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A Novel

SANDRA CAVALLO MILLER

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*Where Light Comes and Goes* brings back Dr. Abby Wilmore, the young family physician who was the protagonist of Miller’s first novel, *The Color of Rock*. Abby has accepted the directorship of a summer clinic in Yellowstone National Park where she hopes to expand her medical skills. She arrives to find herself working above the increasingly restless Yellowstone supervolcano, treating visitors, staff, and locals, all while evading the advances of a lecherous concession manager and maintaining a long-distance relationship with her partner who stays at the Grand Canyon Clinic. As tremors in the park escalate and the lakes seethe with bubbling gases, Abby learns that someone is mysteriously killing the bison.

What follows is an engrossing mystery unfolding in a spectacular setting with rich, quirky, and endearing characters and unexpected plot turns. While an overworked Abby makes new friends among her clinic staff and patients, tension builds as the volcano seems to be moving closer to a major eruption and the bison killings become more frequent. Soon, Abby finds herself in mortal danger as the story races to a thrilling and unexpected conclusion.

Sandra Cavallo Miller demonstrated in *The Color of Rock* that she is a gifted storyteller. *Where Light Comes and Goes* deftly combines a gripping mystery set in the accurately depicted routine of a busy medical practice amid the wonders of Yellowstone’s magnificent scenery and wildlife. This is entertaining reading at its best.

*OCTOBER*
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Of related interest
*The Color of Rock*

*Sandra Cavallo Miller* is an author, poet, and retired academic family physician. She is the author of *The Color of Rock*, and her writings and poems have been published in *JAMA’s* *A Piece of My Mind*, *Pulse: Voices from the Heart of Medicine*, *Under the Sun*, and the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona.
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YXTA MAYA MURRAY

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The gripping, thought-provoking stories in Yxta Maya Murray’s latest collection find their inspiration in the headlines. Here, ordinary people negotiate tentative paths through wildfire, mass shootings, bureaucratic incompetence, and heedless government policies with vicious impacts on the innocent and helpless. A nurse volunteers to serve in catastrophe-stricken Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria and discovers that her skill and compassion are useless in the face of stubborn governmental inertia. An Environmental Protection Agency employee, whose agricultural-worker parents died after long exposure to a deadly pesticide, finds herself forced to find justifications for reversing regulations that had earlier banned the chemical. A Department of Education employee in a dystopic future America visits a highly praised charter school and discovers the horrific consequences of academic failure. A transgender trainer of beauty pageant contestants takes on a beautiful Latina for the Miss USA pageant and brings her to perfection and the brink of victory, only to discover that she has a fatal secret.

The characters in these stories grapple with the consequences of frightening attitudes and policies pervasive in the United States today. The stories explore not only our distressing human capacity for moral numbness in the face of evil, but also reveal our surprising stores of compassion and forgiveness. These brilliantly conceived and beautifully written stories are troubling yet irresistible mirrors of our time.

Yxta Maya Murray is an art critic, author, and law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California. She has won a Whiting Writer’s Award and an Art Writer’s Grant and was a finalist for the American Society of Magazine Editors Fiction Award in 2019. She is the author of Locas, What It Takes to Get to Vegas, and others, and her work has also been published in Artforum, Aperture, Ploughshares, Conjunction, Georgia Review, Guernica, Los Angeles Review of Books, and other magazines.
“Converts headlines into personal tales of struggles to circumvent and survive immigration policing in the modern era. That’s a story that should be told, and Kagan does it remarkably well.”
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A lawyer’s personal look at the complex cruelties of immigration policy and a community’s efforts to respond

The Battle to Stay in America
Immigration’s Hidden Front Line

MICHAEL KAGAN

“The national debate over American immigration policy has obsessed politicians and disrupted the lives of millions of people for decades. The Battle to Stay in America focuses on Las Vegas, Nevada—a city where more than one in five residents was born in a foreign country, and where the community is struggling to defend itself against the federal government’s crackdown on undocumented immigrants. Told through the eyes of an immigration lawyer on the front lines of that battle, this book offers an accessible, intensely personal introduction to a broken legal system. It is also a raw, honest story of exhaustion, perseverance, and solidarity. Michael Kagan describes how current immigration law affects real people’s lives and introduces us to some remarkable individuals—immigrants and activists—who grapple with its complications every day. He explains how American immigration law often gives good people no recourse. He shows how under President Trump the complex bureaucracies that administer immigration law have been re-engineered to carry out a relentless but often invisible attack against people and families who are integral to American communities.

