



# **PFD New York**

## **London 2008**

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# FICTION

**Daphne Beal**

***IN THE LAND OF NO RIGHT ANGLES***

**(US: Anchor/Vintage)**

*“Daphne Beal’s IN THE LAND OF NO RIGHT ANGLES is a haunting, spare, fascinating novel. From the first disarming sentence, I was hooked... This is a gripping story, gorgeously told, beautifully understated.... It is a sharp, keenly observed meditation on friendship, on desire.”-- Alison Smith, author of Name All the Animals*

*“In her instantly suspenseful first novel, Daphne Beal cracks open a world that most of us know only from newspapers and TV: the trafficking of young women. Her intimate knowledge of Nepal – the landscapes and customs, the everyday lives of its people – shines from these pages, making her a frank and humane tour guide into an underworld she makes fully her own.”*

– Jennifer Egan, author of *Look at Me*

*IN THE LAND OF NO RIGHT ANGLES* is the story of an unusual triangle of friendship and romance set in the green foothills of Nepal and the teeming city of Bombay. Inspired by such classics as *The Quiet American* and *A Passage to India*, and reminiscent of both Claire Messud’s *The Last Life* and Alex Garland’s *The Beach*, Beal delves into the realm of cross-cultural friendships and examines the limits of our ability, no matter how close we might feel, to truly understand the experience of another.

Daphne Beal has written for *McSweeney’s*, *Vogue*, *ArtForum*, *Open City* and *The KGB Reader*, among other publications. She has been the recipient of several fellowships and awards, including an O. Henry Honorable Mention for her KGB story and Lannan and Breadloaf fellowships. This is her first novel.

To be published in August 2008; edited manuscript available.

## **Alice Mattison**

### ***NOTHING IS QUITE FORGOTTEN IN BROOKLYN***

(US: Harper)

*"Mattison is concerned with the small decisions and coincidences that alter the course of our lives. Are they accidents or impulses born of something deeper? Mattison's observations are so minutely compelling that each one feels like a shiny object, once lost but found unexpectedly." -- The New Yorker*

*"Without pretension, Mattison's voice is like that of no one else writing today." --Kirkus Reviews*

A new novel by the acclaimed author of *THE BOOK BORROWER* and *IN CASE WE'RE SEPARATED* (a *New York Times* Notable Book) about the depth of humanity, family and community.

At the start of *NOTHING IS QUITE FORGOTTEN IN BROOKLYN*, Constance Tepper is alone in her mother's apartment in Brooklyn in 1989, while her mother visits her old friend Marlene Silverman, a powerful woman whom Con has idealized all her life. After a burglar enters the apartment and steals Con's purse, she is trapped there without money or keys, and can do little but make phone calls and read the mysterious letters she finds, written by Marlene to her mother during and after the Second World War. Each phone call Con makes, each letter she reads, leads to some new discovery or shift in circumstances; by the end of the week, Constance's life has changed significantly, with her mother dead, her marriage in disarray, and her law career ending.

Concurrently, the book narrates another week in Con's life, in 2003. She has moved to Brooklyn. Her daughter, a young artist, is arrested for speaking against the war in Iraq, and Con's former husband reasserts his charm with a plan to walk through Brooklyn discovering fragments of a nearly forgotten elevated train line. By the end of the second week, more than the train line has been revealed.

Through this cast of characters and their messy lives, Alice Mattison proves that the past is often far more dangerous—and more interesting—than many of us could ever have imagined it.

Alice Mattison is the author of four novels, three previous short story collections, and a volume of poetry. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Best American Short Stories*, *The Pushcart Prize*, *The New Yorker*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Glimmer Train*, and *Ploughshares*.

To be published in September 2008; manuscript available.

# NON-FICTION

**Tom Chiarella**

***THE PROPOSITION***

(US: Crown; Brazil: Ediouro)

After thinking about the typical self-help book, Tom Chiarella decided he wanted to try a new method of self-improvement. Satisfied—perhaps *too* satisfied-- with his comfortable middle-aged life, he wanted to make sure he continued learning, changing, and growing. So Chiarella decided to set himself up with a series of challenges—“propositions”—a new one each month. Each proposition is a combination of homework assignment, personal dare, and daily routine, wherein he poses a specific question and then strives to achieve that goal. “What if I kept every secret—big or small—told to me in the following month? What if I wrote a thank-you note to everyone who does me a kindness? What if I haggle over every financial transaction—from renting a car for the weekend, to buying a hot dog on the street?” Based on the premise that the ongoing life of a man is measured by what he does next, Chiarella takes us on a humorous and sometimes touching journey in this account of one man’s method to make sure he never stops learning, never stops thinking about what comes next.

