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The Vintage Contemporaries Reader
Undiscovered Gyrl Vintage Contemporaries
Orange World and Other Stories **Undiscovered**
Gyr Glamorama **The House on Mango**
Street **The Feast of Love** Mona in the
Promised Land **We Ride Upon Sticks** **The**
Vintage Book of Contemporary American
Short Stories *The Informers* **Silence Once**
Begun **The Missing** *Last Things* **Paco's Story**
The Girls from Corona del Mar **New**
American Stories *Swamplandia!* Girl in
Landscape **Flashback** **Gallatin Canyon** *The*
Oregon Experiment **Blind Sight** *My Old*
Sweetheart **The Vintage Book of**
Contemporary World Poetry Lord of Misrule
White Girls **Bloodroot** *Black Tickets* *One Day*
Long Man *A Few Corrections* *The*
Disappointment Artist The Resisters *Schooling*
Love Invents Us Bright, Precious Days
Mama Day *The Rules of Attraction*

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ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR:
THE WASHINGTON POST • NPR • GOOD HOUSEKEEPING • FRESH AIR • THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS • LIT HUB • KIRKUS REVIEWS • LIBRARY JOURNAL • THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY Karen Russell's comedic genius and mesmerizing talent for creating outlandish predicaments that uncannily mirror our inner lives is on full display in these eight exuberant, arrestingly vivid, unforgettable stories. In "Bog Girl," a young man falls in love with a two-thousand-year-old girl that he's extracted from a mass of peat in a Northern European bog. In "The Prospectors," two opportunistic young women fleeing the Great Depression strike out for new territory, and find themselves fighting for their lives. And in the brilliant, hilarious title story, a new mother desperate to ensure her infant's safety strikes a diabolical deal, agreeing to breastfeed the devil in exchange for his

protection. The landscape in which these stories unfold is a feral, slippery, purgatorial space, bracketed by the void--yet within it Russell captures the exquisite beauty and tenderness of ordinary life. Orange World is a miracle of storytelling from a true modern master. In the early 1970s, trainer Tommy Hansel attempts a horse racing scam at a small, backwoods track in West Virginia, but nothing goes according to his plan when the horses refuse to cooperate and nearly everyone at the track seems to know his scheme. The author of Typical Americans sets readers' notions of cultural diversity and ethnic identity spinning in Mona in the Promised Land. Moving to Scarshill, New York, with her newly prosperous family, Mona Chang discovers that, in 1968, the Chinese have become the "new Jews." Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved. From the New York Times bestselling author of Less Than Zero and American Psycho—a startlingly funny, kaleidoscopic novel about three students at a small, affluent liberal-arts college in New England with no plans for the future—or even the present—who become entangled in a romantic triangle. • "An extraordinary writer." —LA Weekly Bret Easton Ellis trains his incisive gaze on the kids at self-consciously bohemian Camden College and treats their sexual posturings and agonies with a mixture of acrid hilarity and compassion while exposing the moral vacuum at the center of their lives. Lauren changes boyfriends every time she changes majors and still pines for

Victor who split for Europe months ago and she might or might not be writing anonymous love letter to ambivalent, hard-drinking Sean, a hopeless romantic who only has eyes for Lauren, even if he ends up in bed with half the campus, and Paul, Lauren's ex, forthrightly bisexual and whose passion masks a shrewd pragmatism. They waste time getting wasted, race from Thirsty Thursday Happy Hours to Dressed To Get Screwed parties to drinks at The Edge of the World or The Graveyard. The Rules of Attraction is a poignant, hilarious take on the death of romance. The basis for the major motion picture starring James Van Der Beek, Shannyn Sossamon, Jessica Biel, and Kate Bosworth. Look for Bret Easton Ellis's new novel, The Shards, coming in January. This groundbreaking volume may well be the poetry anthology for the global village. As selected by J.D. McClatchy, this collection includes masterpieces from four continents and more than two dozen languages in translations by such distinguished poets as Elizabeth Bishop, W.S. Merwin, Ted Hughes, and Seamus Heaney. Among the countries and writers represented are: Bangladesh--Taslina Nasrin Chile--Pablo Neruda China--Bei Dao, Shu Ting El Salvador--Claribel Alegria France--Yves Bonnefoy Greece--Odysseus Elytis, Yannis Ritsos India--A.K. Ramanujan Israel--Yehuda Amichai Japan--Shuntaro Tanikawa Mexico--Octavio Paz Nicaragua--Ernesto Cardenal Nigeria--Wole Soyinka Norway--Tomas Tranströmer Palestine--Mahmoud Darwish

