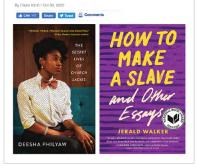
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY) PRESS() NEW BOOKS

FALL 2021

Two University Presses Score NBA Finalists



In a season dense with highlights, we were particularly proud to see West Virginia University Press profiled in *Publishers Weekly* alongside our friends at Ohio State University Press two small university presses that each had the big achievement of publishing a National Book Award finalist. Find the piece online, and learn more about Deesha Philyaw's remarkable book on pages 12 and 20 of this catalog.

About West Virginia University Press

West Virginia University Press is the only university press, and the largest publisher of any kind, in the state of West Virginia. A part of West Virginia University, we publish books and scholarly journals by authors around the world, with a particular emphasis on Appalachian studies, higher education, and interdisciplinary books about energy and environment. We also publish highly regarded works of fiction and creative nonfiction.

Titles published by West Virginia University Press have received reviews and attention in the New York Times, the New York Review of Books, the Atlantic, Harper's, PBS NewsHour, Fresh Air, the Wall Street Journal, Smithsonian, the Times Literary Supplement, the Paris Review, the Los Angeles Review of Books, Time, Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, Booklist, Kirkus, Vox, Bustle, BuzzFeed, and the Chronicle of Higher Education, among many other regional and global outlets. You can find our books at bookstores and online retailers.

At West Virginia University Press, we strive to extend and enhance the reputation of WVU as a major research institution by publishing the very best work in our areas of specialization. Learn more at wvupress.com.

THE HARLAN RENAISSANCE

Stories of Black Life in Appalachian Coal Towns William H. Turner

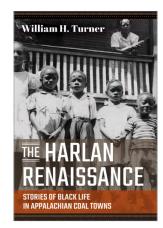
The Harlan Renaissance is an intimate remembrance of kinship and community in eastern Kentucky's coal towns written by one of the luminaries of Appalachian studies, William Turner. Turner reconstructs Black life in the company towns in and around Harlan County during coal's final postwar boom years, which built toward an enduring bust as the children of Black miners, like the author, left the region in search of better opportunities.

The Harlan Renaissance invites readers into what might be an unfamiliar Appalachia: one studded by large and vibrant Black communities, where families took the pulse of the nation through magazines like Jet and Ebony and through the news that traveled within Black churches, schools, and restaurants. Difficult choices for the future were made as parents considered the unpredictable nature of Appalachia's economic realities alongside the unpredictable nature of a national movement toward civil rights.

Unfolding through layers of sociological insight and oral history, *The Harlan Renaissance* centers the sympathetic perspectives and critical eye of a master narrator of Black life.

"A warm and insightful memoir of Black life in Appalachia's coal camps that offers a bounty of correctives to the persistent myth that all mountain people are white and all poverty is self-made."

-Elizabeth Catte, author of What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia and Pure America: Eugenics and the Making of Modern Virginia



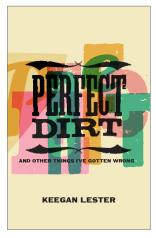
October 2021 · 352pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-952271-21-2 · \$26.99 CL 978-1-952271-20-5 · \$99.99s eBook 978-1-952271-22-9 · \$26.99 30 images

WILLIAM H. TURNER is a

sociologist now based near Houston, Texas. He received a lifetime of service award from the Appalachian Studies Association in 2009, which joined other career highlights that include induction into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES APPALACHIAN STUDIES MEMOIR

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November 2021 · 272pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-952271-29-8 · \$23.99 eBook 978-1-952271-30-4 · \$23.99

KEEGAN LESTER is the author of this shouldn't be beautiful but it was and it was all i had so i drew it, selected by Mary Ruefle for the 2016 Slope Editions Book Prize. His writing has been published in *Ploughshares*, the Boston Review, Cutbank, Hobart, and Vol. 1 Brooklyn among others. He lives in New York City.

MEMOIR

PERFECT DIRT And Other Things I've Gotten Wrong Keegan Lester

Words have meaning and meaning evolves over time. In *Perfect Dirt*, Keegan Lester drags us through his failure to grasp the meaning that always seems to be just beyond his fingertips. These lyrical vignettes depict a lifelong search for home, identity, and the language to say the things we wish we could tell people in the moment.