Tom Chiarella is Writer-at-Large for *Esquire* magazine, where he also serves as fiction editor. A 2005 National Magazine Award finalist, he has also won a fellowship in fiction writing from the NEA. He is the former chair of the English department at DePauw University, where he is currently a Visiting Professor of Creative Writing. He is the author of three previous books

Delivery August 2008; proposal and additional material available.

## **Charles Clover**

### ***EURASIANISM: The Futuristic Past of Putin's Russia***

**(US & UK: Yale UP, Japan: NHK)**

Since the fall of communism, Russia has witnessed a surge of interest in all manner of formerly suppressed political thought, but one rather improbable ideology has seized the imagination of many of the country's intellectuals: the 70-year-old writings of the "Eurasianists," a group of thinkers who fled the Bolshevik revolution in 1917. In two subsequent decades, these émigrés created a new doctrine that they imagined would one day replace communism after the inevitable collapse of the USSR. They were three generations too early, but prophetic nonetheless: since the 1990's Eurasianism has undergone a remarkable resurgence, spread with the help of conservative elements within Russia's military and "special services."

The doctrine of Eurasianism conveniently meshes with the increasingly authoritarian politics of President Vladimir Putin, who has mentioned the ideology approvingly in several speeches. Eurasianism's followers rationalize an imperial effort to re-form the full territorial extent of the Russian empire, or the USSR, in the modern day. More ominously, this form of nationalism provides a theoretical justification for the continued survival of the Russian empire as a single political unit, Eurasia. Emphasizing Russia's uniqueness as a separate "continent," *EURASIANISM* demonstrates the frightening and ever more likely repercussions of a Russia that refuses to see itself as part of Europe with a western identity.

Charles Clover is analysis editor for the *Financial Times* of London, and will be their Moscow bureau chief beginning in July 2008. He began researching the present book during five years spent traveling in the former Soviet Union as Kiev correspondent for the *FT* from 1997-2001. More recently, he has been the *FT*'s Kabul bureau chief and Baghdad bureau chief. He speaks fluent Russian and Arabic.

Proposal and draft chapters available; edited manuscript available December 2008.

**Lucy Danziger and Catherine Birndorf, M.D.**

***THE NINE ROOMS OF HAPPINESS***

(US: Voice/ Hyperion; Germany: Arkana; Brazil: Rocco; UK: Macmillan; Japan: Kodansha)

A smart and accessible self-help book by the Editor-in-Chief of the popular *SELF* magazine and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Authors Danziger and Birndorf tackle the small, persistent problems that women regularly say make them unhappy: the nagging problems with work, or husbands, or children—none big enough in themselves to create a crisis, but when these little problems aren't addressed, they can pile up and lead to chronic disappointment. The authors use the metaphor of rooms in a house to help women learn how to examine and then solve their problems—by understanding what “room” it belongs in, and not letting the problem travel throughout the house! From the Living Room (which represents our relationships with friends and our social ambitions) to the Bathroom (our thoughts about health, strength, body image) to the Bedroom (issues of intimacy, sex, and love), Lucy Danziger and Catherine Birndorf will help women learn to isolate, understand, and resolve their problems in every room of the house—and to keep the rooms clean and trouble-free!

To be delivered in March 09; proposal available.

**Jerramy Fine**

***SOMEDAY MY PRINCE WILL COME: True Adventures of a Wanna-be Princess***

(US: Gotham; Germany: Droemer-Knaur)

A memoir by a young American woman living in England, *SOMEDAY MY PRINCE WILL COME* is a charming, humorous account of Fine's lifelong mission to meet and marry a member of the British Royal Family. Born in Colorado to hippy parents, Ms. Fine set her sights on marrying Peter Phillips (son of Princess Anne) at the tender age of six, when she found him in a library book on British royalty. She begged to be sent to an English boarding school, wrote letters to him care of Buckingham Palace, and scoured the British press for news of him. Fine did eventually make it to London, and this screwball fairytale is as much about her obsession with royalty as it is a book about making things happen and following one's dream.

