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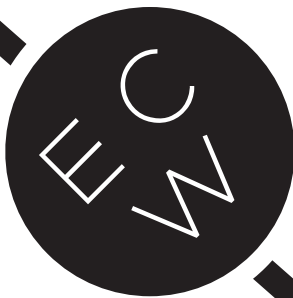
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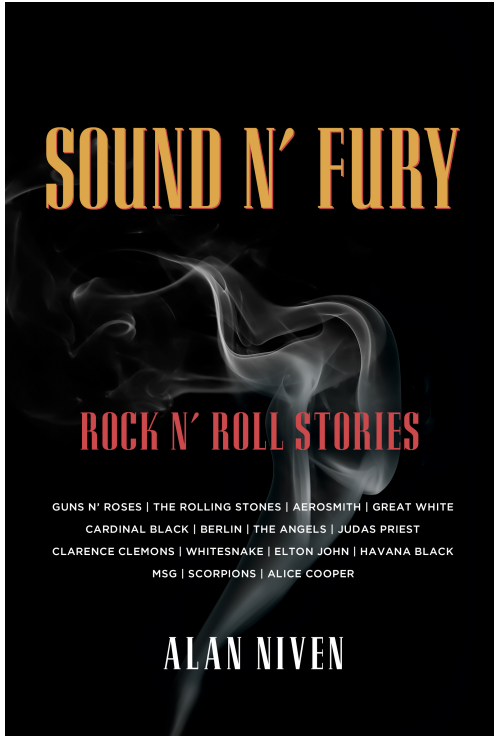
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MUSIC / GENRES & STYLES / ROCK (MUS035000)

MUSIC / GENRES & STYLES / HEAVY METAL
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BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / MUSIC
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SOUND N' FURY

ROCK N' ROLL STORIES

Alan Niven

Experience rock history through sharp, engaging stories featuring icons like Guns N' Roses, The Rolling Stones, and Aerosmith — perfect for music lovers and skeptics alike — from legendary manager Alan Niven.

Most rock 'n' roll books are a bore. They all have the same narrative arc and are aimed at the dwindling following that now follows an artist that has long passed their AARP date.

Sound N' Fury does not have a story arc. It is a collection of anecdotes, like a record comprised of various tracks — each one has its point and purpose. Alan Niven, who guided Guns N' Roses from the gutter of Los Angeles to Wembley Stadium, shares stories from his remarkable life as a manager with an immediacy delivered by an extraordinary recall of dialogue. Readers will encounter not just Guns N' Roses (who have sold almost ten million tickets to their shows) but The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Clarence Clemons, Whitesnake, Elton John, and others who came from humble origins and experienced fame known only to few. Small-town minds collided with worldwide adulation, expectations, and demands. The results are amusing, affirming, and, predictably, disastrous. Keep in mind that rock 'n' roll is God's occupation for the unemployable.

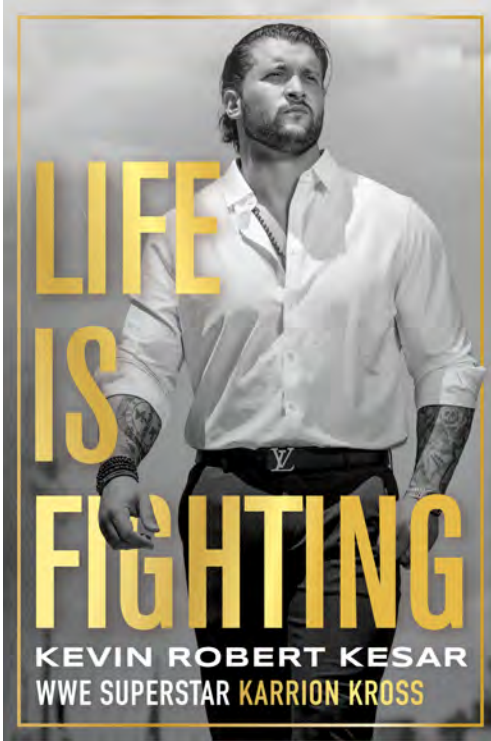
Written with a crisp and fluid style, the magnificence and idiocy of the music world will dance off the pages and engross even those who are not rock fans.

Alan Niven was born in Auckland, New Zealand, but later moved to the United Kingdom, Miami, Gothenburg, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Atlanta, Tokyo, Paris, Stockholm, Helsinki, Chicago, Tijuana, Phoenix, Oslo, and Cologne. Alan now lives on a mountain in Arizona.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **PEACOCK SERIES:** With a remarkable recall of dialogue that immerses readers in the action, Niven stands out as the sole personality featured in every episode of Paramount Plus's *Nothing But a Good Time: The Uncensored Story of 80s Hair Metal*
- **INSIDER'S FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES:** Forty irresistible anecdotes of musical mastery and mayhem. Niven takes readers through his sometimes-torrid tales as though they were listening to an album from start to finish. These stories reveal what it's really like to be a rock music manager and live the apex rock 'n' roll life.
- **THE BIGGEST NAMES IN ROCK:** Niven's intimate accounts of some of rock 'n' roll's most tumultuous times with bands like Guns N' Roses, Berlin, The Angels, Great White, Dokken, and Mötley Crüe are unforgettable. Countless other musical powerhouses are featured throughout the book as well, including The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, Elton John, Cardinal Black, Clarence Clemons, Whitesnake, Scorpions, and Judas Priest.
- **ORIGINAL MANAGER OF GUNS N' ROSES:** Niven was with the band from 1986 to 1991 and worked with them on their seminal records *Appetite for Destruction*, *Lies*, and *Use Your Illusion*. He took a band deemed "unmanageable" from the gutter of Los Angeles to Wembley Stadium. Dismissed by Axl Rose against the wishes of the other bandmates, he went on to produce and compose much of Great White's successful material, resulting in the sale of ten million albums.
- **THE CENTER OF THE ACTION:** His riveting stories prove that truth is stranger than fiction — like the time Niven had to hire the police to ensure a reluctant Axl Rose even made it to the venue to open for The Rolling Stones. His remarkable recall of dialogue puts the reader in the center of the action. Adept with a pen as much as with a guitar, Niven has been a contributing writer to *Classic Rock*



