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**RESTLESS  
BOOKS**

**Fall  
2024**





RESTLESS  
BOOKS

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restlessbooks.org

bit.ly/RestlessNewsletter

### MISSION

Restless Books is an independent, nonprofit publisher devoted to championing essential voices from around the world whose stories speak to us across linguistic and cultural borders.

Through cultural programming, we aim to celebrate immigrant writing and bring literature to underserved communities. We believe that immigrant stories are a vital component of our cultural consciousness; they help to ensure awareness of our communities, build empathy for our neighbors, and strengthen our democracy.

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### SUPPORT US

As an independent nonprofit publisher, Restless Books relies on our readers' and partners' generosity to continue our work. Your support enables us to discover and promote extraordinary authors from around the world, to champion perspectives that defy the familiar, and to take risks in our editorial choices, choosing to highlight works of global and literary value over market trends.

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**Restless Books gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations for our 2024 titles:**

FILI

Institut Français

Hellenic Ministry of Culture

LTI Korea

Cultural Endowment of Estonia



Council on  
the Arts

Cover Design by Sarah Schulte

† In memoriam.

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# Letter from the Publisher

Restless has two essential missions: first, the publication of superb books from voices around the globe; and second, a variety of programs and education efforts that help readers, including those from underrepresented communities, to open those books.

Our small staff has been busy with book events since the start of the year, including translator tours for Louis Timagène Houat’s landmark anti-slavery novel, *The Maroons*, and for Kim Hye-jin’s new South Korean novel, *Counsel Culture*. In April, Kuwaiti author Bothayna Al-Essa appeared on the Fabulous 413 radio show to talk with Monte Belmonte and Kaliis Smith about her forthcoming novel *The Book Censor’s Library*, and, of course, the global threat of book censorship. Likewise, our programming front is vigorous. For seven years we’ve collaborated with libraries in New York and Massachusetts on our monthly series “Reading the Classics,” drawing hundreds of participants from across the United States and abroad.

Restless also partners with the New York Public Library for our Immigrant Writing Workshop, designed to help aspiring immigrant authors hone their craft. And after a COVID-related hiatus, Classics Behind Bars will relaunch this fall with a course for incarcerated individuals on Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. The next three-session Immigrant Writing Workshop, also done in partnership with the New York Public Library and designed for emerging immigrant writers, will take place in May and June. It generally enrolls between 15 and 20 participants. There is already a waiting list for it.

Although Restless Books is small in size, it dreams big. Ours is a perilous time defined by racial and political strife, violent language, and general distrust of public figures and mass media. Against these behemoths, literature always looks small, not to say fragile. Yet it is through literature that we are able to recognize those who are different from us, allowing them the space other arenas refuse to offer.

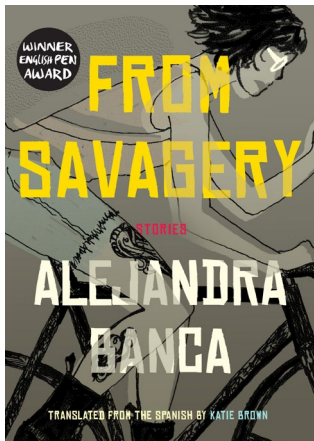
Independent presses are vital for critical thinking. Every book purchase and donation goes into the publication and dissemination of our books, and to the community programs devoted to opening those books. I hope you will *translate* (yes, I use the word deliberately) your appreciation for global literature into a financial donation that will give us the means to continue this essential work. It is vital that endeavors like this exist in our democratic ecosystem—indeed, our democracy depends on it.

Visit [restlessbooks.org/donate](https://restlessbooks.org/donate) to support us financially. You can also join the Restless Readers Club: for only \$10 per month you receive the finest new literature from around the world, or give the gift of reading to a fellow book-lover. Visit [restlessbooks.org/restless-readers-club](https://restlessbooks.org/restless-readers-club) to learn more.

