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Touched Out is a blend of memoir and cultural criticism that explores how the author’s experiences with ambiguous forms of sexual assault come to resurface in early motherhood.

American women are encouraged to view marriage and motherhood as the pinnacle of success. Although Amanda Montei understood motherhood wouldn’t lead automatically to fulfillment, even she found the narrative hard to resist. After giving birth—and even during pregnancy—Amanda struggled to adjust to the new demands on her physical body.

Structural conditions—the lack of paid leave, the childcare crisis, mothers as America’s only social safety net—were depriving Amanda of her bodily autonomy, but without another outlet for rebellion, she found agency by rejecting intimacy with her children and husband. Amanda struggled with the physicality of caring for children, but even more with her growing awareness that the lack of bodily autonomy she felt in motherhood reiterated a feeling she had always had about her body; she had been taught to use it to please others, especially men, without necessarily considering whether she wanted to.

Amanda was not alone—she found a huge assortment of women online who described feeling “touched out” too. Women are supposed to care for and pleasure their husbands and children, and to do so by pushing their bodies to the limit, ignoring their own desires and needs. Motherhood, too, can feel like an assault. And just as we naturalize sexual violence against women, we have also come to normalize the suffering of mothers.

The author writes with a blend of emotion drawn from personal experience and power drawn from her academic background and a lifetime of engaging with feminist thinkers and writers from Chanel Miller and Kate Manne to bell hooks, Audre Lorde, Silvia Federici and Adrienne Rich.

Ultimately, Touched Out prescribes a path forward for caregivers to take back their bodies, pass on a language of consent, and write a new story about what it means to care in America.
Loving Our Own Bones
Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole
by
Julia Watts Belser

ON SALE 10/3/2023

A spiritual companion and political manifesto that cuts through objectification and inspiration alike to offer a powerful new account of disability in biblical narrative and contemporary culture

Market:
People in religious communities who want to be more welcoming for people with disabilities and their families

Readers with an activist background in religious communities seeking to better understand disability activism

University and seminary students who need to learn more about disability politics as they relate to religious and spiritual questions

Hardcover, 9780807006757
$29.95, 288 Pages

Open the Bible, and disability is everywhere. Moses stutters and thinks himself unable to answer God’s call. Isaac’s blindness lets his wife trick him into bestowing his blessing on his younger son. Jesus heals the sick the blind, the paralyzed, and the possessed. For centuries, these stories have been told and retold by commentators who treat disability as misfortune, as a metaphor for spiritual incapacity, or as a challenge to be overcome.

Loving Our Own Bones turns that perspective on its head. Drawing insights from the hard-won wisdom of disabled folks who’ve forged difference into fierce and luminous cultural dissent, Belser offers fresh and unexpected readings of familiar biblical stories, showing how disability wisdom can guide us all toward a powerful reckoning with the complexities of the flesh. She talks back to biblical commentators who traffic in disability stigma and shame, challenging interpretations that demean disabled people and diminish the vitality of disabled lives. And she shows how Sabbath rest can be a powerful counter to the relentless demand for productivity, an act of spiritual resistance in a culture that makes work the signal measure of our worth.

With both a lyrical love of tradition and incisive political analysis, Belser braids spiritual perspectives together with keen activist insights—inviting readers to claim the power and promise of spiritual dissent, to nourish their own souls through the revolutionary art of radical self-love.

Julia Watts Belser is an associate professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University and core faculty in Georgetown’s Disability Studies Program, as well as a senior research fellow at the Berkley Center. She is the author of Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem and Power, Ethics, and Ecology in Jewish Late Antiquity: Rabbinic Responses to Drought and Disaster.
Sweet Movie
Poems
by
Alisha Dietzman

ON SALE 10/17/2023

A National Poetry Series winner selected by Victoria Chang, Sweet Movie reimagines a poetics of religious masochism to interrogate spiritual, sexual, and moral agency

Drawing on a wide variety of media, from the films of Dušan Makavejev, to Marlene Dumas’ paintings, to HBO’s Big Love, Sweet Movie reimagines a poetic of religious masochism in the vein of John Donne’s Holy Sonnets to explore the ways religious women are denied agency by both their faith communities, and by outsiders.

