

# **THE UNTER AGENCY RIGHTS GUIDE**

**March 2025**

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**MIDDLE GRADE**

## MG NON-FICTION

Agent: Jennifer Unter / [jennifer@theunteragency.com](mailto:jennifer@theunteragency.com)

### ***CITY SAFARI by Jenette Restivo***

*Muddy Boots, Spring 2025*

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK)



COVER IMAGE  
COMING SOON

*City Safari: A Young Naturalist's Guide to Discovering Wildlife in the City* by **Jenette Restivo**, designed to give city children the tools they need to see their environment in a new way.



Jenette Restivo founded the website [ChildhoodbyNature.com](http://ChildhoodbyNature.com) to help parents and caregivers raise young naturalists. She is a former Content Strategist for the Children & Nature Network and has written/produced programming for ABC, CBS, National Geographic, and The History Channel, among others. Jenette is all-around naturalist, trained in ornithology and zoology.

[www.childhoodbynature.com](http://www.childhoodbynature.com)   [@childhoodwild](https://twitter.com/childhoodwild)   [@childhoodbynature](https://twitter.com/childhoodbynature)

**ADULT**



## ADULT FICTION - HISTORICAL

### DAUGHTER DALLOWAY by Emily France

Blackstone, March 2023

Agent: Jennifer Unter / [jennifer@theunteragency.com](mailto:jennifer@theunteragency.com)

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage



A deeply evocative coming of age story, *Daughter, Dalloway* is a retelling of Virginia Woolf's classic novel, following two rebellious young women through interwar London, whose paths are inextricably entwined as they search for the truth about the people they love.

*London, 1952: Forty-six-year-old Elizabeth Dalloway feels she has failed at most everything in life, especially living up to her mother, the elegant Mrs. Dalloway, an ideal socialite and model of perfection until she disappeared in the summer of 1923—and hasn't been heard from since. When Elizabeth is handed a medal with a mysterious inscription from her mother to a soldier named Septimus Warren Smith, she's certain it contains a clue from the past. As she sets out, determined to deliver the medal to its rightful owner, Elizabeth begins to piece together memories of that fateful summer. That summer, Octavia Smith braves the journey from the countryside to London, determined to track down her older brother Septimus who returned from the war but never came home. Elizabeth and Octavia are destined to cross paths and, when they do, the truths they unearth will shatter their understanding of the people they love most.*

**A PopSugar Best Historical Fiction of 2023 pick**

"Woolf would appreciate France's novel because it, like *Mrs. Dalloway*, explores the same existential question: how should we live our life? [France] leavens her novel with a mystery that the reader will find satisfying."

**--Historical Novels Review**

"Like *Mrs. Dalloway's* English garden, *Daughter Dalloway* blooms with joy and melancholy; personal histories flower in the shadows of wars, secrets, scandals, and loves. A rich continuation of Virginia Woolf's immortal intentions, and a tender evocation of the female battle for self."

**--Juliet Grames**, winner of the 2022 Ellery Queen Award and author of *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*



**Emily France** is a graduate of Brown University and is the critically acclaimed author of several books. Her young adult titles, *Zen and Gone* and *Signs of You*, were selected as a Washington Post Best Book of the Month and an Apple Books Best of the Month. *Daughter Dalloway* is her adult debut.