Born in Southern California to parents who had migrated from West Virginia and South Florida, Lester spent summers with his grandparents in Morgantown, which instilled a deep anchor of place that continued to call to him, an Appalachian at heart even while living in New York City as a poet. As small successes started to come his way—a book and numerous tours—so did crises. Lester's father, meanwhile, experiencing his own life crisis, embarked on a journey to sail the Caribbean. Both end up lost.

Part memoir, part tour diary, part homage to the places and people who have made him who he is, *Perfect Dirt* digs into the sometimes painful, sometimes jubilant questions of identity and success. This is a book searching to better understand the world and our place in it, the family we're born into, and the family we make along the way.

"In *Perfect Dirt*, tenderness is so tangible, so electric. Keegan Lester is an immensely gifted writer. This book will stay with you."

-Eduardo C. Corral, author of Guillotine

"Keegan Lester's writing and storytelling about West Virginia and its people feel how West Virginia's landscape feels to me—like I'm being hugged and protected. *Perfect Dirt* reminds us that we can love a place and still be critical when it's done out of love and tenderness. This book has brought me back home in the best ways, with a newer, more open heart, mind, and body."

-Steven Dunn, author of *water* & *power*

SLOW FUSE OF THE POSSIBLE A Memoir of Poetry and Psychoanalysis

Kate Daniels

Slow Fuse of the Possible is a poet's narrative of a troubled psychoanalysis. It is also a commanding meditation on the powers of language, for good and for ill.

From the beginning of their time together, it is clear that the enigmatic analyst and Daniels are not a good match, yet both are determined to continue their work—the former in nearly complete silence, and the latter as best she can with the tools at her disposal: careful attention to language, deep reading, and literary imagination. Throughout, the story is filtered through the mind of Emily Dickinson, whose poetry Daniels uses as a fulcrum for the interpretation of her own experience. The book is saturated with Dickinson's verse, and Dickinson is an increasingly haunting presence as crises emerge and the author unravels.

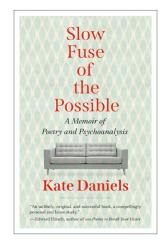
This compelling lyric memoir, so richly steeped in all facets of language and the literary, allows readers a glimpse into the mind of a renowned poet, revealing the dazzling and anguished connections between poetry and psychoanalysis.

"Kate Daniels has transformed a painfully failed analysis into an unlikely, original, and successful book, a compellingly personal and brave study of poetry and psychoanalysis, her interrelated passions, which she treats with a mixture of wry poignance and deep devotion. *Slow Fuse* is a book of burning soulfulness."

-Edward Hirsch, author of 100 Poems to Break Your Heart

"A searching, scorching account of psyche, psychoanalysis, and life. Through Kate Daniels we appreciate the gift of poetic creation in the midst of destructive moments."

--Michael Eigen, author of The Challenge of Being Human, The Sensitive Self, and Contact with the Depths



January 2022 · 216pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-952271-38-0 · \$21.99 eBook 978-1-952271-39-7 · \$21.99

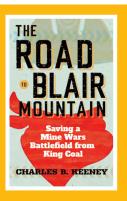
KATE DANIELS is the author

of six poetry collections, including *In the Months of My Son's Recovery*. A former Guggenheim Fellow, she is the Edwin Mims Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. She teaches writing at the Washington-Baltimore Center for Psychoanalysis and is a former poet in residence at Duke Medical and Vanderbilt Medical.

MEMOIR LITERARY CRITICISM PSYCHIATRY

The hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Blair Mountain

will be commemorated in Appalachia and around the world throughout 2021, with a special slate of events scheduled for Labor Day weekend. On September 4, West Virginia University Press will join with the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum, the West Virginia University Humanities Center, and Taylor Books to celebrate "New Books about the Mine Wars," with authors Anne T. Lawrence, Catherine Venable Moore, Charles B. Keeney, and Ginny Savage Ayers. Learn more at www.blair100.com.



