SCRIBE
July–December 2020
United Kingdom
‘Thinking is sometimes easy, often difficult but at the same time thrilling. But when it’s most important it’s just disagreeable, that is when it threatens to rob one of one’s pet notions and to leave one all bewildered ...’

— Wittgenstein
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NEW TITLES
The Gift of Presence
a mindfulness guide for women

A practical, user-friendly guide for women seeking focus and calm in the midst of life’s storms.

Overwhelmed by the demands of family, work, and multiple responsibilities, many women find themselves feeling scattered, and distracted. In this eye-opening book, co-founder and CEO of the Mindsight Institute, Caroline Welch, takes readers on a mindfulness journey to help them de-stress and cultivate inner peace. According to Welch, you do not need countless hours sitting in silence to be more present in your life — the key is to practice mindfulness wherever you are and whenever you can.

The Gift of Presence guides readers in developing four innate abilities we all possess that will allow us to become more resilient and centred in our lives — even when life is throwing all that it has at us:

- Presence: the ability to remain firmly in the present moment; to be fully aware of what’s happening as it’s happening.
- Purpose: the personal meaning that gets us going and gives direction to our lives.
- Pivoting: an openness to change that allows you to switch direction if that is what is needed.
- Pacing: the awareness that it is impossible to do everything we want or need to do all at once; the ability to take life one step at a time.

This life-changing book reveals that you already hold in your hands the keys to a more harmonious life — you simply need to look within.

‘Filled with practical insights and fascinating science about the power of mindfulness ... A must-read.’ Arianna Huffington

CAROLINE WELCH is the co-founder and CEO of the Mindsight Institute, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, and is admitted to the state bars of California, Texas, and Wisconsin. She holds a master’s degree in communications from the University of Southern California and previously worked as an English teacher in Japan, a corporate litigator, and Judge Judy’s production attorney.
Antony Dapiran

City on Fire
the fight for Hong Kong

A long-time resident and expert observer of dissent in Hong Kong takes readers to the front lines of Hong Kong’s revolution.

Through the long, hot summer of 2019, Hong Kong burned. Anti-government protests, sparked by a government proposal to introduce a controversial extradition law, grew into a pro-democracy movement that engulfed the city for months. Protesters fought street battles with police, and the unrest brought the People’s Liberation Army to the very doorstep of Hong Kong. Driven primarily by students and youth protesters with their ‘Be Water!’ philosophy, borrowed from hometown hero Bruce Lee, this leaderless, technology-driven protest movement defied a global superpower and changed Hong Kong, perhaps forever. But it also changed China, and challenged China’s global standing.

Antony Dapiran provides the first detailed account of the protests, reveals the activists’ unique tactics, and explains how the movement fits into the city’s long history of dissent. City on Fire explores what the protests will mean for the future of Hong Kong, China, and China’s place in the world.
High Risk

a doctor’s notes on pregnancy, birth, and the unexpected

Infertility, pregnancy, miscarriages, difficult births. Obstetricians see it all. Not only are they treating the most private parts of the body — they’re dealing with the most intimate moments in our lives.

As a doctor specialising in high-risk pregnancy, Chavi Eve Karkowsky sees how women are failed by health services again and again. In this timely and unflinching book, she tells the stories of the families she has worked with — of miracles and joy, but also of challenge and loss — and explores what’s at risk when women’s bodies are clouded in mystery and misinformation.

Moving and compassionate, High Risk is a doctor’s testimonial to the strength and resilience of the women she treats, and — in an era when reproductive rights are under threat — a timely reminder that women’s health is of vital concern to us all.

DR CHAVI EVE KARKOWSKY is a maternal-foetal medicine specialist. She attended Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed her residency at Harvard. After two years as a generalist obstetrician-gynaecologist, she entered fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she is currently an assistant professor and the medical director of the largest teaching OBGYN clinic within their system. She is fully board-certified in both OBGYN and maternal-foetal medicine. She has published essays and op-eds in The Daily Beast, the Atlantic, Health Magazine, Slate, and The Washington Post.
Bethany Saltman

Strange Situation

A full-scale investigation of the controversial and often misunderstood science of attachment theory, inspired by the author’s own experience as a parent and daughter.

When Bethany Saltman gave birth to her daughter, Azalea, she felt like there was something ‘off’ about her experience. She knew she loved her daughter, but would oftentimes be angry, short on patience, even unkind. She went in search of the reasons why, and how to better understand herself, her daughter, and their relationship.

