

## The Billion Dollar Marriage Contract

NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • A TODAY SHOW #READWITHJENNA BOOK CLUB PICK! • The moving story of an undocumented child living in poverty in the richest country in the world—an incandescent debut from an astonishing new talent “Heartrending, unvarnished, and powerfully courageous, this account of growing up undocumented in America will never leave you.” —Gish Jen, author of *The Resisters* In Chinese, the word for America, *Mei Guo*, translates directly to “beautiful country.” Yet when seven-year-old Qian arrives in New York City in 1994 full of curiosity, she is overwhelmed by crushing fear and scarcity. In China, Qian’s parents were professors; in America, her family is “illegal” and it will require all the determination and small joys they can muster to survive. In Chinatown, Qian’s parents labor in sweatshops. Instead of laughing at her jokes, they fight constantly, taking out the stress of their new life on one another. Shunned by her classmates and teachers for her limited English, Qian takes refuge in the library and masters the language through books, coming to think of *The Berenstain Bears* as her first American friends. And where there is delight to be found, Qian relishes it: her first bite of gloriously greasy pizza, weekly “shopping days,” when Qian finds small treasures in the trash lining Brooklyn’s streets, and a magical Christmas visit to Rockefeller Center—confirmation that the New York City she saw in movies does exist after all. But then Qian’s headstrong Ma Ma collapses, revealing an illness that she has kept secret for months for fear of the cost and scrutiny of a doctor’s visit. As Ba Ba retreats further inward, Qian has little to hold onto beyond his constant refrain: Whatever happens, say that you were born here, that you’ve always lived here. Inhabiting her childhood perspective with exquisite lyric clarity and unforgettable charm and strength, Qian Julie Wang has penned an essential American story about a family fracturing under the weight of invisibility, and a girl coming of age in the shadows, who never stops seeking the light.

To Londoners, the years 1840 to 1870 were years of dramatic change and achievement. As suburbs expanded and roads multiplied, London was ripped apart to build railway lines and stations and life-saving sewers. The Thames was contained by embankments, and traffic congestion was eased by the first underground railway in the world. A start was made on providing housing for the “deserving poor.” There were significant advances in medicine, and the Ragged Schools are perhaps the least known of Victorian achievements, in those last decades before universal state education. In 1851 the Great Exhibition managed to astonish almost everyone, attracting exhibitors and visitors from all over the world. But there was also appalling poverty and exploitation, exposed by Henry Mayhew and others. For the laboring classes, pay was pitifully low, the hours long, and job security nonexistent. Liza Picard shows us the physical reality of daily life in Victorian London. She takes us into schools and prisons, churches and cemeteries. Many practical innovations of the time—flushing lavatories,

underground railways, umbrellas, letter boxes, driving on the left—point the way forward. But this was also, at least until the 1850s, a city of cholera outbreaks, transportation to Australia, public executions, and the workhouse, where children could be sold by their parents for as little as £12 and streetpeddlers sold sparrows for a penny, tied by the leg for children to play with. Cruelty and hypocrisy flourished alongside invention, industry, and philanthropy.

Longlisted for the National Book Award New York Times Bestseller A former Wall Street quant sounds an alarm on the mathematical models that pervade modern life -- and threaten to rip apart our social fabric We live in the age of the algorithm. Increasingly, the decisions that affect our lives--where we go to school, whether we get a car loan, how much we pay for health insurance--are being made not by humans, but by mathematical models. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness: Everyone is judged according to the same rules, and bias is eliminated. But as Cathy O'Neil reveals in this urgent and necessary book, the opposite is true. The models being used today are opaque, unregulated, and uncontestable, even when they're wrong. Most troubling, they reinforce discrimination: If a poor student can't get a loan because a lending model deems him too risky (by virtue of his zip code), he's then cut off from the kind of education that could pull him out of poverty, and a vicious spiral ensues. Models are propping up the lucky and punishing the downtrodden, creating a "toxic cocktail for democracy." Welcome to the dark side of Big Data. Tracing the arc of a person's life, O'Neil exposes the black box models that shape our future, both as individuals and as a society. These "weapons of math destruction" score teachers and students, sort resumes, grant (or deny) loans, evaluate workers, target voters, set parole, and monitor our health. O'Neil calls on modelers to take more responsibility for their algorithms and on policy makers to regulate their use. But in the end, it's up to us to become more savvy about the models that govern our lives. This important book empowers us to ask the tough questions, uncover the truth, and demand change. -- Longlist for National Book Award (Non-Fiction) -- Goodreads, semi-finalist for the 2016 Goodreads Choice Awards (Science and Technology) -- Kirkus, Best Books of 2016 -- New York Times, 100 Notable Books of 2016 (Non-Fiction) -- The Guardian, Best Books of 2016 -- WBUR's "On Point," Best Books of 2016: Staff Picks -- Boston Globe, Best Books of 2016, Non-Fiction

