

## Bringing Home The Birkin

A New York Times bestselling journalist sets out to explore our addiction to the quantification of everything and ends up confronting his own addiction to certainty. In the quiet of quarantine, he decides to choose ease, rather than control—pursuing habits and hobbies that bring joy and “tickles” to each and every moment—and finds peace of mind, renewed creativity, and deepened relationships are the reward. In 2020, nothing went according to plan. Duff McDonald had intended to write a book about society’s obsession with measurements, data, and predictions, showing how it blunts individual happiness and decision-making while fueling corporate capitalism. But in the quiet of quarantine, McDonald found himself reexamining the assumptions beneath his own life choices. He also reconsidered his book, deciding instead to reframe his approach as an exploration of his own battle with what he calls the “precision paradox”—the existential struggle between our desire for ease and our need to exert control. Drawing inspiration from an impressive range of sources—from Borges to the Buddha to Bob (Dylan) to Harry Potter—McDonald documents how he let go of his attachment to precision in favor of delving deeper into what it means to be present—in his work, his relationships, and what he calls the “science of experience.” He

asks, “What should I have been doing? I should have been focusing on things that I love, not the things that anger or annoy me. I should have been focusing on things that tickle me.” Part self-help, part memoir, *Tickled* is a story of how to bring joy and love into your life right now. McDonald acknowledges that “tickle” is a funny, awkward word. In one context, it’s as innocent as can be. But it also runs deeper. When something tickles you, you are in the moment, experiencing reality itself—at the vortex of truth, consciousness, and bliss. “When something tickles, that’s your soul speaking to you in the language of love, thanking you for experience,” he says. As he lays out his own personal transformation, McDonald invites readers to begin their own journeys to find out what “tickles” them, too. This exploration of joy and presence—experiences that tickle—lies at the heart of McDonald’s unusual, moving, and profound book. In life as in sports, it's how you play the game that matters. You don't have to be a star athlete to take away valuable lessons from the world of sports, whether it's learning how to get along with others, to never give up, or to be gracious in victory and defeat. In this companion volume to his New York Times bestseller, *The Games Do Count*, Brian Kilmeade reveals personal stories of the defining sports moments in the lives of athletes, CEOs, actors, politicians, and historical figures—and how

what they learned on the field prepared them to handle life and overcome adversity with courage, dignity, and sportsmanship.

“With *Deluxe: How Luxury Lost Its Luster*, [Dana] Thomas—who has been the cultural and fashion writer for *Newsweek* in Paris for 12 years—has written a crisp, witty social history that’s as entertaining as it is informative.” —*New York Times*

From the author of *Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes* Once luxury was available only to the rarefied and aristocratic world of old money and royalty. It offered a history of tradition, superior quality, and a pampered buying experience. Today, however, luxury is simply a product packaged and sold by multibillion-dollar global corporations focused on growth, visibility, brand awareness, advertising, and, above all, profits. Award-winning journalist Dana Thomas digs deep into the dark side of the luxury industry to uncover all the secrets that Prada, Gucci, and Burberry don't want us to know. *Deluxe* is an uncompromising look behind the glossy façade that will enthrall anyone interested in fashion, finance, or culture.

In J. L. Carr’s deeply charged poetic novel, Tom Birkin, a veteran of the Great War and a broken marriage, arrives in the remote Yorkshire village of Oxgodby where he is to restore a recently discovered medieval mural in the local church. Living in the bell tower, surrounded by the resplendent

countryside of high summer, and laboring each day to uncover an anonymous painter's depiction of the apocalypse, Birkin finds that he himself has been restored to a new, and hopeful, attachment to life. But summer ends, and with the work done, Birkin must leave. Now, long after, as he reflects on the passage of time and the power of art, he finds in his memories some consolation for all that has been lost.

"This album contains, in chronological order, 160 photographs taken between 1963 and 1979 by Andrew Birkin of his sister Jane Birken, Serge Gainsbourg, and their relatives."--Preliminary page.