Kagan tells the stories of people desperate to escape unspeakable violence in their homeland, children separated from their families and trapped in a tangle of administrative regulations, and hardworking long-time residents suddenly ripped from their productive lives when they fall unwittingly into the clutches of the immigration enforcement system. He considers how the crackdown on immigrants negatively impacts the national economy and offers a deeply considered assessment of the future of immigration policy in the United States. Kagan also captures the psychological costs exacted by fear of deportation and by increasingly overt expressions of hatred against immigrants.

Michael Kagan is the director of the UNLV Immigration Clinic, which defends children and families fighting deportation in Las Vegas, and is Joyce Mack Professor of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He was a plaintiff in one of the lawsuits that prevented the Trump administration from adding a question about citizenship to the 2020 census. He has written for The Washington Post, Salon.com, and The Daily Beast and is a leading national scholar of immigration and refugee law.
“If you seek to know the birthplace of our ‘post-factual’ world, Smith offers a prime candidate. From rangeland to courtroom, Bundy and his sons have helped to create a dangerous new American West where theater is reality and truth is whatever the loudest shouter claims it to be.”

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A grazing rights battle in Nevada reflects the role of extreme-right politics in the fierce debate over management of public lands in the American West.

Saints, Sinners, and Sovereign Citizens
The Endless War over the West’s Public Lands

JOHN L. SMITH

“What this author brings to the table is a deep understanding of Nevada history and the political rivers running through it. Unlike other writers, he understands the state and the players as well as anyone.”
—Geoff Schumacher, author of Howard Hughes: Power, Paranoia and Palace Intrigue

The grazing rights battle between Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and the federal government, resulting in a tense, armed standoff between Bundy’s supporters and federal law enforcement officers, garnered international media attention in 2014. Saints, Sinners, and Sovereign Citizens places the Bundy conflict into the larger context of the Sagebrush Rebellion and the long struggle over the use of federal public lands in the American West.

Author John L. Smith skillfully captures the drama of the Bundy legal tangle amid the current political climate. Although no shots were fired during the standoff itself, just weeks later self-proclaimed Bundy supporters murdered two Las Vegas police officers and a civilian. In Eastern Oregon, other Bundy supporters occupied the federal offices of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and one of them died in a hail of bullets.

While examining the complex history of federal public land policies, Smith exposes both sides of this story. He shows that there are passionate true believers on opposite sides of the insurrection, along with government agents and politicians in Washington complicit in efforts to control public lands for their wealthy allies and campaign contributors. With the promise of billions of dollars in natural resource profits and vast tracts of environmentally sensitive lands hanging in the balance, the West’s latest range war is the most important in the nation’s history. This masterful exposé raises serious questions about the fate of America’s public’s lands and the vehement arguments that are framing the debate from all sides.

John L. Smith is a Nevada native and award-winning freelance writer, journalist, and author of more than a dozen books, including The Westside Slugger: Joe Neal’s Lifelong Fight for Social Justice.
Wry, compassionate, and deftly observed poems that contemplate how we might live wisely in the midst of planetary change

The Mouth of Earth
Poems
SARAH P. STRONG

“Ecological in its concern and wisely tender in regard to the people and history who brought the planet to such an endangered state . . . Sarah Strong’s book is driven by a love of the earth and a wish to understand how and why our civilization has found itself at this critically dangerous juncture.”
—Sasha Steensen, author of House of Deer: Poems

In this wise and moving collection of poems, Sarah P. Strong unflinchingly explores what it means to live in a world undergoing an irrevocable transformation, the magnitude of which we barely comprehend. These poems engage a broad range of perspectives. In an imagined view of our planet as it might appear millennia from now, the Earth is “a worry stone / in the pocket of space, or a mood ring / on the finger of a newly minted / god.” A series of linked persona poems about the Dust Bowl recounts our destruction of the Great Plains and how human dreams of plenty destroyed the ancient fertility and stability of the land, how heartbreak and denial contended with bureaucratic insolence. There are elegies for what we have lost or are losing, while other poems describe with tenderness and compassion the human consequences of such destruction. As a whole, they employ a rich variety of formal approaches and unforgettable images: starving bees swarming into a desert sky, a cow on her way to the slaughterhouse, a stray dog that “hung around the yard with those sad eyes, / triste como Jesús, then all night baying, / as if he was in love. But it was thirst.”

