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TARA ABYDOS,  
PH.D.



“As indicated by its provocative title, this book  
refuses to pull any punches about race.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



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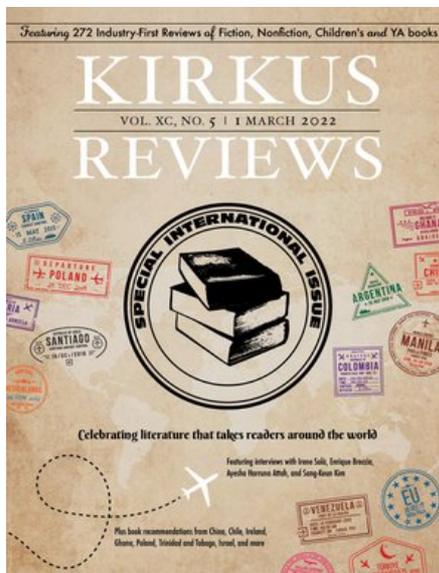
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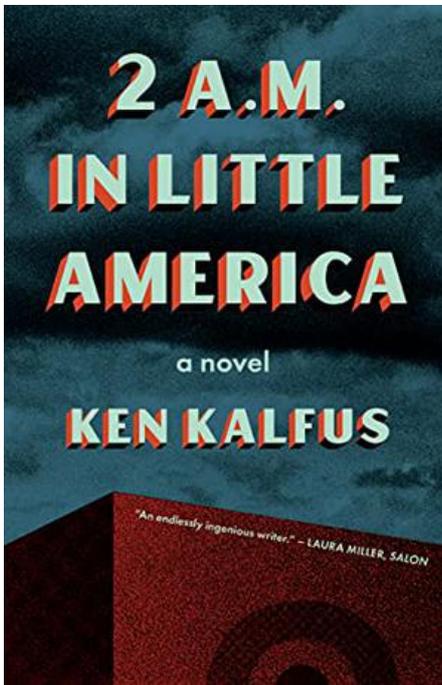
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A strange, highly compelling tale about what happens when American privilege and insulation get turned inside out.

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## [2 A.M. IN LITTLE AMERICA](#)

by [Ken Kalfus](#) · RELEASE DATE: May 10, 2022

From the undersung Kalfus, another tonally intricate triumph, this one about the bewilderment, alienation, and sheer strangeness of being a refugee.

Ron Patterson is an American who fled his native land as civil war and chaos descended. At the book's beginning he's a 20-something migrant in an unnamed country, eking out a subsistence as a repairman, having overstayed his visa, when he meets Marlise, another refugee. For a brief stretch before the unnamed country's politics turn fractious and they're banished and separated, she becomes a friend, companion, and temporary refuge, and he looks for her—or for her afterimage—everywhere he goes from then on. About 10 years later, having bounced from place to place while his homeland's civil conflict simmers on—and while xenophobic and tribal politics take root across the globe—Ron finds himself in one of the last nations that still welcomes castoffs from the once-great, once-smug power. He lives in a filthy banlieue he calls Little America, again in squalor, again with a steady job as a repairman of security-related electronics. The book is, as it keeps (nimble) reminding us, a camera obscura: partly because indirect and tricky, bent, not-quite-trustable views are the nature of things; partly because of Ron's marginal and scorned status; partly because he's a loner; and partly due to an affliction that makes him see resemblances between people that may not be real (and on the flip side, differences that may not signify much), Ron can make out reality only indirectly, by way of mirrors and shades, and the image he ends up with is inverted, distorted, deeply mysterious. Then, when America's bitter political split starts to replicate itself even in the ghetto—and when he encounters a strangely familiar female schoolmate and is pressed into service as an informant by a detective—the picture gets murkier, scarier, and more peculiar yet. Kalfus has always worked by ingenious indirection; his *A Disorder Peculiar to the Country* (2006) is a 9/11 novel as seen through the comic lens of an imploding marriage. Here he does so again, and with similar success, creating a commentary on current American politics that never sets foot in America, takes place in a distant future, and takes pains (as its protagonist does) to avoid the overtly partisan.

A strange, highly compelling tale about what happens when American privilege and insulation get turned inside out.

