

The Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency, LLC

Foreign Rights Catalogue Book Expo 2009

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Fiction

Who Killed Art Deco? by Chuck Barris (Simon & Schuster, Summer 2009)

Jimmy Netts (a.k.a. Jimmy Nettlestein) is a podiatrist. His wife, The Shrew, dies, hit by a bus on Broad Street in Philadelphia. His older sister, Nettie, an associate professor at Temple University in Philly, has just been offered a professorship in art history at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She is moving and asks her brother to come with her. She tells him to change professions. She says he hates podiatry, which he does, and now that his wife is dead, he is free to roam. “Be something you always wanted to be,” she says. He goes with his sister to BG and becomes a private eye. Nettlestein changes his name to Netts because he is convinced, “They don’t like Jewish P.I.’s in the south.” He sets up his office and waits for his first client.

The client is Arthur Deco Senior, the head of Deco Industries, a huge multi-national company. Senior picks Netts because his was the first name in the yellow pages under Private Detectives (America’s Detectives, Inc.) Senior’s son, Arthur Deco Junior, committed suicide in his New York apartment. The suicide was investigated by the police and dismissed as exactly that; a suicide. Junior, who was gay, was found in the living room of his apartment with the gun he shot himself with in his hand. Senior refuses to believe his son was a suicide. Senior is absolutely certain his son was murdered. Senior even tells Netts who the murderer was.

Jimmy Netts has his first case. He also has his friends in Bowling Green: the black police chief, a former Philadelphian; his older sister, Professor Nettie Nettlestein; his cheesy secretary and Broadway hopeful, Merrie Knell; and others. There are also a list of suspects: former boyfriend Eddie Cotton, hit man Cicci Romano, Deco Jr.’s sister—a violent homophobe—Harriet Deco Strange, and others.

So, who killed Art Deco? You’ll have to read the book.

Other Jimmy Netts mysteries: *Who Killed Larry Queen?* *Who Killed Dixie Cup?* *Who Hung Santa from My Christmas Tree?*

Chuck Barris is a former television show creator and producer, whose credits include *The Dating Game*, *The Newlywed Game*, *The Gong Show*, and *Treasure Hunt*. He is the author of several books, including *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (adapted into a major motion picture) and the New York Times bestselling novel *You and Me, Babe*. Chuck and his wife, Mary, live in Manhattan.

World rights exclusive of German to Simon & Schuster, Sarah Hochman.

Beautiful Maria of My Soul by Oscar Hijuelos (Hyperion, 2010)

The latest novel by the Pulitzer Prize–winner fills in some of the stories that were hinted at in *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, mainly the life of “Beautiful Maria,”

Nestor's former love in Cuba and the inspiration of the Mambo Kings' most famous song, which the novel is titled after. Set partly in the seedier sides of Havana in the 1950s, as seen through Maria's eyes, the book follows Maria through the first years of the Cuban revolution and her eventual flight to the United States. Along the way it tells the story of why she left Nestor and her own true love for him, a love that she is reminded about whenever she hears that song of love. Along the way the Mambo Kings are brought into the narrative by a kind of collective memory drawn from the legacy of their music.

Oscar Hijuelos was born of Cuban parentage in New York City in 1951. He is a recipient of the Rome Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, among others. His novels have been translated into twenty-five languages.

U.S. and Canadian rights to Hyperion, Will Balliett.

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love—Revised Anniversary edition, with revised material and introduction, by Oscar Hijuelos (Hyperion, 2010)

Inspired by their heroes Xavier Cugat and Desi Arnaz, brothers Cesar and Nestor Castillo come to New York City from Cuba in 1949 with designs on becoming mambo stars. Eventually they do—performing with Arnaz on *I Love Lucy* in 1955 and recording 78s with their own band, the Mambo Kings. In his second novel, Hijuelos traces the lives of the flashy, guitar-strumming Cesar and the timid, lovelorn Nestor as they cruise the East Coast club circuit in a flamingo-pink bus. Enriching the story are the brothers' friends and family members—all driven by their own private dreams. Oscar Hijuelos has created an enthralling novel about passion and loss, memory and desire. *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* won a Pulitzer Prize in 1990.

Oscar Hijuelos was born of Cuban parentage in New York City in 1951. He is a recipient of the Rome Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, among others. His five previous novels have been translated into twenty-five languages.

Sweet Dates in Basra by Jessica Jiji (Morrow, 2010)

Set in Iraq during the tumultuous years surrounding the Second World War, *Sweet Dates in Basra* is the coming-of-age story of a young Jewish boy, Shafik Soufayr, who is a proud and patriotic Iraqi nationalist. He navigates life and love with his best friend, a Sunni Muslim named Talal. Their two families—Jewish and Muslim—in turn save each other's lives as the war reaches Basra and riots against the Jews follow. When Shafik's relationship with a Marsh Arab maid named Kathmiya is consummated with potentially deadly consequences, all must fight for a future together against the rigid dictates of society and the changing political dynamics that are forcing the Jewish teen to seek refuge in America.

Jessica Jiji has worked for over a decade as news writer at the United Nations covering breaking international developments. Before the UN, she worked as a freelance journalist, including at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), which serves as the backdrop for her first novel, *Diamonds Take Forever*. She is the co-author of three feature-length screenplays: *Miss Interpreter*, a romantic-comedy-political-thriller about a young UN translator who accidentally stumbles on love and adventure; *Queen of the CIA*, a screwball comedy about the misadventures of a gay fashion designer recruited by the Agency; and *I Married a Shaman*, a romantic comedy about a young Korean-American woman whose white-bread husband takes up her mother's traditional Asian religion—to extremes. *Miss Interpreter* was optioned under the original title "Force for Peace" by Lantern Pictures.