Strong’s powerful poems offer us, if not consolation, at least a way toward comprehension in an age of loss, revealing both our ongoing denial of our planet’s fragility and the compelling urgency of our hunger for connection with all life.

Winner of the 2019 Interim Test Site Poetry Series Prize

Powerful poems that explore the nature of trauma and recovery

Riddle Field
Poems
DEREK THOMAS DEW

“Riddle Field is replete with lines that fuse unlike dimensions, relentlessly juxtaposing realms and ideas that create a new kind of knowing. Here, collage and stream of consciousness reveal the interconnectedness inherent in all things. Each line: a deep noticing that can only be chanced upon, relentless and sublime.”
—Sherwin Bitsui, author of Dissolve and Flood Song

“In Riddle Field we are made witness to a miracle of the new millennium: America rising out of its actual soil, covered in flowers and malice, music and weaponry, into a body wholly new. These poems propose a spaciousness in what Shakespeare once called ‘the wide gap of time.’ They refresh and reprimand us all at once.”
—Donald Revell, author of The English Boat and Drought-Adapted Vine

The beautifully crafted poems in Riddle Field explore two parallel themes, the impact of the impending destruction of a dam on a small town and the trauma of sexual abuse and eventual recovery from it. This work focuses on the environment, human and physical, in which the loss of nature and innocence is born and calls attention to the many ways we create both intimacy and distance when trauma is hidden or denied. Derek Thomas Dew’s language is harsh, honest, and sometimes heartbreaking. His poems capture the confusion and fatigue that must be navigated for a victim of abuse to piece himself back together and the internal strife that comes with carrying a traumatic secret that can no longer be ignored.

Rich with unforgettable images and the quiet strength of hard-won survival, Riddle Field tackles the complex process of achieving self-awareness and recovery in the wake of profound trauma.

Derek Thomas Dew’s poems have appeared in Interim, Twyckenham Notes, The Maynard, The Curator, Two Hawks Quarterly, and Hawaii Pacific Review. He lives in Oregon.
A perceptive study of a brilliant, gay Western writer

Savage West
The Life and Fiction of Thomas Savage

O. ALAN WELTZIEN

“This book makes plain that Savage’s work is worthy of a great deal more critical attention than it has received . . . Weltzien has a thorough command of his subject and has augmented his own analyses with impressive archival work and original interviews with Savage’s family, friends, and collaborators. Savage West is a significant and welcome contribution to scholarship on western American literature, Montana literature, and environmental literature.”

—Michael P. Branch, author of Rants from the Hill and How to Cuss in Western

Thomas Savage (1915–2003) was one of the intermountain West’s best novelists. His thirteen novels received high critical praise, yet he remained largely unknown by readers. Although Savage spent much of his later life in the Northeast, his formative years were spent in southwestern Montana, where the mountain West and his ranching family formed the setting for much of his work.

O. Alan Weltzien’s insightful and detailed literary biography chronicles the life and work of this neglected but deeply talented novelist. Savage, a closeted gay family man, was both an outsider and an insider, navigating an intense conflict between his sexual identity and the claustrophobic social restraints of the rural West. Unlike many other Western writers, Savage avoided the formula westerns—so popular in his time—and offered instead a realistic, often subversive version of the region. His novels tell a hard, harsh story about dysfunctional families, loneliness, and stifling provincialism in the small towns and ranches of the northern Rockies, and his minority interpretation of the West provides a unique vision and caustic counternarrative contrary to the triumphant settler-colonialism themes that have shaped most Western literature. Savage West seeks to claim Thomas Savage’s well-deserved position in American literature and to reintroduce twenty-first-century readers to a major Montana writer.

