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HIGHLIGHTS

Saïd Sayrafiezadeh

WHEN SKATEBOARDS WILL BE FREE: A Memoir of a Political Childhood

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

US Publication: April, 09)

This stunning memoir of growing up in America, as the child of would-be socialist revolutionaries during the twilight of communism, will take its place alongside *This Boy's Life* and *The Glass Castle* as a lasting work of personal narrative. Recently compared to the work of Isaac Bashevis Singer in the *New York Times*.

Saïd Sayrafiezadeh's Iranian-born father and American Jewish mother had one thing in common: their unshakable conviction that the worker's revolution was coming. Separated since their son was nine months old, they each pursued their dreams of a perfect socialist society. Convinced his father is off saving the world, Saïd is enlisted by his mother into a life of "active poverty", pinballing between apartments, falling asleep at Socialist Workers' Party meetings ... and waiting for a revolution that never arrives, while his father quixotically runs as a socialist presidential candidate in an Iran poised to fall under the ayatollahs.

Poised perfectly between tragedy and farce, here is a story by a brilliant young writer struggling to break away from the powerful mythologies of his upbringing, and create a life - and a voice - of his own. His memoir is unforgettable.

"The poignant, brilliantly told story of a unique and troubled childhood... An excellent memoir."

- *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"A subtle yet bracing account ... Sayrafiezadeh's excellent memoir displays a sophistication and keen intelligence that allows him to walk the line between pain and humor without even seeming mawkish or cheaply cynical."

- *Publishers Weekly* (starred)

Saïd Sayrafiezadeh is a name] that you may want to remember....[He] writes with extraordinary power... exacting and finely made"

- Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

"a wry, lovely memoir" - *O Magazine*

"*Skateboards* is a brave, honest and elegant book...It felt like the story was being whispered in my ear. I haven't read a memoir in quite a while that has so skillfully made sense of an American childhood."

-- Colum McCann, author of *Zoli*

"Once I began *When Skateboards Will Be Free*, I couldn't put it down but to sleep. So reading a memoir, it reaches the reader's innermost consciousness. Its language has the fierceness and humor of a Charles Dickens story about childhood."

- Paula Fox

"Saïd Sayrafiezadeh has a wry, deadpan sense of humor, an exceptionally open heart, and the wisdom of a true outsider. *When Skateboards Will Be Free* shows us exactly how he came into possession of these rare qualities. This is a fantastic, beautifully written memoir."

- Scott Smith, author of *A Simple Plan* and *The Ruins*

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

Finished books and final pdf files available.

Andrew Zolli & Ann Marie Healy

RESILIENCE: The Science of Why Things Bounce Back

(US & Canada: Random House; Germany: RH Verlag; Brazil: Campus, Elsevier;
China: China CITIC)

An exciting new field of study is emerging as scientists, policy makers and technologists all over the world are asking a series of linked questions: what causes one system to break and another to rebound? How much change can a complex system absorb while still retaining its purpose, function and structure? What characteristics make a system adaptive to change? In an age of constant disruption, how do we build in better shock absorbers for our companies, our economies, our societies and our planet?

***Resilience: The Science of Why Things Bounce Back* will provide a walking tour of insights and concepts from this new field, introduce the researchers who are discovering them, and share how these new lessons might be applied to making our institutions and our world more sustainable, enduring and humane.**

Andrew Zolli and Ann Marie Healy's pioneering book will draw insights through a wide range of disciplines: from engineering to economics, sustainability to social psychology, from digital networking to demographics. Along the way, original reporting will reveal what fisheries management has to teach us about regulating financial markets, how new ideas in epidemiology are being applied to peacemaking, and how shooting the hormone oxytocin up the noses of Wall Street tycoons, at just the right moment, might have saved Western capitalism from its current crisis.

Through the layering of conversations, stories and experiments, the book will explain how ecosystems in the natural world bounce back after environmental catastrophe; how parties learn to cooperate with one another even in the face of deep and justifiable enmity; how companies can utilize new thinking about networks to find innovations and speed their response to upheaval; and how societies can remain cohesive in the face of constant change.

Each one of the chapters will bring together original analysis of the major, connected concepts for engineering resilience into structures and organizations. The result will be a “tool kit” filled with paradigm-shifting strategies and lessons. Each one of the six core concepts will be brought to life with examples that are, by turns, surprising, compelling and instructive, taken from fields as far reaching as finance, neuroscience, oceanography and diplomacy, and woven together in a concluding chapter that looks toward a resilient future for the U.S. and the world.

