BOOK COVER DESIGN

You *can* judge a book by its cover

Spring 2025

Book cover design is like packaging design for a story. Rather than summarizing the book, the design principles and visual cues should communicate:

1. Author’s writing style
2. Subject matter
3. Genre
4. Tone
5. Set the mood

Spring 2025

Stylistic Approaches

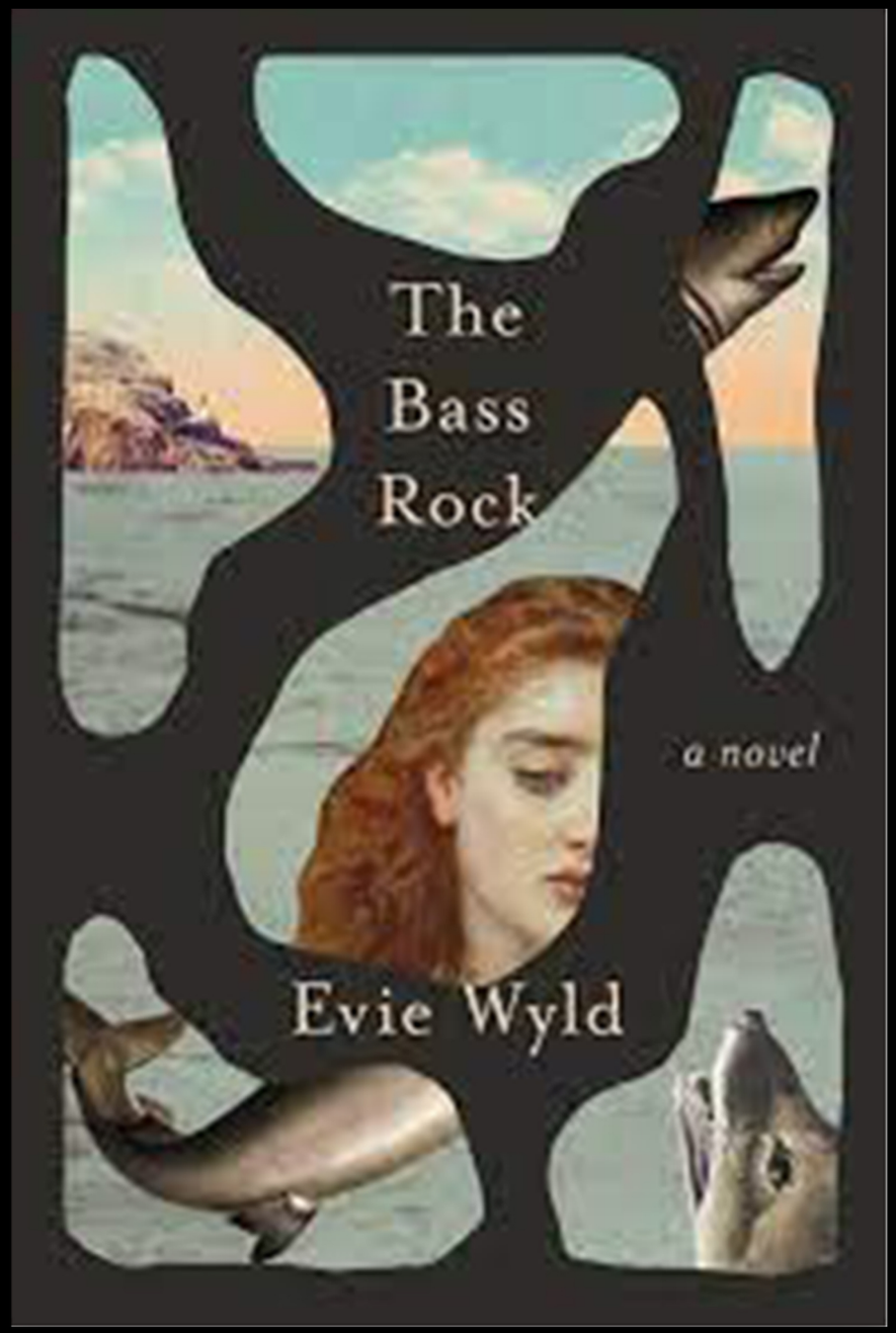
Consider what design *style* communicates about a book. Here are 10 stylistic points of departure:

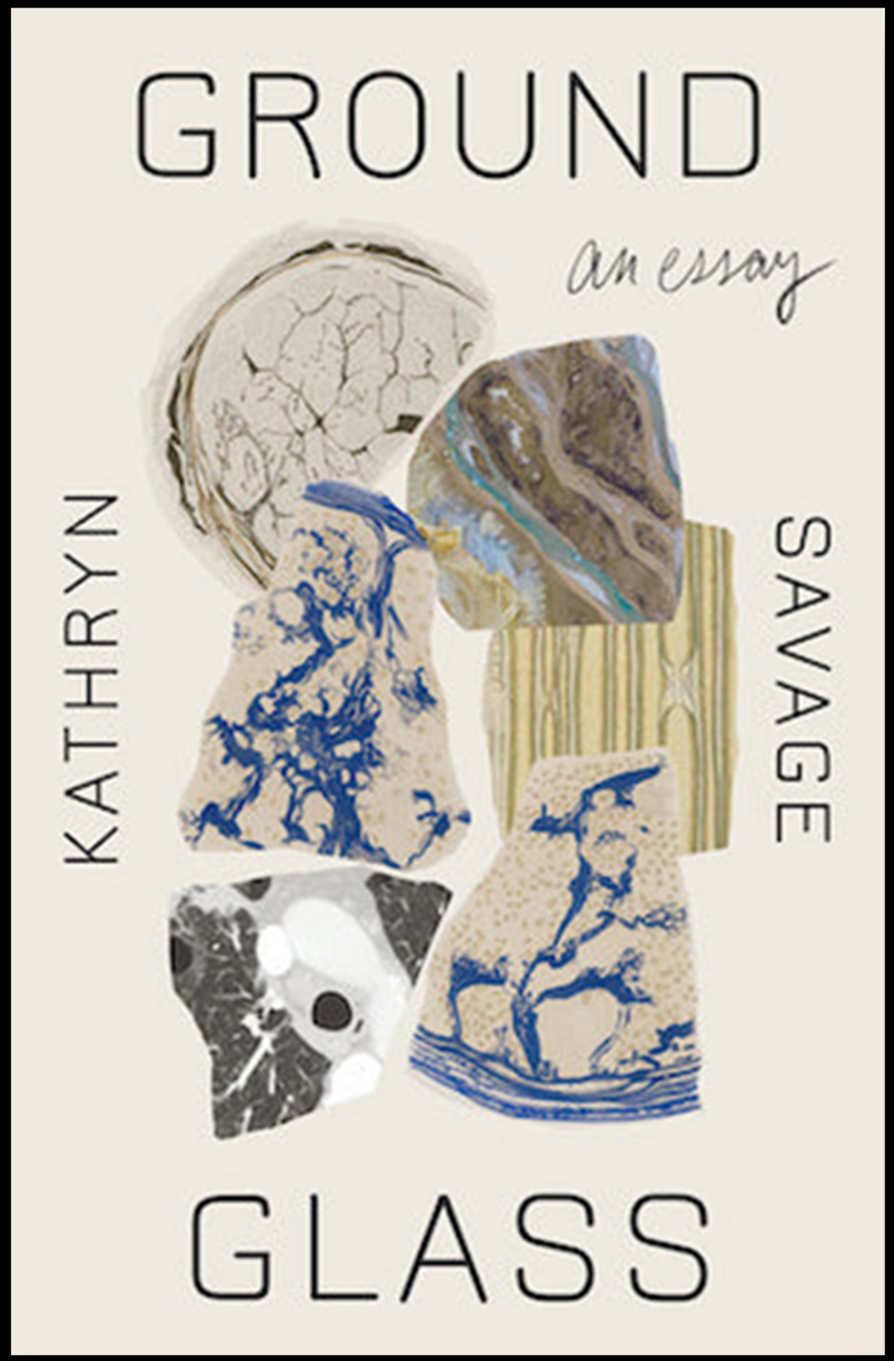
Spring 2025

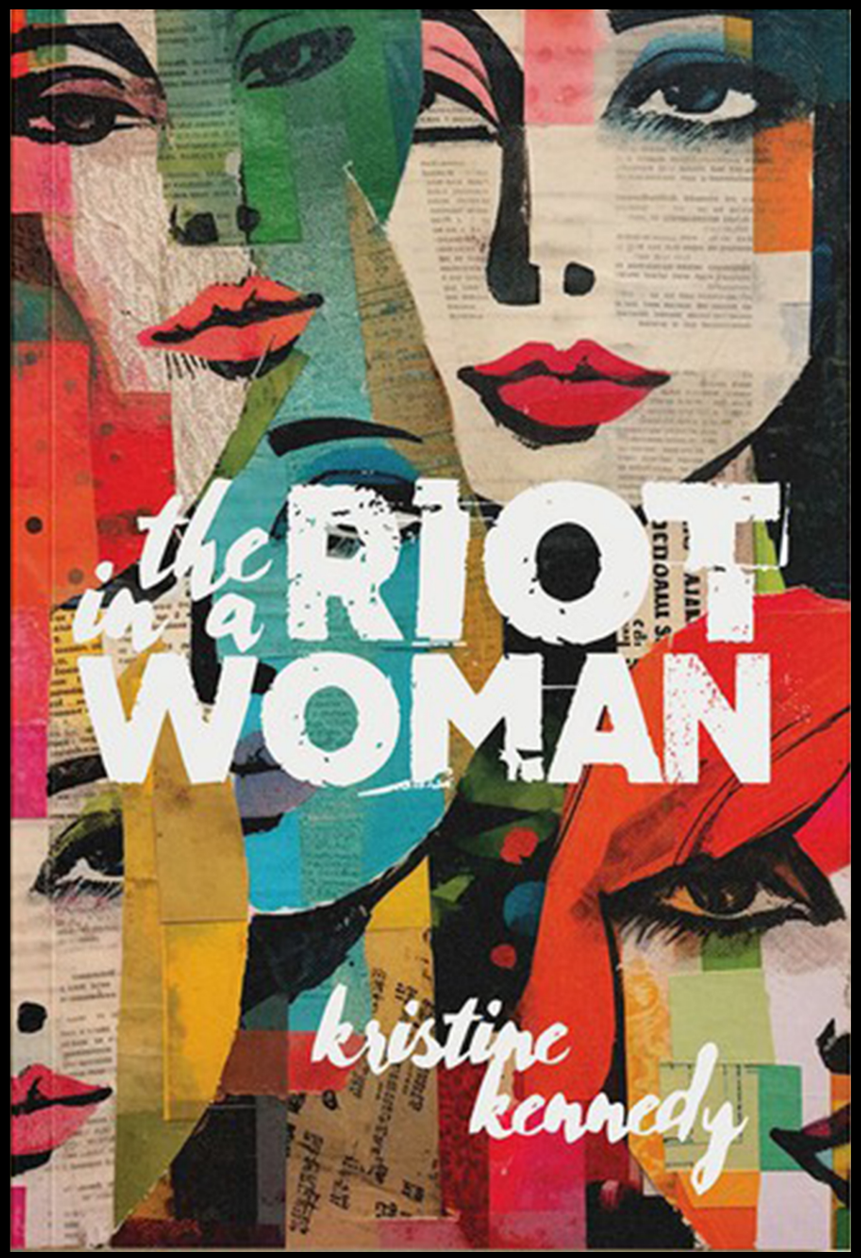
1. Collage

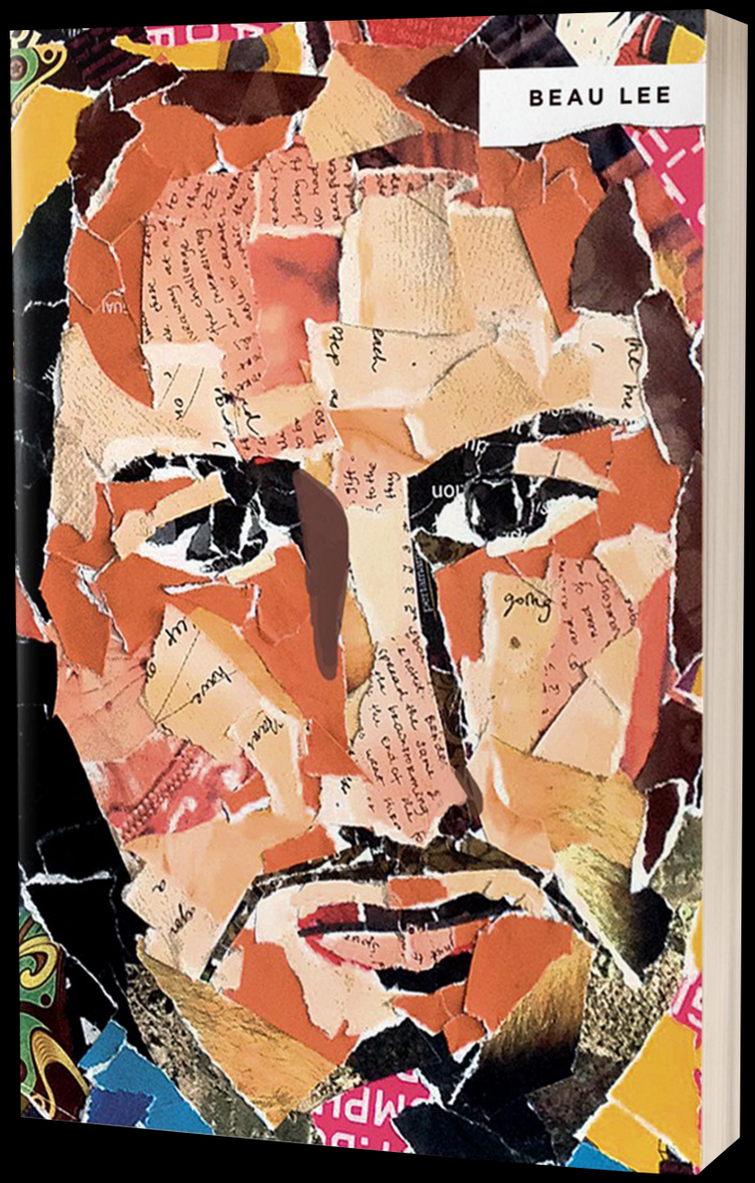
Bring together images
from different
perspectives to create a
new perspective.

