



# C FFEE HOUSE PRESS

FALL • WINTER 2017

Coffee House Press began as a small letterpress operation in 1972 and has grown into an internationally renowned non-profit publisher of literary fiction, essay, poetry, and other work that doesn't fit neatly into genre categories.

Coffee House is both a publisher and an arts organization. Through our *Books in Action* program and publications, we've become interdisciplinary collaborators and incubators for new work and audience experiences. Our vision for the future is one where a publisher is a catalyst and connector.

Adventurous readers, arts enthusiasts, community builders, and risk takers—join us.

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Please contact us for more information.

Cover photograph of Literati Bookstore in Ann Arbor, Michigan, courtesy of Cat Buswell.

If you'd like your bookstore featured on our catalog or website,  
please contact Caroline Casey at [caroline@coffeehousepress.org](mailto:caroline@coffeehousepress.org).  
Visit us at [www.coffeehousepress.org](http://www.coffeehousepress.org).

# Letters to Memory

A memoir by Karen Tei Yamashita

*This dive into the Yamashita family archive and Japanese internment runs a documentary impulse through filters that shimmer with imagination.*

**L**etters to Memory is an excursion through the Japanese internment using archival materials from the Yamashita family as well as a series of epistolary conversations with composite characters representing a range of academic specialties. Historians, anthropologists, classicists—their disciplines, and Yamashita’s engagement with them, are a way for her to explore various aspects of the internment and to expand its meaning beyond her family, and our borders, to ideas of debt, forgiveness, civil rights, orientalism, and community.

## PRAISE FOR KAREN TEI YAMASHITA:

“It’s a stylistically wild ride, but it’s smart, funny and entrancing.” —**NPR**

“Fluid and poetic as well as terrifying.”  
—**NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW**

“With delightful plays of voice and structure, this is literary fiction at an adventurous, experimental high point.” —**KIRKUS**

**KAREN TEI YAMASHITA** is the author of *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*, *Brazil-Marú*, *Tropic of Orange*, *Circle K Cycles*, *I Hotel*, and *Anime Wong*, all published by Coffee House Press. *I Hotel* was selected as a finalist for the National Book Award and awarded the California Book Award, the American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, and the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award.

KAREN TEI YAMASHITA

LETTERS TO MEMORY



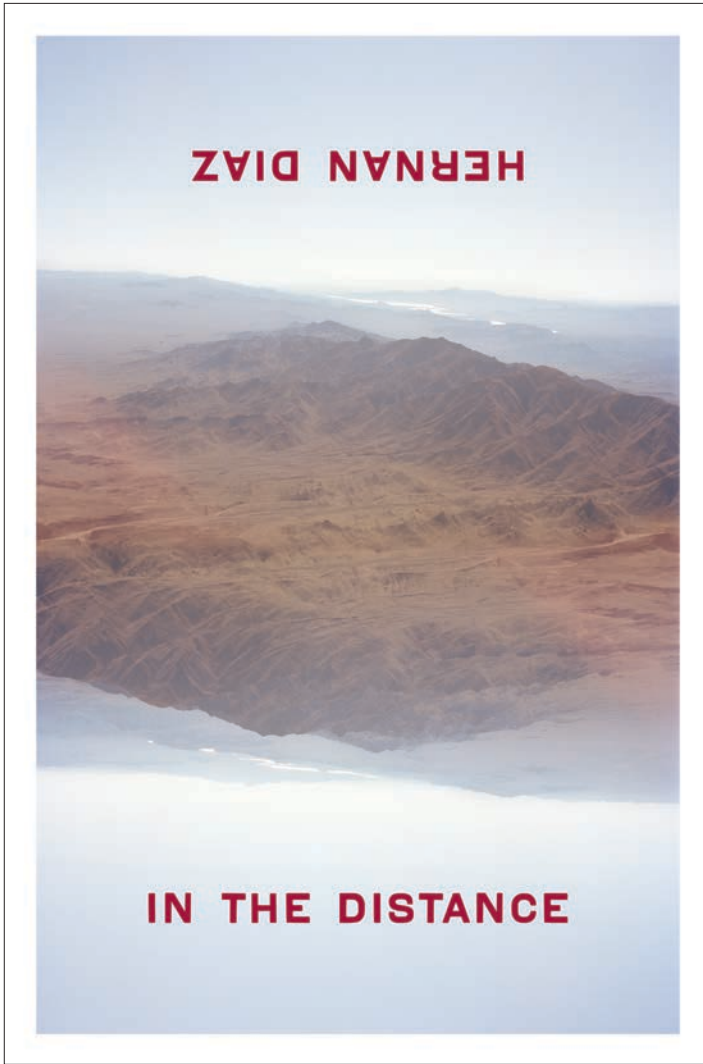
September • 6 x 9 • 184 pp  
\$19.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-487-6  
\$19.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-498-2

## ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *Anime Wong*  
\$19.95 • Trade Paper
- *Circle K Cycles*  
\$22.00 • Trade Paper
- *I Hotel*  
\$19.95 • Trade Paper



**RIGHTS:** UK and Translation, Audio/Audio-Visual, Dramatic



October • 5.5 x 8.25 • 272 pp  
\$16.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-488-3  
\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-497-5

## In the Distance

A novel by Hernan Diaz

*A young Swedish boy, separated from his brother, becomes a man; the man, despite himself, becomes a legend and outlaw.*

A young Swedish immigrant finds himself penniless and alone in California. The boy travels east in search of his brother, moving on foot against the great current of emigrants pushing west. Driven back again and again, he meets naturalists, criminals, religious fanatics, swindlers, Indians, and lawmen, and his exploits turn him into a legend. Diaz defies the conventions of historical fiction and genre, offering a probing look at the stereotypes that populate our past and a portrait of radical foreignness.

### FROM *IN THE DISTANCE*:

“Moving through the throbbing desert was like sinking into the state of trance immediately preceding sleep, where consciousness summons up all its remaining strength only to register the moment of its own dissolution. All that could be heard was the thin earth—rock pulverized through the seasons, bones milled by the elements, ashes scattered like a whisper over the plains—being further ground under the hooves. Soon, this sound became part of the silence. Håkan often cleared his throat to make sure he had not gone deaf. Above the hard shallowness of the desert, the unkind skies and the minuscule sun—a dense, sharp dot.”

**HERNAN DIAZ** is the author of *Borges, Between History and Eternity* (Bloomsbury 2012), managing editor of *RHM*, and associate director of the Hispanic Institute at Columbia University. He lives in New York.

**RIGHTS:** uk and Translation



# The Doll's Alphabet

Stories by Camilla Grudova

*Surreal, ambitious, and exquisitely conceived, these are stories in the tradition of Angela Carter, Franz Kafka, and Margaret Atwood.*

Dolls, sewing machines, tinned foods, mirrors, malfunctioning bodies—by constantly reinventing ways to engage with her obsessions and motifs, Camilla Grudova has built a universe that's highly imaginative, incredibly original, and absolutely discomfiting. The stories in *The Doll's Alphabet* are by turns childlike and naive, grotesque and very dark: the marriage of Margaret Atwood and Angela Carter.

"This doll's eye view is a total delight and surveys a world awash with shadowy wit and exquisite collisions of beauty and the grotesque."

—HELEN OYEYEMI, AUTHOR OF  
*BOY, SNOW, BIRD*

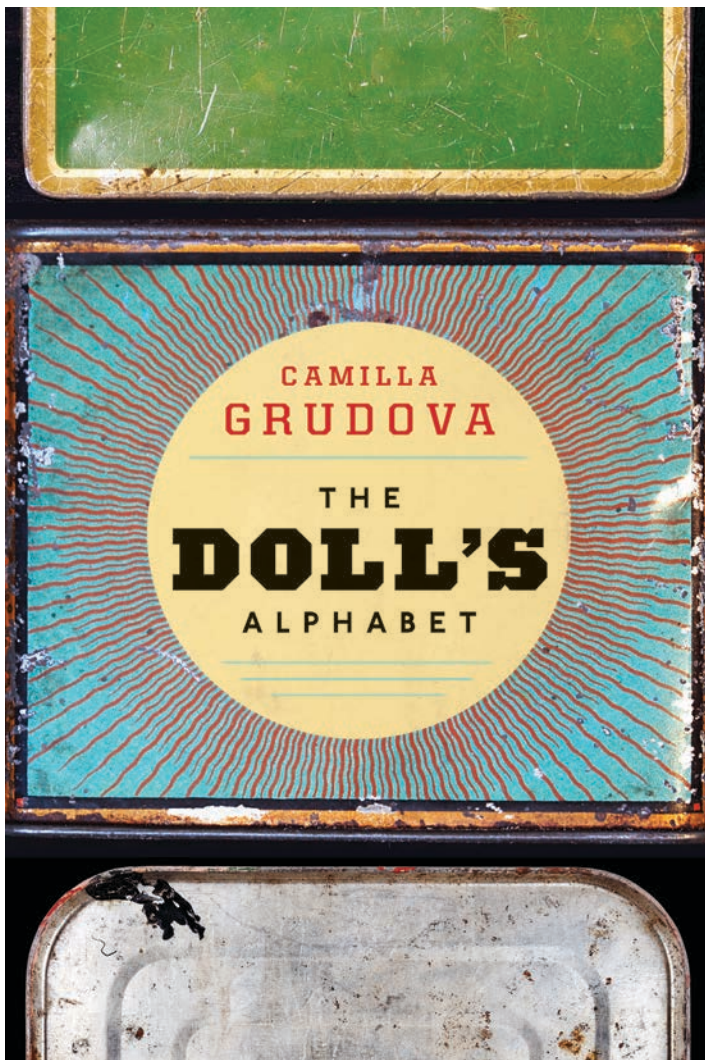
"Down to its most particular details, *The Doll's Alphabet* creates an individual world—a landscape I have never encountered before, which now feels like it was waiting to be captured, and waiting to captivate, all along."

