

# A Manual For Cleaning Women Selected Stories

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## GAVIN HICKS

*A Manual for Cleaning Women* Prestel Publishing  
 The gripping story of a dramatic eighteenth-century voyage of discovery from Naomi J. Williams In her wildly inventive debut novel, Naomi J. Williams reimagines the historical La Pérouse expedition, a voyage of exploration that left Brest in 1785 with two frigates, two hundred men, and overblown Enlightenment ideals and expectations, in a brave attempt to circumnavigate the globe for science and the glory of France. Deeply grounded in historical fact but refracted through a powerful imagination, *Landfalls* follows the exploits and heartbreaks not only of the men on the ships but also of the people affected by the voyage—natives and other Europeans the explorers encountered, loved ones left waiting at home, and those who survived and remembered the expedition later. Each chapter is told from a different point of view and is set in a different part of the world—ranging from London to Tenerife, Alaska to remote South Pacific islands and Siberia, and eventually back to France. The result is a beautifully written and absorbing tale of the high seas, scientific exploration, human tragedy, and the world on the cusp of the modern era. By turns elegiac, profound, and comic, *Landfalls* reinvents the maritime adventure novel for the twenty-first century.  
[How to Navigate Clueless Colleagues, Lunch-Stealing Bosses, and the Rest of Your Life at Work](#) Picador  
 Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Proulx brings the immigrant experience to life in this stunning novel that traces the ownership of a simple green accordion. E. Annie Proulx's *Accordion Crimes* is a masterpiece of storytelling that spans a century and a continent. Proulx brings the immigrant experience in America to life through the eyes of the descendants of Mexicans, Poles, Africans, Irish-Scots, Franco-Canadians and many others, all linked by their successive ownership of a simple green accordion. The music they make is their last link with the past—voice for their fantasies, sorrows and exuberance. Proulx's prodigious knowledge, unforgettable characters and radiant language make *Accordion Crimes* a stunning novel, exhilarating in its scope and originality.  
*Battleborn* Penguin  
 In *Where I Live Now*, Berlin contemplates the human condition with a compassionate understanding. Berlin's vision is sometimes remorseful, sometimes resigned, always courageous. The elusive nature of happiness is a compelling theme here: the survivors in these stories—many of them society's marginal or excluded people, fighting alcohol or drug addiction, bearing emotional scars—recognize it all too well.

*Honeydew* Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
 NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE • A collection of raucous stories that offer a “vibrant and true mosaic” (The New York Times) of New Orleans, from the critically acclaimed author of *We Cast a Shadow* SHORTLISTED FOR THE ERNEST J. GAINES AWARD • “Every sentence is both something that makes you want to laugh in a gut-wrenching way and threatens to break your heart in a way that you did not anticipate.”—Robert Jones, Jr., author of *The Prophets*, in *The Wall Street Journal* Maurice Carlos Ruffin has an uncanny ability to reveal the hidden corners of a place we thought we knew. These perspectival, character-driven stories center on the margins and are deeply rooted in New Orleanian culture. In “*Beg Borrow Steal*,” a boy relishes time spent helping his father find work after coming home from prison; in “*Ghetto University*,” a couple struggling financially turns to crime after hitting rock bottom; in “*Before I Let Go*,” a woman who's been in NOLA for generations fights to keep her home; in “*Fast Hands, Fast Feet*,” an army vet and a runaway teen find companionship while sleeping under a bridge; in “*Mercury Forges*,” a flash fiction piece among several in the collection, a group of men hurriedly make their way to an elderly gentleman's home, trying to reach him before the water from Hurricane Katrina does; and in the title story, a young man works the street corners of the French Quarter, trying to achieve a freedom not meant for him. These stories are intimate invitations to hear, witness, and imagine lives at once regional but largely universal, and undeniably New Orleanian, written by a lifelong resident of New Orleans and one of our finest new writers.

