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The University of Nevada Press was established in 1961 and continues to produce books for a scholarly and general audience that preserve, study, and celebrate the history and culture of the American West. In addition to regional works, we publish books of global significance in fields such as environmental studies, Basque studies, mining, gaming, and urbanization. The Press also publishes select fiction and memoir.

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A beautifully poetic memoir about redeeming fraught relationships through grief

Starting with Goodbye
A Daughter’s Memoir of Love after Loss

LISA ROMEO

“Lisa Romeo’s compelling memoir is both a loving tribute to her adored father and a clear-eyed portrait of their complicated relationship. Reading it, you can’t help but reflect on your own familial bonds—but you may also find, as I did, that Lisa’s lovely writing and startling insights lead you into deeper territory, as she wrestles with questions of identity, mortality, and the vagaries of love.”
—Christina Baker Kline, author of Orphan Train and A Piece of the World

“This is a brave and vulnerable book, like The Year of Magical Thinking. The energy of this book is leaping off the page with internal struggle. The writing moved me—gorgeous sentences. I felt the narrator’s presence so strongly and felt so connected to what she was going through, and what she had lost. It so beautifully reflects the ‘stuckness’ of grief, with a lack of sentimentality that is powerful.”
—Laraine Herring, author of Lost Fathers

Starting with Goodbye begins with loss and ends with love, as a midlife daughter rediscovers her enigmatic father after his death. Lisa has little time for grief, but when her dead dad drops in for “conversations,” his absent presence invites Lisa to examine why the parent she had turned away from in life now holds her spellbound.

Lisa reconsiders the affluent upbringing he financed (filled with horses, lavish vacations, bulging closets), and the emotional distance that grew when he retired to Las Vegas and she remained in New Jersey where she and her husband earn moderate incomes. She also confronts death rituals, navigates new family dynamics, while living both in memory and the unfolding moment.

In this brutally honest yet compelling portrayal and tribute, Lisa searches for meaning, reconciling the Italian-American father—self-made textile manufacturer who liked newspapers, smoking, Las Vegas craps tables, and solitude—with the complex man she discovers influenced everything, from career choice to spouse. By forging a new father-daughter “relationship,” grief is transformed to hopeful life-affirming redemption. In poignant, often lyrical prose, this powerful, honest book proves that when we dare to love the parent who challenged us most, it’s never too late.

Lisa Romeo is part of the founding faculty in the Bay Path University MFA program, and works as a manuscript editor and consultant. Her nonfiction is among Notables in Best American Essays 2016, and is published widely in literary and popular media, including the New York Times, O, The Oprah Magazine, Under the Sun, Brevity, Hippocampus, and more. Lisa is a former equestrian journalist, competitive rider, and public relations specialist. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and sons.
“An entertaining and insightful story of California seen through the state’s wine history, Crush is an essential addition to any California bookshelf. Readers may never look at their glass of California wine in the same way.”

—Christopher O’Sullivan, University of San Francisco
An engrossing account of how California wines ascended to the pinnacle of the wine world

Crush
The Triumph of California Wine

JOHN BRISCOE

“In a tour de force of scholarship, fine writing, and multifaceted format, Crush describes the process of how California introduced wine to America and how wine helped to create contemporary California. With verve and amplitude, Briscoe evokes the alchemy through which wine—as agriculture, as vintners’ art, as connoisseurship in dialogue with advanced and popular taste alike—helped define California as a regional civilization.”

—Kevin Starr, former professor of history and California State Librarian

Look. Smell. Taste. Judge. Crush is the 200-year story of the heady dream that wines as good as the greatest of France could be made in California. A dream dashed four times in merciless succession until it was ultimately realized in a stunning blind tasting in Paris. In that tasting, in the year of America’s bicentennial, California wines took their place as the leading wines of the world.

For the first time, Briscoe tells the complete and dramatic story of the ascendancy of California wine in vivid detail. He also profiles the larger story of California itself by looking at it from an entirely innovative perspective, the state seen through its singular wine history.