O. Alan Weltzien is a newly retired professor of English, specializing in American and Western American literature, at the University of Montana Western. He has published nine books, including studies of the work of John McPhee, Rick Bass, and Norman Maclean, as well as dozens of articles, a memoir, two chapbooks, and three poetry collections. He lives in Montana.
A fascinating double biography of two of history’s most dedicated post–Civil War Native American advocates

They Met at Wounded Knee

The Eastmans’ Story

GRETCHEN CASSEL EICK

“Historian Gretchen Eick has employed biography to write a brilliant history of the United States genocidal policy of elimination or assimilation, the choices presented to Indigenous Peoples of the United States. The Dakota physician, author, and activist, Charles Eastman, used his own assimilation to promote self-determination, while his ‘friend of the Indians’ Euro-American wife and writing partner of three decades chose assimilation, destroying their marriage. This is a gripping text exploring the nadir of Native American nations’ existence from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.”

—Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author of An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States

When Charles Ohiyesa Eastman, a degreed Dakota physician with an East Coast university education, met Elaine Goodale, a teacher and supervisor of education among the Sioux, they were about to witness one of the worst massacres in U.S. history: the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre. As Charles and Elaine witnessed the horror, they formed a bond that would carry them across the United States as they became advocates for Native Americans, whistleblowing the corruption and racism of the nation’s Native American policies.

They used their lives to fight for citizenship and equal rights for indigenous people. Charles built a national organization of and for Native Americans that paralleled the NAACP. He brought Indians into the popular scouting movement. They each wrote eleven books, lobbied Congress, made speeches, wrote articles, and protested the steady erosion of indigenous rights and resources.

In this double biography, social and political history combine to paint vivid pictures of the time. Gretchen Cassel Eick deftly connects the experiences and responses of Native Americans with those of African Americans and white progressives during the period from the Civil War to World War II. In addition, tensions between the Eastmans mirror the dilemmas of gender, cultural pluralism, and the ethnic differences that Charles and Elaine faced as they worked to make a nation care about Native American impoverishment.

The Eastmans’ story is a national story, but it is also intensely personal. It reveals the price American reformers paid for their activism and the cost exacted for American citizenship. This thoughtful book brings a bleak chapter in American history alive and will cause readers to think about the connections between Charles and Elaine’s time and ours.

Gretchen Cassel Eick is an award-winning author and professor of history emerita at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. She and her husband divide their year between Wichita and Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), where they teach in the English Department of the Dzemal Bijedic University in Mostar, BiH.
The Spanish Civil War through the eyes of American participants

American Commander in Spain
Robert Hale Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade

MARION MERRIMAN and WARREN LERUDE

Praise for the first edition:
“A priceless addition to Spanish Civil War literature.”
—The New York Times

“A poignant love story.”
—The Los Angeles Times

“It is a striking portrait of an intellectual who displayed in dangerous action not only exemplary courage but a talent for command.”
—The Washington Post

The Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) was a confrontation between supporters of Spain’s democratically elected Republic—including peasants, communists, union workers, and anarchists—and an alliance of nationalist Army rebels and upper-class forces, including the Catholic Church and landlords, led by General Francisco Franco. In the political climate of the time, this civil war became the focus of foreign interests advocating conflicting ideas of democracy and fascism. Spain became a training ground where Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy tested military techniques intended for use in a yet to be declared wider world war. Although most Western nations embraced a neutrality pact, individual volunteers from around the world, including the United States, made their way to Spain to support the Republican cause.

Among the Americans was Robert Hale Merriman, a scholar who had been studying international economics in Europe. He and his wife, Marion, joined volunteers from fifty-four countries in International Brigades. Merriman became the first commander of the Americans’ Abraham Lincoln Battalion and a leader among the International Brigades. Now available in a new paperback edition, American Commander in Spain is based on Merriman’s and Marion’s diaries and personal correspondence, Marion’s own service at his side in Spain, as well as Warren Lerude’s extensive research and interviews with people who knew Merriman and Marion, government records, and contemporary news reports. This critically acclaimed work is both the biography of a remarkable man who combined his idealism with life-risking action to fight fascism threatening Europe and Marion’s vivid first-hand account of life in Spain during the civil war that became a prologue to the Second World War.

