

JUST PUBLISHED

ELLIOT ARONSON '56
Not By Chance Alone: My Life as a Social Psychologist
 (BASIC BOOKS, 2010)

In this frank memoir, Aronson reveals how he came from a financially and intellectually impoverished background and grew up to become a Harvard researcher who then went on to receive international recognition for his groundbreaking work as a pioneering psychologist. The writer asks, "How much of our lives is determined by luck...How much comes from the genetic hand we are dealt at birth? How much from what we make of the chances we get?" He examines his own life with these questions in mind, sharing the ups and downs of his experiences and what he learned from his research and from his mentors, colleagues, friends, and relations. Aronson writes about his love for scientific social psychology and the human potential movement, and his attraction to "the notion that human personalities and abilities are not carved in stone." One memorable chapter is devoted to the two years he spent at Wesleyan studying with David McClelland '38, a period when he and his wife had their first child.

KATE BERNHEIMER '88
My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me: Forty New Fairy Tales
 (PENGUIN, 2010)

At the start of this irresistible collection, author and editor Bernheimer writes: "Readers love fairy tales. . . . With their false brides, severed limbs, and talking donkeys, they are hypnotic." Bernheimer has gathered 40 new fairy tales inspired by older fairy tales from around the world and penned by Kevin Brockmeier, Michael Cunningham, Kathryn Davis, Neil Gaiman, Kelly Link, Joyce Carol Oates, Francine Prose, John Updike, and other wonderful writers. This intoxicating volume celebrates invention and wonder, and is sure to inspire many readers to sit down and write their own magical stories.

ROBIN COOK '62
Cure
 (PUTNAM, 2010)

In this page-turning thriller, pluripotent stem cells are the object of a biotech frenzy. The beauty of these cells is that, in principle, they can be programmed to become any type of cell in the body—for instance, replacing damaged spinal cord nerve cells. This promise of organ restora-

tion is enough to inspire a hit on a New York City subway platform, made to look like a natural death with a nearly untraceable poison. Cook's dynamic pathology team of Jack Stapleton and Laurie Montgomery find themselves plunged into a violent world where Japanese organized criminals mix with American biotechnologists whose moral compass points in only one direction: an IPO payday. Readers will have the pleasure of watching Cook unwind a puzzle in pathology while he explores the pressure points in Laurie and Jack's never-dull marriage.

ELISABETH HODERMARSKY '85, EDITOR
John La Farge's Second Paradise: Voyages in the South Seas, 1890–1891
 (YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2010)

In 1890, John La Farge (1835–1910) and his close friend, historian Henry Adams, began a two-year journey to the South Pacific islands, where the artist had a period of great creative output. This beautiful volume highlights many of La Farge's most important oils, watercolors, and sketches from this voyage, and includes a number of previously unpublished works. The book's essays focus on the artist's reemergence as a plein air landscape painter, his use of the sketchbook, and his late decorative work, which was reinvigorated by the light and color he discovered during his trip.

DANIEL MARTINEZ HOSANG '93
Racial Propositions: Ballot Initiatives and the Making of Postwar California
 (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS, 2010)

This book examines the controversial history of California's ballot measures over the past 50 years. During this time, California voters banned public services for undocumented immigrants, repealed public affirmative action programs, and outlawed bilingual education, among other measures. HoSang questions why a state with a liberal political culture, an increasingly diverse populace, and a well-organized civil rights leadership voted for measures that worked against civil rights and anti-discrimination gains. The author's research reveals that these ballot initiatives do not represent a new wave of "color-blind" policies or a triumph for racial

conservatism. Instead, his study reveals unexpected connections between the right and left that show how racial inequality has continued.

LAWRENCE P. JACKSON '90
The Indignant Generation: A Narrative History of African American Writers and Critics, 1934–1960
 (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2010)

Jackson's well-researched book is the first narrative history of the neglected but essential period of African American literature between the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights Era, a time when Richard Wright, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ralph Ellison, Lorraine Hansberry, James Baldwin, and many other influential black writers published important works. The author brings to life a generation of African American writers shaped by Jim Crow segregation, the Great Depression, the growth of American Communism, and an international wave of decolonization. He explores the artistic collectives in New York, Chicago, and Washington that helped connect diverse and disenfranchised peoples, establishing a new literary community. Jackson also reveals how this time marked the rise of vibrant African American literary criticism by both black and white critics.

