TABLE OF CONTENTS

Counterpoint New Titles .................................................. 2
Counterpoint Newly Reissued............................................. 12
Counterpoint New in Paperback......................................... 14
NEW TITLES

COUNTERPOINT
SCARLETT THOMAS was born in London in 1972. Her other novels include *The Seed Collectors*, *PopCo*, *The End of Mr. Y*, which was long-listed for the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction in 2007; and *Our Tragic Universe*. She teaches creative writing at the University of Kent.

Praise for Scarlett Thomas and *The Seed Collectors*

“Thomas has a gift for interior monologues that flow steadily and easily, carrying you through a character’s mental landscape, full of vivid imagery and digressions that flirt with spinning out of control but never quite go too far.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“*The Seed Collectors* is entrancing: it’s a sharply observed contemporary novel of real people and real plants and real desire and real hurt, and it’s somehow also one of the sharpest fantasies I’ve encountered. A sour-and-sweet delight.”

—Neil Gaiman, author of *American Gods*

“A smart and witty family drama, taking in secrets, sex, suicide, celebrity and the meaning of life.”

—*Glamour*

“A weird, wonderful, and often wickedly funny family mini-saga . . . Bold, charming and inventive.”

—*The Boston Globe*

“Thomas succeeds in creating a funny yet poignant tale that is as much about yearning for connection as it is about seeking enlightenment. Kudos to her for penning a splendid novel that blends botany, philosophy, and mystery.”

—*Library Journal* (starred review)

“[A] hyperbolic, raunchy, hilarious immersion in the connected lives of some intensely imperfect people . . . Thomas is a literary star in the United Kingdom. She should be in the United States, too.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

It’s already the second week of term when Natasha, the daughter of a Russian oligarch, arrives at a vast English country house for her first day of boarding school. She soon discovers that the headmaster gives special treatment to the skinniest girls, and Natasha finds herself thrown into the school’s unfamiliar, moneyed world of fierce pecking orders, eating disorders, and Instagram angst. When her friend Bianca mysteriously vanishes, the world of the school gets ever darker and stranger.

The halls echo with the story of Princess Augusta, the White Lady whose portraits—featuring a hypnotizing black diamond—hang everywhere. She fell in love with a commoner and drowned herself in the lake, and her ghost is said to haunt the dorms. But the girls don’t really know anything about the woman she was, much less anything about one another.

Hilariously dark, *Oligarchy* is *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* for the digital age. Scarlett Thomas captures the lives of privileged teenage girls seeking to be loved and accepted in all their triviality and magnitude. With the help of her diet-obsessed classmates, Tash must try to stay alive—and sane—while she uncovers what’s really going on.
AMERICAN MANIFESTO

Saving Democracy from Villains, Vandalas, and Ourselves

BOB GARFIELD

Do you fear for our democracy? Are you perplexed by Trumpism? Are you ready to throw in the towel? Don’t! This is your guidebook to reassembling our hyperpolarized American society, written by cohost of WNYC’s On the Media Bob Garfield.

As is often observed, Trump is a symptom of a virus that has been incubating for at least fifty years. But not often observed is where the virus is imbedded: in the psychic core of our identity. In American Manifesto: Saving Democracy from Villains, Vandalas, and Ourselves, Bob Garfield examines the tragic confluence of the American preoccupation with identity and the catastrophic disintegration of the mass media. Garfield investigates how we’ve gotten to this moment when our identity is threatened by both the left and the right, when e pluribus unum is no longer a source of national pride, and why, when looking through this lens of identity, the rise of Trumpism is no surprise. Overlaying that crisis is the rise of the Facebook-Google duopoly and the filter-bubble archipelago where identity is tribal and immutable.

But fear not! WNYC’s On the Media cohost Garfield has ideas about how we may counter the forces of fragmentation—the manifesto itself: six steps to take to reassemble our fractured society. A quick, fascinating read, American Manifesto offers not only a vision “of a country in extremis,” but also a plan for how to address the ways in which our democracy is imperiled. American Manifesto is a call to action, unmistakable and provocative.

BOB GARFIELD is the cohost of public radio’s weekly Peabody Award–winning On the Media and has been a globally prominent media and advertising critic for three decades. He is also the founding cohost of Slate’s podcast on language, Lexicon Valley. Garfield has been a columnist or contributing editor for The Washington Post Magazine, The Guardian, and the op-ed page of USA Today. He has also written for The New York Times, Playboy, The Atlantic, Sports Illustrated, and Wired. He lives in the Washington, D.C., area.