*Stories* Scribner

The legendary writer's definitive story collection, and a literary event of the highest order “Powerful, important, compassionate, and full of dark humor. This is a book that will be reread with admiration and love many times over.” —Vanity Fair Joy Williams has been celebrated as a master of the short story for four decades, her renown passing as a given from one generation to the next even in the shifting landscape of contemporary writing. At long last the incredible scope of her singular achievement is put on display: thirty-three stories drawn from three much-lauded collections, and another thirteen appearing here for the first time in book form. Forty-six stories in all, far and away the most comprehensive volume in her long career, showcasing her crisp, elegant prose, her dark wit, and her uncanny ability to illuminate our world through characters and situations that feel at once peculiar and foreign and disturbingly familiar. Virtually all American writers have their favorite Joy Williams stories, as do many readers of all ages, and each one of them is available here.  
*New & Selected Stories* A Manual for Cleaning Women Selected Stories

“Berlin probably deserved a Pulitzer Prize.” —Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITORS' CHOICE. Named one of the Best Books of 2018 by *The Boston Globe*, *Kirkus*, and *Lit Hub*. Named a Fall Read by *Buzzfeed*, *ELLE*, *TIME*, *Nylon*, *The Boston Globe*, *Vulture*, *Newsday*, *HuffPost*, *Bustle*, *The A.V. Club*, *The Millions*, *BUST*, *Reinfery29*, *Fast Company* and *MyDomaine*. A collection of previously uncompiled stories from the short-story master and literary sensation Lucia Berlin In 2015, Farrar, Straus and Giroux published *A Manual for Cleaning Women*, a posthumous story collection by a relatively unknown writer, to wild, widespread acclaim. It was a *New York Times* bestseller; the paper's *Book Review* named it one of the Ten Best Books of 2015; and *NPR*, *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and other outlets gave the book rave reviews. The book's author, Lucia Berlin, earned comparisons to Raymond Carver, Grace Paley, Alice Munro, and Anton Chekhov. *Evening in Paradise* is a careful selection from Berlin's remaining stories—twenty-two gems that showcase the gritty glamour that made readers fall in love with her. From Texas to Chile, Mexico to New York City, Berlin finds beauty in the darkest places and darkness in the seemingly pristine. *Evening in Paradise* is an essential piece of Berlin's oeuvre, a jewel-box follow-up for new and old fans.  
*A Novella and Short Stories* Simon and Schuster  
 Eleven stories narrated by a young recovering alcoholic, whose dependency has led him to crime, cruelty, and loss in the Midwest, depict the disparity of emotions that constitute the American experience.

**Mayor Richard J. Daley, His Battle for Chicago and the Nation** Vintage

“Short stories translated from the Persian”—  
*Behind the Short Story* WaterBrook

In *Mixed Company* Jenny Shank reveals moments of grace and connection between people of her hometown, Denver, through stories that contrast the city during its oil-bust era of economic troubles and court-ordered crosstown busing for racial desegregation with the burgeoning and gentrifying city of recent years. In “*Casa del Rey*,” a cautious pregnant woman must contend with her out-of-control and intrusive neighbor. In “*Hurts*,” a girls' basketball team at a majority Black Denver high school clashes with a white mountain team. In “*La Sexycana*,” a bottom-feeding journalist ventures to a dance club to confront the young Latina woman she mentored as a teenager who then cut off all contact with her. “*Lightest Lights Against Darkest Darks*” follows a white middle schooler bused to a majority Black school who falls under the spell of her magnetic and racially ambiguous art teacher. In “*Signing for Linemen*,” a graduate student in medieval literature takes a job as a summer tutor for a college football

team and ends up learning more than she expected about athletes, American Sign Language, and herself. In “Local Honey,” middle-aged white parents bring their adopted Black teenage son to a Wu-Tang Clan concert in an attempt to bond with him. Characters find their initial perceptions and ideas overturned in these stories laced with humor, heart, and grit. Jenny Shank forges fiction out of the sparks that fly when diverse people encounter one another.

*Ask a Manager* Penguin

The debut collection of a poet whose savage, hilarious work has already received extraordinary notice. Since his poems first began to appear in the pages of *The New Yorker* and *Poetry*, there has been a lot of excited talk about the fresh and inventive work of Michael Robbins. Equal parts hip-hop, John Berryman, and capitalism seeking death and not finding it, Robbins's poems are strange, wonderful, wild, and completely unlike anything else being written today. As allusive as the *Cantos*, as aggressive as a circular saw, this debut collection will offend none but the virtuous, and is certain to receive an enormous amount of attention.