JESSICA KERWIN JENKINS '93
Encyclopedia of the Exquisite
 (NAN TALESE/DOUBLEDAY, 2010)

Inspired by exotic 16th-century encyclopedias, which celebrated mysterious artifacts, with emphasis on the elegant, the rare, the commonplace and the delightful. Jenkins has created a modern-day version that combines whimsy

and practicality, as it showcases the fine arts and the worlds of fashion, food, travel, home, garden, and beauty. In the spirit of renewing old sources of beauty, and using an anecdotal approach, each entry of this book shares engaging stories. Among them: the explosive history of Champagne, the art of lounging on a divan, and the thrill of dining alfresco. The volume is a lifestyle guide for the Francophile and the Anglomaniac, the gourmet and the style maven, the armchair traveler and the art-lover.

DAVID J. LYNCH '81
When the Luck of the Irish Ran Out
 (PALGRAVE MACMILLAN, 2010)

After centuries of economic and cultural poverty, Ireland finally emerged in the late 1990s as the fastest-growing country in Europe. But only a few years later, after enjoying their newly-won status among the world's richest societies, the Irish people are now saddled with a wounded, shrinking economy, soaring unemployment, and ruined public finances. Veteran journalist Lynch, currently a senior writer at Bloomberg News covering the intersection of politics and economics, offers an insightful, character-driven, and fast-paced analysis of Ireland's incredible rise and astonishing collapse. He reports the nation's demise through the experiences of its citizens, including those leaders responsible for the present-day crisis, as well as the resilient ordinary women and men who endure and fight to overcome their travails.

MARK C. TAYLOR '68
Crisis on Campus: A Bold Plan for Reforming Our Colleges and Universities
 (KNOPF, 2010)

Taylor, chair of the religion department at Columbia University, expands on ideas he presented in a widely read 2009 *New York Times* op-ed. At the beginning of the book, he writes: "The quality of higher education is declining. . . . As emerging technologies continue to transform how we manage information and continue to acquire knowledge, students will need to develop new skills and even learn different ways of thinking, reading and writing." Taylor offers several suggestions for reforming higher education as tuition continues to rise, including ending tenure, restructuring departments to encourage greater cooperation among existing disciplines, emphasizing teaching rather than increasingly rarefied research, and using online networks to connect students worldwide and to access lectures by professors at other universities.

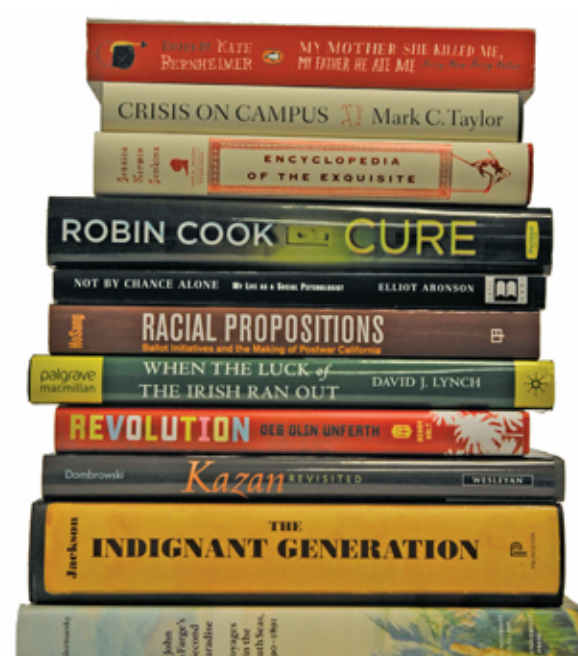
LISA DOMBROWSKI '92,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FILM STUDIES
Kazan Revisited
 (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2011)

Elia Kazan was one of the most important directors of postwar American cinema, renowned for such landmark films as *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *On the Waterfront*, and *East of Eden*. His reputation has been established by his Academy Award-winning work with actors, his provocative depiction of sexual, moral, and generational conflict, and his controversial decision to name former colleagues as Communists before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1952. Yet much of Kazan's influential work remains unexplored. Dombrowski has edited a fascinating essay collection that takes a closer look at the social, political, industrial, and aesthetic significance of his films. Contributors include such esteemed film critics and scholars as Jeanine Basinger, Leo Braudy, Mark Harris, Kent Jones, Victor Navasky, Jonathan Rosenbaum, and Richard Schickel.

DEB OLIN UNFERTH,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
Revolution: The Year I Fell in Love and Went to Join the War
 (HENRY HOLT, 2011)

In her honest and often funny memoir, Unferth writes about the year 1987, when she left college, converted from secular Judaism to Christianity, and followed her "spectacular, misunderstood, brilliant" boyfriend George to Central America in search of work to help a revolution. As the couple find themselves unprepared and unwanted by those they meet around El Salvador and Nicaragua, they become disillusioned with revolutionary causes and their relationship. They get sick, run out of money, and are forced to return to the United States, where they break up. Years later, Unferth returns to Nicaragua to figure out what led her there in the first place, and she also tries to find out what happened to her former companion. Her far from typical coming-of-age tale keeps the reader intrigued to the very end, mainly because of her succinct and intelligent storytelling.