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@bobosphere

Praise for Bob Garfield

“Garfield has a keen eye for the sweet absurdity and pathos of the American dreamer.”
—The New York Times Book Review

“[Bob Garfield] is irreverent, funny and tough.”
—USA Today

© Matthew Septimus
For fans of The Feather Thief, a page-turning true crime history of how a liar, bigamist, and fraudulent priest took in some of the brightest minds of his generation

One day in November 1958, the celebrated historian Hugh Trevor-Roper received a curious letter. It was an appeal for help, written on behalf of a student at Magdalen College, with the unlikely claim that he was being persecuted by the Bishop of Oxford. Curiosity piqued, Trevor-Roper agreed to a meeting. It was to be his first encounter with Robert Parkin Peters: plagiarist, bigamist, fraudulent priest, and imposter extraordinaire.

The Professor and the Parson traces the strange career of one of Britain’s most eccentric criminals. Motivated not by money but by a desire for prestige, Peters lied, stole, and cheated his way to academic positions and religious posts from Cambridge to New York, Singapore, and South Africa. Frequently deported, and even more frequently discovered, he left a trail of destruction including seven marriages (three of which were bigamous), an investigation by the FBI, and a disastrous appearance on Mastermind.

Based on Trevor-Roper’s own detailed “file on Peters,” The Professor and the Parson is a witty and charming account of eccentricity, extraordinary narcissism, and a life as wild and unlikely as any in fiction.
Nature Matrix is a gathering of some of Robert Michael Pyle’s most significant, original, and timely expressions of a life immersed in the natural world, in all its splendor, power, and peril. Nature Matrix: New and Selected Essays contains sixteen pieces that encompass the philosophy, ethic, and aesthetic of Robert Michael Pyle as a writer and biologist. Drawn from the natural history of human beings and other life-forms, the essays range from Pyle’s experience as a young national park ranger in the Sierra Nevada to the streets of Manhattan; from the suburban jungle to the tangles of the written word; and from the phenomenon of Bigfoot to that of the Big Year—a personal exercise in extreme birding and butterflying. They include deep profiles of John Jacob Astor I and Vladimir Nabokov, as well as excursions into damaged Edens with children, teachers, writers, and rockers.

The nature of real wilderness in modern times comes under Pyle’s lens, as does reconsideration of his trademark concept, “the extinction of experience”—maybe the greatest threat of alienation from the living world that we face today.

Nature Matrix shows a way back toward possible integration with the world, as it plumbs the range and depth of experience in one lucky life lived in close connection to the physical earth and its denizens. This collection brings together the thoughts and hopes of one of our most widely read and respected natural philosophers as he seeks to summarize a life of conservation.

Robert Michael Pyle is a biologist and writer who has worked in conservation biology around the world. His twenty-two books include Wintergreen, Where Bigfoot Walks, Mariposa Road, three collections of poetry, the novel Magdalena Mountain, and a flight of butterfly books. Founder of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, he was recently named an honorary life fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. Pyle lives, writes, and studies natural history in rural southwest Washington.
VERA VIOLET
A Novel

MELISSA ANNE PETERSON

Debut novelist Melissa Anne Peterson's voice is powerful, her vision unflinching. Set against the backdrop of a decaying Pacific Northwest lumber town, Vera Violet explores themes of poverty, violence, and environmental degradation as played out in the young lives of a group of close-knit friends. Vera Violet recounts the dark story of a rough group of teenagers growing up in a twisted rural logging town. There are no jobs. There is no sense of safety. But there is a small group of loyal friends, a truck waiting with the engine running, a pair of boots covered in blood, and a hot 1911 with a pearl pistol grip.

Vera Violet O’Neely’s home is in the Pacific Northwest—not the glamorous scene of coffee bars and craft beers, but the hardscrabble region of busted pickups and broken dreams. Vera’s mother has left, her father is unstable, and her brother is deeply troubled. Against this gritty background, Vera struggles to establish a life of her own, a life fortified by her friends and her hard-won love. But the relentless poverty coupled with the twin lures of crystal meth and easy money soon shatter fragile alliances.

