

Sociolog

## new titles for 2016



Penguin Random House Canada

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The

THIRD

PLATE

FIELD NOTES ON

THE FUTURE of FOOD

JULI LAND NEA DEED

DAN

BARBER

ce Michael Pollan has such a powerful storyteller en to reform American food." — The Washington Post

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

**ETA-NEHISI** 

COATES

BETWEEN

THE WORLD

AND ME

"This is required reading," -Toni Morrison

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#### SHUMON BASAR, DOUGLAS COUP-LAND & HANS ULRICH ORBIST The Age of Earthquakes

Welcome to *The Age of Earthquakes*, a paper portrait of Now, where the Internet hasn't just changed the structure of our brains these past few years, it's also changing the structure of the planet. *The Age of Earthquakes* is a quick-fire paperback, harnessing the images, language and perceptions of our unfurling digital lives. The authors offer five characteristics of the Extreme Present, invent a glossary of new words to describe how we are truly feeling today, and "mindsource" images and illustrations from over 30 contemporary artists. Wayne Daly's striking graphic design imports the surreal, juxtaposed, mashed mannerisms of screen to page. It's like a culturally prescient, all-knowing email to the reader: possibly the best email they will ever read. This is a new history of the world that fits perfectly in your back pocket. **Blue Rider Press, TR, 256 PP, 9780399173868, \$17.00** 

#### DAN BARBER The Third Plate

Today's optimistic farm-to-table food culture has a dark secret: the local food movement has failed to change how we eat. It has also offered a false promise for the future of food. In his visionary *NewYork Times* – bestselling book, chef Dan Barber offers a radical new way of thinking about food that will heal the land and taste good, too. Looking to the detrimental cooking of our past, and the misguided dining of our present, Barber points to a future "third plate": a new form of American eating where good farming and good food intersect. Barber's *The Third Plate* charts a bright path forward for eaters and chefs alike, daring everyone to imagine a future for our national cuisine that is as sustainable as it is delicious.

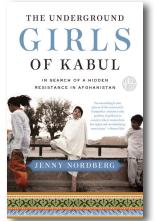
Penguin Books, TR, 496 PP., 9780143127154, \$20.00

#### TA-NEHISI COATES Between the World and Me NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER

Ta-Nehisi Coates profound new work offers a powerful framework for understanding the nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son – and readers – the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, clearly illuminating the past, confronting our present, and offering a transcendent vision for a way forward.

Spiegel & Grau, HC, 176 PP., 9780812993547, \$31.00

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA • WWW.PENGUINRANDOMHOUSE.CA/ACADEMIC • SOCIOLOGY



PROTIFICAST HUBBRED YEARS. ABORIGINAL PEOPLES HAVE BEEN MAKING A COMEBACK-A REMARKABLE COMEBACK FROM A TERRIFYINGLY LOW POINT OF POPULATION, OF LEGAL RESPECT, OF CIVILIZATIONAL STABILITY. A COMEBACK TO A POSITION OF POWER, INFLUENCE AND CIVILIZATIONAL CREATIVITY... O THE COMEBACK JOHN RALSTON SAUL

EXTREME

Ending Cyberabuse at

Work, School, and Home

PAULA TODD

#### JENNY NORDBERG The Underground Girls of Kabul

In Afghanistan, a culture ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as misfortune. Abacha posh (literally translated as "dressed up like a boy") is a third kind of child – a girl temporarily raised as a boy and presented as such to the outside world. Divided into four parts following four different girls, the book follows those born as the unwanted sex in Afghanistan, but who live as the socially favored gender through childhood and puberty, only to later be forced into marriage and childbirth. The Underground Girls of Kabul charts their dramatic life cycles, while examining our own history and the parallels to subversive actions of people who live under oppression everywhere.

Broadway Books, TR, 384 PP., 978030952509, \$17.00

#### JOHN RALSTON SAUL The Comeback

What is happening today between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals is not about guilt or sympathy or failure or romanticization of the past. It is about citizens' rights. It is about rebuilding relationships that were central to the creation of Canada. These relationships are just as important to its continued existence. In *The Comeback*, Saul calls on all of us to embrace and support the comeback of Aboriginal peoples. The centrality of Aboriginal issues and peoples has the potential to open up a more creative way of imagining ourselves and a more honest narrative for Canada. Wide in scope but piercing in detail, *The Comeback* presents a powerful portrait of modern Aboriginal life in Canada illustrated by a remarkable selection of letters, speeches, and writings by Aboriginal leaders and thinkers.