*Landfalls* Longman Publishing Group

The *New York Times* bestseller. “This selection of 43 stories should by all rights see Lucia Berlin as lauded as Jean Rhys or Raymond Carver” - Independent Introduced by Lydia Davis, Lucia Berlin's stories in *A Manual for Cleaning Women* make for one of the most remarkable unsung collections in twentieth-century American fiction. With extraordinary honesty and magnetism, Lucia Berlin invites us into her rich, itinerant life: the drink and the mess and the pain and the beauty and the moments of surprise and of grace. Her voice is uniquely witty, anarchic and compassionate. “With Lucia Berlin we are very far away from the parlours of Boston and New York and quite far away, too, from the fiction of manners, unless we are speaking of very bad manners . . . The writer Lucia Berlin most puts me in mind of is the late Richard Yates.” - LRB, 1999

**Selected Stories** One World

Fiction. Lucia Berlin was born in Alaska, raised in Chili, and presently lives and works in California. Her stories have appeared in *The Noble Savage*, *The Critic*, *The Atlantic*, *The London Strand*, and *Quilt*, and many other magazines and journals. This is her second volume of short stories.

*More Stories* Little, Brown

"I have always had faith that the best writers will rise to the top, like cream, sooner or later, and will become exactly as well-known as they should be—their work talked about, quoted, taught, performed, filmed, set to music, anthologized. Perhaps, with the present collection, Lucia Berlin will begin to gain the attention she deserves." -Lydia Davis *A MANUAL FOR CLEANING WOMEN* compiles the best work of the legendary short-story writer Lucia Berlin. With the grit of Raymond Carver, the humor of Grace Paley, and a blend of wit and melancholy all her own, Berlin crafts miracles from the everyday, uncovering moments of grace in the Laundromats and halfway houses of the American Southwest, in the homes of the Bay Area upper class, among switchboard operators and struggling mothers, hitchhikers and bad Christians. Readers will revel in this remarkable collection from a master of the form and wonder how they'd ever overlooked her in the first place.

*New and Collected Stories* Penguin

INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER “My Body offers a lucid examination of the mirrors in which its author has seen herself, and her indoctrination into the cult of beauty as defined by powerful men. In its more transcendent passages . . . the author steps beyond the reach of any 'Pygmalion' and becomes a more dangerous kind of beautiful. She becomes a kind of god in her own right: an artist.” —Melissa Febos, *The New York Times* Book Review A “MOST ANTICIPATED” AND “BEST OF FALL 2021” BOOK FOR \*VOGUE\* TIME \*ESQUIRE\* PEOPLE \*USA TODAY\* CHICAGO TRIBUNE \*LOS ANGELES TIMES\* SHONDALAND \*ALMA \*THRILLEST\* NYLON \*FORTUNE A deeply honest investigation of what it means to be a woman and a commodity from Emily Ratajkowski, the archetypal, multi-hyphenate celebrity of our time Emily Ratajkowski is an acclaimed model and actress, an engaged political progressive, a formidable entrepreneur, a global social media phenomenon, and now, a writer. Rocketing to world fame at age twenty-one, Ratajkowski sparked both praise and furor with the provocative display of her body as an unapologetic statement of feminist empowerment. The subsequent evolution in her thinking about our culture's commodification of women is the subject of this book. *My Body* is a profoundly personal exploration of feminism, sexuality, and power, of men's treatment of women and women's rationalizations for accepting that treatment. These essays chronicle moments from Ratajkowski's life while investigating the culture's fetishization of girls and female beauty,

its obsession with and contempt for women's sexuality, the perverse dynamics of the fashion and film industries, and the gray area between consent and abuse. Nuanced, fierce, and incisive, *My Body* marks the debut of a writer brimming with courage and intelligence.