Poland--Zbigniew Herbert, Czeslaw Milosz
Russia--Joseph Brodsky, Yevgeny Yevtushenko
Senegal--Leopold Sedar Senghor South Africa--
Breyten Breytenbach St. Lucia, West Indies--
Derek Walcott This unforgettable New York
story of glamour, sex, ambition, and heartbreak
begins in the heady days before the financial
crash. Russell and Corrine Calloway seem to be
living the dream: a calendar filled with high-
society parties; jobs they care about and enjoy;
twin children, a boy and a girl whose birth was
truly miraculous; a loft in TriBeCa and summers
in the Hamptons. But beneath the glossy
surfaces, things are simmering. Russell, editor-
in-chief of a boutique publisher, has cultural
clout but is on the edge financially, and feels
compelled to pursue an audacious—and
potentially ruinous—opportunity. Meanwhile,
Corrine's world is turned upside down when the
man with whom she'd had an ill-fated affair in
the wake of 9/11 suddenly reappears, and the
Calloways find themselves tested more severely
than they ever could have imagined. The third
book in McInerney's celebrated Calloway
trilogy, *Bright, Precious Days* is an aching,
extraordinary portrait of a marriage during a
period of dizzying change. In a volume he
describes as "a series of covert and not-so-
covert autobiographical pieces," Jonathan
Lethem explores the nature of cultural
obsession—from western films and comic
books, to the music of Pink Floyd and the New
York City subway. Along the way, he shows how
each of these "voyages out from himself" has

led him to the source of his beginnings as a
writer. *The Disappointment Artist* is a series of
windows onto the collisions of art, landscape,
and personal history that formed Lethem's
richly imaginative, searingly honest perspective
on life. A touching, deeply perceptive portrait of
a writer in the making. According to his
obituary, Wesley Sultan died at the age of 63,
leaving behind three children, a wife, an ex-
wife, a brother, a sister, and a life-long business
career. According to his obituary, Wesley
Sultan led a quiet, respectable, and
unremarkable life. Our narrator, however, is
about to discover that nothing could be further
from the truth. Using Sultan's obituary as a
road map to the unknown terrain of the man
himself, our narrator discovers dead-ends,
wrong turns, and unexpected destinations in
every line. As he travels from the bleak
Michigan winter to the steamy streets of Miami
to the idyllic French countryside, in search of
those who knew Wesley best, he gradually
reconstructs the life of an exceptionally
handsome, ambitious, and deceptive man to
whom women were everything. And as the
margins of the obituary fill with handwritten
corrections, as details emerge and facts are
revised, our mysterious narrator—whose interest
in his quarry is far from random—has no choice
but to confront the truth of his own life as well.
Beautiful, wild, funny, and lost, Katie
Kampenfelt is taking a year off before college to
find her passion. Ambitious in her own way,
Katie intends to do more than just smoke weed

with her boyfriend, Rory, and work at the
bookstore. She plans to seduce Dan, a thirty-
two-year-old film professor. Katie chronicles
her adventures in an anonymous blog, telling
strangers her innermost desires, shames, and
thrills. But when Dan stops taking her calls,
when her alcoholic father suffers a terrible fall,
and when she finds herself drawn into a
dangerous new relationship, Katie's fearless
narrative begins to crack, and dark pieces of
her past emerge. Sexually frank, often
heartbreaking, and bursting with devilish
humor, *Undiscovered Gyrl* is an extraordinarily
accomplished novel of identity, voyeurism, and
deceit. "Imagine an 18-year-old Lolita, updated
for the 21st century, blogging her own
provocative adventures. By turns charming and
crude, disturbingly reckless and achingly
tender, *Undiscovered Gyrl* seduces you into her
downy arms, locks her long legs around your
waist, and doesn't let go." — Rachel Resnick,
author of *Love Junkie* From the acclaimed
author of *Ninety-two in the Shade* and
Cloudbursts—the stories of Gallatin Canyon are
rich in the wit, compassion, and matchless
language for which Thomas McGuane is
celebrated. Set mostly in famed Big Sky
Country, McGuane brings us an "astonishing"
(The New York Times Book Review) collection
in which place exerts the power of destiny. A
boy makes a surprising discovery skating at
night on Lake Michigan; an Irish clan in
Massachusetts gather around their dying
matriarch; a battered survivor of the glory days

