NAVIGATOR

Navigator Books Launches as Independent Publisher with a Focus on History

Philadelphia, PA — March 5, 2026

Navigator Books today announced its launch as an independent book publisher dedicated to **publishing** compelling books in the categories of History, Biography, Memoir, and Historical Fiction. Navigator will publish 3 books in 2026 beginning in July, with 6 titles scheduled for 2027 and plans for an expanding list in the years ahead. Founded with a mission of producing books that will endure by developing authors creatively and commercially through multi-book commitments, Navigator's list will be curated, edited, and published by its founder Brendan Cahill, a 30-year veteran of trade book publishing.

"Our goal is to publish books that matter, and to reach a broad readership," said Cahill, the CEO and Publisher of Navigator Books. "Our society and culture are hungry for new, in-depth perspectives on history in our fast-evolving mobile/social digital era, which AI is accelerating even further. We need a scalable, human-creativity-forward approach for publishers and authors to create meaningful books that are meant to be experienced at the speed humans can absorb them.

"There are many talented established and emergent authors who are frustrated by today's publishing landscape. Navigator Books is excited to join the new generation of innovative and dynamic author-centric independent book publishers seeking to transform the industry by addressing its legacy limitations. Navigator sees this moment as an opportunity to chart a new course, and will add unique value to the title creation process through early-stage collaborative ideation with our authors to kick off the writing and editing process strongly, both creatively and commercially. We'll be pairing our category focus on history writ large with a business model grounded in multi-book commitments to our authors, with established royalty and rights split standards that align with veteran agents. And we'll incorporate modern technologies—including the responsible usage of AI in operational execution—for the benefit of the ecosystem."

Navigator has World Rights in All Languages, along with eBook and Audio for all its 2026 titles:

JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO FAIL: THE BIOGRAPHY OF NFL HALL OF FAME LINEBACKER SAM MILLS by Paul Domowitch (July) In the tradition of *The Blind Side,* the veteran football journalist and Pro Football Hall of Fame selector Domowitch tells the inspiring story of the smallest linebacker to enter the Hall of Fame. He traces Mills' extraordinary journey from the New Jersey projects to championships in the USFL and Pro Bowl seasons with the NFL's New Orleans Saints' legendary Dome Patrol defense, before reaching his career apex with All Pro years and a coaching career with the expansion Charlotte Panthers prior to his tragic death from cancer. Along the way Mills' unique athleticism, playcalling intelligence, and indomitable spirit would put him at the center of the linebacker position's transformation during the offensive revolution of the 1980s and -90s that created today's passing-dominant game. (Agent: Bob Diforio, D4EO Literary Agency)

Bill Ames of Ames Sports Literary & Publicity Agency will be supporting the publication of the book.

BRAINROT: A CULTURAL HISTORY by Olivia Shelly Alcott (August) Written by a pseudonymous Ivy League undergraduate, the book explores the roots of the addictive, bite-sized mobile form that dominates the social platforms where billions of people today experience the majority of their media consumption. But is brainrot truly new, or just the latest evolution of humorous visual expression that dates back to humanity's first forms of communication? Beginning with the biopsychological roots of accessible humor, she traces brainrot's emergence from incongruous images in prehistoric cave paintings in France and hieroglyphic cat memes in Ancient Egypt, to the 20th Century's intentionally moronic newspaper cartoons and "Saturday Night Live" skits. (Self-agented)

DARK MESSIAH by Sara Z. Carson (September), a gripping debut historical novel set in a fictional world inspired by the Jim Jones cult that blends elements from the tradition of *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret* with *The Girls* through the perspective of a fifteen-year-old girl in 1976 San Francisco whose mother gets sucked into the dark world of a charismatic preacher. The story follows them to his South American "utopian" village where his apocalyptic vision plunges his followers into the horrors of increasingly depraved and grisly acts that culminate in a shocking conclusion. (Agent: Alicia Brooks, Alicia Brooks Agency)

Navigator's physical books will be distributed in North America through a hybrid printing/physical distribution partnership with Lakeside Book Company. It will have a digital distribution and marketing partnership with Open Road Integrated Media (ORIM) for Navigator's ebooks and streaming audio titles throughout the World in the English Language.

Lakeside Book Company's SVP of Business Development Todd McGarity said, "We're excited to be partnering with Brendan to help launch Navigator Books. We're confident that combining Brendan's deep industry experience, entrepreneurial spirit, and unique publishing talents with Lakeside Books' end-to-end supply chain spanning printing, warehousing, sales, and distribution, will set up Navigator Books' growing list of extraordinary titles for success right out of the gate—and for years to come."

Open Road CEO David Steinberger said, "I've known Brendan for years, both as a publisher and an innovator in our industry. He played a big part in working with our founder Jane Friedman to set Open Road on the path to success in its first days, and welcoming him back in this new partnership is a perfect

fit. We are thrilled to have Navigator entrust us with its digital distribution and marketing as Brendan builds an ambitious new list."

Cahill independently operates the company as its principal owner with a small in-house team, augmented by partnerships with veteran industry professionals for cover design, pre-press preparation, marketing, and publicity, and is funded in part by a select group of experienced startup and industry investors.

For more information, media inquiries, or submission guidelines, please contact:

inquiries@navigatorbooks.com

Navigator Books
Pennovation Center
3401 Grays Ferry Ave
Philadelphia PA 19146

navigatorbooks.com

Brendan Cahill began his career with a decade as a book editor, first at the independent publishers Running Press and Grove/Atlantic before becoming one of the founding editors of the Gotham Books imprint at Penguin where he published several New York Times bestsellers. He was the first publisher of the VC-backed Open Road Integrated Media and CEO of the mobile social media network Natureshare. Later he founded Penguin Random House Labs, the first growth innovation team in the book publishing industry. A native of Philadelphia, he is a graduate the University of Pennsylvania and also received an MBA from its Wharton School of Business, after which he was a strategy consultant at The Boston Consulting Group and a founding team member of its Philadelphia office.