

SUMMER 2023



**BEACON
PRESS**

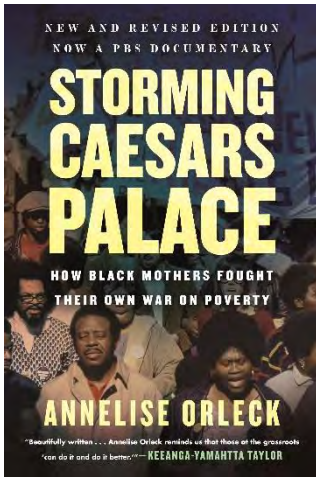
Table of Contents

BY TITLE

<i>Storming Caesar's Palace</i>	1
<i>24 Hours in Charlottesville</i>	2
<i>Narcas</i>	3
<i>A Master Class on Being Human</i>	4
<i>Superfreaks</i>	5
<i>A Space for Us</i>	6
<i>No Meat Required</i>	7
<i>Desire</i>	8

BY AUTHOR

Deborah Bonello	3
Arielle Greenberg	5
Michelle Cassandra Johnson	6
Alicia Kennedy	7
Nora Neus	2
Annelise Orleck	1
Brad R. Braxton and Anthony B. Pinn	4
Lauren Mersy and Jennifer Vencill	8



Storming Caesars Palace

How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty

by
Annelise Orleck

ON SALE 4/25/2023

REISSUE: The inspirational and little-known story of welfare mothers in Las Vegas, America's Sin City, who crafted an original response to poverty-from the ground up

FORTHCOMING DOCUMENTARY:

To be adapted into a forthcoming documentary from PBS, directed by Hazel Gurland-Pooler who directed and produced a season of *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and co-produced segments of the Peabody Award-winning and Emmy Award-nominated series *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*.

UPDATED, TIMELY & RELEVANT:

Fresh content ties book into movements such as Black Lives Matter and Occupy Wall Street with a focus on the political climate of 2021, while original content speaks to today's urgent and nationwide unionizing and organizing efforts which will offer this book a strong second life. Featuring a new blurb from Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor.

In *Storming Caesars Palace*, Annelise Orleck brings into focus the hidden figures of a trailblazing movement who proved that poor mothers are the real experts on poverty, providing job training, libraries, medical access, daycare centers and housing to the poor in Las Vegas throughout the 1970s. Orleck introduces Ruby Duncan, a sharecropper turned White House advisor who led the charge on the long war on poverty waged against the poor Black mothers of Las Vegas. According to Ruby, "Poor women must dream their highest dreams and never stop," and she with the help of Mary Wesley and Alversa Beals, did exactly that.

With a new prologue and epilogue that explore the race and labor movements paramount to the political climate of 2021, Orleck masterfully blends together history, social analysis, and personal storytelling in a story that is as enraging as it is empowering.

Annelise Orleck is professor of history at Dartmouth College and the author of five books on the history of US women, politics, immigration, and activism, including *Storming Caesars Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty*. She lives in Thetford Center, Vermont.

Paperback, 978-080700797-6
\$23.95, 392 Pages

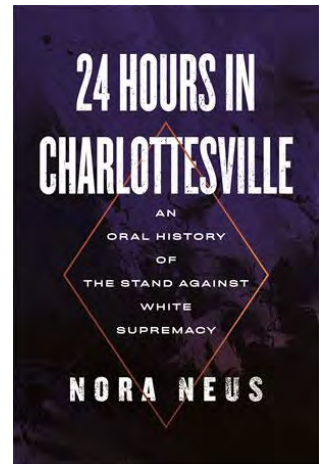
"Beautifully written . . . Annelise Orleck reminds us that those at the grassroots can do it and do it better." - Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

24 Hours in Charlottesville

An Oral History of the Stand Against White Supremacy

by
Nora Neus

ON SALE 7/18/2023



A gripping oral history of the white nationalist riots that shook the nation and signaled the arrival of a galvanizing new era, giving unprecedented voice to those who fought back

On August 11 and 12, 2017, armed neo-Nazi demonstrators descended on the University of Virginia campus and downtown Charlottesville. When they assaulted antiracist counter protesters, the police failed to intervene, and events culminated in the murder of counter protestor Heather Heyer.

In this book, Emmy-nominated CNN journalist and former Charlottesville resident Nora Neus—who was present that fateful weekend—crafts an extraordinary account from the voices of the students, faith leaders, politicians, and community members who were there. Through a vivid collage of original interviews, new statements from Charlottesville mayor Mike Signer and Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, social media posts, court testimony, and government reports, this book portrays the arrival of white supremacist demonstrators, the interfaith service held in response, the tiki torch march on the university campus, the protests and counterprotests in downtown Charlottesville the next day, and the deadly car attack. *24 Hours in Charlottesville* will also feature never-before-disclosed information from activists and city government leaders, including Charlottesville mayor Mike Signer.