Saltman launched a broad inquiry into the science of attachment, a field of developmental psychology that answers the question of why — from an evolutionary point of view — love exists between parents and children. She focused on the data from a famous laboratory procedure, the ‘Strange Situation’, used around the world by scientists as the gold standard for measuring attachment security. A child and caregiver enter a room with two chairs and ordinary toys. Through a series of orchestrated comings and goings, the nature of the pair’s relationship is revealed. What Saltman saw by studying the Strange Situation is that love is unbreakable. Each and every one of us — including her — is built for it.

In this intimate, rigorous, and deeply personal rendering, Saltman boldly asks science to answer to love, and discovers that while our behaviour as parents is important, attachment research insists that what matters most is the way we think about our attachments.

‘A profound and beautiful work.’ Andrew Solomon, author of Far from the Tree
Something that May Shock and Discredit You

A New York Times bestselling author’s sparkling memoir of changing genders while remaining a feminist.

Reasons for Transitioning: Want to impress good-looking ex; Want to upset good-looking ex; Bored of existing wardrobe, looking for excuse to buy all-new clothes that don’t fit in a new way; Younger siblings getting too much attention; Neoliberalism??; Want to sing both parts of a duet at karaoke; Something about upper-body strength; Excited to reinforce a different set of sexist stereotypes; Cheaper haircuts; Just love layering shirts ...

From the beloved writer behind The Toast and Slate’s ‘Dear Prudence’ column comes a personal essay collection exploring popular culture, literature, religion, and sexuality. With wit and compassion, Daniel Mallory Ortberg revisits beloved cultural and literary figures in the light of his transition.

Daniel Mallory Ortberg

Daniel Mallory Ortberg is the ‘Dear Prudence’ advice columnist at Slate, the co-founder of The Toast, and the New York Times bestselling author of Texts From Jane Eyre and The Merry Spinster.
People Without Power

the war on populism and the fight for democracy

THOMAS FRANK is the author of five books, including Listen, Liberal (2016), and Rendezvous with Oblivion (2018). A former columnist for The Wall Street Journal and Harper’s, Frank is the founding editor of The Baffler. He lives outside Washington, DC.

THOMAS FRANK is the author of five books, including Listen, Liberal (2016), and Rendezvous with Oblivion (2018). A former columnist for The Wall Street Journal and Harper’s, Frank is the founding editor of The Baffler. He lives outside Washington, DC.

An eye-opening account of populism, the most important — and misunderstood — movement of our time.

Everything we think we know about populism is wrong.

Today, populism is seen as a frightening thing, a term pundits use to describe the racist philosophy of Donald Trump and European extremists. But this is a mistake.

The real story of populism is an account of enlightenment and liberation; it is the story of democracy itself, of its ever-widening promise of a decent life for all. Taking us from the tumultuous 1890s, when the radical left-wing US Populist Party fought plutocrats, to the triumphs of reformers under Roosevelt and Truman, Frank reminds us how much we owe to the populist ethos.

Frank also shows that elitist groups have reliably detested populism, lashing out at working-class concerns; today’s moral panic in liberal circles is only the latest expression. Frank pummels the elites, revisits the movement’s provocative politics, and declares true populism to be the language of promise and optimism. People Without Power is a ringing affirmation of a movement that, Frank shows us, is not the problem of our times, but the solution.

PRAISE FOR FRANK’S PREVIOUS BOOKS:


‘A must-read.’ Naomi Klein on Listen, Liberal
It’s summer behind the Iron Curtain, and six girls begin a journey to the Olympics. But will they come back?

In a stateless place, on the wrong side of a river separating East from West, six girls meet each day to swim. At first, they play, splashing each other and floating languidly on the water’s surface. But as summer draws to an end, the game becomes something more.

They hone their bodies relentlessly. Their skin shades into bruises. They barter cigarettes stolen from the factory where they work for swimsuits to stretch over their sunburnt skin. They tear their legs into splits, flick them back and forth, like herons. They force themselves to stop breathing.

Then, one day, it finally happens: their visas arrive. But can what’s waiting on the other side of the river satisfy their longing for a different kind of life?

‘Delicate and subtle.’ *Helsingin Sanomat*

‘Magical ... [Sandu’s] poetic and airy prose weaves together the strongly metaphorical and the realistic.’ *Suomen Kuvalehti*
Don’t applaud. Either laugh or don’t. (At the Comedy Cellar.)


This is the story of a place called the Comedy Cellar, a tiny basement club in New York City that helped launch the careers of some of the biggest comedians of our time. It also ended up on the front line of the global culture war following the rise and fall of its most famous star, Louis CK.

It’s where performers hone their acts by experimenting, taking risks, and being able to get it wrong. And that’s largely due to the club’s owners, the Dworman family. They made a space where freedom of expression was total. The only threat to it was a lack of laughs.

