
Binary Star Sarah Gerard

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I Must Have You
How to Love a Jamaican

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Sarah Gerard by guest*

MCKENZIE REGINA

Among Strange

Victims Penguin

An intense, elegiac portrait of young lovers as they battle personal afflictions, toy with veganarchism, and traverse the American countryside.

A Cure for Suicide

MIT Press

'As hot and wild and

dangerous as our beloved (or is it bedeviled?) state, itself." -- Lauren Groff, author of "Fates & Furies"

Helen Keller Really

Lived Barnacle Book

"In these kaleidoscopic stories of Jamaica and its diaspora we hear many voices at once. All of them convince and sing. All of them shine."—Zadie Smith

An O: The Oprah

Magazine "Top 15 Best

of the Year” • A Well-Read Black Girl Pick
Tenderness and cruelty, loyalty and betrayal, ambition and regret—Alexia Arthurs navigates these tensions to extraordinary effect in her debut collection about Jamaican immigrants and their families back home. Sweeping from close-knit island communities to the streets of New York City and midwestern university towns, these eleven stories form a portrait of a nation, a people, and a way of life. In “Light-Skinned Girls and Kelly Rowlands,” an NYU student befriends a fellow Jamaican whose privileged West Coast upbringing has blinded her to the hard realities of race. In “Mash Up Love,” a twin’s chance

sighting of his estranged brother—the prodigal son of the family—stirs up unresolved feelings of resentment. In “Bad Behavior,” a couple leave their wild teenage daughter with her grandmother in Jamaica, hoping the old ways will straighten her out. In “Mermaid River,” a Jamaican teenage boy is reunited with his mother in New York after eight years apart. In “The Ghost of Jia Yi,” a recently murdered student haunts a despairing Jamaican athlete recruited to an Iowa college. And in “Shirley from a Small Place,” a world-famous pop star retreats to her mother’s big new house in Jamaica, which still holds the power to restore something vital. Alexia

Arthurs emerges in this vibrant, lyrical, intimate collection as one of fiction's most dynamic and essential authors. Praise for *How to Love a Jamaican* "A sublime short-story collection from newcomer Alexia Arthurs that explores, through various characters, a specific strand of the immigrant experience."—*Entertainment Weekly* "With its singular mix of psychological precision and sun-kissed lyricism, this dazzling debut marks the emergence of a knockout new voice."—*O: The Oprah Magazine* "Gorgeous, tender, heartbreaking stories . . . Arthurs is a witty, perceptive, and generous writer, and this is a book that will last."—Carmen Maria

Machado, author of *Her Body and Other Parties* "Vivid and exciting . . . every story rings beautifully true."—*Marie Claire*
Reel Hachette Books
 "Her first book, *THE COMPLEAT PURGE*, consists of the last will and testament of one Trisha Low, who seems to commit suicide annually; the legal documents accumulate into a coming of age story. It goes on to chronicle the sexual fantasies of indie rock fangirls, who may or may not be exorcising the effects of abuse through their blithe avatars (the guy from *The Strokes*, etc.). Then Trisha Low finds herself trapped in an 18th century romance novel in the most punishing way, but for who--we're not really sure."--Publisher's

website.
Heroines, new edition
 Ballantine Books
 *Los Angeles Times
 Book Prize Finalist. *A
 Best Book of 2015
 —NPR,
 BuzzFeed, Vanity Fair,
 Flavorwire,
 Largehearted Boy
 "Rhythmic,
 hallucinatory, yet vivid
 as crystal. Gerard has
 channeled her trials
 and tribulations into a
 work of heightened
 reality, one that sings
 to the lonely gravity of
 the human body."
 —NPR The language of
 the stars is the
 language of the body.
 Like a star, the
 anorexic burns fuel
 that isn't replenished;
 she is held together by
 her own gravity. With
 luminous, lyrical prose,
 Binary Star is an
 impassioned account
 of a young woman
 struggling with

anorexia and her long-
 distance, alcoholic
 boyfriend. On a road-
 trip circumnavigating
 the United States, they
 stumble into a book on
 veganarchism, and
 believe they've found a
 direction. Binary Star is
 an intense, fast-moving
 saga of two young
 lovers and the culture
 that keeps them sick
 (or at least inundated
 with quick-fix
 solutions); a society
 that sells diet pills,
 sleeping pills,
 magazines that profile
 celebrities who lose
 weight or too much
 weight or put on
 weight, and books that
 pimp diet secrets or
 recipes for success.
 "The particular genius
 of Binary Star is that
 out of such grim
 material in constructs
 beauty. It's like a
 novel-shaped poem
 about addiction,

codependence and the relentlessness of the everyday, a kind of elegy of emptiness."
—New York Times Book Review