Her world violently torn apart, Vera is forced to leave everything behind and move to St. Louis, Missouri. She settles into a job at an inner-city school where she encounters the same disarray of community. And alone in her small apartment, Vera grieves. She thinks about her family and the love of her life, Jimmy James Blood. In this brilliant, explosive debut, Melissa Anne Peterson establishes herself as a fresh, raw voice, a writer to be reckoned with.

MELISSA ANNE PETERSON grew up in a rainy working-class logging town in Washington State. She received a BA and BS in writing and biology from The Evergreen State College and an MS from the University of Montana. She has worked in endangered species recovery in Washington and Montana for twelve years. Her writing has been published by Camas, Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment, Oregon Quarterly, and Seal Press.

www.melissaannepeterson.com

© Walter Ferguson

MelAnnePeterson
melpetersonwriter
DEATH AND THE BUTTERFLY
A Novel

COLIN HESTER

London, England, September 1940. Thirteen-year-old Susan McEwan and her older brother, Phillip—himself a pilot—witness firsthand the initial Nazi bombing of civilian London. Weeks later, Phillip’s Sunderland is shot down, and his family is wordlessly devastated.

Toronto, Canada, the early 1980s. As a young couple struggles to survive the Reagan recession, the husband, Alexander Polo, is forced to take a job as a paperboy. When the wife, Julie, is expectant, Polo must now confront his future head-on and heart open.

Montana, the first days of September 2001. In the midst of his wedding and 9/11, Jack Riordan discovers a magazine story written by Polo about Susan and airplanes and her love of the poems of Pablo Neruda.

With humor and empathy, Colin Hester explores how Susan, Polo, and Jack carry on—grieving the death of a child or the end of a marriage—in deeply felt and beautifully imagined prose. Hester’s intricate and sweeping multigenerational novel, Death and the Butterfly, follows a cast of interconnected characters through life’s endless heartbreak and enduring love.

“A knowing ride through the rough country of a young man’s broken heart.”
—Publishers Weekly

“Original, quirky, impressive . . . [An] audacious debut.”
—Kirkus Reviews

Praise for Diamond Sutra

“Heartfelt and evocative.”
—Newsday

“A wonderful read . . . A true house of cards in which you fall, like Alice, through scene after scene. It’s a fall from grace through horror into a grace more simple. And after the house of cards tumbles, we are left alone, awake, and alive.”
—William Kittredge, author of The Willow Field

“Like a dream that leaves you trembling for hours, Diamond Sutra is by turns frightening, sexy, edgy, fantastic, and at its center deeply courageous and true. Colin Hester tells a story like a magician and writes like he’s lit from within.”
—Pam Houston, author of Deep Creek

A sweeping multigenerational story centered around endless heartbreak and enduring love

FEBRUARY · Fiction · $26.00 · Hardcover · Ebook
Available · World Rights: Counterpoint · All Other Rights: Baldi Agency · 9781640093256 · 208 pages
5.5” x 8.25”

www.colinletcher.com

COLIN HESTER is a British-born former student of Zen and former thirty-year-old paperboy. The author of Diamond Sutra, Hester has taught writing at Central Washington University, the University of Montana, and the University of Colorado. He lives just north of Seattle with his British-born wife, Susan, and his U.S.-born cat.
McClanahan crafts his coming-of-age tales with comic wit and refreshing honesty, inviting readers to relive the memories that shaped his character and career—from hilarious childhood antics in small-town Kentucky to eye-opening adventures on the West Coast. 

Not Even Immortality Lasts Forever is a vivid retelling of Ed McClanahan’s life, from his early years growing up in rural northeastern Kentucky to his departure for the West Coast in pursuit of a writing career. He shares vivid moments—from perilous swimming lessons in the Ohio River to his budding friendship with Ken Kesey—with enthusiasm, enlivening each story with narration that is both profoundly reflective and hilariously self-aware. Jovial, lighthearted, and unapologetic, Not Even Immortality Lasts Forever illuminates the value of the rural American mundane and the everyday moments that shape us.

McClanahan begins in his hometown of Brooksville, Kentucky, and chaos ensues as events from his childhood unfold. As a young adult, he grapples with the challenges of establishing himself as a writer, eventually leaving Kentucky to seek new prospects in California and Oregon. It is there that he is introduced to inspirational mentors and lifelong friends, among them Robert Stone, Larry McMurtry, and Neal Cassady.

