Finding Pete
Rediscovering the Brother I Lost in Vietnam

JILL HUNTING

INCLUDES A READER’S GUIDE

A woman explores the mystery of her brother’s death as a civilian volunteer in Vietnam, and is transformed in the process.

Two days after Jill Hunting turned fifteen, she lost her only brother, a volunteer with International Voluntary Services and one of the first civilian casualties of the Vietnam War. News broadcasts and headlines announced to the world that Pete had been led into an ambush by friends. When Jill’s mother told her that Pete’s letters home had all been destroyed in a basement flood, the connection between Jill and her brother was lost forever—or so she thought. Decades later, 175 letters surfaced. Through them, and the sweethearts and many friends who had never forgotten Pete, Jill came to know him again.

Finding Pete is one of the great, untold true stories of an escalating war and a young man caught in its sights. This personalized account of a critical moment in U.S. history is the moving story of an altruistic youth who personifies what America lost in Vietnam. It is also a portrait of a family’s struggle with loss, a mother’s damaging grief, and, most of all, a sister’s quest to solve a mystery and recover the connection with her brother. Includes a reader’s guide and conversation with the author.

“Finding Pete is a beautifully written history—of loss, love, and redemption. It is the story not only of one family’s private tragedy, but also of the larger heartbeat of war. Hunting shows us that if we look carefully and lovingly enough, we can find not only what we’ve lost, but also ourselves—often in the most unexpected places.”

RACHEL DEWOSKIN, author of Foreign Babes in Beijing

JILL HUNTING is a writer, editor, and radio essayist. She proposed the Book of Remembrance, a sculpture honoring civilians killed in war, for the new headquarters of the U.S. Institute of Peace, in Washington, D.C. She lives in Sonoma, California.

Jill Hunting. Photo by David Wakely.

Pete unkinks a chain for one of the windmills he built for Ninh Thuan province (1964). Photographer unknown, United States Operations Mission, author’s collection.
A Splurch in the Kisser
The Movies of Blake Edwards

SAM WASSON

A detailed and hilarious look at the art and life of a legendary Hollywood filmmaker

With one of the longest and most controversial careers in Hollywood history, Blake Edwards is a phoenix of movie directors—full of hubris, ambition, and raving comic chutzpah. In films like Breakfast at Tiffany’s, Days of Wine and Roses, Victor/Victoria, 10, and even The Pink Panther, we can hear him off-screen, laughing in the dark. Employing keen visual analysis, meticulous research, and troves of interviews and production files, Sam Wasson delivers the first complete account of one of the maddest figures Hollywood has ever known.

“Sam Wasson has undertaken nothing less than the critical resurrection of Blake Edwards, whose 40-film career, by turns good, great, bad, but never indifferent, has been ridiculously underrated by the critical establishment. One hopes this impressive work will inspire a splurge of revivals and retrospectives of this more than intermittently hilarious filmmaker.”

ANDREW SARRIS, film critic, The New York Observer

SAM WASSON is currently working on a book about Breakfast at Tiffany’s. He lives in Los Angeles.

Bright Felon
Autobiography and Cities

KAZIM ALI

An eloquent intercultural coming-of-age story

This groundbreaking, trans-genre work—part detective story, part literary memoir, part imagined past—proceeds sentence by sentence, city by city, and backwards in time, as poet and essayist Kazim Ali details the struggle of coming of age between cultures, overcoming personal and family strictures to talk about private affairs and secrets long held. Art, history, politics, geography, love, sexuality, writing, and religion, and the role silence plays in each, are its interwoven themes.

“Bright Felon will steal your heart and outrage your poetics. Part memoir, part trip book, part literary discourse, there is in it an urgent sense of a life lived in words. Rigorous, romantic, experimental, true, and yet mysterious, it is a book for the ages.”


Practical Water

BRENDA HILLMAN

The latest volume in Hillman’s acclaimed meditations on the elements

Not since Allen Ginsberg tried to levitate the Pentagon in 1970 has American poetry seen the likes of the hallucinatory wit and moral clarity that Brenda Hillman brings to Washington in her poems about Congressional hearings on the Iraq War. Practical Water is both an elemental meditation and an ecopoetics. Violence and the common world, fact and dream, science and magic, intuition and perception are reconfigured as the poet explores matters of spirit, our political life, and earthly fate. If it is time to weep by the waters of Babylon, it is also time to touch water’s living currents. No one is reimagining the possibilities of lyric poetry with more intelligence and invention. This is masterful work by one of our finest poets.