With dramatic flair and verve, Briscoe not only recounts the history of wine and winemaking in California, he encompasses a multidimensional approach that takes into account an array of social, political, cultural, legal, and winemaking sources. Elements of this history have plot lines that seem scripted by a Sophocles, or Shakespeare. It is a fusion of wine, personal histories, cultural, and socioeconomic aspects.

From the first harvest and vintage, through the four overwhelming catastrophes, to its amazing triumph in Paris, Crush chronicles how wine from California finally gained its global due.

John Briscoe is a San Francisco poet, author, and lawyer. A noted wine and food writer, he is the author of Tadich Grill: The Story of San Francisco’s Oldest Restaurant.
An uproariously funny yet deeply introspective exploration of the battle with cancer

Because I’d Hate to Just Disappear

My Cancer, My Self, Our Story

DON HARDY, with HEATHER HARDY

“Brave, wise, surprisingly funny, this memoir, alive with intellectual and spiritual questing, is an inspiring response of a husband and wife to mortality.”

—Joe Bonomo, author of Field Recordings from the Inside

“This is a witty, wise, and disarmingly honest account of coping with cancer, depression, and the mysteries of modern marriage. Imagine a friend telling you his most intimate life-and-death story while his wife corrects the record in real time. Along the way, you also learn about the perils of online self-diagnosis, the myriad ways our minds protect us from bad news, and nurse crushes. It doesn’t get more human than this.”

—Peter Richardson, professor of humanities and American studies, San Francisco State University

“Illness, in the larger sense of mortality,” Don Hardy writes, “is an inescapable shared trait among all living creatures, and we humans know about it, whether or not we want to talk about it.”

Because I’d Hate to Just Disappear is a portrait of a husband and wife, Don and Heather Hardy, thrown into the physical and emotional machinery of Don being diagnosed with leukemia and going through chemotherapy and treatment over a period of close to two years.

In this thoughtful and exquisite account, Don and Heather narrate Don’s struggle in real-time. Disarmingly honest, they recount each intimate stage of a couple living through cancer together, the mental and physical struggles, the humor and visceral emotion to reveal how two very different personalities shape—and are shaped by—the experience of cancer and its treatment. Through these moments emerge a constant flow of human kindness and discovery that lifts them each day.

Donald E. Hardy received a PhD in linguistics from Rice University. He taught linguistics at University of North Texas, Northern Illinois University, Colorado State University, and University of Nevada, Reno, where he is now professor emeritus. In his retirement, he writes, reads, and gives mostly unsolicited advice to his younger friends.

Heather Kay Hardy received her PhD in linguistics from UCLA. She taught linguistics at a number of universities, served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University and University of Nevada, Reno, where she also served as interim executive vice president and provost. She is happily retired and living in Reno with her husband, two cats, and dog.

Of related interest

Missing Persons • Gayle Greene
Worthy • Denice Turner
A compelling reflection on one of environmentalism’s greatest advocates and heroes, Stewart Udall

With Distance in His Eyes
The Environmental Life and Legacy of Stewart Udall

SCOTT RAYMOND EINBERGER

“Udall is a huge figure in the history of postwar environmentalism in America, and it is quite shocking how few book-length treatments have been devoted to his enduring influence and legacy, which continue to reverberate in today’s politics and policy. With Distance in His Eyes is certainly a significant and much needed addition to the study of one of the most important advocates for the environment in the twentieth century.”

—Brian Drake, University of Georgia

One of America’s most significant architects of conservation and the environment comes to life in this environmental biography. Perhaps no other public official or secretary of the interior has ever had as much success in environmental protection, natural resource conservation, and outdoor recreation opportunity creation as Stewart Udall. A progressive Mormon, born and raised in rural Arizona, he served as the US Secretary of the Interior under the presidential cabinets of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Baines Johnson from 1961–69. During these eight years, he established dozens of new national park units and national wildlife refuges, wrote the Endangered Species Preservation Act, lobbied for unpolluted water, and offered ways to beautify urban spaces and bring the impoverished out of poverty. Later in life, he continued as an advocate for conservation and the environment, specifically by proposing solutions to the challenges associated with global warming and the widespread use of oil.