THE ROAD TO BLAIR MOUNTAIN

Saving a Mine Wars Battlefield from King Coal Charles B. Keeney

January 2021 · 300pp · 5x8in · PB 978-1-949199-85-7 · \$27.99 CL 978-1-949199-84-0 · \$99.99s · eBook 978-1-949199-86-4 · \$27.99

"Keeney delivers a riveting and propulsive story about a nineyear battle to save sacred ground that was the site of the largest labor uprising in American history. He unveils a powerful playbook on successful activism that will inspire countless others for generations to come."

-Eric Eyre, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of Death in Mud Lick: A Coal Country Fight against the Drug Companies That Delivered the Opioid Epidemic

NEVER JUSTICE, NEVER PEACE

Mother Jones and the Miner Rebellion at Paint and Cabin Creeks

Lon Kelly Savage and Ginny Savage Ayers With an introduction by Lou Martin

September 2018 · 360pp · 6x9in · PB 978-1-946684-37-0 · \$27.99 eBook 978-1-946684-38-7 · \$27.99

"A real page-turner. Especially compelling is their insight into Mother Jones, that human detonator in constant search of dynamite."

-John Sayles

ON DARK AND BLOODY GROUND

An Oral History of the West Virginia Mine Wars

Anne T. Lawrence

With a foreword by Catherine Venable Moore

In 1972 Anne Lawrence came to West Virginia at the invitation of the Miners for Democracy movement to conduct interviews with participants in, and observers of, the Battle of Blair Mountain and other Appalachian mine wars of the 1920s and '30s. The set of oral histories she collected—the only document of its kind—circulated for many years as an informal typescript volume, acquiring an almost legendary status among those intrigued by the subject. Key selections from it appear here for the first time as a published book, supplemented with introductory material, maps, and photographs. The volume's vivid, conversational mode invites readers into miners' lived experiences and helps us understand why they took up arms to fight anti-union forces in some of the nation's largest labor uprisings.

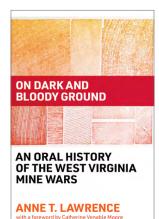
Published to coincide with the celebration of the Blair Mountain centennial in 2021, *On Dark and Bloody Ground* includes a preface by public historian Catherine Venable Moore and an afterword by Cecil E. Roberts of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The publication of *On Dark and Bloody Ground* is a tremendous addition to the literature on the West Virginia Mine Wars and is long overdue. It is a pleasure to read, and it captures the voices of the coalfields in a way that is unlike any of the other accounts."

-Lou Martin, Chatham University

"When I read this book, I was blown away.... It is so important to keep our history alive and that is what this book does."

-from the afterword by Cecil E. Roberts, president, United Mine Workers of America International



August 2021 · 176pp · 5.5x8.5in PB 978-1-952271-09-0 · \$22.99 CL 978-1-952271-08-3 · \$99.99s eBook 978-1-952271-10-6 · \$22.99 4 images · 3 maps

ANNE T. LAWRENCE is professor of management emerita at San José State University. She currently serves as chair of the Case Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides fellowships to earlycareer scholars for training in case research and teaching.

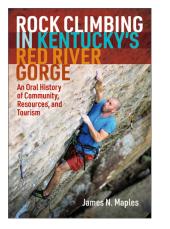
CATHERINE VENABLE MOORE

is a nationally published nonfiction writer and cofounder of several public history projects, including the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum. She is currently at work on a book about the mine wars.

HISTORY LABOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES

NEVER

JUSTICE.



September 2021 · 248pp · 6x9in PB 978-1-952271-15-1 · \$26.99sp CL 978-1-952271-14-4 · \$99.99s eBook 978-1-952271-16-8 · \$26.99

JAMES N. MAPLES is director of the Division for Regional Economic Assessment and Modeling and associate professor of sociology at Eastern Kentucky University. His work examines the economic and environmental impacts of outdoor recreation and sustainable tourism.

APPALACHIAN STUDIES SPORTS HISTORY SOCIOLOGY

ROCK CLIMBING IN KENTUCKY'S RED RIVER GORGE An Oral History of Community, Resources, and Tourism James N. Maples

Rock Climbing in Kentucky's Red River Gorge documents, for the first time, fifty years of oral history from this famous climbing community. Through extensive interviews, Maples reconstructs the growth of rock climbing in the region—including a twice-failed dam project, mysterious first routes, unauthorized sport-route growth on public lands, and a controversial archaeological dig. The book details five decades of collaborations to secure ongoing access to some of the world's most beautiful and technically demanding routes and the challenges along the way.