Published in January 2008.

## **Tom Folsom**

***THE MAD ONES: Crazy Joe and the Revolution at the Edge of the Underworld***

(US: Weinstein Books; Film rights sold to the Weinstein Company)

*THE MAD ONES* is the story of the Gallo crime family, small time Mafia crooks working out of Red Hook, Brooklyn in the 1950s until the '70s. A fascinating, complicated character, "Crazy" Joey Gallo got swept up in the cultural moment of Greenwich Village in the '60s. When he wasn't whacking people at the bidding of the Don, he was smoking cigarettes in cafes on Macdougall Street, reading Camus and Lao Tzu. He became a counter-cultural darling; Bob Dylan wrote the song "Joey" about him, and pretty soon everybody who was anybody would talk about how they'd hung out with Joey Gallo. But Joey had higher ambitions than the jet set: he intended for the Gallo family to stage a full-scale coup against the Mafia establishment. His Quixotic attempts to take on New York's powerful "Five Families" resulted in his massacre at Umberto's Clam House in Manhattan's Little Italy. *THE MAD ONES* will be more than a great Mafia story; it will be a unique look at New York in the 60's, from the point of view of an unlikely revolutionary.

Proposal available; manuscript to be delivered August 2008.

(UK: Robert Kirby, *United Agents*)

## **Brendan I. Koerner**

***NOW THE HELL WILL START: The Hunt for the Jungle King, World War II's***

***Most Legendary Outlaw***

(US: Penguin Press)

*"A fascinating, untold story of the Second World War, an incendiary social document, and a thrilling, campfire tale adventure." --George Pelecanos*

Young Pvt. Herman Perry was an African-American soldier posted to remotest northwest Burma in 1942. He was there to help build the Ledo Road, the supply route designed to keep China from surrendering to Japan which was crucial to the Allies' strategy in southern Asia. Fast descending into opium addiction and despair, Perry, "a real-life version of Colonel Kurtz from *Heart of Darkness*," shot and killed an officer and disappeared into the jungle. That jungle was Nagaland, a region populated by a man-eating tribe. Perry moved in with the Naga, married the chieftain's daughter, and was pursued by the U.S. army before being captured, escaping from jail, and finally being hanged to death.

An adventure narrative in the same vein as non-fiction bestsellers like Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost* and Hampton Sides' *Ghost Soldiers*, by a *New York Times* columnist

Galleys available; to be published in May 08.

## **Field Maloney**

***CRUSH: A Clerk's Tale***

(US: Little Brown; UK: Canongate)

In a book described as *Sideways* meets Bill Bryson, Field Maloney, a young writer and former fiction editor at *The New Yorker*, will explore the Americanization of wine -- from the colonial era to the modern-day, from east to west, and from grape to glass.

Not your typical wine geek, Mahoney's lay observations – in the tradition of participatory journalists like Ian Frazier and George Plimpton-- use storytelling as much as reportage and combine memoir and social history. He will work a crush in Napa Valley, spend a season as a cellar rat in one of California's giant wineries, and assist a sommelier at a fancy Italian restaurant in New York City. *CRUSH* will be a humorous and accessible chronicle of a contemporary pilgrimage, from vine to grape to barrel to bottle – a Clerk's Tale.

Proposal available; manuscript delivered July 2008.

## **Patricia Morrisroe**

***WIDE AWAKE: A Memoir of Insomnia***

(US: Spiegel & Grau; UK: Hodder)

A journalist's account of her lifetime quest for a good night's rest, from her childhood in a household of insomniacs to her adult experiments with sleep clinics, sleep-inducing drugs, hypnosis, and beyond.

Why is it so easy for some people to sleep and so hard for others? Can science help? Can “alternative medicine”? What is the relationship between sleep and mental health? Is chemical sleep better than no sleep at all? And why is sleeplessness now afflicting women much more than men?

Like Andrew Solomon's bestseller *The Noonday Demon*, *WIDE AWAKE* is a memoir of a personal struggle, but it will also investigate the most current sleep science, the latest breakthroughs in insomnia cures, and sleep – and wakefulness – throughout history and literature.

