

A Day Of Pleasure Stories Of A Boy Growing Up In Warsaw

GINNY, who marries Tom at the turn of the century after her family has given up on her ever marrying, narrates THE TRUEST PLEASURE--the story of their life together on her father's farm in the western North Carolina mountains. They have a lot in common--love of the land and fathers who fought in the Civil War. Tom's father died in the war, but Ginny's father came back to western North Carolina to hold on to the farm and turn a profit. Ginny's was a childhood of relative security, Tom's one of landlessness. Truth be known--and they both know it--their marriage is mutually beneficial in purely practical terms. Tom wants land to call his own. Ginny knows she can't manage her aging father's farm by herself. But there is also mutual attraction, and indeed their "loving" is deeply gratifying. What keeps getting in the way of it, though, are their obsessions. Tom Powell's obsession is easy to understand. He's a workaholic who hoards time and money. Ginny is obsessed by Pentecostal preaching. That she loses control of her dignity, that she speaks "in tongues," that she is "saved," seem to her a blessing and to Tom a disgrace. It's not until Tom lies unconscious and at the mercy of a disease for which the mountain doctor has no cure that Ginny realizes her truest pleasure is her love for her husband. Like COLD MOUNTAIN, the time and place of THE TRUEST PLEASURE are remote from contemporary American life, but its rendering of the nature of marriage is timeless and universal. Praise for THE TRUEST PLEASURE: "Marvelously vivid imagery. . . . a quietly audacious book."--The New York Times Book Review; "Morgan deeply understands these people and their world, and he writes about them with an authority usually associated with the great novelists of the last century. . . . the book is astonishing."--The Boston Book Review; An exploration of why people all over the world love to engage in pain on purpose--from dominatrices, religious ascetics, and ultramarathoners to ballerinas, icy ocean bathers, and sideshow performers Masochism is sexy, human, reviled, worshipped, and can be delightfully bizarre. Deliberate and consensual pain has been with us for millennia, encompassing everyone from Black Plague flagellants to ballerinas dancing on broken bones to competitive eaters choking down hot peppers while they cry. Masochism is a part of us. It lives inside workaholics, tattoo enthusiasts, and all manner of garden variety pain-seekers. At its core, masochism is about feeling bad, then better—a phenomenon that is long overdue for a heartfelt and hilarious investigation. And Leigh Cowart would know: they are not just a researcher and science writer—they're an inveterate, high-sensation seeking masochist. And they have a few questions: Why do people engage in masochism? What are the benefits and the costs? And what does masochism have to say about the human experience? By participating in many of these activities themselves, and through conversations with psychologists, fellow scientists, and people who seek pain for pleasure, Cowart unveils how our minds and bodies find meaning and relief in pain—a quirk in our programming that drives discipline and innovation even as it threatens to swallow us whole.

A Hebrew legend in which a messenger from God sells himself into slavery in order to help a poor scribe.

An unmissable collection of eight unconventional and captivating short stories for young and adult learners of Irish. "Olly's top-notch language-learning insights are right in line with the best of what we know from neuroscience and cognitive psychology about how to learn effectively. I love his work - and you will too!" - Barbara Oakley, PhD, Author of New York Times bestseller A Mind for Numbers Short Stories in Irish for Beginners has been written especially for students from high-beginner to low-intermediate level, designed to give a sense of achievement, a feeling of progress and most importantly - enjoyment! Mapped to A1-B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages, these eight captivating

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stories are designed to give you a sense of achievement and a feeling of progress when reading. What does this book give you? - Eight stories in a variety of exciting genres, from science fiction and crime to history and thriller - making reading fun, while you learn a wide range of new vocabulary - Controlled language at your level to help you progress confidently - Realistic spoken dialogues to help you learn conversational expressions and improve your speaking ability - Accessible grammar so you learn new structures naturally, in a stress-free way - Pleasure! Research shows that if you're enjoying reading in a foreign language, you won't experience the usual feelings of frustration - 'It's too hard!' 'I don't understand!' Carefully curated to make learning a new language easy, these stories include key features that will support and consolidate your progress, including: - A glossary for bolded words in each chapter - Full plot summary - A bilingual word list - Comprehension questions after each chapter. As a result, you will be able to focus on enjoying reading, delighting in your improved range of vocabulary and grasp of the language, without ever feeling overwhelmed. From science fiction to fantasy, to crime and thrillers, Short Stories in Irish for Beginners will make learning Irish easy and enjoyable.

