



 **ASTRA HOUSE**

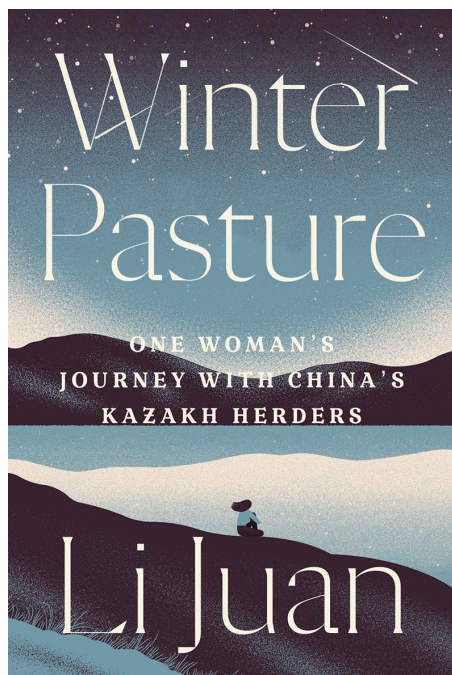
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**GMC**  
DISTRIBUTION



**ASTRA HOUSE** is dedicated to publishing authors across genres and from around the world. We value works that are authentic, ask new questions, present counter-narratives and original thinking, challenge our assumptions, and broaden and deepen our understanding of the world. Our mission is to advocate for authors who experience their subject deeply and personally, and who have a strong point of view; writers who represent multifaceted expressions of intellectual thought and personal experience, and who can introduce readers to new perspectives about their everyday lives as well as the lives of others.



## WINTER PASTURE

One Woman's Journey  
with China's Kazakh Herders

HB | 229 x 152 mm | 320 pages  
ISBN: 9781662600333 | £25.00

AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 2021

Winner of the People's Literature Award, *Winter Pasture* has been a bestselling book in China for several years. Li Juan has been widely lauded in the international literary community for her unique contribution to the narrative non-fiction genre. In bringing this faraway world to English language readers here for the first time, Li creates an intimate bond with the rugged nomad herders and the remote places where they spend the winter. *Winter Pasture* is her crowning achievement, shattering the boundaries between nature writing and personal memoir.

**LI JUAN** was born in Xinjiang in 1979 and grew up in Sichuan province. Her writing career began in 1999 as a newspaper columnist for newspapers like *Southern Weekly* and Hong Kong's *Wenweipo* and she is now widely regarded as one of the best narrative non-fiction writers of her generation. She has won several awards, including the People's Literature Award for *Winter Pasture*. She lives in Xinjiang, China.