**BACKLIST TITLES:** *SIGNS OF YOU* (YA), *ZEN AND GONE* (YA), *KRIT DREAMS OF DRAGONFRUIT* (picture book)

[www.EmilyFranceBooks.com](http://www.EmilyFranceBooks.com) @EmilyFranceBook

## ADULT NON-FICTION - MEMOIR

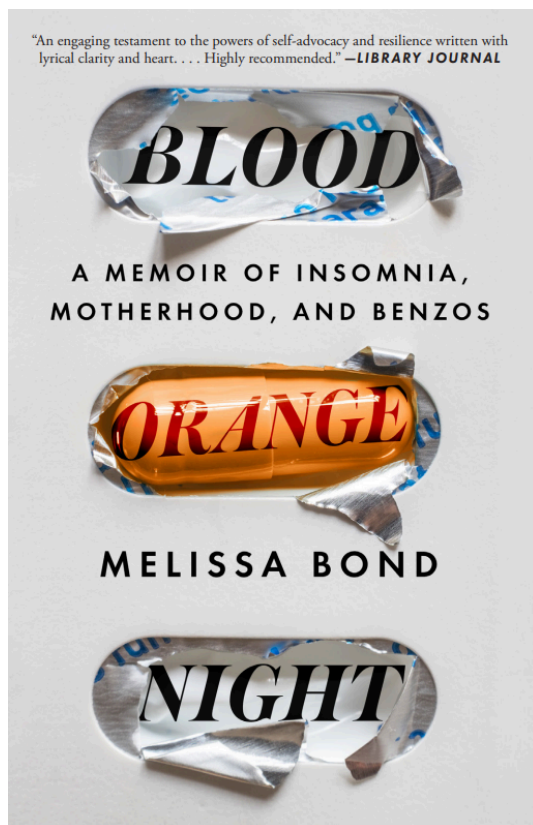
### **BLOOD ORANGE NIGHT by Melissa Bond**

Simon & Schuster/Gallery Books, June 2022

Agent: Jen Nadol / [jen.nadol@theuniteragency.com](mailto:jen.nadol@theuniteragency.com)

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign, Film/TV/Stage**

Territories sold to date: Taiwan/Hong Kong/Macau, Russia, UK



**Brain on Fire meets High Achiever in this “page-turner memoir chronicling a woman’s accidental descent into prescription benzodiazepine dependence—and the life-threatening impacts of long-term use—that chills to the bone” (Nylon).**

As Melissa Bond raises her infant daughter and a special-needs one-year-old son, she suffers from unbearable insomnia, sleeping an hour or less each night. She loses her job as a journalist (a casualty of the 2008 recession), and her relationship with her husband grows distant. Her doctor casually prescribes benzodiazepines—a family of drugs that includes Xanax, Valium, Klonopin, Ativan—and increases her dosage regularly.

Following her doctor’s orders, Melissa takes the pills night after night until her body begins to shut down. Only when she collapses while holding her daughter does Melissa learn that her doctor—like so many others—has over-prescribed the medication and quitting cold turkey could lead to psychosis or fatal seizures. Benzodiazepine addiction is not well studied, and few experts know how to help Melissa as she begins the months-long process of tapering off the pills without suffering debilitating, potentially deadly consequences.

Each page thrums with the heartbeat of Melissa’s struggle—how many hours has she slept? How many weeks old are her babies? How many milligrams has she taken? Her propulsive writing crescendos to a fever pitch as she fights for her health and her ability to care for her children.

**Barnes & Noble  
August 2023  
Non-Fiction Pick**

*“Bond’s narrative casts a burning light onto the hazards of overprescribing and the threat it poses to vulnerable people. This cautionary tale stuns.”*  
— Publishers  
**Weekly ★ (starred)**

**Amazon Editors Pick:  
Best Biographies &  
Memoirs**

**A NY Times Best  
Audiobook of 2022**

**A Hudson  
Booksellers Best  
Book of 2022**

**A 2022 Kobo Best  
Biographies/Memoirs  
of 2022**



**Melissa Bond** is a narrative journalist and poet. In the years of her dependence on benzodiazepines, Melissa blogged and became a regular contributor for *Mad in America*. ABC World News Tonight interviewed her for a piece in January 2014. Melissa is a respected writer and speaker on the perils of over-prescribing benzodiazepines and has been featured on the podcasts *Risk!*, *IGNTD*, and *The Addiction Podcast*.

[www.melissaabond.com](http://www.melissaabond.com)   [@melissabauthor](https://twitter.com/melissabauthor)