of Key West washes up on other shores. Several of the stories unfold in Big Sky country: a father tries to buy his adult son's way out of virginity; a convict turns cowhand on a ranch; a couple makes a fateful drive through a perilous gorge. McGuane's people are seekers, beguiled by the land's beauty and myth, compelled by the fantasy of what a locale can offer, forced to reconcile dream and truth. Naomi and Scanlon Pratt are at the threshold of a new life. East Coast transplants to small-town Oregon, Scanlon has a position at the local university—teaching mass movements and domestic radicalism—and Naomi is pregnant with their first child. But everything changes when they meet Clay, a troubled young anarchist who despises Scanlon's self-serving attempts at friendship but adores Naomi. As the Pratts welcome their newborn son, their lives become so deeply entwined with Clay's that they must decide exactly where their loyalties lie, before the increasingly volatile activism that they've been dabbling in engulfs them all. A love song to the Pacific Northwest, *The Oregon Experiment* explores the contemporary civil war between desire and betrayal, the political and the personal. A powerful generational saga at once tender and suspenseful, overflowing with magic and common sense, this book "resonates with genuine excitement ... a big, strong, admirable novel" (New York Times Book Review). On the island of Willow Springs, off the Georgia coast, the powers of healer Mama Day are tested by

her great niece, Cocoa, a stubbornly emancipated woman endangered by the island's darker forces. "Susanna Moore's novel astonished me--one of those brilliant objects that come along only rarely, all light on clear water, and then one realizes the faster currents underneath, the terrible swiftness of sex and time." --Joan Didion In this mesmerizing novel, Susanna Moore displays a naturalist's eye for the landscape of her native Hawaii and an uncanny sensitivity to the despairing love between mothers and daughters. Lily Shields grows up amid the fragrance of night-jasmine and burning sugar cane, and the heady atmosphere of her mother's madness. For if Anna Shields is an island unto herself--fragile, glamorous, and fearfully needy--Lily is the bridge that connects her to reality. But now Lily is a young woman and a mother herself, self-exiled from Hawaii but still attached to Anna's tragedy. And as she tries to untangle those threads of love and loyalty, Moore gives us a novel of shimmering beauty and sadness. *My Old Sweetheart* is a small classic, perfectly formed and mysteriously wise. "Susanna Moore is a gifted and compelling novelist . . . in possession of her own unique voice." --The New York Times Book Review "I can't recall another novel like this about mothers and daughters. . . . Lily's mysterious, half-told tale delighted and touched me." --Susan Lydon, *Village Voice* Paco Sullivan is the only man in Alpha Company to survive a cataclysmic Viet Cong attack on Fire Base Harriette in Vietnam. Everyone else is

annihilated. When a medic finally rescues Paco almost two days later, he is waiting to die, flies and maggots covering his burnt, shattered body. He winds up back in the US with his legs full of pins, daily rations of Librium and Valium, and no sense of what to do next. One evening, on the tail of a rainstorm, he limps off the bus and into the small town of Boone, determined to find a real job and a real bed—but no matter how hard he works, nothing muffles the anguish in his mind and body. Brilliantly and vividly written, *Paco's Story*—winner of a National Book Award—plunges you into the violence and casual cruelty of the Vietnam War, and the ghostly aftermath that often dealt the harshest blows. A variety of characters tell their tales of love and loss and redemption. From New York Times best-selling author Thea Harrison comes a vintage contemporary romance, originally published under Amanda Carpenter in 1984. Dana Haslow's telepathic abilities are more curse than blessing. Tormented by constant nightmares and convinced death will be her only respite, she isolates herself. Not even her isolation is safe, though, as a new neighbor's internal torment spills over into Dana's sleeping hours, unwittingly forcing her to experience the horrors of his past through a series of night terrors that will overwhelm her if she can't convince him to accept help. David Raymond is a Vietnam vet with PTSD and no desire to confront his demons—no matter how much a certain new neighbor pushes him to do so.

