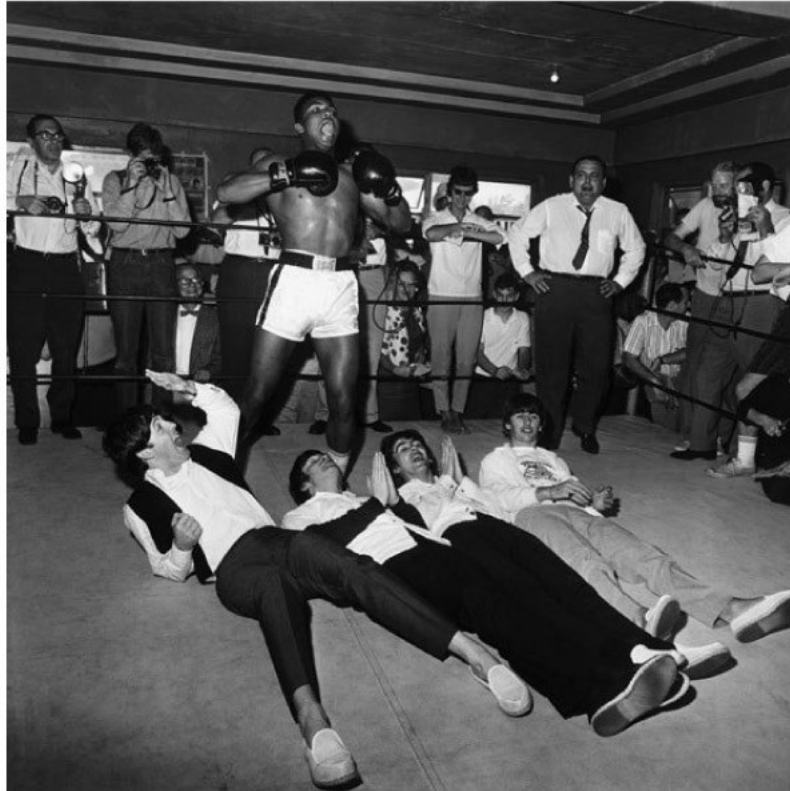


LIZ SMITH: When She Woke ...

Cassius Clay and the Beatles, Miami 1964. From *Harry Benson: The Beatles on the Road 1964-1966*.



"When She Woke" — A Powerful Tale of a Woman's Journey in a Fictional But Frighteningly Plausible Future.

Michael Landes — Upstairs or Downstairs, He's Terrific Harry Benson's Great "Beatles" Book ... Manhattan's Paley Center Celebrates the Texas Tornado, Ann Richards.

by *Liz Smith*

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

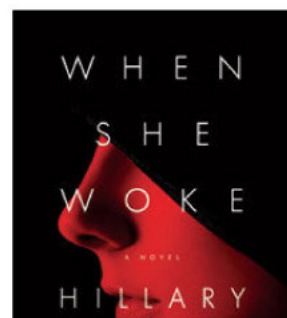
"THE PROBLEM with religious fundamentalist political agenda — besides the fact that it is unconstitutional — is that it's fundamentally un-American. Like all extremist movements, its success depends on making people afraid of each other ... they've never lasted. I believe that's because most of us want to find our own way to happiness. We're here for such a short precious time; we want to choose how we live, how we love, how we worship; and because we want that freedom for ourselves, we have to see the justice in giving it to our neighbors. This is who we are as a people."

That is author **Hillary Jordan**, whose astonishing book of last year, "When She Woke," has come to me now in soft cover.

This is a tale of the not-very-distant future, after economic collapse and a catastrophic pandemic, where criminals are "chromed" (tinted) in accordance to their crimes — yellow, blue, and most disastrously, red — for murder.

The story follows a woman, Hannah, tinted red, and how she manages to live in a world where she cannot escape her sin. I will not reveal the nature of her crime — that would tell too much.

But it is unquestionably a woman's story, a thrilling, heartbreaking journey as she discovers herself through incredible adversity. Hannah Payne, much like Hawthorne's Hester Prynne, should become one of the great female characters in literature. ("The Scarlet Letter" was a large influence on author



Jordan.)

"When She Woke" is one of the most compelling and important novels I've ever read, and despite its sci-fi trappings, scarily plausible.



[Click to order](#) *When She Woke*.

IF YOU love Masterpiece Theater, catch it Sundays on PBS and you can see **Michael Landes** in "Upstairs Downstairs." He plays the charismatic millionaire Casper Landry who arrives in London just before World War II and is introduced to Lady Agnes by the then-American Ambassador Joseph Kennedy. (Michael just happens, in real life, to be married to **Wendy Benson Landes**. Her famous parents are New York's popular **Gigi and Harry Benson**. He is a photographer for the ages and to the stars.)

More about the Bensons later but right now I must advise that actor Michael Landes will begin a new gig in January, starring with actress **Anne Heche** in the new series from NBC titled "Save Me."



[Click to order](#).

As for my pals, the Bensons, Harry has a new book "Harry Benson: The Beatles on the Road 1964-1966."

This is the 1000th book that Taschen Publishing has put out and is a limited edition, coffee table size. There were only 1,964 copies printed to correspond with the year that the Beatles arrived in America to do "The Ed Sullivan Show."

The canny Scotsman, Harry, and his Texas-born Gigi, have just been on a fabulous book tour from New York to Miami to Berlin, Hamburg, Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and London.

This book is almost sold out! A real collector's item.