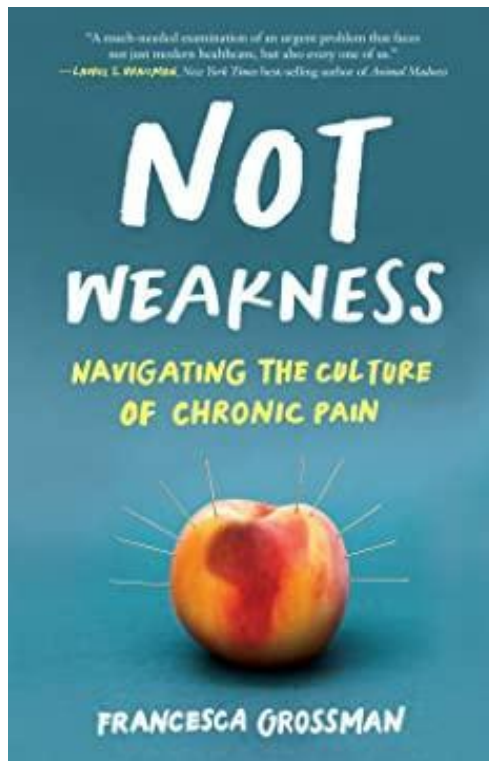
## ADULT NON-FICTION - MEMOIR

### **NOT WEAKNESS by Francesca Grossman**

She Writes Press, April 2023

Agent: Jennifer Unter / [jennifer@theunteragency.com](mailto:jennifer@theunteragency.com)

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:** Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage



After a slew of autoimmune conditions ransacked her body in her 20s and 30s, Francesca Grossman was in chronic, relentless, often indescribable pain, alone and exhausted. It affected her whole life—intimacy, motherhood, friendship, work, and mental health. Yet it was also fairly invisible.

On a whim, Francesca started asking other women if they had chronic pain—only to find that she was surrounded by women also battling in silence. The more she spoke to people, the more she found common themes and experiences, proving that her stories of pain were not unique, and neither were her feelings of loneliness and seclusion. Liberated by this discovery, Francesca realized that while she couldn't alleviate anyone's pain, maybe she could lift the shadows surrounding it.

Imbued with a deep respect for the women who tell their stories in its pages, as well as a healthy skepticism of the healthcare world and how it can silence, shame, and ignore women in pain, *Not Weakness* is galvanizing memoir about living and loving with chronic pain.

*"A searing personalized indictment of how society responds to women's chronic pain."* --Clarion

*"So much more than a personal memoir, Not Weakness is a meditation on womanhood, endurance, and daring to exist in a culture nominally obsessed with wellness and hustle yet deeply uncomfortable with those whose bodily realities reveal the limits of those ideals—limits which all of us, inevitably, will encounter."* --Natalia Petrzela, author of *Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America's Exercise Obsession*

*"[Grossman] brings love and beauty and deep empathy. Get this book for yourself and your people"* --Jennifer Pastiloff, author of *On Being Human*



**Francesca Grossman** is a writer and writing instructor. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Brain*, *Child Magazine*, *The Manifest Station*, *Ed Week*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Word Riot*, among others. She runs writing retreats and workshops internationally and leads an annual intensive workshop at The Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has a BA and MA from Stanford University and a doctorate from Harvard University in education. Her acclaimed instructional manual *Writing Workshop: How to Create a Culture of Useful Feedback* is used in universities and workshops all over the world. Francesca lives in Newton, MA, with her husband and two children.

[www.francescagrossmanbooks.com](http://www.francescagrossmanbooks.com)

## ADULT NON-FICTION - MEMOIR

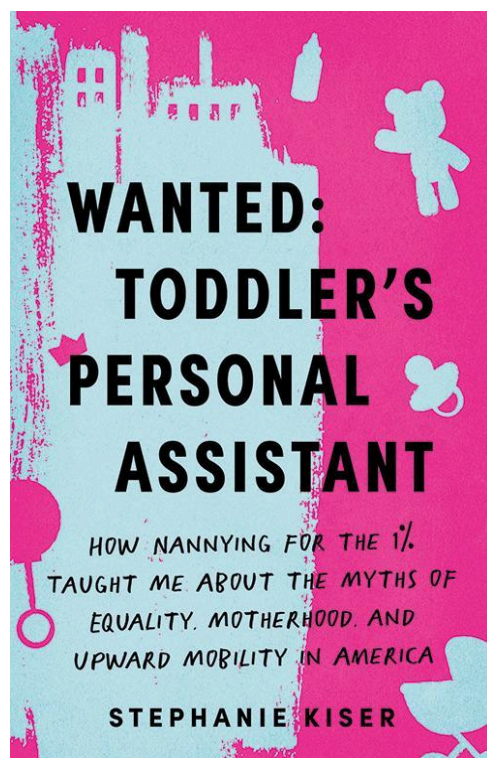
### WANTED: TODDLER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT by Stephanie Kiser