David doesn't want Dana's help, but when Dana becomes the unwilling obsession of a dangerous local man, David realizes he needs her. Can these two damaged souls find healing together? Or will someone deprive them of the chance? New York Times Bestseller | Pulitzer Prize Finalist "Ms. Russell is one in a million. . . . A suspenseful, deeply haunted book."--The New York Times Thirteen-year-old Ava Bigtree has lived her entire life at Swamplandia!, her family's island home and gator-wrestling theme park in the Florida Everglades. But when illness fells Ava's mother, the park's indomitable headliner, the family is plunged into chaos; her father withdraws, her sister falls in love with a spooky character known as the Dredgeman, and her brilliant big brother, Kiwi, defects to a rival park called The World of Darkness. As Ava sets out on a mission through the magical swamps to save them all, we are drawn into a lush and bravely imagined debut that takes us to the shimmering edge of reality. The New York Times bestselling author of *American Psycho* and *Less Than Zero* delivers a gripping and brilliant dissection of our celebrity obsessed culture. • "Arguably the novel of the 1990's...Should establish Ellis as the most ambitious and fearless writer of his generation...a must read." —The Seattle Times Set in 90s Manhattan, Victor Ward, a model with perfect abs and all the right friends, is seen and photographed everywhere, even in places he hasn't been and with people he doesn't know. He's living with one beautiful

model and having an affair with another on the eve of opening the trendiest nightclub in New York City history. And now it's time to move to the next stage. But the future he gets is not the one he had in mind. With the same deft satire and savage wit he has brought to his other fiction, Bret Ellis gets beyond the facade and introduces us, unsparingly, to what we always feared was behind it. *Glamorama* shows us a shadowy looking-glass reality, the juncture where fame and fashion and terror and mayhem meet and then begin to resemble the familiar surface of our lives. Look for Bret Easton Ellis's new novel, *The Shards*, coming in January. Originally published in 1985, and republished to coincide with the release of Cisneros' new book, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*, this is the stunning debut novel in a series of vignettes, it is the story of a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago. Beautiful, wild, funny, and lost, Katie Kampenfelt is taking a year off before college to find her passion. Ambitious in her own way, Katie intends to do more than just smoke weed with her boyfriend, Rory, and work at the bookstore. She plans to seduce Dan, a thirty-two-year-old film professor. Katie chronicles her adventures in an anonymous blog, telling strangers her innermost desires, shames, and thrills. But when Dan stops taking her calls, when her alcoholic father suffers a terrible fall, and when she finds herself drawn into a dangerous new relationship, Katie's fearless narrative begins to crack, and dark

pieces of her past emerge. Sexually frank, often heartbreaking, and bursting with devilish humor, *Undiscovered Gyrl* is an extraordinarily accomplished novel of identity, voyeurism, and deceit. "Imagine an 18-year-old Lolita, updated for the 21st century, blogging her own provocative adventures. By turns charming and crude, disturbingly reckless and achingly tender, *Undiscovered Gyrl* seduces you into her downy arms, locks her long legs around your waist, and doesn't let go." — Rachel Resnick, author of *Love Junkie* Seventeen-year-old Luke Prescott has been brought up in a bohemian matriarchy, surrounded by his divorced New Age mother, his religious grandmother, and two precocious half-sisters. He is writing his college applications when his father—a famous television star— invites him to Los Angeles for the summer. Luke accepts and is plunged into a world of location shooting, celebrity interviews, glamorous parties, and premieres. But as he begins to know the difference between his father's public persona and his private one, Luke finds himself questioning the new history he has created for himself. In the town of Danvers, Massachusetts, home of the original 1692 witch trials, the 1989 Danvers Falcons will do anything to make it to the state finals—even if it means tapping into some devilishly dark powers. Against a background of irresistible 1980s iconography, Quan Barry expertly weaves together the individual and collective progress of this enchanted team as they storm their way through an unforgettable

season. Helmed by good-girl captain Abby Putnam (a descendant of the infamous Salem accuser Ann Putnam) and her co-captain Jen Fiorenza (whose bleached blond "Claw" sees and knows all), the Falcons prove to be wily, original, and bold, flaunting society's stale notions of femininity. Through the crucible of team sport and, more importantly, friendship, this comic tour de female force chronicles Barry's glorious cast of characters as they charge past every obstacle on the path to finding their glorious true selves. From the New York Times bestselling author of *American Psycho* and *Less Than Zero* comes a nihilistic novel set in the early eighties that portrays a chilling descent into the abyss beneath L.A.'s gorgeous surfaces. • "Skillfully accomplishes its goal of depicting a modern moral wasteland.... Arguably Ellis's best." —The Boston Globe The basis of the major motion picture starring Billy Bob Thornton, Kim Basinger and Mickey Rourke, *The Informers* is a seductive and chillingly nihilistic novel, in which Bret Easton Ellis, returns to Los Angeles, the city whose moral badlands he portrayed so unforgettably in *Less Than Zero*. This time is the early eighties. The characters go to the same schools and eat at the same restaurants. Their voices enfold us as seamlessly as those of DJs heard over a car radio. They have sex with the same boys and girls and buy from the same dealers. In short, they are connected in the only way people can be in that city. Dirk sees his best friend killed in a desert car wreck, then rifles

