

Graywolf Press

Rights List

and

Recent Acquisitions and Forthcoming Titles

Frankfurt Book Fair 2018

Subagents

China: Big Apple Agency

France: Agence Michelle Lapautre

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Michael Meller Agency

Greece: Ersilia Literary Agency

Israel: Deborah Harris Agency

Italy: Clementina Liuzzi Agency

Japan: Tuttle-Mori Agency

Spain, Portugal, Latin America:

Casnovas & Lynch

Turkey: AnatoliaLit Agency

Publisher: Fiona McCrae, mccrae@graywolfpress.org
Rights Director: Katie Dublinski, dublinski@graywolfpress.org

FICTION

***The House of Rust* by Khadija Abdalla Bajaber**

Novel / Spring 2020 / World: Graywolf / Rights sold: Italy (66th & 2nd)

Winner of the Graywolf Press Africa Prize

The story of a young Mombasa-born girl who goes to the sea to search for her fisherman father, accompanied by a scholar's cat. Khadija Abdalla Bajaber blends the folk stories of post-independence Kenya with a magical realist coming-of-age tale, as her protagonist faces the monsters ahead and the demons of her past. This striking debut explores selfishness and independence, family loyalty and individuality.

“*The House of Rust* is an exhilarating journey into the imagination of an author for whom the fantastic is not only written about, it is performed on the page. Khadija Abdalla Bajaber has infused new life into the age-old story of adventure on the high seas—with this heroic first novel she has struck deep into that mythic realm explored by everyone from Homer to Hemingway.”

—A. Igoni Barrett, judge, author of *Blackass* and *Love Is Power, or Something Like That*

Khadija Abdalla Bajaber is a poet and novelist with a degree in journalism. A Kenyan of Hadrami descent, she writes about the ill-documented history of the Hadrami diaspora. Her work has been published in *Brainstorm Kenya* and the *Enkare Review*. She lives in Mombasa, Kenya.



***Scribe* by Alyson Hagy**

Novel / October 2018 / World: Graywolf

A haunting tale about the power of storytelling, set in Appalachia after war and disease have decimated the population. The central character ekes out a lonely living on her family's farmstead, maintaining an uneasy peace with the local enforcer, sharing her land with a migrant group called the Uninvited, and bartering her letter-writing skills for scarce resources. An unusual request for a letter from a man with hidden motivations sets off a series of calamitous events that culminate in a harrowing journey to a crossroads.

“A slim and affecting powerhouse. . . . Hagy is a careful writer; each sentence feels as solid and sturdy as stone. . . . Timely and timeless; a deft novel about the consequences and resilience of storytelling.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

“More than a novel, *Scribe* is a myth, a haunting legend that comes to us from the edge of history—from a past we wish to forget or a future we hope to avoid. Alyson Hagy's book defies the hush of a dying world with every breathtaking sentence.”—**Hernán Díaz**

Alyson Hagy was raised on a farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She is the author of eight works of fiction, most recently *Scribe*. She lives in Laramie, Wyoming.

***This Mournable Body* by Tsitsi Dangarembga**

Novel / August 2018 / World: Graywolf / Rights sold: Southern Africa (Jacana Media)

In *This Mournable Body*, Tsitsi Dangarembga returns to the protagonist of her acclaimed first novel, *Nervous Conditions*. As an unemployed, middle-aged single woman, Tambudzai has to deal with prejudices about her place in society while finding a way out of her precarious financial position, but she refuses to give up and return to her family in the village she grew up in. Anxious about her prospects after leaving a stagnant job, she finds herself living in a run-down youth hostel in downtown Harare, Zimbabwe. At every turn in her attempt to make a life for herself she is faced with fresh humiliation, until the painful contrast between the future she imagined and her daily reality ultimately drives her to a breaking point. As a last resort, Tambudzai takes an ecotourism job that forces her to return to her parents' impoverished homestead, a homecoming that culminates in a shocking act of betrayal.