McClanahan skillfully encapsulates the setting and situations as seen through the eyes of his younger self, while offering poignant reflections on his sources of creative inspiration, entrenched traditions, and family ties. He crafts a playful and engrossing narrative that could almost be mistaken for fiction.
10

GUY DAVENPORT (1927–2005) was born in South Carolina and lived for more than forty years in Lexington, Kentucky, where he died in 2005. The author of more than twenty books, including *The Geography of the Imagination*, *Eclogues*, and *The Death of Picasso*, he was also a distinguished professor at the University of Kentucky and a MacArthur Fellow in 1990.

BENJAMIN URRUTIA is a teacher, linguist, and scholar who has published numerous articles about biblical subjects. Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, he served for a time in the Israeli Army and now resides in Chicago.

Image credit: Hans Memling, *Christ Giving His Blessing* (1478), Courtesy of the Norton Simon Art Foundation, Pasadena, CA
LIFTING BELLY
An Erotic Poem

GERTRUDE STEIN

What is it when it’s upset. It isn’t in the room. Moonlight and darkness. Sleep and not sleep. We sleep every night.
What was it.
I said lifting belly.
You didn’t say it.
I said I mean lifting belly.
Don’t misunderstand me.
Do you.
Do you lift everybody in that way.
No.
You are to say No.
Lifting belly.
How are you.
Lifting belly how are you lifting belly.
We like a fire and we don’t mind if it smokes.
Do you.

—From Lifting Belly

Fragmentary, unabashed, erotic—Lifting Belly is a singular lesbian love poem from modernist Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) that lays bare desire and easy intimacy.

GERTRUDE STEIN (1874–1946) was an American Jewish writer, poet, and art collector who spent most of her life in France. Her body of work includes Three Lives, Tender Buttons, The Making of Americans, and The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas. Not only was she an innovator in literature and a supporter of modern poetry and art, she was the friend and mentor of those who visited her at her now-famous home: Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Jean Cocteau, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sherwood Anderson, and Guillaume Apollinaire.
BEAUTY IS CONVULSIVE
The Passion of Frida Kahlo

CAROLE MASO

“An utter original, one of the true and plangent voices in American writing.”
—Mary Gordon, author of There Your Heart Lies

A vibrant series of prose poems from beloved author Carole Maso is now available in paperback for the first time. Originally published in 2002, Beauty Is Convulsive is a passionate meditation on one of the twentieth century’s most compelling artists, Frida Kahlo (1907–1954).

At the age of nineteen, Kahlo’s life was transformed when the bus in which she was riding was hit by a trolley car. Pierced through by a steel handrail and broken in many places, she entered a long period of convalescence during which she began to paint self-portraits. At twenty-one, she joined the Communist party and soon entered into a tumultuous marriage with the famous muralist Diego Rivera.

Maso wrote after reading Kahlo’s diary, “I was struck not only by her last images, but by the power of her language: hallucinatory, dream-ridden, desperate, tender, written at her most vulnerable and open and perhaps most furious. I wanted in some way to be close to it—that trembling, defiant, beautiful, vibrant, wholly living page.” The resulting book is typical Maso—vigorous, always daring, thoroughly original. She brings together pieces from Kahlo’s biography, her letters, medical documents, and her diaries to assemble a text that is as erotic, mysterious, and colorful as one of Kahlo’s paintings.

December · Biography · Paperback · 9781640092518
$16.95 · 192 pages · 5.5” x 8.25” · Ebook Available
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Praise for Beauty Is Convulsive

“Maso, a highly original writer, distills her contemplation of Kahlo’s indelible paintings and vital diaries and letters into a supple, discerning, and haunting prose poem . . . Maso’s spare yet lyric tribute, a genuine communion, is a welcome antidote to the mawkishness and sensationalism that is starting to blur our appreciation for Kahlo’s pioneering art and incandescent spirit.”
—Booklist

“Maso’s incantatory description of her conjured-up subject’s embrace takes on extraordinary power . . . Like Frida Kahlo’s painting—impossible to look away from.”
—Kai Maristed, Los Angeles Times

“There’s been more than enough written on Kahlo to fill bookstore display tables. This . . . may be one of the best.”
—Publishers Weekly

