

ALUMNI
BOOKS

POETRY

NECK OF THE WOODS

AMY WOOLARD '08

ALICE JAMES BOOKS

"Neck of the Woods," the debut poetry collection by Amy Woolard '08, "is a hero-quest deep inside the mythos of the American South, wandering through childhood stories in which a girl alone must work to save herself," according to her publisher.

The writing was heavily inspired by the loss of a close friend of Woolard's to suicide. Part elegy, part survivor's testimony, "Neck of the Woods" was published

this year after winning the 2018 Alice James Award.

Fantastical imagery, such as that from the "The Wizard of Oz," is integral to the poetry's visual landscape.

"Using the tropes and scaffolding of fairy tales and childhood stories helped me talk about my path through this grief in a way that I hope helps it become more than just narrative," she told the Southern Review of Books.

The book has earned favorable reviews for Woolard, an attorney and policy coordinator for the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville. In her day job, she represents indigent children in education, foster care and juvenile court matters.

"Woolard's writing is full of memorable juxtapositions and turns of phrase, among them: 'I was asked to show up with a side-dish. I made / A slaw of my longing' and 'whiskey moves through me

like / it's checking me for ticks,'" reads a Publisher's Weekly write-up.

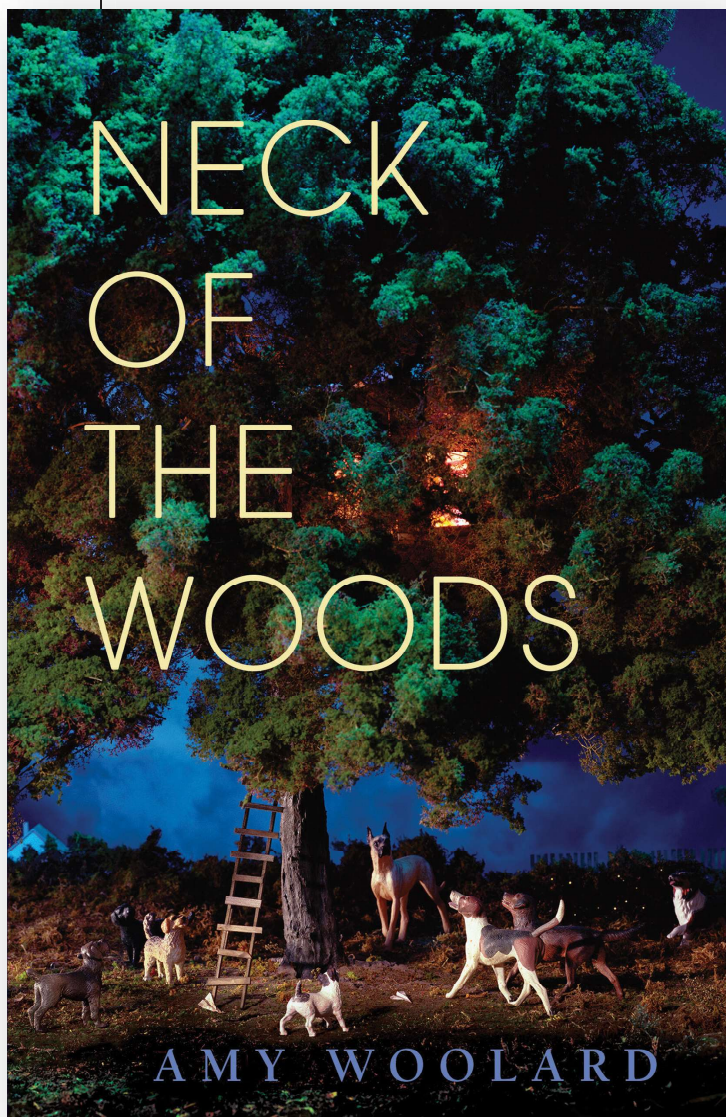
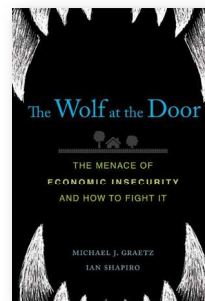
"This debut offers a troubled journey delivered by a voice the reader will want to keep listening to."

Woolard is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her poems have appeared in The New Yorker, Ploughshares and The Paris Review, and in the Best New Poets 2013 and 2015 anthologies, among other publications.

She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vermont Studio Center and the Breadloaf Writers' Conference.

In addition, she is an essayist and reporter. Virginia Quarterly Review awarded her the Staige D. Blackford Prize for Nonfiction in 2016.

—Eric Williamson

NON-
FICTION

THE WOLF AT THE DOOR

The Menace of Economic Insecurity and How to Fight It

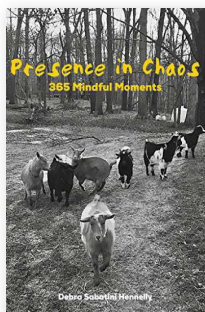
MICHAEL J. GRAETZ '69
AND IAN SHAPIRO

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

In "The Wolf at the Door," two political analysts argue that, despite public railing against the 1% and other class warfare, what really worries people is not how much money the very rich are making, but rather their own financial insecurity and that of people close to them.

"Americans are concerned about losing what they have, whether jobs, status or safe communities," Graetz and Shapiro say. "They fear the wolf at the door. The solution is not protectionism or class warfare but a return to the hard work of building coalitions around realistic goals and pursuing them doggedly through the political system."

This, the authors suggest, is how earlier reformers achieved meaningful changes, from the abolition of the slave trade to civil rights legislation. The authors make recommendations for increasing the number of jobs, improving wages, protecting families suffering from unemployment, and providing better health insurance and child care.



