



David Nour

Topics

Business and Management, Economics and Finance, Leadership

Travels From

Georgia

Bio

David Nour is a growth strategist, thought leader and global keynote speaker on Relationship Economics®, the concept of the quantifiable value of business relationships. Through his best-selling books, compelling speeches and valuable consulting, Nour demonstrates how relationships are the greatest of-balance-sheet asset any organization possesses, large or small, public or private. He is a popular speaker and delivers over 50 global keynotes a year explaining the hidden assets of relationships, and the art and science of investing in them. He is CEO of The Nour Group, Inc., a consulting firm that advises top global leaders and boards of corporations, associations and academic forums on disruptive innovations to fuel their growth. The Nour Group, Inc., has worked with leading global companies such as Disney, Cisco Systems, Deloitte Consulting, Hilton Worldwide, HP, IBM and more. As a speaker, Nour examines business relationships, social and mobile disruptive technologies and adaptive innovation. His keynotes have been heard at top industry summits like Microsoft Worldwide Partner Conference, IBM Smarter Commerce Global Summit and Marriott Annual GM

Conference, among others. His insights on driving growth through unique return on strategic relationships have been featured in top outlets like The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Fast Company, Mashable, CNBC, Knowledge@Wharton and Associations Now, as well as Entrepreneur and Success magazines. He also writes a regular column for The Huffington Post. His forthcoming book *Co-Create* (St. Martin's Press) is an essential guide showing C-level leaders how to optimize relationships, create market gravity and greatly increase revenue. In addition to his speaking, writing and consulting, Nour has guest lectured at the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and Georgia Tech's College of Management. He serves as the lead independent director on the board of introNetworks, a privately held intelligent community technology firm based in Santa Barbara, Calif. An Eagle Scout, Nour is involved with the Centennial Scouting movement, Junior Achievement, One Voice – aiming to create peace in the Middle East – and the High Tech Ministries. He is currently an active member of the FBI Citizens' Academy, Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) and the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), where he has earned the Governance Fellow accreditation.

A native of Iran, Nour came to the U.S. with just a suitcase, \$100, limited family ties and no fluency in English. He went on to earn an Executive Master's of Business Administration from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and a bachelor's degree in management from Georgia State University. Nour resides in Atlanta, Georgia with his family.

SPEECHES

The Co-Create Effect: What will the evolution of you, your team, and your organization look like?

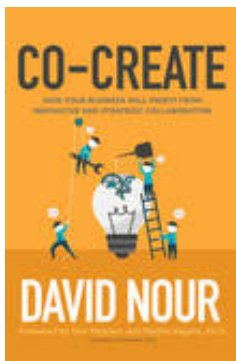
Individuals, teams, and organizations must balance learning and performing to evolve. That evolution no longer comes from being the smartest in the room but from innovative collaboration with strategic relationships – within and external to the organization. David will explain how co-creating provides the construct, the process, and the tools to help your audience do just that – evolve themselves, their teams, and their organization. Recognized by many past clients as David's best thinking and practical, pragmatic work to date.

Relationship Economics® – The Art & Science of Relationships: Leveraging Your Single Biggest Asset to Driver Performance, Execution, and Results Focus on the quantifiable value of business relationships and provide a systematic process for identifying, building, nurturing, and leveraging personal and professional relationships. David introduces battle-tested best practices, based on his global experiences, along with social science research and hundreds of executive interviews, that bridge the gap between relationship creation and relationship capitalization.

Return on Impact – Disruptive Technologies Impacting Your Business Model: How Will You Adapt to Disruption and Evolve Your Value-Add in the Process? Return on Impact isn't about Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube. It's about socially enabling organizations to listen louder, think faster, and respond to changing market dynamics, helping them reinvent, adapt, and relate in new and powerful ways. David discusses how SMAC (Social, Mobile, Analytics, and Cloud) is swinging the power pendulum in the direction of members and customers, leaving many industries and organizations out of the equation, and how you can get the most return on your business interactions, involvement, image, and impact.

Adaptive Innovation – Adaptable Business Models for Changing Market Demands: From Signal Scouts to “Yes, And” Learning to Drive Creativity, Communication, and Collaboration Create a sustainable competitive advantage, develop a relationship-centric culture, and have the audacity to fail and the ability to learn from those failures. Create greater market value than your competitors, help your channel partners differentiate your unique products or services, and shake up your value chain. It sounds difficult; David makes it simple.

BOOKS



Hardcover

[Co-Create](#) How Your Business Will Profit from Innovative and Strategic Collaboration

St. Martin's Press

In *Co-Create*, David Nour makes the case that co-creation leads to Market Gravity™, a force that attracts stakeholders to your business because they recognize that many others have also united their interests with yours. It's the sense—backed by tangible metrics—that this is bigger than any of us imagined . . . except that you imagined precisely such an outcome. That's the power of co-creation.

REVIEWS: "I've had the pleasure of hearing many great speakers during my 27 years with PMA. So it takes someone exceptional to cut through the clutter and make a unique impression. [David] did that and then some."

- Bryan Silbermann, CAE - President & CEO, Produce Marketing Association

"...I heard [David] speak at the ASAE Annual Meeting in Atlanta. I found [David] to be a gifted professional speaker and dramatically more insightful than most typical associated-related presenters. During our introductory lunch, [David] provided ample value in [his] understanding of our growth challenges and piqued my curiosity to seek [his] advisory services."