From the incomparable Emmy, Grammy, and Tony Award winner, a powerful and revealing autobiography about race, sexuality, art, and healing It's easy to be yourself when who and what you are is in vogue. But growing up Black and gay in America has never been easy. Before Billy Porter was slaying red carpets and giving an iconic Emmy-winning performance in the celebrated TV show Pose; before he was the groundbreaking Tony and Grammy Award-winning star of Broadway's Kinky Boots; and before he was an acclaimed recording artist, actor, playwright, director, and all-around legend, Porter was a young boy in Pittsburgh who was seen as different, who didn't fit in. At five years old, Porter was sent to

therapy to “fix” his effeminacy. He was endlessly bullied at school, sexually abused by his stepfather, and criticized at his church. Porter came of age in a world where simply being himself was a constant struggle. Billy Porter’s *Unprotected* is the life story of a singular artist and survivor in his own words. It is the story of a boy whose talent and courage opened doors for him, but only a crack. It is the story of a teenager discovering himself, learning his voice and his craft amidst deep trauma. And it is the story of a young man whose unbreakable determination led him through countless hard times to where he is now; a proud icon who refuses to back down or hide. Porter is a multitalented, multifaceted treasure at the top of his game, and *Unprotected* is a resonant, inspirational story of trauma and healing, shot through with his singular voice.

"This book is a message from autistic people to their parents, friends, teachers, coworkers and doctors showing what life is like on the spectrum. It's also my love letter to autistic people. For too long, we have been forced to navigate a world where all the road signs are written in another language." With a reporter's eye and an insider's perspective, Eric Garcia shows what it's like to be autistic across America. Garcia began writing about autism because he was frustrated by the media's coverage of it; the myths that the disorder is caused by vaccines, the narrow portrayals of autistic people as white men working in Silicon Valley. His own life as an autistic person didn't look anything like that. He is Latino, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and works as a journalist covering politics in Washington D.C. Garcia realized he needed to put into writing what so many autistic people have been saying for years; autism is a part of their identity, they don't need to be fixed. In *We're Not Broken*, Garcia uses his own life as a springboard to discuss the social and policy gaps that exist in supporting those on the spectrum. From education to healthcare, he explores how autistic people wrestle with systems that were not built with them in mind. At the same time, he shares the experiences of all types of autistic people, from those with higher support needs, to autistic people of color, to those in the LGBTQ community. In doing so, Garcia gives his community a platform to articulate their own needs, rather than having others speak for them, which has been the standard for far too long.

Prepare for a harrowing ride through the universe by the New York Times–bestselling author of *Startide Rising* and *The Postman*. Book Three in the *Uplift Storm Trilogy* The peaceful existence of six outcast races on Jijo has ended. Ancient enemies, the Jophur, have discovered them, preparing to subject the refugees to their dark, perverted plans. The Jijoans' only hope is the same ship that accidentally led their foes to the planet. The Earthship *Streaker*, with its crew of uplifted dolphins and a human commander, must somehow lure the Jophur into a chase through space . . . into the unknown. And then into the weird. More than just the fate of Jijo—or that of distant Earth, also suffering a deadly siege—hangs in the balance. Some believe a terrifying prophecy is about to come true, one that involves *Streaker*'s trove of artifacts coveted by factions

throughout all Five Galaxies. As countless white dwarf stars verge on unexpected explosion, all sentient life in the universe appears to be at risk unless someone can save them. Praise for the Hugo and Nebula Award-winning Uplift Saga "The Uplift books are as compulsive reading as anything ever published in the genre." —The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction "An extraordinary achievement." —Poul Anderson, award-winning author of *Tau Zero*, on *Startide Rising* "An exhilarating read that encompasses everything from breathless action to finely drawn moments of quiet intimacy." —Locus on *The Uplift War* "Tremendously inventive, ambitious work." —Kirkus Reviews on *Brightness Reef*

Han Yiren: "Gu Yu, do you have a heart?"

In order to serve their own selfish needs, struggling bookstore owner Alexa and billionaire Nicholas decide to be in a loveless marriage for only a year, but things get complicated when love grows between them.

Vinn Gagliardi has everything he desires... Except for his wife! Vinn wants his estranged wife, Ailsa, back on his arm. And given that she ran out of their marriage, he's not above blackmailing her into agreeing to his plan—a temporary reunion that will end on his terms! But passionate Ailsa meets his fire with fire. Now the challenge is on for Vinn to entice her into succumbing to his scorching seduction!

The secret history of the invention that changed everything—and became the most profitable product in the world. NATIONAL BESTSELLER Shortlisted for the Financial Times Business Book of the Year Award One of the Best Business Books of 2016 - CNBC, Bloomberg, 1-800-CEO-Read "The One Device is a tour de force, with a fast-paced edge and heaps of analytical insight." -Ashlee Vance, New York Times bestselling author of *Elon Musk* "A stunning book. You will never look at your iPhone the same way again." -Dan Lyons, New York Times bestselling author of *Disrupted* Odds are that as you read this, an iPhone is within reach. But before Steve Jobs introduced us to "the one device," as he called it, a cell phone was merely what you used to make calls on the go. How did the iPhone transform our world and turn Apple into the most valuable company ever? Veteran technology journalist Brian Merchant reveals the inside story you won't hear from Cupertino-based on his exclusive interviews with the engineers, inventors, and developers who guided every stage of the iPhone's creation. This deep dive takes you from inside One Infinite Loop to 19th century France to WWII America, from the driest place on earth to a Kenyan pit of toxic e-waste, and even deep inside Shenzhen's notorious "suicide factories." It's a firsthand look at how the cutting-edge tech that makes the world work—touch screens, motion trackers, and even AI—made their way into our pockets. The One Device is a roadmap for design and engineering genius, an anthropology of the modern age, and an unprecedented view into one of the most secretive companies in history. This is the untold account, ten years in the making, of the device that changed everything.