## I'LL BE STRONG FOR YOU

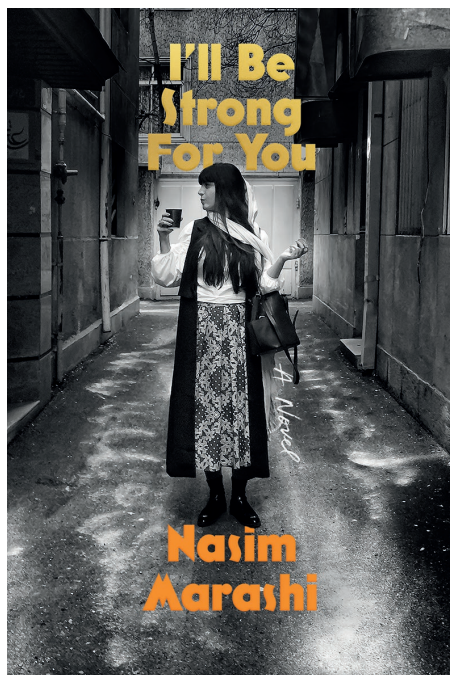
A Novel

HB | 210 x 140 mm | 208 pages

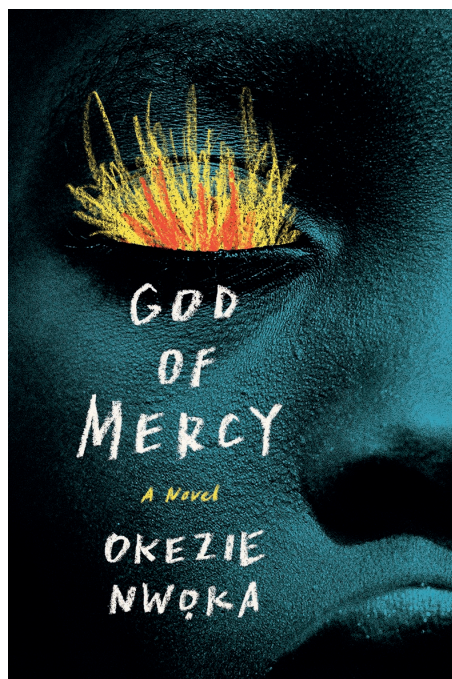
ISBN: 9781662600364 | £22.99

AVAILABLE NOW

This award-winning debut novel by Iranian journalist Nasim Marashi follows the lives of three young women in Tehran over the course of two seasons as they pursue their wildly different dreams. By vividly capturing three distinct voices, Marashi's deeply wrought narrative shows how friendship, ambition, and unconditional love for each other have the power to hold these women together in all their humanity and complexity. In the process, Marashi shines a rare spotlight on female friendship in contemporary Iran and on the cost of emigration – what it means for those who leave and for those who stay behind.



**NASIM MARASHI** was born in Tehran, Iran in 1984. She started her career in journalism in 2007 and became a screenwriter in 2013. She won the Premier Prix in Bayhaqi Story Prize (2014) for the short story *Nakhjir* and the Premier Prix in Tehran Story Prize (2015) for the short story *Rood*. Her debut novel, *I'll Be Strong for You* (Cheshmeh Publications, 2015), was selected as the Best Novel of the Year in the 8<sup>th</sup> Jalal Al-e Ahmad Prize and is in its 40<sup>th</sup> printing. The book was translated in Italian and Kurdish and received great acclaim. Marashi is the co-writer of the feature film *Avalanche* (2015) and the documentary *20th Circuit Suspects* (2017).



## GOD OF MERCY

A Novel

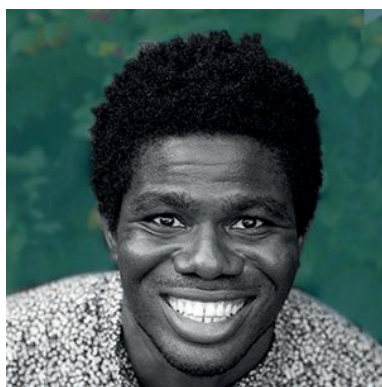
HB | 229 x 152 mm | 312 pages

ISBN: 9781662600838 | £25.00

AVAILABLE JANUARY 2022

This novel is set in an Igbo village where the people's worship of their gods is absolute. Their adherence to tradition has allowed them to evade the influences of colonialism and globalisation. But the village is reckoning with changes, including a war between gods signalled by a girl who can fly. Re-imagining the nature of tradition and cultural heritage and establishing a folklore of the uncolonised, this is a novel about wrestling with gods, confronting one's demons and understanding one's true purpose.

**OKEZIE NWOKA** was born and raised in Washington, DC. They are a graduate of Brown University, and attended the Iowa Writers' Workshop as a Dean Graduate Research Fellow. They are presently teaching and living in their hometown.