Penguin Canada, TR, 304PP., 9780143192727, \$19.95

#### PAULA TODD Extreme Mean

With vivid reportage, Paula Todd goes deep into the world of "extreme mean," uncovering the people who use the Internet to undermine lives rather than improve them. Through exclusive personal stories of online abuse from around the world, including the suicide of Amanda Todd and the untold costs of Rebecca Black's experience as "the most hated girl on the Internet," as well as interviews with troll-tormentors, accidental abusers, victimized kids, and adults, *Extreme Mean* explores the often surprising roots of online abuse, challenges current academic thinking, and offers new ways of understanding the nasty and the nefarious who erode humanity and threaten Internet freedom.

Signal, TR, 352 PP., 9780771084065, \$22.00

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#### OCIOLOGY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA • WWW.PENGUINRANDOMHOUSE.CA/ACADEMIC • SOCIOLOGY 🔥

A PATH

**APPEARS** 

Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity

CARYL RIVERS OSALIND C. BARNETT

THE NEW

SOFT WAR

ON WOMEN

IS HURTING WOMEN,

## 2016

## **NEW TITLES • SOCIOLOGY**

#1 BESTSELLING AUTHORS OF HALF THE SKY **NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF &** SHERYL WuDUNN A Path Appears

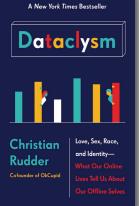
> With scrupulous research and on-the-ground reporting, Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn explore how altruism affects us, what are the markers for success, and how to avoid the pitfalls. In their recounting of astonishing stories from the front lines of social progress, we see the compelling, inspiring truth of how real people have changed the world, underscoring that one person can make a difference. A Path Appears offers practical, results-driven advice on how best each of us can give and reveals the lasting benefits we gain in return. Kristof and WuDunn know better than most how many urgent challenges communities around the world face today. Here they offer a timely beacon of hope for our collective future.

Vintage, TR, 400 PP., 9780345805102, \$20.95

### **CARYLE RIVERS & ROSALIND C. BARNETT** The New Soft War on Women

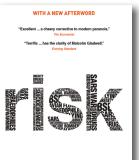
For the first time in history, women make up half the educated labor force and are earning the majority of advanced degrees. It should be the best time ever for women, and yet... it's not. In The New Soft War on Women, respected experts on gender issues and the psychology of women, Caryl Rivers and Rosalind C. Barnett argue that an insidious war of subtle biases and barriers is being waged that continues to marginalize women. Although women have made huge strides in recent years, these gains have not translated into money and influence. In this eye-opening book, Rivers and Barnett offer women the real facts as well as tools for combating the "soft war" tactics that prevent them from advancing in their careers. With women now central to the economy, determining to a large degree whether it thrives or stagnates, this is one war no one can afford for them to lose. TarcherPerigee, TR, 304 PP., 9780399176394, \$23.50

#### **CHRISTIAN RUDDER** Dataclysm



Dataclysm is a smart, funny, irreverent look at how we act when we think no one's looking. For centuries we've relied on polling or small-scale lab experiments to study human behaviour. Today a new approach is possible. As we live more of our lives online, researchers can finally observe us directly, in vast numbers and without filters. Data scientists can quantify the formerly unquantifiable and show with unprecedented precision how we fight, how we age, how we love, and how we change. Our personal data has been used to spy on us, hire and fire us, and sell us stuff we don't need. In Dataclysm, Rudder uses it to show us who we are as people. Rudder also tracks human migration in real time, showing how groups of people move from certain small towns to the same big cities across the globe. And he grapples with the challenge of maintaining privacy in a world where these explorations are possible. Vintage Canada, TR, 320 PP., 9780345812599, \$22.00 Negroland a memoir Margo Jefferson





Why We Fear the Things We Shouldn't - and Put Ourselves in Greater Dange Dan Gardner



#### **MARGO JEFFERSON** Negroland

Negroland is a deeply felt meditation on race, sex, and American culture through the prism of the author's rarefied upbringing and education among a black elite concerned with distancing itself from whites and the black generality while tirelessly measuring itself against both. Born in upper-crust black Chicago, Margo Jefferson has spent most of her life among the coloured elite. Since the nineteenth century they have stood apart, these inhabitants of Negroland, "a small region of Negro America where residents were sheltered by a certain amount of privilege and plenty." Reckoning with the demands of Negroland at crucial historical moments the civil rights movement, the dawn of feminism, the fallacy of postracial America - Jefferson brilliantly charts the twists and turns of a life informed by psychological and moral contradictions.