More than a recounting of the past, however, *Rock Climbing in Kentucky's Red River Gorge* uses the region's extraordinary history to argue that climbing has the potential to be a valuable source of sustainable economic activity in rural areas throughout Appalachia today and in the years to come. The book concludes by offering policy recommendations and lessons learned about building beneficial partnerships among climbers, local communities, and public land managers to encourage community development and ecotourism alongside preservation.

"Well-written, accessible, and succinct. Historians, Kentuckians, scholars, and dirtbags alike will find this volume illuminating."

-Kristi McLeod Fondren, author of Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian Trail

"Unfolds a rich tapestry of climbing history in the Red.... Despite how isolated and insulated some of the crags and hollers of this region can seem, this book highlights the connections that weave through the Red as it has changed and will continue to change with time."

-Jillian Rickly, University of Nottingham

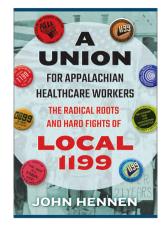
A UNION FOR APPALACHIAN HEALTHCARE WORKERS The Radical Roots and Hard Fights of Local 1199 John Hennen

The union of hospital workers usually referred to as the 1199 sits at the intersection of three of the most important topics in US history: organized labor, health care, and civil rights. John Hennen's book explores the union's history in Appalachia, a region that is generally associated with extractive industries but has seen health care grow as a share of the overall economy.

With a multiracial, largely female, and notably militant membership, 1199 was at labor's vanguard in the 1970s, and Hennen traces its efforts in hospitals, nursing homes, and healthcare centers in West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and Appalachian Ohio. He places these stories of mainly low-wage women workers within the framework of shakeups in the late industrial and early postindustrial United States, relying in part on the words of Local 1199 workers and organizers themselves. Both a sophisticated account of an overlooked aspect of Appalachia's labor history and a key piece of context for Americans' current concern with the status of "essential workers," Hennen's book is a timely contribution to the fields of history and Appalachian studies and to the study of social movements.

"Hennen's engagingly told and well-researched study is a valuable contribution to both American labor history and Appalachian studies."

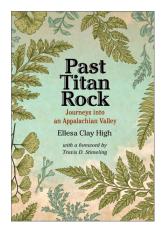
—Gordon Simmons, president, West Virginia Labor History Association



West Virginia and Appalachia Series November 2021 · 288pp · 6x9in PB 978-1-952271-24-3 · \$29.99sp CL 978-1-952271-23-6 · \$99.99s eBook 978-1-952271-25-0 · \$29.99 6 images

JOHN HENNEN taught history for over thirty years, including two decades at Morehead State University, where he is emeritus professor of history. He is the author of The Americanization of West Virginia: Creating a Modern Industrial State, 1916–1925.

APPALACHIAN STUDIES HISTORY LABOR



Sounding Appalachia Series September 2021 · 224pp · 6x9in PB 978-1-952271-17-5 · \$22.99s 12 images

ELLESA CLAY HIGH is an

associate professor emerita of English at West Virginia University, where she taught Appalachian literature, Native American literature, and creative writing for over thirty years. Her poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and scholarship have appeared in numerous collections, journals, and magazines.

APPALACHIAN STUDIES

PAST TITAN ROCK

Journeys into an Appalachian Valley Ellesa Clay High With a foreword by Travis D. Stimeling

Past Titan Rock, a winner of the Appalachian Award for Literature, is available in a new edition as part of the series Sounding Appalachia, with an introduction by series editor Travis D. Stimeling.

In 1977 Ellesa Clay High thought she would spend an afternoon interviewing Lily May Ledford, best known as the lead performer of an all-female string band that began playing on the radio in the 1930s. That meeting began an unexpected journey leading into the mountains of eastern Kentucky and a hundred years into the past. Set in Red River Gorge, an area of steep ridges and box canyons, Past Titan Rock is a multigenre, multivocal re-creation of life in that region. With Ledford's guidance, High traveled and lived in the gorge, visiting with people who could remember life there before the Works Progress Administration built roads across the ridges and into the valleys during the New Deal. What emerges through a unique combination of personal essay, oral history, and short fiction is a portrait of a mountain culture rich in custom, oral tradition, and song. Past Titan Rock demonstrates the depth of community ties in the Red River Gorge and raises important questions about how to resist destructive forces today.