Perfect for fans of Janet Evanovich, Jennifer Crusie, and Katie MacAlister, Elise

Sax's wickedly funny Matchmaker series proves that the road to love comes with a few dead ends. Five months have passed since Gladie Burger came to Cannes, California, to join her eccentric Grandma Zelda in the family matchmaking business, and Gladie is quickly mastering the rules of attraction. Her latest fix-up is still going strong and Gladie's bank account is back in the black—until a rival matchmaker arrives in town and has both Gladie and Zelda seeing red. Not only is self-proclaimed psychic Luanda Laughing-Eagle stealing Grandma Zelda's clients, but Zelda is convinced that Luanda's ESP is total BS. She tasks Gladie with exposing Luanda as a fraud, but Gladie's attention is diverted when murder comes a-calling. Spencer Bolton, the gorgeous chief of police and Gladie's on-again, off-again flame, wants her to stay out of the investigation—and away from the deliciously chiseled detective who also aims to win Gladie's heart. But the one thing Gladie's learned is that in business, love and murder . . . it's always personal. Praise for Elise Sax and Love Game "Elise Sax will win your heart."—New York Times bestselling author Jill Shalvis "There's plenty for fans to enjoy in Sax's third Matchmaker installment, complete with energetic narration, zany humor and a mystery that's as engaging as the details of Gladie's love life. . . . There are some exciting twists and turns here, from the explosive opening (literally) to the final surprise that will keep expectations high for future installments."—RT Book Reviews "Filled with fun, sexiness and characters who are not afraid to go after the things they want in life . . . It's not often I read something so full of irony and sarcasm, but that also has that special brand of humor that makes me chuckle while I'm reading."—Unconventional Book Reviews "Elise Sax will make you laugh. Her larger-than-life characters jump off the page and make crazy seem like a fun place to hang out."—Christie Craig, New York Times bestselling author of Texas Hold 'Em "Fans of laugh-out-loud romantic suspense will enjoy this new author as she joins the ranks of Janet Evanovich, Katie MacAlister, and Jennifer Crusie."—Booklist, on An Affair to Dismember From the Paperback edition.

**NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER •** An astonishing novel that traces the lives of a Scottish family over a decade as they confront the joys and longings, fulfillments and betrayals of love in all its guises. In June of 1989 Paul McLeod, a newspaper publisher and recent widower, travels to Greece, where he falls for a young American artist and reflects on the complicated truth about his marriage.... Six years later, again in June, Paul's death draws his three grown sons and their families back to their ancestral home. Fenno, the eldest, a wry, introspective gay man, narrates the events of this unforeseen reunion. Far from his straitlaced expatriate life as a bookseller in Greenwich Village, Fenno is stunned by a series of revelations that threaten his carefully crafted defenses.... Four years farther on, in yet another June, a chance meeting on the Long Island shore brings Fenno together with Fern Olitsky, the artist who once captivated his father. Now pregnant, Fern must weigh her guilt about the past against her wishes for the future and decide what family means to

her. In prose rich with compassion and wit, *Three Junes* paints a haunting portrait of love's redemptive powers.

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • Ali Wong's heartfelt and hilarious letters to her daughters (the two she put to work while they were still in utero) cover everything they need to know in life, like the unpleasant details of dating, how to be a working mom in a male-dominated profession, and how she trapped their dad. "Knife-sharp . . . a genuine pleasure."—The New York Times **NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY** Time • Variety • Chicago Tribune • Glamour • New York In her hit Netflix comedy special *Baby Cobra*, an eight-month pregnant Ali Wong resonated so strongly that she even became a popular Halloween costume. Wong told the world her remarkably unfiltered thoughts on marriage, sex, Asian culture, working women, and why you never see new mom comics on stage but you sure see plenty of new dads. The sharp insights and humor are even more personal in this completely original collection. She shares the wisdom she's learned from a life in comedy and reveals stories from her life off stage, including the brutal single life in New York (i.e. the inevitable confrontation with erectile dysfunction), reconnecting with her roots (and drinking snake blood) in Vietnam, tales of being a wild child growing up in San Francisco, and parenting war stories. Though addressed to her daughters, Ali Wong's letters are absurdly funny, surprisingly moving, and enlightening (and gross) for all. Praise for *Dear Girls* "Fierce, feminist, and packed with funny anecdotes."—Entertainment Weekly "[Wong] spins a volume whose pages simultaneously shock and satisfy. . . . *Dear Girls* is not so much a real-talk handbook as it is a myth-puncturing manifesto."—Vogue "[A] refreshing, hilarious, and honest account of making a career in a male-dominated field, dating, being a mom, growing up, and so much more... Yes, this book is addressed to Wong's daughters, but every reader will find nuggets of wisdom and inspiration and, most important, something to laugh at."—Bustle