- Stefano Bertuzzi, Ph.D, M.P.H. - Executive Director, American Society for Microbiology

"During David's presentation, our audience of more than 700 elected officials and city staff members were extremely engaged, as evident by few distracted mobile users or anyone who left the session early! He used appropriate humor, was personable yet thought provoking in conveying his ideas. Needless to say, David's presentation was the buzz of the conference long after his session."

- Michael Sittig - Executive Director, Florida League of Cities, Inc.



Chris Hughes

Topics

Business and Management, Science and Technology

Travels From

New York

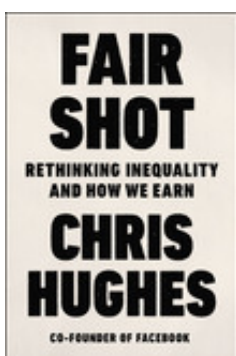
Bio

Chris Hughes is the co-founder of the Economic Security Project, a network of policymakers, academics, and technologists working to end poverty and rebuild the middle class through a guaranteed income. He is the author of the book *Fair Shot: Rethinking Inequality and How We Earn*, published by St Martin's Press in February, 2018. The son of a public school teacher and traveling salesman, Hughes grew up in a small town in North Carolina and got a scholarship to go to Harvard. In 2004 while there, he co-founded Facebook with his roommates Mark Zuckerberg and Dustin Moskovitz. He led communications and feature development in Facebook's early years and played a role in the development of the early News Feed and sharing functionality that continue to power Facebook today. In 2007, Hughes joined Barack Obama's digital organizing campaign for President and managed the campaign's social network and army of digital volunteers. He owned and led *The New Republic* magazine from 2012 to 2016. After Facebook's IPO, he and his husband committed to giving away their wealth in their lifetimes, and today he focuses on growing the movement to combat income inequality through a guaranteed income. He lives in New York's Greenwich Village with his family.

SPEECHES

Fair Shot: How to Rethink Inequality in the United States In this talk, Chris Hughes speaks on the contents of his book, and about what can be done about the state of poverty in the U.S. He talks about the powerful role of fortune and luck play in today's economy and how that relates to the super-rich, and those on the other end of the spectrum.

BOOKS



Hardcover

[Fair Shot](#) Rethinking Inequality and How We Learn

St. Martin's Press

In telling his story, Hughes demonstrates the

powerful role fortune and luck play in today's economy. Through the rocket ship rise of Facebook, Hughes came to understand how a select few can become ultra-wealthy nearly overnight. He believes the same forces that made Facebook possible have made it harder for everyone else in America to make ends meet.

REVIEWS: Praise for *Fair Shot*

"I admire Chris's commitment to apply his talent, experience, and wealth to tackle some of our toughest problems."

—Bill Gates

"The American Dream is slipping away—too many people are working too hard and they're still sinking, not even able to cover the basic costs of living. *Fair Shot* offers a new tool for economic mobility: a guaranteed income to all working people—even those whose work hasn't been recognized or compensated with income before."

—Arianna Huffington

"If we are to be true to the principles of our nation's founding, opportunity cannot be solely the province of the wealthy and well-connected. Yet the promise that if you work hard you can get ahead is broken for millions of Americans. As we strive to build a fairer, more inclusive country, *Fair Shot* is a very important read. These ideas must be part of the conversation as we consider how best to ensure the American Dream is available to all. This mission of securing the dream for all presents an urgency for every American; the strength and future of our nation depend on our success."

—Senator Cory Booker

**Kristine Carlson****Topics**

Best Selling and Award Winning Authors, Inspirational Speakers, Lifestyle, Women's Interests

Travels From

California

Bio

Kristine Carlson is a *New York Times* bestselling author, speaker, and leader in the field of transformation. After collaborating with her late husband Dr. Richard Carlson to create a publishing industry phenomenon with the *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* series—selling more than 25 million copies worldwide—today, Kris is emerging as a profound teacher in the areas that matter most to the human heart: how to heal and how to love. Kris has captivated readers around the world with her previous six books, which includes *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff in Love*; *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Women*; *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Moms*; *An Hour to Live, An Hour to Love: The True Story of the Best Gift Ever*; and *Heartbroken-Open: A Memoir Through Loss to Self Discovery*. In her forthcoming book, *From Heartbreak to Wholeness: The Hero's Journey to Joy*, she offers a process for healing that goes beyond common prescriptions for getting through the pain of heartbreak of all kinds. She takes readers by the hand, giving them a life-altering map for navigating the journey from loss to joy—one that can awaken them to a deep love affair with life. Kris's acclaimed live events currently include the "What Now? Retreat" along the Northern California coast (along with the "What Now?" online program) and the "Women's Wisdom and Yoga Retreat" in Umbria, Italy. As a sought-after speaker, Kris is known for her authenticity, vulnerability, and humor, leaving her audiences moved, inspired, and

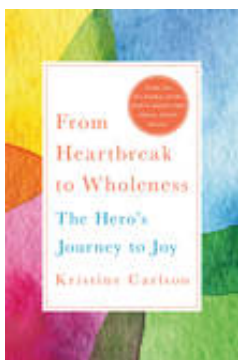
optimistic about the future. She has been featured on national radio and television, including *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *The View*, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Kris has served on the Board of Directors and the Global Leadership Council for Challenge Day, and she's a member of the Association of Transformational Leaders (ATL). She was honored to join the Go Red for Women campaign for the American Heart Association in 2012 as their keynote speaker. In 2010 she was honored with the Kennedy Laureate Award by John F. Kennedy University, an acknowledgment also given to Alice Waters and Dr. Sanjay Gupta for their work in the area of mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff, Live the Big Stuff* podcast and authors a blog at her website kristinecarlson.com. She is mom to two daughters and “Nana” to four grandchildren. She lives in California.