But how did Manny Dworman, an Israeli taxi driver, create a bastion for so many influential comedians? What makes a club thrive, or a joke work? Where should the moral limits of laughter lie? And why do the fork-count and the comedians’ table matter so very much?

Andrew Hankinson tells the story through the words of the owners, comedians, and increasingly vocal customers, using interviews, complaints, emails, text messages, letters, and petitions, raising questions about language, identity, taste, racism, power, and more in this many-sided conversation about the perils, pride, and politics of modern comedy.

PRAISE FOR HANKINSON’S PREVIOUS BOOK, YOU COULD DO SOMETHING AMAZING WITH YOUR LIFE [YOU ARE RAOUl MOAT]:

‘Brilliantly written ... Smart literary non fiction.’ Jon Ronson, author of The Psychopath Test
Mark Bittman &
Dr David L. Katz

How to Eat
all your food and diet questions answered

Two bestselling experts cut through all the noise on food, health, and diet to give you the real answers you need.

What is the ‘best’ diet? Do calories matter? And when it comes to protein, fat, and carbs, which ones are good and which are bad? Mark Bittman and David Katz answer all these questions and more in a lively and easy-to-read Q&A format. Inspired by their viral hit article, Bittman and Katz share their clear, no-nonsense perspective on food and diet, answering questions covering everything from superfoods and basic nutrients to fad diets.

Topics include dietary patterns (Just what should humans eat?); grains (Aren’t these just ‘carbs’? Do I need to avoid gluten?); meat and dairy (Does grass-fed matter?); alcohol (Is drinking wine actually good for me?); and more. Throughout, Bittman and Katz filter the science of diet and nutrition through a lens of common sense, delivering straightforward advice with a healthy dose of wit.

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHORS’ PREVIOUS BOOKS:

‘Wow! Once again, Bittman shows that he’s unafraid of the big. He manages to take on “everything” to do with baking without losing track of how simple, fun, and delicious it should be.’

Yotam Ottolenghi on How to Bake Everything

‘The truth about food is simple, while the lies about food are complicated ... Dr David Katz helps insulate us from the next food fad by making sure we are armed with the truth, and nothing but the truth.’ Dr Sanjay Gupta, author of Cheating Death, on The Truth About Food
Is lowering your temperature when you have a fever helpful? Do you really need to finish every round of antibiotics? Or could some of the treatments you think are healing you actually be harming you?

Medicine has significantly advanced in the last few decades. But while we have learned a lot, we still rely on medical interventions that are vastly out of date and can adversely affect our health.

In this game-changing book, infectious-disease expert and Rotavirus vaccine inventor Dr Offit highlights fifteen common medical interventions still recommended and practised by medical professionals, despite clear evidence that they are harmful — including the treatment of acid reflux in babies and the reliance on heart stents and knee surgery.

By presenting medical alternatives, Overkill gives patients invaluable information to help them ask their doctors better questions and to advocate for their own health.

PRAISE FOR OFFIT’S PREVIOUS BOOKS:

‘Over the last decade [Offit] has become a leading debunker of mass misconceptions surrounding infections and vaccines, and now he is taking on the entire field of alternative medicine, from acupuncture to vitamins.’ The New York Times on Do You Believe in Magic?

‘Breaks down complex scientific subjects that have been distorted through several cultural lenses.’ The Washington Post on Bad Advice

DR PAUL OFFIT is the director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and is also the Maurice R. Hilleman professor of vaccinology and a professor of paediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of ten medical narratives, including Vaccinated, Deadly Choices, and Bad Faith.
Ariel Sabar

Veritas

a Harvard professor, a con man, and the Gospel of Jesus’s Wife

An award-winning author reveals the real-life Da Vinci Code fraud that rocked the establishment.

An ancient manuscript is discovered claiming that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. The religious world is thrown into turmoil. It sounds like the plot of a conspiracy thriller, and is one of the biggest scandals of modern scholarship.

In 2012, Dr Karen King, a star professor at Harvard Divinity School, announced a blockbuster discovery at a scholarly conference just steps from the Vatican: she had found an ancient fragment of papyrus in which Jesus called Mary Magdalene ‘my wife’. The tattered manuscript made international headlines. Biblical scholars were in an uproar, but King had impeccable credentials as a world-renowned authority on female figures in the lost Christian texts from Egypt known as the Gnostic gospels.

As Ariel Sabar began to investigate the mysteries surrounding the papyrus, he embarked on an indefatigable globe-spanning hunt that ultimately uncovered the forgery and the identity of the forger, reckoning with fundamental questions about the nature of truth and the line between faith and reason.