When a small-town family is pushed to the brink, how far will they go to protect one of their own? An edgy, propulsive read about what we will do in the name of love and blood Tony has always looked out for his younger brother, Nick. So when he's called to a hospital bed where Nick is lying battered and bruised after a violent sexual assault, his protective instincts flare, and a white-hot rage begins to build. As a small-town New England lawyer, Tony's wife, Julia, has cases involving kids all the time. When Detective Rice gets assigned to this one, Julia feels they're in good hands. Especially because she senses that Rice, too, understands how things can quickly get complicated. Very complicated. After all, one moment Nick was having a drink with a handsome stranger; the next, he was at the center of an investigation threatening to tear not only him, but his entire family, apart. And now his attacker, out on bail, is disputing Nick's version of what happened. As Julia tries to help her brother-in-law, she sees Tony's desire for revenge, to fix things for Nick, getting out of control. Tony is starting to scare her. And before long, she finds herself asking: does she really know what her

husband is capable of? Or of what she herself is? Exploring elements of doubt, tragedy, suspense, and justice, *The Damage* is an all-consuming read that marks the explosive debut of an extraordinary new writer.

In debut author Emmy Grayson's sexy workplace romance, will the Spanish CEO be able to resist giving in to desire? He will claim her company. But can he claim her, too? Everleigh Bradford won't simply hand over control of the family vineyard she expected to inherit. She's lost too much already. If she must confront internationally renowned new owner Adrian Cabrera, she will! Even if she has to fight her red-hot response to the brooding Spaniard. Bringing Everleigh home to Grenada to prove he'll protect her heritage is essential to their working relationship—but it's dangerous. Innocent Everleigh is intoxicating. And she deserves everything that Adrian's past and his iron self-control won't let him give her. No matter how tempting it is... From Harlequin Presents: *Escape to Exotic Locations Where Passion Knows No Bounds*. Read all *The Infamous Cabrera Brothers* books: *Book 1: His Billion-Dollar Takeover Temptation*. Bennie Rosato is fighting the battle of her life -- against her own twin. The action starts innocently enough, with a stolen wallet, but in no time events escalate and the twin wreaks havoc that can be created only by a dead ringer. Her twin tries to destroy Bennie's law firm, Rosato & Associates, and then strikes at her very heart -- which just happens to be otherwise engaged by a handsome, hunky stranger with the perfect amount of chest hair. But when a brutal murder occurs, Bennie realizes that the stakes have turned deadly. And the face of evil looks like her own.

*It's Never Too Late to Top Your Personal Best*. Both a riveting account of a life spent pulling off improbable triumphs and a report back from the front of the global-energy and natural-resource wars, *The First Billion Is the Hardest* tells the story of the remarkable late-life comeback that brought the famed oilman and maverick back from bankruptcy and clinical depression. Along the way, the man often called the "Oracle of Oil" shares the insights that have made him a legend—and describes the billion-dollar bets he is now making in hopes of securing America's energy independence. "Sassy...breezes along...salted with earthy aphorisms."—*Bloomberg Businessweek* "Boone's analysis of America's energy situation is 100 percent on the money....The country should listen to him—now!" —Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway "Self-deprecating and audacious...overall, it's decidedly informative about the machinations of business." —*Dallas Morning News* "A fascinating, eye-opening book by one of America's greatest iconoclasts and entrepreneurs. Boone Pickens' sense of daring and innovation has never been sharper."—Steve Forbes, president and CEO, Forbes Inc., and editor in chief of *Forbes* magazine

There's nothing easy about apology. The news is filled with examples of leaders apologizing, needing to apologize, or failing miserably at the attempt. And certainly we all have occasion to apologize ourselves—maybe more often than we realize. But we don't need more apologies, says John Kador—we need better ones. Too many people just go through the motions, missing out on the power of apology to restore strained relationships, create possibilities for growth, and generate better outcomes for all. *Effective Apology* challenges you to think about the fundamental value and importance of apology as it delivers detailed advice for making an apology that truly heals and renews. Kador explores the Five Rs of apology: Recognize the wrong and the person harmed; accept moral Responsibility for your actions; express Remorse;

provide meaningful Restitution; and offer assurance that the offense will not be Repeated. Making apology work in the real world—when and how to apologize, in what medium, and how to make it stick—is made clear through over seventy examples of good and bad apologies drawn from the news, popular culture, and the experiences of Kador, his clients, and his friends. The willingness to apologize signals strength, character, and integrity. Effective leadership is impossible without effective apology. John Kador shows how to craft and deliver a confident apology that will defuse resentment, reduce litigation, create goodwill, and transform a relationship ruptured by mistrust and disappointment into something stronger and more durable than it ever was before.