Resilience: The Science of Why Things Bounce Back will be to the current recession what *The Tipping Point* was to an earlier, frothier era. In the same way that Gladwell’s “tipping point” provided an accessible explanation of geometric growth, *Resilience* will introduce readers to the possibility of restructuring and rebirth, at a time when our economy, environment and our social systems deeply need rethinking. The combination of “on the ground” reporting, character-driven storytelling, systems thinking and business analysis will make the book accessible for the widest range of readers. Everyone from business leaders to community organizers to intellectually curious non-fiction lovers will walk away with a greater understanding of the scientific principles behind resilience as well as a practical set of tools for redesigning the systems that matter most to our world.

Andrew Zolli is a global foresight and innovation expert with a preeminent reputation as a thinker and speaker on future trends. He has helped some of the world’s top companies and institutions – including Coca Cola, IBM, Google, GE, Microsoft, Amazon and National Geographic – anticipate and respond to change. His gift for clearly communicating the complex drivers behind future trends has made him one of the most popular speakers represented by the Leigh Bureau and *Vanity Fair* recently placed him on their 2008 “Next Establishment” list.

Andrew is the leader and chief creative force behind Pop!Tech, a renowned thought leadership forum that brings together the top visionary thinkers in the sciences, technology, business, design, the arts, education, government and culture. The *New York Times* calls Pop!Tech, “an enduring, not-to-miss event... drawing big names who reach for big ideas,” and *BusinessWeek* says Pop!Tech “has a good chance of living up to its lofty goal of changing the world.” Bloggers simply refer to it as “Davos for Cool People”.

Ann Marie Healy is a playwright, screenwriter and journalist. She was recently awarded the Lucille Lortel Fellowship from Brown University's Department of Literary Arts. Her writing has been supported and honored by organizations as diverse as the Sundance Institute, The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, The New

York State Council for the Arts, The Ivy League Film Festival and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her essays, fiction and plays are published through Smith and Kraus, Samuel French and *The Kenyon Review*. As a journalist, she has covered financial and technology news for magazines like *Institutional Investor* and *Financial Technology*. She has an MFA in Playwriting and a graduate degree in Global Studies from New York University.

Proposal available

Delivery: Summer, 2010

(UK rights: Robert Kirby at United Agents)

James Owen Weatherall

SEND PHYSICS, MATH & MONEY: How Physicists and Mathematicians Entered – and Revolutionized – the Financial Industry

(US & Canada: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Brazil: Campus Elsevier)

A proposal which was greeted with much excitement among US publishers and scouts, marking the arrival of a brilliant young physicist and science writer, who has already been compared to Brian Greene, Jonah Lehrer and a young Steven Pinker, this book will present the most prevalent and influential ideas behind derivatives, risk management, and market modeling in a generally accessible way – by telling the stories of their conception and development in finance, and by pausing to explain what’s going on in the physics or mathematics of their origins. This history of ideas will provide a deeper understanding of the ideas behind recent events, with explanations of the problems facing modern finance.

It will explore the role of physicists and mathematicians in creating the models that became the basis of the industry – and the source of the current financial meltdown. It will also trace the history of “complex financial instruments” such as derivatives, from the Greeks to the early Japanese and Dutch futures markets to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, to their ultimate use in global finance.

This is not another book about the financial crisis – it’s a history of ideas, looking at how physicists and mathematicians’ ideas were put into practice in the

development of Wall Street banks and the building of the world's global financial systems. I'd like to think that more than just another commentator's book on global finance and its problems, Weatherall's will kick the tyres, and lift the hood of the car to show you what's really going on (and what's been going wrong...) in the engine compartment of the world's financial markets.

James Owen Weatherall graduated from Harvard in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in physics and philosophy and a master's degree in physics. This spring he will defend his PhD dissertation in physics and applied mathematics at the Stevens Institute of Technology, in Hoboken, NJ. He is also in the second year of his second PhD program, in the department of Logic and Philosophy of Science at the University of California, Irvine. His writing has been published in *Slate*, *Popular Science* and *Men's Journal*, and he was recently commissioned to write a piece with quantum physicist Garrett Lisi for *Scientific American*. From 2005 to 2007 he was assistant director of the Center for Science Writings at the Stevens Institute of Technology, where he worked with science writer John Horgan to explore the interface between science and culture. He is 25 years old.