Un placer,  
Illan Stavans

# Fall 2024 FRONTLIST





Paperback List Price: US \$17.00  
 ISBN: 9781632063588  
 Publication: Aug 27, 2024  
 5" x 7.125" • 268 pages  
 Fiction / Short Stories  
 Rights: North America + Philippines,  
 Audio

- EXPLORATION OF LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY:** *From Savagery* explores the meaning of immigration through the stories of Nanda, Cheo, María Eugenia, Nacho, and others by vividly portraying their triumphs and challenges. Facing a new country and a new language (Catalan), each character confronts multiple new barriers and realities in coming to terms with their identities.
- BANCA'S FICTION DEBUT IN ENGLISH:** The collection of short stories is Alejandra Banca's first publication, and Katie Brown's translation will capture the attention of U.S. readers for its fresh language and minute attention to language and detail that flows effortlessly throughout the stories.

## *From Savagery*

Alejandra Banca

Translated from the Spanish by Katie Brown

**Electric, defiant, and singing with melancholia, Alejandra Banca's devastating debut throws its arms around a displaced generation of young Venezuelan migrants, reveling in the clamor and beauty of their day-by-day survival.**

Below the rooftops of Barcelona's historic avenues, in the shadow of the Sagrada Família and its fleet of construction cranes, thrums a vital pulse: meal-delivery riders, sex workers, strung-out artists, anti-capitalist squatters, undocumented shopgirls, fledgling drug dealers, and a thousand more lives that cross and knit together at the lowest level of Spain's urban tumult. The young expats of these stories careen through crowded streets, nightclubs, and dating apps with a devil-may-care abandon that belies their precarious circumstances. Tragedy will erupt and then ebb in an instant, receding in the rearview like a roadside collision and haunting those that push on. Running on fumes and paltry tips, Banca's beleaguered characters race along a knife's edge and find unexpected solace in moments of shared vulnerability—a knowing thread that unites these strangers in a strange land.

In this English PEN Award–winning translation by Katie Brown, *From Savagery* announces Alejandra Banca as a resplendent and masterful new voice in Latin American literature—one that will take readers by storm.

*“From Savagery speaks to the indomitable, rebellious existences of the flowers in the garden of an uninhabited house. These realities are characterized by their savagery, pain, and beauty as they continue to blossom despite the difficult circumstances that have plagued Venezuela in the last two decades.”*

—Andrea Sofía Crespo Madrid, author of *Tuétano*

**ALEJANDRA BANCA** was born in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1994. She earned a B.A. from Andrés Bello Catholic University in 2016 and made her debut in 2021 with two poems in *UBICUO*, published by Lecturas de arraigo. Her poems were published in the third edition of *Anthropología de fuego* (2022) and she received a digital publication mention in the Venezuelan poetry contest Ecos de la Luz, both from Ediciones Palíndromus. *From Savagery* is her first work of fiction.

# The Trial of Anna Thalberg

Eduardo Sangarcía

Translated from the Spanish by Elizabeth Bryer

**Does evil lurk in the shadows of the forest, or in the human heart? Eduardo Sangarcía's tale of one woman's witch trial opens the door to deeper horrors.**

Anna Thalberg is a peasant woman shunned for her red hair and provocative beauty. When she is dragged from her home and accused of witchcraft, her neighbors do not intervene. Only Klaus, Anna's husband, and Father Friedrich, a priest experiencing a crisis of faith, set out to the city of Würzburg to prove her innocence. There, Anna faces isolation and torture inside the prison tower, while the populace grows anxious over strange happenings within the city walls. Can Klaus and Friedrich convince the church to release Anna, or will she burn at the stake?

Set in the Holy Roman Empire during the Protestant Reformation, *The Trial of Anna Thalberg* is a story of religious persecution, superstition, and human suffering. While exploring the medieval fear of witches and demons, it delves into enduring human concerns: the historical oppression of women, the inhumanity of institutions, and the question of God's existence. Frantic in pace and experimental in form, this is an unforgettable debut from Mexican author Eduardo Sangarcía.