SPEECHES

From Heartbreak to Wholeness Kristine Carlson talks about the sudden and tragic loss of her husband, and how she reclaimed her life after feeling lost and broken. She maps out the path to happiness after experiencing grief, and how others can find joy again after great sadness.

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff Kristine Carlson talks about the writing and phenomenon of *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*, and the subsequent books after it. She examines the stresses and burdens that people are often confronted with—whether in the boardroom or the office bullpen, in relationships, or among friends—and gives proven strategies for balancing themselves within a chaotic world and finding ways to do what they like best.

BOOKS



Hardcover

[From Heartbreak to Wholeness](#)The Hero's Journey to Joy

St. Martin's Press

In her new book, *From Heartbreak to Wholeness*, Kristine Carlson offers a life-altering map for navigating the heroic journey from loss to joy—one that ultimately awakens readers to a deep love affair with life.

REVIEWS: Praise for *From Heartbreak to Wholeness* "*From Heartbreak to Wholeness* is a pure lighthouse, beaming its beautiful warming light through the thick fog of loss and suffering that each of us gets lost in at times. It's with breathtaking empathy, kindness, and knowing that Kristine Carlson signals the way back to the shore of ourselves, where we rediscover how to play and dance and rejoice in the sweet miracle of our lives, not despite loss, but because of it."

—SARK author & artist of *Succulent Wild Woman and Glad No Matter What*

"Kristine Carlson's brilliant new book, *From Heartbreak to Wholeness*, accomplishes two vital tasks—making sense of the pain we suffer in loss and giving us a luminous map to find our authentic joy again. A teacher of profound insight, she shows us how to turn life's moments of crisis into grist for the mill of awakening."

—Shauna Shapiro, PhD, author of *The Art and Science of Mindfulness*

"With compassion and love as only Kristine Carlson can do, this book takes you by the hand and helps you not only find your way back to life but walks with you on your hero's journey after loss."

—Christina Rasmussen, author of *Second Firsts*



Anthony Ray Hinton

Topics

Criminal Justice, Culture and Society, Inspirational Speakers

Travels From

Alabama

Bio

Anthony Ray Hinton was released in April 2015 after spending 30 years on Alabama's death row for a crime he did not commit. He was released with the help of the Equal Justice Initiative, of which he is now an employee. He now serves as EJI's Community Educator and travels both nationally and internationally to speak about his experience. He has spoken at dozens of universities and conferences over the last two and half years and is an incredibly compelling speaker and powerful advocate for changes to the criminal justice system. More information about his story is available [here](#). His inspirational memoir, *The Sun Does Shine, How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* will be released in the Spring of 2018.

SPEECHES

Surviving Criminal Justice in America Anthony Ray Hinton, death row exoneree, will share his story of wrongful conviction, survival on Alabama's death row, and decades-long journey to exoneration and freedom. In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was convicted of the unsolved murders of two fast-food restaurant managers based on the testimony of ballistics experts for the State who claimed that the crime

bullets came from a dusty revolver found in Mr. Hinton's mother's closet. Without the benefit of a competent expert to challenge the State's ballistics experts, an all-white jury convicted Mr. Hinton and he was sentenced to death. After years of petitioning to have the revolver re-analyzed, three independent experts concluded that the bullets could not have been fired from that revolver, and that they could not even have all been fired from a single gun. Mr. Hinton is now free after 30 years, and will join us to share his story and discuss the changes that need to be made to prevent these types of injustices from happening to other innocent people.

BOOKS



Hardcover

[The Sun Does Shine](#) How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row

St. Martin's Press

In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, confused, and only twenty-nine years old, Hinton knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and believed that the truth would prove his innocence and ultimately set him free.

REVIEWS: Praise for *The Sun Does Shine* “No one I have represented has inspired me more than Anthony Ray Hinton and I believe his compelling and unique story will similarly inspire our nation and readers all over the world.”

- Bryan Stevenson, *New York Times* Bestselling Author, *Just Mercy*

“If there is ever a story that needs to be told, it is this one. Anthony Ray Hinton is extraordinary, an example to us all of the power of the human spirit to rise above complete injustice. He is using his experience as a way to turn the broken criminal justice system upside down. He is a brilliant storyteller, and his book will make people laugh, cry, and change their own lives for the better. It will also inspire people to never accept the unacceptable, like the death penalty. *The Sun Does Shine* will be a book that people all around the world will never forget.”

- Richard Branson

"I've met Anthony Ray Hinton, and he's an extraordinary man. He stands out among exonerees (and I know hundreds of them) for his dignity and gentle soul encased in his massive frame. His story is important and compelling. Bryan Stevenson, a national treasure and central character in this story, fought tirelessly for over fifteen years and won a rare and landmark case in the United States Supreme Court. *The Sun Does Shine* is the gripping and inspirational story that the public has been waiting for."