(UK rights: James Gill at United Agents)

Louis P. Masur

RUNAWAY DREAM:

Born to Run and Bruce Springsteen's American Vision

(World English: Bloomsbury Press; Germany: Rogers & Bernhard)

German publication: June 2009; US/ UK publication: September 2009

A rich history of Springsteen's greatest album, celebrating its themes of youth, escape, and possibility, just in time for the Boss's sixtieth birthday.

This book, written by the celebrated cultural historian Louis Masur, will explore the history of Springsteen's masterpiece *Born to Run*. To millions of listeners who grew up in the 1970s and beyond, *Born to Run* is much more than a rock 'n' roll album – it's a poetic explosion of freedom and frustration that confirmed Springsteen's status as a quintessential American performer, a rocker who voices our hopes, fears, and aspirations.

Runaway Dream chronicles the making of the album, deftly sketching the ambition, history, and personalities behind this enduring work of art. Springsteen said he wanted it to be the greatest rock record ever made, an almost oppressive goal for a musician with just two modestly selling records to his

credit. Revealing how the 1975 LP transcended vinyl to live up to the Boss's lofty expectations, Masur shows just how much grit, as well as genius, went into realizing it, session by session, track by track.

With its publication timed to coincide with the musician's 60th birthday, *Runaway Dream* also masterfully contextualizes *Born to Run* within American musical and social history. Weaving it into the country's cultural narrative, Masur explains why the girls, hot rods, and Jersey nights captured in the album still resonate with listeners born years after its release.

Louis P. Masur is the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of American Institutions and Values at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Married with two children, he divides his time between Highland Park, NJ and Hartford. His previous books include *The Soiling of Old Glory: The Story of a Photograph That Shocked America, 1831: Year of Eclipse*, and *Autumn Glory: Baseball's First World Series*.

Manuscript available.

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)

US Publication: May, 2009

A powerful collision of true crime and pop-culture, *The Mad Ones* captures the revolutionary spirit of the Sixties and brings to life one of the most vibrant antiheroes in American history. It chronicles the rise and fall of the Gallo brothers, a trio of reckless young gangsters whose revolution against New York City's Mafia was inspired by Crazy Joe's forays into Greenwich Village counterculture.

"Riveting, richly atmospheric pulp nonfiction...prose as tight and hard-boiled as any James Ellroy novel... [a] novelistic study of an iconoclastic criminal in revolutionary times." - *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Crazy Joe, Kid Blast, and Larry Gallo are steeped in legend, from Bob Dylan's eleven-minute ballad *Joey* to fictionalizations central to *The Godfather* trilogy and Jimmy Breslin's *The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight*. Called the toughest gang in the city by the NYPD, the Gallos hailed from the rough Red Hook neighborhood on the South Brooklyn waterfront. As low-level Mafiosi, they were expected to serve their Don quietly, but the brothers stood apart from typical gangsters with their hip style, fierce ambition, and Crazy Joe's manic idealism.

Joey aspired to be more than a common hood and immersed himself among the Beatniks and bohemians of the Village. Yearning to live the life of an artist, Joey wrote poetry, painted, and got his kicks devouring existential philosophy. Celebrated as the "king of the streets" by Dylan, Joey was embraced by the city's leading cultural figures as an antihero straight out of Camus.

For the first time comes the complete story of the Gallos' war against the powerful *Cosa Nostra*, an epic crime saga that culminates in Crazy Joe's murder on the streets of Little Italy, where he was gunned down mid-bite into a forkful of spaghetti in 1972. *The Mad Ones* is a wildly satisfying entertainment and a significant work of cultural history.

TOM FOLSOM is a writer, director and producer of television documentaries for A&E and Showtime, and the co-author of *Mr. Untouchable: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of Heroin's Teflon Don* written with its subject, drug-kingpin Nicky Barnes. He lives in New York City.

Manuscript delivered; finished copies available this month.

Tal McThenia & Margaret Dunbar Cutright

THE GHOST OF BOBBY DUNBAR

(North America: Free Press)

A historical mystery of family and childhood, class and power, A Case For Solomon tells the story of one of the most celebrated - and misunderstood - kidnapping cases in history.

In 1912, 4 year-old Bobby Dunbar, the son of an upper middle-class Louisiana family, went missing in the swamps; 8 months later, he was found in the company of a wandering piano-tuner, who was arrested and tried for kidnapping. But when a destitute single mother came forward to claim the boy as *her* son, not Bobby Dunbar, the case exploded.