Sweet Movie employs forms from the love poem to ekphrasis to ask a version of the same question: how do subjects who only possess conditional agency—the “agency” when one conforms to expectations for their frameworks and/or appeal to their audiences—participate in the social?

The voice(s) in Sweet Movie, equal parts docile, feverish, and violent, both seek and reject the possibility of agency—spiritual, sexual, moral—at various turns, and with various audiences in mind: God, the object of its many love poems, family. Mirroring the uncertain, unstable tenor of the controversial avant-garde film Sweet Movie (1974), these poems exist in no single location. Moving through locations across Central Europe and the American South, these poems seek—and fail to find—a place to be buried. Each new place informs the next: Memphis appears in Berlin in the form of a dead deer, and Southern syntax haunts an elegy for Gustav Klucis. Perpetually observant, and proceeding with caution, if at all, Sweet Movie guardedly, but desperately consumes a world that feels faintly alien. The diffuse forms of media explored often function as stand-ins for more direct, or explicit modes of engagement.

The poems in Sweet Movie “can’t stop looking” (or refuse to stop looking), lingering over the smallest details of embodiment, fearing eternity.

Alisha Dietzman received her MFA in Poetry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she held a Martha Meier Renk Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. She is currently a PhD candidate in Divinity and a U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Fellow at the University of St Andrews writing a thesis examining ethics in contemporary art. Her work has received support from the Rebecca Swift Foundation and the Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park. In 2021, her chapbook Slow-Motion Something For No Reason was the editors’ choice selection for the Tomasz Salamun Prize and is forthcoming from Factory Hollow Press. Her poetry has appeared in or will appear in Ploughshares, American Poetry Review, Denver Quarterly, The Iowa Review, and elsewhere.
An Indigenous People’s History of the United States
10th Anniversary Edition
by
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

ON SALE 10/17/2023

This American Book Award winning title about Native American struggle and resistance radically reframes more than 400 years of US history

CELEBRATED FIRST PUBLICATION: The 2014 publication has sold over 400k units across platforms and is the 2015 Recipient of the American Book Award. The Young Adult adaptation sold over 200k copies and the graphic edition will be adapted by acclaimed artist Paul Peart-Smith

NEW MATERIAL: New foreword from well-known filmmaker Raoul Peck and new intro from Dunbar-Ortiz brings the book up to the present, includes discussion of Donald Trump, Covid, and #BLM, and more

Unflinchingly honest about the brutality of this nation’s founding and its legacy of settler-colonialism and genocide, the impact of Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz’s 2014 book is profound. The basis of the HBO docu-series Exterminate All the Brutes, directed by Raoul Peck, and a New York Times Bestseller, this classic is revisited with new material that takes an incisive look at the post-Obama era from the war in Afghanistan to Charlottesville’s white supremacy-fueled rallies, and from the onset of the pandemic to the election of President Biden. Writing from the perspective of the peoples displaced by Europeans and their white descendants, she centers Indigenous voices over the course of four centuries, tracing their perseverance against policies intended to obliterate them.

Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. With a new foreword from Raoul Peck and a new introduction from Dunbar Ortiz, this classic bottom-up peoples’ history explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz grew up in rural Oklahoma in a tenant farming family. She has been active in the international Indigenous movement for more than four decades and is known for her lifelong commitment to national and international social justice issues. Dunbar-Ortiz is the winner of the 2017 Lannan Cultural Freedom Prize, and is the author or editor of many books, including Not “A Nation of Immigrants.” Winner of the American Book Award (2015). She lives in San Francisco. Connect with her at reddirsite.com or on Twitter @rdunbaro.

Hardcover, 9780807013076
$29.95, 328 Pages
“Incisive and compelling, reflecting the painful wisdom and knowledge that Bill Ong Hing has accrued over the course of fifty years...” -Michelle Alexander, author of The New Jim Crow

Representing non-citizens caught up in what he calls the immigration and enforcement “meat grinder”, Bill Ong Hing witnessed their trauma, arriving at this conclusion: migrants should have the right to free movement across borders—and the right to live free of harassment over immigration status. He cites examples of racial injustices endemic in immigration law and enforcement, from historic courtroom cases to the recent treatment of Haitian migrants. Hing includes histories of Mexican immigration, African migration and the Asian exclusion era, all of which reveal ICE abuse and a history of often forgotten racist immigration laws.