How can I learn to communicate effectively? How can I take control of a conversation or a particular situation? It doesn't matter what side of the moat you're on. You could be a speaker, a salesman, a politician, a reporter, a writer, or an ordinary citizen who often falls prey to those who use words all too well, even in a simple relationship. In any case, what can be useful is to know the principles and techniques related to the art of communicating effectively. Effective Communication is the union of the three main works of Hayden J. Power: Effective Key to Persuasion Effective Key to Mental Manipulation Body Language Revealed It will be a complete journey to fully understand all the mechanisms that come into play when trying to change people's perception or behaviour. Effective

**Key to Persuasion** The first book deals with Persuasion, that is the art of changing the attitude or behavior of others through an exchange of ideas. All the principles will be analyzed so that we can understand how the various techniques can subsequently work. **Effective Key to Mental Manipulation** In the second book, Mental Manipulation is analyzed, where the use of sneaky and deceptive schemes and methods that can also lead to both psychological and physical abuse is prevalent. **Body Language Revealed** The third book analyzes body language, which represents 55% of our total communication. Knowing it is important both to be able to instantly understand the thoughts of others and to be able to control one's own gestures by adapting them to one's own needs in the best possible way. Hayden J. Power's trilogy is the perfect opportunity to get a complete picture and be able to stand out in a crowd, instantly understand others and control any conversation. Useful both in everyday life and at work. Do you want to change the way you communicate and always be one step ahead of others? Do not waste any more time, buy now!

An elegant collection of Alice Charbin's whimsical illustrations from her 18-year collaboration with Hermès For 18 years, illustrator Alice Charbin has been inviting people to escape to the whimsical world of Hermès, where the brand's iconic orange

box frequently shapeshifts and appears in the most unlikely of places. Hermès: Heavenly Days brings together 300 of Charbin's best drawings from the collaboration in a beautiful package that's perfect for every bookshelf and coffee table. From Christmas in the North Pole to spring time in the streets of Paris, these winks from the house of Hermès will make readers of all ages smile and see life . . . in orange! These thirteen stories reveals Sir Charles Birkin at his diabolical best. He induces chills by describing the sufferings of ordinary, decent people who encounter inexplicable cruelty and evil in their everyday lives.

The successful but lonely daughter of a powerful New York theater icon falls for her childhood imaginary friend in this touching love story. As a little girl, Jane has no one. Her mother, a powerful Broadway producer, makes time for her only once a week, for their Sunday trip to admire jewelry at Tiffany's. Jane has only one friend: a handsome, comforting, funny man named Michael. He's perfect. But only she can see him. Years later, Jane is in her thirties and just as alone as ever. Then she meets Michael again-as handsome, smart and perfect as she remembers him to be. But not even Michael knows the reason they've really been reunited. Sunday at Tiffany's is a love story with an irresistible twist, a novel about the child inside all of us and the boundary-crossing power of love.

"A slow-building murder tale, but the complicated hero and serpentine wrap-up make it a worthy mystery." -

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Kirkus Review Felix Allaben is a haunted man. Haunted by the memory of his wife, gunned down in a mugging gone awry. Haunted by his responsibilities as a single father of a teenage girl. And, as *Bloody Lane* opens, haunted by the murder of Curtis Gwynn, an ex-cop whom Allaben had known when both served in the Baltimore Police Department. Gwynn is found dressed in the uniform of a Civil War re-enactor on the hallowed grounds of the Antietam battlefield--shot through the head. Allaben is a special investigator with the Department of Justice. He has been summoned by a shadowy official in Washington to get to the bottom of the crime. Working in tandem with the local sheriff, Felix weaves his way through a maze of leads, lies, and dead ends in his effort to make sense of this first death and of others that unexpectedly follow. In so doing, he comes up against an armed, active, neo-Confederate hate group operating out of a local gun club and bent on domestic terrorism. The suspects are many. Among them are an unstable realtor with whom Gwynn was having an affair; her alcoholic, hot-headed husband; their son, a Civil War enthusiast who's been upset by the unsavory lifestyles of his parents; her brother, a rising politician, and a retired Navy contractor, as well as other members of the aforementioned militia. *Bloody Lane* is set in and around Frederick, Maryland, a small city with an intriguing past. The infamous Civil War battle of Antietam, fought nearby, yielded the single bloodiest day in American history. The conclusion is both violent and unsettling.