For two years, courts probed and newspapers sensationalized every aspect of the story, but it took nearly a full century for the child's real identity to emerge. Intertwined with every level of the political system, from the mob law of lynching to the State Supreme Court, the story at the heart of *A Case For Solomon* offers fascinating insights into the rapidly shifting vision of criminal justice in turn-of-the-century America, which itself was still struggling with the consequences of the Civil War. It is an epic struggle to determine one boy's identity - a struggle that reveals the peculiarities and biases of history and probes unsettling questions about the formation of self.

Margaret Dunbar Cutright is the granddaughter of Bobby Dunbar, the victim of the kidnapping; her investigation of and doubts about her family legend led to four years of near-exhaustive research. **Tal McThenia** wrote, researched and reported "The Ghost of Bobby Dunbar," a one-hour radio documentary on the story for the public radio series *This American Life*, which aired in March of 2008.

Proposal available
Delivery, April 2010

(UK rights: Simon Trewin at United Agents)

Eduardo Porter

PRICING IT: The Choices We Make & How We Price & Misprice Life, the Universe, & Everything

(World excl. UK: Portfolio/ Penguin; UK: RH/ Heinemann; **Brazil:** Objetiva; **Spain:** Aguilar; **Portugal:** Lua de Papel/ Grupo Leya; **Israel:** Matar; **Taiwan:** Yuan Liou; **Korea:** Gimm-Young)

New York Times editorial board member Eduardo Porter's PRICING IT: How We Price and Misprice Life, the Universe, and Everything shows, in the tradition of Freakonomics, Blink, and Predictably Irrational, how each choice we make - individual, collective, national - comes with a price.

In the past few years, economists and other social scientists have written many popular books about how the world works. Though *Pricing It* will also use

economics to gain insights into our lives, it has a very different purpose. “I aim to convey something more specific,” says Mr. Porter. “The book will travel from our individual decisions to big historical events, seen through the prices that determined them. It will be about how we set prices and how prices change our lives.”

Eduardo Porter is a graduate of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. He has an MSc. in quantum fields and fundamental forces from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London. He came to *The New York Times* in January 2004 to cover economics, and joined the editorial board in July 2007.

Proposal available.
Manuscript delivery, April 2010.

(Translation inquiries: Lance.Fitzgerald@us.penguin.com)

Seth Stevenson

GROUNDLED: Around the World Via Cargo Freighters, Railroads, Hydrofoils, Bicycles, Sailboats, Rickshaws, and Camels...
(US: Riverhead Books; ANZ: HarperAustralia)

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. *Groundled* 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.

Seth Stevenson is a contributing writer for *Slate*, and has won four Lowell Thomas awards from the Society of American Travel Writers. His writing has appeared in *Best American Travel Writing*.

Proposal available.
Manuscript to be delivered May 2009

(UK rights: Antony Topping at Greene & Heaton)

Hal Weitzman

EARTHQUAKE IN THE ANDES: Resource Nationalism and How South America Ambushed Globalization

(World English: John Wiley US)

The former *Financial Times* Andean Correspondent and now its Chicago Bureau Chief, Hal Weitzman spent three years traveling extensively across South America, meeting and interviewing presidents and peasants, central bankers and farmers, chief executives and miners, teachers, priests, mayors and activists in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Chile.

These inspired a larger narrative, a close look at the democratic revolution that took place in multiple countries in Latin America in 2005, primarily Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador; before the year was out, five governments in the region had declared themselves enemies of Washington, free-market economics and globalization. *Earthquake in the Andes* will explore these events in the context of our global climate, using lively reportage and analysis to figure out exactly what happened – and why.

About much more than the turbulent politics of South America, this book will be a guidebook to globalization and its discontents; the extraordinary rise of developing countries on the back of a global commodity boom; and the re-emergence of the state as a significant force in the global economy, whether in the form of nationalization, government bail-outs or sovereign wealth funds.

Hal Weitzman was the *Financial Times* correspondent for the Andean region from 2004-2007. Educated at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Oriel College, Oxford, and Leeds University, he moved to Chicago at the end of last year to become the *Financial Times* Chicago/ Midwest bureau chief.

Proposal available.
Manuscript delivery, June 2009.

Peter C. Whybrow, M.D.