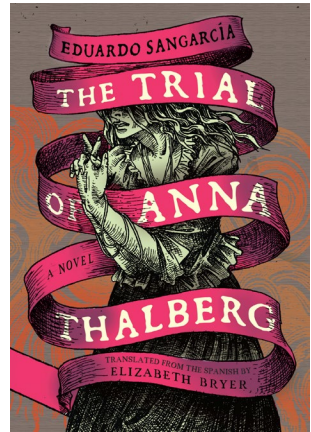
"A marvelous work that challenges the reader on multiple levels and communicates directly with our present."

— **Cristina Rivera Garza**, author of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize-Winning *Liliana's Invincible Summer*

"A novel that can be read with great emotion and great suspense, written with impressive formal virtuosity."

— **Fernanda Melchor**, author of *Hurricane Season*

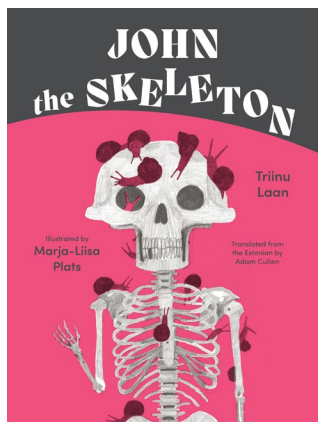
**EDUARDO SANGARCÍA** is the author of the short story collection *El desconocido del Meno*, which was awarded the prestigious Premio Nacional de Cuento Joven Comala 2017, and of the novel *The Trial of Anna Thalberg*, winner of the Mauricio Achar Award 2020. Sangarcía lives in Guadalajara and is studying for a PhD in Humanities with a specialization on Latin American literature of the Holocaust.



Hardcover List Price: US \$17.00  
ISBN: 9781632063731  
Publication: September 10, 2024  
5" x 7.125" • 176 pages

Historical Fiction / Gothic Horror  
/ Supernatural / Paranormal /  
Women's Fiction / Magical Realism /  
Religion / Germany / Reformation  
Rights Held: North America, Audio  
eBook ISBN: 9781632063748

- **ENGLISH DEBUT OF A PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR:** Eduardo Sangarcía has published one collection of short stories and one novel, both of which have received prizes in Mexico. *The Trial of Anna Thalberg* is his first work to be published in English.
- **HISTORICAL AND LITERARY HORROR:** A political and psychological thriller that is firmly grounded in historical detail, the novel paints a vivid and brutal portrait of life during the Protestant Reformation. Through its stark depiction of oppressive institutions, violence against women, and existential concerns, the story speaks across the centuries to contemporary anxieties.



Hardcover List Price: US \$19.95  
 ISBN: 9781632063700  
 Publication: October 1, 2024  
 190mm x 255mm • 64 pages  
 Children's Fiction—Picture Book /  
 Estonia / Family / Aging  
 Rights Held: World English, Audio  
 eBook ISBN: 9781632063717

- AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR:**  
 Triinu Laan was awarded the 2021 Tartu Prize for Children's Literature and nominated for the 2023 Latvian Children's, Young Adults' and Parents' Jury, as well as the 2020 Annual Children's Literature Award of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia.
- STUNNING ILLUSTRATIONS BRING THE STORY TO LIFE:**  
 Award-winning illustrator Marja-Liisa Plats crafts intricate, endearing illustrations that light up every page.
- SENSITIVELY ENGAGES WITH AGING AND DEATH:** In its depiction of Gramps and John grappling with Gramps's death at the end of the book, *John the Skeleton* addresses difficult topics in an approachable, compassionate way.

