

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Fall 2026



What Kind of Mother A Reckoning Judy Sandler

A mother's memoir that reckons with her son's descent into severe mental illness. What appears to be substance use disorder in high school later becomes a dual diagnosis as bipolar disorder emerges. Her son soon grows disillusioned with prescribed pharmaceuticals and participates in a residential treatment program that assists people in forgoing medication altogether. However, the program ultimately ejects him from the community for the very behaviors that the medication once managed. The book chronicles Sandler's initial denial of her truth, her painful awakening to mental illness in her family, and her eventual acceptance that she cannot save her son—only he can save himself.

“I confess I didn’t recognize my own son in the parking lot of the Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit. His jaunty trot now a shuffling gait. A thin cap, knotted at the top, pulled over his head. I wanted to ask this man, ‘Have you seen my son?’ Do you know where my devilish boy went? Excuse me, you seem a lot like him. Yet, you can’t possibly be him.’ We don’t intentionally wound our children with such questions. So, I said, ‘I like your hat.’ And he said, ‘Thanks, the night nurse made it for me. Out of a glove.’”

—From
What Kind of Mother: A Reckoning

“*What Kind of Mother* is a heartbreakingly vulnerable and sobering portrayal of what it is like to watch your child spiral into addiction and reckon with the life-altering effects of mental illness. With searing honesty, Judy Sandler takes us into her complex journey of retracing the family history and parenting decisions that might make her culpable in the ongoing story of her son’s struggle to find equilibrium.”

—Melanie Brooks, author of *A Hard Silence: One Daughter Remaps Family, Grief, and Faith when HIV/AIDS Changes It All*

Connective Tissue series

09/08/2026 | 356pp | 5.5x8.25in | Paperback original
PB 9781959000808 | epub 9781959000815 | PDF 9781959000822

\$22.99 Trade | \$11.47 eFormats

Memoir - Health Humanities | Narrative Medicine | Motherhood | Addiction | Bipolar Disorder



About Judy Sandler

Judy Sandler is the creative nonfiction editor for both *The Stonecoast Review* and *The Awakenings Review*. She holds an MLA from Johns Hopkins University and an MFA from Stonecoast, at the University of Southern Maine. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*’s “Tiny Love Stories,” *The Atticus Review*, and *Pangyrus*. Sandler and her husband, who live in mid-coast Maine, are the parents of three adult children. This is her first book.

Photo by Hannah Lord



connective
tissue



Meghana Mysore's powerful debut collection of short fiction **Let All Our Ghosts Depart** Stories

Meghana Mysore

In this powerful debut collection, present-day women and girls of the South Asian diaspora grapple with belonging and are haunted by intergenerational inheritances. Mysore, herself the daughter of Indian immigrants, spins her stories around narrators struggling to assimilate into the surreal world around them. In the world of these stories, ghosts are real—in “Repair Shop,” dead mothers reappear as chiding, broken-down cars; in “Hoarder,” the narrator’s ex-lovers transform into scarves that won’t let her go. In another story, a daughter, trapped inside her grief, spends her days FaceTiming with her dead father, watching him become a young man she never knew.

At turns absurd and darkly humorous, and sometimes speculative, Mysore’s stories touch on real-life experiences of intergenerational trauma, womanhood, the fluidity of desire and longing, and coming home to one’s body. Her characters have faced violences small and large, holding losses that bind them to their pasts and weigh them down in daily life. Each of these stories contains an experience of transformation, be it small or monumental for these women, who find spaces of freedom and delight within their circumstances.

“In these visionary stories ex-lovers metamorphose into strangling scarves and three generations of women joyfully transform into rainbow-hued squirrels; the dead refuse their deaths even as the living must fight to be alive. Every page offers something gorgeous, savage, and unexpected. Meghana Mysore is an extraordinary talent, and her work is unforgettable.”