## THIS WEIGHTLESS WORLD

A Novel

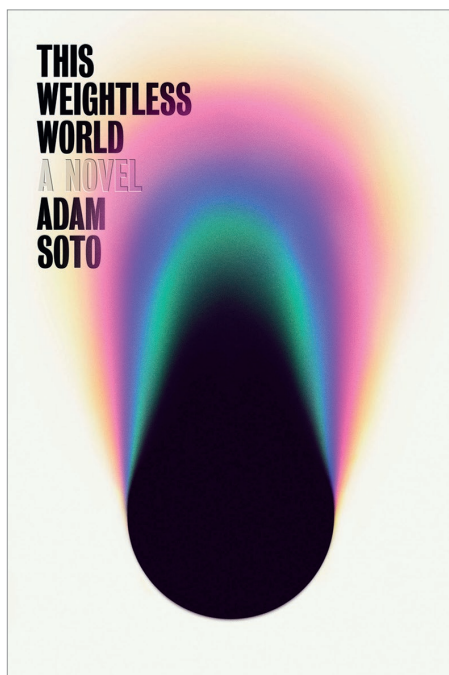
HB | 229 x 152 mm | 320 pages

ISBN: 9781662600630 | £25.00

AVAILABLE JANUARY 2022

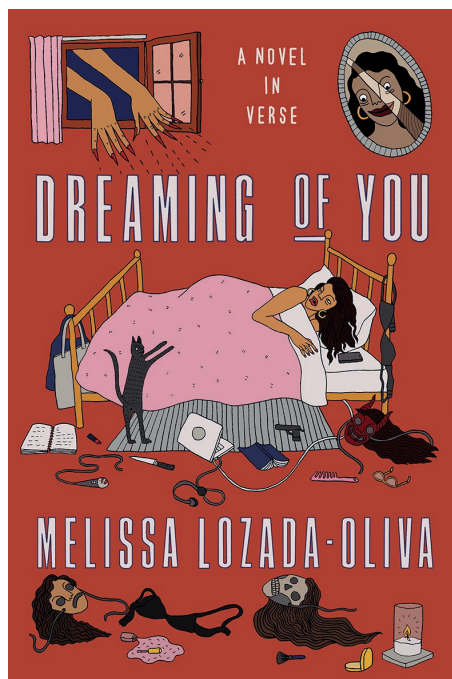
From the streets of gentrified Chicago, to the tech boom corridors of Silicon Valley, *This Weightless World* follows a revolving cast of characters after alien contact upends their lives. When a mysterious signal – at first seen as a sign of hope – stops as abruptly as it started, they must grapple with its aftermath.

Traversing the Soviet Union, late 2000s America, and the vast expanse of the cosmos, this novel explores the lives of people awaiting a great paradigm shift. A dazzling deconstruction of a science fiction trope, *This Weightless World* looks to the past for a vision of the future.



**ADAM SOTO** is a co-web editor at *American Short Fiction*. He holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and is a former Michener-Copernicus Foundation Fellow. He lives with his wife in Austin, Texas, where he is a teacher and a musician. *This Weightless World* is his first novel.





## DREAMING OF YOU

A Novel in Verse

HB | 210 x 140 mm | 216 pages

ISBN: 9781662600593 | £22.99

AVAILABLE JANUARY 2022

**A**bsurd, lyrical, and heartfelt, Melissa Lozada-Oliva's *Dreaming of You* is a genre-bending novel in verse that examines questions of death, love, celebrity and queer identity.

A young Latinx poet grappling with loneliness and heartache decides one day to bring *Tejano* pop star Selena Quintanilla back to life. The séance kicks off an uncanny trip narrated by a Greek chorus of gossiping spirits as she journeys through a dead celebrity prom, encounters her shadow self, and performs karaoke in hell. In visceral poems embodying millennial angst, paragraph-long conversations overheard at her local coffee shop, and unhinged Twitter rants, Lozada-Oliva reveals an eerie, sometimes gruesome, yet moving love story.

**MELISSA LOZADA-OLIVA** is the child of Guatemalan and Colombian immigrants. She co-hosts the podcast *Say More* and holds an MFA from NYU in poetry. Her writing has been featured in *Remezcla*, *PAPER*, *The Guardian*, *The BreakBeat Poets Vol.4*, *Wirecutter*, *Vulture*, *Bustle*, *Glamour*, *The Huffington Post*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *The Poetry Project*, *Audible*, and *BBC Mundo*. She is from Massachusetts and lives in New York City.



## MOONLIGHT RESTS ON MY LEFT PALM

Poems and Essays

HB | 210 x 140 mm | 156 pages

ISBN: 9781662600470 | £20.00

AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 2021

Starting with her viral poem *Crossing Half of China to Fuck You*, Yu Xiuhua's raw collection chronicles her life as a disabled, divorced, single mother in rural China. Thematically organised, her essays and poems are in conversation with each other around subjects that include love, nostalgia, mortality, the natural world and writing itself.



**YU XIUHUA** was born with cerebral palsy in Hengdian village, Hubei Province, in Central China. Unable to attend college, travel, or work the land with her parents, Yu remained home where she could help with housework. Eventually she was forced into an arranged marriage that became abusive. She divorced her husband and moved back in with her parents, taking her son with her. In 2014, her poem *Crossing Half of China to Fuck You* became an online sensation, launching her career as a celebrity poet and writer. Yu received the Peasant Literature Award in 2016 and the Hubei Literary Prize in 2018.





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