## *John The Skeleton*

Triinu Laan

Illustrated by Marja-Liisa Plats

Translated from the Estonian by Adam Cullen

**2022 Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustrators Exhibition winner**

**2021 The White Ravens catalog**

**2021 Tartu Prize for Children's Literature**

Everyone deserves a quiet, restful retirement. But for John, a newly retired classroom skeleton, life is just beginning. When John is adopted by Grams and Gramps and leaves the classroom to live on their farm, every day is an exciting new adventure: John rides in a car for the first time, makes a snow angel, scares away crooks, and becomes a source of comfort for Grams, Gramps, and their grandkids. With delightful illustrations and a charming cast of characters, *John the Skeleton* is a quirky, humorous, and unforgettable story. Triinu Laan thoughtfully weaves aging and death into the fabric of life, crafting a tender portrait of what it means to care for one another, grow old together, and appreciate the little things.

**TRIINU LAAN** is a writer, a manager of cultural activities, a mother of five, and loves wild living more than anything else. Laan lives with her three youngest children, mathematician husband, and self-conscious cat in the countryside in Võro County. Their home language is Võro, which is spoken by about 70,000 people, primarily in south Estonia. Therefore, it's no surprise that several of Laan's books are bilingual. Her stories convey the understanding that the worlds of adults and children, the living and the dead, and humans and animals are not so different as one may think.

**MARJA-LIISA PLATS** is an illustrator, graphic designer, photographer, and singer. She graduated from Tartu Art College in photography and is a member of the Estonian Graphic Designers Association in Tartu and the Tartu Artists' Union. Plats has illustrated more than 40 children's books, and has received extensive recognition for her works; she has been listed in the White Ravens catalogue three times.



# *What This Place Makes Me*

Mona Mansour, Mfonisa Udofia, Charlie Oh,  
Shayok Misha Chowdhury, Martyna Majok,  
Hansol Jung, Jesús I. Valles

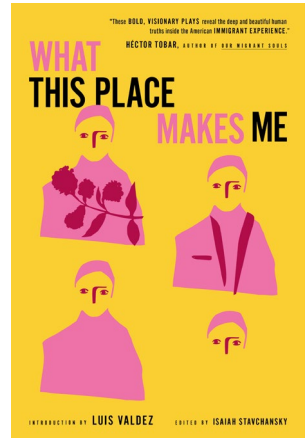
Introduction by Luis Valdez  
Edited by Isaiah Stavchansky

**Seven award-winning plays by rising stars of contemporary theater—whose accolades include the Pulitzer Prize—herald a profound shift in our understanding of what it means to be an American, an immigrant, and an artist on today’s stage.**

This groundbreaking collection of works by first- and second-generation immigrants to the U.S. unites seven exhilarating new voices of Lebanese, Nigerian, Korean, Bengali, Polish, and Mexican descent. Resounding beyond the stage, their stories draw on common experiences of displacement, alienation, and the feeling of being divided; sometimes torn between two worlds, sometimes plummeting into the spaces between them. Amid the tangled relationships, vengeful landscapes, and buried family mysteries of these tableaux flickers something universal; the search for safety and the promise of home. Both haunting and galvanizing, *What This Place Makes Me* will be a vital touchstone for years to come.

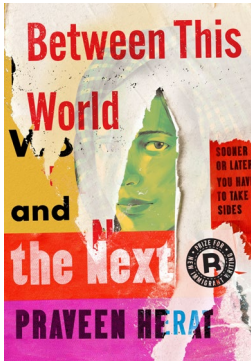
“This ground-breaking anthology shows us the people we are becoming; a nation of multilingual intimacies, our hearts split between homelands. The bold, visionary playwrights in *What This Place Makes Me* shatter stereotypes, and reveal the deep and beautiful human truths inside the immigrant experience.”  
—*Héctor Tobar, author of Our Migrant Souls*

“This vibrant and thrilling collection of groundbreaking plays explodes well-worn twentieth-century tropes around immigration to show that movement across borders is central to the story of humanity. These plays make us feel, make us think, open up new worlds, and exemplify some of today’s best dramatic writing.”  
—*David Henry Hwang, Tony and Grammy Award-winning playwright*



Paperback List Price: US \$22.00  
ISBN: 9781632062277  
Publication: December 3, 2024  
6" x 9" • 352 pages  
Drama / Anthologies  
Rights Held: World (non-exclusive)  
eBook ISBN: 9781632062284