World English rights to *Morrow*, Lyssa Keusch.

Mexican High by Liza Monroy (Spiegel & Grau/Doubleday, June 2008)

Included in *Time Out New York's* 2008 Beach Reading list and chosen as an Ellegirl giveaway, *Mexican High* is a coming-of-age novel in the vein of *Prep* meets *Y Tu Mama Tambien*. Precocious but troubled sixteen-year-old Mila Marquez moves to different countries every few years because of her mother Maggie's job in the U.S. Foreign Service. Tensions between mother and daughter are rife as they move to Mexico City just before Mila's senior year of high school. While Maggie carries on her deluded perception of the country as a Mariachi-listening, guacamole-downing stereotype, Mila immediately perceives that Mexico City is not as it appears on the surface. She comes across the country's small, extraordinarily wealthy upper class—its teenagers all go to her school, ISM, the International School of Mexico. Their drivers and bodyguards are stationed outside the school's gates; someone being pulled out of class and informed his or her father has been assassinated or kidnapped is a common occurrence. Mila's classmates, who dress in designer labels, frequent elite nightclubs, and have vacation homes all over the world, are often hiding the darker aspects of their families' lives, and in turn, the country's political goings-on.

As Mila's year takes a twisted turn after getting involved with the sociopath son of CIA agents, she struggles to find a place to belong, and discovers the dark underbelly of Mexico City, ultimately realizing that, against her mother's wishes, she wants to solve her personal mystery of her Mexican father's identity. And, with her aspiring-journalist's investigative skills, combined with one bizarre yet all-too-real coincidence, she figures out how to find him. Through it all, Mila encounters unexpected people, places and events: political assassinations, peyote trips in desert towns, an Armani-sporting, Picasso-collecting boyfriend, and her eccentric, Argentine, kleptomaniac best friend.

Liza Monroy's writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Village Voice*, *Jane*, *Self*, and other national magazines. Liza was awarded a three-month residency by the Kerouac Project of Orlando (www.kerouacproject.org) for the summer of 2007, where she worked on her next book in the house where Jack Kerouac lived when *On the Road* became a sensation. She

resides in New York City, where she teaches creative writing and magazine journalism at Mediabistro, and is writing a memoir based on her *New York Times* “Modern Love” column, “Elvis and My Husband Have Left the Building.” Visit her on the Web at www.lizamonroy.com.

U.S. and Canadian rights to Spiegel & Grau, Cindy Spiegel.

Available as YA title.

Currently Jennifer Berman of Miramax is attached as a producer.

The History of Swimming by Kim Powers (Carroll & Graf, September 2006)

This riveting story—a Lambda Literary Award nominee for Best Memoir—details author Kim Power’s frantic search for his twin brother, who disappears from Manhattan one weekend when he was in his late twenties. Power’s quest to locate his brother brings him to Texas, the setting of their greatest triumphs and tragedies: their mother’s death, a nervous breakdown, first loves, coming out, and a best friend’s brutal rape.

All translation rights available.

Capote In Kansas—A Ghost Story by Kim Powers (Carroll & Graf, Fall 2007)

They were children growing up next door to each other: she, a tomboy in overalls; he, a summer visitor from New Orleans, always dressed in immaculate white linen. Twenty-five years later, he had exchanged the white linen for a velvet suit and a poison pen and taken New York’s literary world by storm, while she struggled to put pen to paper in a fifth-floor walk-up in the same city. He was Truman Capote; she was Harper Lee.

They would reunite in the desolate plains of Kansas to create *In Cold Blood*, one of the most riveting works of mystery and true crime ever written. And they would start talk of an even greater, unspoken mystery and crime: what happened between them, and who really wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*? How did two innocents from a backwoods Southern town go on to become two of the most celebrated writers of the twentieth century, and why—just a few years later—did they stop speaking to one another? Or did they? Powers has conjured a deathbed confession from Capote, in which he picks up the phone to Harper Lee one final time. What final, all-important message does Capote send to Lee in a series of sinister and mysterious packages? What do the ghosts of the murdered Clutters want, as they appear one by one to their creators?

In addition to writing *The History of Swimming*—a Barnes and Noble “Discover” book and Lambda Literary Award nominee for Best Memoir—Kim Powers is an Emmy and Peabody winner for his work as a journalist at ABC’s *Good Morning America* and *Primetime*. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, he lives in New York City.

Kim Powers is an Emmy and Peabody-winning writer who has worked on both ABC’s *Good Morning America* and *Primetime* with Diane Sawyer. An MFA graduate of the Yale School of Drama, he wrote the screenplay for the festival-favorite indie film

Finding North, which plays frequently on the Sundance Channel. A native Texan, he currently lives in New York City and Asbury Park, New Jersey.

All translation rights available.

The Movies I Watched (The Year My Father Killed My Mother) by Kim Powers

Comparable in style to the best-selling *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, this is a combination literary thriller and coming-of-age novel about an eight-year-old boy, Clarke, who comes to believe his father has killed his mother. She dies on the very first page of the book—April Fools’ Day, 1966—thus keeping Clarke from his weekly Saturday afternoon routine of going to the movies. Bit by bit, as weeks pass and a semblance of normalcy returns, Clarke begins to interpret the odd bits of hushed conversations he hears around him, and strange clues he finds at home, as indicators that his mother’s death was indeed far from normal. Now using the movies he sees to pick up tips on how to play detective, Clarke starts working on a scrapbook of the films, complete with the movie ads from his small town newspaper. In the scrapbook, he records his most personal thoughts: his grief for his mother, his anxiety about his sick little brother, his thwarted love for a new woman in his father’s life. And soon, even Clarke seems to face danger: When his father drives the entire family onto a frozen lake, is it his alcoholism at its worst—or an attempt to drown out all the family secrets? When Clarke’s over-the-top imagination collides with reality and past catches up with present, the results are emotional—and deadly.