- Barry Scheck, Attorney, Director of the Innocence Project

“*The Sun Does Shine*, collaboratively written with Hardin, is a troubling, moving, and ultimately exalting journey through the decades Hinton lived under the threat of death while an unjust system that refused to acknowledge mistakes failed him repeatedly.”

- *Booklist*, starred review



Brittney Cooper

Topics

Activism and Social Justice, Diversity and Inclusion, Women's Interests

Travels From

New Jersey

Bio

Brittney Cooper is Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University. She is a Black feminist theorist who specializes in the study of Black women's intellectual history, Hip Hop generation feminism, and race and gender representation in popular culture. Her forthcoming book *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women* (University of Illinois Press) examines the long history of Black women's thought leadership in the U.S., with a view toward reinvigorating contemporary scholarly and popular conversations about Black feminism. Dr. Cooper is also a sought after public speaker and commentator. In addition to a former weekly column on race and gender politics at Salon.com, her work and words have appeared at the New York Times, the Washington Post, TV Guide, the Los Angeles Times, Ebony.com, The Root.com, MSNBC's *Melissa Harris-Perry Show*, *All In With Chris Hayes*, *Disrupt with Karen Finney*, and Third Rail on Al-Jazeera America, among many others. She is also a co-founder of the Crunk Feminist Collective, a popular feminist blog and currently a monthly contributor at Cosmopolitan.com. In 2013 and 2014, she was named to the Root.com's Root 100, an annual list of Top Black Influencers. Dr. Brittney Cooper is a proud alumna of Howard University (class of 2002) and proud native of North Louisiana.

SPEECHES

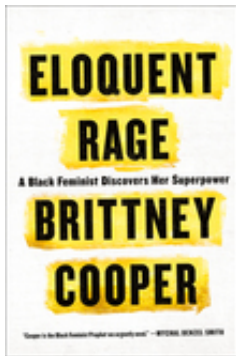
Eloquent Rage Brittney Cooper draws from the themes in her book, *Eloquent Rage*, discussing the power in being an 'Angry Black Woman.' Cooper discusses the stereotype and breaks it down, highlighting the success of black women like Michelle Obama and Serena Williams. With grace and charm Brittney Cooper celebrates the power of rage.

The Racial Politics of Time Brittney Cooper uniquely examines racial politics through the lens of time. Speaking on the black history history, storytelling, and feminism, Brittney Cooper assigns time a race and explains why.

BOOKS

[Eloquent Rage](#) A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower

St. Martin's Press



So what if it's true that Black women are mad as hell? They have the right to be. In the Black feminist tradition of Audre Lorde, Brittney Cooper reminds us that anger is a powerful source of energy that can give us the strength to keep on fighting.

Hardcover

REVIEWS: Praise for *Eloquent Rage*

"Cooper's *Eloquent Rage* is a fearless, phenomenal memoir of finding her voice as a black woman."

—*The Root*

"A breakthrough... this force of nature is becoming one of our fiercest voices in the new generation of African-American thinkers." —*Essence*

"With straight-up vulnerability and humor sprinkled in, Cooper reminds readers that feminism, in essence, is about loving women...a for-us-by-us handbook tailor made to obliterate the idea of post-racialism in the Trump era."

—*Bust Magazine*

"[Cooper's] ardent book reminds us that what you build is infinitely more important than what you tear down—and that rage makes great mortar."

—*Ms. Magazine*

"Cooper says there's power in being mad as hell."

—*Cosmopolitan*

"An ambitious, electrifying memoir. Recommended for readers seeking contemporary social commentary that's unrelenting yet humorous."

—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Sharp and always humane, Cooper's book suggests important ways in which feminism needs to evolve for the betterment not just of black women, but society as a whole. A timely and provocative book that shows 'what you build is infinitely more important than what you tear down.'"

—*Kirkus Reviews*

**André Aciman**

Topics

Best Selling and Award Winning Authors, Culture and Society

Travels From

New York

Bio

André Aciman was born in Alexandria, Egypt in a multi-language household. He is the author of *Call Me By Your Name*, *Out of Egypt*, *False Papers*, and the editor of *The Proust Project*. He teaches comparative literature at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He lives with his family in Manhattan.

SPEECHES

An Evening With André Aciman

With the immense success of his writing career, André Aciman talks on his creative process for his works of fiction and non fiction. Including the now Oscar nominated film adaptation of his novel *Call Me By Your Name*, Aciman also speaks about his work going beyond the page.

BOOKS

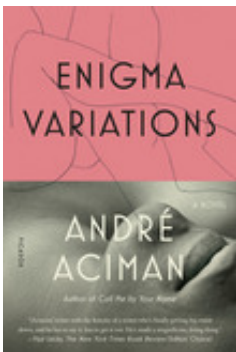


Paperback

[Call Me By Your Name](#)

Picador

Andre Aciman's Call Me by Your Name is the story of a sudden and powerful romance that blossoms between an adolescent boy and a summer guest at his parents' cliffside mansion on the Italian Riviera.

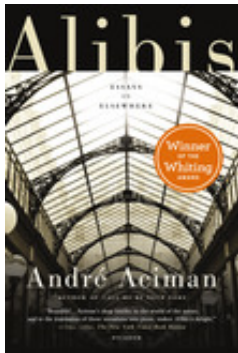


Paperback

[Enigma Variations](#)

Picador

Enigma Variations charts the life of a man named Paul, whose loves remain as consuming and as covetous throughout his adulthood as they were in his adolescence.