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6 x 9", 280pp, trade paperback

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LIFE IS FIGHTING

Karrion Kross

Get a rare glimpse into the mind of Karrion Kross, the 6'4", 265-pound powerhouse known for his ferocity in the ring but admired for his thoughtful perseverance outside of it. This book is packed with heartache, humor, and invaluable lessons, revealing the real man behind the menacing exterior and his relentless journey to the top of sports entertainment.

Karrion Kross's physique — a hulking 6'4", 265 pounds — and the unbridled intensity in his eyes is enough on its own to inspire fear in opponents. Factor in his unique combination of precision and abject ruthlessness, and it becomes clear that anyone stepping in the ring with Kross is in immediate danger. A master of catch wrestling and sambo, Kross has done battle around the world. He boasts an array of devastating suplexes, including his dreaded Doomsday Saito. And if that's not enough, he's more than happy to put opponents to sleep with the Kross Jacket.

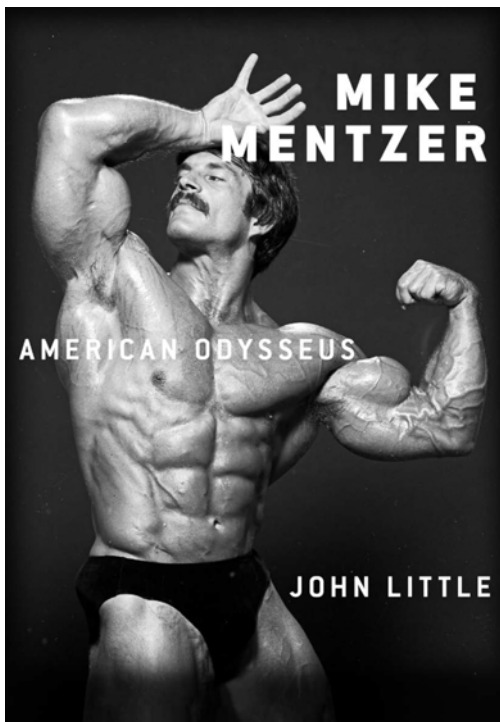
For all his menacing exterior, the human being behind the character — whose real name is Kevin Kesar — is a soft-spoken, highly thoughtful individual with a powerful story. Recognized by peers for his exceptional love for his profession, Kesar endured numerous setbacks on the way to achieving his dream. Along with his wife, Elizabeth — known in WWE as Scarlett — he has repeatedly found the fortitude to bounce back stronger, personally and professionally. This book is full of fascinating stories, heartache, humor, and even some advice for those with similar aspirations. Readers will be immersed into Kesar's unique mindset as he pulls back the curtain on what the journey (and the fight) to the top of sports entertainment is really like.

Kevin Robert Kesar is a professional wrestler for World Wrestling Entertainment on USA Network & FOX. A performer, actor, martial artist, and producer of the short film *Blue Evening*, he's entertained and competed worldwide for more than a decade. Although he resides in Orlando, he's seen many worlds and offers very intimate and personal stories through his multicultural background as a proud New York-born traveler.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **RAW ON NETFLIX:** Starting January 2025, WWE's flagship brand RAW will stream exclusively on Netflix, introducing the franchise to a whole new audience and catapulting its stars to even greater fame — including Karrion Kross (Kevin Kesar), a standout talent poised for a meteoric rise.
- **SIMULTANEOUS AUDIO RELEASE WITH AUDIBLE**
- **WWE OFFICIAL BOOK:** Making a name for himself in the development brand NXT, Karrion now performs as part of RAW alongside his real-life wife, Scarlett Bordeaux. The WWE will be very involved in the promotion of this book through its immense reach.
- **AUTHOR PLATFORM:** 430K Instagram followers, 158K Twitter followers, and a sizable presence on Cameo, Twitch, and YouTube.
- **BEHIND-THE-SCENES INSIGHT:** The pro heavyweight penned every word himself — including his beginnings in NXT, his cosmic romance with fellow WWE wrestler Scarlett Bordeaux, and his release and return to the WWE. He outlines his experiences in other wrestling outfits, including Lucha Underground and AAA Lucha Libre, and reveals how he earned the name "Killer" from his fans.



Publication Date: May 20, 2025

7 x 10", 500pp, trade paperback
16-page colour photo section

29.95 CDN / 24.95 U.S.

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MIKE MENTZER

AMERICAN ODYSSEUS

John Little

Bodybuilding's foremost nonconformist and strikingly handsome intellectual, Mike Mentzer, rose to the top of his sport despite opposition from industry insiders like rival Schwarzenegger. Written by his close friend of two decades, *Mike Mentzer: American Odysseus* chronicles Mentzer's journey in a fiercely competitive world to become one of the most iconic bodybuilders of all time.

REBEL. PHILOSOPHER. BODYBUILDING ICON.

Mike Mentzer was a strikingly handsome man with a brilliant mind and a "perfect" physique — the first bodybuilder to receive a perfect score in both amateur and professional competitions. In the late '70s, Mentzer rose to the very top of his sport (despite the efforts made by industry power brokers, such as Arnold Schwarzenegger), was featured in *GQ* magazine, and profiled on national television. But he was also a man who wrestled with mental illness his entire life and ended up living on the streets and being sent to prison. Just when it seemed his career was over, he found it within himself to reboot his intellect and revolutionize bodybuilding training, arguing bodybuilders should not forsake their mental development in favor of developing their bodies. He became a pariah in the fitness industry (which only cared about selling supplements and other products) but a hero to legions of fans who earnestly sought truth.

