

McNally Editions Catalog

Summer 2024



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Summer 2024

The Mystery Guest: A True Story

Grégoire Bouillier

Translated from the French by Ben Truman

Rights: World English, Audio

Nocturnes for the King of Naples

Edmund White

Foreword by Garth Greenwell

Rights: World English, Audio

Rhine Journey

Ann Schlee

Foreword by Lauren Groff

Rights: World English, Audio

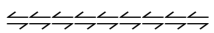
- UK rights sold to Daunt Books

The Stepdaughter

Caroline Blackwood

Foreword by Heidi Julavits

Rights: World English, Audio



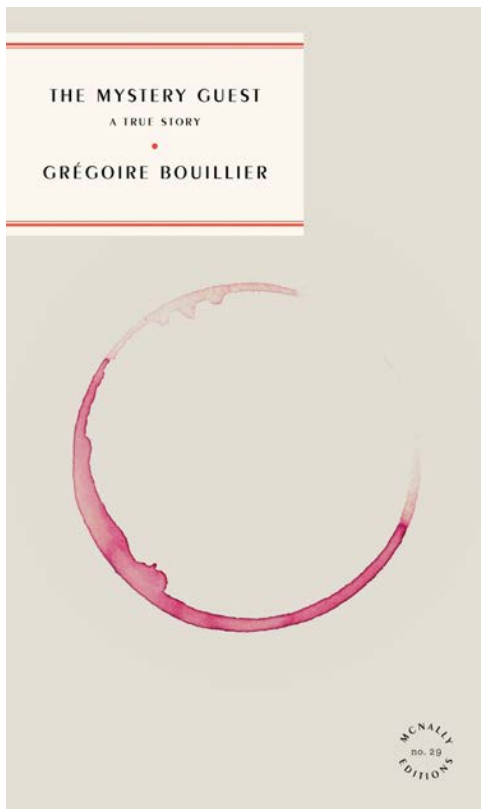
Marginalian Editions

Is Peace Possible?

Kathleen Lonsdale

Foreword by Maria Popova

Rights: World, Audio



The Mystery Guest: A True Story

By Grégoire Bouillier

Translated from the French by Ben Truman

Paperback ISBN: 9781961341050 • Pub: May 21, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 128 pages • \$18.00 • Nonfiction – Memoir / French / Breakups / Love Story • Rights: World English, Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781961341074

A “frank and wry, mad and graceful” (Slate, Best Books of the Year) true story about getting dumped, and getting over it.

“This perfect little book . . . says: We are human, heartbroken, grim, and funny in our despair, yet hopeful and miracle-prone, and some of us are French.” —**John Hodgman**

“A mesmerizing, lyrical memoir of loves lost and unexpectedly found . . . Existential angst has rarely been as humorous or as heartbreaking.” —**Jake Lamar, *People***

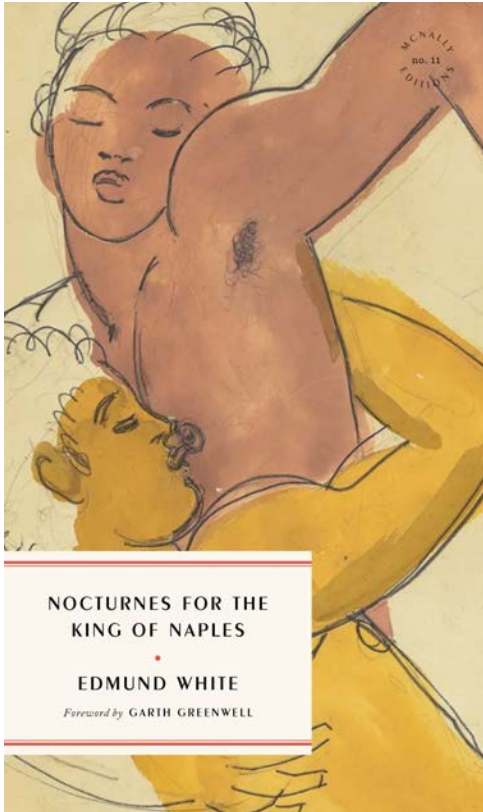
When the phone rang on a cold November afternoon in 1990, Grégoire Bouillier had no way of knowing that the caller was the woman who had left him, without warning, five years before. And he couldn't have guessed why she was calling: not to say she was sorry, not to explain why she'd vanished from his life, but to invite him to a party. A birthday party. For a woman he'd never met.