In a day and age of partisan politics, poor congressional approval ratings, and global warming and climate change, this captivating biography offers a profound and historical record into Udall’s life-long devotion to environmental issues he cared about most deeply. Intimate moments include Udall’s learning of the Kennedy assassination, his push for civil rights for African Americans, his meeting in the USSR with Nikita Khrushchev—the first Kennedy cabinet member to do so—and his warnings about global warming 50 years prior to Al Gore’s Nobel Prize-winning film.

Scott Einberger is an environmental historian and public lands enthusiast. He lives in Washington, DC.
“Anyone interested in history, travel by rail, the American West, and family narratives will be enchanted by Hooper’s story.”
—Melissa Cistaro
One woman’s trek across the American West, following her great-grandparents’ footsteps more than 135 years later

Across America and Back
Retracing My Great-Grandparents’ Remarkable Journey

MARY ANN HOOPER

“With her humor and inquisitive spirit, Mary Ann Hooper proves that she is an earnest and likeable storyteller. Blending deep introspection with no-nonsense matter-of-fact commentary, Across America and Back is a story that both teaches and inspires. There is a bittersweet quality to her transcontinental journey retracing her great-grandparents’ migration more than a century before. It is vital to carry forward these great American West stories.”

—Melissa Cistaro, author of Pieces of My Mother: A Memoir

After unearthing her great-grandparents’ diaries, Mary Ann Hooper set out on a journey to retrace their 1871 trip across the United States on the newly opened Transcontinental Railroad—via Chicago, just destroyed by the Great Fire, then across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains to the Golden City of San Francisco. Filled with rich details of time, place, and culture, Mary Ann’s thoughtful and compelling narrative is both a re-creation of a family journey and a thoughtful account of how the American West has changed over the last 150 years.

Using the common thread of the same train trip across the American landscape, she weaves together the two stories—her great-grandparents, Charles and Fannie Crosby’s leisurely Victorian tourist trip described in both their diaries—and her own trip. Mary Ann’s adventurous and determined voice fills the pages with entertaining encounters on the train, escapades on her folding bike, and her reflections on her birth country and her own life story.

During her journey, she discovers the stories of her 1950s childhood reflect a “Wild West” at odds with the West her great-grandparents record in their diaries, leading her to uncover more of the real and meatier history of the American West—conquest, rapid settlement, and economic development. As Mary Ann fulfills her quest to understand better why glorified myths were created to describe the Wild West of her childhood, and reflects on the pitfalls of what “progress” is doing to the environment, she is left with a much bigger question: Can we transform our way of doing things quickly enough to stop our much-loved West becoming an uninhabitable desert?

Mary Ann Hooper grew up in an old farmhouse in Brattleboro, Vermont, and now resides in the British county of Derbyshire. She is a Harvard graduate and former journalist. Across America and Back is her first book.

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Of related interest
The Land of My Fathers • Robert Laxalt
Lost in Austin • Jim Anderson
Peregrinations
Walking in American Literature

AMY T. HAMILTON

“Peregrinations revises dated notions of walking in American literature as something associated largely with nineteenth-century Euroamerican male-authored nonfiction. With material ecocriticism and feminism as backbone of her methodological approach, Hamilton intricately explores walking as it functions in Native American, Chicana, and Euroamerican literatures. She reveals the reasons why walking should be understood as a process of bodies (human and nonhuman) moving not only across terrain, but through cross-currents of air, all the while impacting earth, and forming trails and paths that continue to be important both geographically and literarily in North America today. This incisive, beautifully-written book will be considered crucial to a growing and urgently important scholarship in American literary and material ecocritical studies.”