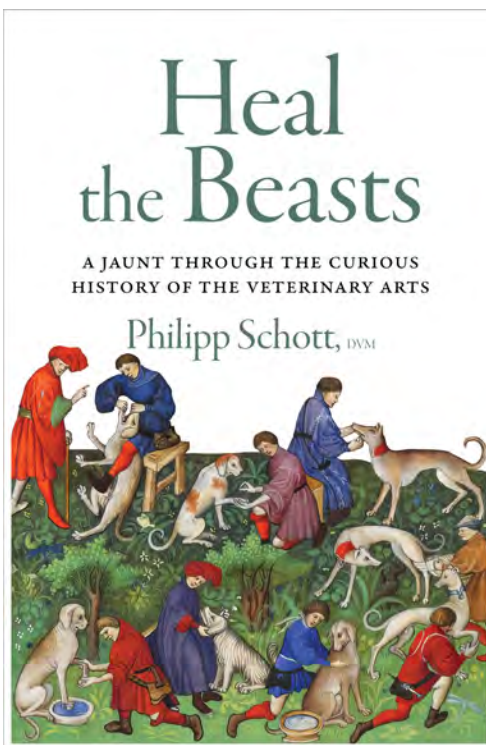
Mike Mentzer: American Odysseus is the first biography of Mike Mentzer to appear in North America written by his close friend of 21 years, John Little, "one of the leading fitness researchers in North America" (*Iron Man* magazine). Drawing upon audio recordings, letters, diary excerpts, as well as interviews with those closest to him, this is the true story of one man who stood up to an entire industry — and paid the ultimate price.

John Little is the bestselling author of *Wrath of the Dragon: The Real Fights of Bruce Lee* and the two-volume history *The Donnellys*. Little has been interviewed on CNN, A&E, NPR, CTV, and by *Entertainment Weekly*. He lives in Bracebridge, Ontario.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **PERSONAL CONNECTION:** John Little was there for the highs and lows of Mike's life and was considered by Mentzer to be the foremost interpreter of his training philosophy, which makes Little uniquely qualified to write this in-depth biography of his late friend. Little's articles have been published in every bodybuilding and fitness publication in North America and Europe.
- **AS POPULAR AS EVER:** Despite his death in 2001, Mentzer's bodybuilding legacy lives on. He is heavily spoken of on Reddit channel r/bodybuilding, and Buff Dudes (2.7M YouTube followers) created a video called "We Tried Mike Mentzer's High Intensity Workout," which was viewed 624K times, and many of the 1.6K+ comments are about Mike's genius. There are multiple channels dedicated to Mentzer's training, including John Little's, with 152K subscribers and 28.1M views.
- **THE BEST OF THE BEST:** Mike Mentzer won the 1976 Mr. America title and the heavyweight division of the 1978 IFBB Mr. Universe competition. During a time when a one-size-fits-all approach was the norm, Mentzer adamantly championed individuality in training, and his most enduring legacy lies in popularizing high-intensity training. The book follows Mentzer from his childhood in Pennsylvania, training with his brother Ray, to competing against Arnold Schwarzenegger, and includes detailed training plans from Mentzer's records.
- **NOT JUST MIKE:** Tells the history of bodybuilding from the 1950s to 1990s, including bodybuilding figures Joe and Ben Weider, Arthur Jones, Bob Hoffman, Dan Lurie, Frank Zane, Steve Reeves, John Grimek, Bill Pearl, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Ray Mentzer, Dave Mastorakis, Larry Scott, Sergio Oliva, Serge Nubret, Franco Columbu, Lou Ferrigno, Casey Viator, and Dorian Yates.
- **EXPLORING THE HUMAN CONDITION:** More than a narrative about bodybuilding, Mike's journey delves into the profound challenges of living with mental illness. His story illuminates the often unseen struggles that can isolate individuals, no matter how successful they may seem, offering a powerful reflection on vulnerability and resilience.



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24 page colour insert

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HEAL THE BEASTS

A JAUNT THROUGH THE CURIOUS HISTORY
OF THE VETERINARY ARTS

Philipp Schott

This history of veterinary medicine provides an abundance of bizarre, funny, surprising, and heart-warming anecdotes. *Heal the Beasts* chronicles human efforts to treat animal illnesses from 14,000 BCE to today.

How and why did humans begin to treat sick and injured animals? And how did those practices, and the associated attitudes, evolve from prehistory to the present day?

To answer these questions, Dr. Schott shares stories of 22 different animal healers and veterinarians from across eras and continents, examining the always fascinating, often unexpected, and sometimes hilarious veterinary methods employed by these people and their colleagues. But at the heart of the tale lies the evolution of the human-animal bond, which has been more cyclical than linear. In many ways, we are returning to the outlook of our distant ancestors after a centuries-long detour through a more utilitarian approach.

James Herriot will be familiar to many people, but most of the other featured vets will be new. They range from Palakapya, who treated fighting elephants in India almost 3,000 years ago, to Dr. Louis Camuti, who had the first feline house call practice anywhere, tending to the cats of celebrities in mid-20th-century Manhattan. Along the way, we see every kind of person trying to heal every kind of creature, from dogs, cows, horses, and cats to canaries, gorillas, and even dragons.