through his pockets for a last joint before the ambulance comes. Cheryl, a wannabe newscaster, chides her future stepdaughter, "You're tan but you don't look happy." Jamie is a clubland carnivore with a taste for human blood. Look for Bret Easton Ellis's new novel, *The Shards*, coming in January. To eight-year-old Grace Davitt, the world is full of strange wonders. Through the eyes of her mother, Anna—an ornithologist who speaks five languages—their small lakeside town in Vermont becomes a glittering mystery filled with secret tongues, monsters in the lake, and birthday parties for the Earth. Anna's untamed spirit stands in sharp contrast to that of Grace's father, a chemistry teacher who examines his surroundings through the lens of rationalism and order. As Grace's family begins to fall apart and she finds that she must choose between her parents, her conflicting loyalties take her on a remarkable journey that spans all corners of the country—and of her own boundless imagination. NATIONAL BESTSELLER A dark and riveting story of the legacies—of magic and madness, faith and secrets, passion and loss—that haunt one family across the generations. Myra Lamb is a wild girl with mysterious, haint blue eyes who grows up on remote Bloodroot Mountain. Her grandmother, Byrdie, protects her fiercely and passes down "the touch" that bewitches people and animals alike. But when John Odom tries to tame Myra, it sparks a shocking disaster, ripping lives apart. "A fascinating look at a rural world full of

love and life, and dreams and disappointment." --The Boston Globe "If *Wuthering Heights* had been set in southern Appalachia, it might have taken place on Bloodroot Mountain.... Brooding, dark and beautifully imagined." --The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Falling in love on the eve of their 1988 college graduations, Dexter and Emma embark on a heady relationship marked throughout subsequent decades by their disparate personalities, conflicts and misconceptions, in a tale told on the anniversaries of the day they met. Original. Loretta Dardio, a young girl growing from curiosity into adolescent defiance, observes her mother's one wistful attempt at a love affair, sabotages her best friend's a backseat tryst, an in time risks ostracism and heartbreak as she pursues a romance of her own on the other side of the colour line. "Vintage Contemporaries is about being young and becoming less young, exploring friendship (sometimes magical, sometimes messy), parenthood (ditto), and how to reconcile youthful ambition and ideals with real life. It's a warm and big-hearted coming of age story that made me wistful for my own twenties, set in a vividly rendered and long-vanished New York City."—Rumaan Alam, New York Times bestselling author of *Leave the World Behind* Slate editor Dan Kois makes his fiction debut with this stunning coming-of-age novel set in New York City, about the joys of unexpected life-altering friendships, the power of finding ourselves in the moment, and the importance of forgiving ourselves when we

inevitably mess everything up. It's 1991. Em moved to New York City for excitement and possibility, but the big city isn't quite what she thought it would be. Working as a literary agent's assistant, she's down to her last nineteen dollars but has made two close friends: Emily, a firebrand theater director living in a Lower East Side squat, and Lucy, a middle-aged novelist and single mom. Em's life revolves around these two wildly different women and their vividly disparate yet equally assured views of art and the world. But who is Em, and what does she want to become? It's 2004. Em is now Emily, a successful book editor, happily married and barely coping with the challenges of a new baby. And suddenly Lucy and Emily return to her life: Her old friend Lucy's posthumous book needs a publisher, and her ex-friend Emily wants to rekindle their relationship. As they did once before, these two women—one dead, one very alive—force Emily to reckon with her decisions, her failures, and what kind of creative life she wants to lead. A sharp, reflective, and funny story of a young woman coming into herself and struggling to find her place, *Vintage Contemporaries* is a novel about art, parenthood, loyalty, and fighting for a cause—the times we do the right thing, and the times we fail—set in New York City on both sides of the millennium. Best friends Mia and Lorrie Ann couldn't be more different; where Mia is reckless and proudly hard-hearted, Lorrie Ann is kind, serenely beautiful, and seemingly immune to the kind of