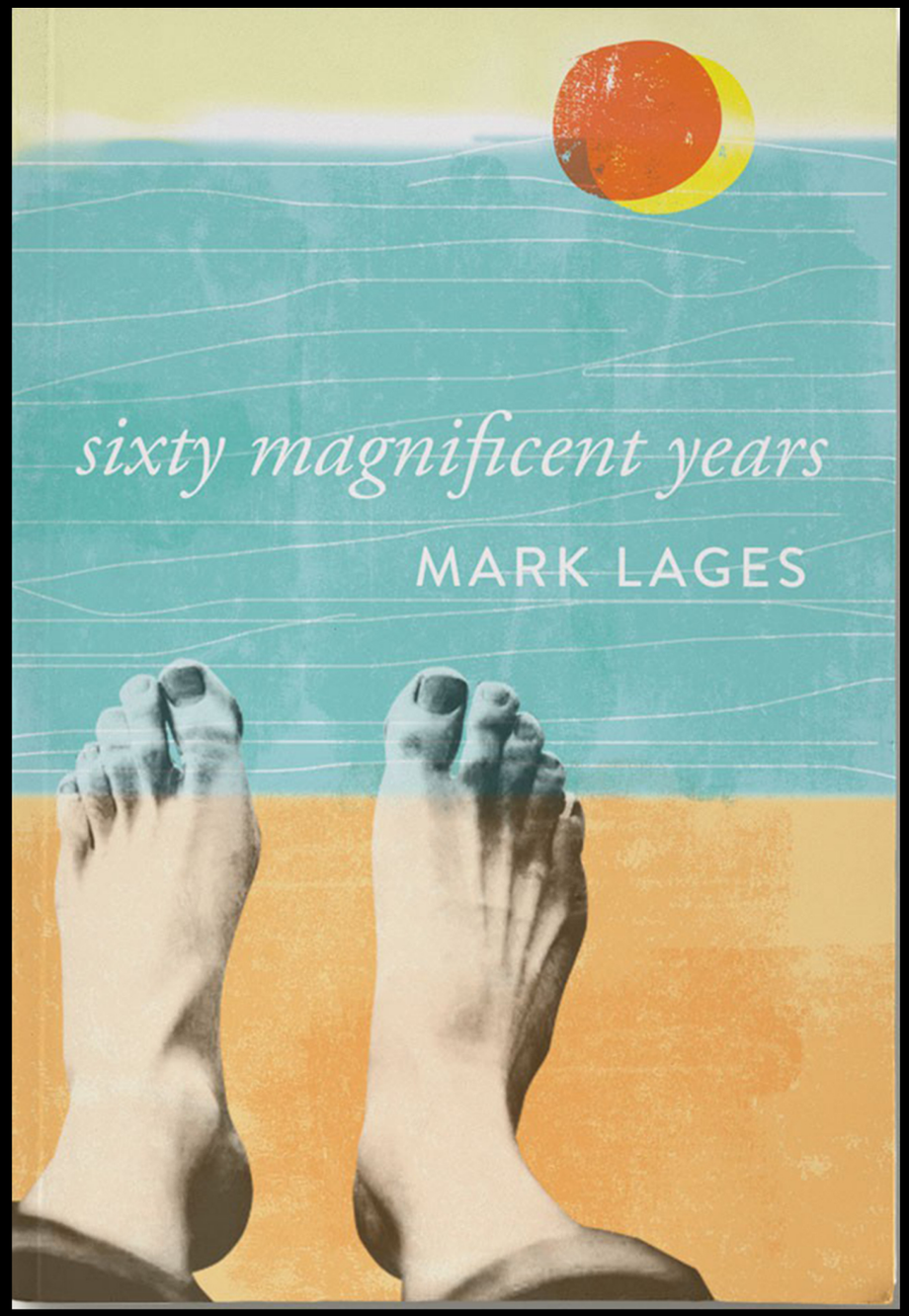
Spring 2025

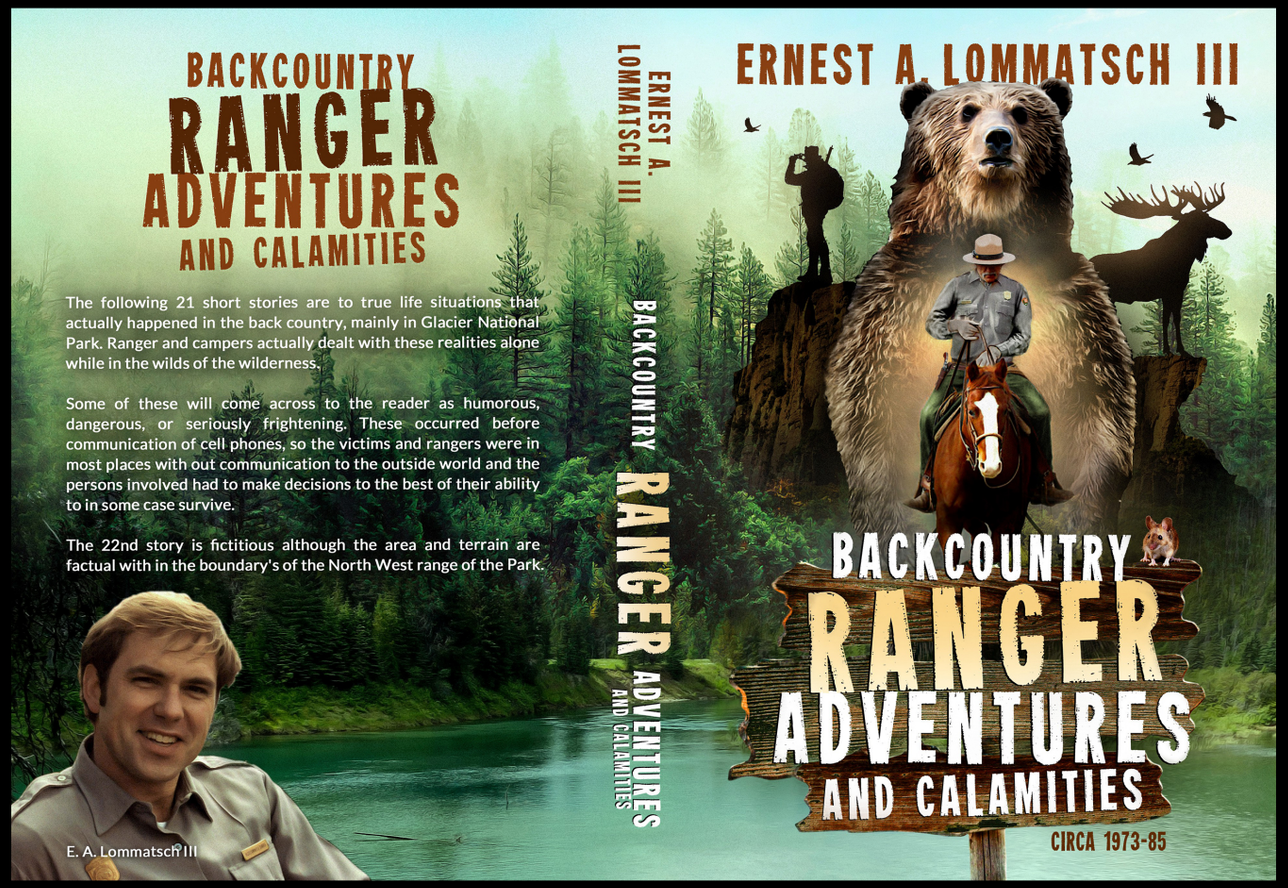

The Bass Rock
a novel
Evie Wyld


GROUND
an essay
KATHRYN SAVAGE
GLASS


the RIOT in a WOMAN
kristine kennedy


BEAU LEE


sixty magnificent years
MARK LAGES

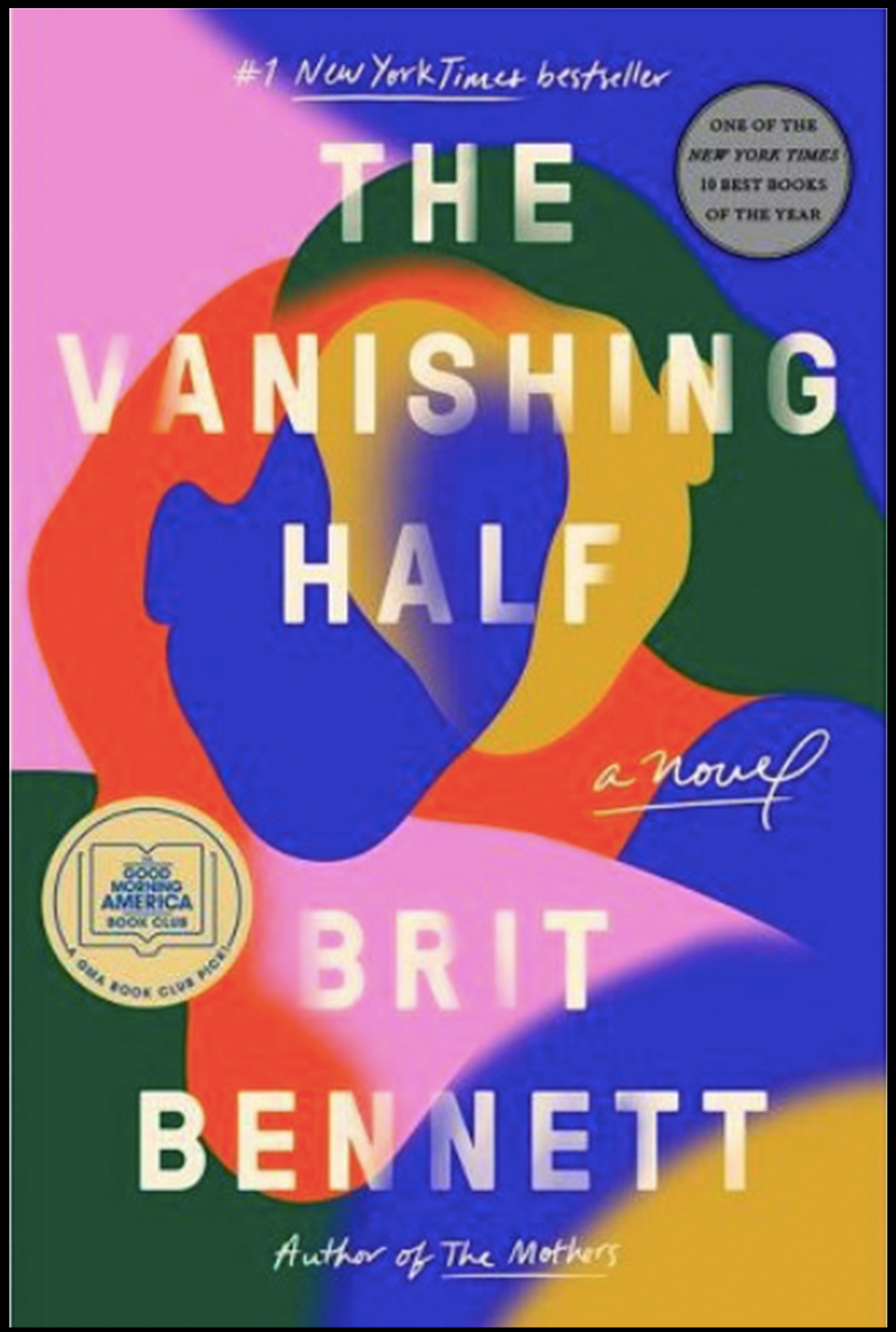

BACKCOUNTRY
RANGER
ADVENTURES
AND CALAMITIES
The following 21 short stories are to true life situations that actually happened in the back country, mainly in Glacier National Park. Ranger and campers actually dealt with these realities alone while in the wilds of the wilderness.
Some of these will come across to the reader as humorous, dangerous, or seriously frightening. These occurred before communication of cell phones, so the victims and rangers were in most places with out communication to the outside world and the persons involved had to make decisions to the best of their ability to in some case survive.
The 22nd story is fictitious although the area and terrain are factual with in the boundary's of the North West range of the Park.
E. A. Lommatsch III
ERNEST A. LOMMATSCH III
BACKCOUNTRY RANGER ADVENTURES AND CALAMITIES
ERNEST A. LOMMATSCH III
BACKCOUNTRY
RANGER
ADVENTURES
AND CALAMITIES
CIRCA 1973-85

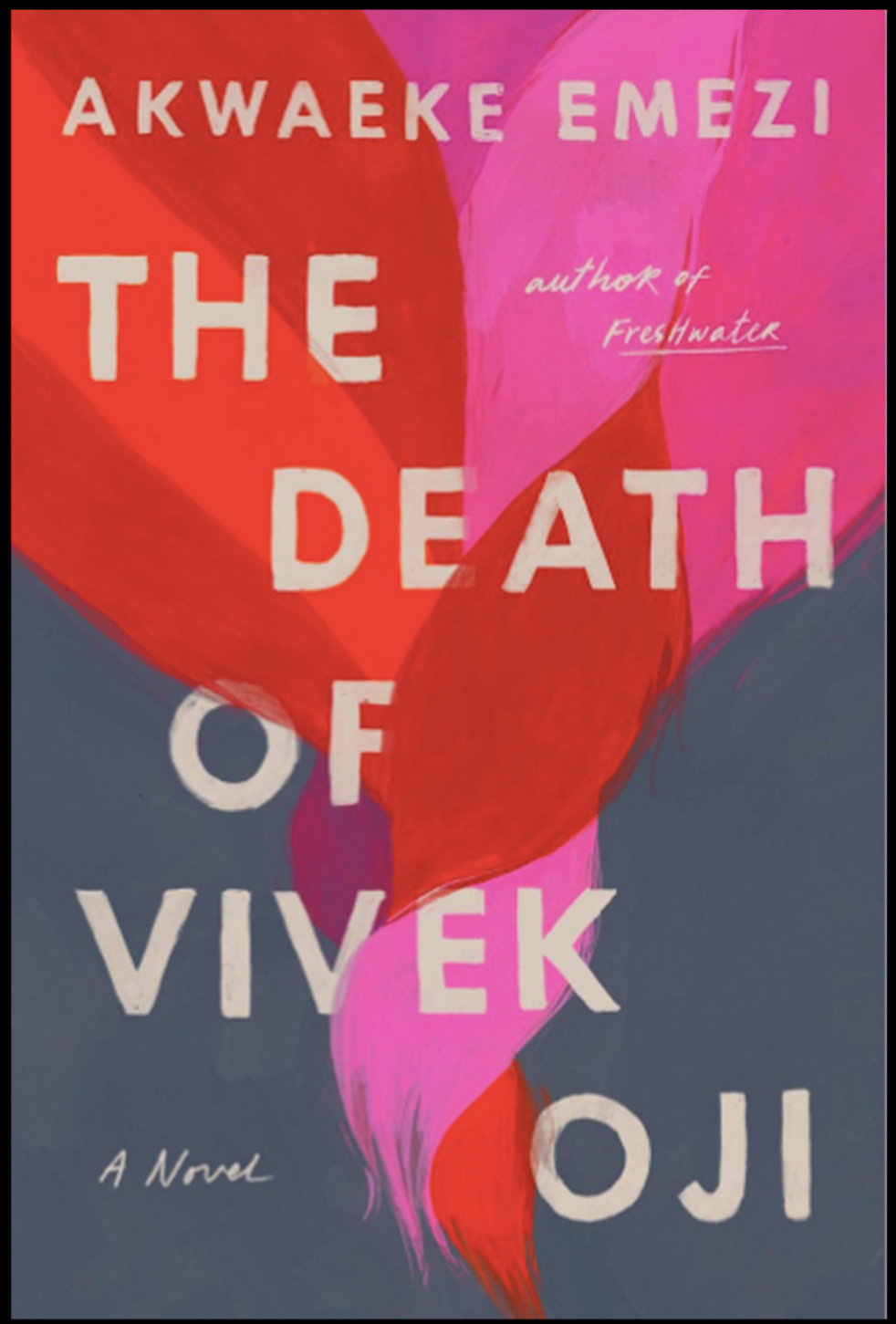
2. Abstract

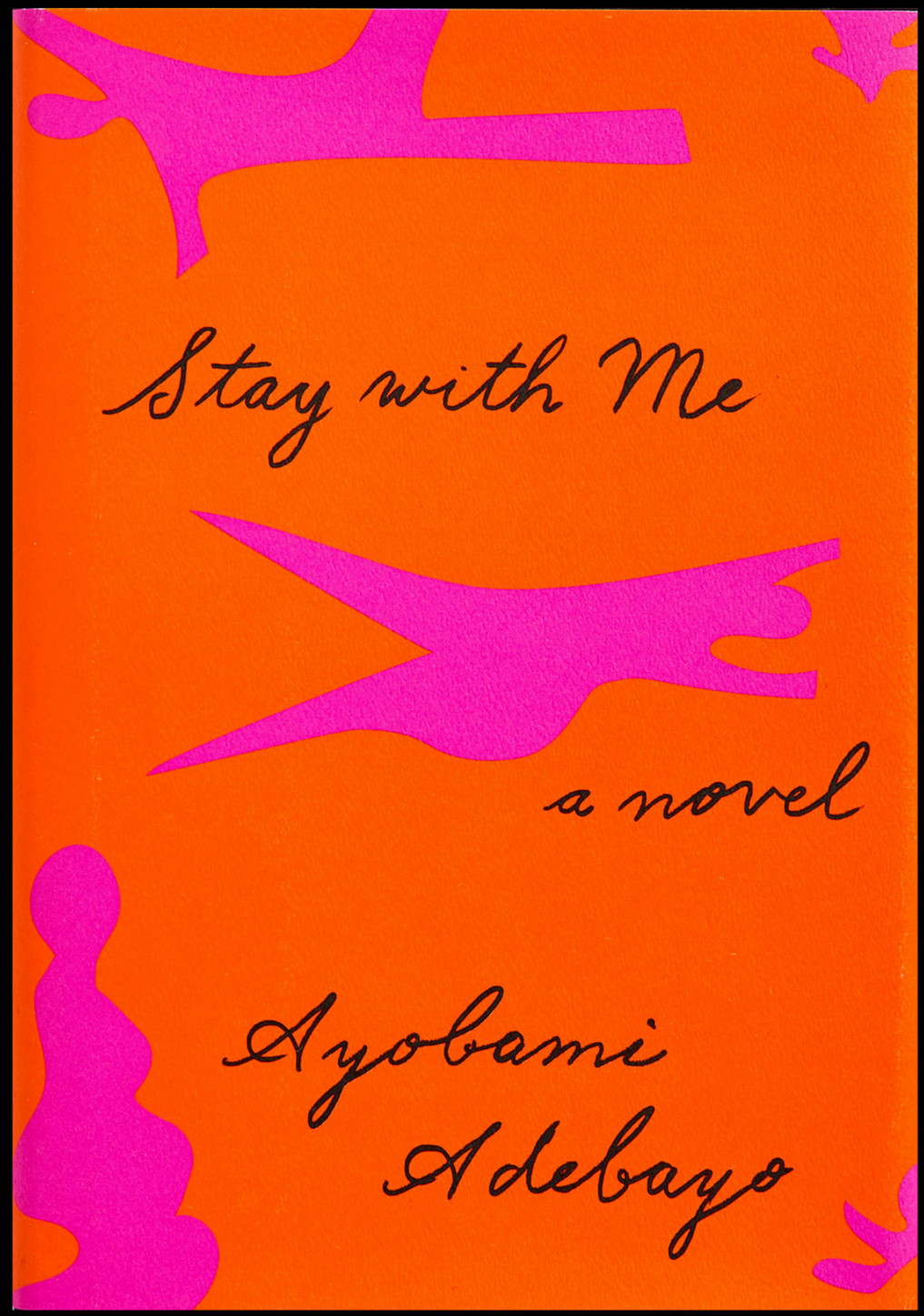
Use form, color, and pattern to describe mood. Make it static, disjointed, unified or create movement.

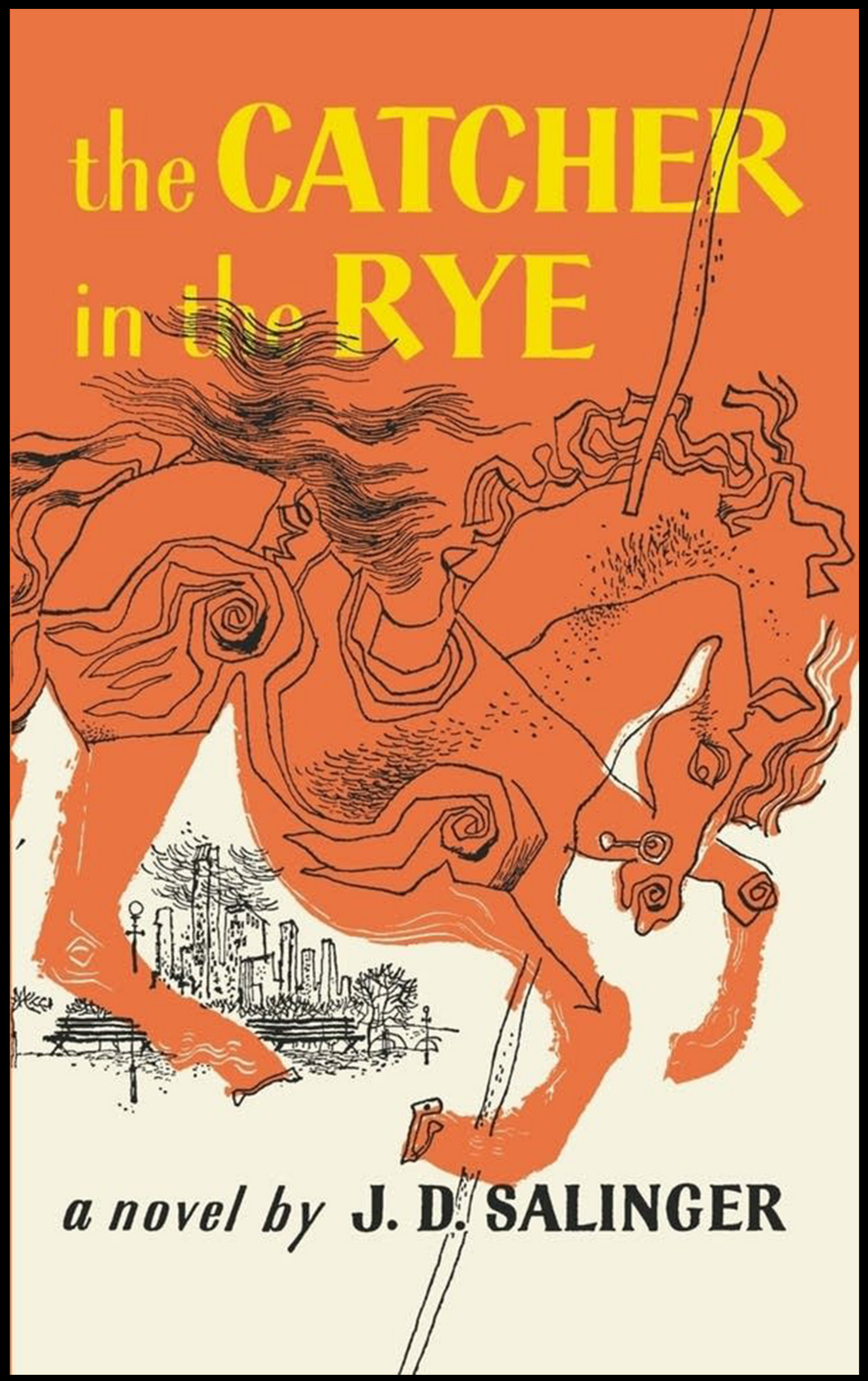
Spring 2025

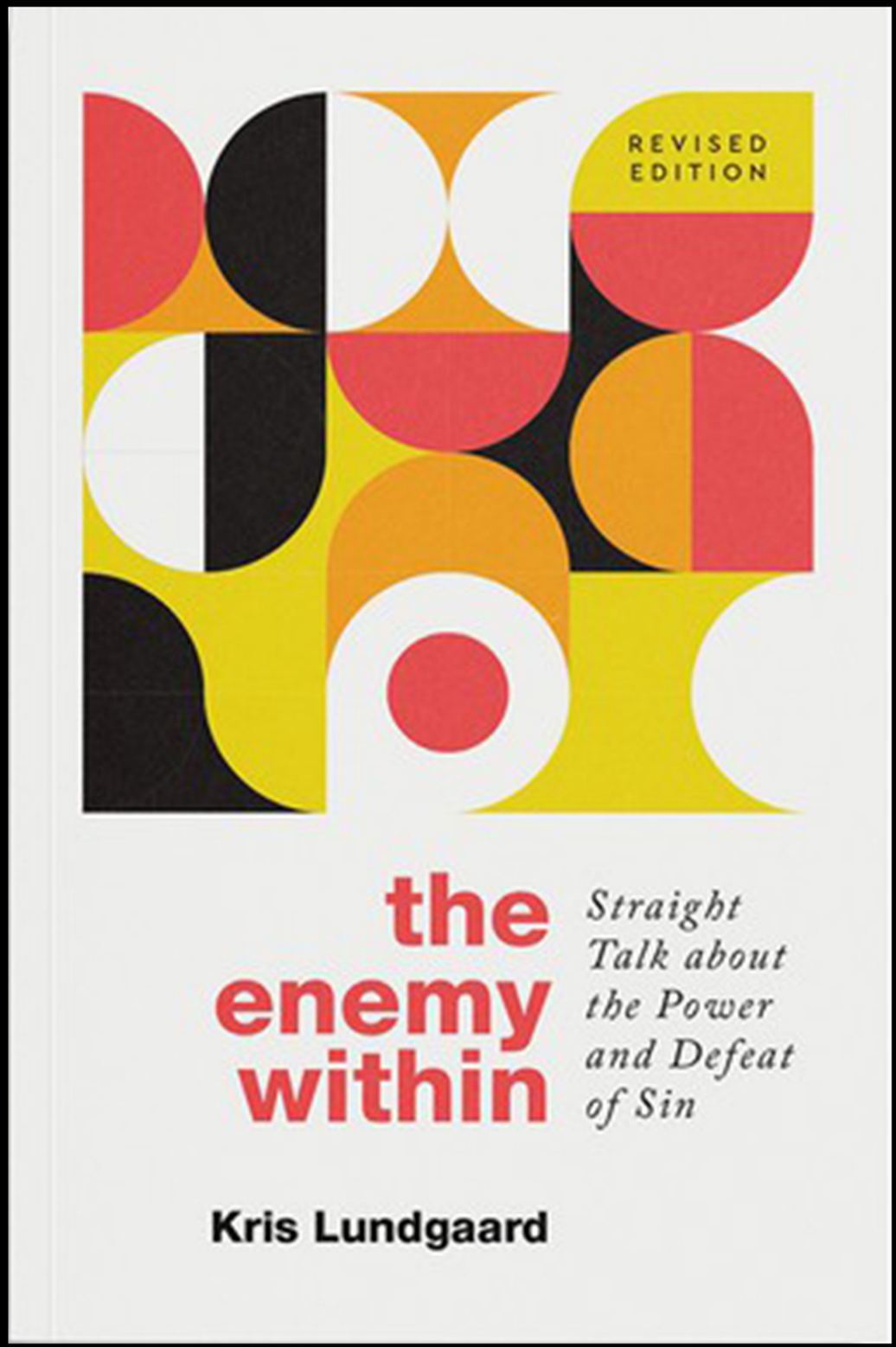
THE BLUE FLOWERS
RAYMOND QUENEAU
"Sparkles like a black pearl."
— Kirkus
A Novel


#1 New York Times bestseller
ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR
THE VANISHING HALF
a novel
GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB
A GMA BOOK CLUB PICK
BRIT BENNETT
Author of The Mothers