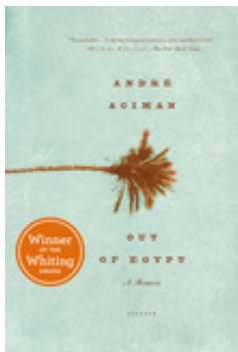


Paperback

[Alibis](#) Essays on Elsewhere

Picador

Celebrated as one of the most poignant stylists of his generation, André Aciman has written a luminous series of linked essays about time, place, identity, and art that show him at his very finest.



Paperback

[Out of Egypt](#) A Memoir

Picador

This richly colored memoir chronicles the exploits of a flamboyant Jewish family, from its bold arrival in cosmopolitan Alexandria to its defeated exodus three generations later.



Paperback

[False Papers](#)

Picador

In these fourteen essays André Aciman, one of the most poignant stylists of his generation, dissects the experience of loss, moving from his forced departure from Alexandria as a teenager, through his brief stay in Europe and finally to the home he's made (and half invented) on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

REVIEWS: Praise for *Call Me By Your Name*

“I finally read André Aciman’s deeply moving novel *Call Me by Your Name*, racing to do so before I saw Luca Guadagnino’s (sublime) movie adaptation with its sensitive screenplay by James Ivory—and I adored it.”

—Hamish Bowles, *Vogue.com* (Best Books We Read All Year)

“Superb...The beauty of Aciman's writing and the purity of his passions should place this extraordinary first novel within the canon of great romantic love stories for everyone.”

—Charles Kaiser, *The Washington Post Book World*

“An extraordinary examination of longing and the complicated ways in which we negotiate the experience of attraction....It's startling that a novel so bracingly unsentimental—alert to the ways we manipulate, second-guess, forestall, and finally reach stumblingly toward one another—concludes with such emotional depths.”

—Mark Doty, *O, The Oprah Magazine*

Praise for *Enigma Variations*

"Aciman writes arousal so beautifully you miss it when it's gone . . . [Aciman is] up to something bolder this time . . . Aciman is all the way himself here. He writes with the ferocity of a writer who's finally getting his vision down, and he has to say it, has to get it out. He's made a magnificent, living thing."
—Paul Lisicky, *New York Times Book Review*

"A breathless, sketched rendering of one man's life in love, Aciman's novel speaks earnestly not only of longing and lust, but also of more complicated emotions . . . [Aciman] portrays Paul convincingly as a sensuous and self-aware figure, forever treading the border between melodrama and tragedy."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"Is there any writer out there who can conjure the seismic swings and loop-the-loop giddiness of sexual infatuation the way that André Aciman can? He first revealed this talent in his debut novel, *Call Me By Your Name*, the book that sealed his reputation along with his sublime memoir, *Out of Egypt* . . . The allure of *Enigma Variations* rests in its agile sense of the heart's paradoxes and might-have-beens."
—Michael Upchurch, *Boston Globe*



Jonathan P. Epstein

Topics

Culture and Society, Jewish Interest, Politics and Pundits

Travels From

District of Columbia

Bio

Jonathan Weisman is a Deputy Washington Editor and Congress Editor at *The New York Times*. He covered Congress, politics and economics for *The Times*. His journalism career has taken him from *The Oakland Tribune* to *The Baltimore Sun*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal* before he found himself at *The Times*. His 2014 novel, *No. 4 Imperial Lane*, was a Chautauqua Prize finalist, Amazon Best Book of the Month and Great Group Reads Pick at the Women's National Book Association. His new book, *(((Semitism)))* is a rumination on the rise of anti-Semitism, racism and hate in the era of Trump, and what should be done to confront it. He is the father of two teenage daughters, and lives with fellow writer Jennifer Steinhauer in Washington, D.C.

SPEECHES

The Alt-Right and Trump: The Re-emergence of Hate in the New Era

Anti-Semitism and the Jewish Response: Why the Obsession with Israel has Blinded American Jewry

National Politics

The 2018 Midterm Elections

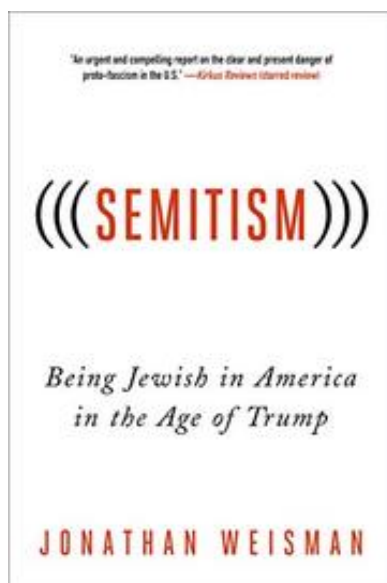
Congress

BOOKS

[\(\(\(Semitism\)\)\)](#) Being Jewish in the Age of Trump

St. Martin's Press

A short, literary, powerful contemplation on how Jews are viewed in America since the election of Donald J. Trump, and how we can move forward to fight anti-Semitism.



Hardcover

REVIEWS: Praise for (((Semitism))): *Being Jewish in the Age of Trump*

"An urgent and compelling report on the clear and present danger of proto-fascism in the U.S."