First published in 2001. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company. "One of the 50 Best Nonfiction Books of the Last 25 Years"—Slate On New Year's Day 2013, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Gene Weingarten asked three strangers to, literally, pluck a day, month, and year from a hat. That day—chosen completely at random—turned out to be Sunday, December 28, 1986, by any conventional measure a most ordinary day. Weingarten spent the next six years proving that there is no such thing. That Sunday between Christmas and New Year's turned out to be filled with comedy, tragedy, implausible irony, cosmic comeuppances, kindness, cruelty, heroism, cowardice, genius, idiocy, prejudice, selflessness, coincidence, and startling moments of human connection, along with evocative foreshadowing of momentous events yet to come. Lives were lost. Lives were saved. Lives were altered in overwhelming ways. Many of these events never made it into the news; they were private dramas in the lives of private people. They were utterly compelling. One Day asks and answers the question of whether there is even such a thing as "ordinary" when we are talking about how we all lurch and stumble our way through the daily, daunting challenge of being human.

Based on popular essays in New York Times' Modern Love and Salon, as well as an Off-Broadway one-person play, The Pleasure Plan is a sexual healing odyssey, a manifesto for women to claim pleasure as a priority, and a love story all at once. Fifty percent of adult women have some form of sexual dysfunction at some point of their lives, preventing them from enjoying vibrant, soul-satisfying sex. Such was the case with Laura Zam, who suffered the blame, shame, and embarrassment of feeling bedroom broken. For her, delving between the sheets meant physical pain, zero desire, and emotional scars from being molested in her early years. However, in her late forties, after meeting and marrying the love of her life, Zam was determined to finally fix her sensual self. This is her brave and bawdy plan to triage her flaccid romantic life, stepping into a void where intimacy, self-love, and playfulness could be experienced--the full monty of Eros that had been missing from her existence. The Pleasure Plan is what happened when she decided to challenge her hopelessness. In partnership with her initially reluctant husband, she visited 15 healers and tried 30 pleasure-enhancing methods: from dilators and dildos, to hypnosis and hosting a sex brunch, to cleansing chakras, to making love to her husband in front of a geriatric Tantric goddess. Packed with humor, heart, and a healthy dose of prescriptive advice, this book chronicles Zam's insight as she confronts many issues—from mismatched libidos to female erection enlightenment. Throughout this journey, she and her husband grow as individuals and as a couple, both in and out of the bedroom. Fearlessly honest and full of inspiration, Zam peels back the layers—or covers—and exposes her foibles, insecurities, and eventual wisdom as she excavates past traumas, accepts and embraces her worth, and claims her right to be completely alive. Today, Laura

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works as a sexuality educator, wellness coach, and speaker helping other women who suffer from sexual dysfunction, the effects of trauma, or those who would simply like more pleasure (of all kinds) in their lives. She also consults with health care providers so they may better assist their clients in achieving sexual well-being. While *The Pleasure Plan* is Zam's personal narrative, it demystifies pervasive taboos, encouraging women to make pleasure a priority, while teaching them how to claim (or reclaim) the power of their sexual selves. It also shows men how they can support their partners in this #MeToo era. Healthy, sultry intimacy is a right; it is time for women to learn—through glorious trial and error—how to embrace the sensual side of themselves. . . . exuberantly and unabashedly.

In this rich and deeply satisfying novel by the beloved author of *The Art of Mending*, and *Open House*, a resilient woman embarks upon an unforgettable journey of adventure, self-discovery, and renewal. Betta Nolan moves to a small town after the death of her husband to try to begin anew. Pursuing a dream of a different kind of life, she is determined to find pleasure in her simply daily routines. Among those who help her in both expected and unexpected ways are the ten-year-old boy next door, three wild women friends from her college days, a twenty-year-old who is struggling to find his place in the world, and a handsome man who is ready for love. Elizabeth Berg's *The Year of Pleasures* is about acknowledging the solace found in ordinary things: a warm bath, good food, the beauty of nature, music, friends, and art. "Berg writes with humor and a big heart about resilience, loneliness, love, and hope. And the transcendence that redeems," said Andre Dubus about *Durable Goods*. And the same could be said about *The Year of Pleasures*.