Marion Merriman was the only American woman to serve as a member of the International Brigades. She was a 1932 graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno. She worked at Stanford University and was active in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade veterans after the war. She died in 1991.

Warren Lerude is a former editor and publisher of the Reno Evening Gazette and the Nevada State Journal. In 1977 he won a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for editorial writing, and he is emeritus professor at the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. He and his wife, Janet, live in Reno, Nevada.
A critical, long-term study on some of Southern Nevada’s most catastrophic workplace disasters

Gambling with Lives
A History of Occupational Health in Greater Las Vegas

MICHELLE FOLLETTE TURK

“Turk effectively makes the case that centering place in studies of occupational health and safety adds richness and depth to the story. This is a worthwhile study with which future scholars of the subject will need to reckon.”
—Environmental History

“A History of Occupational Health and Safety is a significant addition to the scholarship of hazards and health in the American West. Turk offers an engaging interdisciplinary study that is useful to academic and practitioner readers alike.”
—Western Historical Quarterly

Since the founding of Las Vegas, rapid development has always strained occupational health and safety standards. Gambling with Lives examines the work, hazards, and health and safety programs in the Greater Las Vegas area from the early building of the railroad through the construction of the Hoover Dam, chemical manufacturing during World War II, nuclear testing, and megaresort construction and service employment on the Las Vegas Strip. Updated through 2020, this edition includes new and expanded discussions on:

- Union activity, sexual harassment and misconduct, and race and employment
- The 1918 influenza pandemic
- The MGM Grand and Las Vegas Hilton fires
- Work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the service industry
- Replacing Las Vegas’ “What happens here, stays here” slogan
- Effects of the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting
- Legionnaire’s Disease outbreaks at resorts
- The COVID-19 pandemic

Since few places in the United States contain this mixture of industrial and postindustrial sites, the Las Vegas area offers unique opportunities to evaluate American occupational health and reminds us all about the relevancy of protecting our workers.

Michelle Follette Turk is a historian of occupational health and Nevada. She has authored scholarly articles on labor and medicine at the Hoover Dam and teaches for the History Department and Honors College at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
A mesmerizing exploration of the social, political, and technological aspects of the worst civil engineering disaster in twentieth-century American history

**Heavy Ground**
William Mulholland and the St. Francis Dam Disaster

NORRIS HUNDLEY JR. and DONALD C. JACKSON

Praise for the first edition:

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—Pacific Historical Review

Minutes before midnight on March 12, 1928, the St. Francis Dam collapsed, sending more than twelve billion gallons of water surging through Southern California’s Santa Clara Valley, killing some four hundred people and causing the greatest civil engineering disaster in twentieth-century American history. In this carefully researched work, Norris Hundley jr. and Donald C. Jackson provide a riveting narrative exploring the history of the ill-fated dam and the person directly responsible for its flawed design—William Mulholland, a self-taught engineer of the Los Angeles municipal water system.

Employing copious illustrations and intensive research, *Heavy Ground* traces the interwoven roles of politics and engineering in explaining how the St. Francis Dam came to be built and the reasons for its collapse. Hundley and Jackson also detail the terror and heartbreak brought by the flood, legal claims against the City of Los Angeles, efforts to restore the Santa Clara Valley, political factors influencing investigations of the failure, and the effect of the disaster on congressional approval of the future Hoover Dam. Underlying it all is a consideration of how the dam—and the disaster—were inextricably intertwined with the life and career of William Mulholland. Ultimately, this thoughtful and nuanced account of the dam’s failure reveals how individual and bureaucratic conceit fed Los Angeles’s desire to control vital water supplies in the booming metropolis of Southern California.

Norris Hundley jr. (1935–2013) was a leading historian of the American West and a pioneer in the nascent field of water history. A long-time member of the history department at UCLA, he served as president of both the Western History Association and the Pacific Coast branch of the American Historical Association.

Donald C. Jackson is the Cornelia F. Hugel professor of history at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Trained in college as an engineer, he has authored many books and articles on the history of dams and hydraulic engineering in the American West.
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