Nora Neus is an Emmy-nominated journalist at CNN. Neus field-produced Anderson Cooper’s coverage of the 2017 white nationalist riot in Charlottesville, Virginia. Before joining CNN, she worked as a local news reporter and fill-in anchor for the CNN affiliate in Charlottesville, WVIR NBC29. She is the coauthor of the YA graphic *Muhammad Najem, War Reporter: How One Boy Put the Spotlight on Syria*.

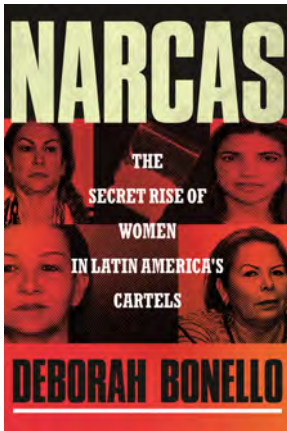
ON-TREND ORAL HISTORY

FORMAT: Popular programs like StoryCorps and the Moth have generated new interest in oral history and the art of storytelling. Recent Nobel laureate and oral historian Svetlana Alexievich has brought new prestige to the form, and bestselling books like *The Only Plane in the Sky*, *Meet Me in the Bathroom*, and *Welcome to Dunder Mifflin* have demonstrated its power in the market

AN ESSENTIAL READ for anyone who wants to better understand white nationalism in America, for people who follow current events, for students and teachers of oral history, and for activists seeking an account of how protests can unfold on the ground

DRAWS FROM DOZENS OF ORIGINAL INTERVIEWS that the author conducted with activists and politicians, many of whom have never before spoken out

Hardcover, 978-080701192-8
\$25.95, 208 Pages



Narcas

The Rise of Latin America's Narco Women

by
Deborah Bonello

ON SALE 7/25/2023

VICE journalist Deborah Bonello reports from the trenches in this first-ever in-depth exploration of the hidden power women wield in Latin American drug cartels

Figures Include:

- “Doña” Digna, the leader of the Valle cartel
- Mallory Chacon, a prolific and notable drug trafficker
- Guadalupe Fernandez Valencia, confidant of El Chapo
- The Lemus Sisters, who smuggled thousands of container trucks of drugs and money across the Guatemala El Salvador border

Hardcover, 978-080700704-4
\$27.95, 192 Pages

You’ve heard of Pablo Escobar, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, and Rafael Caro Quintero. Their names conjure ghoulish images of bloody streets, white powder, bundles of weed, and a particular flavor of machismo unique to ruthless druglords. But what of the drugladies, las narcas? For the first time, investigative reporter Deborah Bonello takes you behind the curtain to introduce the women at the helm of organized crime south of the US-Mexico border. These women are the powerhouses behind violent cartels; masterminds of extortion rackets; right-hand ladies to El Chapo’s cocaine flow to the US; and matriarchs of major drug trafficking families. In these pages, you will meet women like Doña Digna, the leader of the Valle cartel, and Guadalupe Fernandez Valencia, one of “El Chapo” Guzman’s closest confidants.

Narcas, for the first time, gives voice to the women of notorious drug-trafficking monarchies, meticulously documenting the variety of roles they play. Bonello chronicles the complexity of their actions and their desires, the grey chasm between victims and victimizers, co-option and agency, and right and wrong. She examines why women’s experiences are under-reported, emphasizing the importance of understanding women as fully capable beings who are often as ambitious, innovative, ruthless, and violent as their male counterparts.

With careful detail, comprehensive research, and groundbreaking storytelling, *Narcas* paints a vivid picture of the women behind some of the most notorious drug cartels. You will not see Sebastiana Cottón or Marixa Lemus in the stereotypical portrayals of beautiful narco wives or girlfriends, or in the faces of trafficking survivors or drug mules. Rather, you’ll encounter—at staggering rates—the female cartel killers, money launderers, logistical heads, and transporters of Latin America’s infamous crime syndicates.