A thief-taker is out to steal the heart of a bluestocking heiress in this sexy Regency romance by the #1 New York Times bestselling author. London, 1818. There are disadvantages to being an heiress, as Eliza Martin knows well. Fortune hunters corner her, friends become opportunistic, and lately, someone is engineering "accidents" designed to propel her into marriage. But Eliza is too smart to be bullied. To find the culprit, she just needs the right man to infiltrate the nest of suitors—and none comes more highly recommended than thief-taker Jasper Bond. One look at the devastatingly handsome Jasper and Eliza knows he's the wrong man for the job. No one will believe an intellectual like her could be matched with a man of action like him. But Jasper is determined to change her mind. The intriguing mystery—and the undeniable attraction they share—makes this a case he can't resist. For Jasper, client satisfaction is a point of pride. And it's his pleasure to prove he's just the man Eliza needs. "A flawless blend of captivating characters, clever plotting, and searing sensuality."—Booklist From the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, here is the universally acclaimed novel—winner of the Booker Prize and the basis for an award-winning film. This is Kazuo Ishiguro's profoundly compelling portrait of Stevens, the perfect butler, and of his fading, insular world in post-World War II England. Stevens, at the end of three decades of service at Darlington Hall, spending a day on a country drive, embarks as well on a journey through the past in an effort to reassure himself that he has served humanity by serving the "great gentleman," Lord Darlington.

But lurking in his memory are doubts about the true nature of Lord Darlington's "greatness," and much graver doubts about the nature of his own life.

Taren Murdoch is a guardian and protector by nature. He's also a husband, an investigator for the Idaho State police, and most importantly, his husband's Dom. Being the Dom Ian deserves is Taren's top priority. He's planned a trip, some special time away where the two of them can live out some of their fantasies in a fun and safe environment. Ian Groden is the CEO of his family business, but at home he relinquishes control to Taren. He loves that Taren is his Dom, and more so when they combine pain with pleasure in their sexual play. Taking their trip requires time away from work. Despite Ian's efforts, he wasn't able to take as much time as Taren asked. Now it's time to face his punishment. They'll be spending four glorious nights at an adult resort. Before that can happen, a few details need to be ironed out. The first is to ensure neither has any hard feelings about their late start. Does Taren have the skills as Ian's Dom to deliver discipline and well as pleasure?

New York Times bestselling author Eric Jerome Dickey, "one of the most successful Black authors of the last quarter-century"* explores the depths of desire in this sensual blockbuster. Born in Trinidad and living in Atlanta after a relationship gone bad, Nia Simone Bijou is an ambitious writer who has it all. Except for the one thing that'll give her the control she craves-and the power she deserves: absolute, uninhibited sexual satisfaction. Now, in the sweltering days and nights of summer, the heat is on. Nia's fantasies will become a reality-with man after man after man. She will shatter the limits of erotic love. She will open herself up to experiences she never dared before. And as her fantasies begin to spin out of control, she'll discover the unexpected price of the extreme. *The New York Times

What do men think of women? And vice versa? LaBute lets you eavesdrop on the voices recounting the skirmishes in the war between the sexes. A first novel from an internationally acclaimed cult film-maker.

In a groundbreaking new study, the author of *In a Different Voice* explores the nature of love and the obstacles that stand in the way of pleasure, revealing the path of pleasure that can be found in the midst of tragedy and the harmony and joy that can defy pain and anger. Reprint. 25,000 first printing.

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day. On board pages. One sexy Morgan man may have finally met his match in a talented and beautiful young widow. But will their ambitions come between them? When artist Anise Cartier leaves Nebraska for L.A., she's finally ready to put the past and its losses behind her. And she soon finds a welcoming committee in the form of one very handsome doctor, Gregory Morgan. Their attraction is instant. So is their animosity. Gregory is in a fierce competition for a multimillion-dollar medical research grant. The grant will make a new research center possible. . .once the beloved artist community where Anise plans to set up shop is demolished. Soon, it's a battle between art and science--one that neither Anise nor Gregory intend to

lose. Can their red hot love survive this heated war of wills?