PRESENCE IN CHAOS
365 Mindful Moments
DEBRA SABATINI HENNELLY '88
RESILITI

A collection of thought-provoking quotes illustrated with the author's original photography, "Presence in Chaos" is the product of Hennelly's focus on finding mindfulness through creativity. This book is laid out in a quote-a-day format, intended to inspire taking a little time each day to be present "in the moment," helping to focus on building resilience amid the chaos that can come with our day-to-day lives.

For Hennelly, "like so many in middle-age reflection, life feels like a blur since her 20s—juggling all the commitments in her work and in raising a family—sometimes chaotic, sometimes just plain exhausting. Some of it was self-imposed; some of it came with the territory of working in law firms and 'corporate-land,' surrounded by high-achievers and soccer moms."

She said the book was an attempt to "reset" herself to avoid burnout: "Put on your own oxygen mask before assisting the person next to you, right?"

DAMON RUNYON ON THE 1920 PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTIONS

27 Newspaper Columns about the Republican and Democratic National Conventions of 1920 by Damon Runyon

Edited by Nicholas Kessler

DAMON RUNYON ON THE 1920 PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTIONS

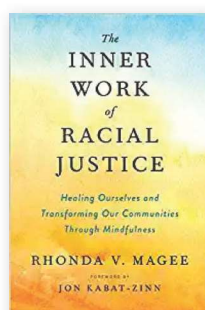
27 Newspaper Columns about the Republican and Democratic National Conventions of 1920

EDITED BY NICHOLAS KESSLER '99

KINDLE PUBLISHING

Damon Runyon, best known today for authoring the short stories behind "Guys and Dolls" and other fiction, is also remembered as a journalist who wrote about sports and politics. As a prominent newspaper writer in 1920, he covered that year's Republican and Democratic conventions.

This book is a collection of 27 newspaper columns written by Runyon about the conventions, published between June 6 and July 11, 1920—including commentary before and after each convention, and a series of observations made between conventions.



THE INNER WORK OF RACIAL JUSTICE

Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities Through Mindfulness

RHONDA V. MAGEE '93

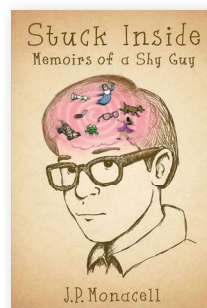
TARCHERPERIGEE

Magee says that in order to have the difficult conversations required for working toward racial justice, inner work is essential. Through the practice of embodied mindfulness—

paying attention to one's thoughts, feelings and physical sensations in an open, nonjudgmental way—emotional resilience can be increased, biases recognized and reactivity to stress reduced.

Magee endeavors to show that embodied mindfulness calms fears and helps exercise self-compassion. "These practices help us to slow down and reflect on microaggressions—to hold them with some objectivity and distance—rather than bury unpleasant experiences so they have a cumulative effect over time," she contends.

Magee's goal is to help readers develop the capacity to address the fears and anxieties that might otherwise lead someone to re-create patterns of separation and division.



STUCK INSIDE

Memoirs of a Shy Guy

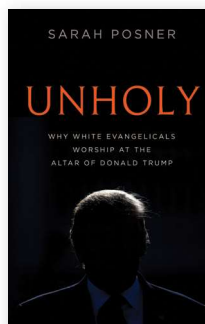
JAMES P. MONACELL '78

LULU.COM

Through vignettes, the author depicts his struggles, as a boy, teen and man suffering from excruciating shyness, and his progress in conquering his affliction.

Raised Catholic in the Washington, D.C., suburbs, "little Jimmy" finds himself literally and figuratively on a runaway go-kart, with only the vaguest idea of how to control the braking or steering. Arriving at William & Mary, Monacell is fascinated by an "unrepressed" girl and works to form a relationship. He chronicles other efforts to overcome

his shyness: serving for a stint as a crisis counselor, striving to become an Atlanta mega-firm lawyer and rising to the challenge of being a father of three children.



UNHOLY

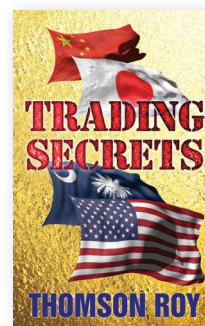
Why White Evangelicals Worship at the Altar of Donald Trump

SARAH POSNER '90

RANDOM HOUSE

Posner, who has been covering the religious right for decades, sets out to answer the question posed by her book's title. According to her publisher, Random House, "Posner digs deep into the radical history of the religious right to reveal how issues of race and xenophobia have always been at the movement's core and how religion often cloaked anxieties about perceived threats to a white Christian America. Fueled by an antidemocratic impulse, and united by this narrative of reverse victimization, the religious right and the alt-right support a common agenda—and are actively using the erosion of democratic norms to roll back civil rights, stock the judiciary with hard-right judges, defang and deregulate federal agencies, and undermine the credibility of the free press."

FICTION



TRADING SECRETS

THOMSON ROY '73

CREATE SPACE

It's 1978, and Jake Payne, a small-town trial lawyer, longs for big-time corporate practice to escape his past. Then he snags his biggest and, he hopes, last case: theft of industrial trade secrets. It could be his way out. But obstacles arise, multiply and turn nasty, from curious anomalies to anonymous assaults to recurring death threats. He ends up with an unlikely but talented international squad, escaping an insanely wealthy and powerful Japanese ultranationalist and his deeply embedded agents from Tokyo to Texas. They race to beat a deadline and foil an assassination attempt with major geopolitical consequences.