PRAISE FOR SABAR’S PREVIOUS BOOKS:

‘A biography, a memoir, a meticulously reconstructed history of a largely vanished people and place ... Transcending mere reportage, it acquires a novel-like warp and weft.’ Los Angeles Times on My Father’s Paradise

Clarissa Goenawan

The Perfect World of Miwako Sumida

A bewitching novel set in contemporary Japan about the mysterious suicide of a young woman.

Miwako Sumida is dead.

Now those closest to her try to piece together the fragments of her life. Ryusei, who has always loved her, follows Miwako’s trail to a remote Japanese village. Chie, Miwako’s best friend, was the only person to know her true identity — but is now the time to reveal it? Meanwhile, Fumi, Ryusei’s sister, is harbouring her own haunting secret.

Together, they realise that the young woman they thought they knew had more going on behind her seemingly perfect façade than they could ever have dreamed.

‘Vivid and intriguing — an elegantly cryptic, poetically plotted Murakami-esque whydunit.’ Sharlene Teo, author of Ponti

‘Elegant and haunting … Goenawan deftly explores the messiness of grief, the pain of lost chances, and the way a life can collapse under the weight of secrets.’ Kathleen Barber, author of Truth Be Told

CLARISSA GOENAWAN is an Indonesian-born Singaporean writer. Her debut novel Rainbirds won the 2015 Bath Novel Award and was shortlisted for three further prizes. Her short stories have won several awards and have been published in various literary magazines and anthologies. The Perfect World of Miwako Sumida is her second novel.
Jonathan Silvertown

The Comedy of Error
why evolution made us laugh

What is humour? Why do we laugh? And how can we be funnier?

Good jokes, bad jokes, clever jokes, dad jokes — the desire to laugh is universal. But why do we find some gags hilarious, whilst others fall flat? Can you train yourself to be funnier? And why does explaining a joke make it less amusing rather than more so?

In *The Comedy of Error*, Professor Jonathan Silvertown explores the science and philosophy behind why we laugh, and shows that understanding how humour really works can provide endless entertainment.

**PRAISE FOR SILVERTOWN’S PREVIOUS BOOKS:**

‘A grand scientific narrative, full of vivid description, clear analysis, and personal warmth — an enthralling read and an important contribution to our understanding of biodiversity.’ Oliver Sacks on *Demons in Eden*

‘Silvertown is a wonderful writer: erudite, informative, and thoroughly entertaining.’ *Washington Independent Review of Books on Dinner with Darwin*
The Rare Metals War
the hidden face of the energy and digital transition

The resources race is on. Powering our smartphones are some of the Earth’s most precious metals — but they are running out. And what will happen when they do?

Drawing on six years of research across a dozen countries, this book shows that the digital revolution has a hidden dark side. By breaking free of fossil fuels, we are in fact setting ourselves up for a new dependence — on rare metals such as cobalt, gold, and palladium.

They are essential to electric vehicles, fighter jets, wind turbines, and solar panels, and also to our smartphones, computers, tablets, and other everyday connected objects. China has captured the lion’s share of the rare metals industry, but consumers know very little about how they are mined and traded, or the environmental, economic, and geopolitical costs.

*The Rare Metals War* is a vital exposé of the ticking time-bomb that lies beneath our new technological order.

‘Pitron’s book is an attempt to open people’s eyes to the consequences of their societal choices and lifestyles.’ *Green European Journal*
The Expendables
how the middle class got screwed by globalisation

A provocative, far-reaching account of how the middle class got stuck with the bill for globalisation, and how the blowback — from Brexit to Trump to populist Europe — will change the developed world.

Real wages have not risen much for decades. Union membership has collapsed. Full-time employment is beginning to look like a quaint idea from the distant past. Falling tariffs, low interest rates, global deregulation, and tax policies that benefit the rich have all had the same effect: the erosion of the middle class.

Bestselling author Jeff Rubin argues that all this was foreseeable back when major Western countries started to believe their own propaganda about free trade, and especially when they allowed China to exploit weaknesses in the trading system they devised.

The result — growing global inequality — is a problem of our own making. And solving it won’t be easy if we draw on the same ideas about capital and labour, right and left, that led us to this cliff. Articulating a vision that, remarkably, dovetails with the ideas of both Naomi Klein and Donald Trump, The Expendables is an exhilaratingly fresh perspective that is at once humane and irascible, fearless and rigorous, and, most importantly, timely. GDP is growing, the stock market is up, and unemployment is down, but the surprise of this book is that even the good news is good for only 1 per cent of us.
MADELEINE RYAN is an Australian writer and actor. She’s been widely published in both Australia and overseas, including in Lenny Letter, Bustle, The Age, and SMH. She currently lives in rural Victoria. A Room Called Earth is her first novel.

