

Danelle Morton

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Skills

After four *New York Times* bestsellers, I spent three transformative years pursuing my twin passions: hard-hitting investigative journalism with ProPublica and narrative storytelling in my hit iHeart podcast *City of the Rails*. The ProPublica team was nominated for a Pulitzer for twelve landmark exposés of railroad safety violations, while *City of the Rails* reached millions with intimate narratives of modern-day hobos. As a ghostwriter, these skills help me craft sharp, well-structured, page-turners in my clients' authentic voices.

Experience

Investigative Reporter, *ProPublica*

- Spent two years investigating safety issues on the rails with a team from ProPublica in the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Train Country* series.
- Conducted data-driven research, interviews, and analysis that exposed the railroads' corporate negligence and shed light on how they harm communities.
- Produced compelling stories that garnered national attention and stimulated rail safety studies and reforms.

City of the Rails podcast, iHeart Radio

- Wrote and hosted *City of the Rails*, a podcast exploring the world of the railroads, through the lens of my daughter's sojourn as a traveler on the rails.
- Generated more than a million downloads.
- Ranked consistently in the top 100 podcasts nationwide while it was airing.
- Cofounded FlipTurn studios for on-going podcast production.

Author and Collaborator, various New York publishing houses

- Co-authored 20 non-fiction books, including four *The New York Times* best sellers

Associate Bureau Chief, *People Magazine*, Los Angeles Bureau

- Led coverage of celebrity profiles, including cover stories featuring high-profile figures such as Tom Hanks, Celine Dion, and Tom Cruise.
- Coordinated reporting teams for cover stories on Hollywood scandals and crimes, ensuring accuracy and timeliness in reporting.

Best Sellers and Selected Books

- ***Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House*** (Hachette): Written with Donna Brazile, this gripping narrative offers a behind-the-scenes look at the cyber intrusions and political machinations that influenced the 2016 US presidential election. Debuting at #4 on *The New York Times* Bestseller list, it sheds light on the forces at play during a pivotal moment in American politics.
- ***What Can I Do?: My Path from Climate Despair to Action*** (Penguin): Written with Jane Fonda. In 2020, as Jane Fonda entered her 80s, she felt she had one last fight in her: climate change. She already recycled and drove a Prius, but how much impact can an individual have? This book charts her education as she answers the question: *What Can I Do?*
- ***Fear Less*** (Little, Brown): with Gavin De Becker. De Becker's sequel to his bestseller *Gift of Fear* came out shortly after 9/11. This second bestseller advised a worried nation on staying safe in the age of terrorism.
- ***Broad Influence*** (Time Books): Co-authored with *Time* correspondent Jay Newton-Smith, this book explores the rise of women's power and influence across all branches of the US government. Winner of the National Press Foundation Dirksen Award, it examines the evolving role of women in shaping political agendas and driving societal change.
- ***Staying True*** (Ballantine Books): Co-authored with Jenny Sanford, this bestselling memoir offers a candid account of living through a nationwide scandal. On Father's Day 2010 Jenny's husband Gov. Mark Sanford disappeared, saying he was going "walking on the Appalachian Trail" while he spent ten days in Argentina with his mistress. *The New York Times* called this runaway bestseller "an elegant evisceration of a memoir."
- ***Are you Hungry, Dear?*** (St. Martin's Press) with Doris Roberts. An intimate and surprising autobiography with this *Everybody Loves Raymond* star includes recipes in every chapter. Reached the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller lists.

Selected Journalism

- **An Inconvenient Barn** (*San Francisco* magazine, November 2016): Explored a two-year negotiation between 21st Century developers and a San Francisco hippie regarding the sale

of an industrial facility hindering a huge luxury housing development. Captured the essence of a changing San Francisco and its struggle to reconcile old and new.

- **A World on Fire: Life and Death in a New Orleans Squat** (*The Boston Review*, January/February 2012): Investigative piece examining the world of people who ride the rails, and the dangers of train hopping, centered around the deaths of eight young travelers who died in a squat fire. Finalist for the PEN/USA literary non-fiction award, serving as a foundation for broader investigations into railroad practices.
- **A War of Values** (*San Francisco* magazine, December 2009): Investigative report exposing how a landlord's brutal and corrupt scheme to displace low-income tenants swept them up in the 2008 sub-prime mortgage crisis. This portrait of a scandal was also a personal reflection on gentrification sweeping through my hometown. Finalist for the National Magazine Award in the public service (investigative) category.

Awards

- Pulitzer Prize nominee with ProPublica for 2024 *Train Country* series
- Invited lecturer, The River Readings at Augustana College, 2023
- Dirksen Award for coverage of Congress from National Press Foundation, 2016
- PEN/USA literary non-fiction finalist, 2013
- Distinguished Professional in Residence, University of Iowa Journalism School, 2012
- Grants from The National Institute for Investigative Journalism and the George Polk Foundation, 2011
- Finalist for the American Society of Magazine Editors award in public service, April 2010
- California Newspaper Publishers Association award for deadline reporting