teenage mistakes that Mia can't help but make. But within a few years, fortunes change. Suddenly, Mia is free to grow up and adventure, falling in and out of love while Lorrie Ann is weighed down by responsibilities at home. And when good, nice, brave Lorrie Ann stops being so good, Mia must question how well she ever really knew her best friend in the first place. In *New American Stories*, the beautiful, the strange, the melancholy, and the sublime all come together to show the vast range of the American short story. In this remarkable anthology, Ben Marcus has corralled a vital and artistically singular crowd of contemporary fiction writers. Collected here are practitioners of deep realism, mind-blowing experimentalism, and every hybrid in between. Luminaries and cult authors stand side by side with the most compelling new literary voices. Nothing less than the American short story renaissance distilled down to its most relevant, daring, and unforgettable works, *New American Stories* puts on wide display the true art of an American idiom. Jayne Anne Phillips's reputation-making debut collection paved the way for a new generation of writers. Raved about by reviewers and embraced by the likes of Raymond Carver, Frank Conroy, Annie Dillard, and Nadine Gordimer, *Black Tickets* now stands as a classic. With an uncanny ability to depict the lives of men and women who rarely register in our literature, Phillips writes stories that lay bare their suffering and joy. Here are the abused and the abandoned, the

violent and the passive, the impoverished and the disenfranchised who populate the small towns and rural byways of the country. A patron of the arts reserves his fondest feeling for the one man who wants it least. A stripper, the daughter of a witch, escapes from poverty into another kind of violence. A young girl during the Depression is caught between the love of her crazy father and the no less powerful love of her sorrowful mother. These are great American stories that have earned a privileged place in our literature. Various, funny, frightening, poignant, and exhilarating, these collected stories display the best American writers at the peak of their powers and the national narrative at its most eloquent, truthful, and inventive. The thirty-three stories in this volume prove that American short fiction maybe be our most distinctive national art form. As selected and introduced by Tobias Wolff, they also make up an alternate map of the United States that represents not just geography but narrative traditions, cultural heritage, and divergent approaches. Contributors and stories include: Mary Gaitskill, "A Romantic Weekend"; Andre Dubus, "The Fat Girl"; Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried"; Raymond Carver, "Cathedral"; Joyce Carol Oates, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"; Mona Simpson, "Lawns"; Ann Beattie, "A Vintage Thunderbird"; Jamaica Kincaid, "Girl"; Stuart Dybek, "Chopin in Water"; Ron Hansen, "Wickedness"; Denis Johnson, "Emergency"; Edward P. Jones, "The

First Day"; John L'Heureux, "Departures"; Ralph Lombreglia, "Men Under Water"; Robert Olmstead, "Cody's Story"; Jayne Anne Phillips, "Home"; Susan Power, "Moonwalk"; Amy Tan, "Rules of the Game"; Stephanie Vaughn, "Dog Heaven"; Joy Williams, "Train"; Dorothy Allison, "River of Names"; Richard Bausch, "All The Way in Flagstaff, Arizona"; and more. From the critically acclaimed author of *Bloodroot*, a gripping, wondrously evocative novel of a family in turmoil, set against the backdrop of real-life historical event—the story of three days in the summer of 1936, as a government-built dam is about to flood an Appalachian town, and a little girl goes missing. A river called Long Man has coursed through East Tennessee from time immemorial, bringing sustenance to the people who farm along its banks and who trade among its small towns. But as *Long Man* opens, the Tennessee Valley Authority's plans to dam the river and flood the town of Yuneetah for the sake of progress—to bring electricity and jobs to the region—are about to take effect. Just a few days remain before the river will rise, and most of the town has been evacuated. Among the holdouts is a young, headstrong mother, Annie Clyde Dodson, whose ancestors have lived for generations on her mountaintop farm; she'll do anything to ensure that her three-year-old daughter, Gracie, will inherit the family's land. But her husband wants to make a fresh start in Michigan, where he's found work that will bring the family a more secure future. As the