THE INTUITIVE MIND: Common Sense for the Common Good
(World English: WW. Norton)

A neuropsychiatrist and the author of *American Mania*, Dr. Peter C. Whybrow is an expert at integrating economics with the biology of behavior. In *The Intuitive Mind*, he offers a fascinating and compelling examination of our shared addiction to consumerism, our constant feelings of stress and dissatisfaction, our seemingly unstoppable descent into debt. Combining philosophical insights with the work of contemporary economists and social theorists and the latest discoveries in behavioral neuroscience, he strives to provide practical solutions to these problems.

A timely and necessary book that speaks to the potential the US sees for changing itself, *The Intuitive Mind* urges a new and sustainable approach living that will restore our social and physical health. In Peter's words, "how do we create a balanced market society where technology and profit serve as instruments in achieving the good life, and are not confused with the good life itself?"

Proposal available.
Manuscript delivery, September 2010

OTHER NEW & FORTHCOMING NON-FICTION

Charles Clover

EURASIANISM

(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 1990s 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 the Moscow bureau chief for the *Financial Times* of London. He began researching the 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* Analysis editor in London, Kabul bureau chief and Baghdad bureau chief. He speaks fluent Russian and Arabic.

Proposal available.

Edited manuscript available December 2009.

Simon Head

UNEXPERT SYSTEMS: I.T. & The Making of a Digital Dystopia
(World: Basic Books)

In *Unexpert Systems: IT and the Making of Digital Dystopia*, economics writer and contributor to the *New York Review of Books* Simon Head will explore the socio-cultural impact of “expert” systems, data bases and workplace control systems. They may have drastically improved our efficiency, but are they also turning us into unimaginative cogs in a twenty-first century industrial machine?

With their phenomenal ability to accumulate and analyze information, these systems are as central to today’s information economy as Henry Ford’s Detroit plants were to the auto industry. However, their attempts to mimic human intelligence have led companies to increasing reliance upon them to perform cognitive tasks – for example, HMO case managers use them to determine treatments that patients should or should not receive.

The growing dominance of such technology is also eroding the freedom, skill, and autonomy. From the Wal-Mart systems designed to manipulate employees to the technological outsourcing that cheaply replaces the work of creative and qualified professionals, all kinds and classes of employees are threatened. Consumers, too, are reduced to grappling with automated customer service and care.

But Head argues that there is a way to use these systems for good, a way that deviates from the dominant industrial model and enhances employee skills and earning power. Informed and accessible, passionate and thorough, *Unexpert Systems* is vital to successfully navigating our technological age.

Simon Head has been a Fellow at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, since 2005. The author of *The New Ruthless Economy* (OUP, 2003), he was Director of the Project on Technology and the Workplace at the Century Foundation, New York City, 1997-2003. He has been a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books* since 1973, and has served on advisory panels for the John Kerry campaign. He was also the US correspondent for *The New Statesman*, and the Indo-China correspondent for the *Financial Times*.

Brendan I. Koerner

NOW THE HELL WILL START: One Soldier's Flight from the Greatest Manhunt of World War II

(US: Penguin Press; excerpts published in *The Washington Post* and *The Sunday Telegraph Magazine*. Film rights: Spike Lee)

Now The Hell Will Start tells the fascinating story of young Pvt. Herman Perry, an African-American soldier from Washington D.C. who was posted to remotest northwest Burma in 1942. Written by a New York Times columnist, this is adventure narrative in the same vein as non-fiction bestsellers like Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost* and Hampton Sides's *Ghost Soldiers*.

An African-American G.I. assigned to a segregated labor battalion, Perry – “a real-life version of Colonel Kurtz from *Heart of Darkness*” – was one of thousands of black soldiers dispatched to build the Ledo Road, a highway stretching from the mountains of northeast India across Burma and designed to keep China from surrendering to Japan. Faced with the jungle's brutality and the blatant racism of his white officers, he turned to opium and marijuana, both of which warped his already fraying psyche.

On March 5, 1944, he finally suffered an emotional collapse that ended with him shooting an unarmed white lieutenant before disappearing into Nagaland, a jungle populated by a man-eating tribe. Perry moved in with the Naga and married the chieftain's daughter, but the U.S. army relentlessly pursued him until his capture. After a successful escape from jail, his story ultimately ends in a death sentence – but he lives on in the memory of many black G.I.s, who revered the elusive Perry as a folk hero, calling him The Jungle King.