*—Susan Choi, author of *Flashlight and Trust Exercise**

09/01/2026 | 228pp | 5.5x8.25in | Paperback original
PB 9781959000945 | epub 9781959000983 | PDF 9781959000990
\$19.99 Trade | \$9.97 eFormats
Fiction | Short Story Collections | Speculative Fiction | Diaspora Fiction

“Let All Our Ghosts Depart is a beautiful and imaginative collection. . . . With humor and insight, these stories ask us to reflect on what we owe each other and ourselves. A thrilling debut.”

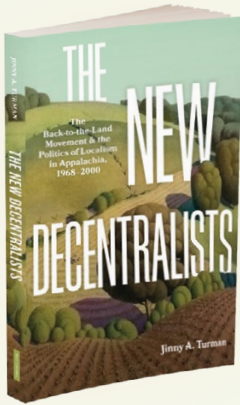
*—Marian Crotty, author of *Near Strangers* and *What Counts as Love**



About Meghana Mysore

*Meghana Mysore’s stories, essays, and poems have appeared in *The Yale Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Audacity*, and more. She is the winner of the Barry Hannah Prize in Fiction. Mysore has been a Steinbeck Fellow and a scholar at McCormack Writing Center and Bread Loaf. She holds an MFA from Hollins University and a BA in English from Yale. Mysore has taught as visiting faculty at Amherst College and Bucknell University and is an incoming assistant professor of English and creative writing at Randolph College in central Virginia.*

Photo by Michael Verity Photography.



The New Decentralists

The Back-to-the-Land Movement and the Politics of Localism in Appalachia, 1968–2000

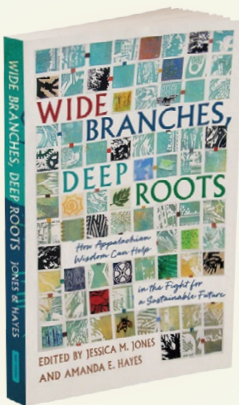
Jinny A. Turman

How some “back-to-the-landers” fled alienating urban, bureaucratic places for rural Appalachia in pursuit of self-reliance, liberation, and community, only to later find themselves vulnerable to a rising tide of national conservatism that minted new political elites on the state and local level at odds with their progressive social ideas and environmental values.

“A fascinating read on a subject of vital historical importance—and one that has much to say about our contemporary political difficulties. It weaves together the story of rising regional consciousness in the Appalachians with the rising anti-urbanism of the 1960s. I know of no other work that so successfully places back-to-the-landers of this generation within the context of broad mainstream social currents.”

—Dona Brown, author of *Back to the Land: The Enduring Dream of Self-Sufficiency in Modern America*

11/17/2026 | 308pp | 24bw figures 2 maps | 6x9in | Paperback original
PB 9781959000884 | epub 9781959000891 | PDF 9781959000907
\$31.99 Specialist | \$15.97 eFormats
Appalachian Studies | Rural Studies | Local and Regional Politics



Wide Branches, Deep Roots

How Appalachian Wisdom Can Help in the Fight for a Sustainable Future

Jessica M. Jones and Amanda E. Hayes, editors

A collection of over thirty pieces from writers and scholars exploring the connections between Appalachia’s stories, traditions, and modern events with the pathway to regional sustainability.

12/15/2026 | 296pp | 6x9in | 1 map | Paperback original
PB 9781959000976 | EPUB 9781959000952 | PDF 9781959000969
\$32.99 Specialist | \$16.47 eFormats
Appalachian Studies | Nature and Environment |
Folklore and Folk Wisdom | Public Policy and Regional Planning |
Environmental Conservation and Protection



Elsewhere

How the US Food System Cultivates, Conceals, and Consumes Its Violence Stian Rice

A 250-year history of the US food system that reveals how the country used abundance to enrich some and exploit others and how it captured, colonized, and reorganized territory to conceal

its violence in forgettable elsewheres like prisons, reservations, distant islands, killing floors, inner cities, and rural hinterlands.