—SHEILA HETI, AUTHOR OF  
*HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE?*

"Marvellous. Grudova understands that the best writing has to pull off the hardest aesthetic trick—it has to be both memorable and fleeting."

—DEBORAH LEVY, AUTHOR OF  
*HOT MILK*

**CAMILLA GRUDOVA** lives in Toronto. She holds a degree in art history and German from McGill University, Montreal. Her fiction has appeared in the *White Review* and *Granta*.



October • 5.5 x 8.25 • 192 pp  
\$15.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-490-6  
\$15.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-499-9

**RIGHTS:** Audio/Audio-Visual

Verónica Gerber Bicecci

# EMPTY SET

a novel

Translated by Christina MacSweeney

February • 5 x 7.75 • 232 pp

\$16.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-494-4

\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-500-2

## Empty Set

A novel by Verónica Gerber Bicecci

Translated by Christina MacSweeney

*A Venn diagram for love, Bicecci's narrator traces and reconstructs her relationships using geometry, ice cores, and tree rings.*

**H**ow do you draw an affair? A family? Can a Venn diagram show the ways overlaps turn into absences, tree rings tell us what happens when mothers leave? Can we fall in love according to the hop skip of an acrostic? *Empty Set* is a novel of patterns, its young narrator's attempt at making sense of inevitable loss, tracing her way forward in loops, triangles, and broken lines.

"Verónica Gerber writes with a luminous intimacy; her novel is clever, vibrant, moving, profoundly original. Reading it made me feel as if the world had been rebuilt."

—FRANCISCO GOLDMAN

"Empty Set(ES) belongs to the set of Great Fragmentary Novels(GFN), which in turn fits plainly and simply within the set of Great Novels(GN). Verónica Gerber writes with the modesty and care of those who may seem to belong more to the set of Visual Artists(VA) than Writers(W)—each fragment is a precious miniature that exudes subtle, melancholy humor."

—JUAN PABLO VILLALOBOS

**VERÓNICA GERBER BICECCI** is a visual artist who writes. In 2013 she was awarded the third Aura Estrada Prize for Literature. She is an editor with Tumbona Ediciones, a publishing cooperative with a catalog that explores the intersections between literature and art.

**RIGHTS:** Audio/Audio-Visual

# Mean

A nonfiction novel by Myriam Gurba

*Gurba grows up queer, Chicana, and take no prisoners. Her story is a revelation, a delight, and an eye-opener.*

**T**True crime, memoir, and ghost story, *Mean* is the bold and hilarious tale of Myriam Gurba's coming of age as a queer, mixed-race Chicana. Blending radical formal fluidity and caustic humor, Gurba takes on sexual violence, small towns, and race, turning what might be tragic into piercing, revealing comedy. This is a confident, intoxicating, brassy book that takes the cost of sexual assault, racism, misogyny, and homophobia deadly seriously.

