

ASTRA HOUSE



SPRING CATALOG

MISSION

Founded in 2020, Astra House's mission is to advocate for authors who experience their subject deeply and personally, and who have a strong point of view; writers who represent multifaceted expressions of intellectual thought and personal experience, and who can introduce readers to new perspectives about their everyday lives as well as the lives of others. Astra House is the adult trade imprint of Astra Publishing House.



Systemic Layal Liverpool	6
Limitarianism Ingrid Robeyns	8
The Rent Collectors Jesse Katz	10
Early Sobrieties Michael Deagler	12
Mood Swings Frankie Barnet	14
Thieving Sun Monica Datta	16
Mouth Puloma Ghosh	18
Reinbou Pedro Cabiya	20

Spring on the Peninsula Ery Shin	22
Now Available in Paperback	24
We Are a Haunting Tyriek White	25
Y/N Esther Yi	27
The Town of Babylon Alejandro Varela	29
Rivermouth Alejandra Oliva	31

SPRING 2024

Systemic Layal Liverpool

HOW RACISM IS MAKING US SICK

NONFICTION | SCIENCE | HEALTH & FITNESS

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662601675

PUB DATE: June 18, 2024

320pp

Price: \$30.00 US / \$40.00 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LAYAL LIVERPOOL is a science journalist with expertise in biomedical science, particularly virology and immunology. Her PhD research at Oxford focused on investigating how invading viruses are detected by the body’s immune system. She writes news, features and opinion articles. Her writing has appeared in *Nature*, *New Scientist*, *Wired*, and the *Guardian*. Currently, she is a journalist at *Nature*.



A science-based, data-driven, and global exploration of racial disparities in health care access by virologist, immunologist, and science journalist Layal Liverpool; In the spirit of ambitious bestselling books like *Medical Apartheid* and *Killing the Black Body*.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us that viruses disproportionately affect people of color. Here, Layal Liverpool goes a step further to show that this disparity exists for all types of illness and that it is caused by racism.

Liverpool will show how racism is woven, invisibly, not just into the structure of medicine and science but into our very bodies. Refuting the false belief that there are biological differences between races, Liverpool goes on to show that racial stereotyping and trauma can however lead to biological changes that make people of color more vulnerable to illness.

Systemic tackles:

- The problem of racial bias and data gaps in medicine where the default human subject is white
- The dangerous health consequences of systemic racism, from the physical and psychological effects of daily micro- and macro-aggressions to intergenerational trauma
- The fatal stereotypes that keep people of color undiagnosed, untreated, and unsafe
- How we can fix these problems by confronting bias and closing the data gap

Using data-driven science, Layal Liverpool shows that racism itself can have biological consequences on the body.

PRAISE FOR *Systemic*

“Layal Liverpool has produced a work of towering importance that will undoubtedly change science and save lives, but it will also change the way you see yourself and the people around you. *Systemic* is beautifully written and scholarly but perhaps almost uniquely for such a book it is deeply personal and accessible, packed with compelling stories and fascinating details which are harnessed to make an impassioned argument for a better world.” —Chris Van Tulleken, *NYT* bestselling author of *Ultra-Processed People*

Limitarianism

Ingrid Robeyns

THE CASE AGAINST EXTREME WEALTH

NONFICTION | BUSINESS | POLITICS

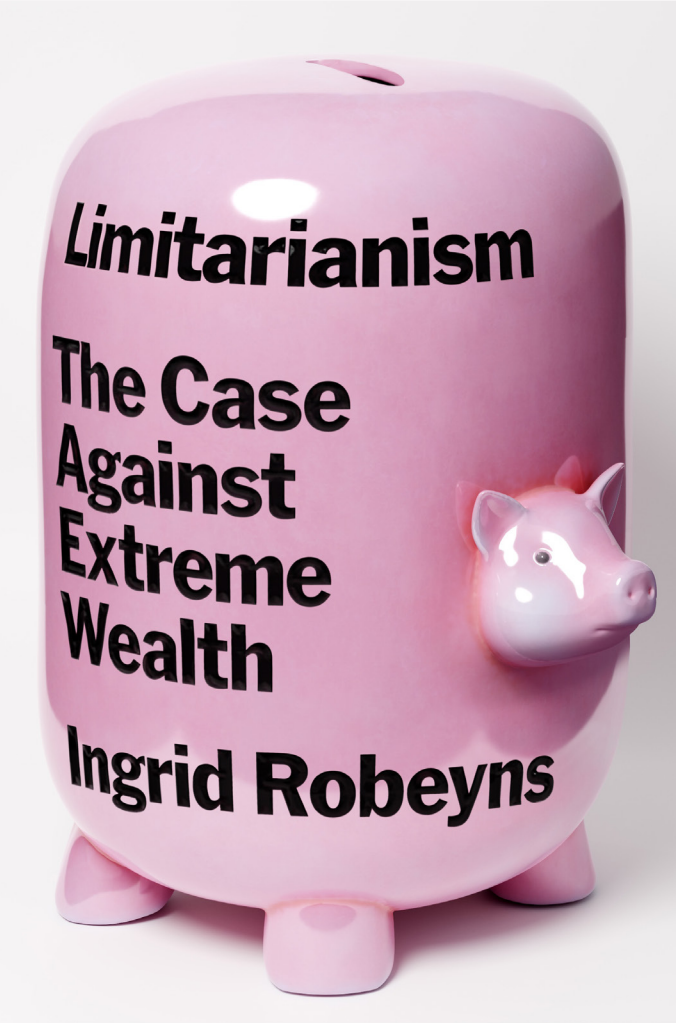
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662601842

PUB DATE: February 6, 2024

288pp

Price: \$28.00 US / \$37.99 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

INGRID ROBEYNS currently holds the chair in ethics of institutions at Utrecht University. Her academic work has been supported by several grants from the Dutch Research Council, as well as by an ERC Consolidator Grant (2M euro). In 2021, she was awarded an Emma Goldman Award for her work on inequality studies and feminism by the FLAX foundation in Vienna.



For readers of Anand Giridharadas and Shoshana Zuboff who seek a original, bold, and convincing argument for a cap on wealth by the philosopher who coined the term “limitarianism.”