A brilliant debut from a neurodivergent author that shows the magical, sensitive world of a woman on the spectrum.

A young woman gets ready to go to a party. She arrives, feels overwhelmed, leaves, and then returns. Minutely attuned to the people who come into her view, and alternating between alienation and profound connection, she is hilarious, self-aware, sometimes acerbic, and painfully honest.

And by the end of the night, she’s shown us something radical about love, loss, and the need to belong.
Beowulf

A new, feminist translation of Beowulf by the author of the acclaimed novel The Mere Wife.

A man seeks to prove himself as a hero. A monster seeks silence in his territory. A warrior seeks to avenge her murdered son. A dragon ends it all.

This radical new verse translation of Beowulf by Maria Dahvana Headley brings to light elements that have never before been translated into English. The familiar elements of the epic poem are seen with a novelist’s eye toward gender, genre, and history — it has always been a tale of entitlement and encroachment, powerful men seeking to become more powerful, and one woman seeking justice for her child, but this version brings new context to an old story. While crafting her contemporary adaptation of Beowulf, Headley unearthed significant shifts lost over centuries, transforming the binary narrative of monsters and heroes into a thrilling tale in which the two categories often entwine.

PRAISE FOR THE MERE WIFE:
'A smart, tough modern flip of Beowulf.' Margaret Atwood

‘Muscular and bloodthirsty ... an ambitious novel.’ The Guardian
The stories, the successes, and the sometimes controversial possibilities of the science with the potential to change all our lives: genetics.

Professor Edwin Kirk is both a clinical geneticist and a genetic pathologist, a rare combination. He specialises in children’s and women’s health, and is one of the lead researchers for the multimillion-dollar Mackenzie’s Mission, a project to investigate the causes of the devastating genetic condition spinal muscular atrophy. In more than 20 years of working with children and families affected by genetic disease, Kirk has developed a rare perspective on the impact this important and fascinating area of science can have on people. A father himself, he also looks to the future exploration and exploitation of the universe within each and every cell of our bodies, from our first germ cells to the senescent cells of old age.

Kirk brings the science of modern genetics alive, with stories of the researchers who built the science, the doctors who use it, and the patients whose lives are affected by it. Fascinating, often heartbreaking, but always deeply human, The Universe Within is a window into a world that soon will touch all of our lives.
The Scandinavian Skincare Bible
the definitive guide to understanding your skin

We all want beautiful, healthy skin at any age. And yet we know surprisingly little about our largest organ.

Think drinking water will replenish your skin? Think again. More products, better skin? Nope. And an expensive product doesn’t guarantee reliable results. You don’t need to cleanse your skin in the morning; in fact, too much cleansing can be damaging. Toner is redundant, natural products are not always best, and bacteria are not the enemy — and that’s just the beginning!

The Scandinavian Skincare Bible is the first comprehensive guide to skincare that also teaches you how to read the labels on products. By the end of this book, you’ll know exactly what it is you’re putting on your skin, and which ingredients to look for, and look out for. Using cutting-edge research about the microbiome, as well as the relationship between gut health and skin, The Scandinavian Skincare Bible challenges how we look at beauty today. By revealing the science and exposing commercial tricks, Swedish expert Johanna Gillbro empowers us to lay the foundation for healthy skin.

Johanna Gillbro translated by Fiona Graham

The Scandinavian bestseller that will revolutionise your skin.

Johanna Gillbro, PhD, is an award-winning skin scientist with more than 15 years of experience in experimental dermatology, clinical research, and skincare product development, as well as substantial experience within the pharmaceutical industry. Gillbro frequently speaks at international dermatological and cosmetic science conferences, and for the past decade has been the most cited author in The International Journal of Cosmetic Science.

Fiona Graham has a degree in Modern Languages from Oxford University, and has lived in Kenya, Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, and Belgium. She translates from Spanish, French, Dutch, Swedish, and German.

Photo by Annika Berglund

Johanna Gillbro, PhD, is an award-winning skin scientist with more than 15 years of experience in experimental dermatology, clinical research, and skincare product development, as well as substantial experience within the pharmaceutical industry. Gillbro frequently speaks at international dermatological and cosmetic science conferences, and for the past decade has been the most cited author in The International Journal of Cosmetic Science.

Fiona Graham has a degree in Modern Languages from Oxford University, and has lived in Kenya, Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, and Belgium. She translates from Spanish, French, Dutch, Swedish, and German.

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