“Few will be unmoved by the stinging depiction of Perry struggling to live first in an oppressively racist society, then in an army whose leaders considered him subhuman.”

– *Kirkus Reviews*

“Intricately researched and entertainingly told ... Grade A-”

- *Entertainment Weekly*

Brendan I. Koerner is a contributing editor at *Wired*, whose work appears regularly in *The New York Times* and *Slate*. He was named one of *Columbia Journalism Review's* “Ten Young Writers on the Rise.” Visit him at www.youthrobber.com.

Penguin Paperback publication: May 2009

Author's website: www.nowthehellwillstart.com

(UK: Simon Trewin, *United Agents*)

Field Maloney

CRUSH: A Clerk's Tale

(US: Little Brown; UK: Canongate)

In a book described as *Sideways* meets Bill Bryson, 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, Maloney's lay observations - in the tradition of participatory journalists like Ian Frazier and George Plimpton - use storytelling as much as reporting 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.

Field Maloney is a reporter and essayist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. A Princeton graduate, he worked for six years as a fiction editor at *The New Yorker*.

Proposal available.

Manuscript delivery, September, 2009.

Geoffrey O'Brien:

THE NOVELIST AND HIS ASSASSIN: *Madness & Murder in an Early American Dynasty*

(US: Henry Holt; John Macrae Books)

The Novelist and His Assassin is a true crime story, a family drama, and an examination of America's rapid transformation in the second half of the 19th century. One of the book's chief protagonists is Mansfield Walworth, the black sheep of a grand old establishment family and son of a distinguished jurist. It will appeal to readers who enjoyed Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City* and Simon Schama's *Dead Certainties*.

The book will be a cultural history, and O'Brien, also the author of *Jukebox Sonata*, will tell the story of a family and the eras they straddled, from the antebellum resort town pleasures of Saratoga Springs, through the Civil War (which saw family members fighting on both sides) and into a Gilded Age which found in "the Walworth Murder" an occasion to contemplate its own drastically changing moral values.

"[O'Brien's] finest literary performance, a culmination of both his stylishness as a writer and his original thinking as a critic... He is also one of our most astute critics, with a nearly encyclopedic, cross-genre, cross-disciplinary knowledge of both low and high culture."

- *Bookforum*, praise for *Jukebox Sonata*

To be delivered in June.

Ben Ratliff

THE JAZZ EAR: Conversations Over Music

(US: Times Books, Italy: Minimum Fax, Spain: Global Rhythms Press)

Published in the US in 2008.

To get at the heart of jazz, New York Times music critic Ben Ratliff has found a new way to interview musicians, by starting the dialogue in the artist's language: music. In *The Jazz Ear*, he collects a remarkable set of his conversations with fifteen of the genre's greatest artists as they listen to the music that inspires and teaches them.

Dianne Reeves describes Shirley Horn's phrasing as a process of "breathing life into an inanimate object," while the saxophonist Branford Marsalis argues for an understanding of jazz as the elusive slang from particular places at particular times. Sonny Rollins, Ornette Coleman, Wayne Shorter, and Maria Schneider are just a few of the other artists who sit down with Ratliff to explain what they believe jazz is *for*. Playful and insightful, *The Jazz Ear* is a revelatory journey into this unique art.

"Ben Ratliff is the rare critic who can hold his own in conversation with musicians and incite them to reveal how they think and work. Whether it's Wayne Shorter extolling Vaughan Williams symphonies, Dianne Reeves listening rapt to Shirley Horn, or Branford Marsalis delving into Wagner, this luminous book has revelations on almost every page."

- Alex Ross, author of *The Rest is Noise*

"*The Jazz Ear* will be a permanent part of learning how to listen inside the musicians playing."

- Nat Hentoff, *Jazz Times*

"Fascinating."

- *Boston Globe*

(Translation Rights: Times Books, Denise Cronin)

Ben Ratliff

COLTRANE: The Story of a Sound

(US: Farrar, Straus & Giroux; UK: Faber; Spain: Global Rhythm Press; Germany: Hannibal; Italy: Alet; Japan: Blues Publishing)

Published in September 2007 by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

An NBCC (National Book Critics Circle) Finalist in the Criticism Category, and praised as the rare jazz book that is neither biography nor musical analysis, Coltrane introduces both neophytes and aficionados to the genius and passion of John Coltrane, a man who changed this 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 as a near-saint, when he experienced a remarkable series of breakthroughs in his religious search for deeper and more profound expression. In its second half, the book 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'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

"American jazz writing needs more books like this."