Pantheon, HC, 256 PP., 9780307378453, \$33.00

#### **DAN GARDNER** Risk

We are the safest and healthiest human beings who ever lived, and yet irrational fear is growing, with deadly consequences. Working with risk science pioneer Paul Slovic, author Dan Gardner sets out to explain how fear alters the decisions we make. We learn that the brain has not one but two systems to analyze risk. One is primitive, unconscious, and intuitive. The other is conscious and rational. The two systems often agree, but occasionally they come to very different conclusions. When that happens, we can find ourselves worrying about what the statistics tell us is a trivial threat, or shrugging off the more serious. Gardner helps us understand how to deconstruct the information we're bombarded with and respond more logically and adaptively to our world.

Emblem Editions, TR, 416 PP., 9780771036897, \$21.00

#### **GABRIELLA COLEMAN** Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy

Half a dozen years ago, anthropologist Gabriella Coleman set out to study the rise of this global phenomenon just as some of its members were turning to political protest and dangerous disruption (before Anonymous shot to fame as a key player in the battles over WikiLeaks, the Arab Spring, and Occupy Wall Street). She ended up becoming so closely connected to Anonymous that the tricky story of her inside - outside status as Anon confidante, interpreter, and erstwhile mouthpiece forms one of the themes of this witty and entirely engrossing book. The narrative brims with details unearthed from within a notoriously mysterious subculture, propelled by years of chats and encounters with a multitude of hackers. Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy is filled with insights into the meaning of digital activism and the little understood facets of culture in the Internet age.

Verso, TR, 480 PP., 9781781689837, \$25.95

## 2016

Revolutionary, Anne-Marie Slaughter has written the instruction manual for our next cultural transformation " - Artu Gawayne, unboy of Reine Mortal

Unfinished

**Business** 0 Women

- Family

Anne-Marie

Slaughter

o Men - Work

## **NEW TITLES • SOCIOLOGY**

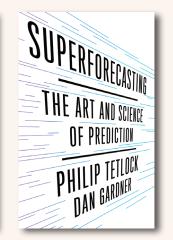
## 2016

# MINDWARE R CHARD I

#### **RICHARD E.** NISBETT Mindware

In *Mindware*, the world-renowned psychologist Richard Nisbett presents scientific and philosophical ideas in clear and accessible detail, offering a tool kit for better thinking and wiser decisions. In this groundbreaking book, he shows that a course in a given field - statistics or economics, for example - often doesn't work as well as a few minutes of more practical instruction in analyzing everyday situations. Mindware shows how to reframe common problems in such a way that these powerful scientific and statistical concepts can be applied to them. The result is an enlightening and practical guide to the most powerful tools of reasoning ever developed - tools that can easily be used to make better professional, business and personal decisions.

9780385680998, \$32.00



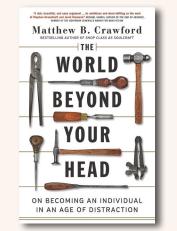
#### PHILIP TETLOCK **DAN GARDNER** Superforecasting

In Superforecasting, Tetlock and Gardner offer a masterwork on prediction, drawing on decades of research and the results of a massive, government-funded forecasting tournament. The Good Judgment Project involves tens of thousands of ordinary people who set out to forecast global events. Some of the volunteers have turned out to be astonishingly good, beating the collective judgment of intelligence analysts with access to classified information. They are "superforecasters." The authors show us how we can learn from this elite group, showing that good forecasting doesn't require powerful computers or arcane methods. It involves gathering evidence from a variety of sources, learning to think probabilistically, working in teams, keeping score, and being willing to admit error and change course.

Doubleday Canada, HC, 336 PP., Signal, HC, 352 PP., 9780771070525, \$34.95

#### **ANNE-MARIE SLAUGHTER** Unfinished Business

When Anne-Marie Slaughter accepted her dream job as the first female director of policy planning at the U.S. State Department in 2009, she was confident she could juggle the demands of her position in Washington, D.C., with the responsibilities of her family life in suburbia. But then life intervened and the reactions to her choice to leave Washington because of her kids led her to question the feminist narrative she grew up with. Her subsequent article for The Atlantic, "Why Women Still Can't Have It All," created a firestorm and sparked intense national debate, Since that time, Slaughter has pushed forward. Now, she returns with her vision for what true equality between men and women really means, and how we can get there, presenting a new focus that can reunite the women's movement and provide a common banner under which both men and women can advance and thrive. Random House Canada, HC, 352 PP., 9780345812896, \$32.00