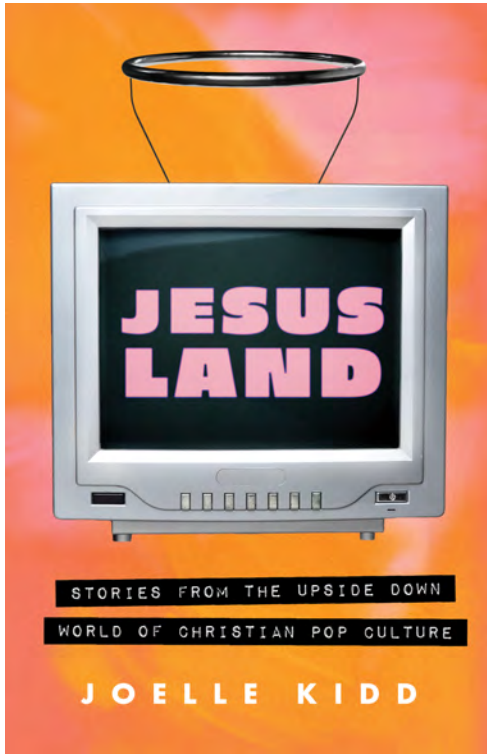
Whether you have a passion for animals, the history of the medical sciences, or just quirky history, this light-hearted exploration of the empathetic relationship between man and beast will entertain and delight.

Philipp Schott lives in Winnipeg, where he practices veterinary medicine, writes, and shares a creaky old house on the river with his wife, two kids, and one nutty cat. His first book, *The Accidental Veterinarian*, was a bestseller and was translated into five languages. Six other books have followed.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **DIVE INTO THE CAPTIVATING WORLD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE:** Written for both the general reader and fellow veterinarians, this book provides a unique perspective on the history of veterinary medicine, revealing how understanding our past helps us grasp the broader evolution of empathy and care in society. When we heal the beasts, we often heal something larger. It follows in the tradition of other “micro-histories,” such as *Salt: A World History* (Mark Kurlansky), *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* (Bill Bryson), and *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* (Mary Roach).
- **A FUN, GIFTY, AND ADORABLE PACKAGE:** *Heal the Beasts* is illustrated with paintings, historical documents, photographs, and line drawings, making it a beautiful, giftable package for animal lovers and history buffs alike.
- **FOR FANS OF ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL:** Philipp Schott has all the humble charm of James Herriot’s bestselling series and its adaptations. In a starred review for *The Accidental Veterinarian*, *Booklist* raved, “For all animal lovers, veterinary tales are always amusing, amazing, entertaining, and, once in a while, sad. Few books ... approach the combination of fine writing, radical honesty, and endless optimism found in Winnipeg practitioner Schott’s ... Laugh until you cry — and believe, as he says, that all that really matters is that the heart of the pet (and its owner) is pure.”
- **INTERNATIONAL APPEAL:** The first known domesticated dog was from Germany in 12,205 BCE. Several chapters of the book are dedicated to veterinary medicine internationally, including in France, Germany, Italy, Australia, India, Uganda, and Iraq. Philipp Schott was born in Germany and speaks German. His first book, *The Accidental Veterinarian*, has been translated into Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Czech, and simplified Chinese, and *How to Examine a Wolverine* has been translated into Russian and simplified Chinese.
- **CHARMING AUTHOR:** Philipp Schott is consistently a bestseller at McNally Robinson Booksellers and is an engaging speaker at events. The millions of people who consume viral pet content daily will love Dr. Schott’s dedication to funny, touching, and informative veterinary stories from the past four thousand years.



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JESUSLAND

STORIES FROM THE UPSIDE DOWN WORLD
OF CHRISTIAN POP CULTURE

Joelle Kidd

Using a blend of cultural criticism, humor, and personal memoir akin to Jia Tolentino's *Trick Mirror* or Grace Perry's *The 2000s Made Me Gay*, Joelle Kidd writes about her evangelical adolescence through the lens of Christian pop culture of the early 2000s, giving readers a peek into this odd subculture and insight into how evangelicalism's growing popularity around the turn of the millennium has shaped culture and politics — including today's far right.

In 1999, after three years of secular living in Eastern Europe, Joelle Kidd moved back to Canada and was enrolled in the strange world of an evangelical Christian school. In *Jesusland*, Joelle writes about the Christian pop culture that she was suddenly immersed in, from perky girl bands to modest styling tips, and draws connections between this evangelical subculture and the mainstream, a tense yet reciprocal relationship that both disavows the secular while employing its media markers. But none of this was just about catchy songs: every abstinence quiz in a teen magazine was laying the foundation for what would become a conservative Christian movement that threatens women's healthcare, attacks queer and trans rights, and drives present-day political division.

Through nine incisive, honest, and emotional essays, *Jesusland* exposes the pop cultural machinations of evangelicalism, while giving voice to aughts-era Christian children and teens who are now adults looking back at their time, measuring the length of their skirts, and asking each other if their celebrity crush was Christian enough. With care and generosity, *Jesusland* shows us how the conservative evangelical movement became the global power it is today by exploring the pop culture that both reflected and shaped an entire generation of young people.

Joelle Kidd is a writer, award-winning journalist, and editor living in Toronto. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in outlets including *The Walrus*, *LitHub*, *Catapult*, *PRISM International*, *Prairie Fire*, and *This Magazine*. Joelle holds an MFA from the University of Guelph's Creative Writing program. *Jesusland* is her first book.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **THE TIME IS NOW:** As millennials and Generation Z mature into older adulthood and Y2K/aughts nostalgia peaks, and with the explosion of documentaries and writing about the role of Christian evangelicalism in the resurgence of far-right politics, *Jesusland* — which explores the often silly, sometimes hypocritical, and usually cringey pop culture produced by Christian creators in the early 2000s — is a timely book.
- **FROM THE EDITOR:** “Now that the children and teens of the early 2000s have become adults, there has been so much discussion about evangelicalism and the far-right Christians who now dominate the political landscape. *Jesusland* is so timely and so very needed, especially as the world is hurtling toward more and more division. Joelle writes with a lot of empathy for people who have left evangelicalism and approaches each chapter with sensitivity, humor, and a generosity of spirit.” — **Jen Sookfong Lee**
- **DECONSTRUCTING PURITY CULTURE:** Collecting responses from others who grew up evangelical about their experiences with purity culture and abstinence teachings allowed Joelle to feel as though she was not alone. *Jesusland* will provide that same experience to readers looking back on that time of their lives.
- **NOSTALGIC FUN:** *Jesusland* will appeal to people who grew up immersed in the Christian pop culture of the 2000s and are now nostalgic and/or cynical. Reliving pop culture icons such as Jump5, Superchick, the Jonas Brothers, *Revolve* (the teen Bible), Joshua Harris's *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, BarlowGirl, *Left Behind*, and DC Talk's *Jesus Freak*.