"Welcome and valuable."

-Oral History Review

"A remarkable book." —Journal of American Folklore

MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE, RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, MINISTERIAL TRAVELS, AND LABOURS OF MRS. ELAW

Zilpha Elaw Edited by Kimberly D. Blockett

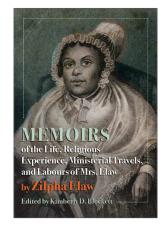
As a young Black orphan indentured to a Quaker family in Bristol, Pennsylvania, Zilpha Elaw (c. 1793-1873) decided to join the upstart Methodists in 1808. She preached her first sermon a decade later, ignoring her husband and the many church leaders, clergy, and laity who tried to silence her. Elaw's memoir chronicles the first twenty years of her fortyyear itinerant ministry during massive Protestant revivalism in the United States and England.

Elaw preached from Maine to Virginia, attracting multiracial and multidenominational audiences that included powerful men, wealthy White women, poor families, and enslaved communities. She moved from Bristol to Burlington, New Jersey, then to Nantucket, Massachusetts, and finally, in 1840, to London's East End. In England, Elaw's celebrity expanded, and at least twice she drew crowds so large they caused human stampedes and multiple injuries.

Blockett's introduction and extensive annotations draw on newly unearthed information about the entirety of Elaw's evangelism to provide context for this remarkable story of an antebellum Black woman's personal and professional mobility.

"Outstanding. Kimberly Blockett's edition of Zilpha Elaw's memoirs will become the authoritative edition of this text and the best biographical treatment of Elaw."

-John Ernest, University of Delaware



Regenerations Series

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KIMBERLY D. BLOCKETT is

associate professor of English at Penn State Brandywine. Her publications appear in the Cambridge History of African American Literature, MLA Approaches to Teaching Hurston, MELUS, African American Review, and Legacy.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES LITERARY STUDIES HISTORY Engaging The

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is Marie Skłodowska-Curie

University Pompeu Fabra in

is an associate professor at

the Saxo Institute, University

of Copenhagen. MAR RUBIO-

history at the Universidad

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Publica de Navarra.

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emeritus of history of

eBook 978-1-952271-33-5 · \$34.99

EDITED BY ARNE KAIJSER, MARKKU LEHTONEN, JAN-HENRIK MEYER, AND MAR RUBIO-VARAS

TO THE PRESENT

ENGAGING THE ATOM

The History of Nuclear Energy and Society in Europe from the 1950s to the Present

Edited by Arne Kaijser, Markku Lehtonen, Jan-Henrik Meyer, and Mar Rubio-Varas

With the aim of overcoming the disciplinary and national fragmentation that characterizes much research on nuclear energy, *Engaging the Atom* brings together specialists from a variety of fields to analyze comparative case studies across Europe and the United States. It explores evolving relationships between society and the nuclear sector from the origins of civilian nuclear power until the present, asking why nuclear energy has been more contentious in some countries than in others and why some countries have never gone nuclear, or have decided to phase out nuclear, while their neighbors have committed to the so-called nuclear renaissance. Contributors examine the challenges facing the nuclear sector in the context of aging reactor fleets, pressing climate urgency, and increasing competition from renewable energy sources.

Written by leading academics in their respective disciplines, the nine chapters of *Engaging the Atom* place the evolution of nuclear energy within a broader set of national and international configurations, including its role within policies and markets.

"This well-researched, clearly structured, and soundly argued book is a long-overdue historical reflection on the development of nuclear power and its interactions with civil society."

-Maria Rosaria Di Nucci, Freie Universität Berlin

CANNEL COAL OIL DAYS A Novel

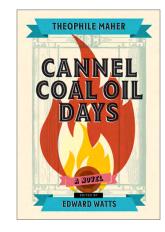
Theophile Maher Edited by Edward Watts

Based mostly on his own experiences, Theophile Maher's local color novel *Cannel Coal Oil Days* challenges many popular ideas about antebellum Appalachia, bringing it more fully into the broader story of the United States. Written in 1887, discovered in 2018, and published here for the first time, it offers a narrative of life between 1859 and 1861 in what was then western Virginia as it became West Virginia.