All translation rights available.

No End to the Journey by S. Shankar (Steerforth Press, 2005)

An engrossing novel in which comic delicacy and rueful irony are beautifully balanced in a story set against the vibrant backdrop of the New India, the world’s largest democracy, a country in which the rigid dogmas of the past often clash with the impatient and dynamic innovations of the present.

Gopalakrishnan (Gopu to his family and friends), a sixty-five year old retired civil servant, has recently and reluctantly returned home to the southern Indian village of Paavalampatti after a forty-year career in New Delhi. His father is dead and his mother — aging and unwell—wants her son to care for her in her dotage. His wife, Parvati, is none too pleased to be back. Their only child, Suresh, has stayed behind in New Delhi to oversee a presumably successful construction business. But when Suresh unexpectedly also comes home, ostensibly to commemorate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, the fractures that have long existed beneath the surface of the family are suddenly thrown into sharp relief, and Gopu finds he must act the patriarch under difficult circumstances.

S. Shankar is associate professor of English and the director of the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is the author of one previous novel, *A Map of Where I Live*, several books of poetry and literary criticism, and editor of *Crossing Into America: The New Literature of Immigration*. His stories and poetry have appeared in numerous literary magazines. He lives in Hawaii.

Spanish rights sold to Belacqua.

***Where the Line Bleeds* by Jesmyn Ward (Agate, 2008)**

Jesmyn Ward is an important new voice in American fiction. Her writing is distinguished by a simple, patient, and utterly focused attentiveness to the physical details of her characters and their lives. The strength and elegance of her debut novel's story is timeless, but made new in the unfamiliarity (to most from outside this region) of the world she creates—country, but contemporary; poor and black, but rural, not urban.

Set in a rural town on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the book tells the story of the fraternal twins Joshua and Christophe, who are graduating from high school as the novel begins. Both boys anticipate and dread their lives as adults. Joshua finds a job working as a dock laborer on the Gulf of Mexico, unloading cargo. But Christophe has less luck: Unable to find a job, and desperate to alleviate his family's poverty, he starts to sell drugs. Joshua does not approve, but his clumsy concern fractures the twins' relationship. When their long-missing addict father reappears, he provokes a shocking confrontation between himself and the brothers—one that will ultimately damn or save them.

Where the Line Bleeds is unforgettable for the intense clarity of how the main relationships are rendered: the love but growing tension between the twins; their devotion to the slowly failing grandmother who raised them and the obligation they feel to her; and most of all, the alternating pain, bewilderment, anger, and yearning they feel for the parents who abandoned them—their mother for a new life in the big city of Atlanta, and their father for drugs, prison, and even harsher debasements.

Jesmyn Ward herself grew up in a small Mississippi town near New Orleans, and this book makes palpable her deep knowledge and love of this world: black, Creole, poor, drug-riddled, yet shored by strong family ties and a sense of community that balances hope and fatalism, grief and triumph. A recipient of the Stegner Fellowship, she received her MFA from the University of Michigan and has been published in *A Public Space*.

U.S. and Canadian rights to Agate, Doug Seibold.

Nonfiction

Della by Chuck Barris (Simon & Schuster, Forthcoming)

Her name was Della Charlotte Barris. She was my daughter.

Della was born on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1962 in New York City's Doctor's Hospital. She died three thousand miles away in her apartment in Brentwood, California, on July 28, 1998. She was thirty-six years old when she died. Her death certificate said she died from an overdosed of drugs and alcohol.

So opens Chuck Barris's new book, **DELLA**, a sad, crazy story of a daughter's and father's fight for love and survival.

Chuck Barris is a former television show creator and producer, whose credits include *The Dating Game*, *The Newlywed Game*, *The Gong Show*, and *Treasure Hunt*. He is the author of several books, including *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (adapted into a major motion picture) and the New York Times bestselling novel *You and Me, Babe*. Chuck and his wife, Mary, live in Manhattan.

The Silence of Isaac Babel by Jonathan Brent (Atlas Books, 2010)

At the 1934 Soviet Writers' Congress, Isaac Babel, widely known to be Russia's "most famous writer" called himself "the great master of the genre of [literary silence]," ironically alluding to a fact his listeners already knew: He had not published more than a handful of stories since the 1926 publication of *Red Cavalry*. Babel's silences were many: he was highly secretive even to those closest to him and spoke little of his personal life; his prose is a model of concision and excision, of *not* saying what is most important to say; he published very little between 1926 and 1939, the year of his arrest; and his works were banned thereafter. The silence he used so effectively as an ironic weapon in his prose was eventually turned against him by the great forces of repression imposed on Soviet culture by its political masters.

Silence is at the center of Babel's personal, political and creative life. It is the sign of the period in which he lived and of the literary masterpieces he produced. It was the bond linking him to the extinguished voices of his generation, the voiceless fate of the Jews he witnessed in the Ukraine in the 1920s and the mute victims of the great famine of the 1930s, which horrified him. It was the nexus where the deepest impulses of the modernist aesthetic he embraced merged with the imperatives of the political and social life he could not escape, connecting the Black Square of Malevich with the whirlwind of the Revolution.