How much money is too much? Is it ethical, and democratic, for an individual to amass a limitless amount of wealth, and then spend it however they choose? Many of us feel that the answer to that is no—but what can we do about it?

Ingrid Robeyns has long written and argued for the principle she calls “limitarianism”—or the need to limit extreme wealth. This idea is gaining momentum in the mainstream—with calls to “tax the rich” and slogans like “every billionaire is a policy failure”—but what does it mean in practice?

Robeyns explains the key reasons to support the case against extreme wealth:

- It keeps the poor poor and inequalities growing
- It’s often dirty money
- It undermines democracy
- It’s one of the leading causes of climate change
- Nobody actually deserves to be a millionaire
- There are better things to do with excess money
- The rich will benefit, too

This will be the first authoritative trade book to unpack the concept of a cap on wealth, where to draw the line, how to collect the excess, and what to do with the money. In the process, Robeyns will ignite an urgent debate about wealth, one that calls into question the very forces we live by (capitalism and neoliberalism) and invites us to a radical reimagining of our world.

PRAISE FOR *Limitarianism*

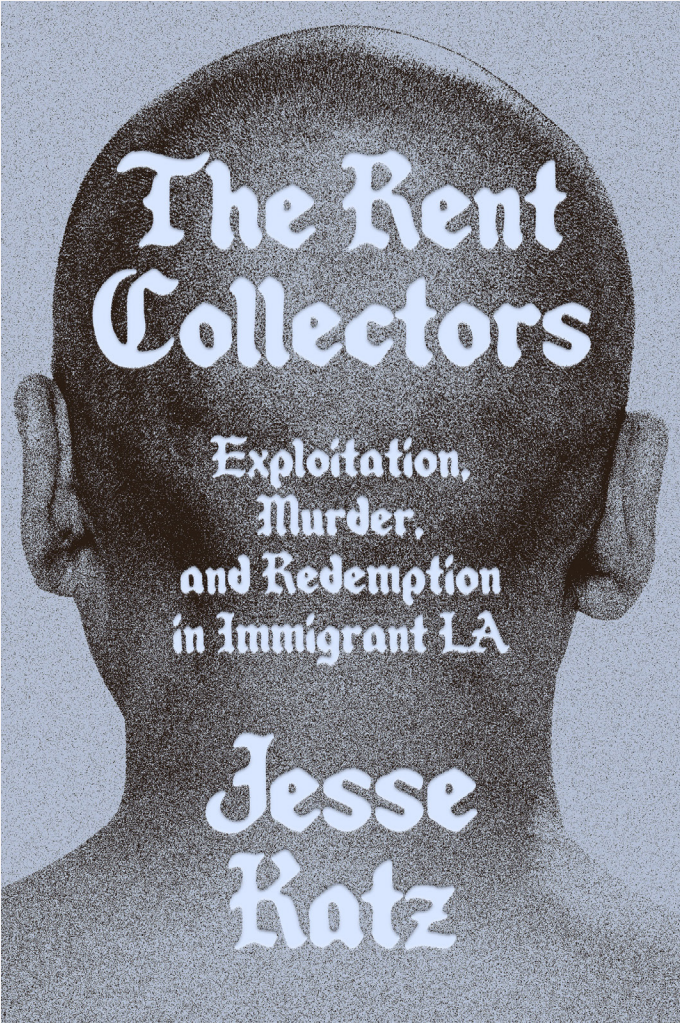
“A powerful case for limitarianism—the idea that we should set a maximum on how much resources one individual can appropriate. A must-read!”
—[Thomas Piketty](#), bestselling author of *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*

“There is a limit beyond which additional wealth can’t do much to enhance its owner’s life or happiness. But our economic system generates fortunes far beyond any such limit. Is the existence of billionaires and multi-millionaires a necessary feature of a system that makes everyone better off in the long run? Or is it one of the sources of the growing inequality and political breakdown that we see today? Ingrid Robeyns makes a convincing case that an upper limit on wealth would be good for society as a whole and even for the wealthy themselves.”
—[John Quiggin](#), author of *Zombie Economics*

The Rent Collectors

Jesse Katz

A STORY OF EXPLOITATION, MURDER, AND REDEMPTION IN IMMIGRANT LA



NONFICTION | TRUE CRIME | BIOGRAPHY

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662601736

PUB DATE: July 16, 2024

320pp

Price: \$28.00 US / \$37.99 CAN

Tattoos on the Heart meets *Ghettoside* in this gripping true story about a botched gang murder set in the invisible economy of LA’s immigrant street vendors.

Baby-faced teen Giovanni Macedo is desperate to build a reputation with local LA gang, the Columbia Lil Cycos—so desperate that he agrees to kill an undocumented Mexican street vendor. The vendor, Francisco Clemente, had been refusing to give in to the gang’s shakedown demands. But Giovanni botches the hit, accidentally killing a baby instead. The imprisoned overlords who rule their world must be placated so the gang lures Giovanni across the border and plots his disposal. But, in turn, the gang botches Giovanni’s killing. And so, incredibly, Giovanni rises from the dead, determined to both seek redemption for his unforgivable crime and take down the whole gang who drove him to do it.

The Rent Collectors is filled with ruthless gang members, tattoo artists, a legendary FBI investigator, and a girl who risks her life to serve as a witness, all in service to the story of the irrationally courageous immigrant whose ethical stance triggers these incredible events.

Jesse Katz has built a teeth-clenching and breathless narrative that explicates the difficult and proud lives of undocumented black market workers who are being exploited both by the gangs and by the city of LA—in other words, by two sets of rent collectors.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JESSE KATZ spent fifteen years as a journalist at the *Los Angeles Times* and another nine years at *Los Angeles* magazine. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York* magazine, *Rolling Stone*, *Details*, *The American Prospect*, *Pacific Standard*, and in the anthologies *Best American Magazine Writing* and *Best American Crime Writing*.