—Joni Adamson, professor of English and director of the Environmental Humanities Initiative, Arizona State University

Peregrinate: To travel or wander around from place to place. The land of the United States is defined by vast distances encouraging human movement and migration on a grand scale. Consequently, American stories are filled with descriptions of human bodies walking through the land.

In Peregrinations, Amy T. Hamilton examines stories told by and about Indigenous American, Euroamerican, and Mexican walkers. Walking as a central experience that ties these texts together—never simply a metaphor or allegory—offers storytellers and authors an elastic figure through which to engage diverse cultural practices and beliefs including Puritan and Catholic teachings, Diné and Anishinaabe oral traditions, Chicanx histories, and European literary traditions.

Hamilton argues that walking bodies alert readers to the ways the physical world has a hand in creating experience and meaning. Through material ecocriticism, a reading practice attentive to historical and ongoing oppressions, exclusions, and displacements, she reveals complex layerings of narrative and materiality in stories of walking human bodies.

This powerful and pioneering methodology for understanding place and identity clarifies the wide variety of American stories about human relationships with the land and the ethical implications of the embeddedness of humans in the more-than-human world.

Amy T. Hamilton is associate professor of English at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. She has written essays on Native American women writers, Euroamerican captivity narratives, and US Southwest border literatures.
A careful analysis of how California’s mythos and social history were molded by its literature

The End of Eden
Agrarian Spaces and the Rise of the California Social Novel

TERRY BEERS

“The End of Eden is a wide-reaching interdisciplinary approach focused on the time of the American conquest into the early Progressive era. Offering in-depth readings of four California social novels that address conflicts over space and power, the book is an original way to understand social protest and cultural upheaval during a time of rapid change in California.”

—Jan Goggans, University of California, Merced

The story of the Joad family’s journey from their ravaged farm in dustbowl Oklahoma to the storied paradise of California helped inform a nation about the brutality, poverty, and vicious competition among fellow immigrants desperate for work. But Steinbeck is only one successor to a rich and esteemed literary tradition in California.

The End of Eden traces the rise of the California social novel, its embrace of the agrarian dream, and its ambivalence about technology and the development it enables. It relies on various cultural conceptions of space, among them the American Public Land Survey (the source of the “grid” allotments shaping homestead claims), Mexican-era diseños, and Native American traditions that defined a fluid relationship between human beings and the land.

This animation of four California social novels of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries demonstrates how conflicts over space and place signify cultural conflict. It is deeply informed by the author’s understanding of historical land issues. The works include Joaquin Miller’s Unwritten History: Life Amongst the Modocs, Helen Hunt Jackson’s Ramona, Frank Norris’ The Octopus, and Mary Austin’s The Ford.

A wide-reaching interdisciplinary approach to various cultural conceptions of space, The End of Eden provides a crucial understanding of the conflicts depicted in social novels that lament the ways in which land is allocated and developed, the ways in which American agrarianism—and its promise of local, sustainable land use—is undermined, and how it applies to contemporary California.

Terry Beers is professor of English at Santa Clara University, where he has taught since 1986. He is the author or editor of five previous books on California literature. He lives in north Monterey County, California.
A series of essays examine how one author and musician’s work reflects much larger social concerns in the West

Under the Western Sky
Essays on the Fiction and Music of Willy Vlautin

Edited by NEIL CAMPBELL

“Bringing a sophisticated set of contemporary lenses to bear upon the musical and novel-writing career of Willy Vlautin, Under the Western Sky makes a strong case for Vlautin as a resonant voice in a new kind of West a considerable distance from earlier regional mythologies. In fact, Vlautin emerges as not only a representative, but a central figure whose fictions and songs evoke a series of landscapes—urban, rural, desert—characterized by marginalization, failure, and transience in many forms. Vlautin emerges as a literary son of Raymond Carver, but one who writes in his own voice and for whom music forms a profound and intimate complement to the fiction.”