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**Pub Date:** May 10, 2022

**ISBN:** 978-1-57131-144-3

**Page Count:** 256

**Publisher:** Milkweed

**Review Posted Online:** yesterday

**Kirkus Reviews Issue:** March 15, 2022

**Categories:** [LITERARY FICTION](#) | [THRILLER](#) | [GENERAL FICTION](#) | [GENERAL THRILLER & SUSPENSE](#)

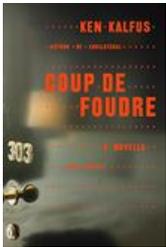
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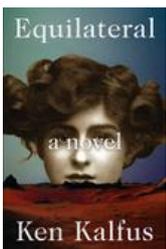
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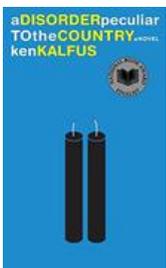
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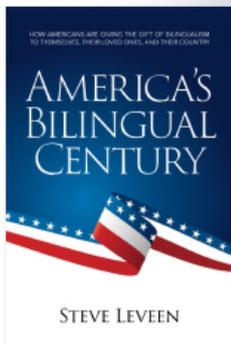
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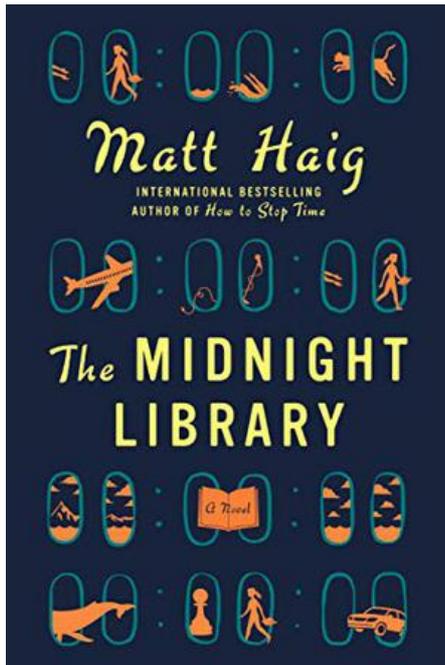
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An author/podcaster is eager to herald “America’s bilingual century”

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A whimsical fantasy about learning what’s important in life.

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- New York Times Bestseller
- IndieBound Bestseller

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## [THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY](#)

by [Matt Haig](#) · RELEASE DATE: Sept. 29, 2020

An unhappy woman who tries to commit suicide finds herself in a mysterious library that allows her to explore new lives.

How far would you go to address every regret you ever had? That's the question at the heart of Haig's latest novel, which imagines the plane between life and death as a vast library filled with books detailing every existence a person could have. Thrust into this mysterious way station is Nora Seed, a depressed and desperate woman estranged from her family and friends. Nora has just lost her job, and her cat is dead. Believing she has no reason to go on, she writes a farewell note and takes an overdose of antidepressants. But instead of waking up in heaven, hell, or eternal nothingness, she finds herself in a library filled with books that offer her a chance to experience an infinite number of new lives. Guided by Mrs. Elm, her former school librarian, she can pull a book from the shelf and enter a new existence—as a country pub owner with her ex-boyfriend, as a researcher on an Arctic island, as a rock star singing in stadiums full of screaming fans. But how will she know which life will make her happy? This book isn't heavy on hows; you won't need an advanced degree in quantum physics or string theory to follow its simple yet fantastical logic. Predicting the path Nora will ultimately choose isn't difficult, either. Haig treats the subject of suicide with a light touch, and the book's playful tone will be welcome to readers who like their fantasies sweet if a little too forgettable.

A whimsical fantasy about learning what's important in life.