AKWAEKE EMEZI
THE DEATH OF VIVEK OJI
author of FRESHWATER
A Novel


Stay with Me
a novel
Ayobami Adebayo

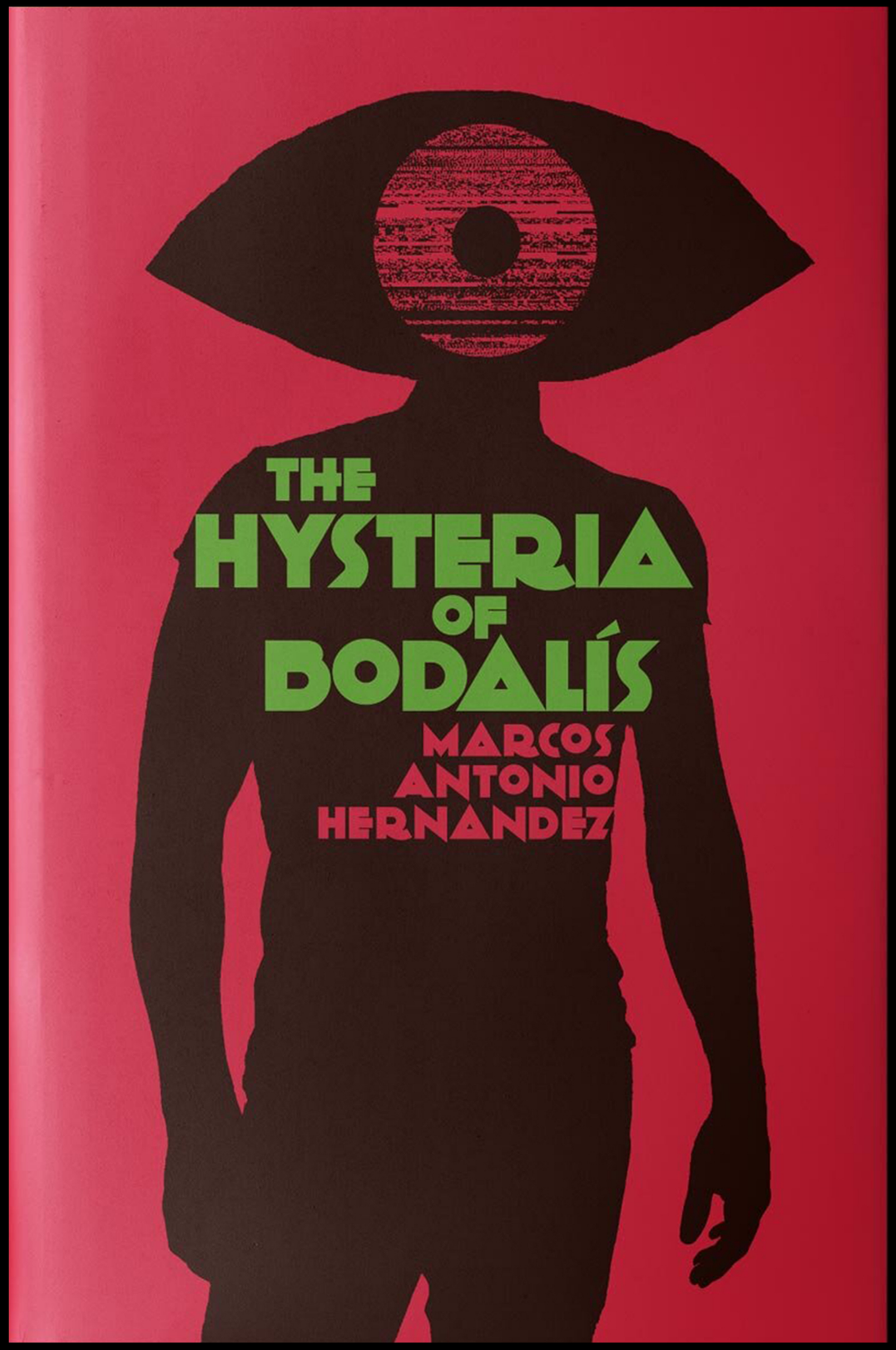

the CATCHER
in the RYE
a novel by J. D. SALINGER

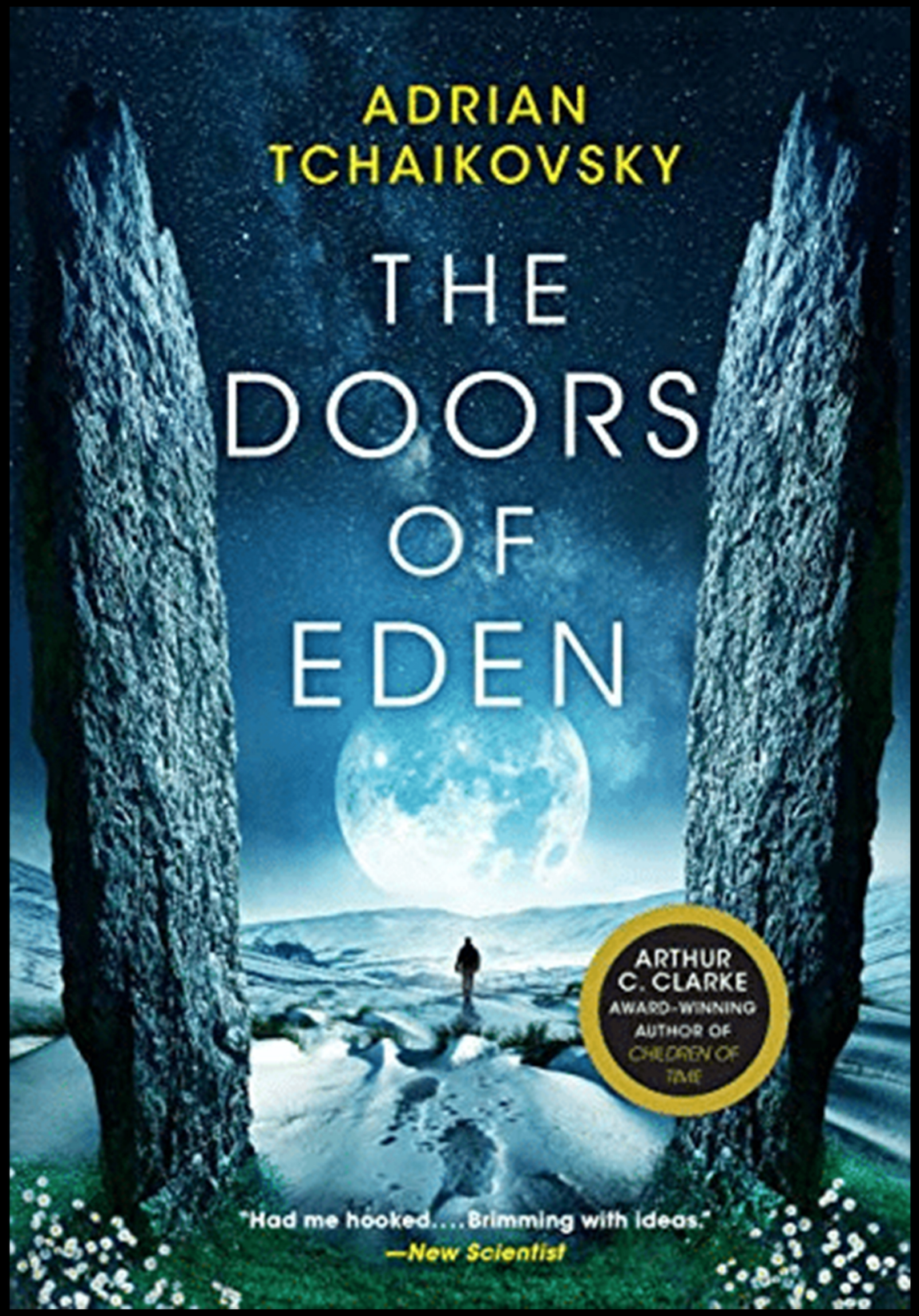

REVISED EDITION
the enemy within
Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin
Kris Lundgaard

3. Futuristic

Visual cues like gradients, neon, geometric typefaces, futuristic imagery

Spring 2025


THE
HYSTERIA
OF
BODALÍS
MARCOS
ANTONIO
HERNANDEZ


ADRIAN
TCHAIKOVSKY
THE
DOORS
OF
EDEN
ARTHUR
C. CLARKE
AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR OF
CHILDREN OF
TIME
"Had me hooked.... Brimming with ideas."
—New Scientist

LEGACY

VA

. A galaxy to save.
e?

d, and all of his plans are
ance flying the legendary
e second ranking cadet in
ockridge ranks higher. But
aft mechanic shatters his
ects his life and everything
family, his planet, and his
nd with no one to trust he
earch for the truth... a truth
the galaxy forever, for the

ISBN 978-0-9915735-2-3
51199
9 780991 573523

CHUCK BLACK

NOVA

THE STARLORE LEGACY 1

CHUCK BLACK

THE STARLORE LEGACY

NOVA

EPISODE ONE

NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY

COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED

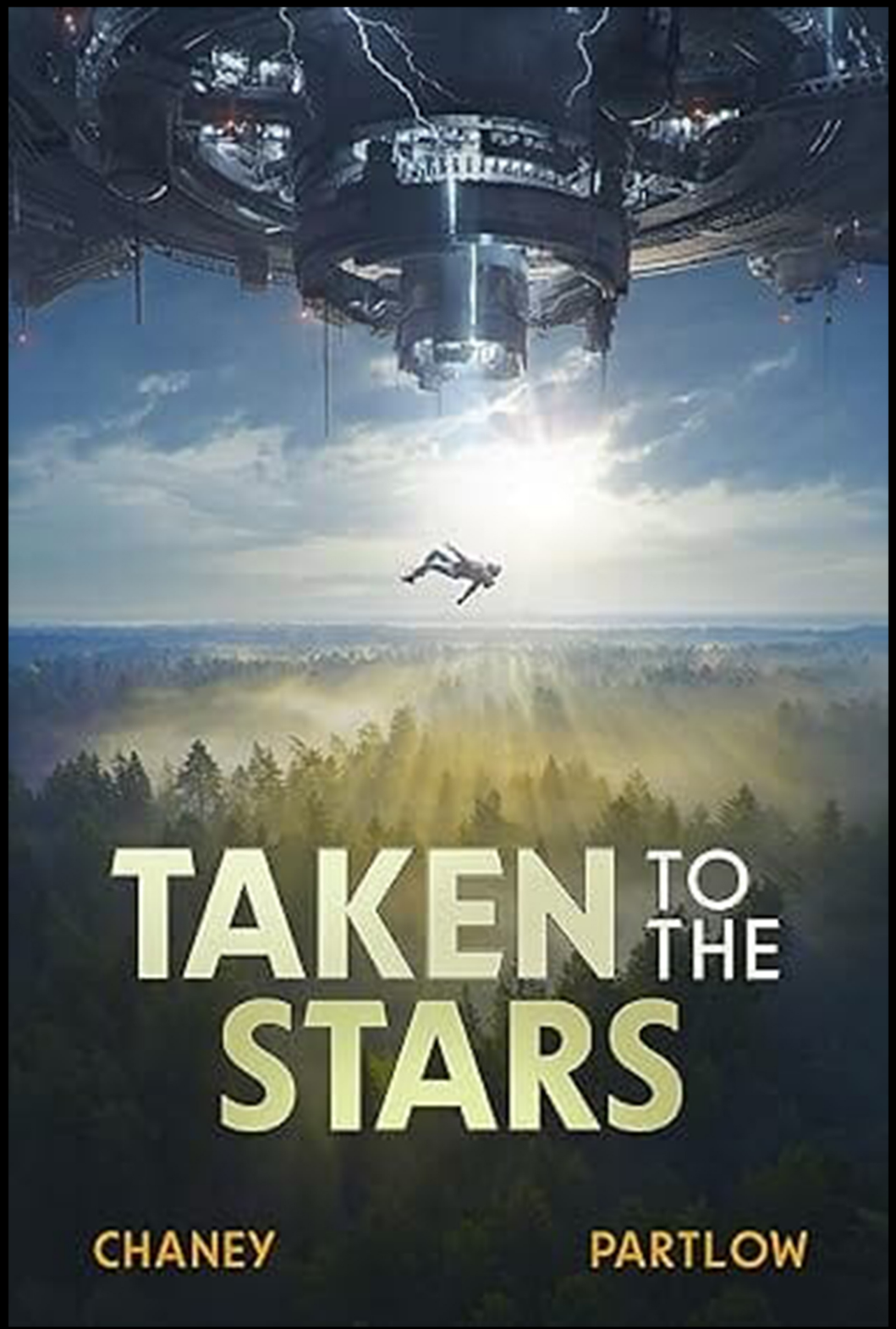
DUNE

FRANK HERBERT

Winner of The Hugo Award and Nebula Award
for the Best Science Fiction Novel of the year

SOON TO BE A MAJOR FILM

Science Fiction
J.G.BALLARD
The Drought

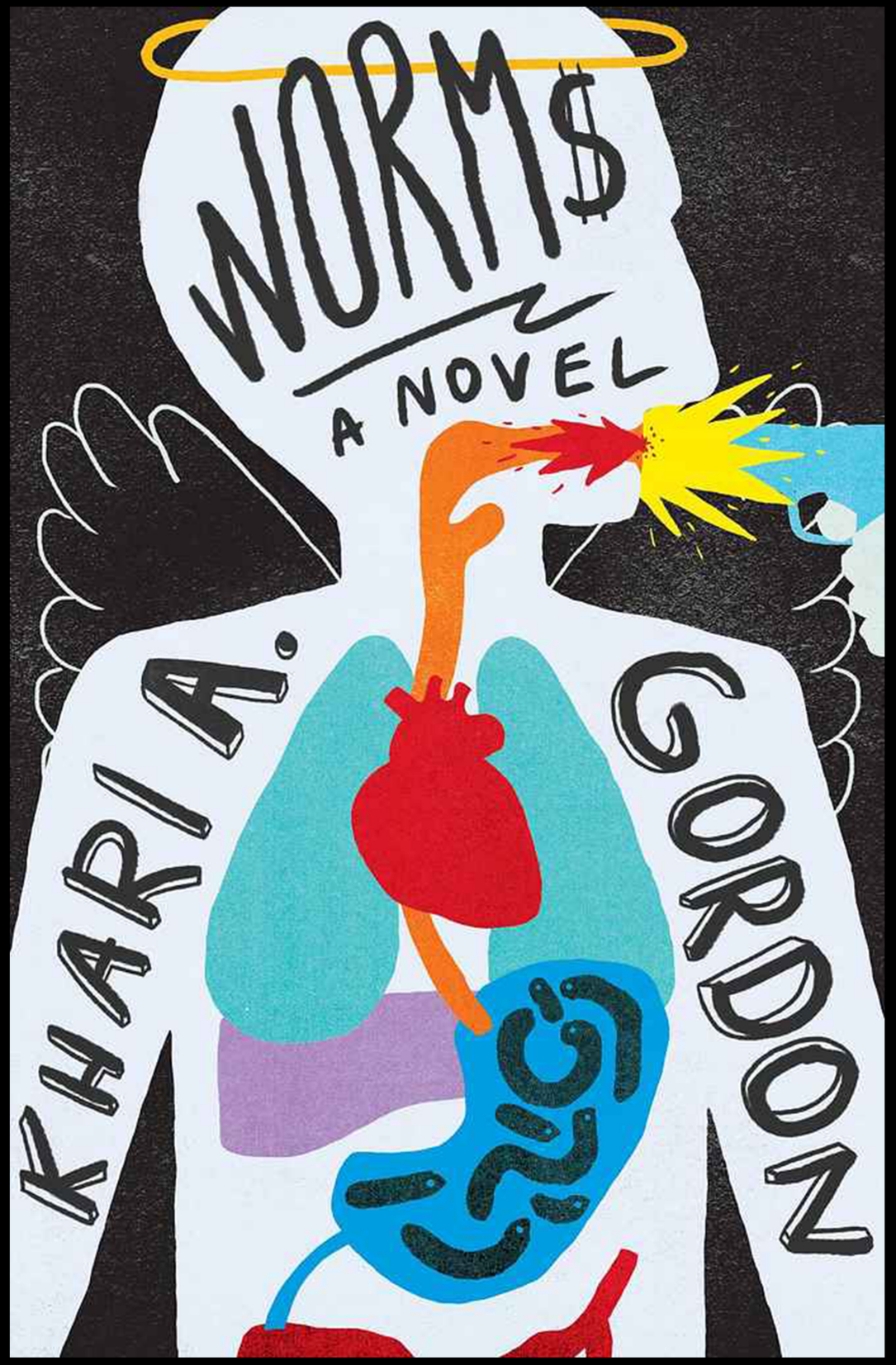

TAKEN TO THE STARS
CHANEY
PARTLOW

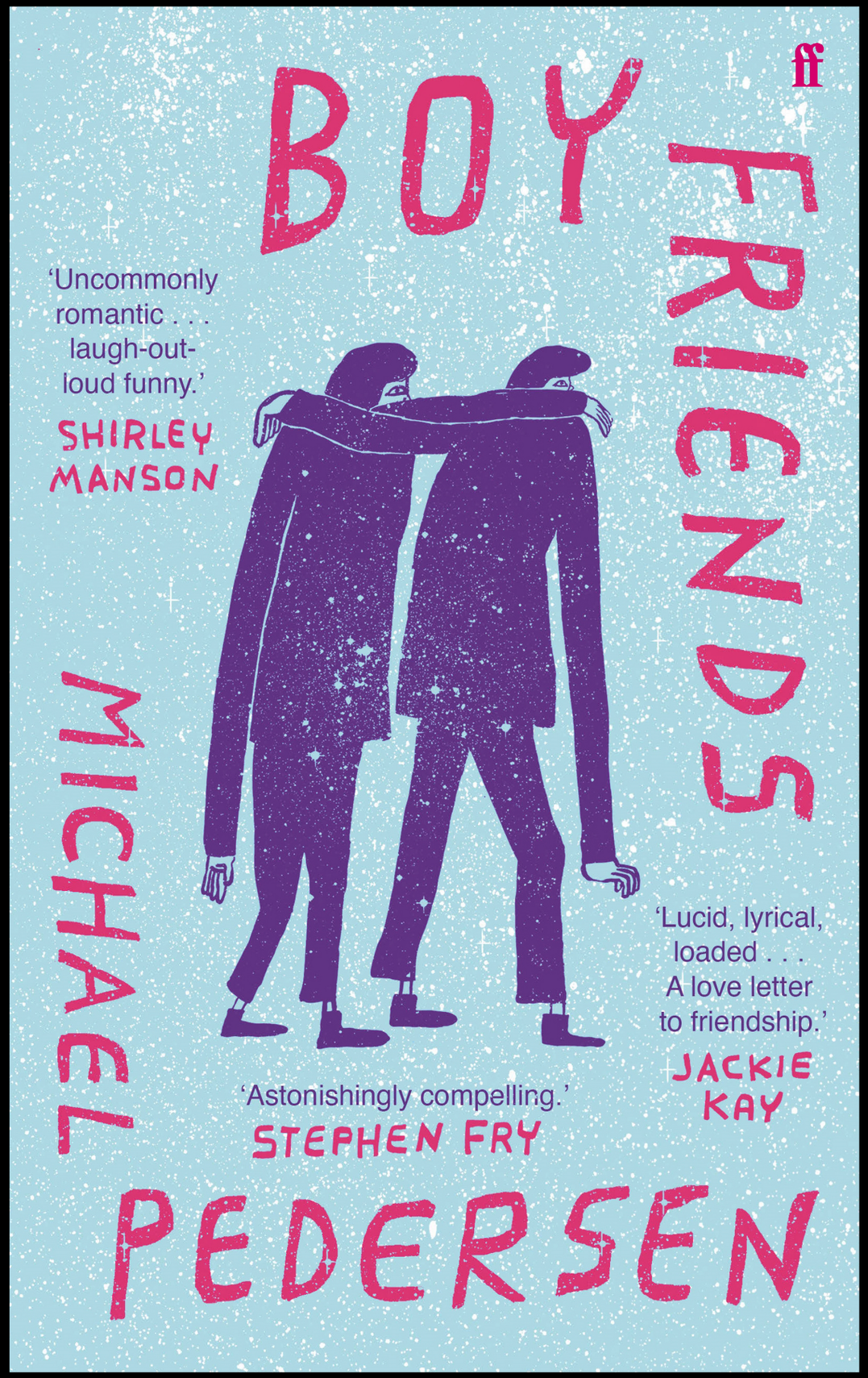
4. Illustrated

Consider line quality , line weight, definition (either realistic or sketchy), vector-based, 3D, painterly, cross-hatched, children’s book style with textures

Spring 2025

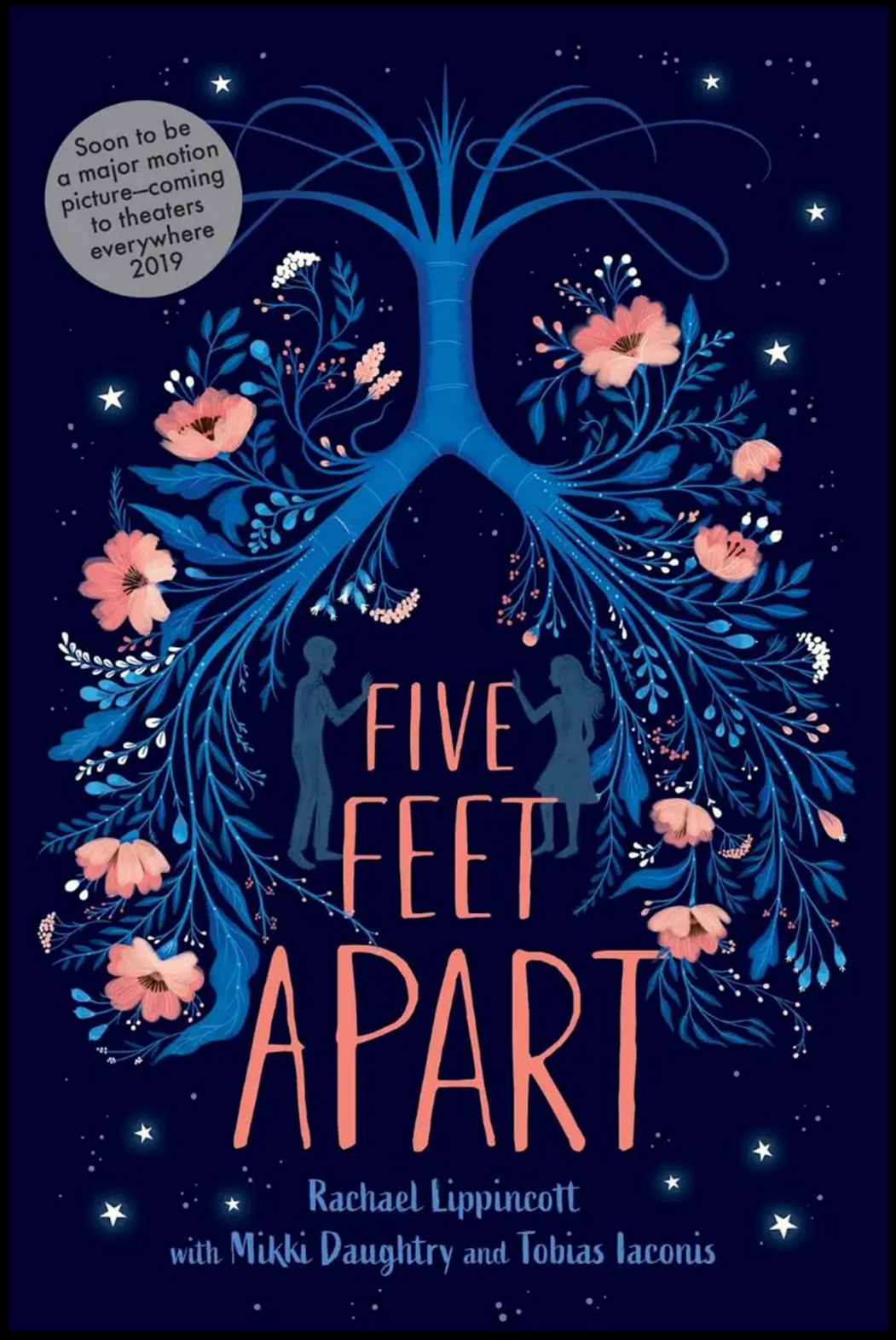
ANTHONY
BURGESS
A CLOCKWORK
ORANGE


WORM$
A NOVEL
KHARIA
GORDON


BOY FRIENDS
ff
'Uncommonly romantic . . . laugh-out-loud funny.'
SHIRLEY MANSON
'Lucid, lyrical, loaded . . . A love letter to friendship.'
JACKIE KAY
'Astonishingly compelling.'
STEPHEN FRY
MICHAEL PEDERSEN