CAROLE MASO is the author of ten books: Ghost Dance, The Art Lover, A VA, The American Woman in the Chinese Hat, Defiance, Aureole, Break Every Rule, The Room Lit by Roses, Beauty Is Convulsive, and Mother & Child. She has received numerous awards, including the Berlin Prize and the Lannan Literary Fellowship for Fiction. Maso is currently a professor of English at Brown University.
NEW IN PAPERBACK
COUNTERPOINT
THE ATLAS OF REDS AND BLUES
A Novel

DEVI S. LASKAR

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“If The Atlas of Reds and Blues and the lyric, thematic and structural care the author has lent it are an experiment, then it is certainly a successful one.”
—Ilana Masad, The Washington Post

“As narratively beautiful as it is brutal . . . I’ve never read a novel that does nearly as much in so few pages.”
—Kiese Laymon, author of Heavy

“Laskar’s bravura drama of one woman pushed to the brink by racism is at once sharply relevant and tragically timeless.”
—Booklist (starred review)

THE LOST PRINCE
A Search for Pat Conroy

MICHAEL MEWSHAW

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“Anyone who has lost a friend can relate to this compassionate but no-holds-barred memoir by Michael Mewshaw about his complicated relationship with Pat Conroy.”
—Suzanne Van Atten, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

“A fluidly written, fascinating book about Michael Mewshaw and Pat Conroy caught in the crossbeams of past and present, fated to overlap, bond, retreat, and then—as Mewshaw clearly hopes—to unite in a different configuration a final time.”
—Ann Beattie, author of The Accomplished Guest
HITLER’S PAWN
The Boy Assassin and the Holocaust

STEPHEN KOCH

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“In a work of fact that reads like fiction, with a novelist’s relish for incident and character, [Koch] brings his troubled, troubling protagonist to life.”
— Ian Brunskill, The Wall Street Journal

“In Koch’s new book, Hitler’s Pawn, he tells Grynszpan’s incredible life story, including how the young man sussed out the Germans’ bizarre scheme and mounted his own private resistance to serving as their pawn.”
— CrimeReads

THE WISH CHILD
A Novel

CATHERINE CHIDGEY

DECEMBER • Fiction • Paperback • 9781640092679 • $16.95 • 384 pages
5.5” x 8.25” • Ebook Available • U.S. Rights: Counterpoint • All Other Rights: United Agents

“Fans of The Book Thief will be drawn to Catherine Chidgey’s haunting WWII novel.”
— Refinery29

“This beautifully written, vivid picture of one of the darkest times in human history, already an international best-seller, also may serve as a cautionary tale for today.”
— Booklist (starred review)

“Chidgey’s controlled revelation of the identity of her shadowy narrator gradually illuminates the true horrors endured by the rest of the characters in this devastating work.”
— Kirkus Reviews (starred review)
STILL IN LOVE
A Novel
MICHAEL DOWNING
JANUARY • Fiction • Paperback • 9781640093409 • $16.95 • 208 pages
5.5" x 8.25" • Ebook Available • World English Rights: Counterpoint • All Other Rights: Brandt & Hochman Literary Agents, Inc.

“By means both wry and warm, Michael Downing elucidates the meaning of the classroom—its space for reflection, rumination, and pause—in a world that doesn’t seem to be stopping.”
—Melissa Broder, author of The Pisces

“Downing’s witty follow-up to Perfect Agreement satisfyingly transports readers to college . . . Downing poignantly illustrates the dynamics of the college classroom as well as its potential for lasting lessons, making for a resonant campus novel.”
—Publishers Weekly

THE TIME HAS COME
Why Men Must Join the Gender Equality Revolution
MICHAEL KAUFMAN
JANUARY • Social Science/Activism • Paperback • 9781640093393 • $16.95
272 pages • 5.5" x 8.25" • Ebook Available • World Rights: Counterpoint Rights Sold: House of Anansi (Canadian), XYZ (French), Bada (Korean) All Other Rights: Julia Lord Literary Management

“Through personal stories, insights gleaned from decades of working to end gender-based violence, and practical advice for those men ready to step up to the plate, Kaufman has produced a special book. It will be an important guide to the many men now seeking ways to stop violence against women, to create a more nurturing and loving culture for all.”
—Judy Norsigian, cofounder of Our Bodies Ourselves

“The Time Has Come is critically important for our time and required reading for us all. I had a hard time putting it down—it’s a great book.”
—Rosanna Arquette, Emmy-nominated actor