UGH! AS IF!

CLUELESS

Veronica Litt

Ugh As If! uncovers the complex layers beneath the glossy surface of the 1995 classic film *Clueless*. Litt investigates not just the Austen satire but the film's deeper ethical questions about femininity, innocence, bias, and inequity.

A sweet and sly exploration of the Jane Austen-inspired teen movie and its evergreen imperative to be kind, do better, and find the activist within

We are totally butt-crazy in love with *Clueless*. Since the movie's premiere in 1995, pop culture has mined Amy Heckerling's high school comedy for inspiration, from Iggy Azalea and Charli XCX's "Fancy" music video to Cher's iconic yellow plaid suit appearing at every Halloween party.

In *Ugh As If!*, Veronica Litt argues that this seemingly fluffy teen romp is the quintessential thinking woman's movie, one in which the audience is asked to seriously consider the beauty and power of naïveté. Cher Horowitz's gradual pivot from oblivious it girl to burgeoning activist is a powerful reminder that even the most unlikely people can change for the better and contribute to their communities. In this bright, shiny film, pursuing a more just society isn't just possible — it's enjoyable. This fun, feminine, feel-good movie is a counter-narrative to nihilism, a refusal to give into cynicism, hopelessness, and passivity. Almost without viewers noticing, *Clueless* teaches Cher, and us, how to become better. Like the film it examines, *Ugh As If!* nudges even the most jaded viewer into feeling hopeful about the future.

Publication Date: June 3, 2025

4.75 x 7", 140pp, trade paperback

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Veronica Litt is a writer, reader, teacher, and hobbyist letterpress printer from Hamilton, Ontario. She holds a PhD in English and Book History from the University of Toronto and currently lives in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, where she teaches post-secondary classes on English literature. *Ugh As If!* is her first book.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **SIMULTANEOUS AUDIO RELEASE WITH SPOTIFY**
- **QUIZ YOUR HEART OUT:** Packed with quizzes to reveal your *Clueless* persona and uncover other must-know essentials!
- **JUST PLAIN FUN:** The book tackles the flaws in the script and direction of the film, particularly regarding race, but it ultimately argues that the movie shows how to do good in the world without being a bum. *Ugh As If!* is a defense of girly art that shows that a chick flick can be an oddball roadmap to a better world.
- **A MOVIE THAT LIVES ON:** The movie's lasting popularity comes through in its many adaptations: a stage play, *Clueless: The Musical*, which debuted in 2018 (directed by original director Amy Heckerling); a three-season television series (and constant rumors about a modern spinoff reboot)
- **THAT ICONIC LINE:** "Ugh, as if!" is the most iconic line in *Clueless*. It's also a wee distillation of the movie's charm and long-standing appeal: "As if!" opens up possibilities and imagines what could be while, at the same time, cynically doubting that such goodness could actually come to pass. These two sides balance each other out so that *Clueless* can have its cake and eat it too. The movie tempers wryness with optimism, nudging even the most jaded viewer to feel hopeful about the future.

About the Pop Classics Series

Short books that pack a big punch, Pop Classics offer intelligent, fun, and accessible arguments about why a particular pop phenomenon matters.



UGH! AS IF!

CLUELESS

Veronica Litt

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Rights Sold: Audiobook

Film Rights: Film rights available

Veronica Litt is a writer, reader, teacher, and hobbyist letterpress printer from Hamilton, Ontario. She holds a PhD in English and Book History from the University of Toronto and currently lives in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, where she teaches post-secondary classes on English literature. *Ugh As If!* is her first book.