“[A] masterpiece. . . . Dangarembga writes with intimacy and compassion; there's a sharp poetic crack to the work.”—**Alexandra Fuller, *The New York Times Book Review*, Editors' Choice**

“Dangarembga gives us something rare: a sparkling antiheroine we find ourselves rooting for.”—***The Washington Post***

One of Zimbabwe's most notable writers, **Tsitsi Dangarembga** is the author of three novels, including *Nervous Conditions*, winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize. She is also a filmmaker, playwright, and the director and founder of the Institute of Creative Arts for Progress in Africa Trust. She lives in Harare, Zimbabwe.



***Machine* by Susan Steinberg**

A dazzlingly inventive debut novel that revolves around a group of teenagers, locals and wealthy vacationers, during a single summer at the shore. Steinberg captures the pressures of cliques and the undercurrents of class tension in a voice that effortlessly slides from collective to singular, as one girl recounts a night on which another girl drowned. By the author of *Spectacle*.

“Steinberg's prose is rhythmic, hypnotic—teasing out confessions and revelations in stream-of-consciousness language.”—***San Francisco Chronicle***

Novel / August 2019 / World English: Graywolf / Translation: Massie & McQuilkin



***Suicide Woods* by Benjamin Percy**

A dynamic literary/genre mashup that draws on horror, crime, and supernatural tales. A boy falls through the ice on a frozen pond, and emerges in a strangely altered, frozen state. A group of people in treatment for suicidal ideation undergo a drastic therapy session in the woods, with fatal consequences. By the author of *The Wilding*, *The Dark Net*, and *Red Moon*.

“Benjamin Percy is one of the most gifted and versatile writers to appear in American publishing in years. . . . His prose has the masculine power of Ernest Hemingway's, but also the sensibilities and compassion of Eudora Welty.”—**James Lee Burke**

Stories / October 2019 / World English: Graywolf / Translation: Curtis Brown

***Space Invaders* by Nona Fernandez, translated from the Spanish by Natasha Wimmer**

A taut, surreal novel set in 1980s Chile, centered on the story of a girl named Estrella whose father was involved with the dictatorship. Her classmates recall militaristic school assemblies, a trip to the beach, a frenzied kissing game—and their obsession with Space Invaders, the video game, with its “ghostly green bullets.” A compelling and fresh take on the waning years of the Pinochet regime, as witnessed through the eyes of its children.

Novel / November 2019 / World English: Graywolf / Translation: Ampí Margini Agency



***The Colonel's Wife* by Rosa Liksom, translated from the Finnish by Lola Rogers**

An intense, unusual, and modern portrayal of the mind of a Finnish woman who became a Nazi during World War II. At once complex and hideous, sexually liberated and in thrall to authoritarianism and nationalism, the elderly narrator looks back on her life. Tracing her coming-of-age through her marriage to a much older man, then her second marriage to a much younger man, *The Colonel's Wife* is at once historical and painfully relevant in the way it explores the appeal of fascism. By the author of *Compartment No. 6*, winner of the Finlandia Prize.

Novel / November 2019 / World English: Graywolf / Translation: Hedlund Literary Agency

NONFICTION

***The Collected Schizophrenias* by Esmé Weijun Wang**

Nonfiction / February 2019 / World English: Graywolf / Translation: The Wylie Agency

Winner of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize and a 2018 Whiting Award

An intimate, moving book written with the immediacy and directness of one who still struggles with the effects of mental and chronic illness.

Opening with the journey toward her diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder, Esmé Weijun Wang discusses the medical community's disagreement about labels and procedures for diagnosing those with mental illness, and goes on to examine the manifestations of schizophrenia in her own life: her use of fashion to present as high-functioning, her experience of the depths of psychosis, the dangers of institutionalization, the complexity of compounding factors such as PTSD and Lyme disease. An essay collection of undeniable power that dispels misconceptions and provides insight into a condition long misunderstood.