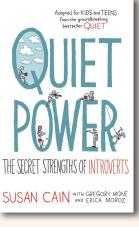


Your Head

#### MATTHEW B. **CRAWFORD** The World Beyond

We often complain about our fractured mental lives and feel beset by outside forces that destroy our focus and disrupt our peace of mind. Any defence against this, Crawford argues, requires that we reckon with the way attention sculpts the self. He examines the intense concentration of hockey players and short-order cooks, the quasiautistic behaviour of gambling addicts, the familiar hassles of daily life, and the deep, slow craftwork of building pipe organs. He shows that our current crisis of attention is only superficially the result of digital technology and becomes more comprehensible when understood as the culmination of certain assumptions at the root of Western culture that are profoundly at odds with human nature. The World Beyond Your Head is a book of urgent relevance to contemporary life.

Penguin Canada, TR, 320 PP., 9780143182344, \$21.00



#### **SUSAN CAIN Ouiet Power**

Susan Cain sparked a worldwide conversation when she published Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking. With her inspiring book, she permanently changed the way we see introverts and the way introverts see themselves. The original book focused on the workplace, and Susan realized that a version for and about kids was also needed. This book is all about kids' worldschool, extracurriculars, family life, and friendship. You'll read about actual kids who have tackled the challenges of introversion and who have made a mark in their own quiet way. You'll hear Cain's own story, and you'll be able to make use of the tips at the end of each chapter. There's even a guide at the end of the book for parents and teachers. This insightful, accessible, and empowering book, illustrated with amusing comicstyle art, will be eye-opening to extroverts and introverts alike.

You May Also Like Tom Vanderbilt

#### TOM VANDERBILT You May Also Like

Everyone knows his or her favourite colour, or the foods we most enjoy. But what does it really mean when we like something? How do we decide what's good? In You May Also Like, Tom Vanderbilt dives deep into this complex and fascinating world. He explores the physiology of eating to reveal how our taste buds, which can only recognize five tastes, interact with our olfactory systems and our memories to create an astounding array of flavours. He shows how difficult it is, even for experts, to pinpoint exactly what makes something good or enjoyable, and how companies like Netflix can make or lose millions based on their ability to predict what we will enjoy. Vanderbilt's latest book takes us on a stimulating and surprising intellectual journey that helps us better understand our world and ourselves, and the things we so often take for granted.

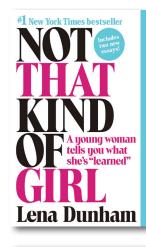
Knopf Canada, HC, 368 PP., 9780307402622, \$32.95

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9780670068234, \$23.99

Puffin Canada, HC, 272 PP.,



ERIC HAZAN

WE,

ROBOTS

Staying Human in

the Age of Big Data

**CURTIS WHITE** 

#### **LENA DUNHAM** Not That Kind of Girl

"There is nothing gutsier to me than a person announcing that their story is one that deserves to be told," writes Lena Dunham, and it certainly takes guts to share the stories that make up her first book, *Not That Kind of Girl*. These are stories about getting your butt touched by your boss, about friendship and dieting (kind of) and having two existential crises before the age of 20. Stories about travel, both successful and less so, and about having the kind of sex where you feel like keeping your sneakers on in case you have to run away during the act. Fearless, smart, and as heartbreakingly honest as ever, *Not That Kind of Girl* establishes Lena Dunham as more than a hugely talented director, actress and producer – it announces her as a fresh and vibrant new literary voice.

Anchor Canada, TR, 304 PP., 9780385680691, \$19.95

#### **ERIC HAZAN** A History of the Barricade

In the history of European revolutions, the barricade stands as a glorious emblem. Its symbolic importance arises principally from the barricades of Hazan's native Paris, where they were instrumental in the revolts of the nineteenth century, helping to shape the political life of a continent. The barricade was always a makeshift construction, and in working-class districts these ersatz fortifications could spread like wildfire. They doubled as a stage, from which insurgents could harangue soldiers and subvert their allegiance. Their symbolic power persisted into May 1968 and, more recently, the Occupy movements. Hazan traces the many stages in the barricade's evolution, from the Wars of Religion through to the Paris Commune, drawing on the work of thinkers throughout the periods examined to illustrate and bring to life the violent practicalities of revolutionary uprising.