"I am such a gigantic fan of Myriam Gurba. Her voice is an alchemy of queer magic, feminist wildness, and intersectional explosion. She's a gigantic inspiration to my work and the sexiest, smartest literary discovery in Los Angeles. She's totally ready to wake up the world."  
—JILL SOLOWAY

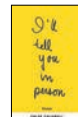
**MYRIAM GURBA** lives in California and loves it. She teaches high school, writes, and makes "art." NBC described her short story collection *Painting Their Portraits in Winter* as "edgy, thought-provoking, and funny." She has written for *Time*, KCET, and *The Rumpus*. Wildflowers, compliments, and cash make her happy.



November • 5.5 x 8.25 • 160 pp  
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\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-501-9

## ALSO AVAILABLE FROM EMILY BOOKS:

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\$16.95 • Trade Paper
- *I'll Tell You in Person*  
\$16.95 • Trade Paper
- *The Gift*  
\$15.95 • Trade Paper



**RIGHTS:** UK and Translation, Dramatic



# A SPECIAL REISSUE FROM COFFEE HOUSE PRESS



September • 6 x 9 • 264 pp  
\$16.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-486-9  
\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-502-6

**RIGHTS:** uk and Translation, Audio/Audio-Visual, Dramatic

## Tropic of Orange

A novel by Karen Tei Yamashita

Introduction by Sesshu Foster

*An apocalypse of race, class, and culture fanned by the media and the harsh L.A. sun.*

Irreverently juggling magical realism, film noir, hip-hop, and chicanismo, *Tropic of Orange* takes place in a Los Angeles where the homeless, gangsters, infant organ entrepreneurs, and Hollywood collide on a stretch of the Harbor Freeway. Hemmed in by wildfires, it's a symphony conducted from an overpass: grandiose, comic, and as diverse as the city itself.

“Fiercely satirical. . . Yamashita presents [an] intricate plot with mordant wit.”

—**NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW**

“A stunner. . . An exquisite mystery novel. But this is a novel of dystopia and apocalypse; the mystery concerns the tragic flaws of human nature.”

—**LIBRARY JOURNAL (STARRED REVIEW)**

“Yamashita handles her eccentrics and the setting of their adventures with panache. David Foster Wallace meets Gabriel García Márquez.”

—**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

**KAREN TEI YAMASHITA** is the author of *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*, *Brazil-Maru*, *Tropic of Orange*, *Circle K Cycles*, *I Hotel*, and *Anime Wong*, all published by Coffee House Press. *I Hotel* was selected as a finalist for the National Book Award and awarded the California Book Award, the American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, and the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award.



# A SPECIAL REISSUE FROM COFFEE HOUSE PRESS

## Brazil-Marú

A novel by Karen Tei Yamashita

Introduction by Susan Straight

*Japanese immigrants in Brazil build an isolated communal settlement in the rain forest, prey to the charisma of one man.*

The story of a band of Japanese immigrants who arrive in Brazil in 1925 to carve a utopia out of the jungle. The dream of creating a new world, the cost of idealism, the symbiotic tie between a people and the land they settle, and the changes demanded by a new generation all collide in this multigenerational saga.

“A splendid multi-generational novel . . . rich in history and character.”

—**SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE**

“Warm, compassionate, engaging, and thought-provoking.”

—**WASHINGTON POST**

“Yamashita’s heightened sense of passion and absurdity, and respect for inevitability and personality, infuse this engrossing multigenerational immigrant saga with energy, affection, and humor.”

—**BOOKLIST**

**KAREN TEI YAMASHITA** is the author of *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*, *Brazil-Marú*, *Tropic of Orange*, *Circle K Cycles*, *I Hotel*, and *Anime Wong*, all published by Coffee House Press. *I Hotel* was selected as a finalist for the National Book Award and awarded the California Book Award, the American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, and the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award.