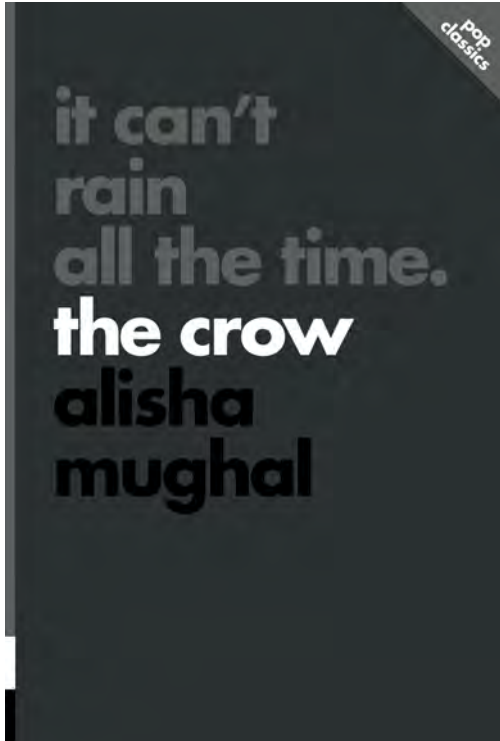


KEY SALES NOTES

- **SIMULTANEOUS AUDIO RELEASE WITH SPOTIFY**
- **QUIZ YOUR HEART OUT:** Packed with quizzes to reveal your *Clueless* persona and uncover other must-know essentials!
- **JUST PLAIN FUN:** The book tackles the flaws in the script and direction of the film, particularly regarding race, but it ultimately argues that the movie shows how to do good in the world without being a bummer. *Ugh As If!* is a defense of girly art that shows that a chick flick can be an oddball roadmap to a better world.
- **A MOVIE THAT LIVES ON:** The movie's lasting popularity comes through in its many adaptations: a stage play, *Clueless: The Musical*, which debuted in 2018 (directed by original director Amy Heckerling); a three-season television series (and constant rumors about a modern spinoff reboot)
- **THAT ICONIC LINE:** "Ugh, as if!" is the most iconic line in *Clueless*. It's also a wee distillation of the movie's charm and long-standing appeal: "As if!" opens up possibilities and imagines what could be while, at the same time, cynically doubting that such goodness could actually come to pass. These two sides balance each other out so that *Clueless* can have its cake and eat it too. The movie tempers wryness with optimism, nudging even the most jaded viewer to feel hopeful about the future.

About the Pop Classics Series

Short books that pack a big punch, Pop Classics offer intelligent, fun, and accessible arguments about why a particular pop phenomenon matters.



IT CAN'T RAIN ALL THE TIME

THE CROW

Alisha Mughal

It Can't Rain All the Time weaves memoir with film criticism in an effort to pin down *The Crow*'s cultural resonance.

A passionate analysis of the ill-fated 1994 film starring the late Brandon Lee and its long-lasting influence on action movies, cinematic grief, and emotional masculinity

Released in 1994, *The Crow* first drew in audiences thanks to the well-publicized tragedy that loomed over the film: lead actor Brandon Lee had died on set due to a mishandled prop gun. But it soon became clear that *The Crow* was more than just an accumulation of its tragic parts. The celebrated critic Roger Ebert wrote that Lee's performance was "more of a screen achievement than any of the films of his father, Bruce Lee."

In *It Can't Rain All the Time*, Alisha Mughal argues that *The Crow* has transcended Brandon Lee's death by exposing the most challenging human emotions in all their dark, dramatic, and visceral glory, so much so that it has spawned three sequels, a remake, and an intense fandom. Eric, our back-from-the-dead, grieving protagonist, shows us that there is no solution to depression or loss, there is only our own internal, messy work. By the end of the movie, we realize that Eric has presented us with a vast range of emotions and that masculinity doesn't need to be hard and impenetrable.

Through her memories of seeking solace in the film during her own grieving period, Alisha brilliantly shows that, for all its gothic sadness, *The Crow* is, surprisingly and touchingly, a movie about redemption and hope.

Publication Date: July 15, 2025

4.75 x 7", 100pp, trade paperback

19.95 CDN / 15.95 U.S.

SOCIAL SCIENCE / POPULAR CULTURE

(SOC022000)

PERFORMING ARTS / FILM / HISTORY & CRITICISM

(PER004030)

PERFORMING ARTS / FILM / GENRES / HORROR

(PER004130)

PSYCHOLOGY / MENTAL HEALTH (PSY036000)

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Film Rights: Film rights available

Alisha Mughal is a culture writer based in Toronto. She is a journalist and film critic who has written for *Film Daze*, *Exclaim!*, *RogerEbert.com*, and *Catapult*.

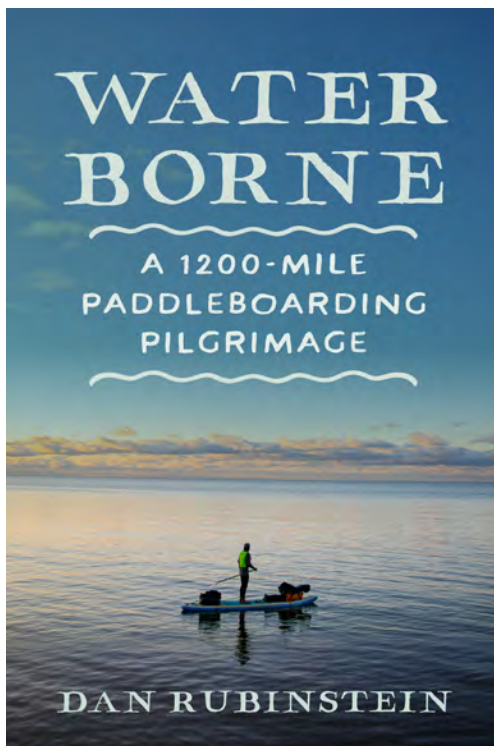


KEY SALES NOTES

- **A FRESH CRITIQUE:** The editor of the Pop Classics series had been on the hunt for a proposal that was a little more niche and had a unique perspective. Alisha Mughal leans into the emo/goth/grunge vibe of *The Crow*, meeting the film where it's at rather than judging it by clinical critical standards. Mughal offers a frank discussion on mental health, grief and loss, and the ways in which we just try to feel better. For her, feeling better meant watching *The Crow* and being submerged in its dark, moody, broken heart.
- **AN ENDURING FRANCHISE:** *The Crow* is based on a comic book series created by James O'Barr and has spawned three additional films and a television show, as well as a 2024 remake of the original film

About the Pop Classics Series

Short books that pack a big punch, Pop Classics offer intelligent, fun, and accessible arguments about why a particular pop phenomenon matters.



Publication Date: June 10, 2025

5.5 x 8.5", 400pp, trade paperback

28.95 CDN / 22.95 U.S.

NATURE / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & PROTECTION (NAT011000)

SPORTS & RECREATION / WATER SPORTS (SPO051000)

SOCIAL SCIENCE / HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (SOC015000)

TRAVEL / SPECIAL INTEREST / ADVENTURE (TRV001000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-831-8 (Paperback)

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Rights Available: World English language rights available

Film Rights: Film rights controlled by CookeMcDermid Agency

WATER BORNE

A 1,200-MILE PADDLEBOARDING PILGRIMAGE

Dan Rubinstein

An unconventional SUP journey to discover how embracing blue space could improve our lives and our world.