“This mesmerizing collection of essays has achieved the rarest of rarities—a meaningful and expansive language for a subject that has been long bound by both deep revulsion and intense fascination.”—**Jenny Zhang**

Esmé Weijun Wang is the author of *The Border of Paradise*. She was named by *Granta* as one of the Best of Young American Novelists in 2017. She lives in San Francisco.

POETRY

***Deaf Republic* by Ilya Kaminsky**

Poetry / March 2019 / World: Graywolf / Rights sold: UK (Faber & Faber)

An astonishing parable in poems that asks, *What is silence?*

Deaf Republic opens in an occupied country in a time of political unrest. When soldiers breaking up a protest kill a deaf boy, Petya, the gunshot becomes the last thing the citizens hear—they have all gone deaf. Sign language becomes their means to coordinate dissent. The story follows the lives of townspeople encircled by public violence: a newlywed couple, Alfonso and Sonya, who are expecting a child; brash Momma Galya, who is instigating the insurgency from her puppet theater; and Galya's girls, who heroically teach signs by day and by night lure soldiers one by one to their deaths behind the curtain. At once a love story, an elegy, and an urgent plea, *Deaf Republic* confronts our time's atrocities and our collective silence in the face of them.

"Ilya Kaminsky's lines buzz with a kind of electric freshness; reading them is like laying your hand on the live wire of poetry. He's the most brilliant poet of his generation, one of the world's few geniuses."—**Garth Greenwell**

Ilya Kaminsky was born in the former Soviet Union. He is the author of *Dancing in Odessa*, and coeditor of *The Ecco Anthology of International Poetry*. He was a 2014 finalist for the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



***Wade in the Water* by Tracy K. Smith**

A new collection by the US Poet Laureate and the author of *Life on Mars*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. Smith boldly ties America's present moment to the nation's fraught founding history with poems of sliding scale: some capture a flicker of song or memory; some collage an array of documents and voices; and some push past the known world into the haunted, the holy.

"Scorching in both its steady cognizance of America's original racial sins . . . and apprehension about history's direction. . . . These historical poems have a homely, unvarnished sort of grace."—*The New York Times*

Poetry / April 2018 / World: Graywolf / Rights sold: UK (Penguin), World Spanish (Vaso Roto)



***Don't Call Us Dead* by Danez Smith**

*Winner of the Forward Prize, Finalist for the National Book Award *

Smith is a groundbreaking force, celebrated for deft lyrics, urgent subjects, and performative power. *Don't Call Us Dead* opens with a heartrending sequence that imagines an afterlife for black men shot by police, a place where suspicion, violence, and grief are replaced with the safety, love, and longevity they deserved here on earth. An astonishing collection, one that confronts America where every day is too often a funeral and not often enough a miracle.

Poetry / September 2017 / World: Graywolf / Rights sold: UK (Chatto & Windus)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS & FORTHCOMING TITLES

Fiction

Alexandria by Paul Kingsnorth (David Higham)
The Gnome Stories by Ander Monson (The Wylie Agency)
Lanny by Max Porter (Aitken Alexander)
Map of Canada by Dorthe Nors (Ahlander Agency)
Milkman by Anna Burns (Faber & Faber)
Tropic of Violence by Nathacha Appanah (Gallimard)

Nonfiction

The Collector of Leftover Souls by Eliane Brum (Translation rights: Anja Saile)
In the Dream House by Carmen Maria Machado (Translation rights: The Friedrich Agency)
I Will Take the Answer by Ander Monson (The Wylie Agency)
A Kernel in God's Eye by Marie Mutsuki Mockett (Trident Media Group)
To the Lake by Kapka Kassabova (The Wylie Agency)
White Flights by Jess Row (Denise Shannon Literary Agency)

Poetry

Guillotine by Eduardo Corral
Is, Is Not by Tess Gallagher
I Will Destroy You by Nick Flynn (The Clegg Agency)
Homie by Danez Smith
Postcolonial Love Poem by Natalie Diaz