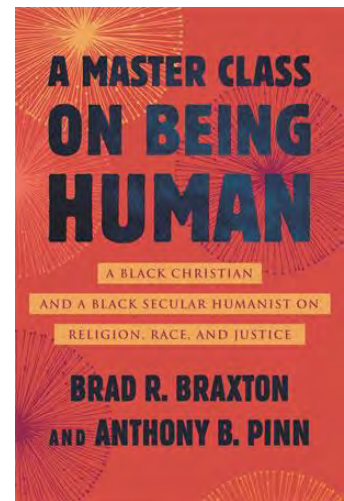
Deborah Bonello is a journalist, writer and investigator based in Mexico City. Born in Malta and brought up in the UK, she moved to Latin America to work as a foreign correspondent in 2005. Deborah is Senior Editor for Latin America at VICE World News and has nearly two decades of experience covering organized crime, criminal syndicates, particularly the drug trade, as well as the violence and culture connected to the crime world. She’s contributed to several publications, including the *Guardian*, *L.A. Times*, *BBC*, and the *Telegraph*.

A Master Class on Being Human

A Black Christian and a Black Secular Humanist on Religion, Race, and Justice

by
Brad Braxton and Anthony Pinn

ON SALE 7/25/2023



A conversation between 2 eminent Black thinkers on how to work together to make the world a better place despite deep religious differences

Brad Braxton and Anthony Pinn represent two traditions—Christianity and Secular Humanism respectively—that have for centuries existed in bitter opposition. For too long, people with different worldviews have disparaged and harmed one another. Instead of fighting each other, Braxton and Pinn talk with, listen to, and learn from one another. Their wide-ranging conversation demonstrates the possibility of fruitful exchange that accounts for—rather than masks—their differences.

Written amid the Covid-19 pandemic, threats to our democracy, and national protests for racial justice, *A Master Class on Being Human* shows us that constructive dialogue can help us pursue the common good without sacrificing our distinctive identities. In conversations that are frank, personal, and deeply informed by scholarship, Braxton and Pinn discuss topics that are urgent and immediate, such as the ongoing violence against Black communities, the rise of religiously unaffiliated communities, the Black Lives Matter movement. They also ponder those broader philosophical and theological questions that inform our politics and sense of what it means to be human: the meaning of religion, the stubborn dilemma of moral evil, the power and problems of hope.

Braxton and Pinn invite us to join them in a master class as they strive to create a world where differences are not tolerated but instead celebrated. In that kind of courageous classroom, all can learn how to be better people who in turn transform the world into a better place.

Brad R. Braxton is President and Professor of Public Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is the Founding Senior Pastor of The Open Church, a culturally inclusive congregation in Baltimore, MD. He formerly served as the Director of the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. He is the author of three books: *The Tyranny of Resolution: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24*; *No Longer Slaves: Galatians and African American Experience*; and *Preaching Paul*.

Anthony B. Pinn is the Director of Research for the Institute for Humanist Studies in Washington, DC. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the inaugural Director of the Center for African and African American Studies at Rice University. He is the author/editor of over 35 books, including *Noise and Spirit: Rap Music's Religious and Spiritual Sensibilities*; *Introducing African American Religion*; *The End of God-Talk: An African American Humanist Theology*; and the novel, *The New Disciples*

URGENT AND IMMEDIATE SUBJECT MATTER: In these frank, personal, and deeply informed conversations, Braxton and Pinn discuss topics including the ongoing violence against Black communities, the rise of religiously unaffiliated communities, and the Black Lives Matter movement, and ponder the broader philosophical and theological questions that inform our politics and moral duties as humans

FOR AMERICA'S BLACK CHRISTIANS AND ATHEISTS: Brings together African American communities that are often at odds in order to enact unifying social change

MODELS A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO DIFFERENCE: The authors candidly confront our significant philosophical differences without becoming contentious, and fervently advocate for their respective worldviews without trying to “convert” the other. Rather than perpetuating shallow stereotypes, they pursue deep conversation

Hardcover, 978-080700788-4
\$28.95, 256 Pages



Superfreaks

Kink, Pleasure, and the Pursuit of
Happiness

Arielle Greenberg

ON SALE 8/1/2023

The first comprehensive celebration of kink history, practice, and science, told for curious readers, seasoned kinksters, and everyone in between

Market:

Sex-positive, kink-curious, and feminist readers of books like *Come As You Are* and *Kink: Stories*

Kinky readers who want to learn about the history and science behind their desire while feeling validated and celebrated by a fellow member of their community

Clinicians—especially sex and relationship therapists—looking for a science-informed introduction to kink, BDSM, and fetishes to better understand their kinky or kink-curious clients

Hardcover, 978-080702021-0
\$28.95, 272 Pages

Both witty and informative, *Superfreaks* offers an accessible exploration of the world of kink, meticulously crafted by lifelong student, teacher, and practitioner Arielle Greenberg.