KAREN TEI YAMASHITA

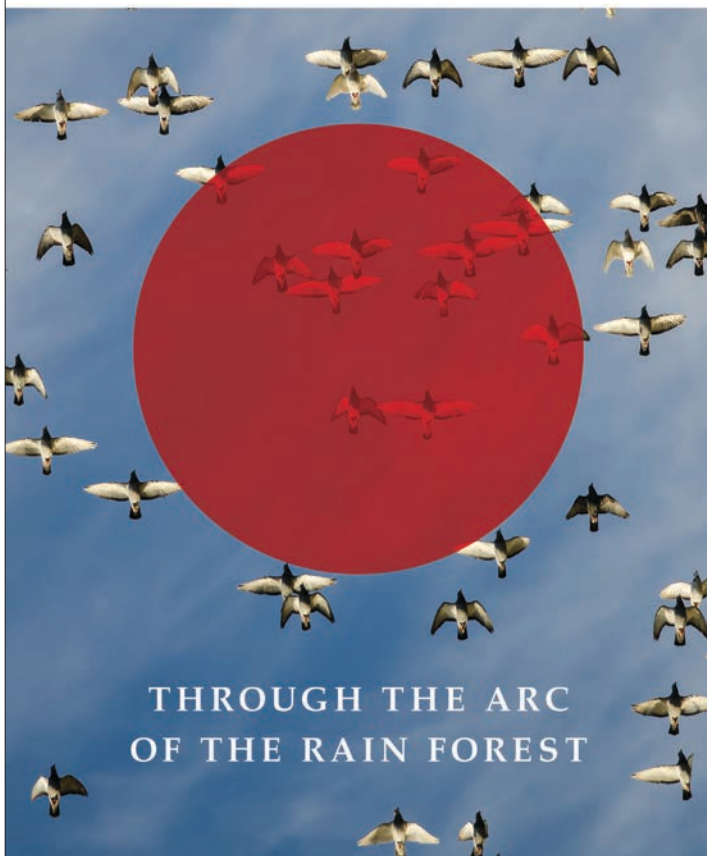


BRAZIL-MARU

September • 6 x 9 • 272 pp  
\$16.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-484-5  
\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-503-3

**RIGHTS:** UK and Translation

KAREN TEI YAMASHITA



September • 6 x 9 • 216 pp  
\$16.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-485-2  
\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-504-0

**RIGHTS:** uk and Translation, Dramatic

## Through the Arc of the Rain Forest

A novel by Karen Tei Yamashita

Introduction by Percival Everett

*A freewheeling black comedy bound up in cultural confusion, political insanity, and environmental catastrophe.*

A Japanese man with a ball floating six inches in front of his head, an American CEO with three arms, and a Brazilian peasant who discovers the art of healing by tickling one's earlobe rise to the heights of wealth and fame before arriving at disasters—both personal and ecological—that destroy the rain forest and all the birds of Brazil.

“This satiric morality play about the destruction of the Amazon rain forest unfolds with a diversity and fecundity equal to its setting. . . . Yamashita seems to have thrown into the pot everything she knows and most that she can imagine—all to good effect.”

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“Dazzling . . . a seamless mixture of magic realism, satire and futuristic fiction.”

—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

**KAREN TEI YAMASHITA** is the author of *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*, *Brazil-Marú*, *Tropic of Orange*, *Circle K Cycles*, *I Hotel*, and *Anime Wong*, all published by Coffee House Press. *I Hotel* was selected as a finalist for the National Book Award and awarded the California Book Award, the American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, and the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award.

# Beneath the Spanish

Poetry by Victor Hernández Cruz

*Puerto Rico, California, New York, Morocco—these are songs of a poet's genesis, and the places that formed him.*

## FROM "PUERTO RICO":

"To the bad times  
give a happy face,  
place a red amapola  
in your black dark hair.  
Revive the mummies,  
the dead,  
burst the bodies  
out of the coffins  
let's all walk to the plaza  
this final time"