From the most luxurious to the most romantic, each has

a story, a character and a style. All of them are exceptional, all unique; each captures the very soul of Paris. Lovers and stars, the famous and the nameless, they've all felt the quickened heartbeat, the accelerated tempo of life at these grand architectural gems resplendent with the intimate history of private lives and dazzling energy of Paris. Abundant illustrations from the great photographer Daniel Aron allow us to get into the spirit of each place, discovering its style and decorators, its specialities and its surroundings, for there's a lot more to a hotel than rows of room opening off a corridor . With its rich golden hue, art deco-inspired bottle, and timeless, musky scent, Chanel No. 5 is the world's bestselling perfume and arguably the most coveted luxury product of the twentieth century. In *The Secret of Chanel No. 5*, Tilar J. Mazzeo offers a fascinating account of No. 5's creation, its rise to iconic status, and the legacy of its extraordinary success. Mazzeo delves deeply into the life of Coco Chanel, the brilliant, controversial, and steel-willed businesswoman at the heart of the fragrance. She walks the rose plantations and jasmine fields where the perfume's life begins, and travels to 31 Rue Cambon, the center of the Chanel empire. A blend of evocative history and thoughtful research, here is a glittering account of where art and sensuality mingle with dazzling entrepreneurship and desire: Chanel No. 5.

"Like an urban Dian Fossey, Wednesday Martin decodes the primate social behaviors of Upper East Side mothers in a brilliantly original and witty memoir about her adventures assimilating into that most secretive and elite

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tribe. After marrying a man from the Upper East Side and moving to the neighborhood, Wednesday Martin struggled to fit in. Drawing on her background in anthropology and primatology, she tried looking at her new world through that lens, and suddenly things fell into place. She understood the other mothers' snobbiness at school drop-off when she compared them to olive baboons. Her obsessional quest for a Hermes Birkin handbag made sense when she realized other females wielded them to establish dominance in their troop. And so she analyzed tribal migration patterns; display rituals; physical adornment, mutilation, and mating practices; extra-pair copulation; and more. Her conclusions are smart, thought-provoking, and hilariously unexpected. Every city has its Upper East Side, and in Wednesday's memoir, readers everywhere will recognize the strange cultural codes of powerful social hierarchies and the compelling desire to climb them. They will also see that Upper East Side mothers want the same things for their children that all mothers want--safety, happiness, and success--and not even sky-high penthouses and chauffeured SUVs can protect this ecologically released tribe from the universal experiences of anxiety and loss. When Wednesday's life turns upside down, she learns how deep the bonds of female friendship really are. Intelligent, funny, and heartfelt, *Primates of Park Avenue* lifts a veil on a secret, elite world within a world--the exotic, fascinating, and strangely familiar culture of privileged Manhattan motherhood"--

This is the true story of Franz Wisner, a man who thought he had it all- a high profile career and the fiancée

of his dreams- when suddenly, his life turned upside down. Just days before they were to be married, his fiancée called off the wedding. Luckily, his large support network of family and friends wouldn't let him succumb to his misery. They decided Franz should have a wedding and a honeymoon anyway- there just wouldn't be a bride at the ceremony, and Franz' travel companion would be his brother, Kurt. During the "honeymoon," Franz reconnected with his brother and began to look at his life with newfound perspective. The brothers decided to leave their old lives behind them. They quit their jobs, sold all their possessions, and traveled around the world, visiting fifty-three countries for the next two years. In *Honeymoon With My Brother*, Franz recounts this remarkable journey, during which he turned his heartbreak into an opportunity to learn about himself, the world, and the brother he hardly knew.

A silk-covered, step-by-step guide for styling with scarves explains how to use them as finishing touches to professional, casual and sophisticated outfits, providing coverage of a range of shapes, lengths, materials and patterns as they can be worn throughout the seasons. This style bible is a chic and sexy look at the myriad possibilities of blue jeans, the classic and ever-evolving fashion essential. Blue jeans are an iconic part of American culture. And, like the American dream, denim is constantly reinventing itself. *A Denim Story* showcases timeless images of blue jean style. Featuring such icons as Marilyn Monroe, Patti Smith, Jane Birkin, and Kate Moss, as well as dreamy inspiration boards from the authors' own work, this volume is full of ideas and

inspirations. A pair of jeans always makes a statement, whether they are tight and purposeful or loose and frayed. Blue jeans can embody dreamy, girlish innocence or the best of boyishness, as when worn two sizes too big, low on the hips, and rolled up at the ankle. A Denim Story takes us on a journey through the most stylish looks of Americana culture, from the cutoffs and rolled-up cuffs of carefree summertime days to the simple ruggedness of overalls in the countryside, and from the rebelliously ripped jeans of rock 'n' roll to that beloved pair of faded and patched blue jeans we will never throw away. Denim is the material of independence and self-expression, timelessly cool, boasting an authenticity and function that transcend trends and is always sexy. Exquisitely curated by Current, Elliott, and Walsh, A Denim Story is a visual love song to blue jeans, sure to seduce everyone who picks it up.