Proposal available; manuscript delivered October 2008.

## Ben Ratliff

### *COLTRANE: The Story of a Sound*

(US: FSG; UK: Faber; Spain: Global Rhythm Press; Germany: Hannibal; Italy: ALET; Japan: BI Press)

*“Ben Ratliff’s COLTRANE is an extraordinarily vivid account of the creative process—both that of the artist and that of the people whose works respond to his. Ratliff is such a terrific writer that he can make musical points clear even to readers who know nothing about theory. This book will be passed from hand to hand.”—Luc Sante*

*“Ratliff gets so much right...[He] deploys a wider range of cultural reference than many [working] music critics.”—Geoff Dyer, The Guardian*

*“This is popular, nontechnical music writing at its best.”—Booklist*

*“A model for music criticism.”—Publishers Weekly (starred)*

Praised as the rare jazz book that is neither biography nor musical analysis, *COLTRANE* will introduce neophytes and aficionados to the genius and passion of John Coltrane, a man who changed the art form forever.

The first half of the book explains Coltrane’s evolution from his first recordings as a no-name navy bandsman to his last recordings as a near-saint, when Coltrane experienced a remarkable series of breakthroughs in his religious search for deeper and more profound expression. In its second half, *COLTRANE* traces the history of the artist’s influence and legacy. Ratliff examines the reactions of musicians, critics, and others who followed Coltrane to determine why he signifies so much in the basic identity of jazz.

Ben Ratliff is the jazz critic for the *New York Times*.

Published in September 2007.

## **Said Sayrafiezadeh**

***WHEN SKATEBOARDS WILL BE FREE***

(US: Dial Press; UK: Hamish Hamilton; Netherlands: Meulenhoff)

How does it feel when your parents are more concerned with saving the world than raising a child? *WHEN SKATEBOARDS WILL BE FREE* is based on the acclaimed piece for *Granta* by Said Sayrafiezadeh, an Iranian-Jewish American writer who grew up in a world of extremist political ideology as the child of communist parents. A heartwrenching literary memoir, eloquently and expertly told, about a son's deprivations—both material and deeply emotional—as the child of passionate idealists.

Sayrafiezadeh has had essays and short stories published in several literary journals, including *The Paris Review* and *Open City*. He is also a playwright, and has won various fellowships for his theater work.

Proposal available; edited manuscript available later this Spring.

## **Seth Stevenson**

***GROUNDDED: Around the World Via Cargo Freighters, Railroads, Hydrofoils, Bicycles, Sailboats, Rickshaws, and Camels...***

(US: Riverhead Books; ANZ: Harper Australia)

In an effort to stave off early-midlife crises, Seth Stevenson and his girlfriend decide that what they need in their lives is a little old-fashioned adventure. An around-the-world journey seems about right; but in this age of jet travel, circumnavigating the globe isn't the daring, difficult, dangerous endeavor it used to be. So Seth and Rebecca decide to turn the clock back and experience travel the way it used to be—slow, contemplative, and using antiquated forms of transportation almost forgotten in our get-there-quick world. Starting with a cargo freighter from the United States to Antwerp, Belgium, the couple will cross Europe, Asia, and the Pacific using whatever archaic modes of travel they can find (the subtitle names just a few). They have only two rules: no quitting, and no airplanes, ever. *GROUNDDED* will be a photo-negative of the usual travel narrative, focusing less on the places Seth visits than on the people and experiences he has while getting there. In the parlance of the contemporary movement towards more thoughtful living, Seth Stevenson has written the world's first "Slow Travelogue."

Seth Stevenson has written for *Newsweek*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *New York* magazine, *Details*, and is a contributing writer for *Slate*. He has won four Lowell Thomas awards from the Society of American Travel Writers. His piece "Trying Really Hard to Like India" appeared in *Best American Travel Writing 2005*.

Proposal available; manuscript delivered December 2008.