- *Kirkus Reviews*

"It would be wonderful if anti-Semitism was a European specialty and stopped at the border with the United States. Alas, this is not the case. Jonathan Weisman's new book (((Semitism))) shows why..."

—Bernard-Henri Lévy, philosopher, filmmaker and the author of *The Genius of Judaism*

"A chilling look at anti-Semitism in America in the wake of Donald Trump's political ascendancy...a thoughtful and deeply personal account."

—*Publisher's Weekly*

"With eloquence and poignancy Weisman shows how hatred can slowly and quietly chew away at the moral fabric of society. We now live in an age where more than ever bigotry and oppression no longer need to hide in fear of reproach. The floodgates have opened. This is much more than a personal response to the bigotry he experienced because of his Jewishness; Weisman has written a manifesto that outlines the dangers of marginalizing and demonizing all minority groups. This powerful book is for all of us."

—Michael Eric Dyson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tears We Cannot Stop*

**Cathy Heller****Topics**

Inspirational Speakers, Lifestyle, Motivational Speakers, Women's Interests

Travels From

California

Bio

Cathy Heller is a fire hose of inspiration. She's the host of the popular podcast Don't Keep Your Day Job, where she's been motivating thousands of listeners each week to find their true calling. She started out as a singer songwriter and found success licensing her music to TV, Film and Ads. Quickly she became a stand out in her field and was featured in magazines like Billboard, Variety and the LA Weekly. She has spoken to aspiring creatives at UCLA, Berkeley School of Music, The Grammy Museum, The ASCAP Expo and the Billboard Film/TV conference. Since starting her podcast Cathy's show has been mentioned in the NY Times and featured several times by Apple themselves. In her quest for the secrets to living a fulfilling life, doing your dream job, she has interviewed creative entrepreneurs like Jonathan Adler, Bobbi Brown, Mandy Moore, Tamara Mellon, Emily Giffin and Gretchen Rubin. She has spoken at Podcast Movement and recently in Brooklyn to a sold out audience at the RL Hotel's Living Stage. Fan drove many miles to see Cathy speak in person. From Arkansas, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Connecticut. Cathy's can-do attitude and hands on real life experience and research is helping so many people feel hopeful and excited about what lies ahead. If purpose is the opposite of depression than Cathy is spreading true happiness by lifting others to feel significant and forging a more meaningful life for themselves.

SPEECHES

How to Overcome Fear

What are you scared of the most? Failure? Imperfection? Insecurity? Discomfort? How has it kept you from pursuing your dream? Cathy shares what mindsets and mantras have helped her manage fear throughout her career, how to overcome your anxiety by recognizing your thoughts, and the one thing that's scarier than dealing with these paralyzing emotions.

How to Start Pursuing Your Dreams

You're inspired to pursue your creative dream - but where the heck do you even begin? Cathy shares the first good habits that will kickstart your success. What do you specifically need to ask yourself? What steps can you make right now? This is the year of no excuses, so stop working for someone else's dream and start taking action to turn your creative passion into a full-time career.

How to Create a Podcast

What do you need to make a good podcast? Why should you even start a podcast? How can the podcast-making process apply to your own creative business? Here you'll learn what tools and equipment are used for this show, how to find guests and interview them from the comforts of your own home, and how to leverage your content to engage and grow your audience.

How to Find Passion and Purpose

Thoreau said "The Mass of Men live lives of quiet desperation". People are so thirsty to find their passion and do work they find meaningful. Cathy thinks the opposite of depression is purpose. Everyone wants to feel purposeful and that they're contributing something valuable. Cathy will share with you what she's learned from the giants in many fields, who are doing that they love for a living. The time is short and the stakes are high. Cathy encourages audiences to use this precious time wisely and live a life that we are excited to wake up to each day.

How to make a Living Doing What you Love

Cathy reveals the secrets that have transformed her creative career into a success. What advice from other creative minds has inspired her? How did a stranger on a standby flight change her life? What is the biggest excuse that holds people back from achieving their dreams, and how can you get motivated to overcome that? Say goodbye to that 9 to 5 grind, and start making strides towards the career change so you can make money doing what you truly love.

How powerful Grit is and How to cultivate it

What does it take to win an Olympic gold medal? Overcome an addiction? Achieve your most difficult, life-long goals? Cathy takes you through the mindsets that have been proven to cultivate the determination and tenacity that will lift you over any roadblock.

How to Overcome Self Doubt

How to Find your Calling

How to Never work a Day in Your Life

How to License Your Music

How to find balance as a mom entrepreneur The Secrets to Success from Creative Entrepreneur's

BOOKS

Cathy's upcoming book will be published by St. Martin's Press in 2019



Meredith Russo

Topics

Best Selling and Award Winning Authors, LGBTQ, Women's Interests

Travels From

Tennessee

Bio

Meredith Russo is a novelist and public speaker from Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she was born and where she received a degree in Creative Writing and Women's Studies from the University of Tennessee. Her award-winning debut novel, *If I Was Your Girl*, released in 2016. She has since contributed to the *New York Times*, *Radical Hope*, and *Meet Cute*, and she has a sophomore novel,

Birthday, set for release in late 2018. She has thousands of followers on social media, where she frequently speaks about politics, gender, writing, and publishing. She is one of only a few prominent transgender women speaking to transgender issues and creating transgender art. Since her debut's release she has spoken on panels, in interviews, and as a solo presenter domestically and abroad. She was interviewed at Denmark's Bogforum and has spoken for Highbridge Green School in the Bronx, Middleton High School in Wisconsin, and the Philadelphia Free Library's author series. Her panel appearances include the Bay Area Book Festival, the American Librarian Association's summer convention two years in a row, and the Southern Festival of Books.