This literary biography is “a story of obsession and the search for pure childhood . . . Moving, charming, a revelation” (Los Angeles Times). J. M. Barrie, Victorian novelist, playwright, and author of Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up, led a life almost as interesting as his famous creation.

Childless in his marriage, Barrie grew close to the five young boys of the Davies family, ultimately becoming their guardian and surrogate father when they were orphaned. Andrew Birkin draws extensively on a vast range of material by and about Barrie, including notebooks, memoirs, and hours of

recorded interviews with the family and their circle, to describe Barrie's life, the tragedies that shaped him, and the wonderful world of imagination he created for the boys. Updated with a new preface and including photos and illustrations, this "absolutely gripping" read reveals the dramatic story behind one of the classics of children's literature (Evening Standard). "A psychological thriller . . . One of the year's most complex and absorbing biographies." —Time "[A] fascinating story." —The Washington Post

Set against the backdrop of the Nazi occupation of World War II, *The Hôtel on Place Vendôme* is the captivating history of Paris's world-famous Hôtel Ritz—a breathtaking tale of glamour, opulence, and celebrity; dangerous liaisons, espionage, and resistance—from Tilar J. Mazzeo, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Widow Clicquot* and *The Secret of Chanel No. 5* When France fell to the Germans in June 1940, the legendary Hôtel Ritz on the Place Vendôme—an icon of Paris frequented by film stars and celebrity writers, American heiresses and risqué flappers, playboys, and princes—was the only luxury hotel of its kind allowed in the occupied city by order of Adolf Hitler. Tilar J. Mazzeo traces the history of this cultural landmark from its opening in fin de siècle Paris. At its center, *The Hotel on Place Vendôme* is an extraordinary chronicle of life at the Ritz during wartime, when the Hôtel was simultaneously headquarters to the highest-ranking

German officers, such as Reichsmarshal Hermann Göring, and home to exclusive patrons, including Coco Chanel. Mazzeo takes us into the grand palace's suites, bars, dining rooms, and wine cellars, revealing a hotbed of illicit affairs and deadly intrigue, as well as stunning acts of defiance and treachery. Rich in detail, illustrated with black-and-white photos, *The Hotel on Place Vendôme* is a remarkable look at this extraordinary crucible where the future of post-war France—and all of post-war Europe—was transformed.

New York Times bestselling author Laura Lippman, a journalist for many years, collects here her recent essays exploring motherhood as an older mom, her life as a reader, her relationships with her parents, friendship, and other topics that will resonate with a large audience. Her voice is wry and relatable, her takes often surprising. *Meet the Woman Behind the Books...* In this collection of new and previously published essays, New York Times bestselling author Laura Lippman offers her take on a woman's life across the decades. Her childhood and school years, her newspaper career, her experiences as a novelist—Lippman finds universal touchstones in an unusual life that has as many twists as her award-winning crime fiction. Essays include: · Men Explain The Wire to Me · Game of Crones · My Life as a Villainess · My Father's Bar · The 31st Stocking These candid essays offer long-time readers insight

into the experiences that helped Lippman become one of the most successful crime novelists of her generation.

On the heels of her New York Times bestselling book *Drinking and Tweeting*, *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* star Brandi Glanville takes readers on a wild ride through her dating life in this highly-entertaining relationship book. *Drinking and Dating* chronicles Glanville's misadventures stumbling through today's dating world. From social media blunders to bedroom escapades, Brandi withholds nothing. Each chapter is inspired by a relationship encounter she has had since her sensational divorce from actor Eddie Cibrian. Hilarious, surprising, vulnerable, and outspoken, Glanville's unexpected take on dating after heartbreak – and life in general – is as unique as she is. Just like Brandi herself, *Drinking and Dating* is sexy, funny, and eyebrow-raising.

**INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** From Brian Moylan, the writer of *Vulture's* legendary *Real Housewives* recaps, a table-flipping, finger-pointing, halter-topping VIP journey through reality TV's greatest saga... In the spring of 2006, a new kind of show premiered on Bravo: *The Real Housewives of Orange County*. Its stars were tanned, taut, and bedazzled; their homes were echoey California villas; and their drama was gossip-fueled, wine-drenched, and absolutely exquisite. Fifteen seasons

on, RHOC is an institution, along with *The Real Housewives of New York*, *Atlanta*, *New Jersey*, *Miami*, *Potomac*, and more. Over the years these ladies have done a lot more than lunch, launching thirty-one books, a cocktail line, two jail sentences, a couple supermodel daughters, Andy Cohen's talk show career, thirty-six divorces, fourteen albums, a White House party crash, and approximately one million memes. Brian Moylan has been there through it all, in front of the screen and behind the scenes. The writer of *Vulture's* beloved series recaps, he's here to tell us the full story, from the inside scoop on every classic throwdown to the questions we've always wanted to know, like—what are the housewives really like off-camera? (The same.) How much money do they make? (Lots.) He has a lot to say about the legacy and fandom of a franchise that's near and dear to his heart, and inextricable from pop culture today. A must-have for any fan of real drama and fake [redacted], *The Housewives* is the definitive companion to an American TV treasure.

You are invited to join a fascinating journey of discovery, as Marcia Birken and Anne C. Coon explore the intersecting patterns of mathematics and poetry — bringing the two fields together in a new way. Setting the tone with humor and illustrating each chapter with countless examples, Birken and Coon begin with patterns we can see, hear, and feel

and then move to more complex patterns. Number systems and nursery rhymes lead to the Golden Mean and sestinas. Simple patterns of shape introduce tessellations and concrete poetry. Fractal geometry makes fractal poetry possible. Ultimately, patterns for the mind lead to questions: How do mathematicians and poets conceive of proof, paradox, and infinity? What role does analogy play in mathematical discovery and poetic expression? The book will be of special interest to readers who enjoy looking for connections across traditional disciplinary boundaries. *Discovering Patterns in Mathematics and Poetry* features centuries of creative work by mathematicians, poets, and artists, including Fibonacci, Albrecht Dürer, M. C. Escher, David Hilbert, Benoit Mandelbrot, William Shakespeare, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Langston Hughes, E.E. Cummings, and many contemporary experimental poets. Original illustrations include digital photographs, mathematical and poetic models, and fractal imagery.

The cutting-edge science that is taking the measure of the universe *The Little Book of Cosmology* provides a breathtaking look at our universe on the grandest scales imaginable. Written by one of the world's leading experimental cosmologists, this short but deeply insightful book describes what scientists are revealing through precise measurements of the faint thermal afterglow of the Big Bang—known as the

cosmic microwave background, or CMB—and how their findings are transforming our view of the cosmos. Blending the latest findings in cosmology with essential concepts from physics, Lyman Page first helps readers to grasp the sheer enormity of the universe, explaining how to understand the history of its formation and evolution in space and time. Then he sheds light on how spatial variations in the CMB formed, how they reveal the age, size, and geometry of the universe, and how they offer a blueprint for the formation of cosmic structure. Not only does Page explain current observations and measurements, he describes how they can be woven together into a unified picture to form the Standard Model of Cosmology. Yet much remains unknown, and this incisive book also describes the search for ever deeper knowledge at the field's frontiers—from quests to understand the nature of neutrinos and dark energy to investigations into the physics of the very early universe.

In this sumptuous full-color compendium, award-winning designer Monica Botkier celebrates seventy of the most coveted bags of the past seventy-five years, from Chanel, Dior, Gucci, Hermès, Yves Saint Laurent, Louis Vuitton, and other international couture houses, as well as top bag designers such as Anya Hindmarch and Nancy Gonzalez.