Verso, HC, 144 PP., 9781784781255, \$21.50

#### **CURTIS WHITE** We, Robots

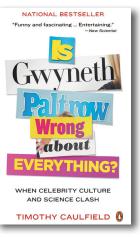
Can technology solve all our problems? Many of our most famous journalists, pundits, and economists seem to think so. According to them, "intelligent machines" will free us from work, educate our children, and transform our environment. This is the story they're telling us: that we should stop worrying and love our robot future. But just because you tell a story over and over again doesn't make it true. Curtis White knows all about the danger of a seductive story, and in *We, Robots*, he tangles with the so-called thinkers who are convinced that the future is rose-colored and robotically enhanced. With tremendous erudition and a punchy wit, White argues that we must be skeptical of anyone who tries to sell us on technological inevitability. And he gives us an alternative set of stories: taking inspiration from artists, White shows us that by looking to art, we can imagine a different kind of future.

Melville House, HC, 304 PP., 9781612194554, \$33.95

## NINE LIVES IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP CITY OF







NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

**MARC GOODMAN** 

FUTURE CRIMES

**Inside the Digital** 

**Underground and the Battle** 

for Our Connected World

ndium for the Information Age. . . . Exhaustively . . Thrilling to read." — San Francisco Chronicle

#### BEN RAWLENCE City of Thorns

To charity workers, Dadaab refugee camp is a humanitarian crisis; to the Kenyan government, it's a "nursery for terrorists"; to the western media, it's a dangerous no-go area; but to its half a million residents, it is their last resort. Situated hundreds of miles from any other settlement, in the midst of the inhospitable desert of northern Kenya where only thorn bushes grow, Dadaab is a city like no other. Its buildings are made from mud and its citizens survive on rations and luck. Over the course of four years, Ben Rawlence became a first-hand witness to a strange and desperate limboland, getting to know many of the individuals who have sought sanctuary in the camp. With deep compassion and rare eloquence, Rawlence interweaves the stories of nine individuals to show what life is like in the camp and to sketch the wider political forces that keep the refugees trapped there. **Random House Canada, HC, 400 PP, 9780345815149, \$34.00** 

#### **TIMOTHY CAULFIELD** *Is Gwyneth Paltrow Wrong About Everything?*

Over the past few decades, celebrity culture's grip on our society has tightened. For Timothy Caulfield, a health science expert, this culture has a measurable influence on individual health care decisions. In typical Caulfield manner, it isn't enough to just interview experts and read all of the current studies. He tries celebrity-recommended beauty routines and diets. After attending a modeling competition, he enrolls in an audition for a Hollywood modelling agency. He follows celebrity Twitter feeds, reads gossip blogs and forces himself to read every issue of People magazine, for an entire year, in his quest to understand the relationship between celebrity culture and our health choices. In this fun, factual book, Caulfield separates sense from nonsense and provides evidence-informed advice about what actually works and what is a waste of money and time.

Penguin Canada, TR, 400 PP., 9780143189039, \$21.00

#### MARC GOODMAN Future Crimes



Technological advances have benefited our world in immeasurable ways – but there is an ominous flip side. Criminals are often the earliest, and most innovative, adopters of technology. Today's criminals steal identities, drain online bank accounts and wipe out computer servers. Meanwhile, 3D printers produce AK-47s, terrorists can download the recipe for the Ebola virus, and drug cartels are building drones. This is just the beginning of the tsunami of technological threats coming our way. In *Future Crimes*, Marc Goodman rips opens his database of hundreds of real cases to give us front-row access to these impending perils. *Future Crimes* raises tough questions about the expanding role of technology in our lives. *Future Crimes* is a call to action for better security measures worldwide, and empowers readers to protect themselves against looming threats – before it's too late.

Anchor Canada, TR, 608 PP., 9780385682589, \$22.00

2016

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## NEW TITLES • SOCIOLOGY

## **American Girls**

Social Media and the Secret Lives of Teenagers

## Nancy Jo Sales



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

JOHANN HARI

SCREA M

THE FIRST AND LAST DAYS

OF THE WAR ON DRUGS

SO YOU'VE BEEN

PUBLICLY SHAMED

FROM THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF

JON RONSON

CHASING .

