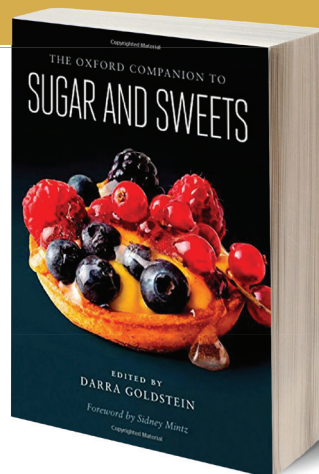


# Amazing Taste

**The Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets**, Darra Goldstein, MA '76, PhD '83, ed.; Oxford University Press, \$65. From *à la mode* to *zuppa inglese*, this 920-page volume is encyclopedic in ambition—shedding light on the myriad aspects of our favorite carbohydrate and its impact around the globe since the beginning of time—and eclectic in execution. Entries by 265 contributors, chemists to chefs to culinary historians, are by turns pedagogical, whimsical and data-rich. Who knew of the 1919 Boston Molasses Disaster, when a leaking storage tank let loose a 20-foot-high, 160-foot-wide, 35 mph sticky flood that took 21 lives—or that a dentist invented cotton candy? Appendices list sugar-related songs, films and museums, and 32 pages of color inserts provide eye candy.



## Studio Portrait 1897

She stands  
on a fraction of paperboard.

Holds still  
without shifting. She is

fifty years away from  
the worst famine in Europe,

thirty years  
behind the new nation

O sepia,  
O stateless image making.

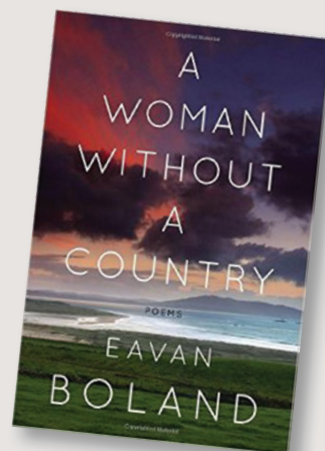
Where is the source of her silence?  
Not history, our old villain,  
you say,

but a muttering under black cloth:  
those words

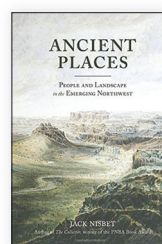
she listened to just a minute since  
as the shutter fell.

And obeyed:  
*Keep still quite still not move not stir not once.*

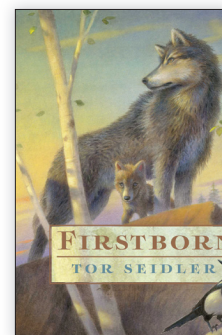
—EAVAN BOLAND, professor of English and director of the creative writing program, in *A Woman Without a Country*; W.W. Norton, \$24.95.



**The Slow Farm**, TARN WILSON, MA '94; *Ovenbird*, \$18. Wilson takes a look back at her life as a daughter of hippie parents, anties-establishment escapists who set up camp on a remote island off British Columbia in the early 1970s. Tales of her youthful fits and starts could spark nostalgia even in those who didn't grow up romping around the woods with near-complete freedom.



**Ancient Places: People and Landscape in the Emerging Northwest**, JACK NISBET, '71; *Sasquatch Books*, \$21.95. Nisbet, a teacher, shares the rich history of the Pacific Northwest through stories on the area's geography, topography and biology, not to mention its people and their relationship with the land. Don't miss the chapter in which his students come face-to-face with a giant mound of thatching ants.



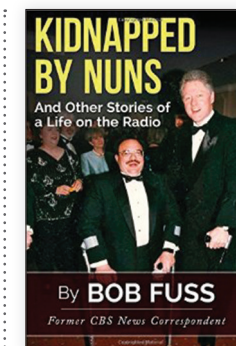
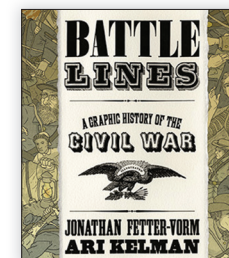
**Firstborn**, TOR SEIDLER, '72; *Athenium Books for Young Readers*, \$16.99. Chasing butterflies and falling for a coyote, Lamar, firstborn son of alpha wolf Blue Boy, isn't living up to his father's standards. Set in Yellowstone Park and narrated by Maggie, a clever magpie who becomes part of the wolf pack, the story centers on themes of friendship, integrity and the importance of being true to oneself.

**The Upside of Down: A Memoir**, SUSAN BIGGAR, MA '90; *Transit Lounge Publishing*, \$28. When Biggar's first son was born with cystic fibrosis, doctors told her and her husband, Darryl, PhD '92, that chances were slim he'd reach age 30. After a career move to Paris and the arrival of two more sons (the first of whom was born with CF), the parents learn to navigate unfamiliar health-care systems and their sons' chronic disease with hilarity and a heap of grace.



**Worlds Apart: Poverty and Politics in Rural America**, CYNTHIA M. DUNCAN, '71; *Yale University Press*, \$25. This second edition brings an update 15 years after Duncan's initial study of the reasons behind intergenerational poverty in Appalachia, northern New England and the Mississippi Delta. Sharing examples in which community institutions have reduced social and economic segregation, she discusses approaches to break the chain of poverty for families in line to inherit it.

**Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War**, JONATHAN FETTER-VORM, '05, and ARI KELMAN; *Hill and Wang*, \$26. In a series of visual vignettes about America's bloodiest war, author and illustrator Fetter-Vorm and historian Kelman craft a nuanced tale of the sacrifices and progress made during a conflict that killed approximately 850,000 Americans and wounded more than 1.5 million. No one is glorified. Instead, the stories invite readers to grapple with the complex lines dividing individuals, states and the nation.



**Kidnapped by Nuns: And Other Stories of a Life on the Radio**, BOB FUSS, '74; *self-published*, \$14.95. Readers in want of adventure need look no further than Fuss's memoir. Petrified shark, the Stalin Peace Prize, the slap of a distrustful, amorous sea lion—40 years of his memories as a national radio correspondent (including more than one kidnapping tale) are distilled into hilarious reads with journalistic punch.

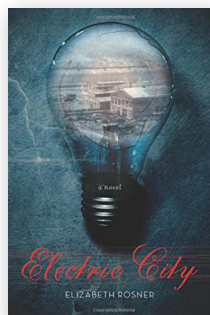
## Books Aren't Dead



Scattered among the Internet's profusion of noise is plenty of great writing, says Morgan Entrekin, '77, president of Grove Atlantic, an independent literary publisher. His latest project, Literary Hub (at lithub.com), pulls together a daily selection of online essays, excerpts and interviews on everything to do with books and literary culture. More than 100 publishers, booksellers and literary magazines have signed on as collaborators. "We hope that this can be a place that helps keep [literary] conversations alive, a place where people can follow that discourse and learn about books," Entrekin says. "This isn't about selling books; there's not pressure to make certain numbers. I want it to be good."

"Where every streetlight might have once symbolized new life, the future appeared to be turning upside down. Was this the promise of change made by that blackout, a warning of what else could go wrong?"

—ELIZABETH ROSNER, '81, in *ELECTRIC CITY*; COUNTERPOINT PRESS, \$26.



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if you have  
something  
creative in  
the pipeline,  
and we'll  
consider  
featuring it  
in a future  
issue of  
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