*Jesus' Son* David R. Godine Publisher

FINALIST FOR THE 2021 ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN NONFICTION Claudia Rankine's *Citizen* changed the conversation—Just Us urges all of us into it As everyday white supremacy becomes increasingly vocalized with no clear answers at hand, how best might we approach one another? Claudia Rankine, without telling us what to do, urges us to begin the discussions that might open pathways through this divisive and stuck moment in American history. Just Us is an invitation to discover what it takes to stay in the room together, even and especially in breaching the silence, guilt, and violence that follow direct addresses of whiteness. Rankine's questions disrupt the false comfort of our culture's liminal and private spaces—the airport, the theater, the dinner party, the voting booth—where neutrality and politeness live on the surface of differing commitments, beliefs, and prejudices as our public and private lives intersect. This brilliant arrangement of essays, poems, and images includes the voices and rebuttals of others: white men in first class responding to, and with, their white male privilege; a friend's explanation of her infuriating behavior at a play; and women confronting the political currency of dying their hair blond, all running alongside fact-checked notes and commentary that complements Rankine's own text, complicating notions of authority and who gets the last word. Sometimes wry, often vulnerable, and always prescient, Just Us is Rankine's most intimate work, less interested in being right than in being true, being together.

**Men Without Women** Hachette+ORM

NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR: *New York Times*, *Washington Post* TOP TEN BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *Los Angeles Times*, *Christian Science Monitor* BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, *Kirkus*, *Fresh Air* (Maureen Corrigan), *San Francisco Chronicle* TOP TITLES FOR GIFT GIVING: *Chicago Tribune* Longlisted for the 2015 National Book Award -- and a nationwide bestseller. Over the past several decades, Edith Pearlman has staked her claim as one of the all-time great practitioners of the short story. Her incomparable vision, consummate skill, and bighearted spirit have earned her consistent comparisons to Anton Chekhov, John Updike, Alice Munro, Grace Paley, and Frank O'Connor. Her latest work, gathered in this stunning collection of twenty new stories, is an occasion for celebration. Pearlman writes with warmth about the predicaments of being human. The title story involves an affair, an illegitimate pregnancy, anorexia, and adolescent drug use, but the true excitement comes from the evocation of the interior lives of young Emily Knapp, who wishes she were a bug, and her inner circle. “The Golden Swan” transports the reader to a cruise ship with lavish buffets-and a surprise stowaway-while the lead story, “Tenderfoot,” follows a widowed pedicurist searching for love with a new customer anguishing over his own buried trauma. Whether the characters we encounter are a special child with pentachromatic vision, a group of displaced Somali women adjusting to life in suburban Boston, or a staid professor of Latin unsettled by a random invitation to lecture on the mystery of life and death, Pearlman knows each of them intimately and reveals them to us with unsurpassed generosity. In prose as knowing as it is poetic, Pearlman shines a light on small, devastatingly precise moments to reflect the beauty and grace found in everyday life. Both for its artistry and for the recognizable lives of the characters it renders so exquisitely and compassionately, *Honeydew* is a collection that will pull readers back time and again. These stories are a crowning achievement for a brilliant career and demonstrate once more that Pearlman is a master of the form whose vision is unfailingly wise and forgiving.

**Accordion Crimes** Graywolf Press

From the Whiting Award-winning author of *Pretend I'm Dead* and one of the most exhilarating new voices in fiction, a “thoroughly delightfully, surprisingly profound” (*Entertainment Weekly*) one-of-a-kind novel about a cleaning lady named Mona and her struggles to move forward in life. Soon to be an FX television show starring Lola Kirke. Mona is twenty-six and cleans houses for a living in Taos, New Mexico. She moved there mostly because of a bad boyfriend—a junkie named Mr. Disgusting, long story—and her efforts to restart her life since haven't exactly gone as planned. For one thing, she's got another bad boyfriend. This one she calls Dark, and he happens to be married to one of Mona's clients. He also might be a little unstable. Dark and his wife aren't the only complicated clients on Mona's roster, either. There's also the Hungarian artist couple who—with her addiction to painkillers

and his lingering stares—reminds Mona of troubling aspects of her childhood, and some of the underlying reasons her life had to be restarted in the first place. As she tries to get over the heartache of her affair and the older pains of her youth, Mona winds up on an eccentric, moving journey of self-discovery that takes her back to her beginnings where she attempts to unlock the key to having a sense of home in the future. The only problems are Dark and her past. Neither is so easy to get rid of. Jen Beagin's *Vacuum in the Dark* is an unforgettable, astonishing read, “by turns nutty and forlorn...Brash, deadpan, and achingly troubled” (*O, The Oprah Magazine*). Beagin is “a wonderfully funny writer who also happens to tackle serious subjects” (NPR).