I'm a pregnant wedding planner who has less than two weeks to throw together a real wedding for my fake relationship. Panting over the hot landscape guy at work was just a harmless diversion until the day he offered his pickup truck to transport a whole lot of leftover wedding liquor to my place. It was only polite to thank him with a few drinks afterward, right? I did not plan for what happened next: an accidental pregnancy and a baby daddy who is nothing like I thought. Landscaping was just Jack's summer job, and he's about to start medical school. He proposes a fake marriage to solve a few very real complications, and I throw together a crazy-fast wedding while we pretend to be madly in love. The only problem is, I'm not pretending. This accidental pregnancy/fake relationship romance has a strong heroine, a dreamy doctor-to-be, a couple of bridezillas, the world's most difficult Mother of the Bride, a manure-smeared femme fatale with a gunnysack full of baby pigs, and quite possibly the swooniest scene ever set in a pickup truck. This is the first book in the Babies and Brides series, a spin-off of the Small-Town Secrets.

Daniel Suarez's New York Times bestselling debut high-tech thriller is "so frightening even the government has taken note" (Entertainment Weekly). Daemons: computer programs that silently run in the background, waiting for a specific event or time to execute. They power almost every service. They make our networked world possible. But they also make it vulnerable... When the obituary of legendary computer game architect Matthew Sobol appears online, a previously dormant daemon activates, initiating a chain of events that begins to unravel our interconnected world. This daemon reads news headlines, recruits human followers, and orders assassinations. With Sobol's secrets buried with him, and as new layers of his daemon are unleashed, it's up to Detective Peter Sebeck to stop a self-replicating virtual killer before it achieves its ultimate purpose—one that goes far beyond anything Sebeck could have imagined...

An enlightening narrative exploring an oft-overlooked aspect of the sixteenth president's life, *An American Marriage* reveals the tragic story of Abraham Lincoln's marriage to Mary Todd. Abraham Lincoln was apparently one of those men who regarded "connubial bliss" as an untenable fantasy. During the Civil War, he pardoned a Union soldier who had deserted the army to return home to wed his sweetheart. As the president signed a document sparing the soldier's life, Lincoln said: "I want to punish the young man—probably in less than a year he will wish I had withheld the pardon." Based on thirty years of research, *An American Marriage* describes and analyzes why Lincoln had good reason to regret his marriage to Mary Todd. This revealing narrative shows that, as First Lady, Mary Lincoln accepted bribes and kickbacks, sold permits and pardons, engaged in extortion, and peddled influence. The reader comes to learn that Lincoln wed Mary Todd because, in all likelihood, she seduced him and then insisted that he protect her honor. Perhaps surprisingly, the 5'2" Mrs. Lincoln often physically abused her 6'4" husband, as well as her children and servants; she humiliated her husband in public; she caused him, as president, to fear that she would disgrace him publicly. Unlike her husband, she was not profoundly opposed to slavery and hardly qualifies as the "ardent abolitionist" that some historians have portrayed. While she provided a useful stimulus to his ambition, she often "crushed his spirit," as his law partner put it. In the end, Lincoln may

not have had as successful a presidency as he did—where he showed a preternatural ability to deal with difficult people—if he had not had so much practice at home.

Doomed from the start... Nikos Demakis and Cassia Andrade were married under a billion-dollar company merger contract. Nikos isn't ready to give up his playboy lifestyle, and Cassia is far from the glittering socialite that their elite circle expects. Events force them to live separate lives. Ten years later, Nikos is ready to give it all up and settle down with the wife he only sees once a year. Cassia is also ready to settle down...just not with Nikos. Will Cassia once again surrender herself to the man who scarred her forever? Or will she give up her inherited fortune to leave and never look back? Will they still be able to fulfill the terms of their billion-dollar marriage contract, when death and danger stalk them at every turn?

“A superbly researched and engagingly written biography” of NASCAR legend Curtis Turner, known as the Babe Ruth of stock car racing (Sports Illustrated). Curtis Turner’s life embodied everything that makes NASCAR the biggest spectator sport in American history; the adrenaline rush of the races, the potential for danger at every turn, and the charismatic, outrageous personality of a winner. Turner created drama at the racetrack and in his personal life, living the American Dream several times over before he died a violent and mysterious death at the age of forty-six. In gripping prose, and with access to the files of Turner’s widow, sports writer and author of NASCAR Generations Robert Edelstein offers the first complete chronicle of Turner’s life. From his days as a teenage moonshine runner in Virginia, through millions earned in fearless finance deals, to his incredible comeback after four years of being banned from the NASCAR circuit, Full Throttle lets you ride shotgun with the legend.

Amber Lawrence is an ordinary woman; she works hard, spends time with her family—and doesn't expect to be offered money to marry! Trouble is, Steve Rockwell's proposal has come at a time when Amber's family needs money.