The biography of Isaac Babel is therefore the story of both his life and his art and, ultimately, the story of the formation of the consciousness that shaped both. This book draws upon material not only from published sources but also from years of research in

the military and Party archives of the Soviet Union, interviews with his son and daughter (Nathalie), and his second wife, Antonina Pirozhkova, in addition to relatives of those who knew him. It also draws upon the available primary and secondary literature, much of which is not published in English, including privileged access to Babel's KGB dossier. In addition, there are some 300 untranslated and unpublished letters between Babel and his mother from the late 20s and early 30s that form a vital part of the narrative.

Jonathan Brent is the editorial director of Yale University Press and founder of its distinguished Annals of Communism series, holds a PhD from the University of Chicago.

World English Rights to Atlas Books, James Atlas.

Through It All by Christine King Farris (Atria/Simon & Schuster 2009)

This memoir by the only living sibling of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a window into the life of an extraordinary woman from an extraordinary family. She writes about her childhood, the loss of her entire nuclear family, including the death of her mother in the Ebenezer Baptist Church, her experience in the civil rights movement, her life as an educator at Spelman College, and the recent loss of Coretta Scott King, who was like a sister to her.

Dr. Christine King Farris is a founder and chairperson of the board of directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Child Development Center and vice chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She is an associate professor of education at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she directs the Learning Resources Center. She is the author of the children's books *My Brother Martin*, *Martin Luther King, Jr.: His Life and Dream*, and *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*.

World exclusive rights to Atria/Simon & Schuster, Malaika Adero.

Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy by Fawaz Gerges (Harcourt, May 2006)

Middle Eastern scholar and media commentator Fawaz Gerges delves deeply into the world of Islamist militancy, going in search of those willing to sacrifice their lives to defend the Ummah, the worldwide Muslim community, against enemies both within and without. In Cairo, the birthplace of modern jihadism, Gerges began by talking to Kama al-Said Habib, one of its founders. Using Habib's life story, as well as those of dozens of others with whom he spoke, Gerges puts a human face and voice to events in the Middle East over the last thirty years, from the civil war in Lebanon—which Gerges experienced firsthand—to the war in Iraq and the terrorist attacks in London and Jordan. For the first time ever, we are privy to the voices of those waging the struggle for the soul of Islam.

Selection of both the Book of the Month Club as well as the History Book Club. Starred review in *Library Journal*. Strong review in *Publisher's Weekly*.

Fawaz A. Gerges teaches at Sarah Lawrence College, where he holds the Christian A. Johnson Chair in Middle Eastern Studies. He has also taught at Harvard, Oxford, and Columbia. He is a senior analyst and regular commentator for ABC Television News and NPR's *Morning Edition*, and has been a guest on the *Charlie Rose Show* and the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, as well as on CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera.

French, Spanish, and German rights have been sold.

Thoughts Without Cigarettes by Oscar Hijuelos (Gotham, 2010)

An episodic memoir of the life of the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, organized around times in his life when he smoked and times when he tried not to smoke cigarettes. The book begins with his childhood smoking—he began when he was younger than 10—then proceeds to his teenage years when his father, Pascual, discovered Oscar smoking, to Pascual's death when Oscar was 17. It covers Oscar's college years at City College and the role smoking played among his teacher and colleagues, and moves on to his eight years employed at Transit Advertising Agency where he worked on campaigns for Philip Morris. Then we see Oscar in Europe after he won the Rome Prize in Literature for his first novel, *Our House in the Last World*, and the smoking and drinking he encountered in the hot spots of Europe. The narrative culminates with the publication of *Mambo Kings* and its aftermath, when Oscar became a literary celebrity, and what happened to Oscar in the immediate wake of his new status in the world of letters.

Oscar Hijuelos was born of Cuban parentage in New York City in 1951. He is a recipient of the Rome Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, among others. His novels have been translated into twenty-five languages.

U.S. and Canadian rights to Gotham/Viking, William Shinker.

The Esperanza Fire by John Maclean (Henry Holt, Fall 2010)

When the Esperanza Fire, one of the most spectacular and deadly in recent California—and national—history killed five U.S. Forest Service firefighters in 2006, arson investigators intensified a search already underway for a serial arsonist. Within days, Raymond Oyler, an auto mechanic who lived in the area, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder for starting the fire and 22 other blazes. The District Attorney also announced he would seek the death penalty. But never in anyone's memory had there been a successful prosecution in the U.S. for first-degree murder for starting a wildland fire, let alone one that invoked the death penalty. Oyler went to trial this past spring in

Riverside, California district court. The trial lasted nearly two months. The jury deliberated six days and brought in a verdict of guilty, and then recommended the death penalty.

John N. Maclean is the author of prize-winning books about numerous fatal wildland fires (*Fire on the Mountain*, *Fire and Ashes*, *The Thirtymile Fire*). He was a writer, editor, and reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* for 30 years before he resigned his job there in 1995 to write his first book, *Fire on the Mountain*. After graduating from Shimer College in Mt. Carroll, Illinois, he served as a police reporter for the legendary City News Bureau of Chicago, and in 1970 he became the youngest journalist ever to work in the Washington Bureau of the *Chicago Tribune*. Maclean has been a Nieman Fellow in Journalism at Harvard University and has been nominated for several Pulitzers.