- *Downbeat Magazine*

"This is popular, nontechnical music writing at its best."

- *Booklist*

"A model for music criticism."

- *Publishers Weekly (starred)*

Ben Ratliff has been a jazz critic at *The New York Times* since 1996. The author of *The New York Times Essential Library: Jazz*, he lives in Manhattan with his wife and two sons.

Tom Vanderbilt

TRAFFIC: Why We Drive the Way We Do (& What it Says About Us)

(US: Knopf; Canada: Knopf Canada; UK: Penguin/ Allen Lane; Brazil: Campus; China: CITC; Croatia: Algoritana; Germany: Hoffmann und Campe; Israel: Keter; Italy: Rizzoli; Japan: Hayakawa; Korea: Gimm Young; Netherlands: De Bezige Bij; Russia: Vagrius; Romania: Litera; Spain: Debate; Taiwan: Locus; Thai: WeLearn Co.; Turkey: Dogus)

US Paperback Publication: June 2009

In this brilliant, lively and eye-opening investigation, Tom Vanderbilt examines the perceptual limits and cognitive underpinnings that make us worse drivers than we think we are.

He demonstrates why plans to protect pedestrians from cars often lead to more accidents. He uncovers who is more likely to honk at whom, and why. He explains why traffic jams form, outlines the unintended consequences of our quest for safety, and even identifies the most common mistakes drivers make in parking lots. TRAFFIC is about more than driving: it's about human nature. It will change the way we see ourselves, the world around us, and it may even make us better drivers.

"A surprising, enlightening look at the psychology of human beings behind the steering wheels ... required reading for anyone applying for a driver's license."

- Mary Roach, *The New York Times Book Review*

"A very clever young writer tells us all sorts of things about what driving says about us"

- Malcolm Gladwell, *The Week*

"Traffic gets about as close to the heart of modern existence as any book could get ... engagingly written, meticulously researched, endlessly interesting, and informative."

- *The Washington Post Book World*

"Smart and comprehensive ... likely to remain relevant well into the new century."

- Edward Glaesser, *The New Republic*

“Traffic will definitely change the way you think about driving, which also means changing the way you think about being human.”

- *Slate*

Tom Vanderbilt writes about design, technology, science, and culture for *Wired*, *Slate*, *The New York Times*, and many other publications. He lives in Brooklyn and drives a 2001 Volvo V40.

(Translation rights with Knopf)

Peter C. Whybrow

AMERICAN MANIA: When More is Not Enough

(US & UK: Norton; Germany: Vedra; Poland: Termedia)

Published in Paperback in April, 2006

Taking into account our ancestral biology, *American Mania* sheds critical light on the dangerous misfit emerging between our consumer-driven culture and the brain systems that evolved 200,000 years ago. Absent any controls – any cultural or economic restraints – we are easily hooked on our acquisitive pleasure-seeking behaviors. Whybrow shows how human biology is ill-equipped to cope with the demands of the 24/7, global, info-saturated, rapid-fire culture we have not only have created, but also have come to crave.

“Whybrow, a sort of modern Tocqueville, delivers a trenchant indictment of our dominant values and mores, polemical but balanced, with vigorous inspiration and gripping intensity.”

— Andrew Solomon, author of *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*

FICTION

Daphne Beal

IN THE LAND OF NO RIGHT ANGLES

(US: Anchor/Vintage)

Published in September, 2008

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'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... What I love about the book is the complex, wholly original and completely authentic relationships between the three principle characters. 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*

"An unpredictable journey of the spirit and the flesh. . . . [An] enchanting, at times perilous, tale of love, magic, and illusion."

- Lisa Shea, *Elle*

“Capturing a self-satisfied expat world of mantra-spouting Don Juans and 'highbrow hippie girl[s] taking a year off from Brown,' Beal, like a new-generation Paul Bowles, targets an essential American naiveté: the tendency to romanticize – and fear – more traditional cultures. Gently satirizing the idea that any social ill can be remedied with a bit of capital and good intentions, Beal's richly textured story conjures a friendship as intimate as it is impossible.” □

– Megan O'Grady, *Vogue*

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.