Cannel coal (a soft form of coal whose oil, when distilled, was competitive in the lighting oil business after overfishing reduced the whale oil supply) was at the center of one of Appalachia's first extractive industries. Using the development of coal oil manufacturing in the Kanawha vallev as its launching point, Maher's semiautobiographical novel tells of a series of interrelated changes, each reflecting larger transformations in the United States as a whole. It shows how coal oil manufacturing was transformed from an amateurish endeavor to a more professional industry, with implications for Appalachian environment and labor. Then, Maher foreshadows the coming Progressive Era by insisting on moral and environmental reforms based in democratic and Christian principles. Finally, he tells the story of the coming of the Civil War to the region, as the novel's protagonist, a mining engineer, works closely with a Black family to organize the local abolitionist mountain folk into a Union militia to aid in the secession of West Virginia from Virginia.

"An artifact of great interest to scholars working in environmental and energy humanities spaces.... Americanists reading Maher's novel will undoubtedly place it within a broader corpus of mining literature, energy history, and representations of environmental injustice in Appalachia."

—Matthew S. Henry, University of Wyoming



August 2021 · 216pp · 6x9in PB 978-1-952271-12-0 · \$29.99sp CL 978-1-952271-11-3 · \$99.99s eBook 978-1-952271-13-7 · \$29.99 5 images

EDWARD WATTS is professor emeritus of English at Michigan State University. He is the author or editor of many other books in American studies, most recently *Colonizing the Past: Mythmaking and Pre-Columbian Whites in Nineteenth-Century American Writing.*

LITERATURE APPALACHIAN STUDIES ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

HISTORY

Recent Highlights in Fiction and Literary Nonfiction



THE SECRET LIVES OF CHURCH LADIES

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"Beautifully crafted. A lovely collection."

-Roxane Gay, author of Bad Feminist

2020 National Book Award Finalist, Fiction 2020 Story Prize Winner 2021 PEN/Faulkner Award Winner 2021 LA Times Book Prize: Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction Finalist



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Jim Lewis April 2021 · 300pp · 5.5x8.25in PB 978-1-949199-96-3 · \$22.99 eBook 978-1-949199-97-0 · \$22.99

GHOSTS OF NEW YORK

"A wondrous novel, with prose that sparkles like certain sidewalks after rain.... That's it, I thought. That's exactly what it's like to live in New York."

-New York Times Book Review

AMERICAN

"Hilsabeck is intuitive, canny, penetrating, and wise, and he has absorbed and can play all the tones in the vast calliope of the American language."

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Geoffrev Hilsabeck

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With a foreword

by Luc Sante

-from the foreword by Luc Sante



RENÉE K. NICHOLSON

FIERCE AND DELICATE

Essays on Dance and Illness Renée K. Nicholson

May 2021 · 168pp · 5x8in

PB 978-1-952271-01-4 • \$19.99 eBook 978-1-952271-02-1 • \$19.99

"Lyrical and fascinating."

-Buzzfeed News

THIS WAY BACK

Joanna Eleftheriou October 2020 · 264pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-949199-66-6 · \$23.99 eBook 978-1-949199-67-3 · \$23.99

THE PAINTED FOREST

Krista Eastman

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FATHERLESS

A Memoir

Keith Maillard October 2019 · 240pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-949199-13-0 · \$23.99 eBook 978-1-949199-14-7 · \$23.99

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APPALACHIA NORTH A Memoir

Matthew Ferrence February 2019 · 296pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-946684-70-7 · \$26.99 eBook 978-1-946684-71-4 · \$26.99

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Wesley Browne March 2020 · 264pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-949199-28-4 · \$19.99 eBook 978-1-949199-29-1 · \$19.99

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Nancy McKinley February 2020 · 228pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-949199-26-0 · \$18.99 eBook 978-1-949199-27-7 · \$18.99

AMERICAN GRIEF IN FOUR STAGES

Stories Sadie Hoagland November 2019 · 168pp · 5x8in PB 978-1-949199-21-5 · \$18.99 eBook 978-1-949199-22-2 · \$18.99

Recent Highlights in Appalachian Studies

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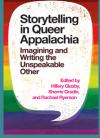
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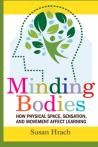
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