Atlas of the Body

Akashic Books

LONGLISTED FOR THE CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE
LONGLISTED FOR THE WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION "Bold, virtuosic, addictive, erotic - there is nothing like *The Pisces*. I have no idea how Broder does it, but I loved every dark and sublime page of it."
—Stephanie Danler, author of *Sweetbitter*
Lucy has been writing her dissertation on Sappho for nine years when she and her boyfriend break up in a dramatic flameout. After she bottoms out in Phoenix, her sister in Los Angeles insists

Lucy dog-sit for the summer. Annika's home is a gorgeous glass cube on Venice Beach, but Lucy can find little relief from her anxiety — not in the Greek chorus of women in her love addiction therapy group, not in her frequent Tinder excursions, not even in Dominic the foxhound's easy affection. Everything changes when Lucy becomes entranced by an eerily attractive swimmer while sitting alone on the beach rocks one night. But when Lucy learns the truth about his identity, their relationship, and Lucy's understanding of what love should look like, take a very unexpected turn. A masterful blend of vivid realism and giddy fantasy, pairing

hilarious frankness with pulse-racing eroticism, *THE PISCES* is a story about falling in obsessive love with a merman: a figure of Sirenic fantasy whose very existence pushes Lucy to question everything she thought she knew about love, lust, and meaning in the one life we have.

Baboon Vintage Reel follows two lives that collide at a Seattle punk show, and the strange consequences that arise. Timon serves as the hyperobservant western outpost of his family's business, verifying artifacts and losing himself in deafening music and isolation. Marianne fears stagnation, and has begun to crave the rootless travel of her youth. After a tense meeting, each

proceeds through a series of surreal encounters that deconstruct the lives that they've created, forcing each one into a reckoning with the world around them. *The Impossible Fairy Tale* Abrams "Sexually curious and intellectually adventurous, adolescent Marie begins journaling about her life in Western Michigan's Bible Belt during the rise of the Christian Right. Over the span of many years, her writing becomes a meditation on the ways in which language makes, unmakes, and remakes us. In *The Reconception of Marie*, Marie's many voices coalesce in a reimaged bildungsroman, where coming-of-age

becomes coming-into-awareness, a spiritual quest navigated with humor, fervency, and the multivalency of queer grace"--
We Can't Help It If We're from Florida
 Deep Vellum Publishing
 Slackers meets Savage Detectives in this polyphonic ode to the pleasures of not measuring up.

Inadequate Equilibria (Draft Version)

Hogarth
 This "impossible to forget" psychological thriller set in small town Iowa in the 1960s pits a detective struggling with his own demons against a mysterious outcast who may or may not be a serial killer (The Wall Street Journal)
 James Sallis meets Mindhunter in this stylish and atmospheric noir, a

midcentury heartland gothic with abounding twists and a feverish conclusion. Local outcast Rigby Sellers lives in squalor on a dilapidated houseboat moored on the Mississippi River. With only stolen mannequins and the river to keep him company, Rigby begins to spiral from the bizarre to the threatening. As a year of drought gives way to a season of squalls, a girl is found trembling on the side of the road, claiming her boyfriend was murdered. The townspeople of nearby Oscar turn their suspicions toward Sellers. Town sheriff Amos Fielding knows this crime is more than he can handle alone. He calls on the regional marshal up in Minnesota, and

detective Edward Ness arrives in Oscar to help him investigate the homicide and defuse the growing unrest. Ness, suffering his own demons, is determined to put his past behind him and solve the case. But soon more bodies are found. As Ness and Fielding uncover disturbing facts about Sellers, and a great storm floods the Mississippi, threatening the town, Oscar is pushed to a breaking point even Ness may not be able to prevent.

Riverine University of Alabama Press
Fiction. Growing up in poverty in the American south, Maya yearns to escape and find something better than anything she's known. "She is so hungry. It is not food, but everything else,

the world...What she needs is not on her street with the one-eyed houses. It is not in the patch of trees she once thought was a forest. It is beyond, somewhere she can't quite imagine."

Brought to vivid and visceral life through Nicole Cuffy's aching, lyrical prose, Maya's childhood fascination with anatomy and her adult pursuit of a career in medicine leads her to discover what it means to lose-- and what it means to break free. At times raw and at others melodic and tender, *ATLAS OF THE BODY* is a deeply resonant meditation on hunger and the costs of realizing a dream. "Nicole Cuffy's impressionistic and highly poetic chapbook, *ATLAS OF*

THE BODY, is as lyrical as it is stirring. I'm not sure what delighted me most: the amount of heartbreaking narrative she effectively gets into such a small space, or her rich, evocative prose. A stunning debut."--Helen Schulman "Nicole Cuffy's ATLAS OF THE BODY invents a new form: short fiction with the scope and ambition of a novel comprising vignettes of lyrical prose. Form itself is at question here: the composition of the body, the person it does or does not contain, how much of it is lost in representation. A bildungsroman, the story follows Maya and her beloved Zaire as they roam their impoverished hometown in the