In June 2023, writer Dan Rubinstein lashed camping gear to his stand-up paddleboard and embarked on an improbable solo voyage from Ottawa to Montreal, New York City, Toronto, and back to Ottawa along the rivers, lakes, and canals of a landlocked region. Over 1,200 miles and 10 weeks, he explored the healing potential of “blue space” — the aquatic equivalent of green space — and sought out others drawn to their local waters.

But the farther Rubinstein paddled, the more he realized that being in, on, or around water does more than boost our mental and physical health and prompt stewardship toward the natural world. He discovered that blue spaces are also a way to connect with the kaleidoscopic cross-section of people he met and the diverse geographies and communities he passed through.

Weaving together research, interviews, and an un-macho, malodorous, anticolonial adventure tale, *Water Borne* shows us that we don’t need an epic journey to find solutions to so many modern challenges. Repair and renewal may be close at hand: just add water.

Dan Rubinstein is an Ottawa-based writer, editor, and stand-up paddleboarder. His first book, *Born to Walk*, was a finalist for the Ottawa Book Awards and Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. He’s also a National Magazine Award–winning journalist who contributes to publications such as *The Walrus*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *enRoute*, and he’s a former editor at *Canadian Geographic* magazine.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **BLUE SPACE IS THE NEW GREEN SPACE:** Dan uses his unique voyage to connect with the landscape and other water lovers, chatting with scientists, conservationists, pleasure boaters, and activists, including those from marginalized communities who face greater barriers to water access but often benefit from it the most. Together, they explore why blue space is vital not just for our physical and mental health but for our ecosystems and society as a whole. It’s a book that shows the inspiring possibilities of rehabilitation, reconciliation, restoration, and expanding access to waterfront pursuits. We also see random moments of connection and kindness between strangers that remind us of the importance of human contact in our disconnected and divided world.
- **AN UNUSUAL ADVENTURE TALE:** Decidedly un-macho, anticolonial, and involving not a single flight, this is a humble, inquisitive, hopeful exploration of health, sustainability, equity, and community. While there are adrenaline-filled moments, *Water Borne* is a slow-paced trip on an awkward mode of transport, and Rubinstein leans into humor and vulnerability. While many adventure narratives explore a “wilderness” devoid of humans, Rubinstein met as many people as he could, from those protecting these waterways to concerned strangers looking out for him as he camped in lock stations, parks, and other semi-public spaces.
- **SHARING LOCAL STORIES:** Rubinstein is based in Ottawa, where his journey starts and finishes. Along the way, he visits Toronto, Montreal, and New York City as he navigates the St. Lawrence River, Lakes Ontario and Champlain, the Hudson River, and the Erie, Lachine, and Welland Canals. He also stops in smaller cities such as Oka, QC; Schuylerville, NY; Buffalo, NY; Newburgh, NY; Hoboken, NJ; Albany, NY; Albion, NY; Beacon, NY; Kingston, ON; and Smiths Falls, ON. Those who live in or near these places will love seeing their communities reflected in the book.
- **DECORATED AUTHOR:** Dan Rubinstein was a finalist in the nonfiction category at the Ottawa Book Awards (2016) and Kobo Emerging Writer Prize (2016) and has been published in French and Portuguese. He has won more than a dozen National Magazine Awards.



BUILDING UNSTOPPABLE TEAMS

BUSINESS LESSONS INSPIRED BY THE
WORLD'S TOUGHEST CYCLING RACE

Sébastien Sasseville and Gabriel Renaud

Sébastien Sasseville and Gabriel Renaud masterfully transform the lessons learned in the mind-blowing Race Across America into concrete, actionable, and relatable business insights. The book will help leaders and organizations to build high-performing teams, to lead with purpose, to remain engaged, and to win the long game.

When Sébastien Sasseville, an athlete with type 1 diabetes, decided to take part in the Race Across America, solo, he knew he was embarking on the most difficult ultra-cycling race in the world. What he didn't realize was that this experience, and the work that needed to be done ahead of it, would inform his thinking around a team-building model that had application beyond sports and deep into workplaces and boardrooms.

This crossing of the United States from west to east, in a time trial of no more than 12 days, forces the riders to stay in the saddle for about 21 hours a day. Truly a solitary challenge, but one that is impossible to accomplish without an exceptional team that follows and supports the cyclist night and day.

Together, Sébastien and co-author Gabriel Renaud, a high-performance athlete, corporate trainer, and member of the race team, have taken the model they used to build the Race Across America team and written *Bees & Eagles*, a toolkit for building passionate teams that can accomplish the exceptional. Leadership, commitment, definition of objectives, group dynamics, adaptability, performance, motivation, and recognition are all components of successful team building and key pieces of the toolkit, but it all begins with getting the right people in place: the bees and eagles.