- [+ 73](#)
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**Pub Date:** Sept. 29, 2020

**ISBN:** 978-0-52-555947-4

**Page Count:** 336

**Publisher:** Viking

**Review Posted Online:** July 14, 2020

**Kirkus Reviews Issue:** Aug. 1, 2020

**Categories:** [LITERARY FICTION](#) | [GENERAL FICTION](#)

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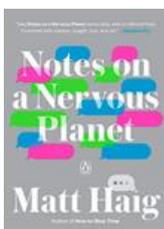
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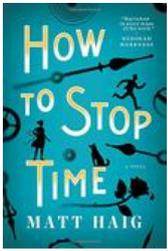
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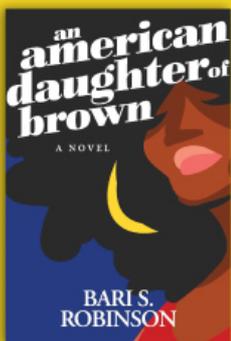
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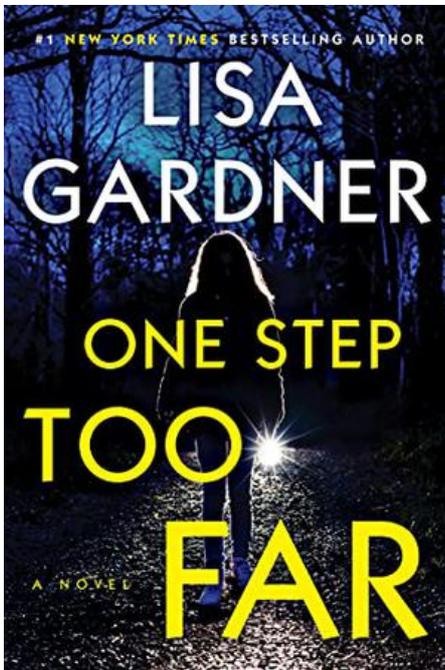
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“A vivid and dynamic coming-of-age story framed by the struggle for civil rights.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

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Terrifying, primal, and very, very tense. Read it with your heart in your throat—but read it.

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## [ONE STEP TOO FAR](#)

by [Lisa Gardner](#) · RELEASE DATE: Jan. 18, 2022

Frankie Elkin, a miraculous finder of missing persons, seeks a man who wandered into the wilderness and was never seen again.

Last seen rescuing a missing teenager from the gritty streets of Boston, Frankie embarks from a bus in Ramsey, Wyoming, drawn in by the story of hiker Timothy O’Day, who’s been missing for five years, and the last-gasp efforts of his father, Martin, to search for his remains. Frankie has some regrets about leaving Boston, but she’s called to find those others have given up on. She manages to finagle her way on to the search party, which in addition to Martin includes a local guide; a search-and-rescue dog and her handler; a Bigfoot expert; and Tim’s friends, who were in the woods with him when he went missing. In the years since, they’ve moved on with their lives, but they are carrying guilt and secrets about the night Tim disappeared. As they all head into the unforgiving wilderness, it quickly becomes apparent that someone is deeply threatened by this effort to find Tim’s body. As she endeavors to draw the truth from each member of the search party, Frankie can tell that she’s in over her head, and not only because she’s an inexperienced outdoorswoman. Could Tim still be alive and looking for revenge, or is there a more dangerous secret that someone would kill to protect? Gardner is incredibly skilled at developing tension and suspense; she’s equally skilled at slowly revealing complex characters and their secrets. Both gifts reinforce each other in this novel. If Frankie is out of her element, so are we: It’s not often that a thriller so deeply casts us into the darkness of both nature and the human heart.

Terrifying, primal, and very, very tense. Read it with your heart in your throat—but read it.

- [+ 5](#)
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**Pub Date:** Jan. 18, 2022

**ISBN:** 978-0-593-18541-4

**Page Count:** 416

**Publisher:** Dutton

Review Posted Online: Nov. 30, 2021

Kirkus Reviews Issue: Dec. 1, 2021

Categories: [SUSPENSE](#) | [THRILLER](#) | [POLICE PROCEDURALS](#) | [SUSPENSE](#) | [CRIME & LEGAL THRILLER](#) | [MYSTERY & DETECTIVE](#) | [GENERAL MYSTERY & DETECTIVE](#) | [GENERAL THRILLER & SUSPENSE](#)

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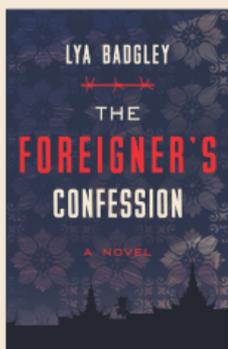
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**—Kirkus Reviews**

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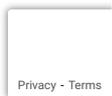


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