American south wild and free, 'where everything in the world is their mother,' and continues through Maya's adulthood, where she alone must confront the demands of personhood and privilege. All of this unfolds in passages that are alternately compressed and precise, meditative and expansive. Cuffy is an expert conjurer, drawing buried questions from 'smudges on a cave wall': 'from the first shadow to stumble out of black muck, what is it we do to each other?' She finds answers, too. Watch her work."--Justin Sherwood Tampa Bay Noir (Akashic Noir) Macmillan
Angela Palm grew up in a place not marked on the map, her house set

on the banks of a river that had been straightened to make way for farmland. Every year, the Kankakee River in rural Indiana flooded and returned to its old course while the residents sandbagged their homes against the rising water. From her bedroom window, Palm watched the neighbor boy and loved him in secret, imagining a life with him even as she longed for a future that held more than a job at the neighborhood bar. For Palm, caught in this landscape of flood and drought, escape was a continually receding hope. Though she did escape, as an adult Palm finds herself drawn back, like the river, to her origins. But this means more than just recalling

vibrant, complicated memories of the place that shaped her, or trying to understand the family that raised her. It means visiting the prison where the boy that she loved is serving a life sentence for a brutal murder. It means trying to chart, through the mesmerizing, interconnected essays of *Riverine*, what happens when a single event forces the path of her life off course. *The Compleat Purge* HarperCollins 'Extraordinary. It is about death, but I can think of few books which have such life. It shows us what love is.' Max Porter, author of *Grief is the Thing With Feathers* and *Lanny* 'There is no one quite like Naja Marie Aidt' Valeria Luiselli 'Devastating, angry,

challenging, fragmented and filled with the beautiful hope that the love we have for people continues into the world even after they're gone.'

Culturefly

'Fragmented, poetic, informative and truthful, Aidt faces the greatest loss we can ever know with all the force of great elegy writers like Anne Carson and Denise Riley. Essential.' Polly Clark, author of *Larchfield and Tiger*

_____ "I raise my glass to my eldest son. His pregnant wife and daughter are sleeping above us. Outside, the March evening is cold and clear. 'To life!' I say as the glasses clink with a delicate and pleasing sound. My mother says something to the dog. Then the phone rings. We don't

answer it. Who could be calling so late on a Saturday evening?" In March 2015, Naja Marie Aidt's 25-year-old son, Carl, died in a tragic accident. When *Death Takes*

Something From You Give It Back is about losing a child. It is about formulating a vocabulary to express the deepest kind of pain. And it's about finding a way to write about a reality invaded by grief, lessened by loss. Faced with the sudden emptiness of language, Naja finds solace in the anguish of Joan Didion, Nick Cave, C.S. Lewis, Mallarmé, Plato and other writers who have suffered the deadening impact of loss. Their torment suffuses with her own as Naja wrestles with words and contests their

capacity to speak for the depths of her sorrow. This palimpsest of mourning enables Naja to turn over the pathetic, precious transience of existence and articulates her greatest fear: to forget. The insistent compulsion to reconstruct the harrowing aftermath of Carl's death keeps him painfully present, while fragmented memories, journal entries and poetry inch her closer to piecing Carl's life together. Intensely moving and quietly devastating, this is what it is to be a family, what it is to love and lose, and what it is to treasure life in spite of death's indomitable resolve.

You Are Having a Good Time

HarperCollins

***LONG-LISTED FOR

THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD*** A man and a woman have moved into a small house in a small village. The woman is an "examiner," charged with teaching the man a series of simple functions—this is a chair, this is a fork, this is how you meet people. Still, the man is haunted by strange dreams, and when he meets a charismatic, volatile young woman named Hilda at a party, it throws everything he has learned into question. What is this village? And why is he here? A fascinating novel of love, illness, despair, and betrayal, *A Cure for Suicide* is the most captivating novel yet from one of our most audacious and original young writers.