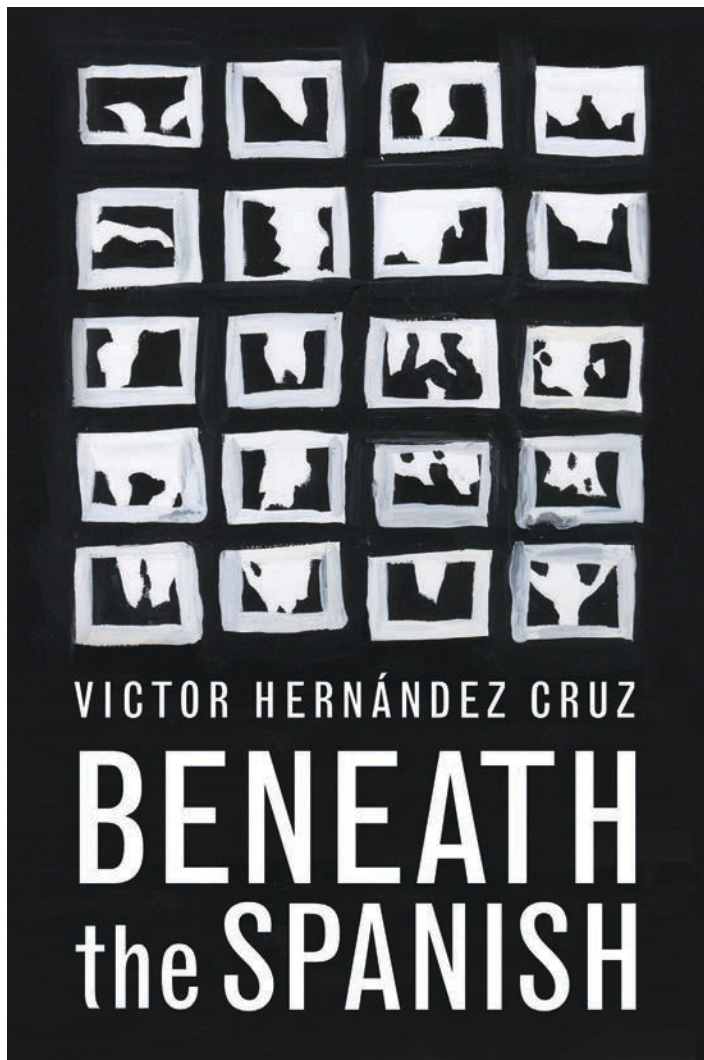
## PRAISE FOR VICTOR HERNÁNDEZ CRUZ

"A funny, hard-edged poet, declining always  
into mother wit and pathos."

—*THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

"A fluent sensualist and rhythmic stylist."

—*WASHINGTON POST*



October • 6 x 9 • 184 pp  
\$16.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-489-0  
\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-505-7

**VICTOR HERNÁNDEZ CRUZ** is the author of several collections of poetry including, most recently, *The Mountain in the Sea* and *In the Shadow of Al-Andalus*. Featured in Bill Moyers's *Language of Life* series, Cruz's collection *Maraca* was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall and Griffin Poetry Prizes. He divides his time between Morocco and his native Puerto Rico.

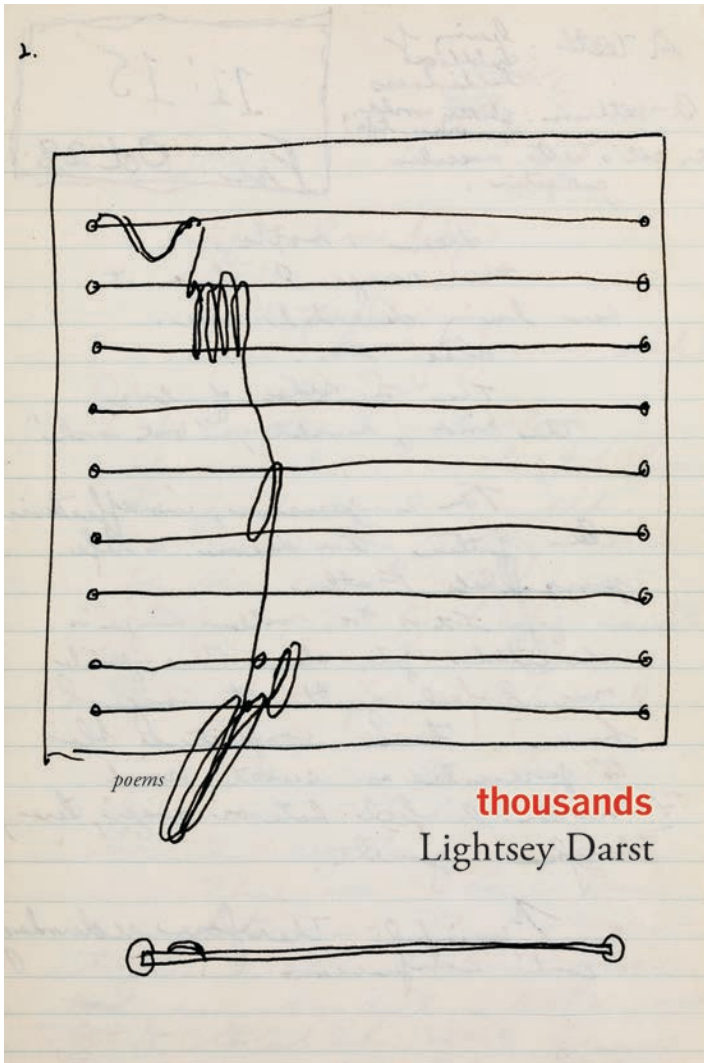
## ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *In the Shadow of Al-Andalus* \$16.00 • Trade Paper
- *Maraca* \$16.95 • Trade Paper
- *The Mountain in the Sea* \$15.00 • Trade Paper
- *Panoramas* \$12.95 • Trade Paper
- *Red Beans* \$11.95 • Trade Paper