Lillian Brunette is desperate for a job. Six months pregnant and recently divorced, she needs health insurance and an income if she's ever going to be able to take care of herself and the baby--if what happened to her first pregnancy happens again. So when her best friend tells her that the billionaire bachelor is looking for an assistant, she jumps at the opportunity to interview. Reed Williamson is trying to get over his broken heart. When he finds out that his fiancée ended up pregnant with his half-brother's baby, he's written off all relationships. Which he was doing a good job at until he finds out that in order to inherit his family's investment company, he has to be married. Out of desperation, Reed's mom puts in a call to an elite matchmaking agency to find him a contract wife. At least with that, there's no chance of falling in love. After an episode of mistaken identity, Lillian finds herself contractually obligated to marry Reed. Which is the ideal relationship for her. Faking a marriage seems easy, until she finds out that Reed is kind and incredibly handsome. And just might be what she wants in a family. If only he could accept the secret she's so desperate to hide.

Marry the girl I've had a crush on my whole life? Check. Inherit a hundred-billion-dollar company? Check. Produce an heir... Wait, what? I have ninety days to knock up my brand-new fake wife. There's only one problem—she hates my guts. And in the fine print of the contract? The requirement that we produce an heir. She can't stand to be in the same room with me. Says she'll never be in my bed. But I've never backed down from a challenge and I'm not about to start now. Mark my words—I'll have her begging for me, and it won't take ninety days. On the heels of her smash hit and New York Times bestselling SCREWED series, Kendall Ryan brings you HITCHED, a romantic comedy that delivers heart and heat. A NYC playboy turned business mogul has ninety days to win over the woman he's always desired in order to save his father's company. One tiny problem: She hates his guts.

Shortlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize Longlisted for the 2021 National Book Award for Fiction A heartrending new novel from the Pulitzer Prize-winning and #1 New York Times best-selling author of The Overstory. Named one of the Most Anticipated Books of 2021 by Newsweek, Los

Angeles Times, New York Magazine, Chicago Tribune, BuzzFeed, BookPage, Goodreads, Literary Hub, The Millions, New Statesman, and Times of London The astrophysicist Theo Byrne searches for life throughout the cosmos while single-handedly raising his unusual nine-year-old, Robin, following the death of his wife. Robin is a warm, kind boy who spends hours painting elaborate pictures of endangered animals. He's also about to be expelled from third grade for smashing his friend in the face. As his son grows more troubled, Theo hopes to keep him off psychoactive drugs. He learns of an experimental neurofeedback treatment to bolster Robin's emotional control, one that involves training the boy on the recorded patterns of his mother's brain... With its soaring descriptions of the natural world, its tantalizing vision of life beyond, and its account of a father and son's ferocious love, *Bewilderment* marks Richard Powers's most intimate and moving novel. At its heart lies the question: How can we tell our children the truth about this beautiful, imperiled planet?

My contract bride's secret... ..will change everything! My marriage to Calypso was simply business—satisfying the terms of a family arrangement. Until our unexpectedly passionate wedding night shook us both! Falling for my convenient bride was a risk I couldn't entertain. So, I left Now, after discovering the baby in Calypso's arms is mine, I will claim my son. But no longer a shy innocent, my estranged wife is stronger and even more captivating! This will be the negotiation of a lifetime with the woman who's turning my world upside down...

Can this Greek marriage go the distance? Find out in this passionate and dramatic romance by USA TODAY bestselling author Lucy Monroe! First came passion, then came vows... What comes after "I do"? Greek tycoon Andros Kristalakis knew that his white-hot whirlwind romance with Polly could end only one way—with her wearing his ring! He offered her his world of unbelievable luxury while he ruled his family's business empire. But that was all he could give. Now pregnant Polly has revealed that for the past five years she's secretly craved more! With his marriage on the line, Andros must choose—because closing the distance between himself and Polly will mean destroying the protective barriers he's long fought to keep intact... From Harlequin Presents: Escape to exotic locations where passion knows no bounds.

A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK "Chandler Baker, queen of the feminist thriller, has delivered once again! *The Husbands* is a poignant exploration of what it would take for women to have it all." —Sally Hepworth, bestselling author of *The Good Sister* To what lengths will a woman go for a little more help from her husband? Nora Spangler is a successful attorney but when it comes to domestic life, she packs the lunches, schedules the doctor appointments, knows where the extra paper towel rolls are, and designs and orders the holiday cards. Her husband works hard, too... but why does it seem like she is always working so much harder? When the Spanglers go house hunting in Dynasty Ranch, an exclusive suburban neighborhood, Nora meets a group of high-powered women—a tech CEO, a neurosurgeon, an award-winning therapist, a bestselling author—with enviably supportive husbands. When she agrees to help with a resident's wrongful death case, she is pulled into the lives of the women there. She finds the air is different in Dynasty Ranch. The women aren't hanging on by a thread. But as the case unravels, Nora uncovers a plot that may explain the secret to having-it-all. One that's worth killing for. Calling to mind a *Stepford Wives* gender-swap, New York Times bestselling author of *Whisper Network* Chandler Baker's *The Husbands* imagines a world where the burden of the "second shift" is equally shared—and what it may take to get there. "Utterly engrossing and thoroughly timely, *The Husbands* is both a gripping, well-crafted mystery and an insightful critique of motherhood and marriage in the modern age--working mothers everywhere will feel seen in the best possible way." —Kimberly McCreight, New York Times bestselling author of *A Good Marriage*