Frank Westerman ARARAT
IPERBOREA
CORRIERE DELLA SERA

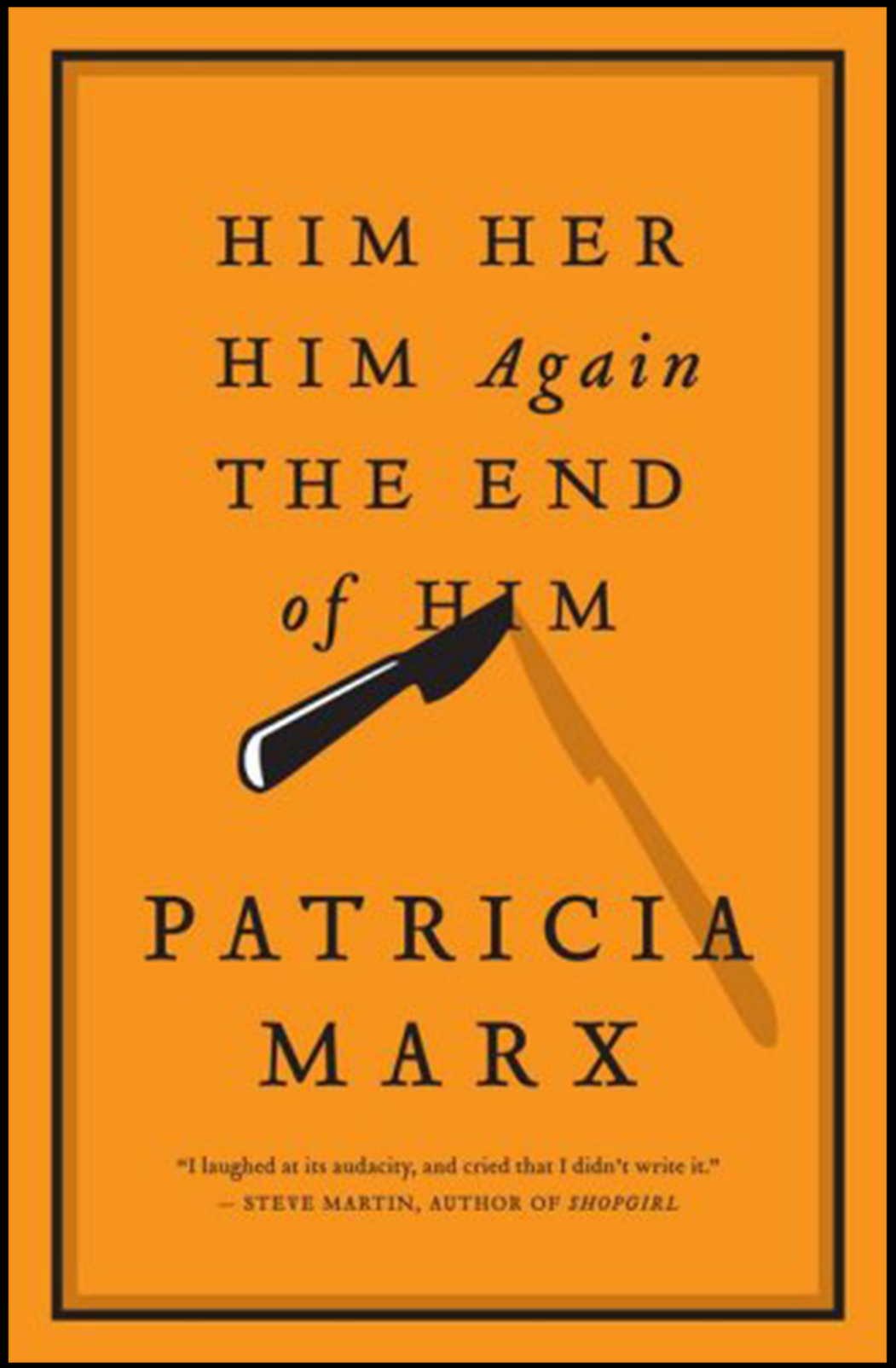
IL ETAIT UNE FOIS
LES BELLES
HISTOIRES
DE MES
4 ANS
FLEURUS

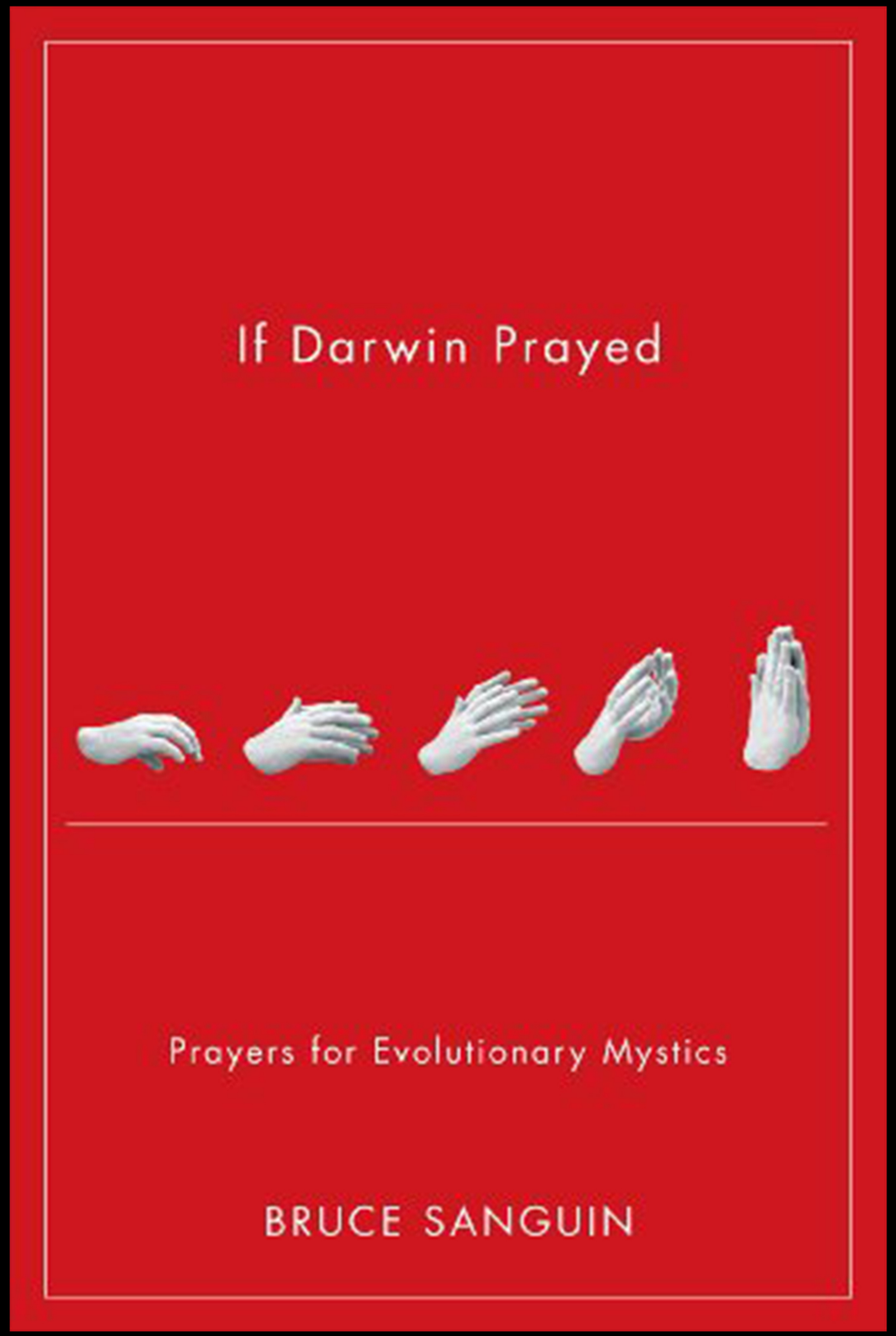

Soon to be a major motion picture—coming to theaters everywhere 2019
FIVE FEET APART
Rachael Lippincott
with Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Iaconis

5. Minimalist

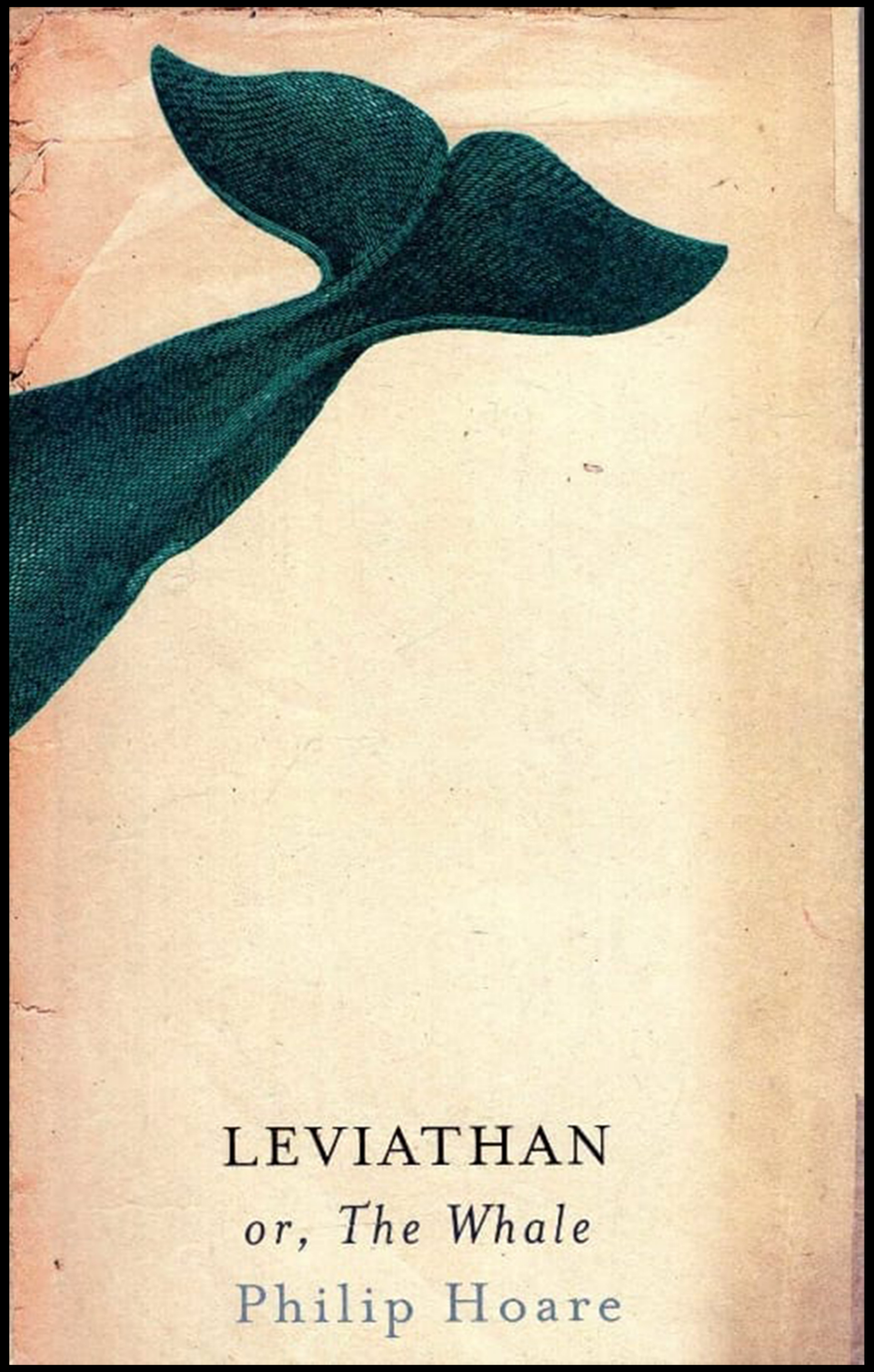
Extract the essence, distill, reduce. Use white space to create sophistication.

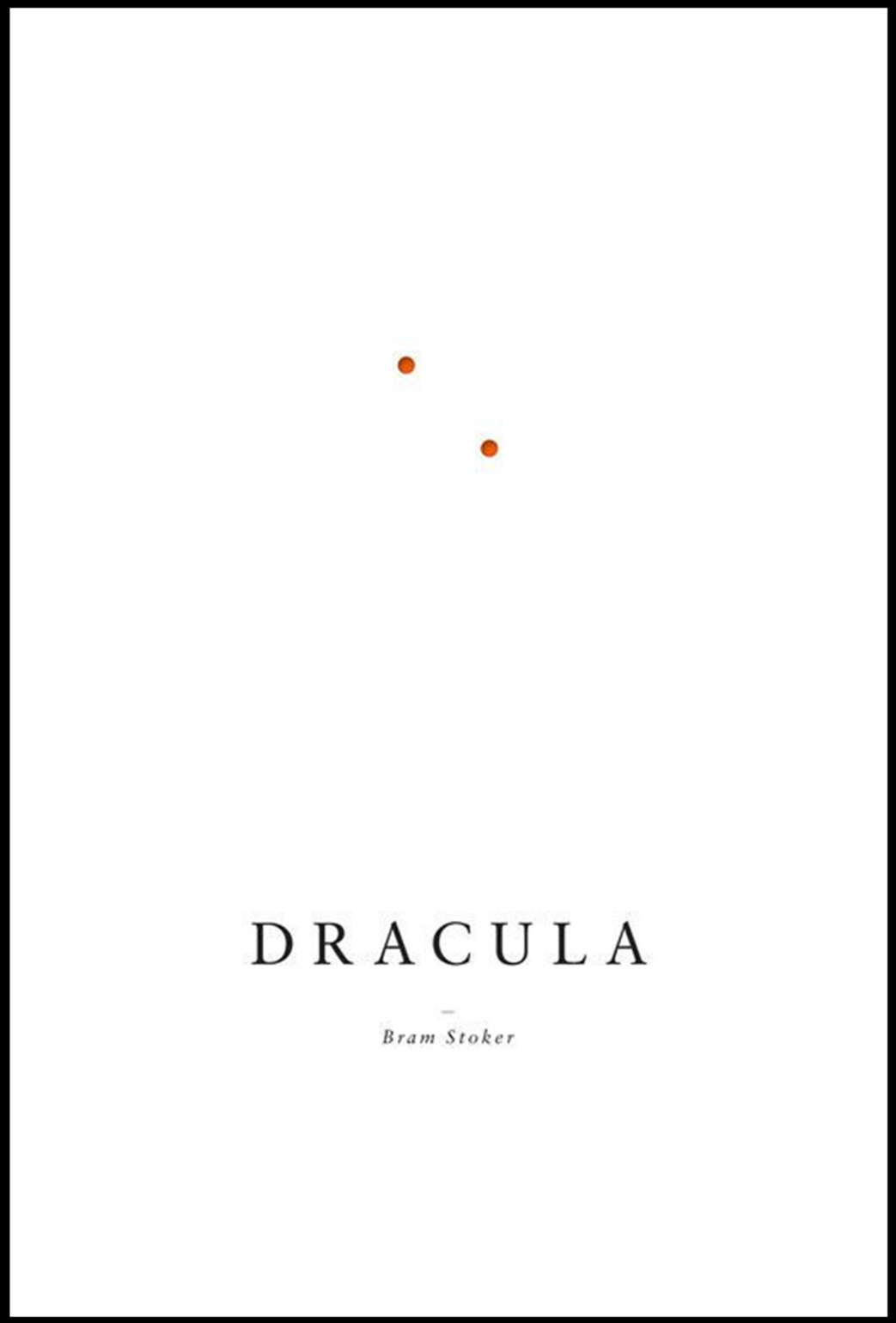
Spring 2025

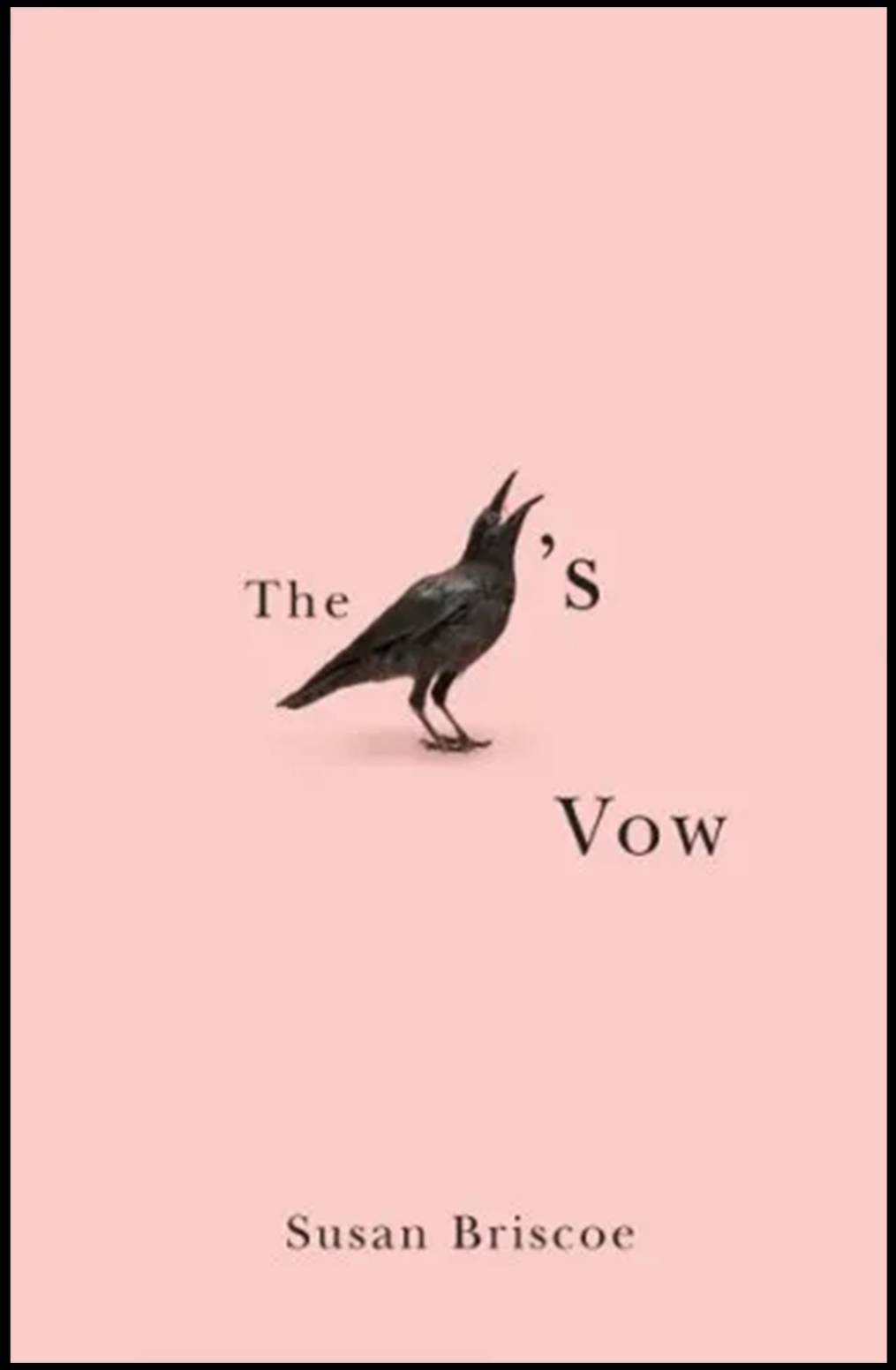

HIM HER
HIM Again
THE END
of HIM
PATRICIA
MARX
"I laughed at its audacity, and cried that I didn't write it."
— STEVE MARTIN, AUTHOR OF SHOPGIRL


If Darwin Prayed
Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics
BRUCE SANGUIN