SPEECHES

Gender

Meredith Russo gives her unique and informed perspective on gender and society.

Trans Issues

Meredith Russo's novel, *If I Was Your Girl* deals with trans issues. Russo talks on writing about these issues and personal experience.

Working in Literature as a Minority

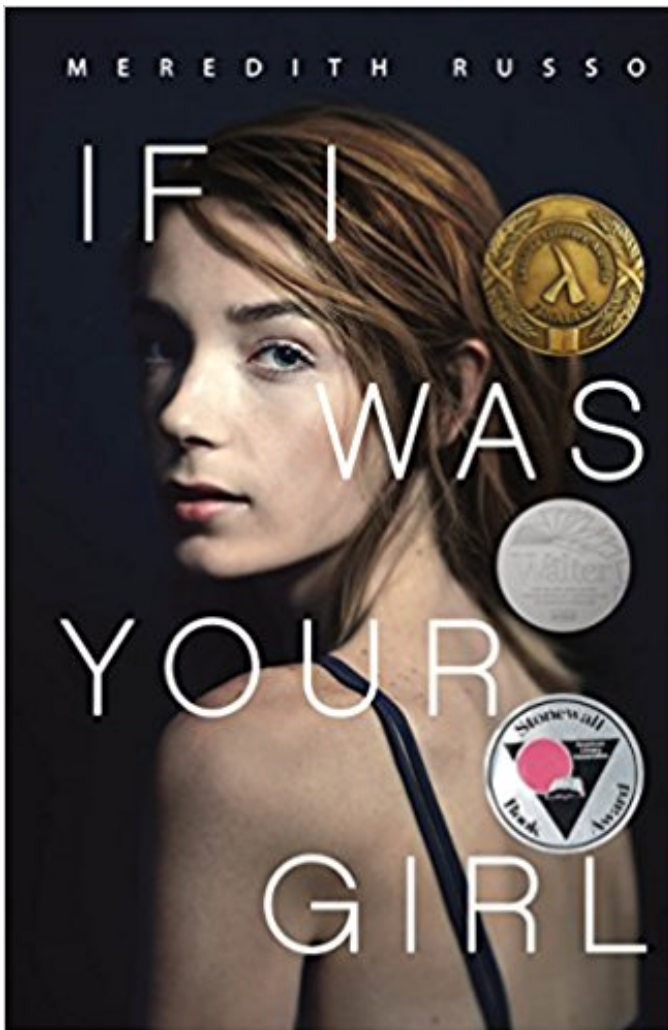
An educated author, Meredith Russo speaks on what it's like to be a minority writer in the business of books.

BOOKS

[If I Was Your Girl](#)

Flatiron Books

Amanda Hardy is the new girl in school. Like anyone else, all she wants is to make friends and fit in. But Amanda is keeping a secret, and she's determined not to get too close to anyone. But when she meets sweet, easygoing Grant, Amanda can't help but start to let him into her life. As they spend more time together, she realizes just how much she is losing by guarding her heart. She finds herself yearning to share with Grant everything about herself, including her past. But Amanda's terrified that once she tells him the truth, he won't be able to



see past it. Because the secret that Amanda's been keeping? It's that at her old school, she used to be Andrew. Will the truth cost Amanda her new life, and her new love?

Hardcover

**Mark Siegel**

Topics

Best Selling and Award Winning Authors, Children and Young Adult Authors

Travels From

New York

Bio

Mark Siegel is the founder, and Creative and Editorial Director of First Second Books, Macmillan's graphic novel house. First Second offers an ambitious collection in every age category, in a wide range of themes and styles, with talent from all over the world. First Second has garnered an unmatched array of literary awards, starred reviews and bestsellers—including for the original works of National Book Award Finalist and Printz Winner Gene Luen Yang, and beloved bestselling titles such as *This One Summer*, *Real Friends*, *Spill Zone*, and many more. Mark has appeared before thousands of librarians and educators to speak about the graphic novel renaissance. Alongside First Second, Mark is the author and illustrator of several award-winning picture books and graphic novels, including *Seadogs*, *Long Night Moon*, *To Dance*, *Moving House*, and *Sailor Twain*, which author John Irving called “a gripping novel with compelling characters, enhanced by haunting, erotically charged artwork.” Mark's latest project is the collaborative graphic novel *5 Worlds*, an epic science-fiction series for young readers. The *New York Times* Book Review hails it as “. . . a bang-zoom start to a series that promises to be epic in both the classical and internet senses of the word. . . this is a capital-S Saga.” Mark has given lectures and workshops internationally and all around North America, for authors, artists, librarians, students, executives in many venues, at tradeshow, companies, Comic Cons, and animation studios, including

Blue Sky, Dreamworks, Disney, and Pixar, for both creative and executives.

SPEECHES

The Great American Graphic Novel

Mark Siegel presents a short and entertaining history of comics in America from early pamphlets, to today's unprecedented graphic novel renaissance. Discover the special moment we are in, and where it may be heading, and some of the extraordinary graphic novelists who belong in any well-rounded reading diet.