Rethinking the entire legal process of marriage, which is built upon bad laws and old traditions, this revolutionary plan makes a series of simple, yet logical, adjustments to the order and manner in which things are currently done. By shining a brilliant light upon the factors that have

caused marriage to fail and divorce rates to skyrocket, the resulting process takes on the power to dramatically increase the satisfaction level within a marriage throughout the duration of the experience. With society evolving at an unbelievable pace and new technologies giving us instant access to information, the institution of marriage is simply not keeping up, and millions of people are prevented from reaching their highest potential. By introducing the concept of "term limits" into a marriage contract, these changes and the development of individual freedoms are more widely considered in the drawing of an agreement—arguably the most important relationship a person will enter in their lifetime—that has ironically been almost void of thought at inception. The system introduced in this book examines the objectives of marriage and creates an arrangement to support, rather than undermine, those goals, at a time when the definition of marriage could not be more critical.

The Billion-Dollar Marriage Contract Createspace Independent Pub

In 1997, Charles Frazier's debut novel *Cold Mountain* made publishing history when it sailed to the top of *The New York Times* best-seller list for sixty-one weeks, won numerous literary awards, including the National Book Award, and went on to sell over three million copies. Now, the beloved American epic returns, reissued by Grove Press to coincide with the publication of Frazier's eagerly-anticipated second novel, *Thirteen Moons*. Sorely wounded and fatally disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, a Confederate soldier named Inman decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge mountains to Ada, the woman he loves. His trek across the disintegrating South brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal converse with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches, both helpful and malign. At the same time, the intrepid Ada is trying to revive her father's derelict farm and learning to survive in a world where the old certainties have been swept away. As it interweaves their stories, *Cold Mountain* asserts itself as an authentic odyssey, hugely powerful, majestically lovely, and keenly moving.

How to redeem the world's richest playboy? Marry a Cinderella! Fantastically wealthy Thanos Stathakis almost has it all. He requires just one last company to complete his empire. But to acquire it, he must counter his scandalous reputation—with a wife! His executive assistant, Alice, is the perfect choice—oh-so-respectable and in need of financial support for her family. He persuades her their vows are purely for show. Until he lifts Alice's veil and their intense, electrifying kiss complicates everything... Step into the Greek's decadent world with this emotional Cinderella story

"David Sedaris's ability to transform the mortification of everyday life into wildly entertaining art," (*The Christian Science Monitor*) is elevated to wilder and more entertaining heights than ever in this remarkable new book. Trying to make coffee when the water is shut off, David considers using the water in a vase of flowers and his chain of associations takes him from the French countryside to a hilariously uncomfortable memory of buying drugs in a mobile home in rural North Carolina. In essay after essay, Sedaris proceeds from bizarre conundrums of daily life—having a lozenge fall from your mouth into the lap of a fellow passenger on a plane or armoring the windows with LP covers to protect the house from

neurotic songbirds-to the most deeply resonant human truths. Culminating in a brilliant account of his venture to Tokyo in order to quit smoking, David Sedaris's sixth essay collection is a new masterpiece of comic writing from "a writer worth treasuring" (Seattle Times). Praise for *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*: "Older, wiser, smarter and meaner, Sedaris...defies the odds once again by delivering an intelligent take on the banalities of an absurd life." --Kirkus Reviews This latest collection proves that not only does Sedaris still have it, but he's also getting better....Sedaris's best stuff will still--after all this time--move, surprise, and entertain." --Booklist

Table of Contents: *It's Catching* *Keeping Up The Understudy* *This Old House* *Buddy, Can You Spare a Tie?* *Road Trips* *What I Learned* *That's Amore* *The Monster Mash* *In the Waiting Room* *Solutions to Saturday's Puzzle* *Adult Figures* *Charging Toward a Concrete Toadstool* *Memento Mori* *All the Beauty You Will Ever Need* *Town and Country* *Aerial* *The Man in the Hut* *Of Mice and Men* *April in Paris* *Crybaby* *Old Faithful* *The Smoking Section*

Contract and procurement fraud, collusion, and corruption are worldwide problems. Such wrongdoing causes federal, state, and local governments, as well as private-sector corporations and businesses, to lose funds and profits, while the wrongdoers unjustly benefit. Bid riggers conspire to eliminate fair and open competition and unjustly increase prices, allowing some to monopolize industries. Too often, contracting officials and others responsible for placing orders or awarding contracts compromise their integrity and eliminate fair and open competition to favor vendors offering bribes or gifts. This results in unfair playing fields for vendors and causes financial losses for businesses, government agencies, and taxpayers. Charles Piper's *Contract and Procurement Fraud and Corruption Investigation Guidebook* educates readers on fraud and corruption schemes that occur before, during, and after contracts are awarded. This book teaches not only how to identify such wrongdoing, but also how to investigate it and prevent reoccurrence. Piper shares the Piper Method of Conducting Thorough and Complete Investigations, his innovative and proven method of investigating contract and procurement fraud, and demonstrates its principles with personal, on-the-job examples (which he calls "War Stories") woven throughout the text. Intended for criminal justice students, as well as investigators, auditors, examiners, business owners, policy-makers, and other professionals potentially affected by fraud, this book is a must-read guide to effective procurement and contract fraud investigations from inception to testimony.