Exquisitely crafted luxury handbags are an obsession. The look, the feel of soft leather, that new

bag smell that induces a swoon—a gorgeous handbag does more than complete a look, it telegraphs taste and chic, and it inspires envy, whether it's an Hermès Birkin, a quilted Chanel Boy bag with its signature gold chain, or a Céline Mini Luggage Tote. Award-winning handbag designer Monica Botkier pays homage to these gorgeous objects of desire and the top couture houses and artists that have designed and produced them from the end of World War II to today. *Handbags: A Love Story* showcases the creations of designers such as Azzedine Alaïa, Balenciaga, Bottega Veneta, Céline, Chanel, Chloé, Christian Dior, Mark Cross, Fendi, Salvatore Ferragamo, Givenchy, Goyard, Gucci, Hermès, Anya Hindmarch, Judith Leiber, Olympia Le-Tan, Loewe, Mansur Gavriel, Stella McCartney, Alexander McQueen, Miu Miu, Moschino, Mulberry, Prada, Yves Saint Laurent, Valentino, Roger Vivier, Louis Vuitton, and more. This magnificent, eye-catching anthology tells the story of seventy bags in 200 stunning photographs and vintage and contemporary advertisements and illustrations, as well as quotes, anecdotes, and interviews with designers, stylists, and editors. Each entry offers a concise yet in-depth look at a specific bag and its history—from a celebrity muse, such as Jane Birkin, to collaborations such as the graffiti-splattered bags Marc Jacobs and Stephen Sprouse created for Louis Vuitton. An informative, entertaining exploration of

how "It Bags" have influenced fashion, culture, and feminine identity, *Handbags: A Love Story* touches on a wide-range of subjects, such as how a bag is constructed and handbags on the silver screen. With an elegant full-color silkscreened cloth case and a thick acetate four-color jacket; two long, wide satin markers, and two-color endpapers, this gorgeous tribute is an essential accessory for handbag fanatics, fashion lovers, and pop culture enthusiasts.

*Rising From The Mist* in the sun-blushed hills of Tuscany is *Il Piccolo Rustico*, a 300-year-old stone farmhouse that Nancy Doran dreams of lovingly restoring into an idyllic home. All her husband Phil can see is a crumbling money pit that, as far as dreams go, is more of a nightmare. Reluctantly leaving behind high -octane, air-conditioned Los Angeles where he lives and works as a writer-producer, Phil is uprooted to a strange country intoxicated by *O sole mio*, virgin olive oil and oak-aged Chianti. The local village reveals itself to be a hive of seething passions, secrets and age-old blood feuds, and the newcomers find that life is not all strolls around town during the *passagiato* and relaxing under the awnings of picturesque cafes. Beset by a rift of exasperating challenges - from the cunning tricks of the Pinatore family to an infuriating Byzantine Italian bureaucracy - it is only with an inspired touch of the 'Inner Italian' that Phil and Nancy finally manage to soften the hearts of their neighbours and are embraced by the community.

*Bringing Home the Birkin*  
*My Life in Hot Pursuit of the World's Most Coveted Handbag*  
Harper Collins

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An insider's hilarious, whirlwind account of his years spent globe-trotting in search of the holy grail of handbags: the Birkin For more than twenty years, the Hermès Birkin bag has been the iconic symbol of fashion, luxury, and wealth. Though the bag is often seen dangling from the arms of celebrities, there is a fabled waiting list of more than two years to buy one from Hermès, and the average fashionista has a better chance of climbing Mount Everest in Prada pumps than of possessing one of these coveted carryalls. Unless, of course, she happens to know Michael Tonello . . .

Michael's newfound career started with an impulsive move to Barcelona, a vanished job assignment, no work visa, and an Hermès scarf sold on eBay to generate some quick cash. But soon the resourceful Michael discovered the truth about the waiting list and figured out the secret to getting Hermès to part with one of these precious bags. Millions of dollars worth of Birkins later, Michael had become one of eBay's most successful entrepreneurs—and a Robin Hood to thousands of desperate rich women. With down-to-earth wit, Michael chronicles the unusual ventures that took him to nearly every continent, from eBay to Paris auction house and into the lives of celebrities and poseurs. Flirting with danger, Michael recounts the heady rush of hand delivering his first big score to famed songwriter Carole Bayer Sager in Paris; how he had to hire thugs to rescue a bag that one of his "shoppers" held for ransom; and the story of the Oscar-worthy performances that allowed him to snag "reserved" bags from other, less dogged Birkin seekers. Whether he's relating his wining and dining,

buying and selling, dodging and weaving, laughing and crying, or schmoozing and stammering, Michael is a master raconteur who weaves together tales of hunting Birkins in the world's most posh locales, memories of meals that would make any gastronome salivate, anecdotes of obsessed collectors with insatiable desires, and sweetly intimate stories about his family, friends, and finding true love. The result is a memoir that is distinctive, fun, page-turning, and as addictive as its namesake.