THE WOMAN
DESTROYED
SIMONE
DE BEAUVOIR


LEVIATHAN
or, The Whale
Philip Hoare

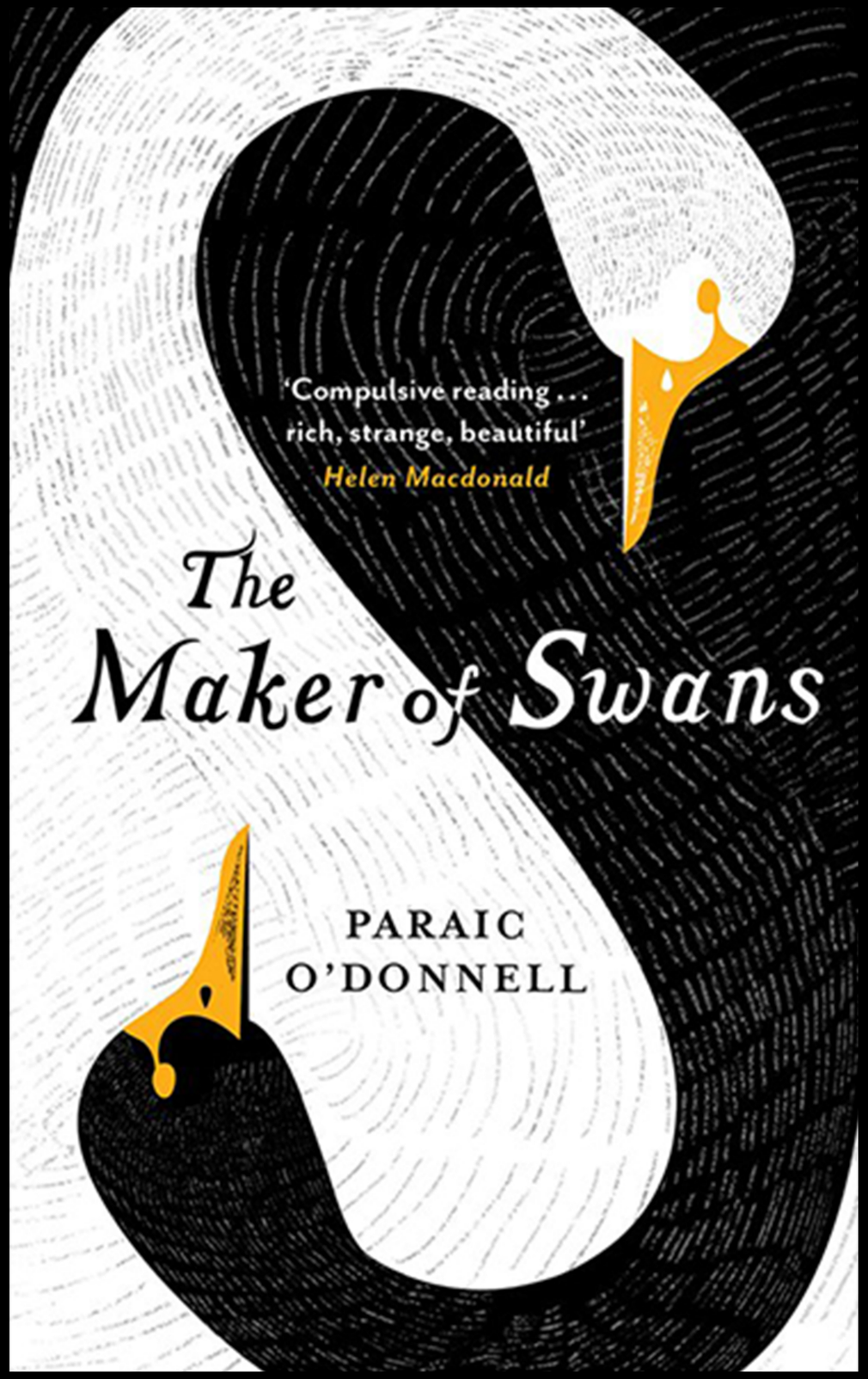

DRACULA
Bram Stoker

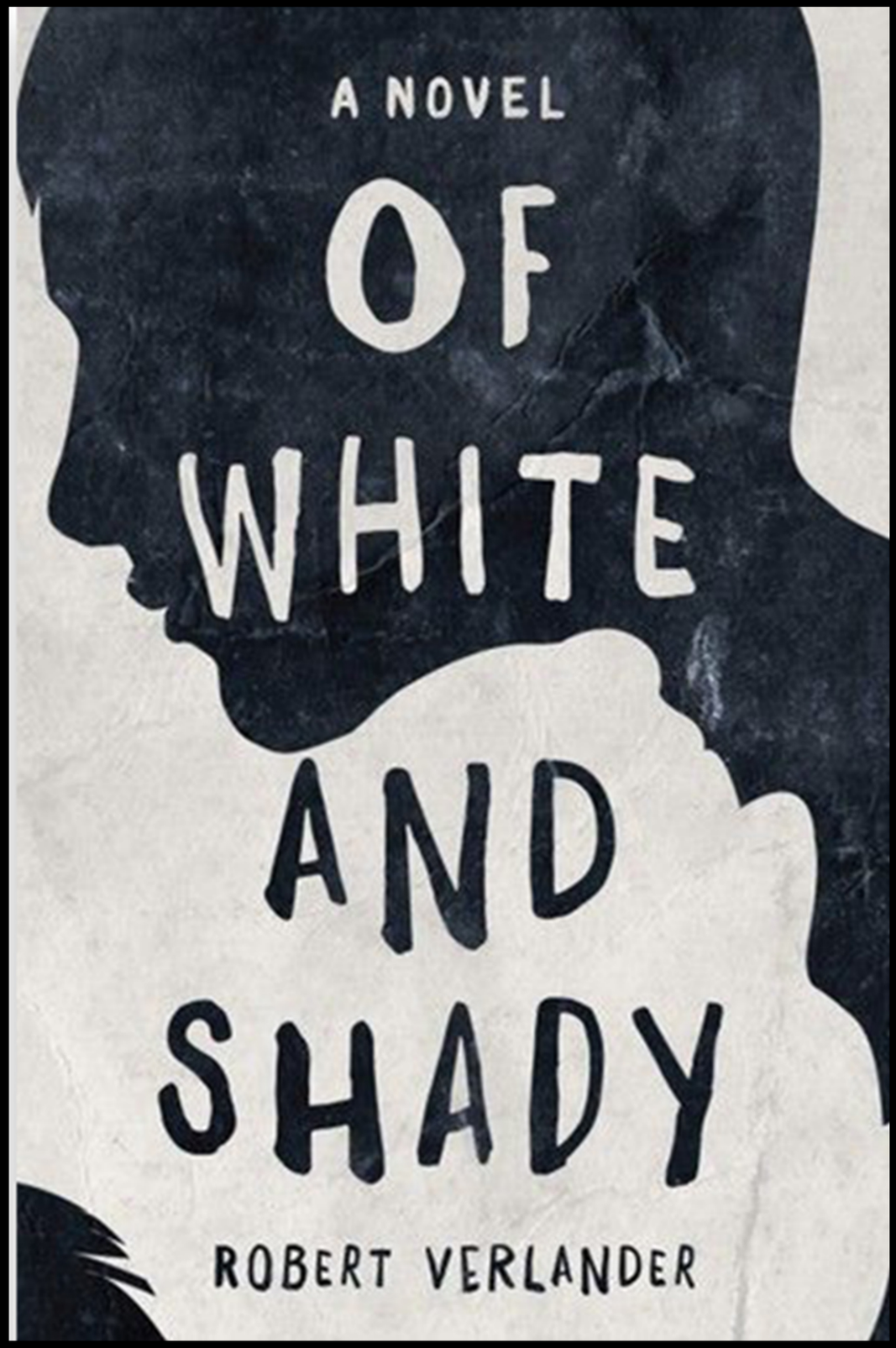

The 'S
Vow
Susan Briscoe

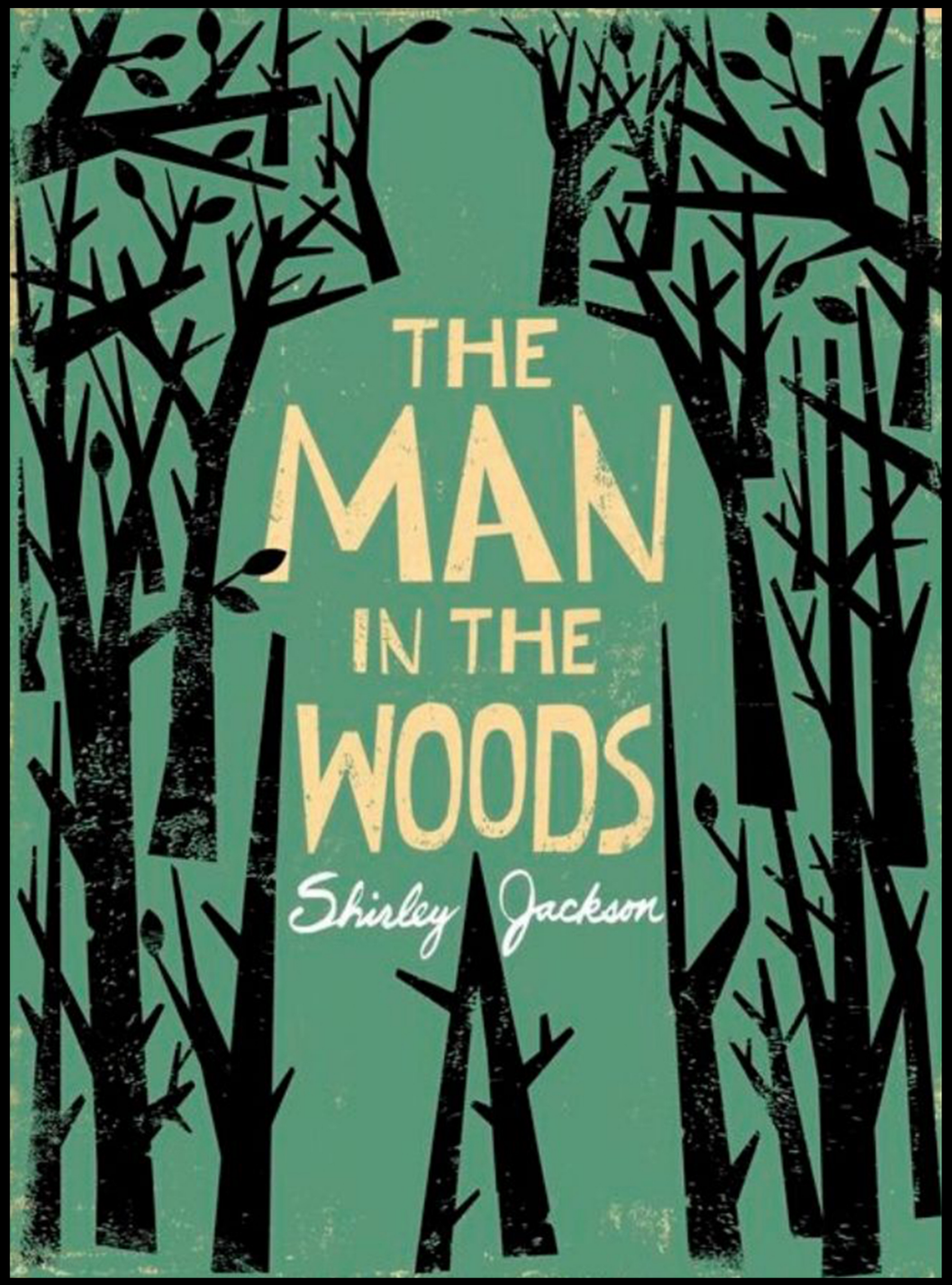
6. Negative Space

Find figure/ground relationships that show multi-stability spacial ambiguity and reveal discoverability and association psychology.

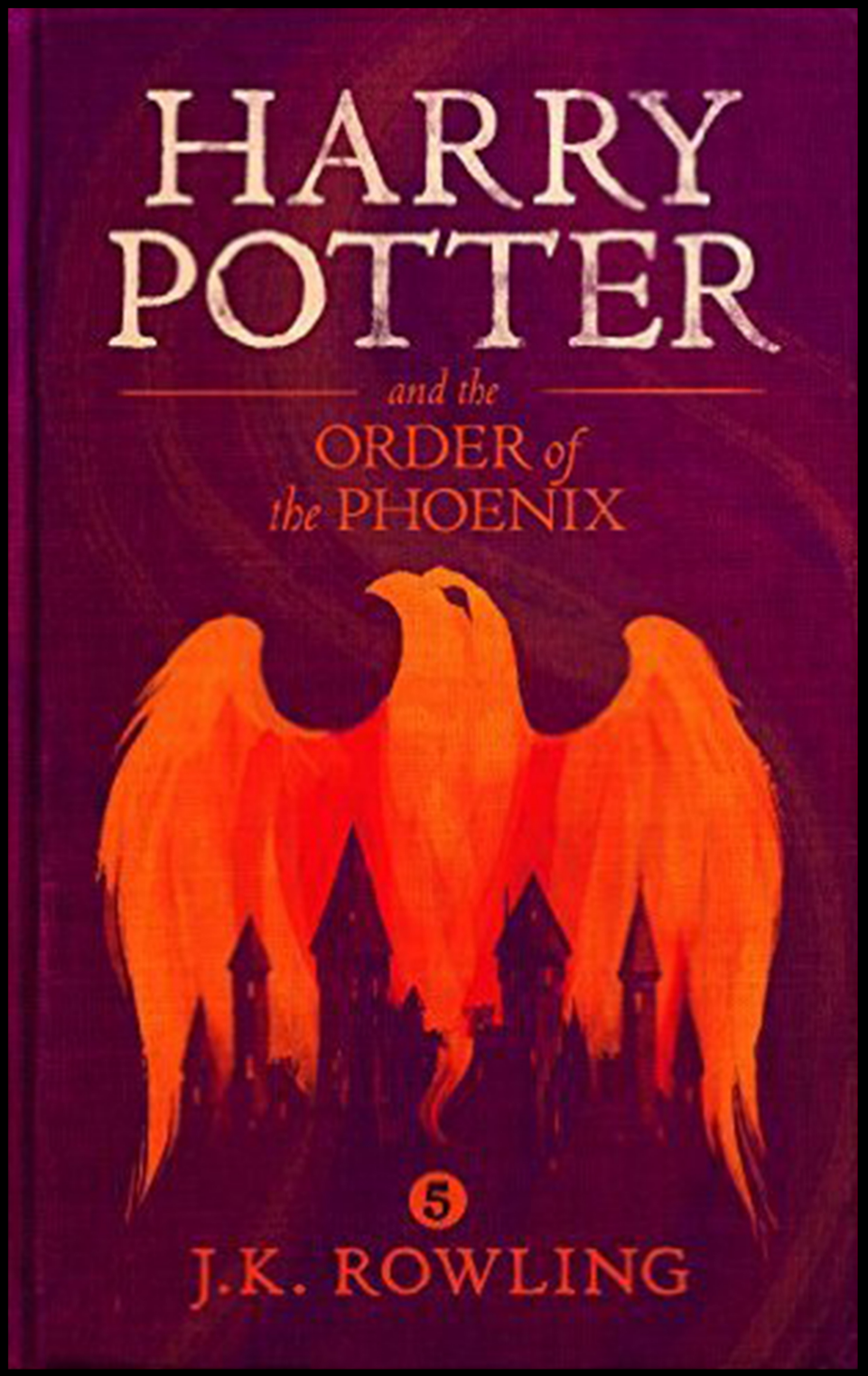
Spring 2025

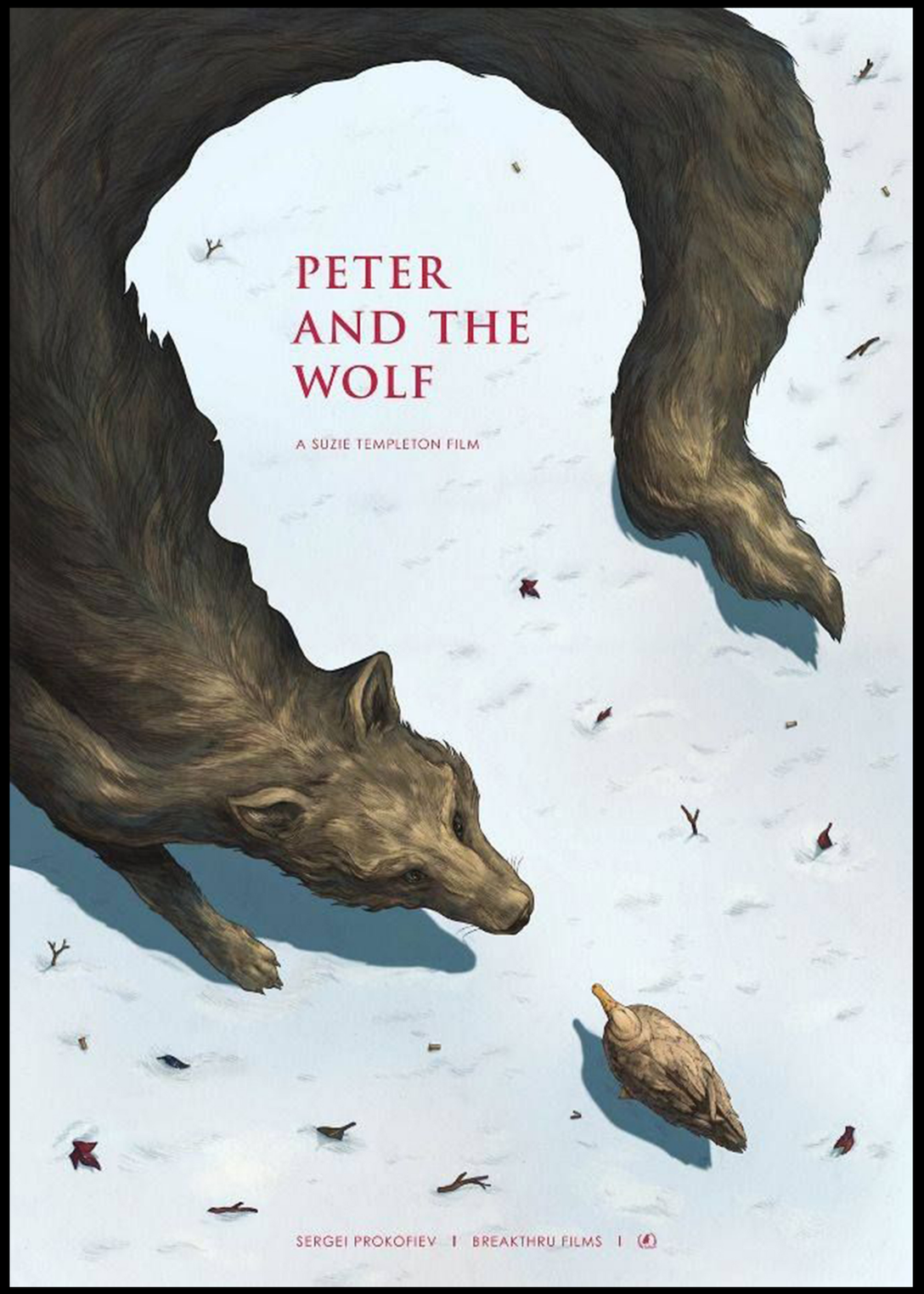

'Compulsive reading …
rich, strange, beautiful'
Helen Macdonald
The Maker of Swans
PARAIC O'DONNELL