Early Sobrieties Michael Deagler

A NOVEL

FICTION

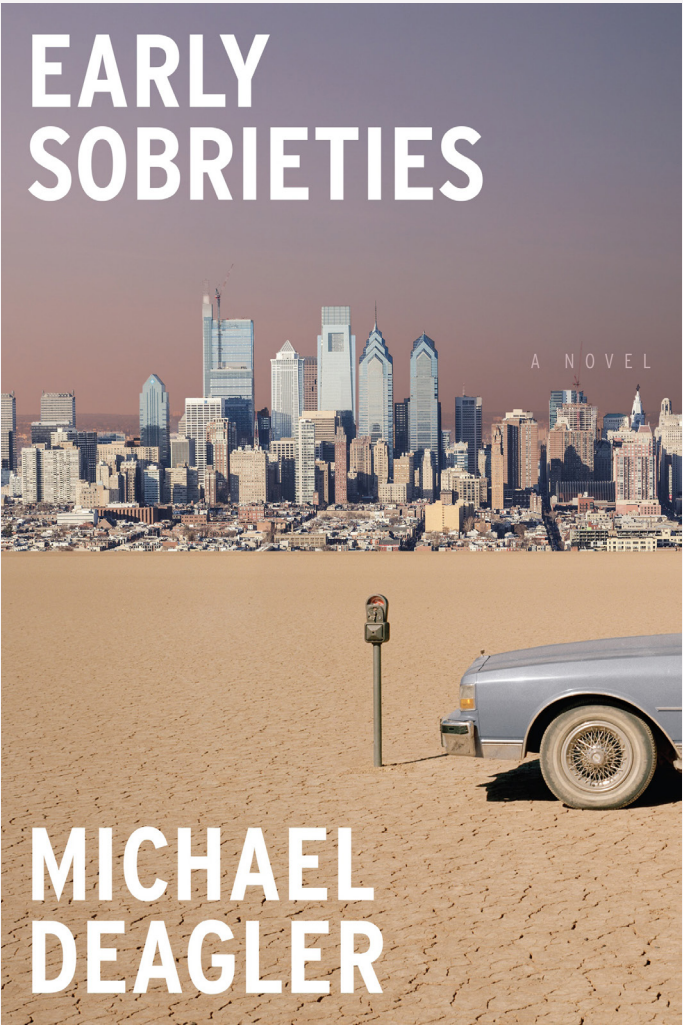
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602245

PUB DATE: May 7, 2024

272pp

Price: \$26.00 US / \$35.00 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MICHAEL DEAGLER was raised in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He lives in Los Angeles, where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Southern California. *Early Sobrieties* is his first novel.



Like a sober millennial *Jesus’ Son*, Michael Deagler’s debut is a quarterlife bildungsroman following a former blackout drunk who returns to Philadelphia for his first alcohol-free summer.

Don’t worry about what Dennis Monk did when he was drinking. He’s sober now, and ready to rejoin the world of leases and paychecks, reciprocal friendships and healthy romances—if only the world would agree to take him back. When Monk’s working-stiff parents kick him out of their suburban home, mere months into his frangible sobriety, the twenty-six-year-old spends his first dry summer couch surfing through South Philadelphia, struggling to find a place for himself in the throng of adulthood.

Monk’s haphazard pilgrimage leads him through a city in flux: growing, gentrifying, haunted by its past and its unrealized potential. Everyone he knows seems to be doing better than him—and most of them aren’t even doing that well. His run-ins with former classmates, estranged drinking buddies, and prospective lovers reveal that recovery is not the happy ending he’d expected, only a fraught next chapter.

Early Sobrieties is the eloquent confessional of an addict who is lost and found, then lost again. Michael Deagler’s debut novel offers an existential trek into the enigma of sobriety itself, and a narrator asking for just a little more grace.

PRAISE FOR *Early Sobrieties*

“Michael Deagler is the real deal. This novel is surprising in all the best ways. The actions of the complex and complicated people in this world are not predictable, but always, frighteningly, believable. Deagler writes with great control and understatement. This is a truly intelligent work from a clearly intelligent writer.”
—Percival Everett, 2023 Windham Campbell Prize recipient and author of *Dr. No*

“Deagler’s debut pulls in a reader with such an inviting clarity—there’s something about the honesty in this voice that creates a lot of room for the reader to feel and makes for an illuminating and moving read.” —Aimee Bender, author of *The Butterfly Lampshade*

“Emotionally raw, often jaded, but still full of wonder, *Early Sobrieties* is an incredibly funny and tender story. Michael Deagler does a fantastic job of bringing into relief the absurdities of being a young adult and trying to find your place in a changing world.” —Craig Finn, songwriter and frontman of *The Hold Steady*

Mood Swings

Frankie Barnett

A NOVEL

FICTION

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602597

PUB DATE: May 21, 2024

272pp

Price: \$26.00 US



In a pre-apocalyptic world not unlike our own, a young Instagram poet starts an affair with a California billionaire who’s promised a time machine that will make everything normal again—whatever that means. For fans of Patricia Lockwood and Marlowe Granados—a whip-smart, absurdly funny debut novel by a bold new talent in sad girl literature.

Everyone knows something’s off, but nobody can agree on what it is. Maybe it’s the weather; maybe everyone’s just so damn sensitive these days. Or maybe it’s because the animals of the world have finally had enough, besieging towns and cities and terrorizing their human residents.

Jenlena and her best friend Daphne are two humanities grads in their early twenties, trying to find their way in a society that has just eradicated all animals for the safety of mankind. In the post-fauna world, Jenlena transforms from an aspiring poet to a gig worker, capitalizing on other people’s grief by selling house plants that have come to replace pets and cosplaying as dogs for pay. Meanwhile Daphne, a once-promising student, flounders in a deep depression, smoking weed and ditching work to hang out with her once famous, now canceled boyfriend. When Jenlena meets the California billionaire Roderick Maeve, and the two become romantically entangled, she is exposed to a new understanding of wealth, power, and the gender economy—just as the world hurtles toward its alleged salvation.

Marked with Frankie Barnett’s poignant intelligence and sly sense of humor, *Mood Swings* is a stand-out debut novel that imagines with pitch-perfect absurdity what comes after life as we know it.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

FRANKIE BARNET is is the author of a story collection, *An Indoor Kind of Girl*, and the forthcoming graphic literary novel *Kim: A Novel Idea*, both from Metatron Press in Canada. Her fiction has been published in places such as *Joyland*, *Event Magazine*, *PRISM International*, *Washington Square Review*, and the *Best Canadian Stories* anthology of both 2016 and 2019.