Sourcebooks, August 2024

Agent: Jen Nadol / [jen.nadol@theuniteragency.com](mailto:jen.nadol@theuniteragency.com)

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign, Film/TV/Stage

Territories sold to-date: China, Taiwan/Hong Kong/Macau, UK



**What are the lives of America's richest families really like? Their nannies see it all...**

*When Stephanie Kiser moves to New York City after college to pursue a career in writing, she quickly learns that her entry-level salary won't cover the high cost of living—never mind her crushing student loan debt. But there is one in-demand job that pays more than enough to allow Stephanie to stay in the city: nannying for the 1%. Desperate to escape the poverty of her own childhood and jump social classes, Stephanie falls into a job that hijacks her life for the next seven years: a personal assistant to toddlers on Manhattan's Upper East Side.*

*At first, nannying seems like the perfect solution—the high pay covers Stephanie's bills, and she's surprised by how attached she becomes to the kids she cares for, even as she gasps over Prada baby onesies and preschools that cost more than her college tuition. But the grueling twelve-hour days leave her little time to see her friends, date, or pursue any creative projects that might lead to a more prestigious career. Soon the shiny allure of the seemingly-glamorous job begins to dull as Stephanie comes to understand more about what really happens behind the closed doors of million-dollar Park Avenue apartments—and that money doesn't guarantee happiness.*

*Wanted: Toddler's Personal Assistant is alternately poignant and funny, a portrait of a generation of Americans struggling to find work they love balanced against the headwinds of global uncertainty, overwhelming student loans, and an economy stacked against anyone trying to work their way up from the bottom. In this unputdownable memoir, Stephanie chronicles her journey from newbie nanny to beloved caregiver—and the painful decision to eventually say goodbye to the children she has grown to love.*

**A USA Today  
National Bestseller**

**Amazon 2024 Best  
Books of the Year  
pick**

**Goodreads Readers'  
Most Anticipated  
Summer Books**

**People Magazine  
Best Books of the  
Month pick**

*"Despite the constant hurdles she jumped over and the unfairness and hypocrisy she saw every day, humor and wit pervade her page-turning tales, allowing a lightness to peek through her poignant, pertinent employment experiences. A unique examination of persistent wealth inequality in the US."*  
**-Kirkus**



**Stephanie Kiser** is a first-generation college student who studied Writing for Film & Television at Emerson College. For seven years, Stephanie worked as a nanny to some of Manhattan's wealthiest families before "retiring" from childcare. She is currently the Executive Assistant to the CEO of a New York City based tech company. She lives in Astoria with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Burger Clinton, who models for stores such as Bloomingdale's and Bergdorf Goodman

[www.authorstephaniekiser.com](http://www.authorstephaniekiser.com)

[@stephykiser](https://www.instagram.com/stephykiser)



**ADULT**

## NON-FICTION - NARRATIVE

### **THE CHILD CATCHER by Andrew Bridge**

Post Hill/Regalo, September 2024

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage**

Agent: Jennifer Unter / [jennifer@theunteragency.com](mailto:jennifer@theunteragency.com) & Jen Nadol / [jen.nadol@theunteragency.com](mailto:jen.nadol@theunteragency.com)

***The Child Catcher* is the true story of the fight to rescue the children confined to a violent and secretive institution in the rural South.**

Andrew Bridge's bestselling memoir, *Hope's Boy*, told the story of his survival after he was taken from his mother, who struggled with schizophrenia, and was left to foster care. Bridge was first confined at one of our country's most notorious children's institutions, MacLaren Hall. Now, in *The Child Catcher*, he chronicles his role in the longest-running, most bitterly fought mental health lawsuit in American history. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Bridge joined the small team of civil rights lawyers representing the children of the Eufaula Adolescent Center, a violent and secretive institution in the rural South, against the State of Alabama.