—Alan Weltzien, University of Montana Western

This original collection of essays by experts in the field weave together the first comprehensive examination of Nevada-born Willy Vlautin’s novels and songs, as well as featuring 11 works of art that accompany his albums and books.

Brutally honest, raw, gritty, down to earth, compassionate, and affecting, Willy Vlautin’s writing evokes a power in not only theme but in methodology. Vlautin’s novels and songs chart the dispossessed lives of young people struggling to survive in difficult economic times and in regions of the US West and Pacific Northwest traditionally viewed as affluent and abundant. Yet as his work shows, are actually highly stratified and deprived.

Featuring an interview with Vlautin himself, this edited collection aims to develop the first serious, critical consideration of the important novels and songs of Willy Vlautin by exploring relations between region, music, and writing through the lens of critical regionality and other interdisciplinary, cultural, and theoretical methodologies.

Neil Campbell is emeritus professor of American Studies at the University of Derby, United Kingdom. He has published several books on American Studies and much of his well-known work covers the New West.
A wide-ranging approach to the social, economic, and racial issues of gambling in American culture

**All In**
The Spread of Gambling in Twentieth-Century United States

Edited by JONATHAN D. COHEN and DAVID G. SCHWARTZ

“A diverse range of essays covering commercial and Native American casinos, lotteries, sports betting, pool rooms, bingo, and more, *All In* pieces together a picture of how gambling became so widespread in the United States and the cultural, political, and economic consequences of this ubiquity.”

—Chloe Taft, author of *From Steel to Slots: Casino Capitalism in the Postindustrial City*

Gambling, the risky enterprise of chance, is one of America’s favorite pastimes. Office March Madness brackets, a day at the race track, a friendly wager, the random ridiculous Super Bowl prop bet, bingo night, or the latest media frenzy over the Powerball jackpot—all emphasize the ubiquity of this major economic force and cultural phenomenon. Approximately 70 percent of Americans regularly engage in some form of betting, amounting to over $140 billion in combined casino and lottery revenue every year. A hundred years ago, however, legal gambling was a rarity in the United States.

A fresh take on the history of modern American gambling, *All In* provides a closer look at the shifting economic, cultural, religious, and political conditions that facilitated gambling’s expansion and prominence in American consumerism and popular culture. In its pages a diverse range of essays covering commercial and Native American casinos, sports betting, lotteries, bingo, and more piece together a picture of how gambling became so widespread over the course of the twentieth century.

Drawing from a range of academic disciplines, this collection explores five aspects of American gambling history: crime, advertising, politics, religion, and identity.

In doing so, *All In* illuminates the on-the-ground debates over gambling’s expansion, the failed attempts to thwart legalized betting, and the consequences of its present ubiquity in the United States.

**Jonathan D. Cohen** is a PhD candidate at the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia. **David G. Schwartz** is the director of the Center for Gaming Research and an instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He has written several books on gambling, and is also editor of the University of Nevada Press’s Gambling Studies Series.
Plant trees. They give us two of the most crucial elements for our survival: oxygen and books.

—A. Whitney Brown
An interactive and knowledgeable journey through the University of Nevada, Reno’s state arboretum

A Visitor’s Guide to the University of Nevada, Reno Arboretum

JAMES W. HULSE, CHERYLL GLOTFELTY, and ROD HAULENBEEK

“A delightful tree guide full of factual, historical, and important botanical information for those who just want to enjoy a stroll through the campus arboretum, and for those who study horticulture, plant science, and environmental resources.” —Bill Carlos, MS, horticulturist, manager of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden

A Nevada State Arboretum, the University of Nevada, Reno campus is home to more than 3,000 trees representing more than 200 species and varieties. This attractive guidebook introduces readers to the university’s beautiful campus and its botanical treasures. Richly illustrated with both contemporary color and archival photos, this book captures the charm of the campus in all four seasons and shows how the grounds of the university have evolved over the years. Featuring 19 distinct tours around campus, a comprehensive map, and family-friendly interactive “tree hunts,” this guide showcases the campus’ ecological diversity and interesting tree species and will appeal to first-time visitors as well as long-time residents.