Here is the unlikely but true account of how one man got over a broken heart, regained his faith in literature, participated—by mistake—in a work of performance art, threw away his turtlenecks, spent his rent money on a 1964 bordeaux that nobody ever drank, and fell in love again. Named one of the year's best books by *Slate* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* when it first appeared in English, *The Mystery Guest* is a “darkly hilarious . . . odyssey . . . that wends its loopy way toward yes” (*O, the Oprah Magazine*).

Grégoire Bouillier was born in Tizi Ouzou, Algeria, and raised in Paris. A former editor of the magazine *Science et Vie*, he is the author of several memoirs including *Report on Myself*, which received the Prix de Flore, and *Le Dossier M*.

A London native, **Ben Truman** lives in New York.





Nocturnes for the King of Naples

By Edmund White

Foreword by Garth Greenwell

Paperback ISBN: 9781946022660 • Pub: Jun 4, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 178 pages • \$18.00 • Fiction – Gay / Literary / Erotic • Rights: World English, Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781961341074

The letters of a seducer to the great love of his life, a sensual tour-de-force by “the paterfamilias of queer literature” (*New York Times*).

A “near perfect poetic effusion disguised as a novel, [written] in the voice of a younger man who rejects a sophisticated, well-traveled, and widely-admired older lover.” —[*Gay and Lesbian Review*](#)

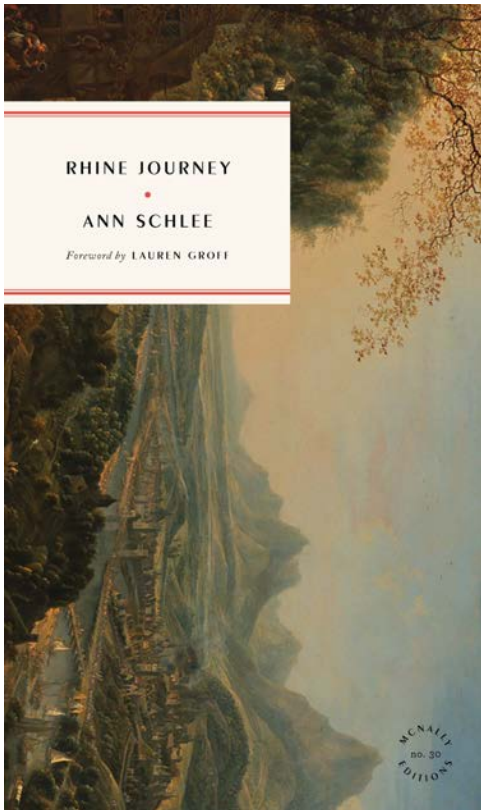
“Can’t sleep tonight. Was lying in bed reading the biography of a great man whose genius deserted him . . . The genius who deserted me was you.” In a series of late-night letters, gorgeous, funny, crammed with memory, sensuality, and regret, a seducer calls across the years to the great love of his youth: an older, revered expatriate known, in his adoptive city, as the King of Naples. As the narrator evokes their affair, in scenes of beauty and remorse, his memories range over the men who came after and before, especially the seductive father who still haunts his erotic imagination.

First published in 1975, before the trilogy of frankly autobiographical novels that made him famous, *Nocturnes for the King of Naples* reveals Edmund White at his most poetic, playful, and evocative, a magician on the level of James Salter, James Merrill, or Vladimir Nabokov.

Edmund White was born in Cincinnati in 1940. His many novels include the autobiographical trilogy *A Boy’s Own Story*, *The Beautiful Room Is Empty*, and *The Farewell Symphony*; he has published biographies of Jean Genet, Marcel Proust, and Arthur Rimbaud, as well as memoirs, short stories, and criticism; in 1977 he co-authored *The Joy of Gay Sex*. He is an Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He lives in New York City.



Garth Greenwell is author of the novels *What Belongs to You* and *Cleanness* and the novella *Mitko*, which was a finalist for the Edmund White Debut Fiction Award.



Rhine Journey

By Ann Schlee

Foreword by Lauren Groff

Paperback ISBN: 9781961341098 • Pub: Jul 16, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 176 pages • \$18.00 • Fiction – Historical / 19th Century Europe • Rights: World English (UK sold), Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781961341104

On a Victorian pleasure cruise, a chance encounter opens the floodgates to desire, regret, and possibility in this “little period gem of feeling and clarity” (*The Guardian*), which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

“The writing in *Rhine Journey* is always taut and wonderful . . . *Rhine Journey* is graceful, economical, and emotionally acute”

