bowler)*

James Shapiro, known for his acclaimed works on William Shakespeare (most recently *Shakespeare in a Divided America*), in *PLAYBOOK* looks at the role of politics in shaping American theater. In an exploration of longstanding political and cultural rifts in America, rooted in the 1930’s with the Federal Theatre Project as it came head-to-head with the Committee on un-American Activities, shows how battles over theater give voice to what is otherwise rarely debated so openly.

James Shapiro is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he teaches Shakespeare. He has received international acclaim for *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599* (winner of the Samuel Johnson Prize *The Year of Lear: 1606* (winner of the James Tait Black Prize), *Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?* (a New York Times Notable Book of the

Year), and most recently *Shakespeare in a Divided America* (NY Times 10 Best Books of the Year; National Book Critics Circle Finalist). His reviews have appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Times Literary Supplement*, the *London Review of Books*, and other publications. He is on the board of directors of The Royal Shakespeare Company, and advises productions for the Public Theatre in New York and other companies. Shapiro was a collaborator on *Jacobean Genius*, a series he hosted for the BBC and also hosted the BBC *The Mysterious Mr. Webster*. In 2012 he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## James Shapiro

### **SHAKESPEARE IN A DIVIDED AMERICA: *What His Plays Tell Us about Our Past and Future***

*Penguin Press (editor Ann Godoff), March 2020*

*New York Times TOP 10 BOOKS of 2020*

*National Book Critic Circle Finalist 2020*

*Sold to: Faber (UK); Shanghai BBT (Chinese Simplified)*

In *Shakespeare in a Divided America*, James Shapiro, renowned for *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599* (Samuel Johnson Prize) and *The Year of Lear: 1606* (James Tait Black Prize), addresses how the plays of Shakespeare have the capacity to get to the heart of human controversy. Over the course of American history, as matters of race, gender, and immigration have come to the forefront, legendary performances of Shakespeare's plays serve as a barometer of our deepest national discord. Shapiro, a foremost American contemporary authority on Shakespeare, leads us through historic performances that include *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Twelfth Night*, showing Shakespeare's unique role in reflecting the underpinnings of history. From Ulysses S. Grant in the role of Desdemona (before he became commander of the Union army and President of the United States), to President John Quincy Adams' disgust with Desdemona's interracial marriage to Othello, to Paul Robeson as the first African American in the role of Othello in 1943, to Stephen Bannon's collaborative film adaptation of *Coriolanus* set during the Rodney King riots, right up to the culmination of the 2017 production of *Julius Caesar* in Central Park, in which a Trump-like leader is assassinated.

"In two landmark books, James Shapiro explored the depth of Shakespeare's engagement in the contested issues of his own time. Now, in the brilliantly conceived *Shakespeare in a Divided America*, Shapiro deftly demonstrates the playwright's intimate presence in the culture and politics of the New World. From the racist anxieties focused on *Othello* in the 1830s to the bitter left-right divide focused on *Julius Caesar* in our own time, Shakespeare's works have been uncannily central to our national imagination. This richly researched book is a continual revelation both about Shakespeare and about ourselves."

—Stephen Greenblatt, author of *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*

"James Shapiro excels at bringing Shakespeare's works and worlds to life for our time. Now, in this fascinating book, he ingeniously explores how unending disagreements over the plays illuminate our national past as well as the present. Selecting powerful stories where history and literature meet, he spares his readers none of America's violent passions -- or Shakespeare's."