For His Pleasure is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling series, and with each new book in the series, the romance only gets hotter... This volume contains the first two books in the For His Pleasure series (FOR HIS PLEASURE & FOR HIS TAKING) When twenty-two year old Nicole Masters gets a highly coveted internship working for one of the largest advertising companies in the world, she can't believe her luck. But Jameson International isn't just any company. It's owned by thirty-two-year-old business mogul and celebrity, Red Jameson. Red is known for his high flying lifestyle; dating models and hanging with the rich and famous. The powerful billionaire can have any woman he wants, and the naive college graduate can't imagine making much of an impression on her new CEO. But when Red Jameson takes notice of her and invites her up to his secluded office one day, everything changes.

Kayla Redmond was looking forward to her new job as a high school teacher. She was going to focus on her career. Relationships were out of the question. As long as she managed to have a little harmless fun on the weekends, she was content. But when she's given the classroom next to Melissa Martin, a woman sexy as sin, she finds herself immediately interested. Just one problem...

Melissa's got a boyfriend, Glen. It could never work. Falling for a straight girl is a big no-no. But when Melissa comes to Kayla for sexual advice, everything changes. Melissa wants Kayla to be her sexual mentor... to teach her what to do in the bedroom. Kayla never expects that in teaching the inexperienced Melissa, she would give the gorgeous woman a sexual awakening... Kayla never expects to find that her desire for Melissa is not as hopeless as she once thought... And Kayla never expects to be pulled into a love triangle full of conflict that might lose her Melissa forever... ..right as she's beginning to fall in love.

The year is 1977, and Adrian is nine. He lives with his gran and his uncle Rory; his best friend is Clinton Tull. He loves to draw and he wants a dog; he's afraid of quicksand and self-combustion. Adrian watches his suburban world, but there is much he cannot understand. He does not, for instance, know why three neighbourhood children might set out to buy ice-cream and never come back home . . .

Pleasure Encounters is the first short story collection by erotica author Danika Falls. Featuring eleven sensual short stories of erotic temptation, romance and desire, you will be aroused by every spicy detail. The collection includes six M/F pairings, three multiple partners, and two lesbian stories all featuring couple's erotica, lesbian, paranormal erotica, and menage themes. This rich collection features otherworldly lovers, office conquests, and friends who become lovers. An Off Hour Gemma, the new girl in the office, and her boss, Todd, have an unexpected rendezvous in the office elevator. Or was it so unexpected? It seems Gemma might have been scheming on her hot boss Todd ever since she got hired. Testing The Waters Rachel is a lifeguard at her town's aquatic center. She gets a ringside seat to enjoy the best view, that of fellow lifeguard, Jeff. One night

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after pleasuring herself to the thoughts of him, she decides that it's time to find out if her fantasy is anywhere near reality. Office Romance Meagan noticed that there was a new guy in the building. She wasn't sure which department he worked in, but the moment she saw him, she wanted him. One day in the elevator, Meagan knows it is her chance to make her fantasies come true. Cruisin' Dave enjoys sailing so he thinks nothing of it when his girlfriend Danielle invites her pal Samantha along for a lovely outing. He is a little flustered when the boat runs out of gas. The lovely ladies decide that they can find the perfect way to pass the time. My Secret Lover She thought she knew what she was getting herself into. She is no stranger to participating in various psychology experiments. She seduces the student conducting the experiment, but she doesn't know that she coaxed more than one lover away from the study. The Aliment Sarah looks just like any other pretty young woman looking for a night of excitement. She has her eye on Bill, a young, eager college student. She knows that he is exactly what she and her silent partner Dave need for the evening. The Game Beach volleyball is Michelle's passion. She plays every chance she got. In addition to being very good at it, almost professional level, she also enjoyed the chance to put on her skimpy biking and showing off her tight, tan body. Michelle had taken note of another volleyball player that summer, a girl named Olivia. The Decision Tammy has a difficult choice to make. Unfortunately, to do this, she has to go over the details of the worst night of her life. One night after a long night of work, she is seduced by this handsome man turned animal. As she relives the horror, she realizes that it was, in fact, a demon. Even worse, she has been feeling an odd sensation in her womb. Pleasure Cruise Steve is trying to get over a bad breakup, so he decides to take a vacation alone. He knows that he has made the right choice when his innocent flirtation with the bartender seems to be paying off. Is everyone on the ship as friendly as she is? The Encounter Shirl's always been skeptical of aliens and has done tons of research on UFOs and extraterrestrials. She never suspects that she's about to have a close encounter herself. Will they give Shirl the proof she needs to become a believer? Perfect Roommates When Jennifer places an ad for a new roommate, she hardly dares hope that she will find her perfect roommate and the ideal living situation. When her new roommate Ann arrives, she has a flicker of hope. Ann is beautiful and sexy and there seems to be a bit of a spark between the two of them. A "hilarious and heartbreaking" (Jo Piazza) and unflinchingly honest memoir about one young woman's terrible and life-changing decisions while hoping--and sometimes failing--to find herself, in the style of Never Have I Ever and Adulthood. Join Dana Schwartz on a journey revisiting all of the awful choices she made in her early twenties through the internet's favorite method of self-knowledge: the quiz. Part-memoir, part-VERY long personality test, CHOOSE YOUR OWN DISASTER is a manifesto about the millennial experience and modern feminism and how the easy advice of "you can be anything you want!" is actually pretty fucking difficult when there are so many possible versions of yourself it seems