Thieving Sun

Monica Datta

A NOVEL



FICTION

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602573

PUB DATE: March 26, 2024

216pp

Price: \$23.00 US / \$30.00 CAN

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MONICA DATTA has a MFA in creative writing from Washington University in St. Louis, from which she received a Divided City/Mellon Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to study segregation in fiction and urban morphology in France, Morocco, and Germany. Her writing has appeared in *The New Inquiry*, *Conjunctions*, and many other journals.



n this searing debut novel, for readers of Katie Kitamura and Rachel Cusk, the tragic aftermath of a youthful relationship years after its end brings the life of a mourning woman in New York—and the pursuit of art—into stark relief.

Told in short passages through a musical device, this international story follows Julianne and Gaspar to Syria, China, Germany and elsewhere.

Julienne, a student of sculpture, and Gaspar, a young composer, fall in love at a small college and share a home for more than a decade before encountering the fundamental rift that will change their lives. The reverberations of grief force Julianne to confront her painful past including the mystery of her own birth and the fantastical story ascribed to it by her flight attendant mother, so that she can envision, for the first time, a real future.

Ultimately, *Thieving Sun* is a profound and contemporary meditation on art, grief, debt, suicide loss and the danger of being alive.

PRAISE FOR *Thieving Sun*

Monica Datta’s prose gallops like music and glitters like shards. Formally daring and compulsively readable, *Thieving Sun* heralds the arrival of an extraordinary talent. —[Susan Choi, author of National Book Award winner Trust Exercise](#)

Thieving Sun is a highly intelligent, staggeringly inventive novel structured by music scales indicating time, but it’s more than that: emotionally powerful, sad, whimsical, and beautiful, this book is a dizzying delight. Monica Datta is a startlingly inventive writer who has written a moving story of love and loss. Absolutely brilliant. —[Brandon Hobson, author of National Book Award finalist The Removed](#)

Intricate, enigmatic, piccant and fascinating. —[Lucy Ellman, author of Goldsmiths Prize winner Ducks, Newburyport](#)

Mouth

Puloma Ghosh

STORIES

FICTION | SHORT STORIES

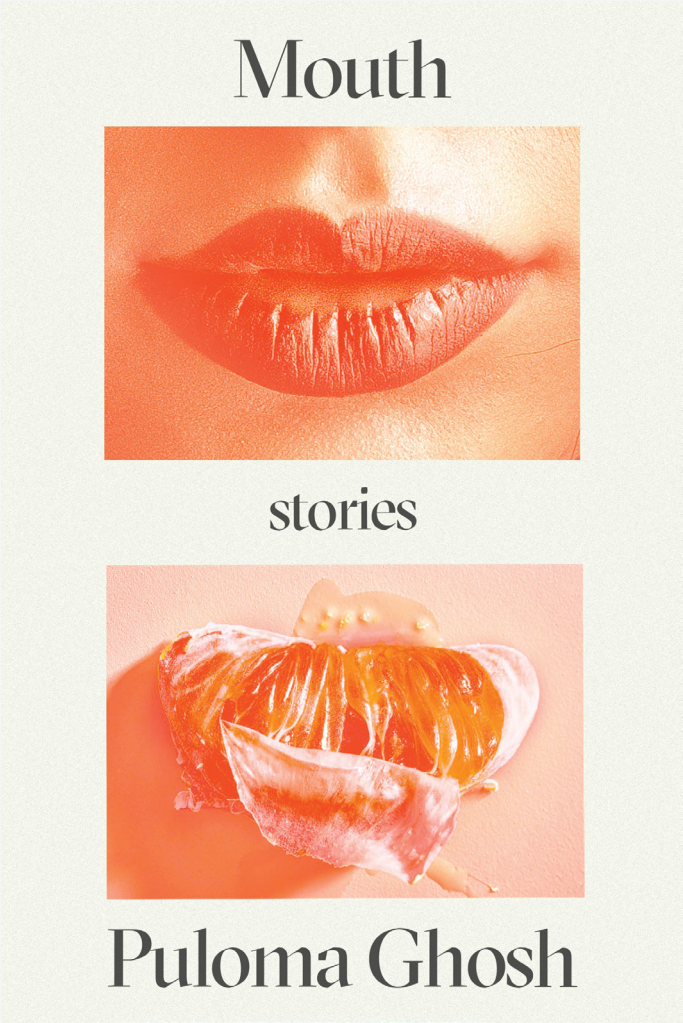
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602474

PUB DATE: June 11, 2024

240pp

Price: \$26.00 US / \$35.00 CAN



Bestiary meets *The Dangers of Smoking in Bed* in this collection of 11 eerie, uncanny, and surreal short stories

In this debut collection, Puloma Ghosh uses the speculative as a catalyst to push her stories and characters beyond what reality allows. Exploring grief, intimacy, sexuality, and bodily autonomy, *Mouth* leans into the bizarre and absurd while reaching for the truth.

- In “Dessication,” a teen figure skater with necrophiliac tendencies is convinced the only other Indian girl at the rink is a vampire.
- A woman returns to Kolkata in “The Fig Tree,” where she is haunted by her deceased mother or a shakchunni, or both.
- “Leaving Things” questions the limits to companionship.
- In “K,” a pathological liar investigates the ghost inhabiting her dorm.
- “In the Winter” is an undefined hookup.
- “Anomaly” is a first date in a postapocalyptic world.
- In “Lemon Boy,” girl meets boy, boy might not be real.
- “Supergiant” asks of its readers just how far and how much we’d sacrifice for adoration, admiration, and immortality.
- “Nip” bottles up the consuming and addictive nature of infatuation.
- “Natalya” is a hair-raising autopsy of an ex-lover.
- And finally, in “Persimmons,” a girl comes to terms as her community prepares her for sacrifice.

Blurring the lines of conventional reality and giving fangs, talons, and singular sharpness to the otherwise ordinary, awkward, and unmentionable, *Mouth’s* surrealism is both unique and captivating. Puloma Ghosh reaches into otherworldly spaces while exploring the everyday struggles of isolation, longing, and the aching desires of our flesh.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PULOMA GHOSH is a fiction writer based in Chicago. Her work has appeared in *One Story*, *CRAFT Literary*, *Cutleaf*, and other publications. This is her first book.