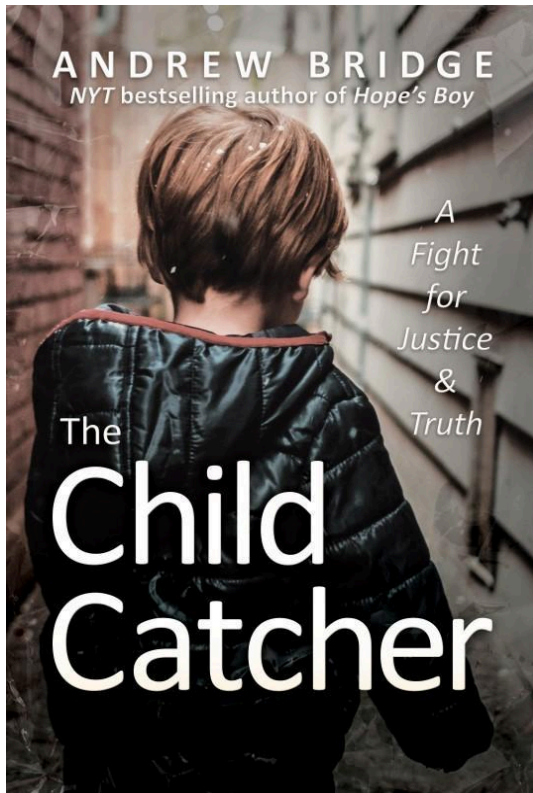
Eufaula was a place Alabama had refused to surrender. Parents were lured into sending their children there, unable to get them back. Thousands of children went through Eufaula, just as thousands went through the institution that Bridge survived as a boy. The fight for justice led him through squatters' camps in backwoods and into the lives of families caught in a permanent underclass. He sat with children as they struggled to explain what had gone wrong in their lives. In this David and Goliath battle, *The Child Catcher* is the story of Bridge's personal redemption and the hope that justice for children is possible.

**A USA Today National Bestseller**

"A fierce, maddening chronicle of advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens.." — **Kirkus** ★ (starred)

"*The Child Catcher* is a must read. Andrew's story reminds us that we must do better. Every child deserves to be seen, heard and loved." — **Paris Hilton**, advocate and celebrity influencer

"This gripping book explores the shadowed world of adolescent mental health institutions and the dark truths often found behind those doors... *The Child Catcher* is both heart song and triumph." — **Melissa**



**Andrew Bridge** is a New York Times Bestselling author, American lawyer, and advocate for children and families living in poverty. He became the executive director of the California-based Alliance for Children's Rights in 1997, established the National Adoption Day in the US, has served as a University of California Regents' Lecturer, Commissioner to the Los Angeles County Probation Commission, Senior Innovation Adviser to the State of Illinois and is a founding Director of The New Village Charter School for Girls, a charter school for pregnant and parenting teens. His childhood memoir *Hope's Boy* was named a New York Times Bestseller, Publishers Weekly Bestseller, Los Angeles Times Discoveries Book, People Magazine Critic's Choice, and Washington Post Book of the Year. He has contributed to *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, and other publications.

[www.andrewbridgeauthor.com](http://www.andrewbridgeauthor.com)



**ADULT**

## NON-FICTION - PRESCRIPTIVE

**WHEN WORRY WORKS by Dr. Dana Dorfman**

Rowman & Littlefield, February 2023

Agent: Jennifer Unter / [jennifer@theunteragency.com](mailto:jennifer@theunteragency.com)

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign, Film/TV/Stage**

Territories sold to date: Taiwan/Hong Kong/Macau

How to Harness Your Parenting Stress  
and Guide Your Teen to Success



# WHEN WORRY WORKS

DANA DORFMAN, PhD

*Helps parents manage the stresses of adolescent achievement culture and to make decisions which align with their values, rather than their anxiety.*

WHEN WORRY WORKS responds to one of the primary sources of the nation's worsening adolescent mental health crisis – achievement pressure. Burdened by the mounting pressures on today's youth, parents seek ways to strike the balance between supporting their teens' current well-being while also setting them up for future success. Eager to take action and to manage their escalating fears, parents inadvertently and unknowingly exacerbate the problem by overlooking their own *parental achievement anxiety*.