- CELEBRATED, AWARD-STUDED COLLECTION:** This up-and-coming crop of playwrights have received numerous recognitions for their work, including a Tony nomination and the Pulitzer Prize.
- INTERNATIONAL AND MULTICULTURAL:** Contributions by Asian-American, Arab-American, Black, Latinx, Hispanic, and Eastern European writers.
- DRAMA FOR A TRADE AUDIENCE:** This isn't just for the theater buffs. Accessible and modern, these plays revitalize an art form for everyday readers.



[Between this World and the Next](#)

Praveen Herat

June 18, 2024

Hardcover List Price: US \$28

ISBN: 9781632063670 • 6" x 9" • 368 pages

Fiction: Thriller / Arms Trade / Sex Trafficking  
/ Immigration / Southeast Asia / West Africa  
/ Europe

Rights: World • eBook ISBN: 9781632063687

“A fierce and wondrous marvel, this book is for everyone who wants to stand against the danger in the world with courage and imagination—which is to say, this is a book for everyone.”

— **Daniel Handler, a.k.a. Lemony Snicket**

“The ‘lesson’ or ‘moral’ of the book is obvious, and relevant in a democracy that seems more threatened right now than the Hellenic one. Such disasters arrive not all at once, like a tidal wave, but insensibly, like the tide. They creep up on us over a happy summer. We hardly know they have happened until they already have. And life, disconcertingly, goes on, often pleasantly, while they are taking place. Though she offers it quietly, Zei’s message is clear. The central illusion of childhood — that there is a safe place — must always be surrendered.”

— **Adam Gopnik, *The New York Times***

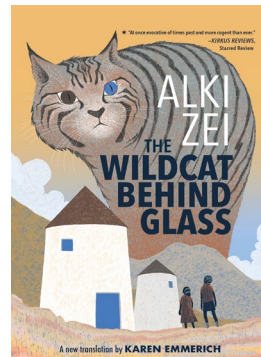
**Winner of the 2022 Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing**

“A dogged thriller with political bite. Herat recalls Robert Stone with his themes of morality, redemption, and uncrossable cultural boundaries. . . . In capturing a place and state of mind in which corruption is viewed as ‘the only breach against chaos,’ the London-based, Sri Lanka–rooted author has given us a book that won’t be easy to forget.”

—**Kirkus Reviews**

“Herat impresses on his first time out, with well-shaded characters and gripping suspense . . . this is worth seeking out.”

—**Publisher’s Weekly**



[The Wildcat Behind Glass](#)

Alki Zei

Translated from the Greek by  
Karen Emmerich

May 28, 2024

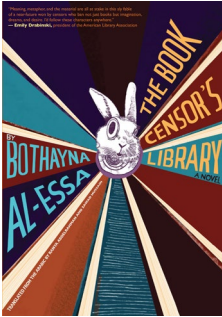
Hardcover List Price: US \$18

ISBN: 9781632063649 • 5.5" x 8.25" • 240 pages

Middle-Grade Fiction: World Literature / Family & Siblings / World War II / Fascism / Europe / Greece

Rights: World English • eBook ISBN:

9781632063656

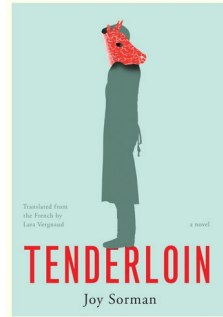


***The Book Censor's Library***

Bothayna Al-Essa  
Translated from the Arabic by Ranya Abdelrahman and Sawad Hussain

Apr 30, 2024

Hardcover List Price: US \$18  
ISBN: 9781632063342 • 5" x 7.125" • 272 pages  
Fiction: Satire / Dystopia / Speculative / Political  
Rights: World All Languages • eBook ISBN: 9781632063359