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like you could be. Dana has no idea who she is, but at least she knows she's a Carrie, a Ravenclaw, a Raphael, a Belle, a former emo kid, a Twitter addict, and a millennial just trying her best. "This long-form personality quiz manages to combine humor with unflinching honesty as one young woman tries to find herself amid the many, many choices that your twenties have to offer."-Bustle

The nation's most celebrated literary critic introduces children to the exciting world of literature through this collection of great stories by Hans Christian Andersen, William Blake, O. Henry, Tolstoy, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, and others. 100,000 first printing.

Short fiction filled with both warmth and dark wit by a writer who "embraces the ironies and the absurdities of the ordinary world" (Newsday). At the age of twenty-five, Marian Thurm began publishing short stories in the *New Yorker*, and over a remarkable career, her work has been compared to the short fiction of Lorrie Moore, Ann Beattie, and Amy Bloom. Known for her uncanny sense of the absurd along with her empathy for her characters, Thurm's acclaimed writing has been featured in *The Best American Short Stories*, as well as numerous other anthologies. This volume, selected from her four collections—with stories written over a span of forty-two years—shows Thurm's remarkable craft, never failing to reveal both her emotional acuity and her pitch-dark humor. "Marian Thurm is either a movingly compassionate observer of human foibles or a charmingly ruthless one." —*The New York Times Book Review*

Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451* is an enduring masterwork of twentieth-century American literature—a chilling vision of a dystopian future built on the foundations of ignorance, censorship, and brutal repression. The origins and evolution of Bradbury's darkly magnificent tale are explored in *A Pleasure to Burn*, a collection of sixteen selected shorter works that prefigure the grand master's landmark novel. Classic, thematically interrelated stories alongside many crucial lesser-known ones—including, at the collection's heart, the novellas "Long After Midnight" and "The Fireman"—*A Pleasure to Burn* is an indispensable companion to the most powerful work of America's preeminent storyteller, a wondrous confirmation of the inimitable Bradbury's brilliance, magic . . . and fire.

An ALA Notable Book. *A Day of Pleasure* is the winner of the 1970 National Book Award for Children's Books.

Savor the seduction The lush mountains of Brazil provide a stunning location for a business trip—or a wild, unexpected romance. International real estate agent Nicole Parks isn't expecting the latter, but she's quickly falling under the spell of incredibly handsome French vintner Destin Dechamps. The man is as delicious as the fine blends he creates. Yet he's out to sabotage the deal that will guarantee her a promotion and the adoption she's been longing for. Destin lost both his wife and his career when his family winery burned down. Gradually he's found meaning in a new plan—defy his father, keep the land and rebuild. He can't afford to fantasize about a gorgeous Realtor who's been hired to interrupt his

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scheme—even unknowingly. When a rainstorm traps them together, attraction spills over into intoxicating pleasure. With both their dreams in the balance, is there room for a sweet, intense fling to deepen into love?

This volume is a collection of stories from every day modern life blended with the ancient stories and myths of the Bible.