“Stian Rice offers a richly detailed examination of the American food system’s propensity to violence in accumulating massive surpluses, profits, and power. *Elsewhere* tells the stories of those people and places that have borne the brunt of appropriation and oppression in resolving capitalist agriculture’s contradictions and provided the land and labor that kept the US food system growing.”

—Jamey Essex, author of *Development, Security, and Aid: Geopolitics and Geoeconomics at the U.S. Agency for International Development*

10/20/2026 | 280pp | 7bw images | 6x9in | Paperback original
PB 9781959000914 | epub 9781959000921 | PDF 9781959000938
\$29.99 Specialist | \$14.97 eFormats
Social Science | Agriculture and Food Production | Human Geography |
US History | Current Events | Food Politics

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

EAST COAST
Laura Waldron, lwaldron@uchicago.edu

MIDWEST
Travis Hale, travishale@uchicago.edu

WEST COAST
Gary Hart, ghart@press.uchicago.edu

SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH,
EXCLUDING WEST VIRGINIA
Bob Barnett, bookbarnett22@gmail.com

UK, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA,
ASIA-PACIFIC, LATIN AMERICA
Mare Nostrum Group
EMAIL: trade@wiley.com
TEL: +44 (0)1243 843291

CANADA
UBC Press c/o UTP Distribution,
utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca
www.ubcpres.ca

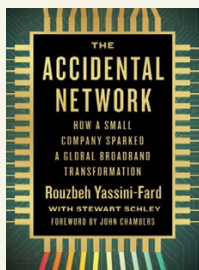
WEST VIRGINIA AND
ALL OTHER TERRITORIES
wvupress@mail.wvu.edu

TO ORDER:
wvupress.com
orders@press.uchicago.edu

West Virginia University Press
c/o Chicago Distribution Center
11030 South Langley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628
(800) 621-2736 (USA/Canada)
(888) 630-9347 (TTY)
(773) 702-7000 (International)

DISCOUNT FOR BOOKSELLERS:
Specialist: marked with an “Sp”
Trade: marked with a “Tr”

REQUEST A REVIEW COPY:
wvupress@mail.wvu.edu



****NOW IN PAPERBACK!****

The Accidental Network How a Small Company Sparked a Global Broadband Transformation

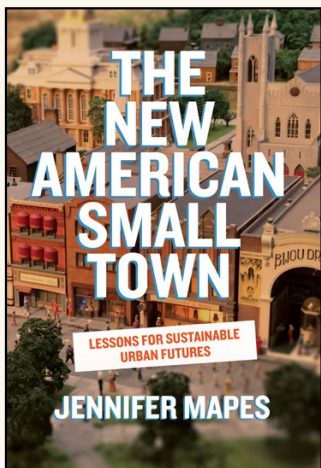
Rouzbeh Yassini-Fard with Stewart Schley • Foreword by John Chambers

How the cable modem jump-started the modern revolution in broadband Internet access over the existing residential cable television infrastructure in the 1990s.

9/1/2026 | 208pp | 6x9in | Paperback reprint | PB 9781971707006 | \$18.99 Trade

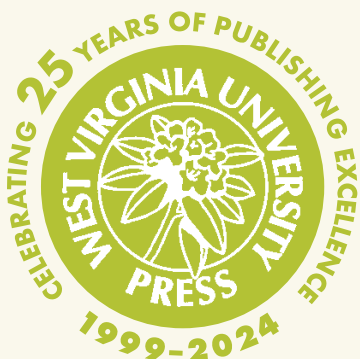
Find our Fall 2026 titles at wvupress.com/coming_soon and on Edelweiss: www.abovethetree.com

WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran



CONGRATULATIONS

to Jennifer Mapes for *The New American Small Town: Lessons for Sustainable Urban Futures* winning the 2026 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Prize awarded by the Association of American Geographers.



Facebook



Instagram



Web