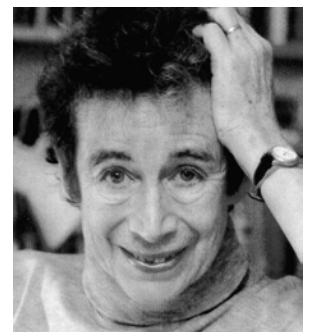
—Lauren Groff, from the Foreword

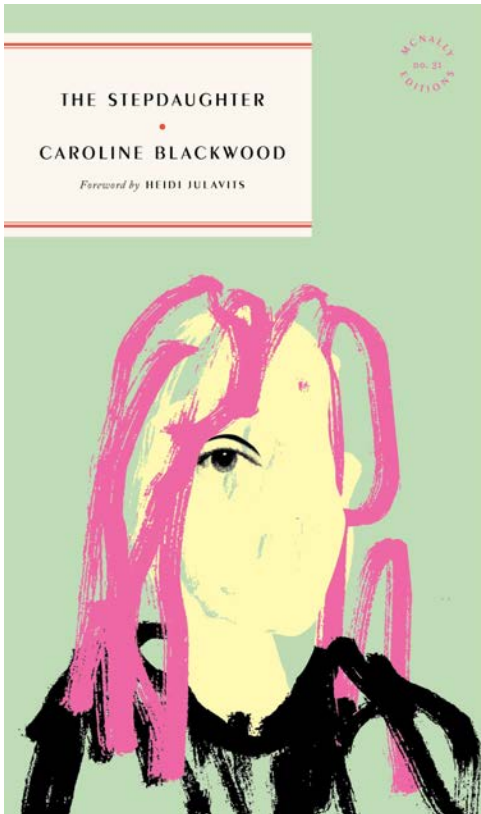
It is 1851, only three years since Europe was convulsed by workers’ revolutions, but already English tourists are returning to the Continent, taking the waters at Baden Baden, then traveling by paddle steamer down the Rhine valley, celebrated for its romantic vistas. Among the sightseers are the pious Reverend Charles Morrison, his wife and daughter, and his maiden sister, Charlotte, a seemingly meek middle-aged woman who’s spent her life attending to the needs of others.

Like the river upon which they’re traveling, however, Charlotte contains hidden depths. A chance encounter with a fellow passenger in Coblenz sparks a Damascene moment, unleashing in her a sudden and violent awakening of memory, fear, and sexual desire. As the travelers are swept onward to Cologne, Charlotte wrestles with what Lauren Groff in her foreword to this new edition describes as “a subtle and total derangement of understanding,” eventually surging toward a moment of crisis.

Ann Schlee was born in Connecticut in 1934 and grew up in Egypt, Sudan, Khartoum, and Eritrea. Her five children’s novels include *The Vandal*, which won the 1980 Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize. *Rhine Journey* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1981.

Lauren Groff is the author of seven books, most recently *The Vaster Wilds*, *Matrix*, and *Florida*. She lives in Gainesville, Florida.





The Stepdaughter

Caroline Blackwood

Foreword by Heidi Julavits

Paperback ISBN: 9781961341128 • Pub: Aug 6, 2024 • 5" x 8.5" • 128 pages • \$18.00 • Fiction – Epistolary / Psychological Suspense / Family Drama • Rights: World English, Audio • eBook ISBN: 9781961341135

A wicked stepmother finds her ideal prey in Caroline Blackwood’s “quite brilliant” debut (*The Times*).

“Contained and ferocious, at once disarmingly and ambiguously candid about blistering feelings which are made to seem commonplace and all the more frightening for that.”

—Jane Miller, *Times Literary Supplement*

A lavish Upper West Side apartment is the site of a familial cold war about to enter a phase of dangerous escalation. J is a lonely woman without even the luxury of being alone. Her husband has fled to Paris with his latest flame, but he’s left J not only with their own four-year-old daughter, but with the sulky cake-mix addicted, thirteen-year-old Renata, a leftover from his previous marriage. The presence of a pert au pair, Monique, serves only to make J feel more isolated and self-conscious. What she’d like is someone to blame.

Writing letters in her head to imaginary friends, J delights in dwelling on the hapless Renata, who “invites a kind of cruelty.” This is an invitation J fully intends to take up—and like so many stepmothers before her, she will find that wickedness, once indulged, is a difficult habit to kick. A mordant black splinter of a book, Caroline Blackwood’s first novel *The Stepmother* stands as proof positive of her eternal mastery—and mockery—of the darkest depths of human feeling.

Caroline Blackwood (1931–1996) was born into an aristocratic Anglo-Irish family and was notorious for her tumultuous marriages to Lucian Freud, Israel Citkowitz, and Robert Lowell. Taking up writing later in life, she wrote acclaimed works of reportage, fiction, biography, and even a cookbook.

Heidi Julavits is the author of four novels and two books of nonfiction. She is a founding editor of *The Believer* magazine and a professor at Columbia University.