Keeping You with Me after You're Gone by Liza Monroy (currently on submission)

Keeping You with Me After You're Gone chronicles Liza's coming of age as she travels with her mother, a U.S. Foreign Service agent. Along the way she searches for her father—an alcoholic who disappeared and then resurfaced as a bum in a park, marries her gay best friend so that he can stay in America—a grave irony as her mother simultaneously wins an INS award for preventing illegal immigration, and sits as a thirteen year old girl in a room with President Bush. Liza's life and how she eventually makes her way is uncommonly beautiful. In the tradition of *Eat, Pray, Love* for its warm and funny candor as well as its rooting in travel, personal adventure, and self realization, *Keeping You with Me after You're Gone* will appeal to the young and the young at heart that are coming into their own or remembering that journey.

Liza is currently in the MFA program at Columbia University where she is also a University Writing Teaching Fellow for which she teaches the undergraduate core writing class. This past summer she ran the Gallery Reading Series at the School of the Art with Jobie Hughes where James Franco read. She has also been a Hertog fellow at Columbia where she worked with author Stefanie Syman.

Blame: A Brief History—From the Garden of Eden to Saddam Hussein by Stephen O'Connor (currently on submission) The author's short story is forthcoming in the *New Yorker*.

There is something very wrong with the United States at the start of the twenty-first century. It has the strongest economy in the world but the highest infant mortality, murder, and crime rates of the industrialized world. Its medical care system is the most expensive in the world while leaving a larger percentage of the population uncovered than any of its economic competitors. U.S. elementary and high school students do worse on standardized tests than students in almost every European and Asian country. And

finally, it has a larger percentage of its population imprisoned than any of the most brutal dictatorships in the world.

Every single one of these problems has emerged to one extent or another out of a primitive, ignorant, and delusional desire to punish and blame. This book lays bare the nature and causes of blame culture so that we may free ourselves of it and begin to deal realistically and more effectively with the many dire problems we face as a nation and a civilization.

Stephen O'Connor is the author of *Rescue*, short fiction and poetry; *Will My Name Be Shouted Out?*, memoir and social analysis; *Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved*; and *Failed*, history. Fiction and poetry have appeared in the *Quarterly*, *Partisan Review*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *Fiction International*, and elsewhere. Essays and journalism have been published in the *New York Times*, *DoubleTake*, the *Nation*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, and *TriQuarterly*, among other places. Recipient of the Cornell Woolrich Fellowship in Creative Writing from Columbia University; the Visiting Fellowship for Historical Research by Artists and Writers from the American Antiquarian Society; and the DeWitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Fellowship from the MacDowell Colony.

All translation rights available.

Antoine's Alphabet: Watteau and His World by Jed Perl (Knopf, September 2008)

Antoine Watteau, one of the most mysterious painters who ever lived, is the inspiration for this delightful investigation of the tangled relationship between art and life. Weaving together historical fact and personal reflections, the influential art critic Jed Perl reconstructs the amazing story of this pioneering bohemian artist who, although he died in 1721 when he was only thirty-six, has influenced innumerable painters and writers in the centuries since—and whose work can still deepen our understanding of the place that love, friendship, and pleasure have in our daily lives.

Perl creates an astonishing experience by gathering his reflections on this “master of silken surfaces and elusive emotions” in the form of an alphabet—a fairy tale for adults—and giving us a new way to think about art. This brilliant collage of a book is a hunt for the treasure of Watteau's life and vision that encompasses the glamour and intrigue of eighteenth-century Paris, the riotous history of Harlequin and Pierrot, and the work of such modern giants as Cézanne, Picasso, and Samuel Beckett.

By turns somber and beguiling, analytical and impressionistic, Antoine's Alphabet reaffirms the contemporary relevance of the greatest of all painters of young love and imperishable dreams. It is a book to savor, to share, to return to again and again.

Jed Perl was born in New York and studied art history and painting at Columbia University. Since 1994 he has been the art critic at the *New Republic*. His books include *Paris Without End*, *Eyewitness*, and *New Art City: Manhattan at Mid-Century*. He lives in Manhattan.

All translation rights available through Carol Janeway. The author is also at work on a major biography of a painter with Knopf.

Crazy for God by Frank Schaeffer (Carroll & Graf, October 2007)

Frank Schaeffer grew up in Switzerland's L'Abri, an idealistic community founded by his parents, the American evangelicals Francis and Edith Schaeffer. By the time he was nineteen, his parents had achieved global fame as best-selling authors and speakers, L'Abri had become a mecca for spiritual seekers worldwide—from Barbara Bush to Timothy Leary—and Frank had joined his father on the evangelical circuit. By the age of twenty-three, he had directed two multipart religious documentaries (which are still required viewing at thousands of schools and churches in the English-speaking world) and had helped instigate the marriage between the American evangelical community and the anti-abortion movement. But as he spoke before thousands in arenas around America, published his own evangelical best-seller, and worked with such figures as Pat Robertson, Jack Kemp, Jerry Falwell, and Dr. James Dobson, Schaeffer felt alienated, precipitating his own crisis of faith and ultimately, his departure.

Schaeffer has since become a successful secular author (*Portofino*, the first of the autobiographical Calvin Becker Trilogy, was based on his childhood experiences in Europe), but only after an odyssey that included struggling as a low-budget film director (*Baby on Board* with Judge Reinhold). Schaeffer, who Cal Thomas, vice president of the Moral Majority, once introduced at a huge rally as “the best speaker in America,” was reduced to smuggling pork chops out of Ralph's supermarket in his underwear, rather than take on any more evangelical speaking jobs.

With its up-close portraits of the leading evangelicals, and the empathy and humor of the prose, *Crazy for God* is a uniquely revealing chronicle of one young man in the center of a crucial moment in our recent history.