With extraordinary intimacy and precision, Sales captures what it feels like to be a girl in America today. She crisscrossed the country, speaking to more than two hundred girls, ages thirteen to nineteen, and documenting a massive change in the way girls are growing up, a phenomenon that transcends race, geography, and household income. American Girls provides a disturbing portrait of the end of childhood as we know it and of the inexorable and ubiquitous experience of a new kind of adolescence – one dominated by new social and sexual norms, where issues of identity and self-esteem are magnified and transformed by social platforms that provide instantaneous judgment. From beauty gurus to slut-shaming to a disconcerting trend of exhibitionism, Nancy Jo Sales provides a shocking window into the troubling world of today's teenage girls.

Knopf, HC, 416 PP., 9780385353922, \$35.95

#### **JOHANN HARI** Chasing the Scream

NANCY JO SALES

American Girls

It is now one hundred years since drugs were first banned in the United States. On the eve of this centenary, journalist Johann Hari set off on an epic three-year journey into the war on drugs. What he found is that more and more people all over the world have begun to recognize three startling truths: drugs are not what we think they are, addiction is not what we think it is, and the drug war has very different motives to the ones we have seen on our TV screens for so long. In *Chasing the Scream*, Hari reveals his discoveries entirely through the stories of people across the world whose lives have been transformed by this war, laying bare what we really have been chasing in our century of drug war – in our hunger for drugs, and our attempt to destroy them.

Bloomsbury Press, TR, 400 PP., 9781620408919, \$24.00

#### JON RONSON So You've Been Publicly Shamed

For the past three years, Jon Ronson has travelled the world meeting recipients of high-profile public shamings. The shamed are people like us – people who, say, made a joke on social media that came out badly, or made a mistake at work. Once their transgression is revealed, collective outrage circles with the force of a hurricane and the next thing they know they're being torn apart by an angry mob, jeered at, demonized, sometimes even fired from their job. A great renaissance of public shaming is sweeping our land. Justice has been democratized. The silent majority are getting a voice. But what are we doing with our voice? We are using shame as a form of social control. *SoYou've Been Publicly Shamed* is full of eye-opening truths about the escalating war on human flaws – and the very scary part we all play in it.

Riverbed Books, TR, 336 PP., 9781594634017, \$21.00

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Downight Inspiral "The first first gase firston SPINSTER MAKING-ALIFE OF ONE'S OWN



No

Cover

**Preview** 

Available at

This Time

#### KATE BOLICK Spinster

Spinster is a look at the pleasures and possibilities of remaining single. Using her own experiences as a starting point, journalist and cultural critic Kate Bolick invites us into her carefully considered, passionately lived life, weaving together the past and present to examine why she – along with over 100 million American women – remains unmarried. This unprecedented demographic shift is the logical outcome of hundreds of years of change. *Spinster* introduces a cast of pioneering women from the last century whose genius have emboldened Bolick to fashion her life on her own terms. By animating their unconventional ideas, Bolick shows us that contemporary debates about settling down, and having it all, are timeless—the crucible upon which all thoughtful women have tried for centuries to forge a good life.

Broadway Books, TR, 352 PP., 9780385347150, \$22.00

#### **SIMON PARKIN** Death by Video Game

On January 31, 2012, in an internet cafe on the outskirts of New Taipei City, Taiwan, 23-year-old student Chen Rong-yu was found dead at his keyboard while the video game he had been playing for three days straight continued to flash on the screen in front of his corpse. As Simon Parkin reconstructs what happened that night, he begins a journey that takes him around the world in search of answers: What is it about video games that inspires such tremendous acts of endurance and obsession? In *Death byVideo Game*, Simon Parkin meets the players and game developers at the frontline of virtual extremism. A riveting and wildly entertaining look at the impact of video games on our lives, *Death byVideo Game* will change the way we think about our virtual playgrounds.

Melville House, HC, 288 PP., 9781612195407, \$33.95

#### **DEBORAH CAMPBELL** A Disappearance in Damascus



In 2007, Deborah Campbell travels undercover to Damascus on assignment to Harper's to report on the exodus of Iraqi refugees into Syria following the fall of Baghdad. There she meets and hires Ahlam, a refugee working in Damascus as a "fixer" – providing Western media with information and contacts to get the news out. Ahlam, a charismatic woman who fled to Syria after being kidnapped for her work running a humanitarian centre in Iraq, uses the income to support her husband and children and to help orphans and widows and starting a school for teenaged girls. But the Syrian Secret Police are watching. The morning they seize Ahlam, Campbell is forced to watch, unable to stop them. This is the story of their eventual reunion and the continuing friendship between two brave women from very different cultures.

Knopf Canada, HC, 320 PP., 9780345809292, \$32.00

2016

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