A NOVEL
OF WHITE AND SHADY
ROBERT VERLANDER


THE
MAN
IN THE
WOODS
Shirley Jackson

TIMUR VERMES
LOOK
WHO'S BACK
A NOVEL


HARRY
POTTER
and the
ORDER of
the PHOENIX
5
J.K. ROWLING

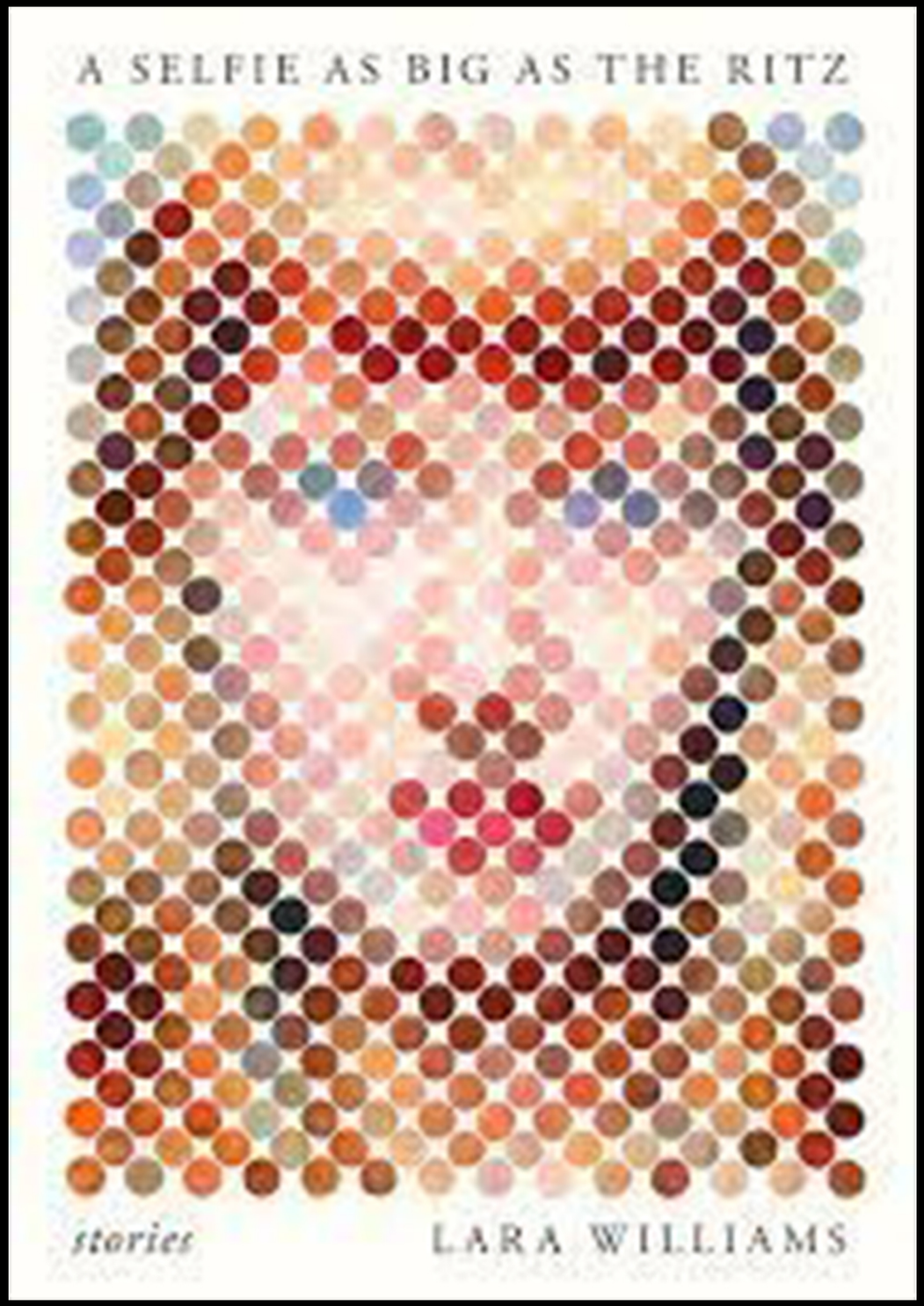

PETER
AND THE
WOLF
A SUZIE TEMPLETON FILM
SERGEI PROKOFIEV | BREAKTHRU FILMS |

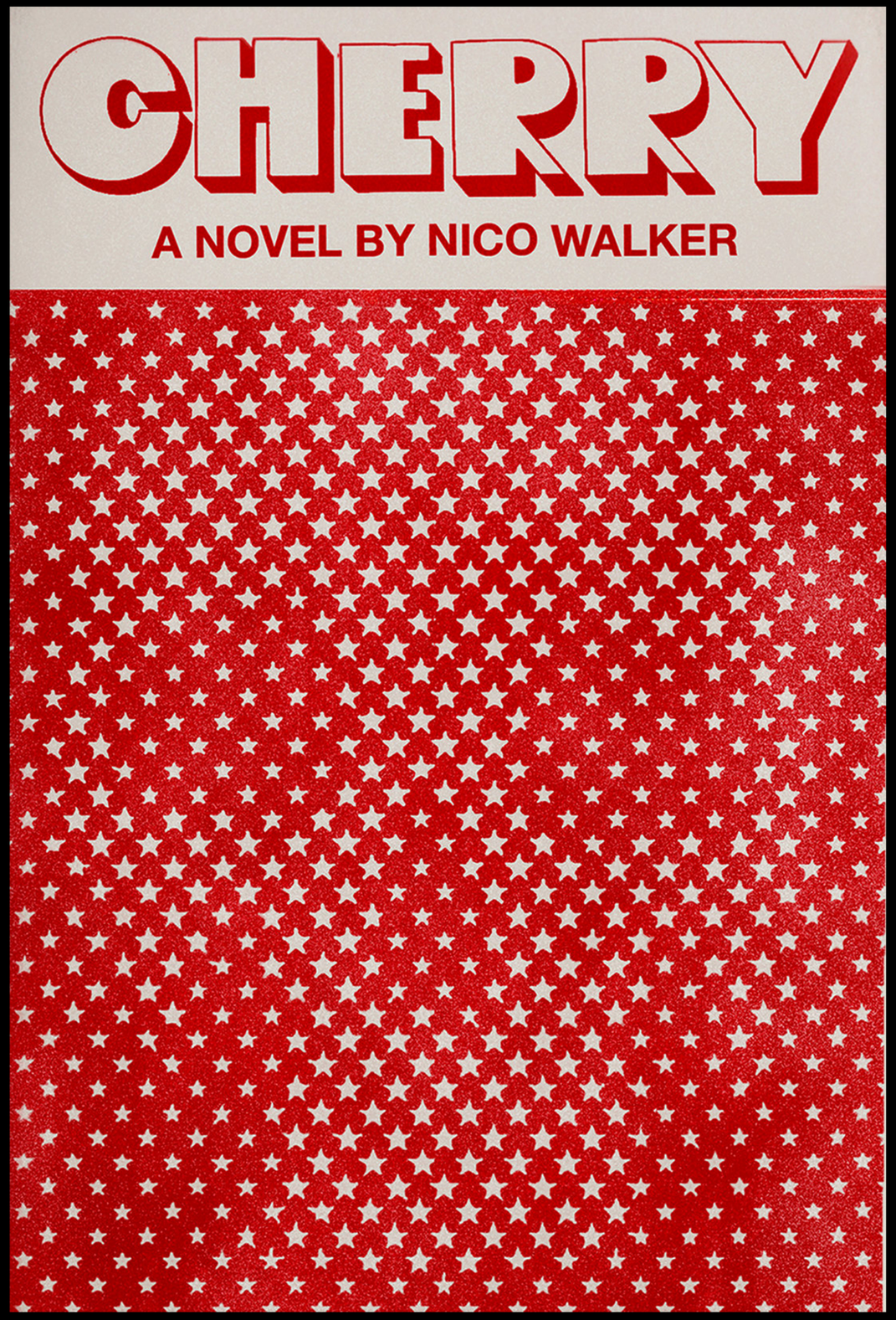
7. Pattern

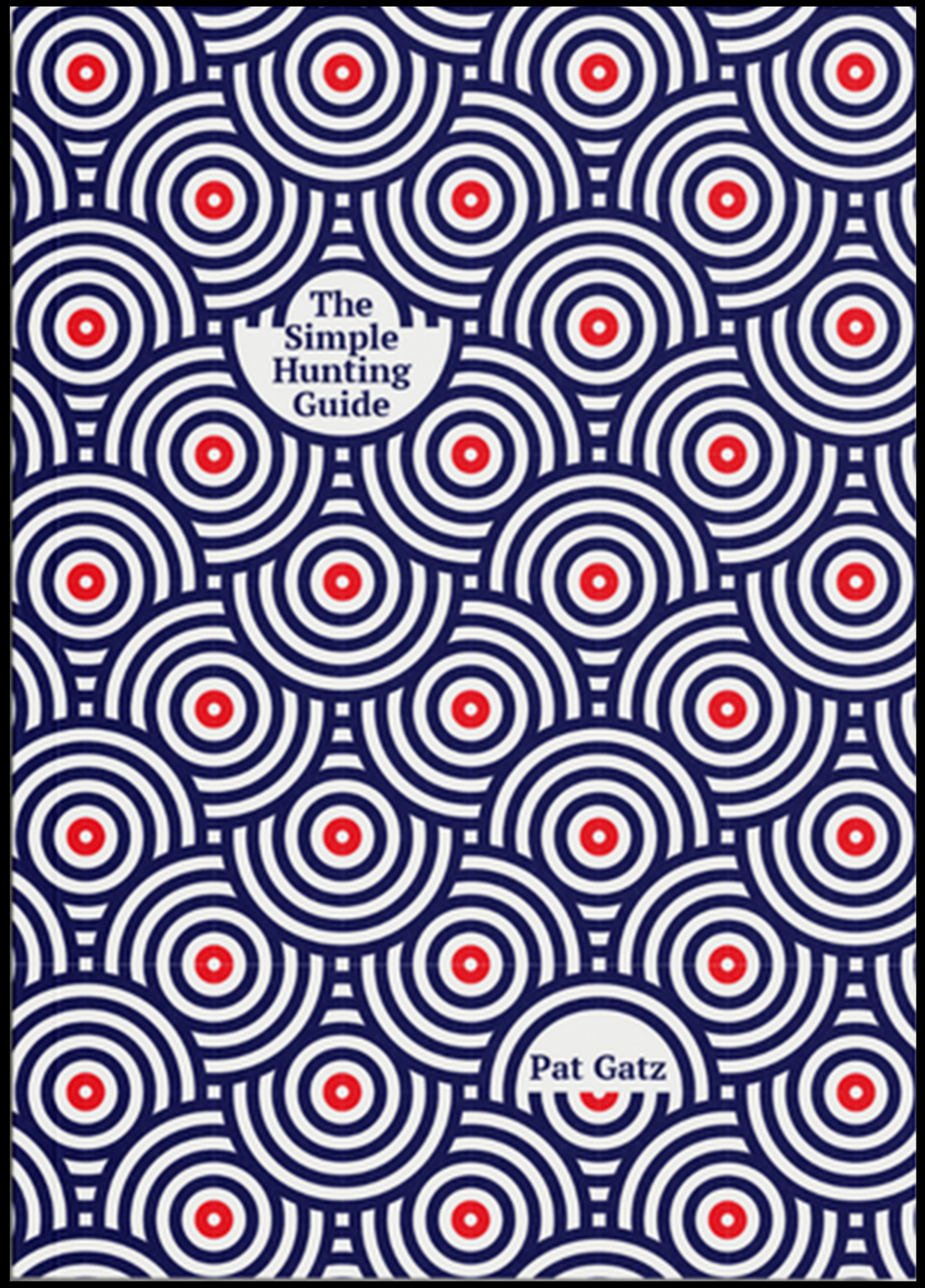
Use pattern to create
rhyme, repetition, rhythm
and movement.

Spring 2025

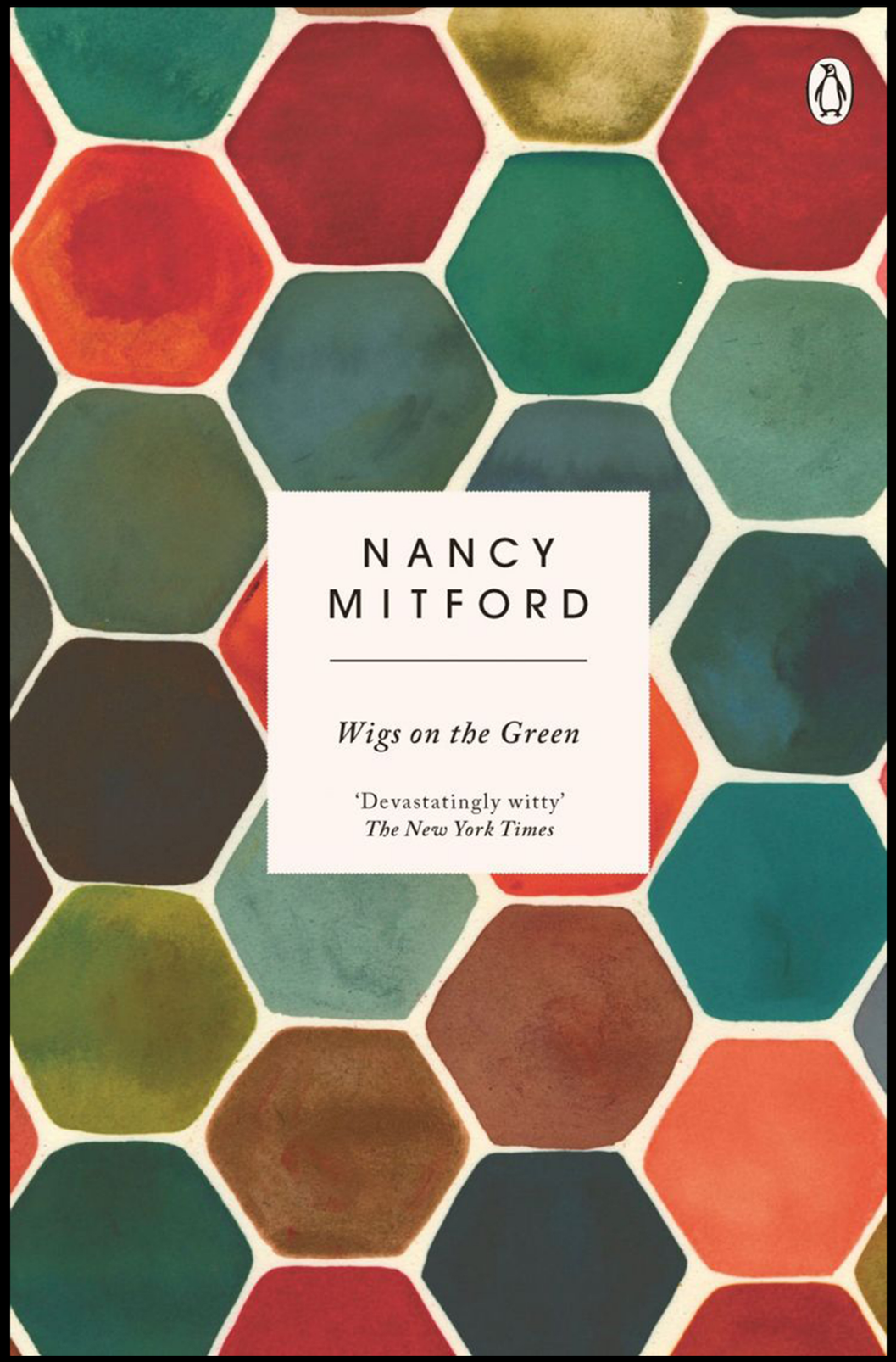
The
MUSEUM
of
MODERN
LOVE
A novel inspired by Marina Abramović
Heather Rose


A SELFIE AS BIG AS THE RITZ
stories
LARA WILLIAMS


CHERRY
A NOVEL BY NICO WALKER


The Simple Hunting Guide
Pat Gatz

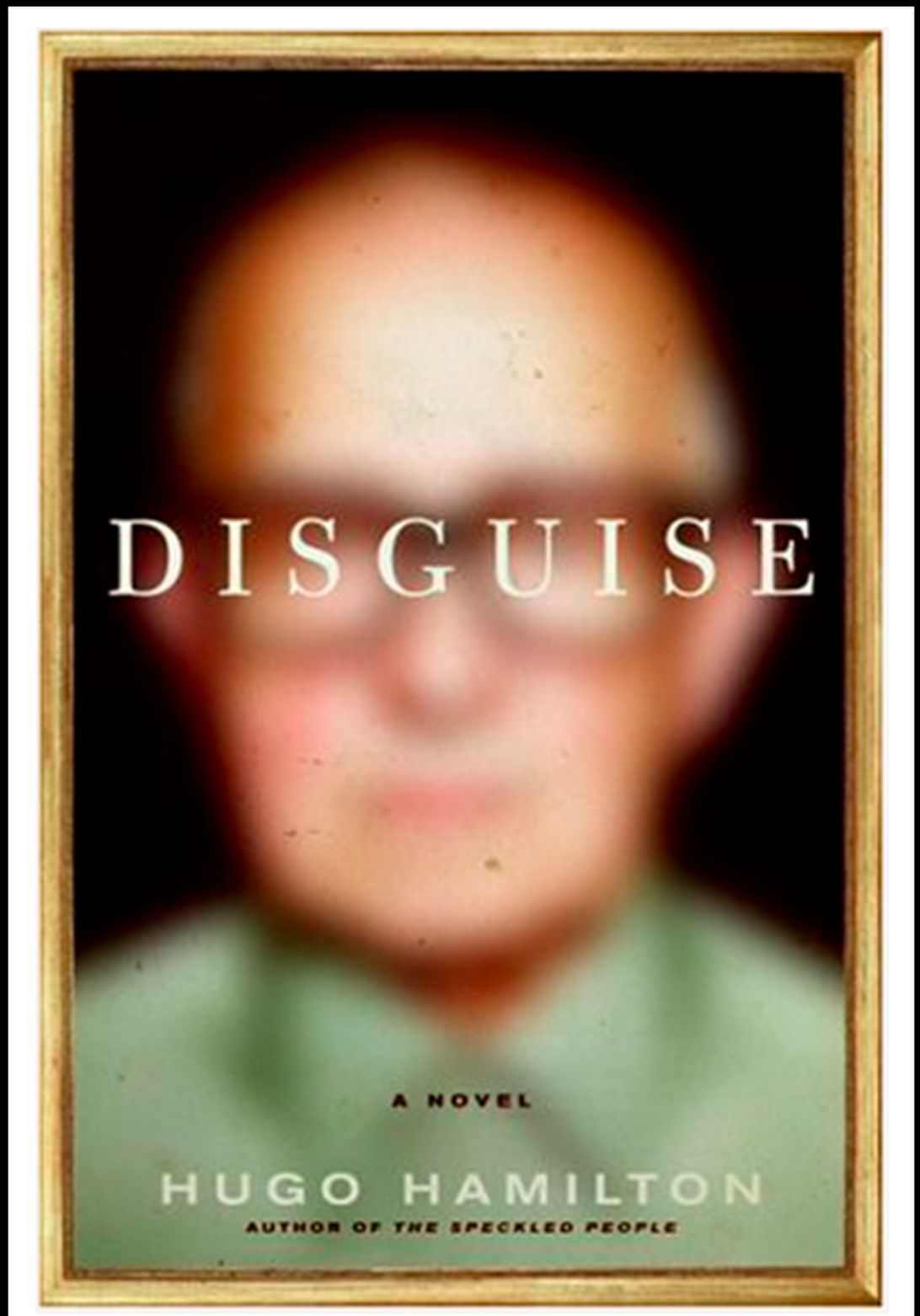
1
LE
VRAI VISAGE
DES
SIRÈNES
ORIGINES
ÉLÉONOR
BLÉMAND

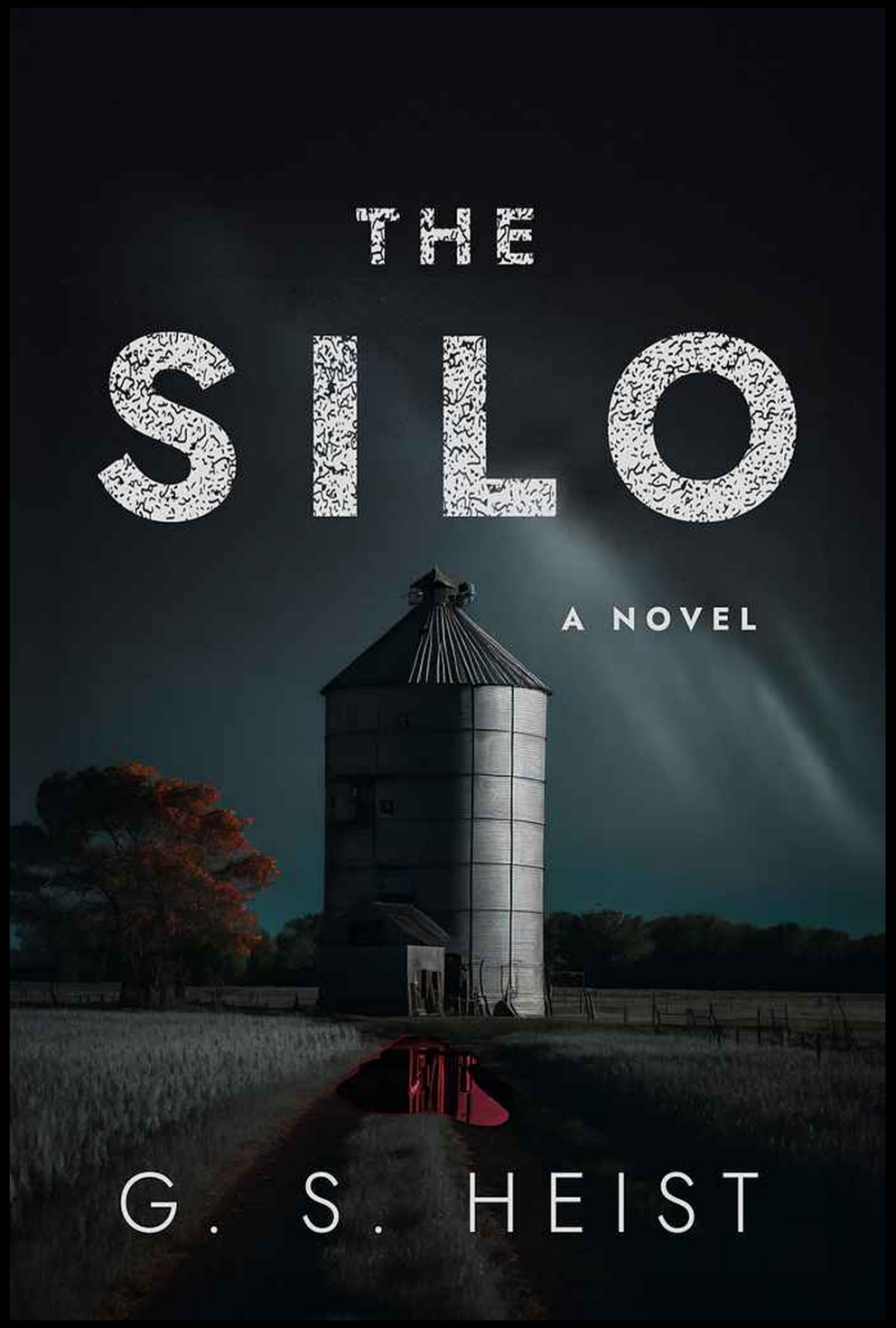

NANCY
MITFORD
Wigs on the Green
'Devastatingly witty'
The New York Times

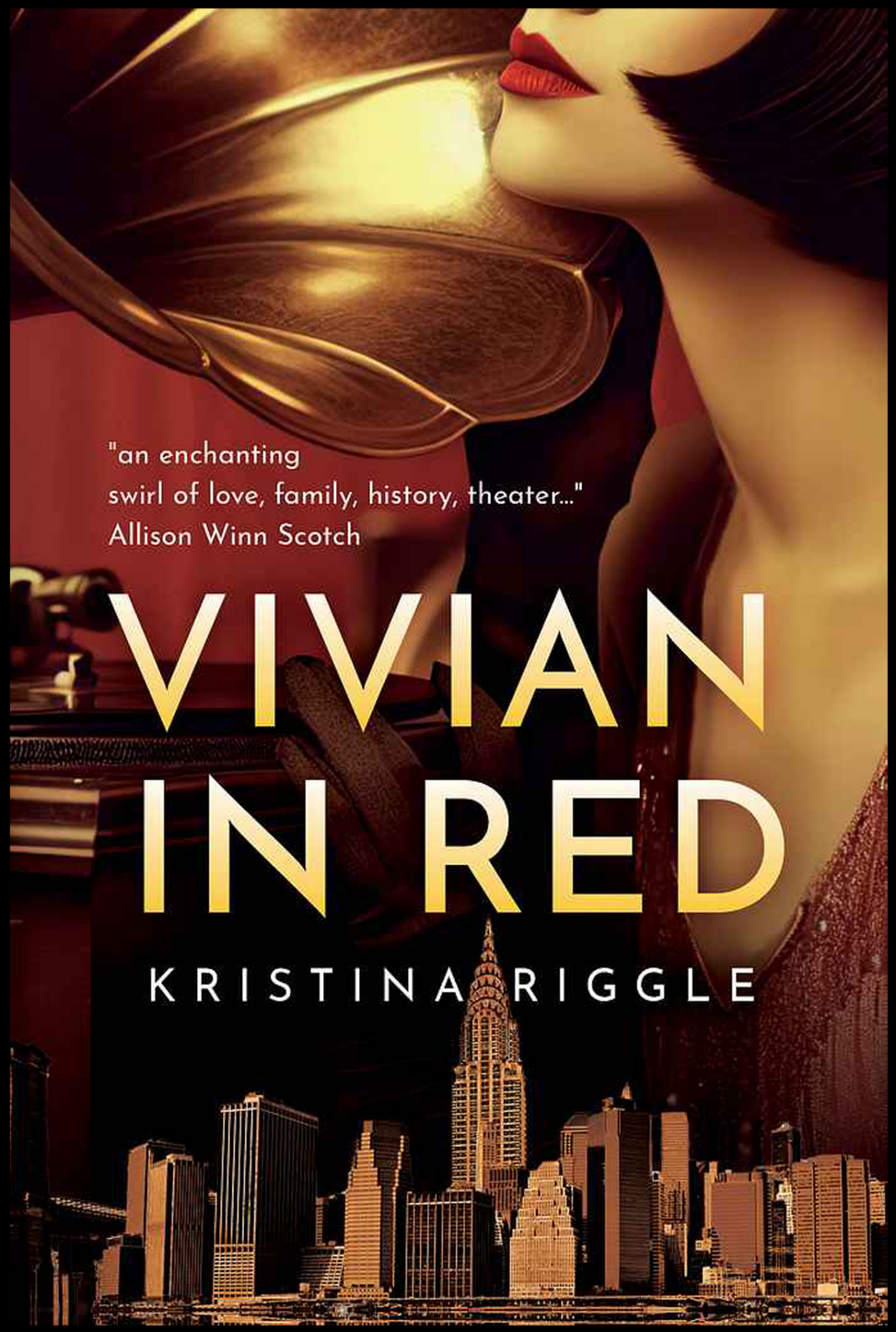
8. Photographic

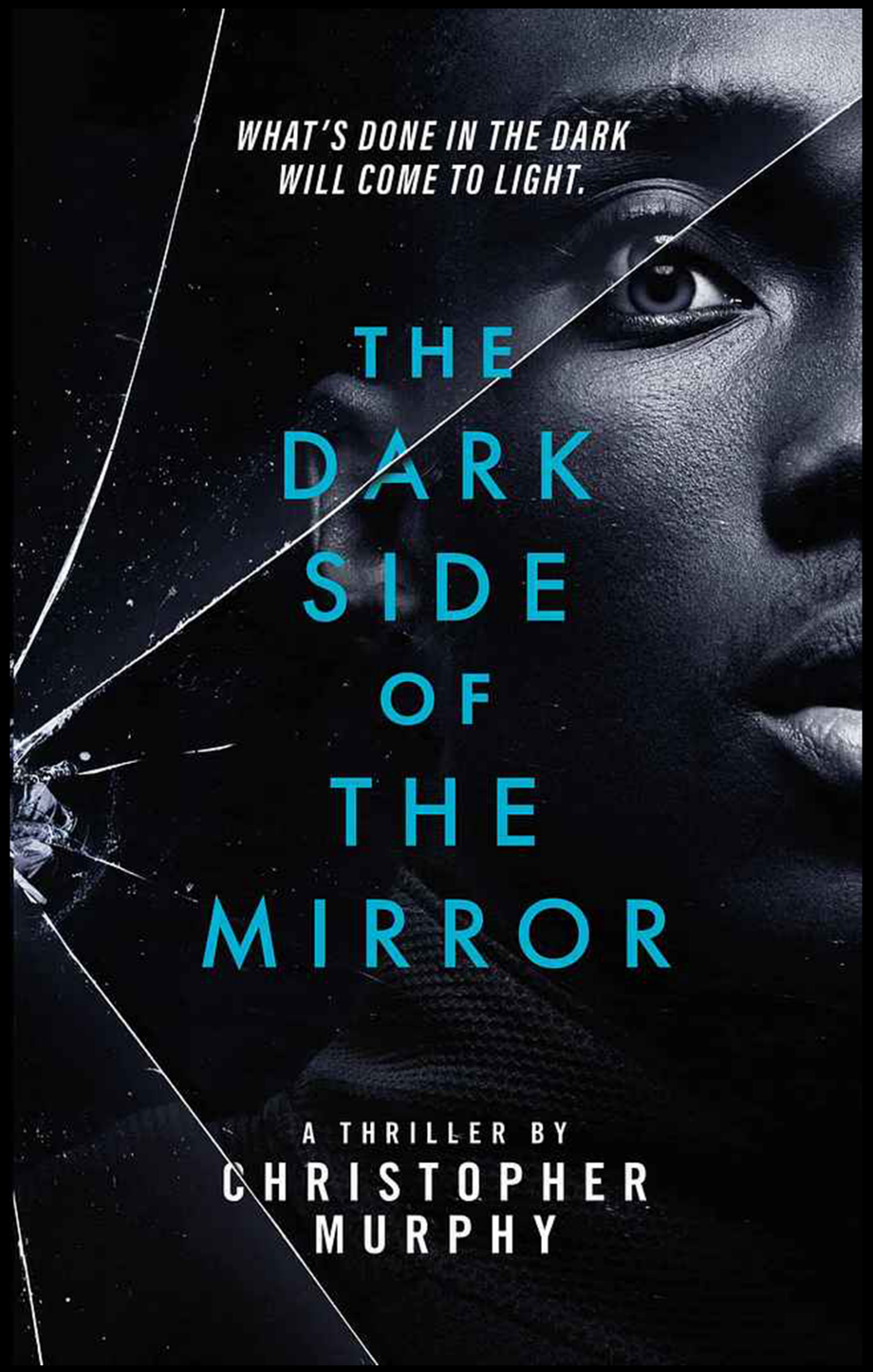
Use portraits and other photographic elements to create realism or surrealism. Use the eyes to engage the viewer.