BOOK REVIEWS BY DAVID LOW
If you are a Wesleyan graduate, faculty member, or parent with a new publication, please let us know by contacting David Low at dlow@wesleyan.edu or at Wesleyan magazine, Office of University Communications, Wesleyan University, South College, Middletown, CT 06459.



NONFICTION	
William Aspray '73 and Barbara M. Hayes, editors, <i>Health Informatics: A Patient-Centered Approach to Diabetes</i> (The MIT Press, 2010)	
Wendy Bellion '91, <i>Citizen Spectator: Art, Illusion, and Visual Perception in Early National America</i> (The University of North Carolina Press, 2011)	
Franya J. Berkman MA '99, PhD '04, <i>Monument Eternal: The Music of Alice Coltrane</i> (Wesleyan University Press, 2010)	
Alan Botsford '81, <i>Walt Whitman of Cosmic Folklore</i> (Sage Hill Press, 2010)	
Kathleen Wren Christian '94, <i>Empire Without End: Antiquities Collections in Renaissance Rome, c. 1350–1527</i> (Yale University Press, 2010)	
Robert Gillette '59, MAT '68, <i>The Virginia Plan: Richmond's Thalimer and a Rescue from Nazi Germany</i> (The History Press, 2011)	
David Goldberg '88 and Trevor Griffey '97, editors, <i>Black Power at Work: Community Control, Affirmative Action, and the Construction Industry</i> (Cornell University Press, 2010)	
Gary Herrigel, '80, <i>Manufacturing Possibilities: Creative Action and Industrial Recomposition in the United States, Germany, and Japan</i> (Oxford University Press, 2010)	
Jack Levinson '87, <i>Making Life Work: Freedom and Disability in a Community Group Home</i> (University of Minnesota Press, 2010)	
Ram Dass with Rameshwar Das (aka James Lytton '69), <i>Be Love Now: The Path of the Heart</i> (HarperOne, 2010)	
Bruce Peabody '91, <i>The Politics of Judicial Independence: Courts, Politics, and the Public</i> (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010)	
Ted Reed '70, <i>Carl Furillo: Brooklyn Dodgers All-Star</i> (McFarland and Company, 2011)	
Ethel Seno '02, editor, <i>Trespass: A History Of Uncommissioned Urban Art</i> (Taschen, 2010)	
Jessica Holden Sherwood '93, <i>Wealth, Whiteness, and the Matrix of Privilege: The View from the Country Club</i> (Rowman and Littlefield, 2010)	
Aram Sinnreich '94, <i>Mashed Up: Music, Technology and the Rise of Configurable Culture</i> (University of Massachusetts Press, 2010)	
Claude Clayton Smith '66, <i>Ohio Outback: Learning to Love the Great Black Swamp</i> (The Kent State University Press, 2010)	
Marc Stein '85, <i>Sexual Injustice: Supreme Court Decisions from Griswold to Roe</i> (University of North Carolina Press, 2010)	
FICTION AND POETRY	
Kate Bernheimer '88, <i>Horse, Flower, Bird: Stories</i> (Coffee House Press, 2010)	
Jules Cohen '98, <i>Triggermoon Triggermoon</i> (Black Lawrence Press, 2010)	
Kate Colby '96, <i>Beauport</i> (Litmus Press, 2010)	
Sanford Fraser '54, <i>Among Strangers I've Known All My Life</i> (NYQ Books, 2010)	
Alexander Kudera '91, <i>Fight for Your Long Day</i> (Atticus Books, 2010)	
Jack McDevitt MALS '72, <i>Echo</i> (Ace, 2010)	
Michael Palmer '64, <i>A Heartbeat Away</i> (St. Martin's Press, 2011)	
Anne Whitehouse P'14, <i>Bear in Mind</i> (Finishing Line Press, 2010)	

BETWEEN THE LINES

A NEW CATEGORY OF HUMAN BEING

In her funny and insightful new book, *My Formerly Hot Life: Dispatches from Just the Other Side of Young* (Ballantine), **Stephanie Dolgoff '89** shares what life is like for a woman who has reached the transitional age of 40-something.

Oh, there were signs. Lots of them. As I sped through my life, with my two kids and crazy career, I simply didn't notice them whizzing by.