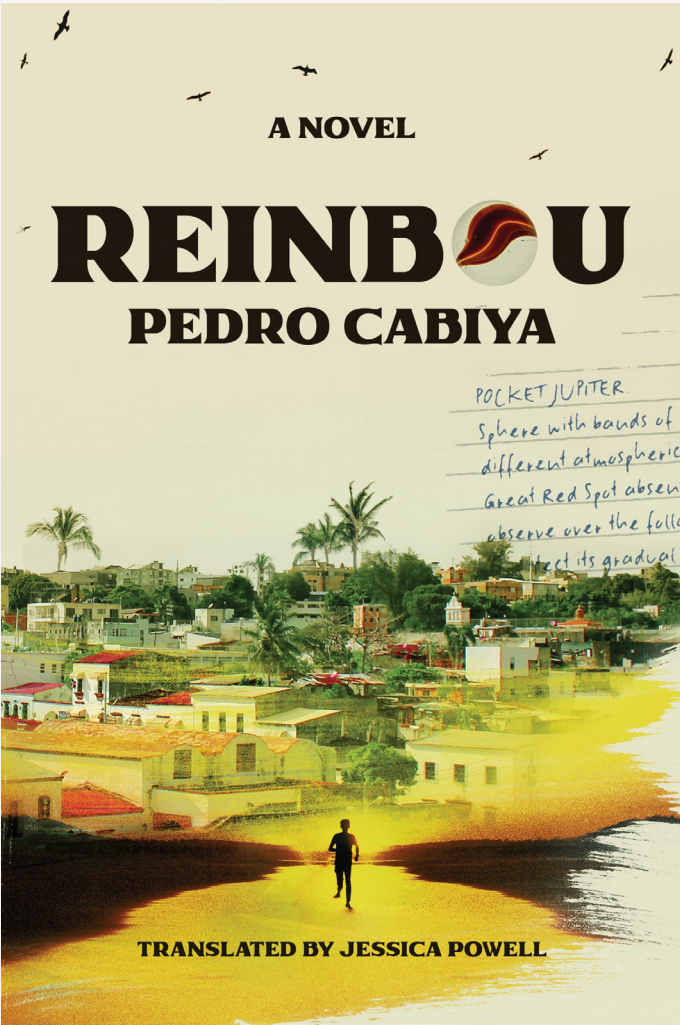


Reinbou

Pedro Cabiya

A NOVEL

TRANSLATED BY JESSICA POWELL



FICTION

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602511

PUB DATE: March 12, 2024

224pp

Price: \$26.00 US / \$35.00 CAN

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PEDRO CABIYA is the author of thirteen books and over 100 essays and articles. His short-story collection *Historias Tremendas* (1999) was declared Best Book of the Year by both PEN Club International and the Institute of Puerto Rican Literature. In 2014 he was awarded the prestigious Caonabo de Oro for excellence in letters.



ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

JESSICA POWELL has published translations by Pablo Neruda, Sergio Missana, Gabriela Wiener, and Silvina Ocampo, among others. Her translation of *Wicked Weeds* (Mandel Vilar Press) by Pedro Cabiya was named a finalist for the 2017 Best Translated Book Award, made the longlist for the 2017 National Translation Award, and was a 2016 Forward Indies Winner.

Dominicana meets *Woman of Light* in this propulsive work of historical fiction about U.S. intervention and corruption in the Dominican Republic.

The basis of the 2017 film adaptation by Andrés Curbelo and David Maler.

In 1976 Santo Domingo, Ángel Maceta uncovers the real story behind the murder of his father, Puro Maceta, ten years prior. In the process, events that unfolded during and after the war are revealed, unleashing a series of small revolutions in his community that in turn unravel other intrigues of what really took place during the Civil War of 1965.

Weaving together the brutal realities of war with the innocence of childhood imagination, *Reinbou* explores this era in Dominican society, a time when the U.S. sent Marines into the country to back a coup against Juan Bosch, the first democratically elected president of the Dominican Republic since the end of the brutal, three-decade-long dictatorship of the genocidal Rafael Trujillo. Moving between 1965 and 1976, we follow the revolutionary efforts of Puro and the transformative, feverish adventures of Ángel.

Told through the eyes of a child and a varied cast of friends, family, and neighbors, *Reinbou* explores the consequences of political and societal upheaval, corruption, and violence in modern Dominican society.

PRAISE FOR *Reinbou*

“Provocative, irreverent and magisterial. A tale at once epic and satirical in which the defeated are the only heroes.” —**Luis Negrón**, author of *Mundo Cruel*