While ultimately arguing for the abolishment of ICE, Hing advocates for change now. With fifty years of law practice and litigation, Hing has represented non-citizens -- from gang members to asylum seekers fleeing violence, and from individuals in ICE detention to families at the US southern border seeking refuge. Hing maps out major reforms to the immigration system, making an urgent call for the adoption of a radical, racial justice lens. Readers will understand the root causes of migration and our country’s culpability in contributing to those causes.

Bill Ong Hing is Professor of Law and Migration Studies at the University of San Francisco, and Professor of Law and Asian American Studies Emeritus, at U.C. Davis.Previously on the law faculties at Stanford University and Golden Gate University, he founded the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco and directs their Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic. Professor Hing teaches Immigration Law & Policy, Migration Studies, Rebellious Lawyering, and Evidence, is the author of six books, and was co-counsel in the U.S. Supreme Court asylum precedent-setting case INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca (1987).

FIRST BOOK TO APPLY CRITICAL RACE THEORY TO IMMIGRATION LAW: Discussions around CRT are at an all-time high. Hing demonstrates the link between racial justice and immigrant rights

URGENT ISSUE FOR '24 ELECTION: Immigration rights and ICE abolishment movements remain hot button national matters, affecting Asian, Latino, and Black migrants

TRANSFORMATIVE ROADMAP TO REFORM: Using real life examples to offer social justice proposals related to asylum, deportation, visas, immigration judge authority, right to counsel in removal proceedings, and border controls

Hardcover, 9780807008027
$26.95, 248 Pages
Homeland of My Body
New and Selected Poems
by
Richard Blanco

ONS ALE 10/24/2023

A rich and intensely intimate collection of new poems—two full sections of them—as well as Blanco’s picks from his previous volumes

THEMES OF POEMS:
Blanco’s poems cover a wide range of topics including historical events, autobiography, current events, pop culture, and historical texts. He also highlights the stories of marginalized peoples in the fabric of the American narrative, including his own as a gay Latinx man.

AWARD-WINNING POET: His poems have appeared in The Best America Poetry and Great American Prose Poem.

FEATURING MORE THAN 100 POEMS:
Over 20 new poems in 2 sections bookended selected poems from his previous collections.

In this collection of over 100 poems, Richard Blanco has carefully selected poems from his previous volumes and bookended them with new poems that address both the turbulence of our times and the internal struggles he grapples with as a gay Latino man in a culture that can be cruel and unwelcoming to anyone who is “other.”

The poems range in subject and setting, but are all characterized by his keen eye and deep sensibility, without unnecessary pretense or complexity. This volume is a gift to Blanco’s fans but even more to those who have yet to discover that they can fall in love with poetry.

Richard Blanco has been justly celebrated for his poetic gifts and his command of the many forms poetry can take, from the finely structured to the spoken word and prose poem formats. His previous volumes evinced his growing command of the craft and his devotion to making poetry accessible to all readers and listeners.

Richard Blanco is the recent recipient of the National Humanities Medal. He has received awards for several of his books, including the poetry collections How To Love a County and Looking for The Gulf Motel, and memoirs For All of Us, One Today and The Prince of Los Cocuyos. He was selected by Barack Obama as the fifth presidential inaugural poet in US history, and his body of work and advocacy are characterized by his personal negotiation of cultural identity and universal themes of place and belonging. In 2022, he was named the inaugural poet laureate of Miami-Dade County. He was also named as the American Academy of Poets first-ever education ambassador. Connect with him online: richard-blanco.com, Twitter (rblancopoet), Facebook (RichardBlancoPoetry), and Instagram (poetrichardblanco).
Toward Liberation
Educational Practices Rooted in Activism, Healing and Love
by Jamilah Pitts