**RIGHTS:** uk and Translation, Audio/Audio-Visual, Dramatic





November • 6 x 9 • 104 pp  
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 \$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-506-4

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

• *Find the Girl*  
 \$16.00 • Trade Paper



## Thousands

Poetry by Lightsey Darst

*Passages in life that have felt forbidden, overwritten, underwritten, silenced are given voice in Darst's precise, rich, confessional poems.*

**FROM THOUSANDS:**

"Snow as metaphor for everything lower than the predicted low

in this my last February of loving you here (a rhyme begun in one poem may be landed in a later one)."

**PRAISE FOR LIGHTSEY DARST**

"This is a vital poetry of the Deep South ripe with bones, blood and bogs, Snow Whites, Gretels and debutantes all stirred into a harrowing stew of lust, dusk and summer."

—**NEW YORK TIMES**

"A terrific collection. . . . Full of horror, bleak humor, and suspense, these poems read like mini-thrillers, daring you to put the book down."

—**ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY**

**LIGHTSEY DARST** writes, dances, writes about dance and other arts, and teaches.

**RIGHTS:** UK and Translation, Audio/Audio-Visual, Dramatic

# The Cataracts

Poetry by Raymond McDaniel

*Poetry as Escher: shifting perspective, a landscape that doesn't stand still, and questions that fold in on themselves.*

## FROM "UNFURL":

"Your souls, if you have them,  
depart without having spoken.  
They issue reels and loops  
of thread, filaments lengthened  
by longing, coming apart  
in the sky like the tails of a shower."

## PRAISE FOR RAYMOND MCDANIEL

"Raymond McDaniel's language trains every particle of your attention on the surface and what stirs beneath."  
—C.D. WRIGHT

**RAYMOND MCDANIEL** is the author of *Special Powers and Abilities*, *Saltwater Empire*, and *Murder (a violet)*, a National Poetry Series selection.



January • 6 x 9 • 144 pp  
\$16.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-493-7  
\$16.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-507-1

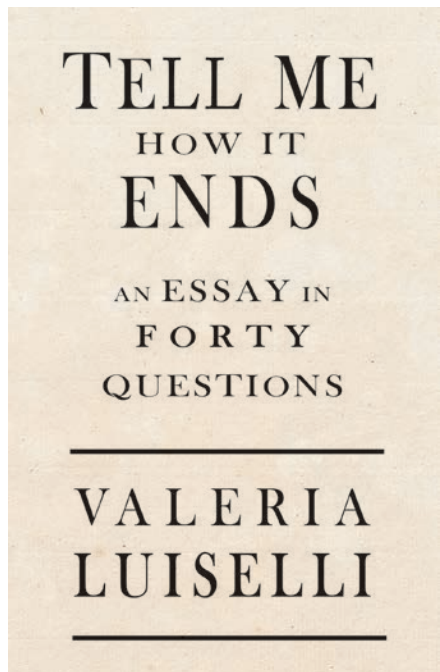
## ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *Murder (a violet)*  
\$14.00 • Trade Paper
- *Saltwater Empire*  
\$16.00 • Trade Paper
- *Special Powers and Abilities*  
\$16.00 • Trade Paper



**RIGHTS:** UK and Translation, Audio/Audio-Visual, Dramatic

## Recent Backlist



### **TELL ME HOW IT ENDS**

An essay by Valeria Luiselli

\$12.95 • Trade Paper • 978-1-56689-495-1

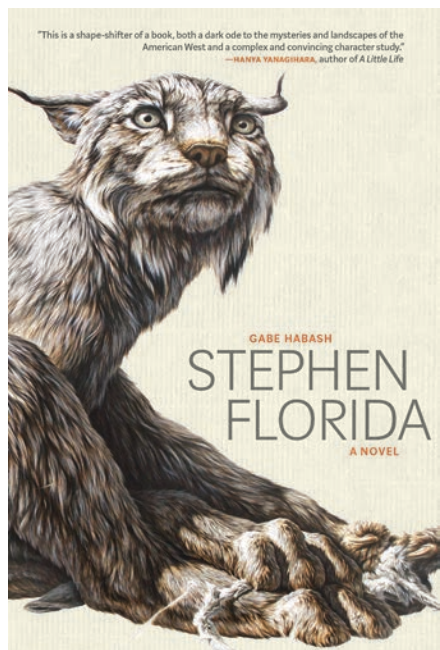
\$12.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-496-8