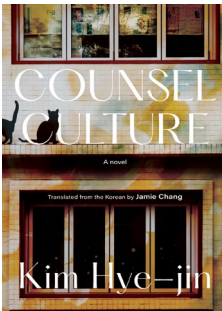


***Tenderloin***

Joy Sorman  
Translated from the French by Lara Vergnaud

Apr 16, 2024

Hardcover List Price: US \$18  
ISBN: 9781632063618 • 5" x 7.125" • 176 pages  
Fiction: Literary / Speculative / Climate / Food / Horror / France  
Rights: World English, Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781632063625

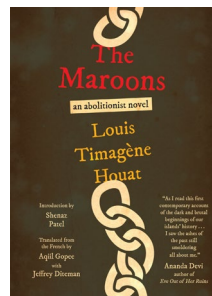


***Counsel Culture***

Kim Hye-jin  
Translated from the Korean by Jamie Chang

March 5, 2024

Hardcover List Price: US \$18  
ISBN: 9781632062321 • 5" x 7.125" • 208 pages  
Fiction: South Korea / Cancel Culture / Urban Isolation / Rescue Cats  
Rights: North America, Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781632062338



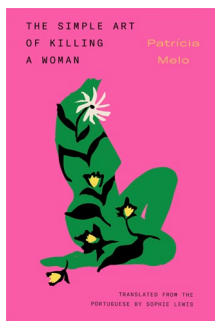
***The Maroons***

Louis Timagène Houat  
Translated from the French by Aqil Gopee with Jeffrey Diteman

Feb 20, 2024

Paperback List Price: US \$18  
ISBN: 9781632063557 • 5" x 7.125" • 176 pages  
Fiction: Classics—World Literature / Slavery / Colonization / Indian Ocean / French / Réunion Island  
Rights: World English • eBook ISBN: 9781632063564

## PUBLISHED FALL 2023



### ***The Simple Art of Killing a Woman***

Patricia Melo

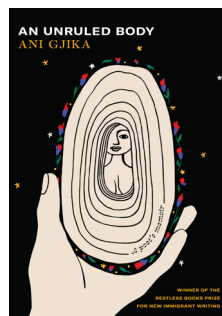
Translated from the Portuguese by Sophie Lewis

“A deeply affecting novel illuminating the costs of being a woman in a dangerous, misogynistic society.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Women rise defiant against misogynistic forces in the truth-filled novel *The Simple Art of Killing a Woman*.”

— *Foreword Reviews, Starred Review*

Paperback List Price: US \$17  
ISBN: 9781632063465 • 5.5" x 8.25" • 254 pages  
Fiction: Crime / Latin America / Literary  
Rights Held: North America, Audio  
eBook ISBN: 9781632063472



### ***An Unruled Body***

Ani Gjika

“A poignant literary and personal achievement.”  
— *Booklist, Starred Review*

“The author’s poetic prowess is clearly reflected in this text’s lyrical, clean lines, as well as in her compassionate but critical analysis of every character of the story, including herself . . . This is a gorgeously written look at a difficult topic.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Hardcover List Price: US \$26  
ISBN: 9781632063403 • 5" x 7.125" • 272 pages  
Nonfiction: Memoir / Sex & Gender / Literary / Travel  
Rights Held: North America  
eBook ISBN: 9781632063410

## FORTHCOMING WINTER/SPRING 2025

### ***Good Morning, Space***

Linda Bondestam

Translated from the Swedish by A. A. Prime  
Feb 18, 2025 • Rights Held: North America

### ***The Third Temple***

Yishai Sarid

Translated from the Hebrew by Yardenne Greenspan  
Mar 4, 2025 • Rights Held: World English, Audio