ON SALE 12/5/2023

A critical examination of racial and systemic oppression and its impact on schools, this book serves as a roadmap for educators seeking to create and sustain liberatory spaces

Defining liberatory practices as anti-racist, anti-bias, anti-oppressive efforts, educational consultant Jamilah Pitts offers a fresh and expansive analysis of the ever-growing need for education that follows a more culturally responsive model. Highly practical, Toward Liberation is equal parts critical examination and essential guidebook, as Pitts also interweaves resources, tools, and strategies drawn from her experiences as a young Black girl, a Black student, a teacher, a former school leader and as a consultant who has worked with schools across the country. The tenets of this book—rooted in truthtelling, activism, healing, wellness, self-care and ultimately, love—both inform and are inspired by the healing work Pitts does with educators to this day.

With student writing from her own classroom, insightful questions for teachers to consider, and constructive charts that map out, for example, manifestations of harm, Pitts offers trailblazing new ways to envision the role of the critical teacher. She looks to teaching as truthtelling and to teaching as healing, she envisions teaching as activism and recognizes it as love. She also offers a guide to healing and self-care for the teachers themselves, with an intentional eye on wellness practices and on the particular strain placed on Black women educators. Stemming from the ever-present racism that exists in our schools, Pitts argues that the pain and trauma inflicted in the classroom can be both addressed and repaired by any adult who serves young people. Toward Liberation pioneers new pathways for educators to do so, ensuring that our students are afforded the full range of their humanity and their experience, in and out of the classroom.

Jamilah Pitts is an educator, social entrepreneur, writer, and yoga teacher whose work centers the liberation, healing, and holistic development of communities of color. Jamilah has worked and served in various roles and spaces to promote racial justice and healing. She is the Founder and CEO of Jamilah Pitts Consulting and she is also the Founder of She, Imprints. Jamilah has served as a teacher, coach, dean, and as an assistant principal. She has worked in domestic and international educational spaces, including Massachusetts, New York, the Dominican Republic, China and India.

KEY
AUDIENCE: Strongly appeals to educators, or any adults who serve young people, invested in investigating and redressing inequities in learning spaces

TIMELY FOCUS ON URGENT
ISSUE: Following current debates such as the question of book-banning and the teaching of CRT in schools, the role of the teacher in creating a more equitable and anti-racist world has become a hot-button issue nationwide—now, more than ever, educators are seeking guidance on how to transform the classroom into a liberatory space

Hardcover, 9780807014844
$22.00, 160 Pages
A MUST-READ FOR ACTIVISTS, ENTREPRENEURS, AND STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM: The case studies in What Works provide an extraordinary snapshot of the future of journalism. Clegg and Kennedy give a nearly step-by-step overview of how to start a local news outlet, from fundraising to hiring, from advertising to formatting, from maintaining integrity to maintaining sustainability.

Local news is essential to democracy. Meaningful participation in civic life is impossible without it. Studies show that voter participation is lower and corruption more pervasive in “news deserts”—places that lack reliable coverage.

Local news is in crisis. According to one widely cited study, some 2,500 newspapers have closed over the last generation, gutted by plummeting ad sales, the new economics of online content, corporate news chains, and predatory hedge funds.

Veteran Boston Globe journalists Ellen Clegg and Dan Kennedy cut through the pessimism surrounding this issue, showing readers that new, innovative journalism models are popping up across the country to fill news deserts and empower communities. What Works examines nine of these projects. There is the Sahan Journal in Minnesota, dedicated to serving immigrant communities of color in a state that is 80% white. There is MLK50 in Memphis, a digital outlet that has produced award-winning watchdog journalism. In small-town Iowa, there is the Storm Lake Times Pilot, run by a family of three. Through a blend of investigate reporting and interviews, Clegg and Kennedy show how these operations found seed money and support: some were helped by national organizations, such as Report for America and the National Trust for Local News. Others received direct payments from the government, a new approach being tried out by some localities. hired staff, forged their missions, and navigated challenges from the pandemic to police intimidation to stand as the last bastion of collective truth and keep local news in local hands.