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— Sean Wilentz, George Henry Davis 1886 Professor of American History at Princeton University and author of *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln*

## **Russell Shorto**

### **TAKING MANHATTAN**

*W.W. Norton (editor Julia Reidhead,) 2023*

*Partial ms. available; full ms. due November 2023*

*Sold to: Ambo Anthos (Netherlands)*

Perhaps best known for his bestselling *ISLAND OF THE CENTER OF THE WORLD*, where Russell Shorto reveals the island of Manhattan to be an outpost of Dutch Enlightenment with its origins of tolerance and free trade, he now brings us *TAKING MANHATTAN*, marking a new force in history that begins with the entrance of the British. With the British takeover of New Netherland in 1664, what is about to become New York (and later the whole of the 13 colonies and eventually the United States) will become forever tied to the British global push for power, which not incidentally includes the launching of the slave trade. Alongside the spirit of diversity and to the seeds of capitalism that launched New Netherland, the British quest for power and trade would ‘fuse into the nation’s soul.’

Russell Shorto will continue to bring the lives of the seventeenth century inhabitants of Manhattan into being through his access to the early Dutch records that are part of the ongoing translation project, that has become a national treasure of the New Netherlands Research Center, an endeavor of more than 12,000 pages. Russell Shorto’s increasingly layered and complex reading of history, acquires new urgency as its consequences surface in our present.

Russell Shorto is the author of the acclaimed and bestselling *Island at the Center of the World* (to be a 2022 musical from the Dutch theatre company New Productions). He is most recently the author of *Smalltime: A Story of My Family and the Mob*, as well as *Revolution Song: The Story of America’s Founding in Six Remarkable Lives*; *Amsterdam: A History of the World’s Most Liberal City*; and *Descartes’ Bones*. He writes regularly for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and many other publications.

## **Juan Villoro**

### **HORIZONTAL VERTIGO: A City Called Mexico**

*Almadía (Mexico)/Anagrama (Spain); Pantheon (editor Erroll McDonald)*

*Sold to: Kalandraka (Portugal); Jagiellonian University Press (Poland); Shanghai Century (Chinese Simplified)*

*Finalist for the Kirkus Review Prize for Nonfiction*

*One of 10 Best Nonfiction Books of the Year / Los Angeles Times*

Mexican novelist, essayist, chronicler, Juan Villoro, gives us his beautiful compendium of a book about his adored city, 25 years in the making. Paul Theroux calls *Horizontal Vertigo* “the best book about Mexico City, bar none – better than Octavio Paz, better than Carlos Fuentes.” *World Literature Today* calls the book, “Villoro’s masterpiece... His greatest achievement resides in his

ability to understand and make the city known through different characters, observations, beliefs.” *Horizontal Vertigo* has become an immediate classic work of the world’s largest Spanish-speaking city. The title refers to a city forever in fear of impending earthquakes, leading to a capital city built outward rather than upward. Villoro’s intimate picture wanders from place to place, observing its people, neighborhoods, architecture, culture, policy, social history, reaching back to indigenous antiquity of the Aztec period, drawing the connections in between.

Born in Mexico City, Juan Villoro is known as Mexico’s preeminent novelist. He is the author of half a dozen prize-winning novels, including the Herralde Prize for *El Testigo* (‘The Witness’), and a prolific journalist on wide ranging cultural topics from sports, to music, cinema, literature, and travel.

“This is Villoro’s masterpiece...His great achievement in *Horizontal Vertigo* resides in his ability to understand and make the city known through different characters, occupations and beliefs. Although many writers have been interested in Mexico City, such as Carlos Monsiváis and Carlos Fuentes, Juan Villoro finds a new postmodern way of portraying the contemporary city.  
--*World Literature Today*

“I’ve just finished *Horizontal Vertigo* by Juan Villoro. It’s the best book I’ve read about Mexico City, bar none – better than Octavio Paz, better than Carlos Fuentes.  
-- Paul Theroux, *Telegraph*

## **Maryanne Wolf**

### **READER, COME HOME: *The Reading Brain in a Digital World***

*HarperCollins (editor Gail Winston), 2018; paperback 2019*

*Sold to: Penguin (Germany); Intershift (Japan); Across Publishing (Korea); Koc University Press (Turkey); Vita e Pensiero (Italy); Contexto (Brazil); CITIC (Chinese Simplified); Business Weekly Publishing (Chinese Complex); Deusto/Planeta (Spanish); Viena Ediciones (Catalan); AST (Russia); Naklada Ljevak (Croatia); Host vydavatelství (Czech); Cankarjeva založba (Slovenia); Rosie & Wolf (France)*