deadline looms, a storm as powerful as the emotions between them rages outside their door. Suddenly they realize that Gracie is nowhere to be found. Has the little girl simply wandered off into the rain? Or has she been taken by Amos, the mysterious drifter who has come back to Yuneetah, perhaps to save his hometown in a last, desperate act of violence? Suspenseful, visceral, gorgeously told, *Long Man* is a searing portrait of a tight-knit community brought together by change and crisis, and of one family facing a terrifying ticking clock. A novel set in history that resonates with our own times, it is a dazzling and unforgettable tour de force. This eBook edition includes a Reading Group Guide. One the irrepressibly inventive Jonathan Lethem could weld science fiction and the Western into a mesmerizing novel of exploration and otherness, sexual awakening and loss. At the age of 13 Pella Marsh loses her mother and her home on the scorched husk that is planet Earth. Her sorrowing family emigrates to the Planet of the Archbuilders, whose mysterious inhabitants have names like Lonely Dumptruck and Hiding Kneel—and a civilization that and frightens their human visitors. On this new world, spikily independent Pella becomes as uneasy envoy between two species. And at the same time is unwilling drawn to a violent loner who embodies all the paranoid machismo of the frontier ethic. Combining the tragic grandeur of John Ford's *The Searchers* and the sexual tension of *Lolita* and transporting them to a

planet light years, *Girl in Landscape* is a tour de force. The moving story of one family struggling to maintain their humanity in circumstances that threaten their every value—from the highly acclaimed, award-winning author of *Thank You, Mr. Nixon*. • “Intricately imagined ... [It] grows directly out of the soil of our current political moment.” —The New York Times Book Review The time: not so long from now. The place: AutoAmerica, a country surveilled by one “Aunt Nettie,” a Big Brother that is part artificial intelligence, part internet, and oddly human—even funny. The people: divided. The “angelfair” Netted have jobs and, what with the country half under water, literally occupy the high ground. The Surplus live on swampland if they're lucky, on water if they're not. The story: To a Surplus couple—he once a professor, she still a lawyer—is born a girl, Gwen, with a golden arm. Her teens find her happily playing in an underground baseball league, but when AutoAmerica faces ChinRussia in the Olympics, Gwen finds herself in dangerous territory, playing ball with the Netted even as her mother battles this apartheid-like society in court. Over the course of several months, eight people vanish from their homes in the same Japanese town, a single playing card found on each door. Known as “the Narito Disappearances,” the crime has authorities baffled—until a confession appears on the police's doorstep, signed by one Oda Sotatsu, a thread salesman. Sotatsu is arrested, jailed, and interrogated,

but he refuses to speak. Even as his family comes to visit, even as his execution looms, and even as a young woman named Jito Joo enters his cell, he maintains his vow of silence. And as a journalist's obsession uncovers more to the story, Jesse Ball spins a wildly inventive and emotionally powerful take of unjust conviction and lost love. A masterful novel set in 1920s Louisiana, *The Missing* is the story of Sam Simoneaux, a floorwalker at a New Orleans department store. When a little girl is kidnapped on Sam's watch he is haunted by guilt, grief, and ghosts from his own troubled past. Determined to find her, Sam sets out on a journey through a world of music and violence, where riverboats teem with drinking and dancing, and where dark swamplands conceal those who choose to live by their own laws. With the fate of the stolen child looming, *The Missing* vividly depicts an America lurching

away from war, where civilization is only beginning to penetrate the hinterlands, and a man must choose between compassion and vengeance. Heather McGowan's widely praised first novel introduces a literary artist of consummate skill, and a narrative voice of astonishing sensitivity and sensuousness. Tracking every mercurial shift of her character's consciousness, the result is dreamy, disquieting, and achingly alive. *Schooling* is a portrait of an adolescent girl, thirteen-year-old Catrine Evans, who following her mother's death is uprooted from her home in America to an English boarding school. There she encounters classmates who sniff glue and engage in arson and instructors who make merciless fun of her accent. She also finds the sympathetic chemistry teacher Mr. Gilbert, who offers Catrine the friendship she so desperately

wants—a friendship that gradually takes on sinister and obsessive overtones. National Book Award finalist Amy Bloom has written a tale of growing up that is sharp and funny, rueful and uncompromisingly real. A chubby girl with smudged pink harlequin glasses and a habit of stealing Heath Bars from the local five-and-dime, Elizabeth Taube is the only child of parents whose indifference to her is the one sure thing in her life. When her search for love and attention leads her into the arms of her junior-high-school English teacher, things begin to get complicated. And even her friend Mrs. Hill, a nearly blind, elderly black woman, can't protect her when real love—exhilarating, passionate, heartbreaking—enters her life in the gorgeous shape of Huddie Lester. With her finely honed style and her unflinching sensibility, Bloom shows us how profoundly the forces of love and desire can shape a life.