Frank Schaeffer was born in Switzerland. He is a survivor of polio, an acclaimed writer who overcame severe dyslexia, a home-schooled and self-taught documentary movie director, a feature film director and producer of four low-budget Hollywood features, and a best-selling author of fiction and nonfiction.

All translation rights available.

The *Nation* magazine featured this book in a piece by Jane Smiley.

Patience with God by Frank Schaeffer (Carroll & Graf, Fall 2009)

From the best-selling and controversial author of *Keeping Faith* and *Crazy for God*, a spirited, witty, and provocative challenge to atheists and fundamentalists alike.

From *Patience with God*:

“Why do I write about faith, religion, and religious people in so many of my books? What’s it to me if I agree or disagree with the New Atheists and with all religious fundamentalists? First, one writes about the life one has experienced. I’ve lived religion. Second, I don’t like to be forced to choose between lousy alternatives.”

Frank Schaeffer has a problem with Dawkins, Hitchens, Harris, Dennett, and the rest of the New Atheists—the self-anointed “Brights.” He also has a problem with the Rick Warrens and Tim LaHayes of the world. The problem is that he doesn’t see much of a difference between the two camps. As Schaeffer puts it, they “often share the same fallacy: truth claims that reek of false certainties. I believe that there is an alternative that actually matches the way life is lived rather than how we usually talk about belief.”

Sparing no one and nothing, including himself and his fiery evangelical past, and invoking subtleties too easily ignored by the pontificators, Schaeffer adds much-needed nuance to the conversation. Schaeffer says: “My writing has smoked out so many individuals who, like me, seem to be thinking about the same questions. I’m assuming there are many more of us. I hope that this book will provide a meeting place for us, the scattered refugees of what I’ll call The Church of Hopeful Uncertainty.”

Frank Schaeffer is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Keeping Faith* and, most recently, the memoir *Crazy for God*, which was featured on “Fresh Air.” He and his wife, Genie, live in Massachusetts and have three children.

**In bookstores everywhere in November 2009.
World rights to Da Capo Press.**

Running the Books by Avi Steinberg (Nan A. Talese Books, 2010)

Anchored in a narrative of the author’s experiences running a prison library and teaching creative writing in prison, *Running the Books* is a memoir of Steinberg’s journey to, through, and ultimately, thankfully, out of prison. It is a journey that draws from his upbringing in a strictly Orthodox community, to dropping out of yeshiva and defecting to Harvard. It is, in a sense, a travel narrative, dispatches from a traveler in a foreign land (that just happens to be 30 minutes from his home).

Having grown dissatisfied from the insularities of his upbringing—from the heady ideological sense of Jewish “choseness” to Harvard, the American version of the same—the author was intent on shedding the self-serving ideologies of his background and re-educating himself in a completely new place, learning what the world was “really like” and preparing himself to make his own way in it. But again and again in prison he learned that one doesn’t ever truly escape one’s roots. This was a point emphasized to him repeatedly by both people in prison and by his rabbis—but it took two difficult years of his own experience on the inside to understand what this actually meant. He learned that one’s roots—whatever they are—sustain you when things are most difficult. He learned this by uprooting himself.

The prison library attracts a crowd of quirky regulars, seekers, loners in search of affiliation. It is the focal point for a unique and poignant sense of community. In trying to create this community for others—in forming unlikely personal relationships that evolved

over time—Steinberg comes to appreciate his own deeper reasons for seeking this place out. Like the inmates, he too came to the prison library in search of something important. He had arrived in the prison library with a clear idea of what he was looking for—but nothing could prepare him for what he discovered.

Avi Steinberg was born in Jerusalem, raised in Cleveland and Boston. Before becoming a prison librarian, he worked as a reporter for the *Boston Globe*, writing weekly news articles, first-person essays and features. His work has also appeared in the *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine*, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine*, *Philadelphia Weekly*, *Nextbook*, the *Forward*, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), *Africana.com*, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, and *Zeek.net*.

**U.S. and translation rights to Nan A. Talese Books/Doubleday, Lorna Owen.
Hebrew rights sold to date.**

***Smash the Glass Slipper—and Free Yourself from Shoe Fashion
Slavery*** by Leora Tanenbaum (Seven Stories, Forthcoming 2009)

Smash the Glass Slipper is a light-hearted wake-up call to women that they have to start thinking about the health of their feet. This is a book with a serious message: Ladies, make better choices about your shoes before it's too late! But the message is delivered with a dose of fun. Many women enjoy shoes, and this book will capture the mood of the world of women's fashionable footwear. It is possible to make smart footwear decisions without sacrificing style. The reader will learn the risks of wearing fashionable shoes, whether heels, flats, or flip-flops. When she finishes this book, she will know that moderation is key. It's okay to wear shoes without support for a few hours once or twice a week at a party, date, or special event. It's not smart to wear them all day, especially if she must walk or stand for long periods of time, for years on end. Otherwise, she will wake up one day in pain. She will look back at her years of bad decisions with remorse and horror: "My god, what have I done?"

Smash the Glass Slipper will offer advice and information through Tanenbaum's interviews with podiatrists, orthopedic surgeons, shoe salespeople, shoe manufacturers, and women of all ages.

A writer who covers the unique problems faced by women and girls, Leora Tanenbaum is now turning her attention to an obsession of females across the land: shoes. She is the author of *Slut! Growing Up Female with a Bad Reputation*, *Catfight: Rivalries Among Women—From Diets to Dating, From the Boardroom to the Delivery Room*, and *Taking Back God: American Women Rising Up for Religious Equality*.