A decade ago, Maryanne Wolf’s now seminal work *Proust and the Squid* unraveled the tangled story of how the human brain learned to read and how reading has transformed our thoughts and emotions as a species. As society becomes increasingly dependent on digital reading, however, fissures are appearing in our most sophisticated cognitive and emotional processes affecting critical analysis, empathy, and contemplation. Many lament that their former capacity to be immersed in reading itself has changed. The evidence for these changes and what they portend for the quality of our thought and the intellectual development of the next generation are the critical, timely subjects of *Reader, Come Home*. Will the next generation, adept in rapid multitasking and quick access to multiple sources of knowledge, fail to fully develop their own “slower,” more cognitively demanding, *deep reading* processes, such as inferential reasoning, perspective-taking, and insight? Inspired by research in neuroscience, literature and philosophy, Wolf engages the reader in a series of letters that depict her concerns about what is happening to the brain as it adapts to digital

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mediums. *Reader, Come Home* presents a clarion call for understanding the complex impact of technology on the reading brain and what this could mean for the future of humankind.

Maryanne Wolf is the Director of the Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners, and Social Justice in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA, the Chapman University Presidential Fellow, and the former John DiBiaggio Professor of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University. She is the recipient of multiple research honors, including the highest awards by the International Dyslexia Association, the Australian Learning Disabilities Association, The Dyslexia Foundation, and the highest teaching awards from the Massachusetts and the American Psychological Associations. She is the author of *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*, *Tales of Literacy for the 21st Century*, and more than 160 scientific publications. She is one of the founding members of Curious Learning, a global literacy initiative that helps teach children to read, particularly in remote regions of the world.

“In this profound and well-researched study of our changing reading patterns, Wolf presents lucid arguments for teaching our brain to become all-embracing in the age of electronic technology. If you call yourself a reader and want to keep on being one, this extraordinary book is for you.”

— Alberto Manguel, author of *A History of Reading* and *A Reader on Reading*

“Wolf is sober, realistic, and hopeful, an impressive trifecta. Her core message: We can’t take reading too seriously. And for us, today, how seriously we take it, will mark of the measure of our lives.”

— Sherry Turkle, author of *The Empathy Diaries* and *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*; Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science, MIT

“A love song to the written word, a brilliant introduction to the science of the reading brain and a powerful call to action. With each page, Wolf brilliantly shows us why we must preserve deep reading for ourselves and sow desire for it within our kids. Otherwise we risk losing the critical benefits for humanity that come with reading deeply to understand our world.”

— Lisa Geurnsey, coauthor *Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screen*

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**Phyllis Vine**

*FIGHTING FOR RECOVERY: An Activists' History of Mental Health Reform*

*Beacon* (editor Amy Caldwell), September 2022

*FIGHTING FOR RECOVERY* is a history of mental health reform, centering on grassroots activism led by patients and their families, and great leaps in brain science and research in the past half century. Phyllis Vine's involvement in the story stems from her own personal encounter with the treatment of mental illness, in her brother's diagnosis with and treatment for schizophrenia. Vine's sensitivity and focus on the human beings that drive this book make it a "people's history" of mental health reform, in the spirit of Howard Zinn.

Phyllis Vine is a founding member of NAMI-New York State and *MIWatch.org*, an aggregate of information on mental illness, and has served on the Carter Center's annual Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Symposium. She was awarded the 2017 Logan Fellowship from the Carey Institute for Global Good for her work on *FIGHTING TO RECOVER*. Vine was previously a professor of American History at Sarah Lawrence College. She is the author of *One Man's Castle: Clarence Darrow in Defense of The American Dream* (HarperCollins) and *Families in Pain* (Pantheon).