Based on thirty years of clinical practice and her experiences raising her own teenagers in New York City, the work demonstrates that when parents become aware of their individual anxieties and learn to effectively manage them, they are empowered to make values aligned, rather than worry driven parenting decisions. Dr. Dorfman provides practical evidence-based parenting strategies, exercises, and reflective prompts to guide parents through a process to constructively apply to their day-to-day parenting decisions.

"Parenting teens is stressful. Psychotherapist Dorfman, mother of two teens, admits to her own emotional battles.... Focusing on parents rather than teens, Dorfman offers sensible steps to ease relationships and find winning solutions. She helps parents learn to reason rather than react and points out how their own childhood experiences can influence their parenting styles. Readers are sure to spot themselves among parents described as sculptors, game-show contestants, crowd-pleasers, avoiders, clairvoyants, shepherds, correctors, and replicators and benefit from Dorfman's sane advice." — **Booklist**

"This is just the book parents need to bring down anxiety and connect more with their child through the ups and downs, pressures and worries of the adolescent years." — **Tovah Klein, PhD**, Author and Director of Barnard College Center for Toddler Development



*Dr. Dana Dorfman has 30 years of clinical practice experience treating children, adolescents, parents & adults. As a passionate advocate of mental health, she's a public speaker, workshop facilitator, & consultant working with schools, parenting centers, and mental health organizations. She's contributed to the New York Times, CNN, Wall Street Journal, Parents, Oprah Daily, and Refinery 29, among other publications*

[www.drnanadorfman.com](http://www.drnanadorfman.com)

@DrDanaDorfman

## ADULT NON-FICTION - SPORTS

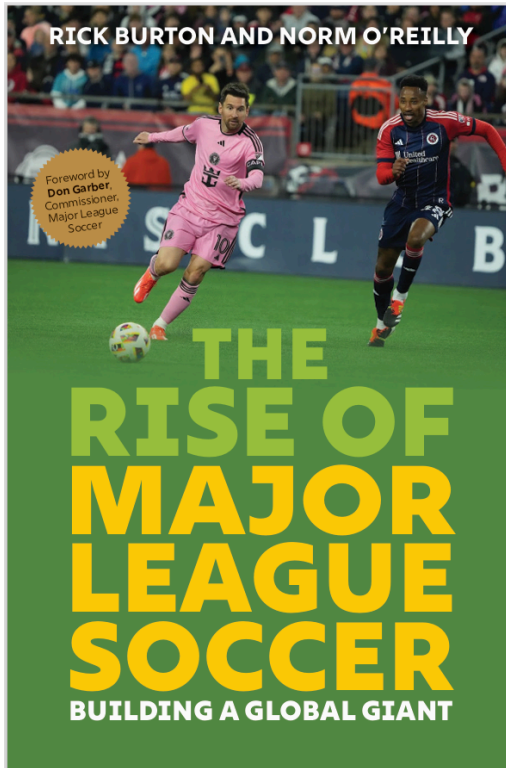
**THE RISE OF MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER by Rick Burton & Norman O'Reilly**

Lyons Press, February 2025

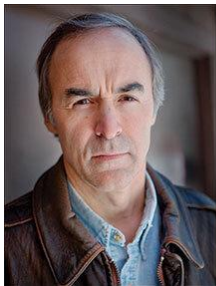
Agent: Jennifer Unter / [jennifer@theunteragency.com](mailto:jennifer@theunteragency.com)

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK,) Film/TV/Stage**





THE RISE OF MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Building a Global Giant delves into the story of Major League Soccer and how its 2023 partnership with Apple and the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America could make it "a rival to Europe's biggest football leagues" and one of the world's largest professional sports businesses.



**Rick Burton** is the David Falk Distinguished Professor of Sport Management at Syracuse University and the author of numerous books including *Business the NHL Way: Lessons from the Fastest Game on Ice* (written with Norm O'Reilly). He has also written for the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *SI.com*.

**Norm O'Reilly** is Dean of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Maine and a Professor of Sport Management & Marketing in the Maine Business School. He has authored or co-authored 16 books. Rick and Norm are regular columnists for *Sports Business Journal* and *Sportico*.