From New York Times bestselling author Eleanor Henderson comes a turbulent love story meets harrowing medical mystery: the true story of the author's twenty-year marriage defined by her husband's chronic illness—and a testament to the endurance of love Eleanor met Aaron when she was just a teenager and he was working at a local record store—older, experienced, and irresistibly charming. Escaping the clichés of fleeting young love, their summer romance bloomed into

a relationship that survived college and culminated in a marriage and two children. From the outside looking in, their life had all the trappings of what most would consider a success story. But, as in any marriage, things weren't always as they seemed. On top of the typical stresses of parenting, money, and work, there were the untended wounds of depression, addiction, and childhood trauma. And then one day, out of nowhere: a rash appeared on Aaron's arms. Soon, it had morphed into painful lesions covering his body. Eleanor was as baffled as the doctors. There was no obvious diagnosis, let alone a cure. And as years passed and the lesions gave way to Aaron's increasingly disturbed concerns about the source of his sickness, the husband she loved seemed to unravel before her eyes. A new fissure ruptured in their marriage, and new questions piled onto old ones: Where does physical illness end and mental illness begin? Where does one person end and another begin? And how do we exist alongside someone else's suffering? Emotional, intimate, and at times agonizing, *Everything I Have Is Yours* tells the story of a marriage tested by powerful forces outside both partners' control. It's not only a memoir of a wife's tireless quest to heal her husband, but also one that asks just what it means to accept someone as they are.

In the third novel of this bestselling series from, London investigator Maisie Dobbs faces grave danger as she returns to the site of her most painful WWI memories to resolve the mystery of a pilot's death. A deathbed plea from his wife leads Sir Cecil Lawton to seek the aid of Maisie Dobbs, psychologist and investigator. As Maisie soon learns, Agnes Lawton never accepted that her aviator son was killed in the Great War, a torment that led her not only to the edge of madness but to the doors of those who practice the dark arts and commune with the spirit world. In accepting the assignment, Maisie finds her spiritual strength tested, as well as her regard for her mentor, Maurice Blanche. The mission also brings her together once again with her college friend Priscilla Evernden, who served in France and who lost three brothers to the war—one of whom, it turns out, had an intriguing connection to the missing Ralph Lawton. Following on the heels of Jacqueline Winspear's triumphant *Birds of a Feather*, *PARDONABLE LIES* is the most compelling installment yet in the chronicles of Maisie Dobbs, "a heroine to cherish" (Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*).

In this volume of 15 articles, contributors from a wide range of disciplines present their analyses of Disney movies and Disney music, which are mainstays of popular culture. The power of the Disney brand has heightened the need for academics to question whether Disney's films and music function as a tool of the Western elite that shapes the views of those less empowered. Given its global reach, how the Walt Disney Company handles the role of race, gender, and sexuality in social structural inequality merits serious reflection according to a number of the articles in the volume. On the other hand, other authors argue that Disney productions can help individuals cope with difficult situations or embrace

progressive thinking. The different approaches to the assessment of Disney films as cultural artifacts also vary according to the theoretical perspectives guiding the interpretation of both overt and latent symbolic meaning in the movies. The authors of the 15 articles encourage readers to engage with the material, showcasing a variety of views about the good, the bad, and the best way forward. NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER “A masterful book.” —Marc Levinson, The Washington Post “A juicy tour of the company Bezos built.”—The New York Times Book Review From the bestselling author of *The Everything Store*, an unvarnished picture of Amazon’s unprecedented growth and its billionaire founder, Jeff Bezos, revealing the most important business story of our time. Almost ten years ago, Bloomberg journalist Brad Stone captured the rise of Amazon in his bestseller *The Everything Store*. Since then, Amazon has expanded exponentially, inventing novel products like Alexa and disrupting countless industries, while its workforce has quintupled in size and its valuation has soared to well over a trillion dollars. Jeff Bezos’s empire, once housed in a garage, now spans the globe. Between services like Whole Foods, Prime Video, and Amazon’s cloud computing unit, AWS, plus Bezos’s ownership of The Washington Post, it’s impossible to go a day without encountering its impact. We live in a world run, supplied, and controlled by Amazon and its iconoclast founder. In *Amazon Unbound*, Brad Stone presents a deeply reported, vividly drawn portrait of how a retail upstart became one of the most powerful and feared entities in the global economy. Stone also probes the evolution of Bezos himself—who started as a geeky technologist totally devoted to building Amazon, but who transformed to become a fit, disciplined billionaire with global ambitions; who ruled Amazon with an iron fist, even as he found his personal life splashed over the tabloids. Definitive, timely, and revelatory, Stone has provided an unvarnished portrait of a man and company that we couldn’t imagine modern life without.

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