The Reconception of

Marie Algonquin Books Named a Best Book of the Year by The Washington Post, Time, NPR, Amazon, Vice, Bustle, The New York Times, The Guardian, Kirkus Reviews, Entertainment Weekly, The AV Club, & Audible A New York Times Bestseller “One of the most compelling protagonists modern fiction has offered in years: a loopy, quietly furious pillhead whose Ambien ramblings and Xanaxed b*tcherries somehow wend their way through sad and funny and strange toward something genuinely profound.” — Entertainment Weekly “Darkly hilarious . . . [Moshfegh’s] the kind of provocateur who makes you laugh out loud while drawing blood.” —Vogue From

one of our boldest, most celebrated new literary voices, a novel about a young woman's efforts to duck the ills of the world by embarking on an extended hibernation with the help of one of the worst psychiatrists in the annals of literature and the battery of medicines she prescribes. Our narrator should be happy, shouldn't she? She's young, thin, pretty, a recent Columbia graduate, works an easy job at a hip art gallery, lives in an apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan paid for, like the rest of her needs, by her inheritance. But there is a dark and vacuous hole in her heart, and it isn't just the loss of her parents, or the way her

Wall Street boyfriend treats her, or her sadomasochistic relationship with her best friend, Reva. It's the year 2000 in a city aglitter with wealth and possibility; what could be so terribly wrong? *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* is a powerful answer to that question. Through the story of a year spent under the influence of a truly mad combination of drugs designed to heal our heroine from her alienation from this world, Moshfegh shows us how reasonable, even necessary, alienation can be. Both tender and blackly funny, merciless and compassionate, it is a showcase for the gifts of one of our major writers working at the height of her powers. Sunshine State

Graywolf Press
 Luke B. Goebel's *Fourteen Stories, None of Them Are Yours* is the winner of the FC2 Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Prize.

Swim to Me

University of Alabama Press
 *** A NEW YORK TIMES "100 Notable Books of 2020" *** A stunning, complex narrative about the fractured legacy of a decades-old double murder in rural West Virginia—and the writer determined to put the pieces back together. In the early evening of June 25, 1980 in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, two middle-class outsiders named Vicki Durian, 26, and Nancy Santomero, 19, were murdered in an isolated clearing. They were hitchhiking to a

festival known as the Rainbow Gathering but never arrived. For thirteen years, no one was prosecuted for the “Rainbow Murders” though deep suspicion was cast on a succession of local residents in the community, depicted as poor, dangerous, and backward. In 1993, a local farmer was convicted, only to be released when a known serial killer and diagnosed schizophrenic named Joseph Paul Franklin claimed responsibility. As time passed, the truth seemed to slip away, and the investigation itself inflicted its own traumas—turning neighbor against neighbor and confirming the fears of violence outsiders have done to this region for

centuries. In *The Third Rainbow Girl*, Emma Copley Eisenberg uses the Rainbow Murders case as a starting point for a thought-provoking tale of an Appalachian community bound by the false stories that have been told about. Weaving in experiences from her own years spent living in Pocahontas County, she follows the threads of this crime through the complex history of Appalachia, revealing how this mysterious murder has loomed over all those affected for generations, shaping their fears, fates, and desires. Beautifully written and brutally honest, *The Third Rainbow Girl* presents a searing and wide-ranging portrait of America—divided by gender and class, and

haunted by its own violence.

Book of Mutter Simon and Schuster

At the age of nine, Juan Salvatierra became mute following a horse riding accident. At twenty, he began secretly painting a series of long rolls of canvas in which he minutely detailed six decades of life in his village on Argentina's river frontier with Uruguay. After the death of Salvatierra, his sons return to the village from Buenos Aires to deal with their inheritance: a shed packed with painted rolls of canvas stretching over two miles in length and depicting personal and communal history. Museum curators from Europe come calling to acquire this strange, gargantuan artwork.

But an essential roll is missing. A search ensues that illuminates the links between art and life, as an intrigue of family secrets buried in the past cast their shadows on the present.

Morelia Catapult

A woman finds, tucked inside a book, a slip of paper with a sentence written on that isn't in English. The first word is "bze" and she sets out on a quest to find what it is and where it comes from.

Binary Star Two

Dollar Radio

A chilling, wildly original novel from a major new voice from South Korea The Impossible Fairy Tale is the story of two unexceptional grade-school girls. Mia is "lucky"—she is spoiled by her mother and, as she explains, her two

fathers. She gloats over her exotic imported color pencils and won't be denied a coveted sweater. Then there is the Child who, by contrast, is neither lucky nor unlucky. She makes so little impression that she seems not even to merit a name. At school, their fellow students, whether lucky or luckless or unlucky, seem consumed by an almost murderous rage. Adults are nearly invisible, and the society the children create on their own is marked by cruelty and soul-crushing hierarchies. Then, one day, the Child sneaks into the classroom after hours and adds ominous sentences to

her classmates' notebooks. This sinister but initially inconsequential act unlocks a series of events that end in horrible violence. But that is not the end of this eerie, unpredictable novel. A teacher, who is also this book's author, wakes from an intense dream. When she arrives at her next class, she recognizes a student: the Child, who knows about the events of the novel's first half, which took place years earlier. Han Yujoo's *The Impossible Fairy Tale* is a fresh and terrifying exploration of the ethics of art making and of the stinging consequences of neglect.

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