"The book I wish I'd had growing up." -Chanel Miller, author of *Know My Name*
Best Books of 2019: *Esquire O*, *The Oprah Magazine Variety Lit Hub Book Riot Electric Literature Autostraddle Finalist*: NBCC John Leonard First Book Prize
Lambda Literary Award New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice Selection
Paste Best Memoirs of the Decade *Elle* Best Books of the Season Washington Post Best Books of the Month Indie Next Pick Indies Introduce Pick "A fearless debut." -New York Times "[A] gorgeous reckoning." -Washington Post "Flat out breathtaking." -Lit Hub "Gripping and gloriously written." -*Elle* "Utterly unforgettable." -*NYLON* "Unnervingly satisfying." -*Oprah Magazine* "Deeply compassionate." -NPR.org "Truly stunning." -*Cosmopolitan*
Acclaimed literary essayist T Kira Madden's raw and redemptive debut memoir is about coming of age and reckoning with desire as a queer, biracial teenager amidst the fierce contradictions of Boca Raton, Florida, a place where she found cult-like privilege, shocking racial disparities, rampant white-collar crime, and powerfully destructive standards of beauty hiding in plain sight. As a child, Madden lived a life of extravagance, from her exclusive private school to her equestrian trophies and designer shoe-brand name. But under the surface was a wild instability. The only child of parents continually battling drug and alcohol addictions, Madden confronted her environment alone. Facing a culture of assault and objectification, she found lifelines in the desperately loving friendships of fatherless girls. With unflinching honesty and lyrical prose, spanning from 1960s Hawai'i to the present-day struggle of a young woman mourning the loss of a father while unearthing truths that reframe her reality, *Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls* is equal parts eulogy and love letter. It's a story about trauma and forgiveness, about families of blood and affinity, both lost and found, unmade and rebuilt, crooked and beautiful. One of the Most Anticipated Books of the Year: *Entertainment Weekly*, *Huffington Post*, *BuzzFeed*, *The Millions*, *Nylon*, *The Rumpus*, *Electric Literature*, *Lit Hub*, *Refinery29*, and many more

A collection of autobiographical and fantasy tales for children reflects the Nobel Prize-winning author's deeply rooted Polish cultural tradition.

Finalist for the National Book Award for Fiction "[These stories] vibrate with originality, queerness, sensuality and the strange."—Roxane Gay "In these formally brilliant and emotionally charged tales, Machado gives literal shape to women's memories and hunger and desire. I couldn't put it down."—Karen Russell
In Her Body and Other Parties, Carmen Maria Machado blithely demolishes the arbitrary borders between psychological realism and science fiction, comedy and horror, fantasy and fabulism. While her work has earned her comparisons to Karen Russell and Kelly Link, she has a voice that is all her own.

In this electric and provocative debut, Machado bends genre to shape startling narratives that map the realities of women's lives and the violence visited upon their bodies. A wife refuses her husband's entreaties to remove the green ribbon from around her neck. A woman recounts her sexual encounters as a plague slowly consumes humanity. A salesclerk in a mall makes a horrifying discovery within the seams of the store's prom dresses. One woman's surgery-induced weight loss results in an unwanted houseguest. And in the bravura novella "Especially Heinous," Machado reimagines every episode of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, a show we naïvely assumed had shown it all, generating a phantasmagoric police procedural full of doppelgängers, ghosts, and girls with bells for eyes. Earthy and otherworldly, antic and sexy, queer and caustic, comic and deadly serious, Her Body and Other Parties swings from horrific violence to the most exquisite sentiment. In their explosive originality, these stories enlarge the possibilities of contemporary fiction.

"In this powerful short fiction, Mary Gaitskill--whose searing honesty about gender relations has been legendary since the appearance of Bad Behavior in the 1980s--considers our moment through the lens of a particular #metoo incident. The effervescent and well-dressed Quin, a successful book editor and fixture on the New York arts scene, has long been one of Margot's best friends. When several women in his field accuse him of inappropriate touching and remarks, Gaitskill builds the account of his undoing through Quin and Margot's alternating voices, allowing readers to experience Quin as a whole person--one whose behavior toward women could be hurtful and presumptuous on the one hand, and keenly supportive on the other. Margot, an older woman who alternately despairs of and sympathizes with the positions of the younger women involved in Quin's case, is the thrumming engine of this remarkable piece of truth-telling. As Gaitskill has said, fiction is the only way that she could approach this subject, which she sees as subtly colored in shades of gray, rather than the black and white of our current conversations. Her compliment to her characters--and to her readers--is that they are unvarnished and real; her belief in our ability to understand them, even when we don't always admire them, is a beacon of humanity from one of our greatest contemporary writers"--

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