Taking Back God: American Women Rising Up for Religious Equality by Leora Tanenbaum (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Fall 2009)

Taking Back God addresses the explosion of women rising up and demanding religious equality. More and more, Christian, Muslim, and Jewish women expect to be treated as equal to men in the religious sphere. Tanenbaum demonstrates that equality-seeking devout women are not abandoning their tradition. Rather, they taking back their faith and making it stronger.

Leora Tanenbaum is the author of *Slut! Growing Up Female with a Bad Reputation* and *Catfight: Rivalries Among Women—From Diets to Dating, From the Boardroom to the Delivery Room* (both HarperPerennial). *Slut!* is a staple in women’s studies courses around the U.S. Internationally she has been featured in Germany’s *Focus* and *Time Out London*, and her books are available in Germany, Turkey, and Australia/New Zealand. Tanenbaum has been featured on *Oprah*, the *Today Show*, the *O’Reilly Factor*, and NPR. She is frequently quoted in newspapers from the *New York Times* to *USA Today*, and she lectures around the U.S. at campuses such as Stanford, Duke, and Columbia. Tanenbaum is a contributor to the *Huffington Post* and has written for *Redbook*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Seventeen*, and *Ms*.

U.S. and Canadian rights to Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Denise Oswald.

The Old Way—A Story of the First People by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005)

One of our most influential anthropologists re-evaluates her long and illustrious career by returning to her roots—and the roots of life as we know it. As she displayed in her bestseller, *The Hidden Life of Dogs*, which *Kirkus* called “popular science of the highest order,” Thomas has a rare gift for giving voice to the voices we don’t usually listen to. In *The Old Way*, she shows how her skills and customs of the hunter-gatherer have much in common with the survival tactics of the other creatures with whom we share the planet. Since it is “knowledge ... not objects” that endures over time, Thomas vividly brings us to see the path that we have taken on our human journey.

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas is the author of seven books of fiction and non-fiction—among them *The Harmless People*, *Raindeer Moon* and *Animal Wife*. She has written for the *New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, and the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Rights sold in Korea.

Illustrated

Jewtoons by Ken Krimstein (Clarkson Potter, 2010)

From *New Yorker/Punch* cartoonist Ken Krimstein, *Jewtoons* is an irreverent and cathartic collection of cartoons about the Jewish way of life and the funny things Jews do—from Kosher-style crab cakes to outlaws like Billy the Kiddush to the lone balloon at the Macy’s Shemini Atzeret Day Parade.

Ken Krimstein’s short fiction has appeared on mcsweeneys.net, themorningnews.org, yankeepotroast.org, and pindeldyboz.com. His cartoons have been published by Punch, the *New Yorker*, the *National Lampoon*, and the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*. He’s been syndicated as part of King Features ‘New Breed’ cartoon feature.

World English rights to Clarkson Potter, Aliza Fogelson.

The Woodstock Story Book by Linanne G. Sackett and photographs by Barry Z. Levine (Forthcoming)

The Woodstock Story Book is a chronological and anatomical pictorial account of the historic 1969 festival. It includes over 240 full color photographs by Barry Z. Levine, official photographer of the Academy Award winning Woodstock film, and text by Linanne Sackett that resonates with the charm and humor of Dr. Seuss. The book captures the performers, personalities, audience, excitement, mood, and action from the beginning of the conversion of Max Yasgur's cow pasture into the world famous iconic site all the way through three days of fun, sun, and storms to the muddy, garbage strewn aftermath. The 154 pages of *The Woodstock Story Book* include many exceptional, never-before-seen photographs of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jerry Garcia, The Who, Joe Cocker, Jefferson Airplane, Joan Baez, The Band, Sly and the Family Stone, John Sebastian, Ten Years After, The Incredible String Band, Tim Hardin, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, and many more.

In addition to his work as a photographer, Barry Z. Levine has worked as a writer/producer in advertising and film, video, and theatrical production. He was the director of a video production studio in New York City. His Woodstock photographs have been featured in international newspapers and magazines and have been on an international tour for several years. Linanne G. Sackett is a former cowpuncher, beauty queen, drag race champion, early childhood educator, and college VP. She was working with Head Start parents in the inner city in the summer of 1969 and has become a dyed-in-the-wool “Woody.”

Children / Young Adult

Voices in First Person: Reflections on Latino Identity by Lori Marie Carlson (Atheneum, 2008)

This eclectic, gritty, and groundbreaking collection of short monologues features twenty-one of the most respected Latino authors writing today, including Sandra Cisneros, Oscar Hijuelos, Esmeralda Santiago, and Gary Soto. Their fictional narratives give voice to what it's like to be a Latino teen in America. These voices are yearning. These voices are angry. These voices are, above all else, hopeful. These voices are America.

Lori Marie Carlson was born in Jamestown, New York. She holds an MA in Hispanic Literature from Indiana University and has taught at several universities. Carlson is the author of seven books for young adults, including the acclaimed *Cool Salsa*. She lives in New York City.

U.S. and Canadian rights to Atheneum, Caitlyn Dlouhy.

March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World by Christine King Farris (Scholastic, Summer 2008)

On a hot August day in 1963, hundreds of thousands of people made history when they marched into Washington, D.C., in search of equality. Martin Luther King, Jr., the younger brother of Christine Farris, was one of them.