### ***Lamentations of Nezahualcoyotl***

Retold from the Nahuatl by Ilan Stavans

Illustrated by Cuauhtemoc Wetzka

Mar 25, 2025 • Rights Held: World All Languages, Audio

### ***In a Wilderness of Mirrors***

Olufemi Terry

April 29, 2025 • Rights Held: North America, Audio

### ***The Village Beyond the Mist***

Sachiko Kashiwaba

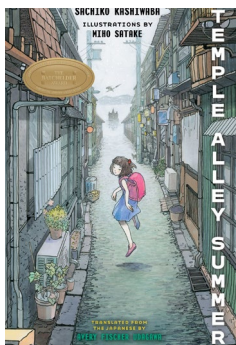
Translated from the Japanese by Avery Fischer Udagawa  
May 7, 2025 • Rights Held: World English, Audio

### ***How To Be Unmothered***

Dr. Camille U. Adams

June 3, 2025 • Rights Held: World All Languages, Audio

## YONDER HIGHLIGHTS



### ***Temple Alley Summer***

#### **Now in Paperback!**

Sachiko Kashiwaba

Illustrations by Miho Satake

Translated from the Japanese by Avery Fischer Usagawa

“An instant classic filled with supernatural intrigue and real-world friendship.”

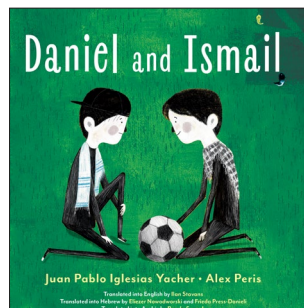
—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

Paperback List Price: US \$12

ISBN: 9781632063052 • 5.5” x 8.25” • 240 pages • B&W illustrations

Middle Grade Fiction: Japan / Mystery / Fantasy / Legend

Rights Held: World English • eBook ISBN: 9781632063045



### ***Daniel and Ismail***

#### **Now in Paperback!**

Juan Pablo Iglesias Yacher & Alex Peris

Translated into English by Ilan Stavans

Translated into Hebrew by Eliezer Nowodvorski and Frieda Press-Danieli

Translated into Arabic by Randa Sayegh

“The [story] subtly acknowledges that a new generation will have to figure out how to make peace and that it is possible for children to lead us.”

—*Miriam Udel*, *The New York Times*

Paper List Price: US \$12.99 ISBN: 9781632063793 • 8.5” x 8.5” 40

pages • Children—Ages 3 - 6 • Children’s Picture Book: Chilean /

Hebrew / Arabic / Diversity / Cultural Acceptance / Soccer

Rights Held: World English • eBook ISBN: 9781632061577



### ***1,001 Creatures***

Laura Merz and Aino Järvinen

Translated from the Finnish by Emily Jeremiah

#### **USBBY 2021 Outstanding International Book**

Hardcover List Price: US \$20

ISBN: 9781632062680 • 9.65” x 11.73”

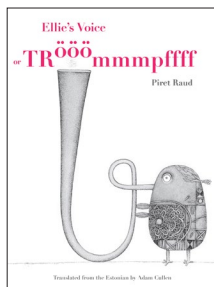
64 pages • Four-color illustrations

Children’s Nonfiction Picture Book: Animals

Ages 6–9

Rights Held: World English

eBook ISBN: 9781632062697



### ***Ellie’s Voice, or Trööömmmpffff***

Piret Raud

Translated from the Estonian by Adam Cullen

#### **World Literature Today’s 75 Notable Translations of 2020**

Hardcover List Price: US \$18

ISBN: 9781632061911 • 6.75” x 9” • 40 pages

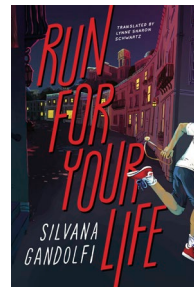
Two-color illustrations

Children’s Picture Book: Estonian / Friendship /

Difference / Animals / Music • Ages 3–6

Rights Held: World English

eBook ISBN: 9781632061430



### ***Run For Your Life***

Silvana Gandolfi

Translated from the Italian by Lynne Sharon Schwartz

#### **A 2019 Batchelder Honor Book**

Paperback List Price: US \$15.99

ISBN: 9781632061652

5.5” x 8.25” • 288 pages

Young Adult Fiction: Thriller / Mafia

Ages 12–18

Rights Held: World English

eBook ISBN: 9781632061669

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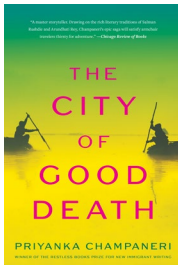
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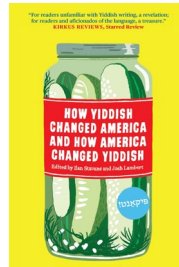