James W. Hulse, alumnus of University of Nevada, Reno, taught for 35 years as a member of the university’s history department faculty. Hulse is the author of several books, including Great Basin Mosaic, Nevada’s Environmental Legacy: Progress or Plunder, The Silver State: Nevada’s Heritage Reinterpreted (now in its 3rd edition), and Reinventing the System: Higher Education in Nevada, 1968–2000. Cheryll Glotfelty is an English professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, and editor of Literary Nevada: Writings from the Silver State. She became chair of the University of Nevada, Reno Arboretum Board in 2014, and since then has become obsessed by trees and passionate about the arboretum. Rod Haulenbeek, also known as “The Tree Hunter,” spent a 20-year career in the oil industry. Since then he has published two books about trees, is heavily involved in the Nevada Big Tree Program, and has completed tree inventories for the Nevada Division of Forestry of over 15,000 trees with over 200 species. His certifications include Master Gardener, Tree Worker, Arborist, and Tree Risk Assessment.

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Of related interest
50 of the Best Strolls, Walks, and Hikes around Reno • Tree Lines
A critical, long-term study on some of Southern Nevada’s most catastrophic workplace disasters

A History of Occupational Health and Safety
From 1905 to the Present

MICHELLE FOLLETTE TURK

“This well-documented and knowledgeable work spans an entire century of occupational safety and health in one fascinating and revealing corner of the American West: the greater Las Vegas area. No other work in the history of American industrial or occupational health does quite what it does. Following a particular place over this long a time span, it shows how far we’ve come in grappling with workplace dangers, but also how little progress we’ve made.”

—Christopher Sellers, director of the Center for the Study of Inequality and Social Justice, Stony Brook University

The United States has a long and unfortunate history of exposing employees, the public, and the environment to dangerous work. But in April 2009, the spotlight was on Las Vegas when the Pulitzer committee awarded its public service prize to the Las Vegas Sun for its coverage of the high fatalities on Las Vegas Strip construction sites. The newspaper attributed failures in safety policy to the recent “exponential growth in the Las Vegas market.” In fact, since Las Vegas’ founding in 1905, rapid development has always strained occupational health and safety standards.

A History of Occupational Health and Safety examines the work, hazards, and health and safety programs from the early building of the railroad through the construction of the Hoover Dam, chemical manufacturing during World War II, nuclear testing, and dense megaresort construction on the Las Vegas Strip. In doing so, this comprehensive chronicle reveals the long and unfortunate history of exposing workers, residents, tourists, and the environment to dangerous work—all while exposing the present and future to crises in the region. Complex interactions and beliefs among the actors involved are emphasized, as well as how the medical community interpreted and responded to the risks posed.

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 during the twentieth century 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 medicine and labor at Hoover Dam and is a lecturer on using Hoover Dam to teach history and Las Vegas medical history. She currently teaches history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
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Missing Persons
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GAYLE GREENE

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—Jean Hegland, author of Into the Forest

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Women Artists of the Great Basin

MARY LEE FULKERSON
Photographs by SUSAN E. MANTLE

“This handsomely crafted publication spotlights an extraordinary assemblage of women who make art in the region known as the Great Basin—a mystery of landscape in the West filled with mountains and desert, big sky and isolation, rural and urban life.”

—Susan Boskoff, former executive director, Nevada Arts Council

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“This book is unique and makes a significant contribution to our understanding of modern woman artists in this part of the USA and in woman’s art in general.”

Jane P. Davidson, author of Patrons of Paleontology: How Government Support Shaped a Science
FALL 2017 NEW RELEASES

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GEORGE BRISTOL
Foreword by DAYTON DUNCAN

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—Mrs. Laura W. Bush, former First Lady of the United States

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DON LAGO

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—Richard Quartaroli, special collections librarian emeritus, Northern Arizona University

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