Legendary fashion designer Coco Chanel is revered for her sophisticated style—the iconic little black dress—and famed for her intoxicating perfume Chanel No. 5. Yet behind the public persona is a complicated woman of intrigue, shadowed by mysterious rumors. *The Queen of Paris*, the new novel from award-winning author Pamela Binnings Ewen, vividly imagines the hidden life of Chanel during the four years of Nazi occupation in Paris in the midst of WWII—as discovered in recently unearthed wartime files. Coco Chanel could be cheerful, lighthearted, and generous; she also could be ruthless, manipulative, even cruel. Against the winds of war, with the Wehrmacht marching down the Champs-Élysées, Chanel finds herself residing alongside the Reich's High Command in the Hotel Ritz. Surrounded by the enemy, Chanel wages a private war of her own to wrestle full control of her perfume company from the hands of her Jewish business partner, Pierre Wertheimer. With anti-Semitism on the rise, he has escaped to the United States with the confidential formula for Chanel No. 5. Distrustful of his intentions to set up production on the

outskirts of New York City, Chanel fights to seize ownership. The House of Chanel shall not fall. While Chanel struggles to keep her livelihood intact, Paris sinks under the iron fist of German rule. Chanel—a woman made of sparkling granite—will do anything to survive. She will even agree to collaborate with the Nazis in order to protect her darkest secrets. When she is covertly recruited by Germany to spy for the Reich, she becomes Agent F-7124, code name: Westminster. But why? And to what lengths will she go to keep her stormy past from haunting her future?

A spirited investigation into the phenomenon of bargain hunting and the competition between buyers and sellers traces the evolution of promotional pricing and sale discounts, exploring the impact of negotiable pricing on markets, the machinations of price consultants and the growing empowerment of consumers.

“A twisted modern love story” (Parade), *Tell Me Lies* is a sexy, thrilling novel about that one person who still haunts you—the other one. The wrong one. The one you couldn’t let go of. The one you’ll never forget. Lucy Albright is far from her Long Island upbringing when she arrives on the campus of her small California college and happy to be hundreds of miles from her mother—whom she’s never forgiven for an act of betrayal in her early teen years. Quickly grasping at her fresh start, Lucy embraces college life and all it has to offer. And then she meets Stephen DeMarco. Charming. Attractive. Complicated. Devastating. Confident and cocksure, Stephen sees something in Lucy that no one else has, and she’s quickly seduced by this vision of herself, and

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the sense of possibility that his attention brings her. Meanwhile, Stephen is determined to forget an incident buried in his past that, if exposed, could ruin him, and his single-minded drive for success extends to winning, and keeping, Lucy's heart. Lucy knows there's something about Stephen that isn't to be trusted. Stephen knows Lucy can't tear herself away. And their addicting entanglement will have consequences they never could have imagined. Alternating between Lucy's and Stephen's voices, *Tell Me Lies* follows their connection through college and post-college life in New York City. "Readers will be enraptured" (Booklist) by the "unforgettable beauties in this very sexy story" (Kirkus Review). With the psychological insight and biting wit of *Luckiest Girl Alive*, and the yearning ambitions and desires of *Sweetbitter*, this keenly intelligent and supremely resonant novel chronicles the exhilaration and dilemmas of young adulthood and the difficulty of letting go—even when you know you should.

Matsuda, the former Shogun's senior general, finds himself banished. Caught in a plot to kill the New Shogun, he is torn between love and duty, and again breaks the rules of exile to avenge his boyhood friend. His bushido spirit overcomes the many challenges that beset him, until it seems he can enjoy life once again.

*Great Expectations* is the thirteenth novel by Charles Dickens and his penultimate completed novel. It depicts the education of an orphan nicknamed Pip. It is Dickens's second novel, after *David Copperfield*, to be fully narrated in the first person.