Spring on the Peninsula

Ery Shin

A NOVEL

FICTION

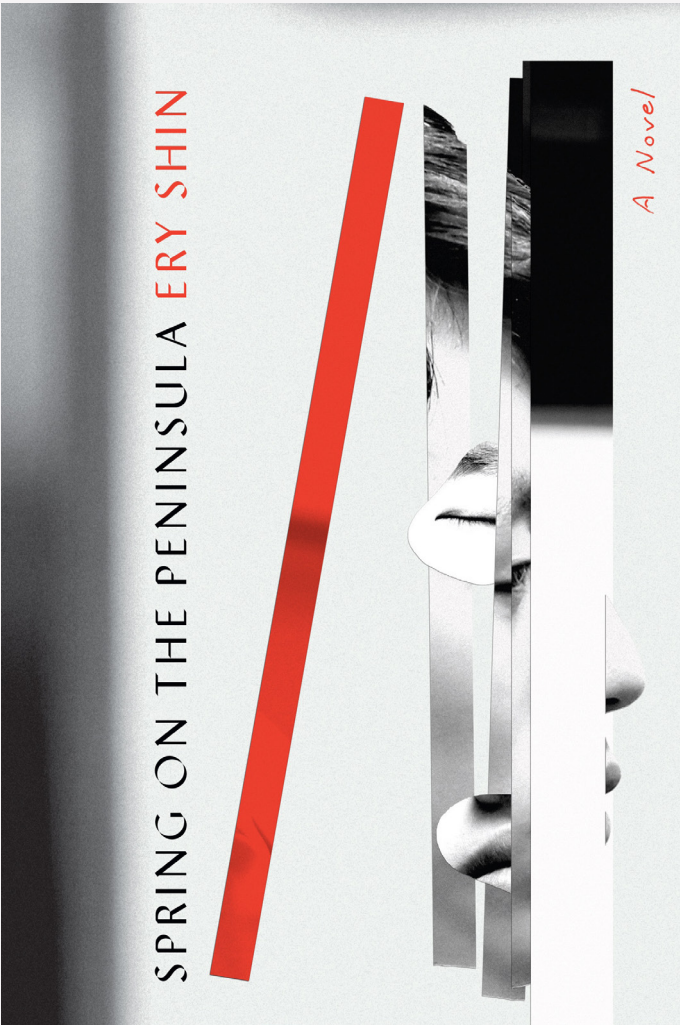
HARDCOVER

ISBN: 9781662602221

PUB DATE: April 9, 2024

272pp

Price: \$26.00 US / \$36.00 CAN



A desultory libertine mourns a failed relationship over the course of two harsh winters in this unprecedented portrait of millennials living in Seoul.

The time is roughly now and Kai, a white-collar worker, has just been abandoned by his longtime lover. Follow him through the city’s alleyways as he reels from this sudden departure. Accompany him up snowy mountains where he contemplates ending his own life. That mourning can be both a sensuous and revelatory art is epitomized in the paths that Kai crosses and the lives he alters for better or worse.

Kai is not the only one feeling disoriented and aimless these days. Those in his inner circle similarly experience personal crises as they go through their thirties in a nation simmering with class and generational tensions, as well as the specter of new and old wars. Doing for Seoul what Kathy Acker does for New York City and Georges Bataille does for Paris, Ery Shin evokes contemporary Seoul in all of its glory and turmoil. Phantasmagorical and melancholic, and daringly irreverent, *Spring on the Peninsula* is a poignant debut novel and meditation on modern life in a city beset by North Korea’s shadow.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ERY SHIN was born in Ames, Iowa, in 1986, and raised in Manhattan for the first decade of her life, then Seoul for the second. She received a bachelor’s degree in English from Princeton University and a doctorate from the University of Oxford. She is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi. *Spring on the Peninsula* is her first novel.



**NOW AVAILABLE IN
PAPERBACK**

We Are a Haunting

Tyriek White

A NOVEL

FICTION

TRADE PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662602665

PUB DATE: February 6, 2024

272pp

Price: \$18.00 US / \$24.00 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

TYRIEK RASHAWN WHITE is currently the media director of Lampblack Lit. He has received fellowships from Callaloo Writing Workshop and the New York State Writers Institute, among other honors. He holds a degree in Creative Writing and Africana Studies from Pitzer College, and most recently earned an MFA from the University of Mississippi.



WINNER OF THE CENTER FOR FICTION 2023 FIRST NOVEL PRIZE

“Early novels like this don’t come around very often; this one brings to mind titles like Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon* and Louise Erdrich’s *Love Medicine*. It’s an absolute triumph.”
—Michael Schaub, *NPR*

In 1980s Brooklyn, Key, a charming and tender doula serving the Black women of her East New York neighborhood, lives with the ability to see and communicate with the dead. Her untimely death leaves behind her mother Audrey, who is on the verge of losing the public housing apartment they once shared, and her son Colly, who soon learns that he has inherited his mother’s sacred gift and begins to slip into the liminal space between the living and the dead.

Increasingly detached and disenchanted with the condition of his community, Colly is expelled from school and forced across town. Separated from his family, friends, and neighborhood, Colly begins to realize that he must, ultimately, be accountable to the place he is from. Years later, having forged an understanding of friendship, kinship, community, and how to foster love in places where it seems impossible, Colly returns to East New York to work toward addressing structural neglect and the crumbling blocks of New York City public housing he was born to, discovering a collective path forward from the wreckage of the past.

We Are a Haunting is a supernatural family saga, a searing social critique, and a lyrical account of displaced lives. Debut author Tyriek White unravels the threads connecting the past, present, and future, and depicts the palpable, breathing essence of the neglected corridors of a pulsing city.

PRAISE FOR *We Are a Haunting*

“Poignant and poetic . . . Each character is acutely aware of the weight of their forebears, which White uses to effectively tell a story that is both intimate and sweeping . . . White works wonders with this inspired story of grief and the struggle for hope.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Tyriek White’s debut novel, *We Are a Haunting*, strikes me as both a love letter to New York City and a kind of elegy . . . The writing, on both a sentence and a structural level, is magical.” —Maisy Card, *Poets & Writers*

Y/N

Esther Yi

A NOVEL

FICTION

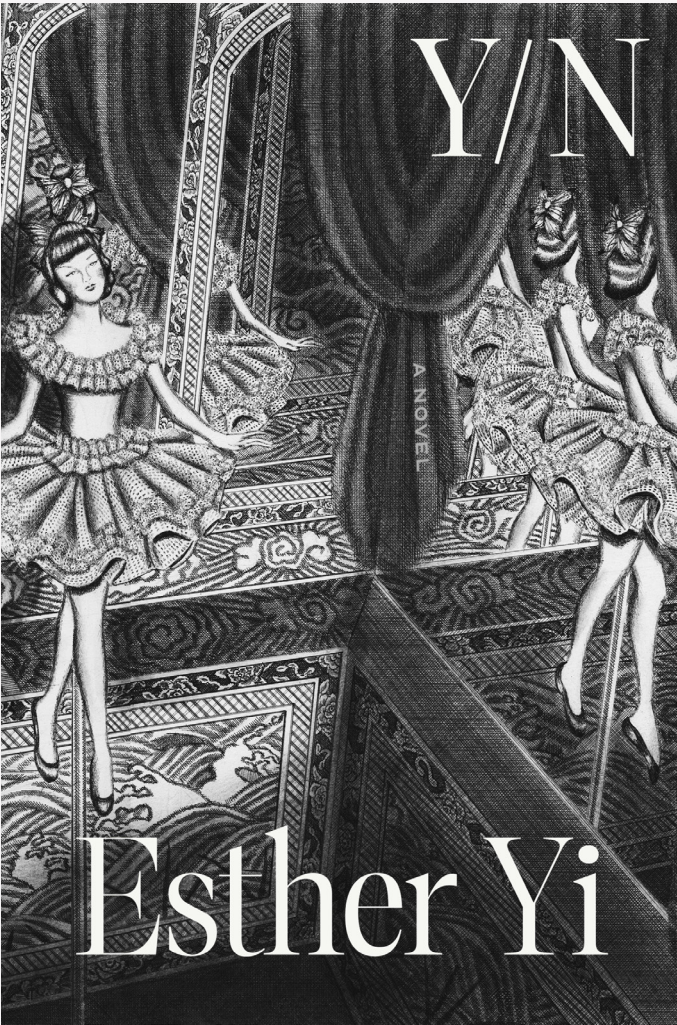
TRADE PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662602740