Martin was scheduled to speak to the crowds of people on that day. But before he could stand up and inspire a nation, he had to get down to business. He first had to figure out what to say and how to say it. So he spent all night working on his "I Have a Dream" speech, a speech that would underscore a landmark moment in civil rights history—the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. This would be one of the first events televised all over the globe. The world would be listening as one of the greatest orators of our time shared his vision for a new day.

From the sister of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., comes this moving account of what that day was like for her, and for the man who inspired a crowd—and convinced a nation to let freedom ring.

Dr. Christine King Farris is a founder and chairperson of the board of directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Child Development Center and vice chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She is an associate professor of education at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she directs the Learning Resources Center. She is the author of the children's books *My Brother Martin*, *Martin Luther King*,

Jr.: His Life and Dream, and *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*.

World exclusive rights to Scholastic, Andrea Pinkney.

Leonardo's Shadow by Chris Grey (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, September 2006)

A Renaissance thriller featuring Leonardo da Vinci, his servant boy, the Duke of Milan, and a most marvelous invention. This debut young adult novel was Atheneum's lead title for Fall 2006.

Giacomo is the servant of Leonardo da Vinci—a thankless job if you ask him. For not only does the master fail to recognize all his serving boy does for him, he fails to see the budding artistic genius who lives right under his nose. Who? Giacomo, of course! But until the great Leonardo deigns to notice him, Giacomo must focus on the business of running Leonardo's home, starting with the issue of the artist's finances. How will he ever get the increasingly impatient local merchants to forget Leonardo's enormous debts when Leonardo has nothing to pay them with? And how will Leonardo ever have the money to pay them if he doesn't finish painting *The Last Supper*?

Giacomo has an idea and he knows that Leonardo won't be happy with it—a violation of his artistic integrity, he will say—but even a genius must eat. Still, does he dare incur his master's wrath by mentioning it? And there are more pressing concerns. The Duke of Milan suspects that Leonardo is building something in secret, and demands that Giacomo spy on him to find out, or he'll pay with his life.

A richly imagined thriller with as many plot twists as da Vinci has inventions, *Leonardo's Shadow* details the fictional creation of one of the most recognizable paintings in the world. For ages 12 and up.

Christopher Grey is from London, England. He has worked as a waiter, hotel manager, hospital porter, jeans salesman, tour operator, and rock musician. This is his first book.

Dutch, Danish, Czech, Slovak, and Korean rights have been sold.

Dark Dude by Oscar Hijuelos (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, September 2008)

He didn't say good bye. He didn't leave a phone number. And he didn't plan on coming back—ever. In Wisconsin, Rico could blend in. His light hair and lighter skin wouldn't make him the “dark dude” or the punching bag for the whole neighborhood. The Midwest is the land of milk and honey, but for Rico Fuentes, it's really a last resort. Trading Harlem for Wisconsin, though, means giving up on a big part of his identity. And when Rico no longer has to prove that he's Latino, he almost stops being one. Except he can never have an ordinary white kid's life, because there are some things that can't be left behind, that can't be cut loose or forgotten. These are the things that will be with you forever.... These are the things that will follow you a thousand miles away.

For anyone who loved *The Outsiders*—and for anyone who’s ever felt like one—Pulitzer Prize–winning novelist Oscar Hijuelos brings to life a haunting choice and an unforgettable journey about identity, misidentity, and all that we take with us when we run away.

Oscar Hijuelos was born of Cuban parentage in New York City in 1951. He is a recipient of the Rome Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, among others. His novels have been translated into twenty-five languages.

**All rights sold to Atheneum, Caitlyn Dlouhy.
Five countries sold to date.**

Shine Coconut Moon by Neesha Meminger (McElderry, 2009)

Seventeen-year-old Samar—a.k.a. Sam—has never known much about her Indian heritage. Her mom has deliberately kept Sam away from her old-fashioned family. It’s never bothered Sam, who is busy with school, friends, and a really cute but demanding boyfriend.

But things change after 9/11. A guy in a turban shows up at Sam’s house, and he turns out to be her uncle. He wants to reconcile the family and teach Sam about her Sikh heritage. Sam isn’t sure what to do, until a girl at school calls her a coconut—brown on the outside, white on the inside. That decides it: Why shouldn’t Sam get to know her family? What is her mom so afraid of? Then some boys attack her uncle, shouting, “Go back home, Osama!” and Sam realizes she could be in danger—and also discovers how dangerous ignorance can be. Sam will need all her smarts and savvy to try to bridge two worlds and make them both her own.

Neesha Meminger was born in Punjab, India, at the tail end of the 1960s, and grew up in Toronto, Canada. She currently lives in New York City, where she and her husband spend most days being ignored by a seven-year-old Leo and a four-year-old Aries. This is her first novel.

Updates

- The establishment of a literary prize within the Mercantile Library—to be announced.
- Banana Yoshimoto's *Lake* (Melville House, Forthcoming 2009)
- Collected Frank O'Connor with Julian Barnes intro. (Everyman, 2009)
- *The Complete Works of Isaac Babel* continues to sell all over the world. Hebrew, Basque, and Dutch are the most recent translations.
- John Maclean's *Fire on the Mountain* has been sold to National Geographic Films. His new work *The Esperanza Fire* is forthcoming with Jack Macrae at Holt.
- Stephen O'Connor's short story forthcoming in the *New Yorker*
- New clients include: Radju Vrudhula (Berkley), Allison Yarrow, Celina Martinez (Syracuse M.F.A.), Jobie Hughes (Columbia M.F.A.), and Ethan Hon (Columbia M.F.A.)

The Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency represents the following estates:

- Isaac Babel
- Edward Dahlberg
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