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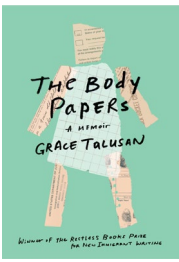


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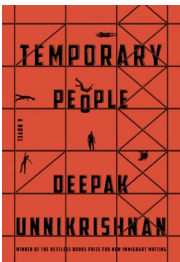
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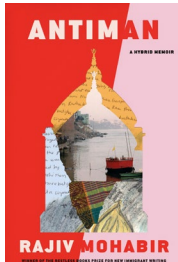
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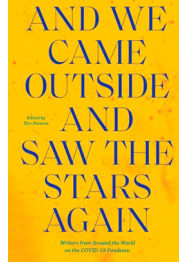
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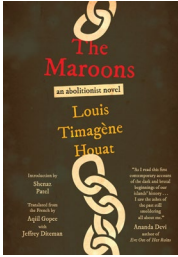
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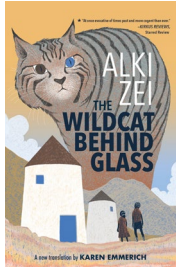
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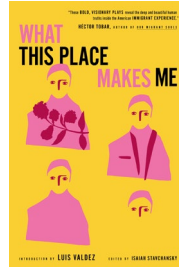
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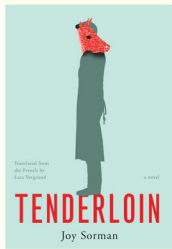
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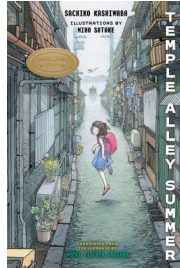
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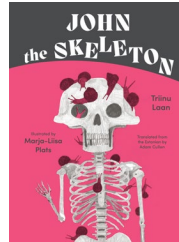
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# Prize for New Immigrant Writing

**The Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing** was created in 2015 to honor outstanding debut literary works by first-generation immigrants, awarded for fiction and nonfiction in alternating years. The winner receives \$10,000 and publication by Restless Books.

Restless Books congratulates Catharina Coenen for winning the 2023 Prize in Nonfiction! Her collection of essays, *Unexploded Ordnance*, will be published in 2025.

**Submissions for the 2024 Prize in Fiction accepted from January 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024.**

“Few literary prizes are devoted to the celebration of immigrant writing. Fewer still are dedicated to providing a platform for immigrant writers by publishing their work. Chief among these is the Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing . . . In Restless Books, writers have found a press that champions new voices that push boundaries of form and content.”

— “A Prize for New Immigrant Writing” in *Poets & Writers*



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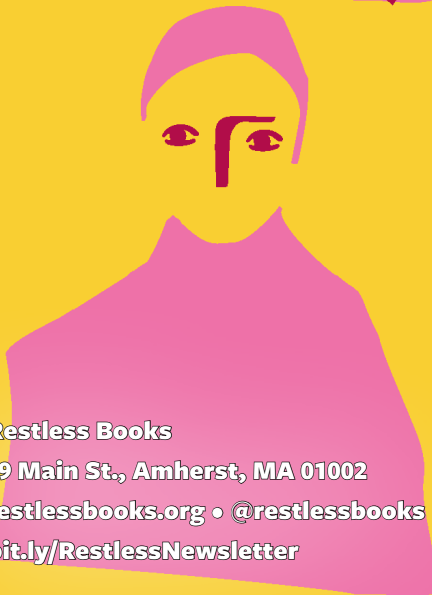
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