Spring 2025


DISGUISE
A NOVEL
HUGO HAMILTON
AUTHOR OF THE SPECKLED PEOPLE


THE
SILO
A NOVEL
G. S. HEIST


"an enchanting
swirl of love, family, history, theater..."
Allison Winn Scotch
VIVIAN
IN RED
KRISTINA RIGGLE


WHAT'S DONE IN THE DARK
WILL COME TO LIGHT.
THE
DARK
SIDE
OF
THE
MIRROR
A THRILLER BY
CHRISTOPHER
MURPHY

A life-changing injury and the inspirational journey to overcome the odds

LITTLE BIG STEPS

ARASH BAYATMAKOU

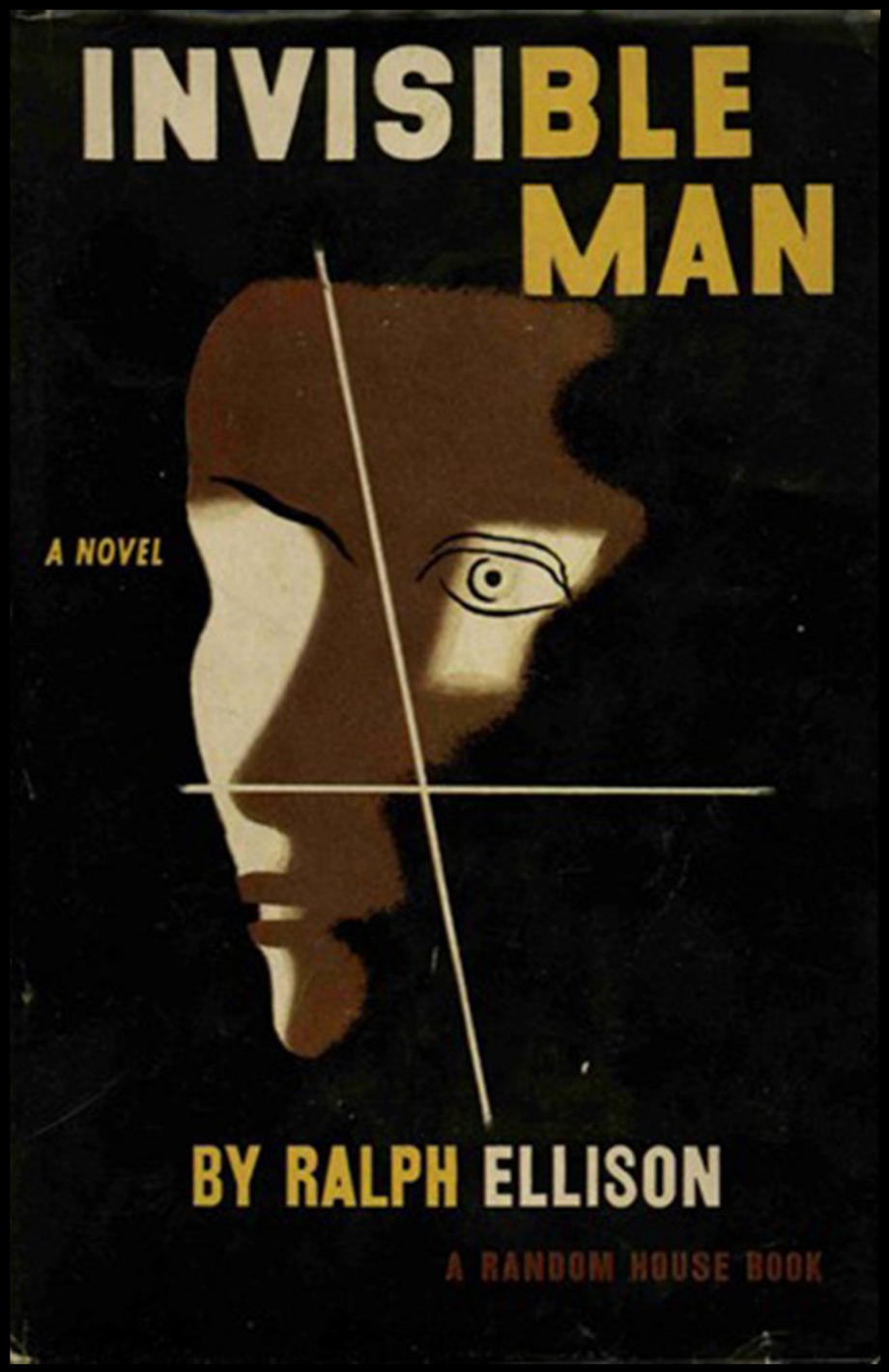
LOVE

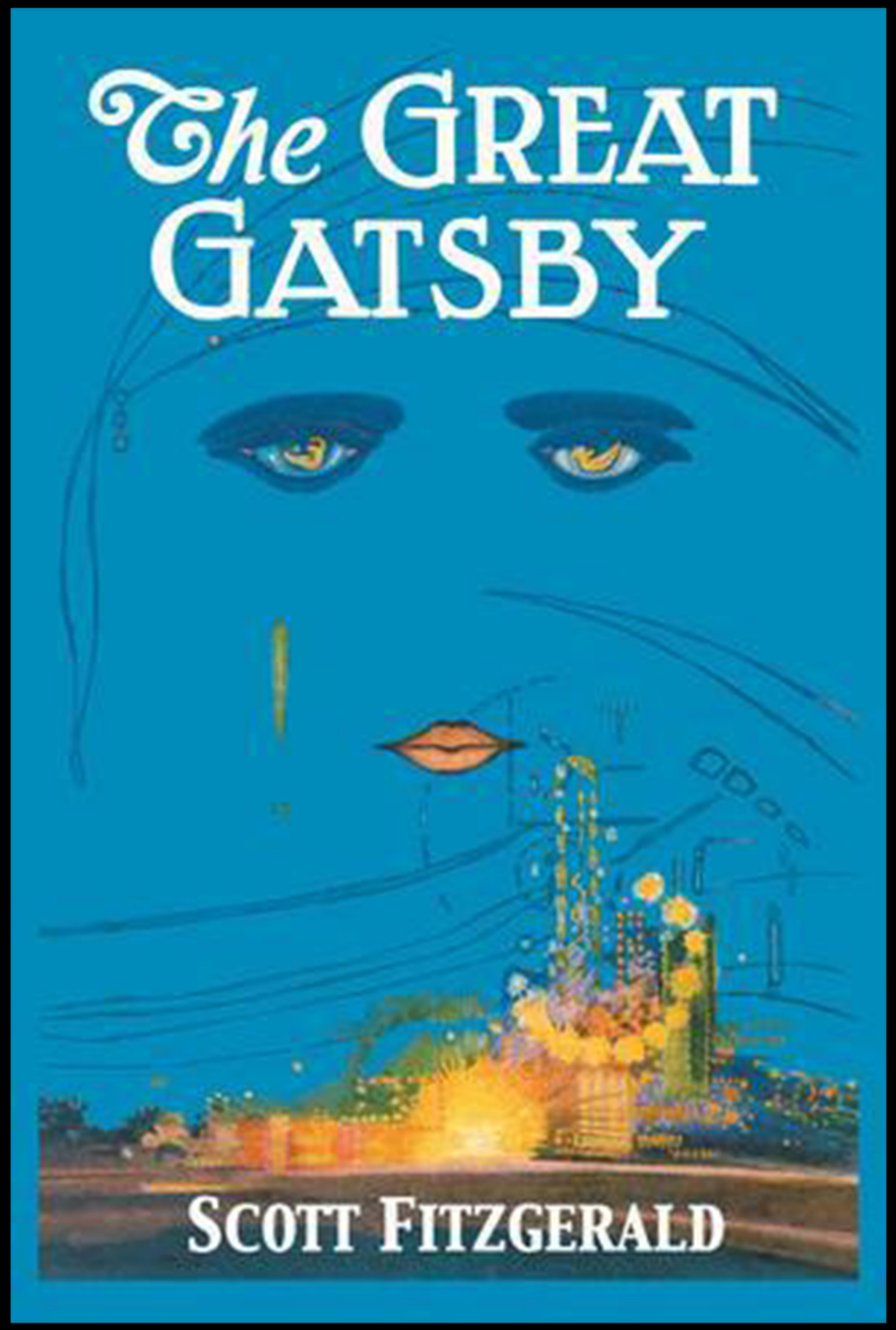
BY OLIVIA WILSON

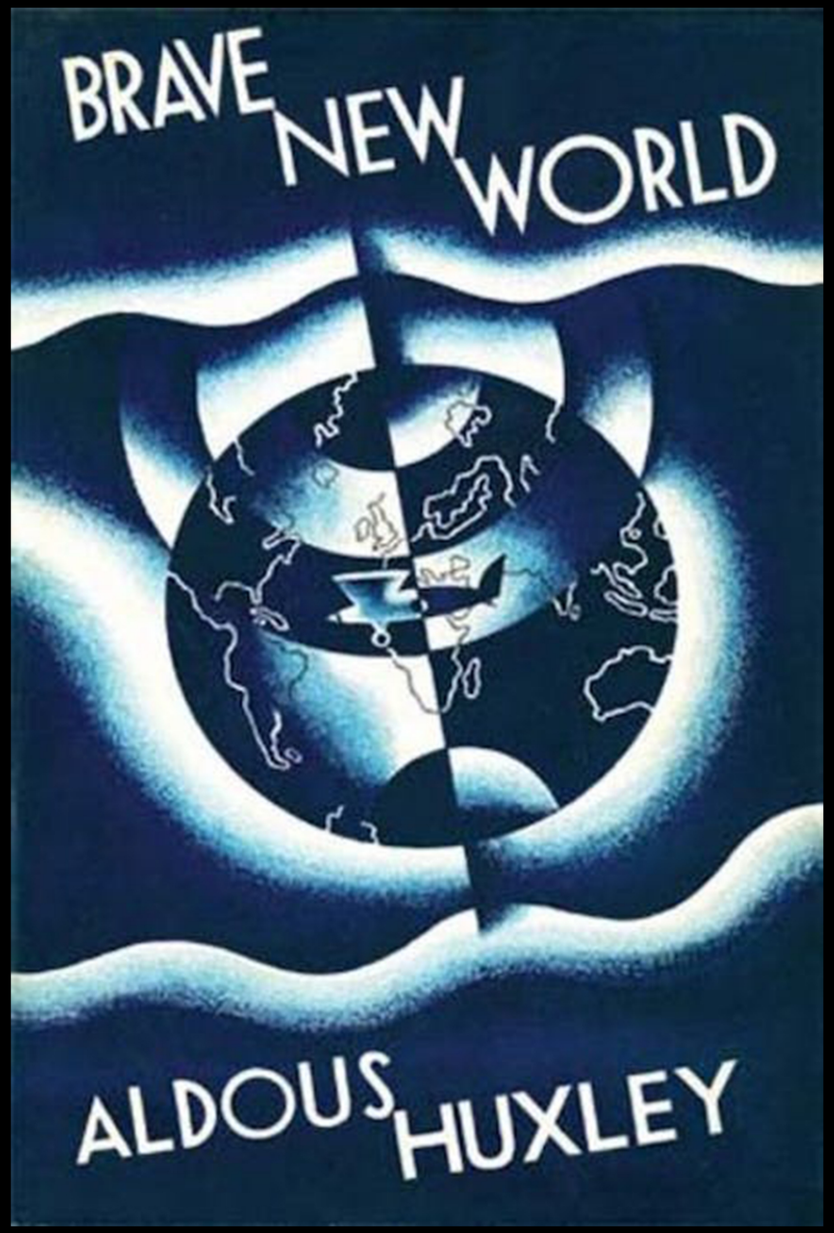
9. Retro

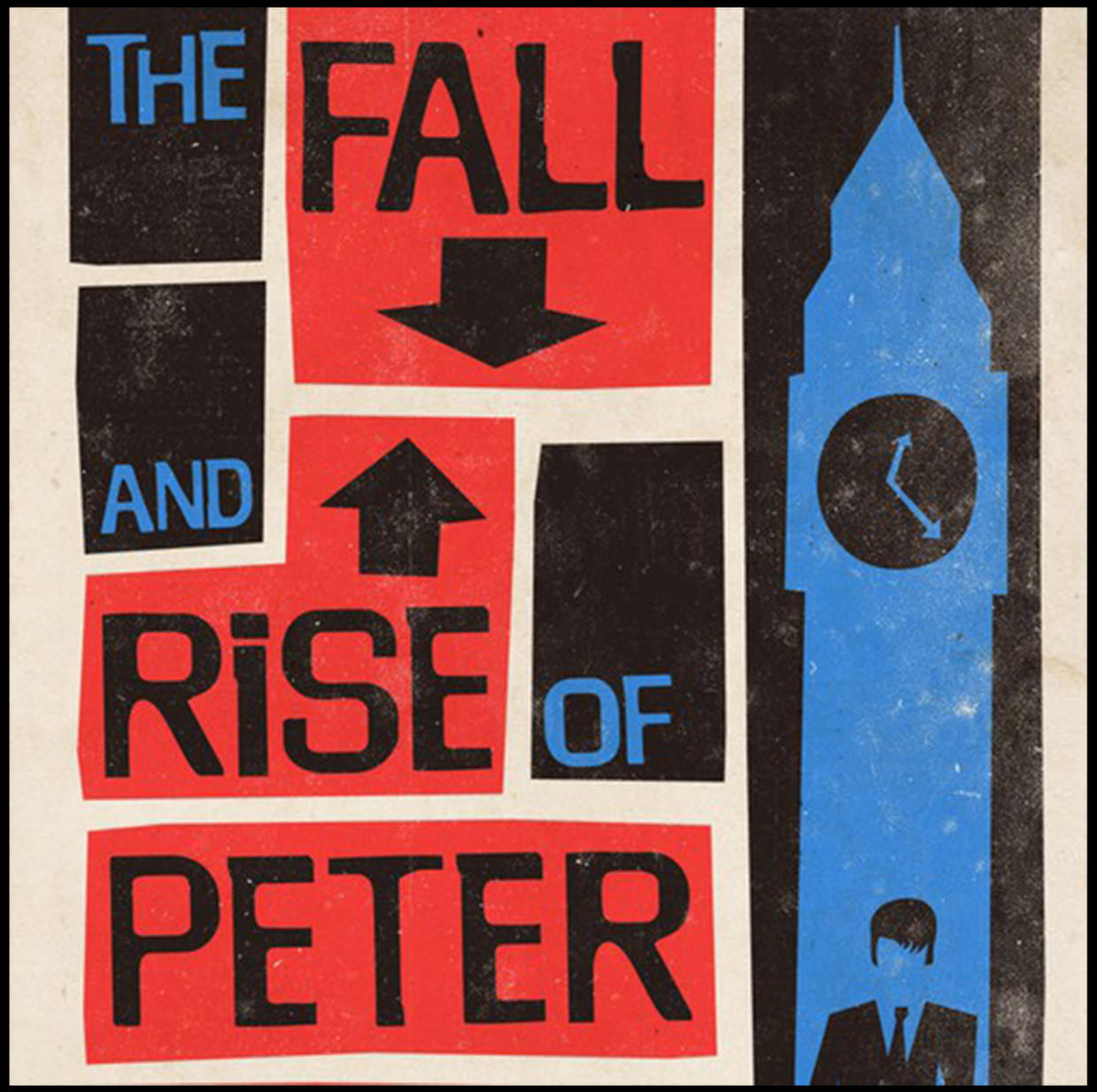
Use vintage visual cues to create a sense of nostalgia.