Finished copies available

Author website: www.daphnebeal.com

Alice Mattison

NOTHING IS QUITE FORGOTTEN IN BROOKLYN

(US: HarperPerennial)

Published in September, 2008

The latest 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.

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.

“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*

“Mattison's latest combines a dark comedy of manners with even darker midlife family suspense. Constance Con Tepper plays the starring role in two long vignettes that take place 14 years apart.. [The] fascinating epistolary device acts as a tempting breadcrumb trail through the women's lives and leads to the wrenching denouement...the overarching examination of friends and family is captivating.”

-*Publishers' Weekly*

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*.

Antoine Wilson

THE INTERLOPER

(US: Handsel Books/Other Press; Italy: Cairo – as *L’Intruso*)

Published in the US in May, 2007 and in Italy in March, 2009.

This darkly comic novel, narrated by a man who sets out to avenge the murder of his wife’s brother, is an arresting debut from Antoine Wilson. Inspired by Nabokov’s *Lolita* and reminiscent of the work of Zoë Heller, Tom Perrotta and Elliot Perlman, *The Interloper* is a gripping psychological novel.

“As assured and sumptuously written as any first novel I’ve encountered – Antoine Wilson’s prose sings and the story he tells here is both clever and compelling. This is writing at its very best.”

- T. C. Boyle

“Antoine Wilson’s novel snuck up on me: deceptively normal prose, a tightening plot, a quickening read, and then before long I was up late all scared and sad and freaked out. Who is this guy? I’m keeping my eye on him and you should too.”

– Daniel Handler

“Oh, what a thrilling dread, falling in with a character as twisted as the narrator of Antoine Wilson’s terrific first novel... Wilson writes a clean, restrained line that works well for the setup and for the creeping fun that follows: a manic, darkly comic descent into delusional obsession... [the narrator] hums along like a cross between Dostoevsky’s brooding Raskolnikov and Camus’ maddeningly rational Meursault, overheated and illogical and, of course, doomed.”

- Jess Walter, *LA Times Book Review*

“Owen, the narrator of this taut début novel, is a newlywed and a writer of software manuals.... It’s clear from the start that Owen is doomed, but the queasy thrills of the novel derive from watching the scheme... unravel.”

— *The New Yorker*

Antoine Wilson’s articles and stories have appeared in numerous publications, including *The Paris Review*, the *L. A. Times*, *StoryQuarterly*, *A Public Space*, and *Best New American Voices*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and UCLA, he lives in Los Angeles.

Author website: www.antoinewilson.com

(Translation: Other Press)

CHILDREN'S/ MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Paul Haven

THE SEVEN KEYS OF BALABAD

(World excl. UK: Random House Children's Books US; UK: Orchard; Germany: Random House Verlag; Italy: Piemme)

US Publication: January, 2009

Inspired by the years he spent in Afghanistan and Pakistan as bureau chief with the Associated Press, Paul Haven's Balabad is loosely based on the legendary Golden Hoard of Bactria – the renowned hidden treasure discovered in northern Afghanistan in 1978.

Oliver Finch is uprooted from his native New York when his father accepts a post in Balabad. Though at first bored and lonely, Oliver soon realizes that there is more to the country than meets the eye; home to the international secret society known as the Brotherhood of Arachosia, and the rumored hiding place of the grandest riches the world has ever known - the treasures of King Agamon – Balabad is place fraught with secrets. When a sacred carpet is stolen and someone goes missing, Oliver's life in Balabad suddenly becomes a whole lot more interesting...and dangerous.

Praise for Paul Haven's previous book *Two Hot Dogs With Everything*:

"A wild, fantastical series of bizarre and hilarious adventures that ranges from cheating rivals, magic bubble gum and marvelously weird characters. Charles Dickens meets Harry Potter at the old ballgame. Huge, magical and delightful."

- *Kirkus Reviews*

"The intricate plot, which begins with 'the curse of the poisoned pretzel,' will keep readers on the edge of their seats right up to the glorious finale set during baseball's fall classic....Haven's quirky style with an eye for oddball detail and comic hyperbole will remind readers of Roald Dahl and Eva Ibbotson"

- *School Library Journal*

"A sweet, subtle yarn...about the mysterious powers wielded by the truly loyal fan."

- *The Washington Post*

Born and raised in New York, **Paul Haven** always knew he wanted to write and travel, so after graduating from college he moved to South America and worked as a reporter. In 1994, he joined the Associated Press. He currently lives in Spain with his wife and two daughters.

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