

# Every Fire Needs a Little Bit of Help

## A Decade of Rebellion, Reaction, and Morbid Symptoms

Jarrorod Shanahan • Introduction by A.M. Gittlitz

A decade of American society coming apart.

*Every Fire Needs a Little Bit of Help* collects a decade of reflections on recent US struggles—Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, and the George Floyd Rebellion—alongside accounts of the rise of Trumpism, the alt-right, an apocalyptic shift in popular culture, to paint a dense and complex portrait of a decade of protracted social crisis. Jarrod Shanahan reports from the ground. On the streets in 2014, from the depths of the Rikers Island penal complex, inside the alt-right underground and the carnival of Trump rallies, and in the line of fire in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 2020, among other scenes that Shanahan accessed not as a credentialed observer but an active participant: prisoner, infiltrator, activist. The resulting essays outline the pitfalls and opportunities facing those seeking to reverse the suicidal course of capitalist society and build a liberated world.

### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Jarrorod Shanahan** is the author of *Captives: How Rikers Island Took New York City Hostage* (Verso, 2022); coauthor of *States of Incarceration* (Field Notes, 2022), *City Time* (NYU Press, 2025), and *Skyscraper Jails* (Haymarket, 2025); and editor of *Treason to Whiteness Is Loyalty to Humanity*, a Noel Ignatiev reader (Verso, 2022). He works as an assistant professor of criminal justice at Governors State University.

**A.M. Gittlitz** is the author of *I Want to Believe: Posadism, UFOs, and Apocalypse Communism* (Pluto Press, 2020), the forthcoming *Metropolitans*—a materialist history of the New York Mets, and the cohost of the Antifada podcast.

### ACCOLADES

"These essays are political theory, cultural critique, movement memoir, and ethnographic study. Together, they are a crucial analysis of the decade of tumult that brought us here. Shanahan writes with brilliance, humor, and—above all—love, love for those who dream of better horizons and take to the streets to build them. *Every Fire Needs a Little Bit of Help* is a chance to reflect, to dream and to plot—a true gift to the Left."

—Eman Abdelhadi, coauthor of *Everything for Everyone: An Oral History of the New York Commune, 2052–2072*

"Rather than pondering politics from a distance, Shanahan writes from within the political moment itself. We find in these pages not simply an appraisal of America's slow decline into social anomie or even an activist account of recent political movements but instead a picture of history in all its murky motion, where the antipolice riot gives way to the Trump rally, while apocalyptic myths play out on TV. This book therefore offers both a treasure trove of careful observations tracking the trends of our chaotic moment and an example to be followed by others seeking real social change."

—Phil A. Neel, author of *Hinterland: America's New Landscape of Class and Conflict*



### SUBJECT CATEGORY

Anarchism, Socialism, Activism, Labor

### PRICE

\$25.95

### ISBN

979-8-88744-126-9

### PAGE COUNT

384

### SIZE

6 x 9

### FORMAT

Paperback

### PUBLICATION DATE

09/02/2025

### US DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group West  
1-866-400-5351

www.pgw.com • ips@ingramcontent.com

### CANADA DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group Canada  
1-800-663-5714

customerservice@raincoast.com

### EUROPE DISTRIBUTION

IPS\_International.Orders@ingramcontent.com

### UK DISTRIBUTION

Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd  
020-8829-3000 • orders@turnaround-uk.com

### PM PRESS

P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623  
www.pmpress.org • info@pmpress.org  
510-703-0327



PM Press is an independent, radical publisher of critically necessary books for our tumultuous times. Our aim is to deliver bold political ideas and vital stories to all walks of life and arm the dreamers to demand the impossible. Founded in 2007 by a small group of people with decades of publishing, media, and organizing experience. We're old enough to know what we're doing and young enough to know what's at stake.