The Impossible Dance of Art & Business

This popular workshop has been honed all over the country. Even though it explores the creative life from the book publishing angle, it is now in demand with TV and feature animation studios. Siegel discusses how to reconcile art and commerce and their inherent contradictions—in one's life or in a project. It is a unique insight, offering tools to help both executives and creatives communicate with each other.

Living the Creative Life

For creators in any medium: Mark Siegel takes a layered look at the challenges, inner and outer, facing a creative pursuit in the world today. Siegel provides unique tools, examples and stories to encourage and nurture authors and artists in every field, drawn from his own unique experience as an editor and as an author.

Fiction and the Quest for Truth

There are a great many impulses driving people to create stories in books, in film and on stage. Money and fame are a motivation for many; but others long to make lasting, meaningful works. For that there are other motives besides profit: what about the uplift motive? The healing motive? How about the truth motive? Whether in fiction, in art, in story, in journalism or in life—many of the greatest creations are driven by a daring love of truth.

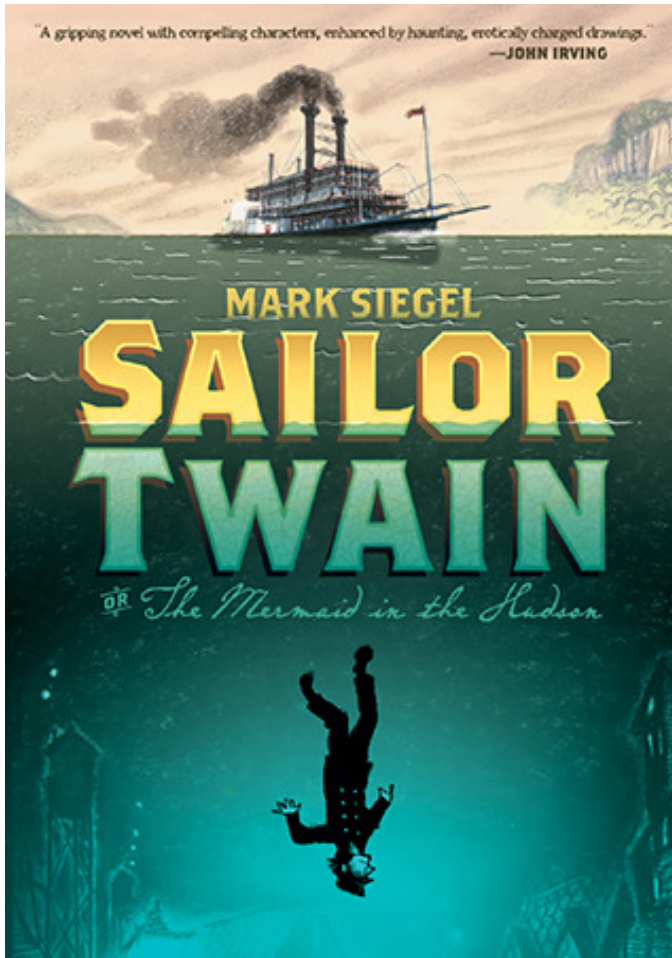
'Making Of' Workshop: *Sailor Twain*

Get behind-the-scenes of making the New York Times bestselling graphic novel for adults *Sailor Twain*, or the *Mermaid in the Hudson*. Also very popular in colleges and creative venues—sharing the magic and mishaps of making a book is always entertaining and inspiring. Other workshops include making *Oskar and the Eight Blessings*, and making *5 Worlds: The Sand Warrior*, a unique collaborative series.

Graphic Novels and a New Visual Literacy

Mark Siegel's lecture features visual story mechanics, tools for the classroom, data and resources on literacy and visual media.

BOOKS



Paperback

[Sailor Twain](#) Or: Mermaid on the Hudson

First Second

A mysterious and beguiling love story with elements of Poe, Twain, Hemingway, and Greek mythology, drawn in moody black-and-white charcoal, this new paperback edition of the New York Times Best-Selling graphic novel by author/illustrator Mark Siegel is a study in romance, atmosphere, and suspense. Don't miss *Sailor Twain*.

[Between the Panels 2](#) An Exciting Look Behind the Scenes at Four Fantastic New Graphic Novels



First Second Books

Have you ever asked yourself what goes on in comics between the panels and behind the scenes? *Between the Panels 2* gives you an inside look at the making of four great new graphic novels: *Broxo*, by Zack Giallongo; *Legends of Zita the Spacegirl*, by Ben Hatke; *Bloody Chester*, by JT Petty and Hilary Florido; *Sumo*, by Thien Pham, and *Sailor Twain*, by Mark Siegel.

E-Book

REVIEWS: “Thank you for your inspiring and fascinating lecture and presentation. The students were deeply impressed with you. You gave them much to think about and I believe you may have changed a few lives today.”

—John Canemaker, Animation Area Head, NYU Tisch

“First Second is one of the great literary presses of the modern world.”

—boingboing.net

“The gold standard for the new graphic novel is First Second.”

—Snow Wildsmith

“The workshop, explored playful ways to communicate complex topics and demonstrated the power of the comics medium as a tool for literacy in an increasingly visual culture.”

—Edward Finn, Director, Center for Science and the Imagination, Arizona State University