PUB DATE: March 26, 2024

224pp

Price: \$17.00 US / \$23.00 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ESTHER YI was born in Los Angeles in 1989.



“My definition of an unputdownable book . . . witty, astute, and self-aware.”
—Melissa Broder, author of *Milk Fed*

It’s as if her life only began once Moon appeared in it. The desultory copywriting work, the boyfriend, and the want of anything not-Moon quickly fall away when she beholds the idol in concert, where Moon dances as if his movements are creating their own gravitational field; on live streams, as fans from around the world comment in dozens of languages; even on skincare products endorsed by the wildly popular Korean boyband, of which Moon is the youngest, most luminous member. Seized by ineffable desire, our unnamed narrator begins writing Y/N fanfic—in which you, the reader, insert [Your/Name] and play out an intimate relationship with the unattainable star.

Then Moon suddenly retires, vanishing from the public eye. As Y/N flies from Berlin to Seoul to be with Moon, our narrator, too, journeys to Korea in search of the object of her love. An escalating series of mistranslations and misidentifications lands her at the headquarters of the Kafkaesque entertainment company that manages the boyband until, at a secret location, together with Moon at last, art and real life approach their final convergence.

From a conspicuous new talent comes *Y/N*, a provocative literary debut about the universal longing for transcendence and the tragic struggle to assert one’s singular story amidst the amnesiac effects of globalization. Crackling with the intellectual sensitivity of Elif Batuman and the sinewy absurdism of Thomas Pynchon, Esther Yi’s prose unsettles the boundary between high and mass art, exploding our expectations of a novel about “identity” and offering in its place a sui generis picture of the loneliness that afflicts modern life.

PRAISE FOR Y/N

“Strange, funny, and at times gorgeous . . . Yi displays a keen sense of irony; her oneiric, ceremonious writing has the consistency of a poem put in a blender with an academic paper.” —Katy Waldman, *New Yorker*

“*Y/N* resists the junkiness of the internet . . . against which a well-formed novel like this counteracts, a blast of cleansing heat.” —Alexandra Jacobs, *New York Times*

“[A] savage story about a young woman’s rapturous descent into our modern-day religion of celebrity worship, fanfiction, and ubiquitous parasociality. The girls who get it, get it.” —Delia Cai, *Vanity Fair*

The Town of Babylon

Alejandro Varela

A NOVEL

FICTION

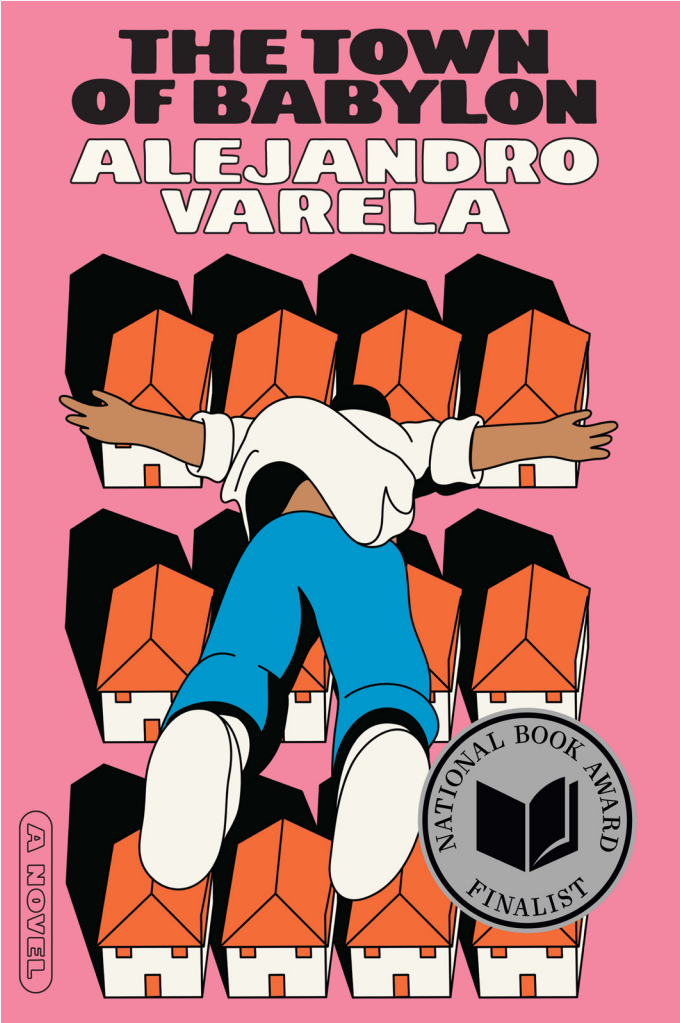
TRADE PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662601996

PUB DATE: April 16, 2024

320pp

Price: \$18.00 US / \$24.00 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ALEJANDRO VARELA (he/him) is a writer based in New York. His debut novel, *The Town of Babylon* (2022), was a finalist for the National Book Award. His work has appeared in the *Point Magazine*, *Georgia Review*, *Boston Review*, *Harper's*, and the *Offing*, among others outlets. Varela is an editor-at-large of *Apogee Journal*. His graduate studies were in public health.