Ellen Clegg spent more than three decades at The Boston Globe and retired in 2018 after four years of running the opinion pages. In between stints at the Globe, she was deputy director of communications at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. She is a member of the steering committee for the Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship at the International Women’s Media Foundation.

Dan Kennedy is a professor in the School of Journalism at Northeastern University and a nationally known media commentator. He has been a panelist on the GBH News television program Beat the Press (1998–2021), and also served as a weekly columnlist for the network. He was also a columnist for The Guardian from 2007–2011. He is the recipient of the Yankee Quill Award from the New England Academy of Journalists and the James W. Carey Journalism Award from the Media Ecology Association.
The story of a group of Goodyear Tire and Rubber workers fatally exposed to toxic chemicals, the lawyer who sought justice on their behalf, and the shameful lack of protection our society affords all workers

Working at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company chemical plant in Niagara Falls, New York, was considered a good job. It was the kind of industrial manufacturing job that allowed blue-collar workers to thrive in the latter half of the 20th century—that allowed them to buy their own home, and maybe a boat for the lake.

But it was also the kind of job that gave you bladder cancer.

*The Cancer Factory* tells the story of the workers who experienced one of the nation's worst, and best-documented, outbreaks of work-related cancer, and the lawyer who has represented the bladder-cancer victims at the plant for more than thirty years, as well as the retired workers who have been diagnosed with the disease and live in constant fear of its recurrence.

In doing so it tells a story of corporate malfeasance and governmental neglect. Workers have only weak protections from exposure to toxic substances in America, and regulatory breaches contribute to an estimated 95,000 deaths from occupational illness each year. Goodyear, and its chemical supplier, Dupont, knew that two of the chemicals used in the plant had been shown to cause cancer, but made little effort to protect the plant's workers until the cluster of bladder cancer cases—and deaths—was undeniable. Based on four decades of reporting and delving deeply into the scientific literature about toxic substances and health risks, the arcana of worker regulations, and reality of loose enforcement, *The Cancer Factory* exposes the sometimes deadly risks too many workers face.

*Jim Morris* is managing editor for environment and workers’ rights at the Center for Public Integrity. A journalist since 1978, Morris has won more than 80 awards for his work, including the George Polk award, the Sidney Hillman award, three National Association of Science Writers awards, two Edward R. Murrow awards and five Texas Headliners awards.
An on-the-ground look at the rise of parent activism in response to the far-right attacks on public school education

For well over a century, public schools have been a non-partisan gathering place and vital center of civic life in America— but something has changed. In Whose Public Schools?, journalist Laura Pappano explores the on-the-ground story of how public schools across the country have become ground zero in a cultural and political war as the far-right have made efforts to seek power over school boards.

Pappano argues that the rise of parent activism is actually the culmination of efforts that began in the 1990s after campaigns to stop sex education largely fizzled. Recent efforts to make public schools more responsive and inclusive, as well as the pandemic, have offered openings the far-right have been waiting for to organize and sway parents, who are frustrated and exhausted by remote learning, objections by teacher’s unions, and shifting directives from school leaders. Groups like Moms for Liberty and Parents Defending Education are organizing against revised history curricula they have dubbed as "CRT," banning books, pressing for "Don’t Say Gay" laws, and asserting "parental rights" to gain control over the review of classroom materials. On the other side, progressive groups like Support Our Schools and Red, Wine & Blue are mobilizing parents to counter such moves.

Combining on-the-ground reporting with research and expert interviews, Whose Public Schools? will take a hard look at where these battles are happening, what is at stake, and why it matters for the future of our schools.

CAPTURES DIVERSE SET OF VOICES: Written in a journalistic fashion, weaves data and the stories of geographically, racially, and politically diverse groups. Key locations include suburban Dallas and Brevard County, Florida, suburban Cleveland, and Loudoun County, VA

CONTRIBUTES TO EDUCATION DEBATES: Contributes to the ongoing conversations about what is being taught in our schools, such as debates around CRT, “Don’t Say Gay” laws, and the banning of books

FIRST OF ITS KIND: First book to address the rise of parent activism and the politicized battle for control over public schools