Publication Date: May 27, 2025

6 x 9", 256pp, trade paperback

27.95 CDN / 22.95 U.S.

**BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / ORGANIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT** (BUS103000)

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / LEADERSHIP
(BUS071000)

SPORTS & RECREATION / CYCLING (SPO011000)

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / MOTIVATIONAL
(BUS046000)

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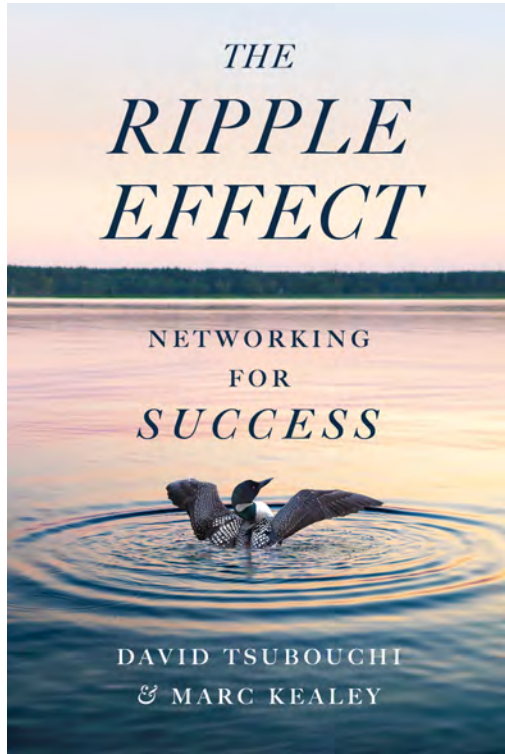
Sébastien Sasseville is an author, a speaker, and an endurance athlete. His extraordinary accomplishments include summiting Mount Everest and the Race Across America. He speaks globally on leadership and teamwork, and he is known for his awe-inspiring presentations. He lives in Quebec City, Canada.

Gabriel Renaud is a former collegiate hockey player and professional ice cross downhill athlete with a background in neuroscience. Drawing on his sports experience, Gabriel is the co-founder of Hubu, a company that specializes in team culture to build cohesive and high-performing teams. He lives in Quebec City, Canada.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **NOT YOUR TYPICAL BORING BUSINESS BOOK:** Sébastien Sasseville and Gabriel Renaud masterfully transform the lessons learned during the mind-blowing Race Across America into concrete, actionable, and relatable business insights. The book will help leaders and organizations to build high-performing teams, lead with purpose, remain engaged, and win the long game. Sasseville spent the first 10 years of his career in Fortune 500 companies, and Renaud is the founder of Hubu, a company that specializes in leadership training to make teams more cohesive and effective.
- **FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM:** Gabriel led the team during the Race Across America, while Sébastien rode the race. Both roles were crucial to their success. Similarly, this book isn't just for C-suite executives; it's for anyone involved in team building or teamwork, including middle management. It provides valuable insights on not only constructing a team but also effectively working within and managing a team.
- **THE CREDENTIALS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES:** Sébastien Sasseville has delivered over 750 keynote speeches globally and occupied advisory roles with giants like Amazon, Microsoft, and Walmart. He excels at drawing parallels between athletics and business, offering actionable insights from his adventures. A top endurance athlete, Sébastien is the first Canadian with type 1 diabetes to summit Mount Everest, and he also completed the Marathon des Sables, ran 7,500 kilometers across Canada, and finished the grueling Race Across America. His experiences in extreme environments uniquely position him to inspire and educate on resilience, team building, and setting goals in the corporate world.
- **FRENCH TRANSLATION:** The French edition of this book, published in 2022, has sold thousands of copies.



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS

David Tsubouchi and Marc Kealey

Featuring insights from seasoned networking professionals, *The Ripple Effect: Networking for Success* offers valuable guidance on establishing and nurturing long-term connections.

“How did you get where you are today?” At public speaking events, this is the most frequent question young professionals ask former Ontario politician David Tsubouchi and governance and communications consultant Marc Kealey.

The answer: it is impossible to succeed alone. A friend once said, “A better network equals a better net worth.” This is not to say networking is purely transactional or about how many people one knows: networking is about building relationships based on mutual respect and trust so everyone involved can thrive.

Tsubouchi, Kealey, and 18 other accomplished and prominent Canadians have come together to share their stories and advice on networking for success. They represent people from different sectors who started with nothing and faced more barriers than others because of their gender, ethnicity, and/or immigrant status. From entrepreneurs to executives, their experiences show aspiring networkers the true meaning of perseverance and how they can make networking opportunities fulfilling experiences.

Publication Date: May 27, 2025

6 x 9", 220pp, trade paperback

26.95 CDN / 21.95 U.S.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / PERSONAL SUCCESS
(BUS107000)

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / BUSINESS COMMUNICATION / GENERAL (BUS007000)

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / CAREERS / CAREER ADVANCEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(BUS012030)

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / CAREERS / JOB HUNTING (BUS037020)

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David Tsubouchi is an author, lawyer, former regulator, and Integrity Commissioner. He was the first Japanese Canadian to be elected to a provincial legislature and be appointed to cabinet. Mr. Tsubouchi has served on numerous boards of directors and has become an international keynote speaker. He lives in Baltimore, Ontario.

Marc Kealey is chief advocate and founder of Kealey and Associates Inc. — an advocacy and project management firm serving organizations in Canada and abroad. An advisor to former Prime Minister John N. Turner, Kealey is a leading voice for transformation in healthcare, energy, and gaming. He lives in Mississauga, Ontario.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **PACKED WITH INSIGHT FROM TOP INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS:** Featuring insights from seasoned networking professionals, it offers valuable guidance on establishing and nurturing long-term connections. With essays by former Assistant Attorney General Helen Hayward, global technology entrepreneur Murray Simser, former CEO of MaRS Discovery District Yung Wu, former Cabinet Minister Mitzie Hunter, and many others, *The Ripple Effect* has packed decades of experience into easy-to-read, digestible essays.
- **DIVERSE OPINIONS FOR A DIVERSE WORLD:** With contributions from a range of genders, ethnicities, and industries, *The Ripple Effect* has tried and true lessons for every reader.
- **PERFECT GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS:** Competition in every industry is growing, and young professionals are looking for every advantage they can find. This easy-to-follow advice on how to network, that buzzword they hear throughout their young lives, will give them the courage and confidence to step into any industry with ease.