## **Tom Vanderbilt**

*TRAFFIC: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says about Us)*

**(US:** Knopf; **Netherlands:** De Bezige Bij; **Germany:** Hoffman & Campe; **Italy:** RCS; **Israel:** Keter; **Korea:** Gimm-Young; **Japan:** Hayakawa; **Taiwan:** Locus)

Based on extensive research and interviews with driving experts and traffic officials around the globe, *TRAFFIC* gets under the hood of the quotidian activity of driving to uncover the surprisingly complex web of physical, psychological, and technical factors that explain how traffic works. A fascinating sociological study that answers questions we never knew we had about this major part of our everyday lives.

For instance, did you know that Saturday at 1pm has heavier traffic than weekday rush hours? That people who live on streets with more traffic spend less time outside and have fewer friends? That one in five urban crashes is related to looking for a place to park? That “highway illusions” convince us the next lane is moving faster? That more people are killed legally crossing the street in crosswalks than while jaywalking? Did you know that you can gauge a nation’s driving behavior by its levels of corruption?

Tom Vanderbilt writes about design, technology, science, and culture for *The New York Times* and many other publications.

To be published in August 2008.

*(Translation: Knopf)*

## Margaret Visser

### *THE GIFT OF THANKS*

(US: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Canada: HarperCollins)

*“Everywhere, Ms. Visser reveals unexpected cultural connections and curiosities of natural history. A consistently thoughtful and entertaining book.” –The New York Times Book Review, praise for Much Depends on Dinner*

*“An author whose method is to take something obvious and return it filled with riches... Margaret Visser makes the journey urgent, necessary, revelatory....She ‘reads’ a church as satisfyingly as Ruskin.” – Jeanette Winterson, on The Geometry of Love, in The Times (London)*

Margaret Visser’s bestselling work *MUCH DEPENDS ON DINNER* has remained in print for over twenty years and has been published all over the world. In this new work, Visser continues her exploration of the history, anthropology, and mythology of everyday life by examining the cultural implications of the notion of gratitude.

Visser looks at questions of politics and rights, and of the current scientific interest in emotional life and its roots in biology and evolution. What does “gratitude” actually mean, where did the notion come from (many languages have no specific word for it), and why is our society so invested in its operations? Visser considers both the concrete manifestations of gratitude as well as abstract gestures and votive offerings, from the fundamental opposition in our culture between gift-giving and commodity exchange, to the polarity (and the similarities) of vengeance and gratitude.

*Thanks* is grounded in the everyday: when and how children learn to say “thank you,” the implications of wrapping gifts or of tipping, and the strategies employed in making and receiving compliments. Based on scholarly research but addressed to the educated general reader, *THANKS* demonstrates the complexity—and necessity—of gratitude through the ages.

Edited manuscript available.

(UK: Caroline Dawnay, United Agents)

## Wangari Maathai

### *UNBOWED: A Memoir*

**(US: Knopf; UK: Heinemann; Finland: Tammi; France: D’Ormesson; Germany: DuMont; Japan: Shogakukan; Italy: Sperling & Kupfer; Greece: Oceanida; Korea: Gimm-Young; Netherlands: De Geus; Spain: Lumen; Brazil: Editora Nova Fronteira; Portugal: Editorial Bizancio; Taiwan: Gimm-Young Publishers; Complex Chinese: Goodness Publishing House)**

The extraordinary life story of Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, the first African woman to receive the Nobel, and the founder of the Green Belt Movement, an innovative environmental and social program in Kenya which encourages women to plant trees.

*“Wangari Maathai’s memoir is direct, honest, and beautifully written – a gripping account of modern Africa’s trials and triumphs, a universal story of courage, persistence, and success against great odds in a noble cause.” – Bill Clinton.*

Published in the U.S. in Fall 2006 and in the UK February 2007.

### **A MANIFESTO FOR AFRICA**

**(US: Knopf)**

*A MANIFESTO FOR AFRICA* will be a comprehensively researched and authoritative work that outlines a set of values, provides broad policy recommendations, offers calls to account and practical suggestions for the gravest problems that Africa struggles with today. It will confront the issues of AIDS, corruption, female genital mutilation and other cultural “hot” topics, and it will be both straightforward and polemical. Speaking as a scientist, an activist, a politician, and a Kenyan woman, Nobel Peace Prize-winning Wangari Maathai will also address the spiritual dimension of her activism, and she’ll present her thoughtful and challenging ideas on the future of the African continent.

To be published in March, 2009. Proposal available.  
(UK and translation: Knopf)