Steampunk—a grafting of Victorian aesthetic and

punk rock attitude onto various forms of science-fiction culture—is a phenomenon that has come to influence film, literature, art, music, fashion, and more. The Steampunk Bible is the first compendium about the movement, tracing its roots in the works of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells through its most recent expression in movies such as Sherlock Holmes. Its adherents celebrate the inventor as an artist and hero, re-envisioning and crafting retro technologies including antiquated airships and robots. A burgeoning DIY community has brought a distinctive Victorian-fantasy style to their crafts and art. Steampunk evokes a sense of adventure and discovery, and embraces extinct technologies as a way of talking about the future. This ultimate manual will appeal to aficionados and novices alike as author Jeff VanderMeer takes the reader on a wild ride through the clockwork corridors of Steampunk history. Praise for The Steampunk Bible: "The Steampunk Bible is an informed, informative and beautifully illustrated survey of the subject." -The Financial Times "The Steampunk Bible is far and away the most intriguing catalog of all things steam yet written." -The Austin Chronicle "It's hard to imagine how VanderMeer and Chambers could have put together a stronger collection. Its publication marks a significant, self-conscious moment in the history of the movement." —PopMatters.com A searing, deeply candid memoir about a young

woman's journey to understanding her complicated parents—her mother an Okinawan war bride, her father a Vietnam veteran—and her own, fraught cultural heritage. Elizabeth's mother was working as a nightclub hostess on U.S.-occupied Okinawa when she met the American soldier who would become her husband. The language barrier and power imbalance that defined their early relationship followed them to the predominantly white, upstate New York suburb where they moved to raise their only daughter. There, Elizabeth grew up with the trappings of a typical American childhood and adolescence. Yet even though she felt almost no connection to her mother's distant home, she also felt out of place among her peers. Decades later, Elizabeth comes to recognize the shame and self-loathing that haunt both her and her mother, and attempts a form of reconciliation, not only to come to terms with the embattled dynamics of her family but also to reckon with the injustices that reverberate throughout the history of Okinawa and its people. Clear-eyed and profoundly humane, *Speak, Okinawa* is a startling accomplishment—a heartfelt exploration of identity, inheritance, forgiveness, and what it means to be an American.

An inside view of the greed and social power plays behind the closed doors of upper-crust society, *An Absolute Scandal* looks at a world where money isn't everything . . . sometimes, it's the only thing. And

when the money disappears in the thick of a financial crisis, the real story begins. For Nigel Cowper, this means the destruction of his family business; his wife, Lucinda, is willing to do everything she can to help him—except give up her irresistible lover. The powerful, charismatic banker Simon Beaumont and his equally successful wife Elizabeth lose everything they've worked so hard to acquire; but the ultimate tragedy is something that neither one could have anticipated. Yet the well-to-do are not the only ones whose lives are upended: a self-sufficient widow, a single mother, and a schoolmaster find that their lives are also turned upside down in this deliciously readable tale.

Everybody loves beauty products. Even if you think you know nothing about them, or even if you think you hate them, you actually know plenty about them and, in fact, have several of them that you love. You have major opinions that lie barely beneath the surface. Women whomodestly/moralistically claim to “never use all that beauty stuff” are big Clinique ladies, usually with a healthy helping of Neutrogena. —Free Gift with Purchase From the beloved beauty editor of Lucky magazine comes a dishy, charming, and insightful memoir of an unlikely career.

Combining the personal stories of a quirky tomboy who found herself in the inner circle of the beauty world with priceless makeup tips (Is there really a perfect red lipstick out there for everyone? Which

miracle skin potion actually works?), Jean Godfrey-June takes us behind the scenes to a world of glamour, fashion, and celebrity. Godfrey-June's funny, smart, outsider perspective on beauty has set her apart since she first started writing her popular "Godfrey's Guide" column for Elle magazine. In *Free Gift with Purchase*, she invites us into the absurd excess of the offices, closets, and medicine cabinets of beauty editors. From shelves upon shelves of face lotion, conditioner, lipstick, eye cream, wrinkle reducers, and perfume to thoroughly disturbing "acne breakfasts" and "cellulite lunches"; from the lows (a makeover from hell, getting pedicure tips from porn stars) to the highs (the glamour of the fashion shows in Paris, lounging in bed with Tom Ford, a flight on Donald Trump's private jet, and landing her dream job at Lucky magazine), we see it all. Like a friend sharing the details of her incredibly cool job, Jean lets us in on the lessons she's learned along the way, about the eternal search for the right haircut and the perfect lip gloss, of course—but more important, about what her job has meant to her and why she loves what she does, blemishes and all.

A hilarious memoir chronicles the adventures and misadventures of a woman whose perfect life, perfect job, and perfect man vanish when she goes from a six-figures career to unemployment. Original.

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