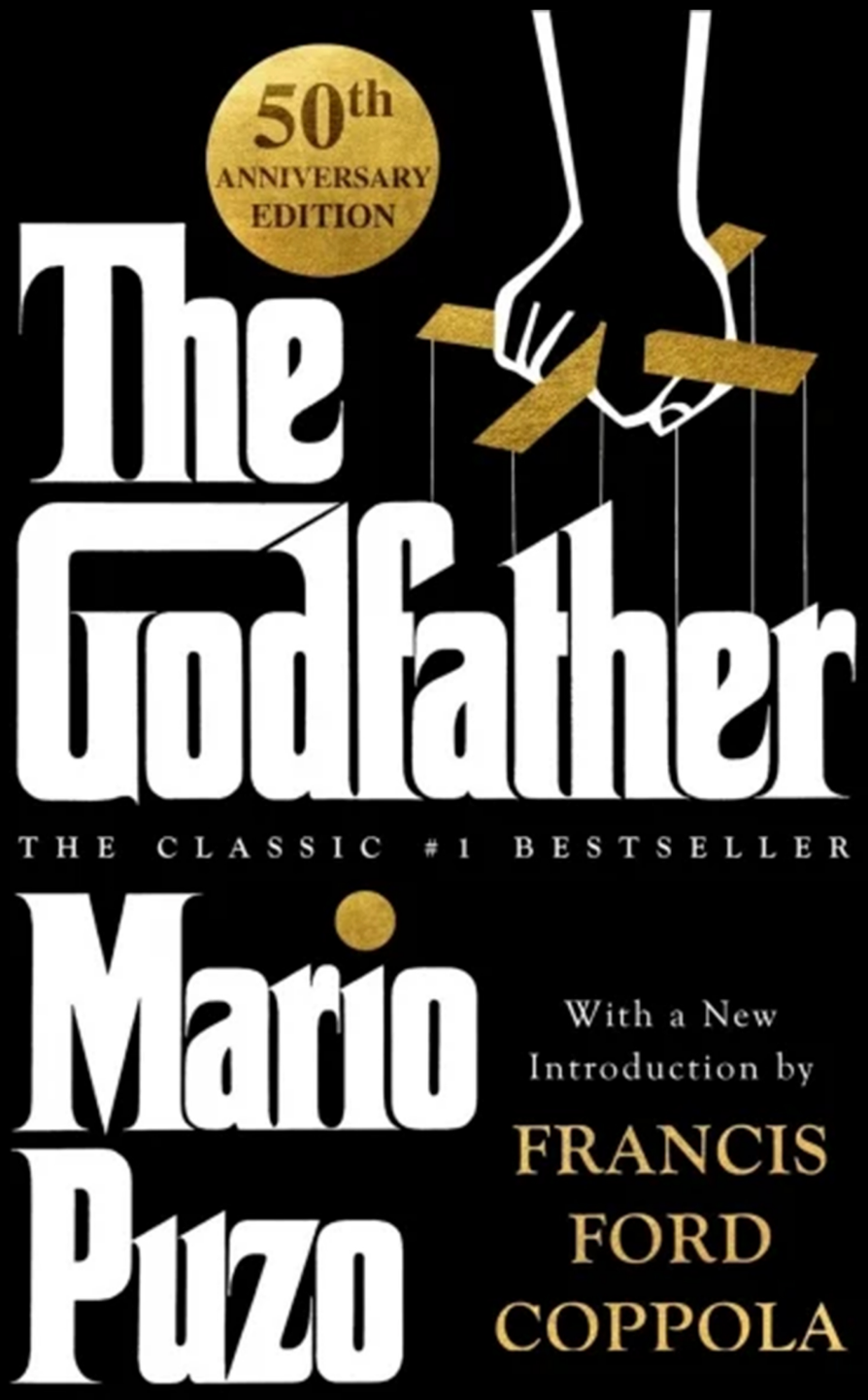
Spring 2025

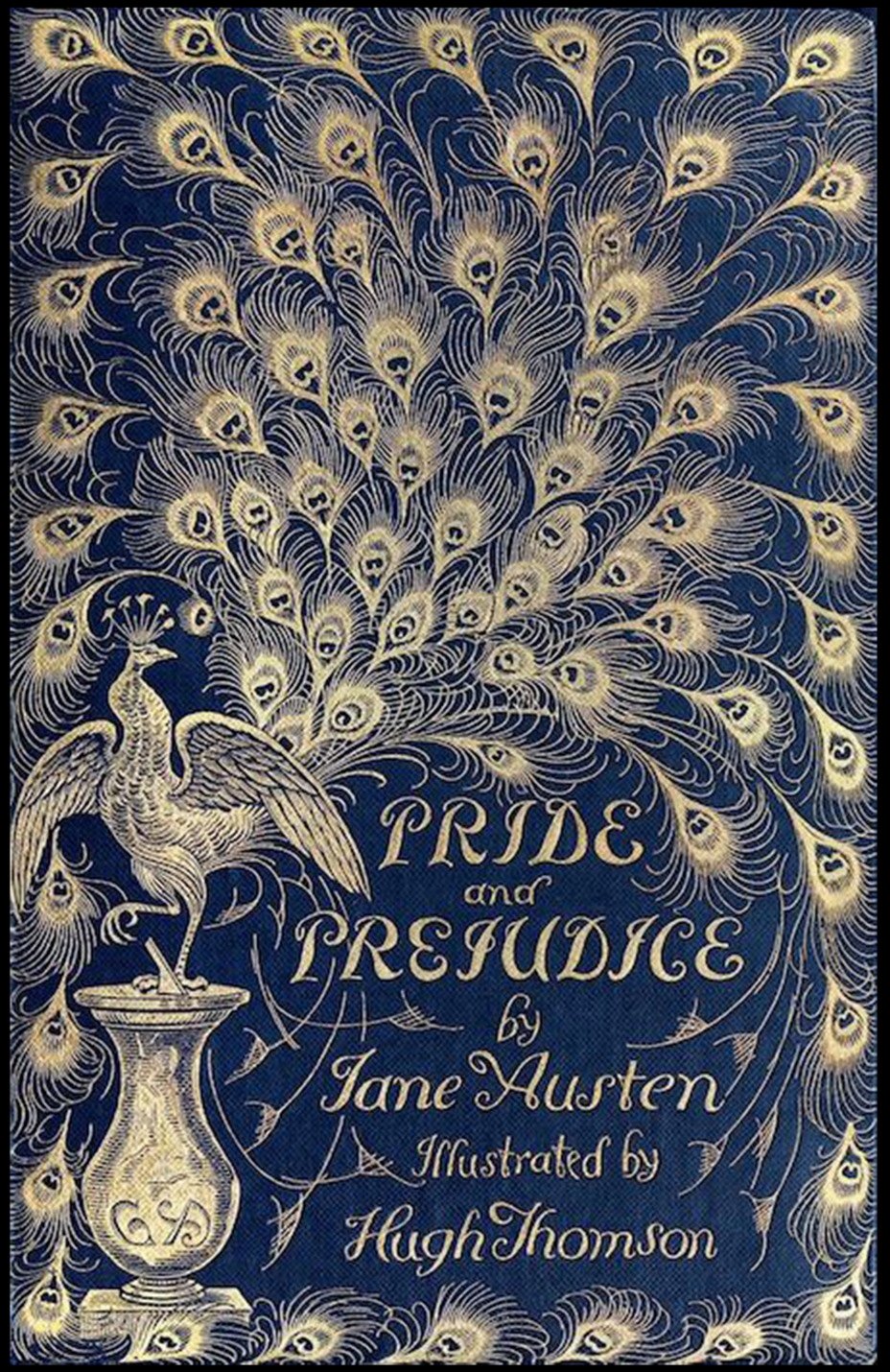

INVISIBLE MAN
A NOVEL
BY RALPH ELLISON
A RANDOM HOUSE BOOK


The GREAT GATSBY
SCOTT FITZGERALD


BRAVE NEW WORLD
ALDOUS HUXLEY


THE FALL
AND
RISE OF
PETER

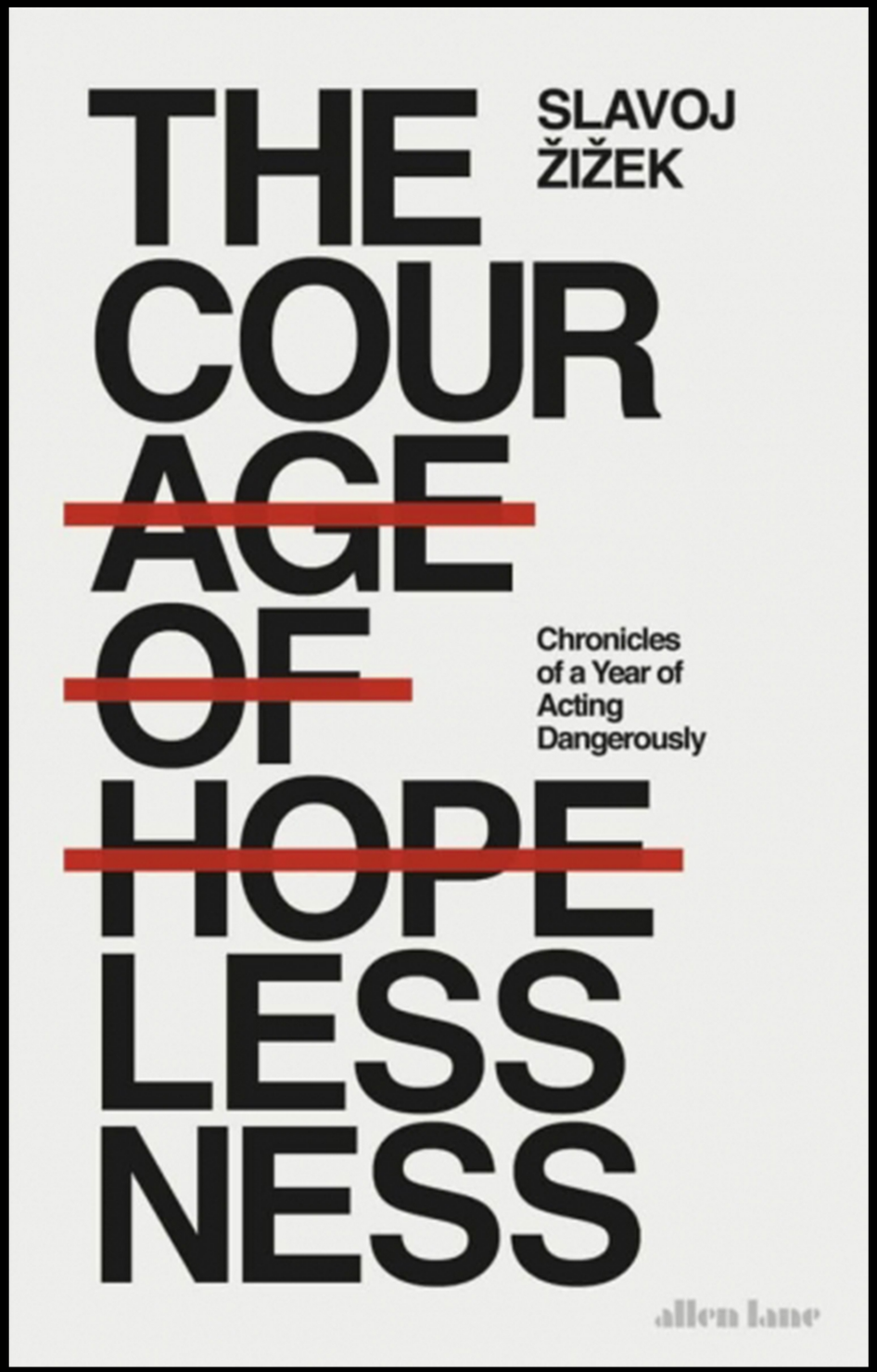

50th
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION
The Godfather
THE CLASSIC #1 BESTSELLER
Mario Puzo
With a New
Introduction by
FRANCIS
FORD
COPPOLA

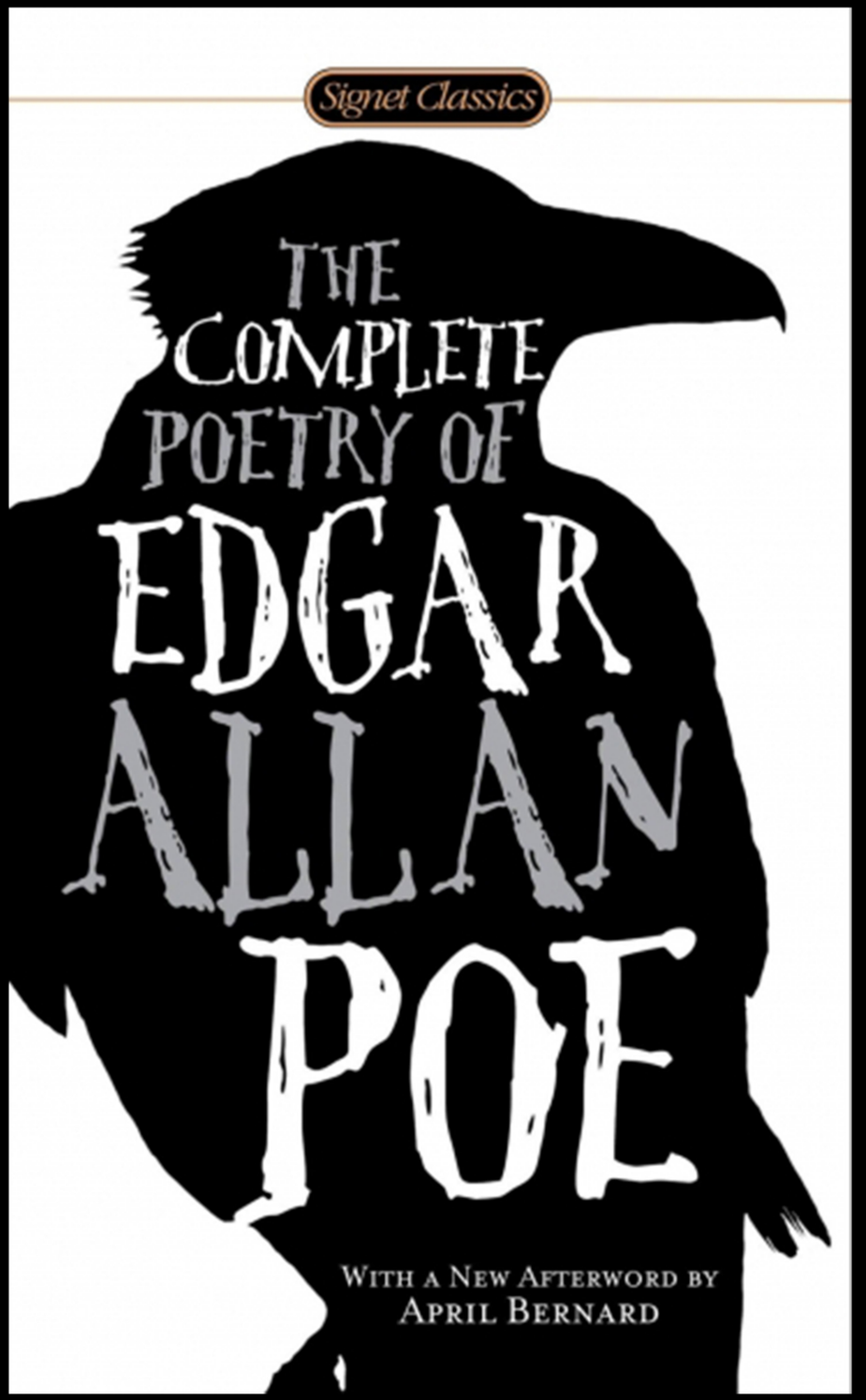

PRIDE
and
PREJUDICE
by
Jane Austen
Illustrated by
Hugh Thomson

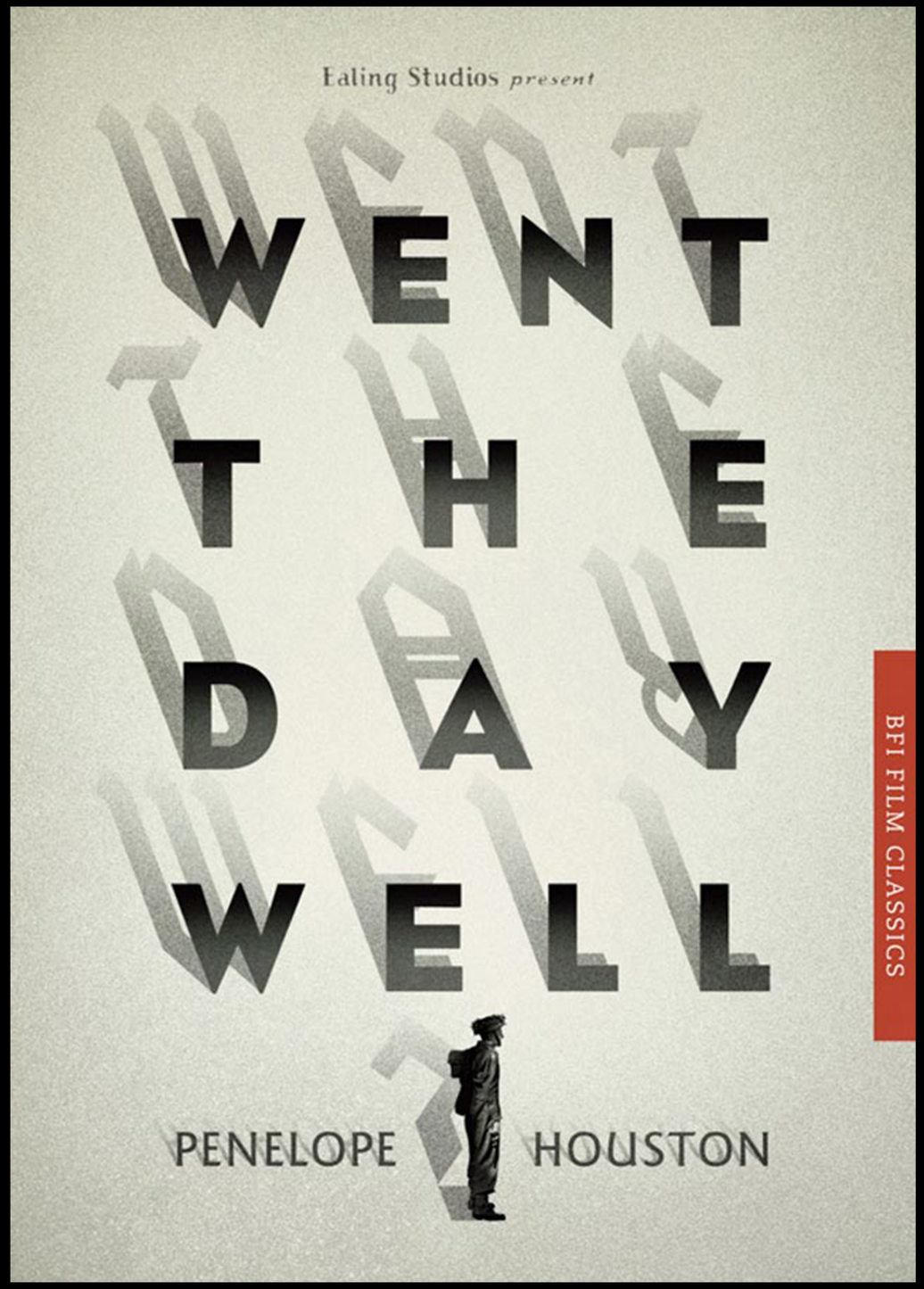
10. Typographic

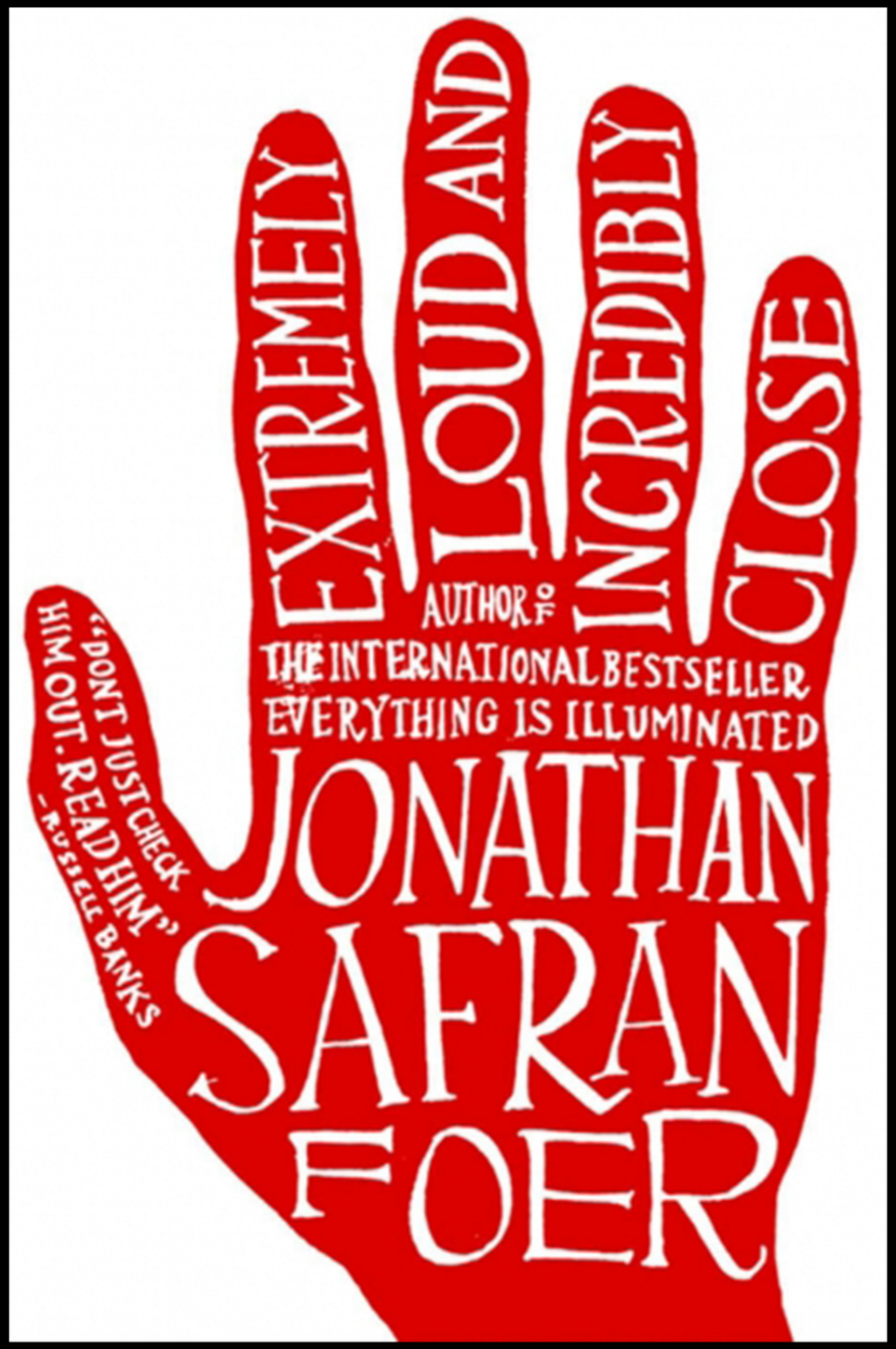
Use type as image to create connections between word and image.

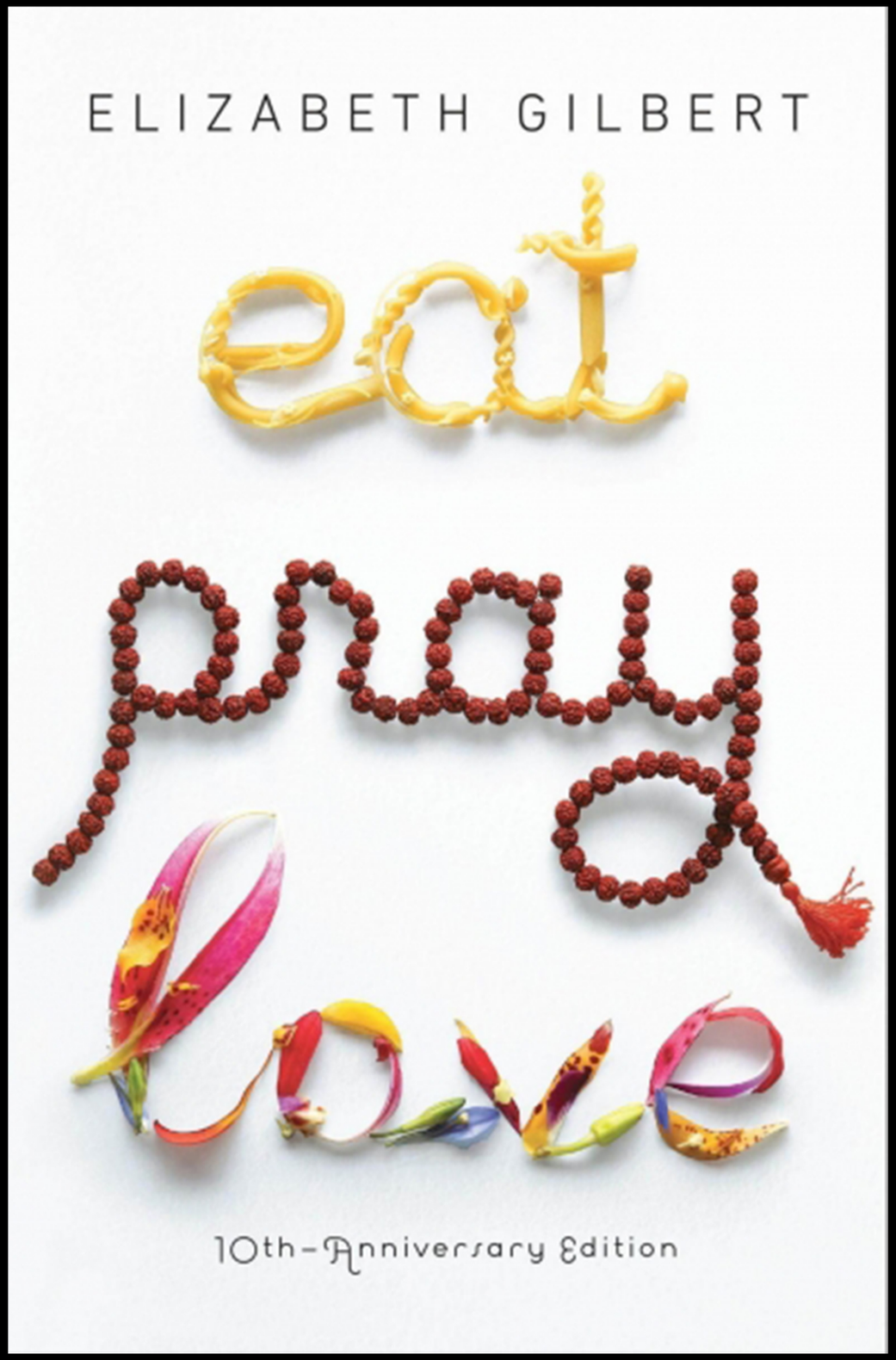
Spring 2025


THE COURAGE OF HOPELESSNESS
SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK
Chronicles of a Year of Acting Dangerously
allen lane


Signet Classics
THE COMPLETE POETRY OF EDGAR ALLAN POE
With a New Afterword by
April Bernard


Ealing Studios present
WENT
THE
DAY
WELL
PENELOPE HOUSTON
BFI FILM CLASSICS


EXTREMELY
LOUD AND
INCREDIBLY
CLOSE
AUTHOR OF
THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED
"DON'T JUST CHECK HIM OUT. READ HIM"
-RUSSELL BANKS
JONATHAN
SAFRAN
FOER


ELIZABETH GILBERT
eat
pray
love
10th-Anniversary Edition

JAMES CASE
COM
PETI
TION
The Birth of a New Science

Formal Approaches

Consider basic principles for how forms inter-relate, aesthetics and human perception such as scale, overlap, Gestalt principles, rhyme & repetition, typeface voice & pairings, tangents to create tension, intersect, alignment, grid systems, and color theory.

Spring 2025