*A damning confrontation between the American dream and the reality of undocumented children seeking a new life in the U.S.*

“Luiselli takes us inside the grand dream of migration, offering the valuable reminder that exceedingly few immigrants abandon their past and brave death to come to America for dark or nasty reasons. They come as an expression of hope.”  
—**NPR**

“This is a vital document for understanding the crisis that immigrants to the U.S. are facing, and a call to action for those who find this situation appalling.”  
—**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

“Luiselli effectively humanizes the plights of those who have been demonized or who have been reduced to faceless numbers. . . . A powerful call to action and to empathy.”  
—**KIRKUS**



### **STEPHEN FLORIDA**

A novel by Gabe Habash

\$25.00 • Trade Cloth • 978-1-56689-464-7

\$24.99 • E-book • 978-1-56689-473-9

*A troubled college wrestler in North Dakota falls in love and becomes increasingly unhinged during his final season.*

“A striking, original, and coarsely poetic portrayal of a young man’s athletic and emotional quest.”  
—**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)**

“Habash’s debut is a memorable portrait of obsession to the edge of madness and the loneliness that follows so single-minded a pursuit.”  
—**LIBRARY JOURNAL (STARRED REVIEW)**

“In *Stephen Florida*, Gabe Habash has created a coming-of-age story with its own, often explosive, rhythm and velocity. Habash has a canny sense of how young men speak and behave, and in Stephen, he’s created a singular character: funny, ambitious, affecting, but also deeply troubled, vulnerable, and compellingly strange. This is a shape-shifter of a book, both a dark ode to the mysteries and landscapes of the American West and a complex and convincing character study.”  
—**HANYA YANAGIHARA**

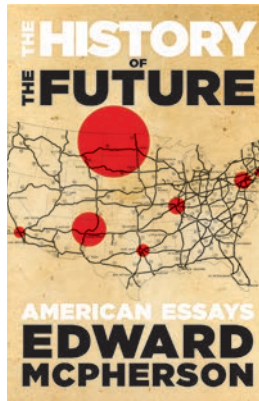




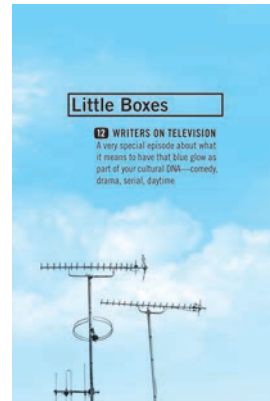
**THE LONG DRY**  
A novel by Cynan Jones  
\$15.95 • Trade Paper  
\$15.99 • E-book



**THE GIFT**  
A novel by Barbara Browning  
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**THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE**  
Essays by  
Edward McPherson  
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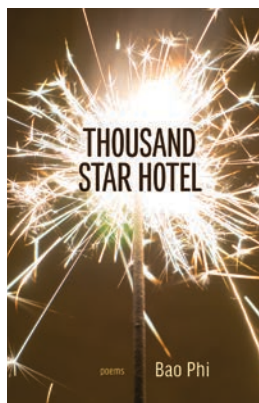
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An essay by  
Laura Raicovich  
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Poetry by Jack Marshall  
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Poetry by Bao Phi  
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**GOOD STOCK STRANGE BLOOD**  
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Dawn Lundy Martin  
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Coffee House Press is an internationally renowned independent book publisher and arts nonprofit based in Minneapolis, MN. Through their literary publications and *Books in Action* program, CHP acts as a catalyst and connector—between authors and readers, ideas and resources, creativity and community, inspiration and action.

Coffee House Press books are made possible through the generous support of grants and donations from corporations, state and federal grant programs, family foundations, and the many individuals who believe in the transformational power of literature. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to the legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Coffee House also receives major operating support from the Amazon Literary Partnership, the Jerome Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, Target Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). To find out more about how NEA grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

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Minnesota State Arts Board

National Endowment for the Arts

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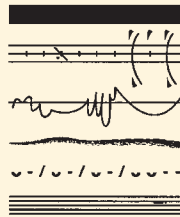
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