A FINALIST FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION

ONGLISTED FOR THE 2023 ASPEN WORDS LITERARY PRIZE

A LIBRARY JOURNAL AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY “BEST BOOK OF 2022”

In this contemporary debut novel—an intimate portrait of queer, racial, and class identity—Andrés, a gay Latinx professor, returns to his suburban hometown in the wake of his husband’s infidelity. There he finds himself with no excuse not to attend his twenty-year high school reunion, and hesitantly begins to reconnect with people he used to call friends.

Over the next few weeks, while caring for his aging parents and navigating the neighborhood where he grew up, Andrés falls into old habits with friends he thought he’d left behind. Before long, he unexpectedly becomes entangled with his first love and is forced to tend to past wounds.

Captivating and poignant; a modern coming-of-age story about the essential nature of community, *The Town of Babylon* is a page-turning novel about young love and a close examination of our social systems and the toll they take when they fail us.

PRAISE FOR *The Town of Babylon*

“Unsparing yet big-hearted, Varela throws open the closet of queer suburban adolescence with verve, empathy, and insight. A deeply moving debut.”
—Julian Lucas, staff writer, *The New Yorker*

“A richly textured portrait of ordinary queer life.” —*Book Riot*

“[Varela’s] precise pacing of [the] pivotal moments make for storytelling both riveting and poignant . . . [the novel’s] distinct and intertwining narrative voices justify the rich and pointed cultural critique of the American suburb.”
—Benedict Nguyen, *INTO*

Rivermouth

Alejandra Oliva

A CHRONICLE OF LANGUAGE, FAITH, AND
MIGRATION

NONFICTION

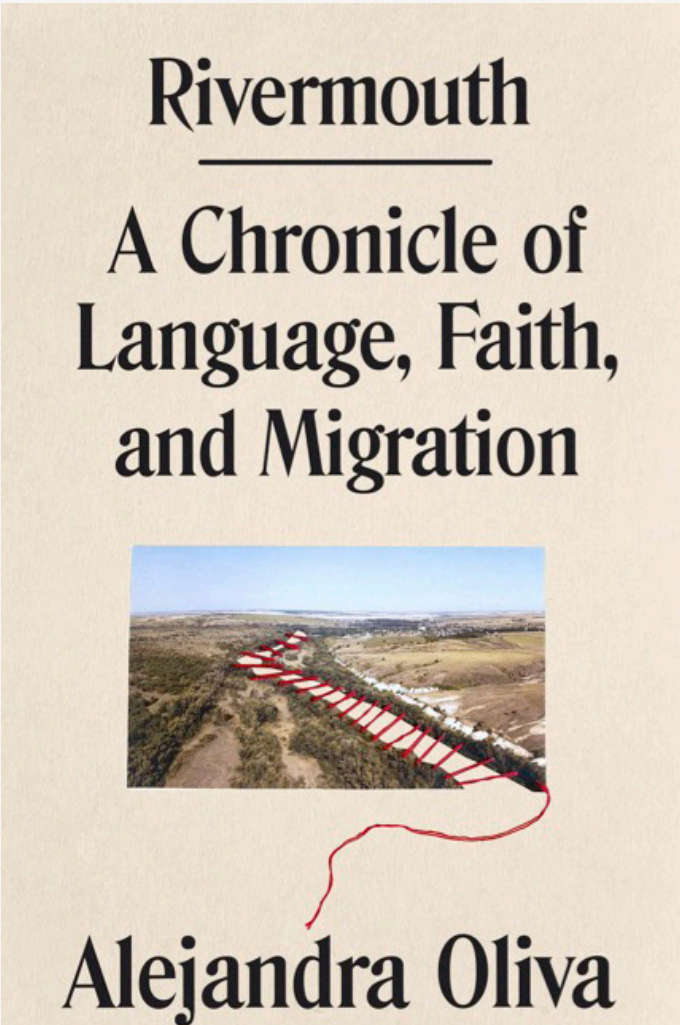
TRADE PAPERBACK

ISBN: 9781662602672

PUB DATE: June 18, 2024

320pp

Price: \$18.00 US / \$24.00 CAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ALEJANDRA OLIVA is an essayist, translator, immigrant justice advocate, and embroiderer. She is a recipient of the 2022 Creative Nonfiction Whiting Grant. Her writing has been included in *Best American Travel Writing 2020*, was nominated for a Pushcart prize, and was honored with an Aspen Summer Words Emerging Writers Fellowship. She was the Frankie Fellow at the Yale Whitney Humanities Center in 2022.



2023 INDIE NEXT, INDIES INTRODUCE, AND
ROXANE GAY AUDACIOUS BOOK CLUB PICK

WINNER OF THE 2022 WHITING CREATIVE NONFICTION GRANT

In this powerful and deeply felt memoir of translation, storytelling, and borders, Alejandra Oliva, a Mexican American translator and immigrant justice activist, offers a powerful chronicle of her experience interpreting at the US–Mexico border.

In *Rivermouth*, Oliva focuses on the physical spaces that make up different phases of immigration, looking at how language and opportunity move through each of them: from the river as the waterway that separates the US and Mexico, to the table as the place over which Oliva prepares asylum seekers for their Credible Fear Interviews, and finally, to the wall as the behemoth imposition that runs along America’s southernmost border.

With lush prose and perceptive insight, Oliva encourages readers to approach the painful questions that this crisis poses with equal parts critique and compassion. By which metrics are we measuring who “deserves” American citizenship? What is the point of humanitarian systems that distribute aid conditionally? What do we owe to our most disenfranchised?

As investigative and analytical as she is meditative and introspective, sharp as she is lyrical, and incisive as she is compassionate, seasoned interpreter Alejandra Oliva argues for a better world while guiding us through the suffering that makes the fight necessary and the joy that makes it worth fighting for.

PRAISE FOR *Rivermouth*

“A timely book by a translator at America’s southern border, *Rivermouth* is one of the most thoughtful meditations on our nation’s immigration policy in recent memory. Oliva’s Kafkaesque portrayal of her work retelling the traumatic stories of migrants in English for asylum applications will linger long after you’re done reading.” —*The Boston Globe*

“With uncut rage and breathtaking prose, Oliva edifies, infuriates, and moves readers all at once. This is required reading.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A graceful meditation on the unresolved traumas of life in a land where one is often not welcome . . . Evenhandedly and without sentimentality, Oliva urges that we can stand to be both more understanding and more generous.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)