*Neverhome* Vintage

Critically acclaimed master of the short story Amy Hempel's *Tumble Home* is narrated by people with skewed visions of home. Not exactly crazy, they become obsessed and irrational as their inner logic leads them astray. In the title novella, a woman living in a psychiatric halfway house writes to a man she has met only once. Proceeding in brief vignettes that link and illuminate, she recounts her peculiar life with the other patients. The accretions of anecdote lead deeper and deeper into the psyche and history of the narrator, gradually revealing the reason for her urgent letter.

*Vacuum in the Dark* UNESCO Publishing

Is Your Home Out of Order? Do your kids expect clean folded clothes to magically appear in their drawers? Do they roll their eyes when you suggest they clean the bathroom? By racing in to make their lives easy, have you unintentionally reinforced your children's belief that the world revolves around them? Dismayed at the attitude of entitlement that had crept into her home, Kay Wyma got some attitude of her own. *Cleaning House* is her account of a year-long campaign to introduce her five kids to basic life skills and the ways meaningful work can increase earned self-confidence and concern for others. With irresistible humor and refreshing insights, Kay candidly details the ups and downs of equipping her kids for such tasks as making beds, refinishing a deck chair, and working together. The changes that take place in her household will inspire you to launch your own campaign to dislodge your kids from the center of their universe. “If you want your children to be more responsible, more self-assured, and more empathetic, *Cleaning House* is for you.” —Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family

*Evening in Paradise* Simon and Schuster

A *NEW YORK TIMES*, *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, AND *USA TODAY* BESTSELLER An intimate, powerful, and galvanizing memoir by Pulitzer Prize winner, human rights advocate, and former US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power. Named one of the best books of the year: *The New York Times* • *National Public Radio* • *Time* • *The Economist* • *The Washington Post* • *Vanity Fair* • *Christian Science Monitor* • *Publishers Weekly* • *Audible* “Her highly personal and reflective memoir . . . is a must-read for anyone who cares about our role in a changing world.” —President Barack Obama Includes an updated afterword Tracing her distinctly American journey from immigrant to war correspondent to presidential Cabinet official, Samantha Power's acclaimed memoir is a unique blend of suspenseful storytelling, vivid character portraits, and shrewd political insight. After her critiques of US foreign policy caught the eye of Senator Barack Obama, he invited her to work with him on Capitol Hill and then on his presidential campaign. When Obama won the presidency, Power went from being an activist outsider to serving as his human rights adviser and, in 2013, becoming the youngest-ever US Ambassador to the United Nations. Power transports us from her childhood in Dublin to the streets of war-torn Bosnia to the White House Situation Room and the world of high-stakes diplomacy, offering a compelling and deeply honest look at navigating the halls of power while trying to put one's ideals into practice. Along the way, she lays bare the searing battles and defining moments of her life, shows how she juggled the demands of a 24/7 national security job with raising two young children, and makes the case for how we each can advance the cause of human dignity. This is an unforgettable account of the power of idealism—and of one person's fierce determination to make a difference. “This is a wonderful book. [...] The interweaving of Power's personal story, family story, diplomatic history and moral arguments is executed seamlessly and with unblinking honesty.” —THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN, *The New York Times* Book Review “Truly engrossing...A pleasure to read.” —RACHEL MADDOW “A beautiful memoir about the times we're living in and the questions we must ask ourselves...I honestly couldn't put it down.” —CHERYL STRAYED, author of *Wild* “Power's compelling memoir provides critically important insights we should all understand as we face some of the most vexing issues of our time.” —BRYAN STEVENSON, author of *Just Mercy*

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