Once, I was rocking out to Blondie's "One Way or Another" for a good two choruses before I realized it was the soundtrack to a Swiffer commercial on the TV in the next room. Not only did I own a Swiffer, but I felt more fondly toward it than I ever knew I could toward a cleaning implement. Another time, a sexy, stubby guy leaned into me and asked me in a hushed voice for the time. I was married at the time, and so responded with a terse 8:40—I didn't want to lead him on. He said thanks and went back to his book. Turns out, he simply wanted to know the time, and not to have sex with me! Imagine. And then there was the morning one of my preschool-aged daughters poked my abdomen and asked me—with no trace of humor or judgment whatsoever—why it looked like I had a tushy on the front of my body.

With incidences like those coming at me fast and furious in my late 30s, it became unignorably clear that I was no longer the woman I once was. Something had changed, which prompted me to start my blog, *formerlyhot.com*, which soon grew into *My Formerly Hot Life*. I had to talk about this bizarre, unsettled feeling I couldn't name, most of which I attributed to the fact that my looks were fading a bit. As had happened to countless women before me and will continue to happen forevermore, I went from being "the hot chick" I'd been considered most of my life to a perfectly nice-looking working mother of two in her 40s doing the best she can, which is simply not the

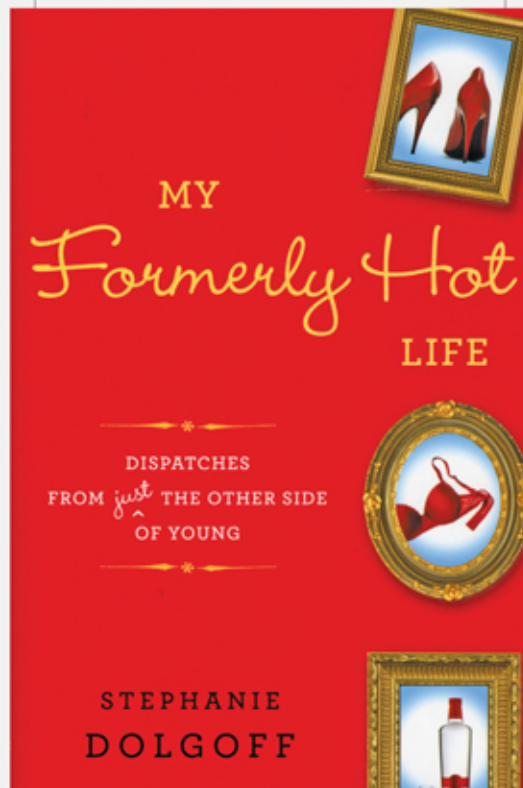
same thing. I wrote about my experiences as an outlet, to make fun of myself for caring as much as I did, which I knew was ridiculous. I've learned over the years that while I'm incapable of ignoring the pressures women face to "have it all," and be thinner and ever more cheerful while having it, mocking myself relentlessly for it takes most of the sting out. Thankfully there were thousands of women who were likewise relieved to find a way to

looked at us. We were not young anymore, but we weren't old, either, and we didn't feel like we thought middle-aged should feel, not like anyone does. We were in that strange limbo between young and old—adult "tweens," with all the awkwardness the term implies. We were Formerly Wild, Formerly Hot, Formerly Going to Be a Prodigy, and yes, Formerly Young.

People (men and women) share their "Formerly" stories with me all the time. Sometimes they tell of a pop cultural reference they make at work that hangs excruciatingly in the air before some much-younger colleague laughs politely or says she'd learned about that in college. Other times it's realizing that your daughters want an American Girl doll from the "historical" series—the one from the 1970s, when you were a child. But without fail, all the "Formerlies" I speak with share my conviction that while there is loss involved in getting older (who wouldn't want the appearance or the ability to pull an all-nighter of someone in his 20s?), they wouldn't trade the life satisfaction, compassion for other points of view, and confidence in their own opinions they've gained with the years for perkier body parts and a higher alcohol tolerance.

I remember looking around some Alpha Delt party at Wesleyan and wondering if I was the only one pretending like I was having a much better time than I actually was. Now I don't think I was. While being young was fantastic in many ways, I always felt a pressure to have The Time of My Life, because, well, that's what we're all supposed to be experiencing in our youth, and that there was something slightly wrong with me that I wasn't enjoying it more. Now I know better. The time is always now, and knowing yourself is a gift that only time can give. **UPFRONT**

Stephanie Dolgoff '89 lives in New York City with her twin daughters. She's at work on her second book and blogs at formerlyhot.com.



laugh at what turned out to be a deceptively tricky transition.

The process of writing my blog and book taught me that this uncomfortable feeling we were all having had little to do with looks, but something much larger. Somehow, I and my agemates had moved into a new category of human being—that of the "not young" woman—without our permission or even a polite heads-up, and so our self-definitions had a way to go before they caught up with the reality of what people saw when they