To demystify a topic that has been widely misunderstood, Greenberg draws both from prominent figures in the community and her own experiences. *A Love Beyond* is much more than a how-to book—Greenberg reaches every corner of misconception, from politics to psychology and beyond.

In this entertaining survey, readers will find:

- Emphasis on communication, empowerment, and enthusiastic consent
- Key concepts essential to kink practice
- A sexual compatibility questionnaire for readers and their partners
- Sidebar compilations of kinky books, films, playlists, and more

This book is for those who are newly curious about kink and those who have known these truths about themselves forever. It's for all genders and orientations, all dominants, submissives, gainers, rope bunnies, foot fetishists, furies, and 'lees.

Don't know what those are? Read the book!

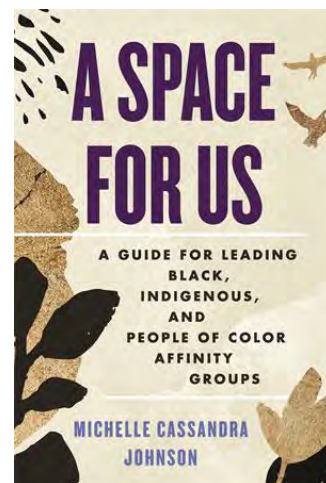
Arielle Greenberg, a longtime practitioner of kink, speaks about kink and ethical nonmonogamy at universities and on such podcasts as *Dear Sugar*, *Why Are People into That?*, and *Sex Out Loud*. She is the author of several books of poetry and creative nonfiction. A former tenured professor in English at Columbia College Chicago, she has spent over twenty years as a scholar and academic, teaching cultural studies, writing and literature to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as in the community. She currently teaches at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine.

A Space for Us

A Guide for Leading Black, Indigenous, and POC Affinity Groups

by

Michelle Cassandra Johnson



ON SALE 8/8/2023

The first comprehensive guide for leading BIPOC affinity groups for challenging white supremacy, healing racial trauma, and taking collective action

Meeting in racial affinity groups is a common practice in anti-racist, social justice, diversity, and similar forms of educational endeavors. These groups provide a structured space in which participants can explore how racism personally impacts them, process specific experiences of racism, receive validation and support from their peers, heal, and strategize next steps for challenging racism, white supremacy, and internalized racial oppression.

In *A Space for Us*, Michelle Cassandra Johnson brings her over 20 years of experience leading dismantling racism work to provide the first affinity groups guide made for BIPOC communities. This essential guide will:

- Provide an understanding of the racial hierarchy and how it has impacted Black, Indigenous, and People of Color differently.
- Define anti-Blackness and provide skills to interrupt and address it.
- Share rituals, practices, and sample agendas for affinity groups.
- Explain when it is useful to meet as one BIPOC group and when it is useful to meet based on one's specific racial identity.
- Provide information about how to come back together as BIPOC and white people to strategize and take collective action.

Comprehensive and accessible, *A Space for Us* offers practical guidance for facilitating effective BIPOC racial affinity groups and will be an important resource for BIPOC communities.

Michelle Cassandra Johnson has over 20 years of experience leading dismantling racism work and working with clients as a licensed clinical social worker and has a deep understanding of how trauma impacts the mind, body, spirit, and heart. Her book *Finding Refuge: Heart Work for Healing Collective Grief*, was published in July 2021.

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND HANDBOOK FOR BIPOC AFFINITY GROUPS:

First comprehensive, in-depth guide made for BIPOC readers that provides a theoretical framework for understanding racism, internalized racial oppression, and trauma

ESSENTIAL ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCE:

Whether readers come from backgrounds in corporate, human resources, community organizing, mediation, or education, they will find this guide to be a powerful resource in their diversity work

Paperback, 978-080700786-0
\$20.00, 176 Pages



No Meat Required

The Cultural History and Culinary
Future of Plant-Based Eating
by
Alicia Kennedy

ON SALE 8/15/2023

A culinary and cultural history of plant-based eating in the United States that delves into the subcultures and politics that have defined alternative food

HAS A CULT-LIKE FOLLOWING FOR HER WRITING ABOUT THE INTERSECTIONS OF FOOD, CULTURE, AND POLITICS:

Alicia Kennedy's weekly Substack newsletter, "From the Desk of Alicia Kennedy," is widely followed; it has been mentioned by the *New York Times*, *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, *Eater*, and recommended in *New York Magazine*, *W*, and *Food52*; it has over 18,000 subscribers

RELATES THE HISTORY OF VEGETARIANISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY TO EFFORTS TO CREATE MORE JUST, EQUITABLE, HEALTHY, DIVERSE, AND DELICIOUS

WORLD: Kennedy asks how meat came to dominate the American meal and chronicles how people have tried to change and are continuing to resist the economic and cultural systems that ensure its dominance

Hardcover, 978-080706917-2
\$25.95, 232 Pages

The vegan diet used to be associated only with eccentric hippies and tofu-loving activists who shop at co-ops and live on compounds. We've come a long way since then. Now, fine-dining restaurants like Eleven Madison Park cater to chic upscale clientele with a plant-based menu, and Impossible Whoppers are available at Burger King. But can plant-based food keep its historical anti-capitalist energies if it goes mainstream? And does it need to?