“Graced with Robert Duncan’s tutelary spirit, each poem that Hillman writes creates its own experimental configuration . . . She writes as if the lyric poem had a political calling.”

MARJORIE WELISH, citation for William Carlos Williams Award for Pieces of Air in the Epic

BRENDA HILLMAN is the author of seven collections of poetry and is the Olivia Filippi Professor of Poetry at Saint Mary’s College. Hillman’s previous book, Pieces of Air in the Epic, won the William Carlos Williams Award.

Live from the Homesick Jamboree

ADRIAN BLEVINS

Molten and musical poetry from an acclaimed Southern writer

Live from the Homesick Jamboree is brave, brash, tragic, and ultimately comic—a Southern Gothic ode to “the paltry heart that must get gutted sometimes and knotted and lit-up while sodden.” The non-traditional narrative traces a movement from South to North, exploring along the way the death of innocence, motherhood, sexuality, and the rewards and costs of marriage and other forms of familial “hoodwink and swindle.” Idiosyncratic, expansive, self-incriminating, and edgy, the language here flies fast and feral.

“This book is rich with words from every register, and they are roughed-up and sand-papered and worshipped and flung. The AC/DC-ness of them is nothing if not a mirror of what it is to live—which is awfully like what it is to love.”

ELLEN DORÉ WATSON, author of This Sharpening

ADRIAN BLEVINS won the 2004 Kate Tufts Discovery Award for The Brass Girl Brouhaha. She teaches at Colby College.
Picturing Victorian America
Prints by the Kellogg Brothers of Hartford, Connecticut, 1830–1880
EDITED BY NANCY FINLAY

A landmark reference on 19th-century American lithographic production

This is the first comprehensive study of the pioneering and prolific Kellogg family of lithographers, active in Connecticut for over four decades. Editor Nancy Finlay has gathered together eight essays that explore the complexity of the relationships between artists, lithographers, and print, map, and book publishers. Lavishly illustrated, presenting a complete visual overview of the Kelloggs’ production between 1830 and 1880, Picturing Victorian America also provides museums, libraries, and private collectors with the information needed to document the Kellogg prints in their own collections.

“This comprehensive volume presents an impressive history of the firm and thoughtful essays that assess what the prints can tell us about topics including domesticity, costume, architecture, and family history. The book’s timeline, biographies, checklist of prints, and dating guide are invaluable.”

HELENA E. WRIGHT, author of Prints at the Smithsonian

NANCY FINLAY is the curator of graphics at the Connecticut Historical Society.
Dr. Mel’s Connecticut Climate Book

DR. MEL GOLDESTIN

Connecticut’s unique climate and major weather events explained by the state’s best-known meteorologist

Beloved Connecticut meteorologist “Dr. Mel” Goldstein delivers a fascinating account of Connecticut’s weather history covering the past three centuries. Blizzards, cold waves, thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and heat waves are included—documented with photographs, data plots and graphs, and meteorological explanation. Dr. Mel’s Connecticut Climate Book contains information about what to expect from each season, details and stories about Connecticut’s most famous historical storms, archival photos, charts of temperatures and weather patterns, and an explanation of how weather and climate work together—all in a format that is fun to read.

“Dr. Mel is one of our great natural resources. Others just talk of the weather. Joyously, he makes it a matter of life and literature.”

LARY BLOOM, author of Lary Bloom’s Connecticut Notebook

DR. MEL GOLDESTIN has been best known as the chief meteorologist for News Channel 8 in Connecticut, and is the author of the Complete Idiot’s Guide to Weather (1999).

The Connecticut River

A Photographic Journey through the Heart of New England

AL BRADEN

AFTERWORD BY CHELSEA REIFF GWYTHER

Breathtaking photographs of one of America’s most picturesque and historic rivers

One hundred and thirty-six full-page color photos, from close-ups to dramatic aerials, follow this major waterway for 410 miles from the Canadian border to its wide mouth on Long Island Sound. Informative captions explore the landscape, history, development, conservation, geologic formations, flora and fauna, providing a poignant look at the river and its centrality to the development of the unique character of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Includes select bibliography and list of resources.

“For generations, New England literally turned its back on the dirty Connecticut. But in recent years, as its waters have cleared, we’ve rediscovered the backbone of the region, this charming and gorgeous braid of water. These pictures are a reminder of its quiet glory.”

BILL MCKIBBEN, professor of environmental studies, Middlebury College

AL BRADEN is a photographer whose work has been published in National Geographic Kids, Yankee, and Woman’s Day. He lives in Austin, Texas. CHELSEA REIFF GWYTHER is director of the Connecticut River Watershed Council in Greenfield, Massachusetts.