In *No Meat Required*, author Alicia Kennedy chronicles the fascinating history of plant-based eating in the United States, from the early experiments in tempeh production undertaken by the Farm commune in the 70s to the vegan punk cafes and anarchist zines of the 90s to the chefs and food writers seeking to decolonize vegetarian food today.

Many people become vegans because they are concerned about the role capitalist food systems play in climate change, inequality, white supremacy, and environmental and cultural degradation. But a world where Walmart sells frozen vegan pizzas and non-dairy pints of ice cream are available at gas stations – raises distinct questions about the meanings and goals of plant-based eating.

Kennedy—a vegetarian, former vegan, and once-proprietor of a vegan bakery—understands how to present this history with sympathy, knowledge, and humor. *No Meat Required* brings much-needed depth and context to our understanding of vegan and vegetarian cuisine, and makes a passionate argument for retaining its radical heart.

Alicia Kennedy is a writer from Long Island now living in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Her work on food and culture has been published in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, *Eater*, *Bon Appétit*, and many other publications. She has a newsletter titled "From the Desk of Alicia Kennedy," where she publishes essays, cultural criticism, a podcast, and recipes.

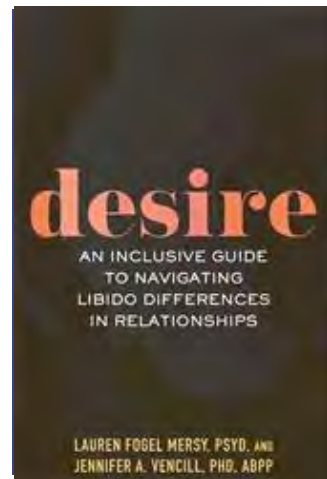
Desire

An Inclusive Guide to Navigating Libido
Differences in Relationships

by

Lauren Fogel Mersy and Jennifer A. Vencill

ON SALE 8/22/2023



A radically inclusive, sex-positive guide to managing the inevitable libido differences in our relationships, authored by two licensed sex therapists who are passionate about good sex

Desire invites readers of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, and relationship structures to shed the shame and misinformation that surround the topic of sex and instead learn from 2 certified sex therapists about how libido really works. Mismatched libido is one of the most common relationship issues, yet, with fewer than 1000 licensed therapists in the country, it can be difficult to find help. This essential book breaks the mold of the sex self-help genre, which typically focuses on cis women.

Through the authors' expert guidance readers will learn about

- the connection between desire and libido
- managing anxiety around sex (one of the biggest libido killers),
- the structural oppressions—from cisnormativity to heteronormativity to compulsory sexuality to minority stress—that affect our libido,
- and much, much more.

Included are dozens of techniques, exercises, checklists, and journal prompts for readers to use at their own pace to fit their needs, including mindfulness, body mapping, and sensate focus. Whatever your identity, sexual practices, or reason for picking up this book, *Desire* will help you reach your personal sexual health goals.

Dr. Lauren Fogel Mersy (she/her) is a licensed psychologist and an AASECT certified sex therapist. She owns a virtual private practice specializing in sex and relationship therapy in a suburb of Minneapolis, MN.

Dr. Jennifer Vencill (she/her) is an assistant professor, board certified clinical health psychologist, and AASECT-certified sex therapist. Dr. Vencill sits on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Sexual Health and Psychology of Sexual Orientation & Gender Diversity*.

AUTHORS ARE 2 OF <1,000 CERTIFIED SEX THERAPISTS IN THE US. *Desire* breaks down barriers to sexual empowerment, bringing professional insights and tools to readers who wouldn't otherwise be able to access them. The authors are prominent in their field, and Dr. Fogel Mersy has an Instagram following of more than 140k

PERFECT FOR readers seeking to improve their relationships on their own terms, for LGBTQIA readers who are underserved by mainstream sexuality books

Hardcover, 978-080700678-8
\$28.95, 296 Pages